

Stand Firm - Kimo Hoopai, March 23, 2025

Stand Firm signifies steadfastness, unwavering faith, and resilience in the face of adversity , urging believers to remain loyal to God and His principles, even when facing opposition or challenges. We all face trials of many kinds , and at times we feel that we are alone (CORRECTION) we are not . We have someone in our corner , HIS NAME IS JESUS.

1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV *Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

3 steps on Standing Firm

1 . We Have to Know Upon WHAT (or WHOM) We Are Standing

Psalms 18:2 NIV *The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

Notes : David characterized God's care with five military symbols. God is like (1) a rock, an immovable foundation that can't be shaken; (2) a fortress or place of safety where the enemy can't follow; (3) a shield that comes between us and harm; (4) a power that saves because God has the strength and power to save; and (5) a place of safety high above our enemies. If you need protection, look to God.

Joshua 24:15 NIV *"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."*

John 14:6-7 NIV ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

2 . We Will Have to Resist the devil and his lie

2 Corinthians 10:5 NLT *We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.*

Notes: Like Paul, we are merely humans but do not need to use human plans and methods to win our battles. We can use God's mighty weapons as we fight against Satan's "strongholds." Christians must choose whose methods to use – God's or the world's.

1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Notes: (1) Be on guard. They were to be constantly watchful, alert for spiritual enemies that might slip in and threaten to destroy them, whether divisions, pride, sin, disorder, or erroneous theology. (2) Stand firm in the faith – that is, in the Good News that they had been taught from the beginning, the gospel that had brought them salvation. (3) Be courageous, so that they could stand against false teachers, deal with sin in the congregation, and straighten out other problems. (4) Be strong, with the strength given by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 16:13 NIV *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.*

3 .We Can't Waver Between Faith and Doubt

Hebrews 11:6 NIV *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Notes: Sometimes we wonder about the fate of those who haven't heard of Christ and have never even had a Bible to read. God assures us that all who honestly seek him – who act in faith on the knowledge of God that they possess – will be rewarded. When you tell others the Good News, encourage them to be honest and diligent in their search for truth. Those who hear the Good News, however, are responsible for what they have heard.

James 1:2-8 NIV ² *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,* ³ *because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.* ⁴ *Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.* ⁵ *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* ⁶ *But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.* ⁷ *That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.* ⁸ *Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.*

In closing: Ephesians 6:13 NIV Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.