

“STAND FAST”

The image of a Roman or Greek soldier standing fast, enduring and defending is a powerful picture for the Christian and the beloved apostle uses this to exhort us to be faithful.

#	SCRIPTURE	LESSON
1	“Watch ye, STAND FAST IN THE FAITH , quit you like men, be strong.” 1Cor 16:13	<u>The Corinthians</u> like us were/are so susceptible to having the truth, the doctrine, without the practice of it with affection for Christ, as individuals or collectively as the assembly.
2	“ STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Gal 5:1	<u>The Galatians</u> were in danger of going back to the law depending on the failing flesh and being brought into bondage rather than enjoying the liberty we have in Christ Jesus “for the life which we now live in the flesh we live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.” Gal 6:20 We to are in the same grave danger as we try to improve the crucified man.
3	“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. ” Eph 6:11 “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having DONE ALL, TO STAND. ” V13 “ STAND therefore, having YOUR LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH ” v14	<u>The Ephesians</u> were instructed in the wonderful heavenly position we have now in Christ Jesus through His death, resurrection and ascension. The Apostle gives this picture of the armour instructing us to put it ALL on and with this practical instruction we will be able to stand against the devil who wants to rob us of that which will glorify Christ our Lord and Saviour. Like the soldier it will take continuous vigilance to be able to stand depending on our God, His Word and our blessed High Priest and Advocate energized by the Holy Spirit of Truth.
4	“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT , with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;” Php 1:27	<u>The Philippi an saints</u> were in danger of letting petty grievances destroy there testimony for the Lord Jesus. The normal Christian life should be one not characterized by conflict with one another but of having the same spirit. This is accomplished by being occupied with the Lord Jesus, His person and work, and esteeming others better than ourselves.
5	“Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so STAND FAST IN THE LORD , my dearly beloved.” Php 4:1 For now we live, if ye STAND FAST IN THE LORD. 1Th 3:8	The apostle uses this phrase for both the recently saved <u>Thessalonian saints</u> as well as the <u>Philippians</u> . Indeed owning the Lordship of Christ in our lives, submitting to Him will enable us to be subject to our brethren and the assembly and not exerting our own will. Sin is lawlessness, doing our own will and not recognizing the Lord’s authority in our lives. Whether starting in the path (like the Thessalonians) or perhaps a little further along (like the Philippians) the same dangers are there. Conflict dishonours the Lord!
6	“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers that ye may STAND PERFECT AND COMPLETE IN ALL THE WILL OF GOD. ” Col 4:12	<u>The Colossian believers</u> were taught by the apostle that they were risen with Christ and needed to recognize that they were members of the body of which He was the Head. To realize this is truly wonderful but it is then important that this be practiced in our assemblies. In the measure that we hold the Head we will stand perfect and complete in the will of God.
7	“Therefore, brethren, STAND FAST, AND HOLD THE TRADITIONS WHICH YE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT , whether by word, or our epistle.” 2Th 2:15	<u>The beloved Thessalonian saints</u> felt that the day of the Lord had come as they were going through trial but the apostle assures them it was not so. We have such a rich heritage of truth left to us so rather than rely on the traditions of men which are often foolish and empty we can rely on the traditions that we have been taught which are based on the Word of God.



“... your faith should not **STAND** in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” **1Cor 2:5**