

STANDING FAST

1 Corinthians 16:13

INTRODUCTION

It is no secret that being a Christian is a challenge at any time.

But to openly profess your faith is becoming riskier

Our faith is villainized, scrutinized, trivialized, mocked and neutralized.

BUT we cannot let that keep us from taking a stand for the truth.

In this lesson, I would like to remind us of some passages calling for us to “stand fast”

STAND FAST

- Defined: To hold your ground, or maintain your position.
- “persist, persevere” (Thayer)
Think of a well established and founded wall
Think of a military regiment dedicated to defending their homeland.
- As Christians, the term means one who will not quit, no matter what we face.

STAND FAST

- **1 Corinthians 16:13**, “Watch, stand fast in the faith...”
 - “THE faith” - **Romans 1:16-17, 2 Timothy 4:7**
Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2
- **2 Corinthians 1:24**, “...for by faith you stand...”
 - our personal faith –
Hebrews 11:6, cf. John 8:24, James 2:14-18

STAND FAST

- **Galatians 5:1**, “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free...”
 - There is freedom in Christ, especially in contrast with the LOM and its sacrifices, etc.

NOTE: This is not about being free to do whatever you want –

Romans 6:16-18
- **Philippians 1:27**, “...stand fast in one spirit...”
 - a call for unity –

John 13:34-35, 17:20-21, 1 Corinthians 1:10
Ephesians 4:1-3, Philippians 2:1-4, etc.

STAND FAST

- **Philippians 4:1**, “So stand fast in the Lord...”
 - A summary of what we are addressing in this lesson.
- **Hebrews 3:14**, “...hold the beginning of our conduct steadfast to the end.”
- Why is this important? Because our faith, eternity and the future of the Lord’s body depends on it –
cf. 2 Timothy 4:2-4,
1:13, “Hold fast the pattern of sound words...”

HOW DO I STAND FAST?

By surrendering to His will

- Recall the song, “You’ve got to stand for something, or you’ll fall for anything.”
- The message of the gospel includes complete surrender to God.

Matthew 26:39, 42 – Jesus’ prayer in the garden

Galatians 2:20, Romans 12:1-2

- **2 Timothy 2:3-4** – as a soldier who understands his first priority

HOW DO I STAND FAST?

By making God's word my standard

- Knowing we must surrender, what do we surrender to?
- God's word directs us as to how we are to live
2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:104-105
2 Thessalonians 2:15, "...stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught."
- Frequently we are warned against false teachers –
2 Peter 2, Jude, Galatians 1:6-9, 1 John 4:1, Matthew 7:15-16.
- We must devote time to reading and study –
Ephesians 4:11-15, cf. Acts 17:11

HOW DO I STAND FAST?

By letting my light shine

- Example continually emphasized **Matthew 5:13-16, Philippians 2:15-16**, “...among whom you shine as lights in the world”
- This is easy when among friends & allies. But are we willing to stand when there may be a cost?
 - Daniel – **Daniel 1 & 6**
 - Shadrach... - **Daniel 3**
 - Peter & John, apostles – **Acts 4, 5:22**
 - Jesus, facing crucifixion & during His ministry

HOW DO I STAND FAST?

By letting my light shine

- What about today?
- Elders and preachers – **1 Peter 5:2-4, 2 Timothy 4:2-4**
- When your friends & coworkers use profanity or blaspheme God
- When the government passes laws requiring you to choose between God and their agenda – **Acts 5:2**

HOW DO I STAND FAST?

By letting my light shine

- What about today?
- When pressured to dress immodestly or go to popular venues where immorality is on display (dances, social drinking, beaches, etc.)?
- When asked to compromise your faith, “just this once” (**cf. Daniel 3:14-15**)
- **Matthew 10:37-38, 32-33** – Jesus **MUST** be first in our lives.

HOW DO I STAND FAST?

By putting on the armor of God

- “Stand fast” can have military implications – a soldier who will not compromise, betray or retreat.
- As noted, we are in a spiritual war for our soul and the souls of others. Satan HAS intensified his attacks!
- **Ephesians 6:10-18** – we need to put on the armor of God and go out and engage the enemy
2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- We need the “whole armor of God” or we will be vulnerable. Remember who you are fighting for - **1 John 4:4, Hebrews 13:6 (Psalm 118:6, cf. Psalm 27:1)**

- From time to time, we need to remind ourselves to “stand fast”.
- It is far too easy to relax and let down your guard. It is easy to compromise (even if we think it’s just this time).
- If we fail to “stand fast” there is NO positive outcome.

Are you standing firm
for Him?

Let us pray!