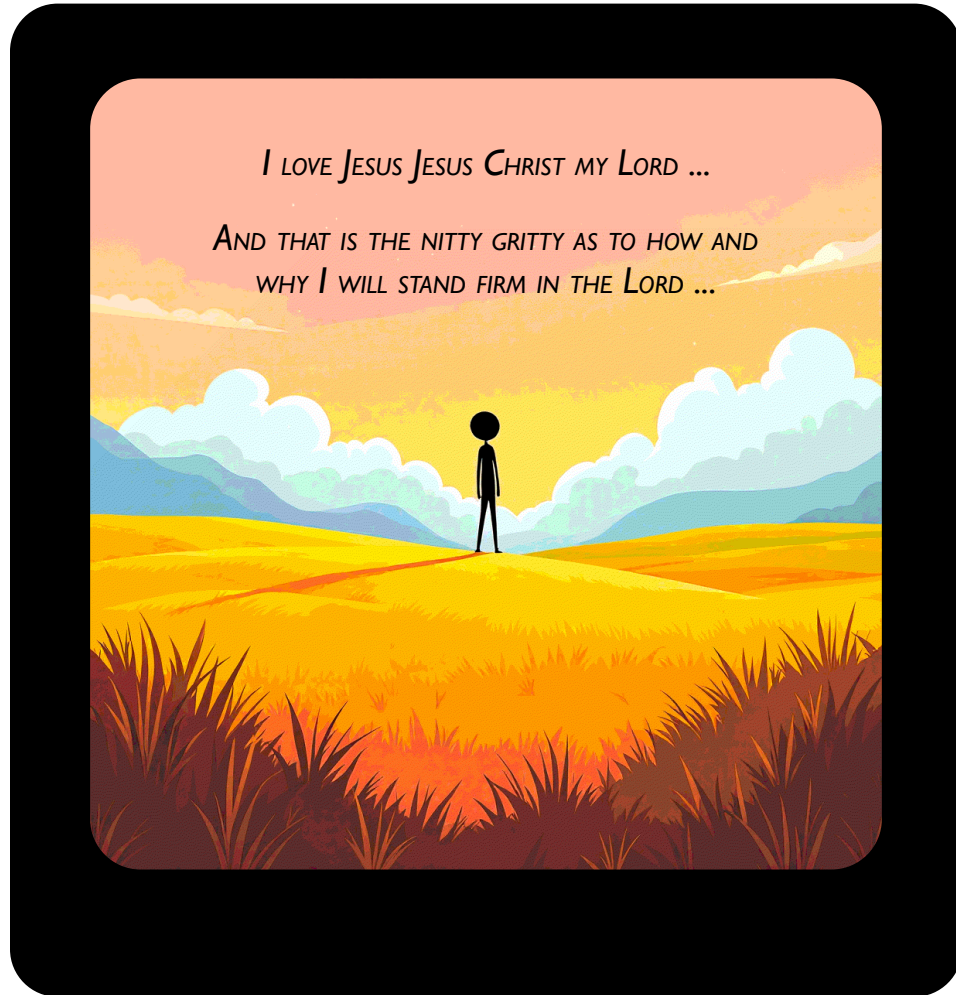


WE STAND FIRM IN THIS WAY



FIVE POWERFUL, INTERWOVEN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES WHICH IF TRUE IN OUR LIVES WILL DIRECT US TO AND CAUSE US TO STAND FIRM IN THE LORD.

- **KNOWING JESUS AND BEING FOUND IN HIM**
- **HAVING A PROFOUND, PASSIONATE DESIRE TO KNOW HIM MORE**
- **HAVING AN INTENSE FOCUS ON PRESSING ON TOWARD JESUS AS THE PRIZE IN LIFE**
- **KEEPING OUR EYES ON EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL**
- **HAVING A CONSCIOUS, EXPECTANT AWARENESS OF OUR TRUE CITIZENSHIP**

A principle is a fundamental truth, law, or guiding belief that serves as the foundation for a system of reasoning, behavior, or how something works.

BIG PICTURE: "In this way" directs our attention to a path to follow in the preceding verses as to how we are to stand firm in the Lord, 4:1.

- (Philippians 4:1 ESV) Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Stand firm ... στήκω [steko] – to stand firm; to persevere, to persist; to keep one's standing; to hold one's ground; maintain a position.

Thus ... οὕτως [houtos] – in this way; in this manner, in the way indicated; thus, so. Translated best in NASB95, LSB) ... "in this way stand firm in the Lord."

- A. We stand firm in the Lord when we follow the instruction in the preceding verses.
- B. Our submission and obedience to this instruction will transform our thinking so that we will come to know the manner in which we are to stand firm in the Lord.
- C. This instruction provides a path to follow that strengthens and affirms the most important element in standing firm—our love for the Lord.

1. FIRST PRINCIPLE — To stand firm in the Lord we must first know him and be found in him with the righteousness from God, 3:7-9.

- (Philippians 3:7-9 ESV) But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

- A. Simply put we must be saved—We must first gain Christ and be found in him having the righteousness which comes through faith alone.
- B. To believe in this way—i.e. faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone—means that we have recognized our religious actions or activities as meaningless.
- C. The value of knowing Christ surpasses the value of all our religious endeavors to such a degree as to regard them as garbage in comparison.

2. SECOND PRINCIPLE — To stand firm in the Lord we will have acquired a profound, passionate, spiritual hunger to know him more and the power of his resurrection, 3:10-11.

- (Philippians 3:10-11 ESV) ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

God, in his sanctifying work, will develop within the one who genuinely believes in Christ a profound, passionate spiritual hunger to know Christ more and more and by any means.

Profound ... very great, deep, or intense.

A. Our hunger to know Christ more is a significant part of God's transforming work of sanctification that he guarantees he will complete.

- (Philippians 1:6 ESV) And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- (Philippians 2:13 ESV) For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ESV) Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

QUESTIONS WE NEED TO TRY TO ANSWER — What is the power of his resurrection and how is that relevant to my salvation and my current relationship with Christ?

B. To know the power of his resurrection we must bring our attention to the resurrection of Christ.

- (Ephesians 1:18-22 NLT) I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. 19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

- i. Knowing the power of Christ's resurrection

speaks of the promise of the effectual work of God in raising dead people to life and its relevance in transforming those once dead in sin into the image of his beloved Son.

- ii. Only those who become convinced that they have no relationship to God by their own righteousness will submit to this.
 - (Romans 10:3 ESV) For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.
- iii. Those who have come to know that they have no relationship to God by their own righteousness are those who trust in Christ alone.
- iv. Only those people are ready to begin the journey of understanding the necessary "dead people raised to life" power of God.
- v. People who come to realize the necessary power to save—the ability to make dead people come alive—realize the utter foolishness in thinking that any human, physical act such as circumcision or water baptism could add to this.
- vi. The people who are awed by the power and majesty of God raising people from the dead by the saving work of Christ are those who now have a passion to know him more fully through sharing in his sufferings.
- vii. They value knowing Christ to such an extent that they want more ... "that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."

Paul expresses his hunger to attain the power of the resurrection and to further experience by any means possible the depth of his relationship with Jesus.

3. THIRD PRINCIPLE — To stand firm in the Lord we will have developed an intense belief in and focus on Jesus as the prize in life for which we press on toward the upward call of God, 3:12-16.

- (Philippians 3:12–16 ESV) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. 16 Only let us hold true to

what we have attained.

A. The result of our passionate spiritual hunger is that Jesus has now become our life.

- (Galatians 2:20 ESV) I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

B. We put on no pretense of perfection but we press on and grow in our awareness that Christ has made us his very own.

C. Now we focus on a singular goal as we forget the past and expend all our energy toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

D. Those who are mature will adapt their approach to sanctification by thinking this way.

E. In the meantime we must hold true to the spiritual maturity that we have attained.

4. FOURTH PRINCIPLE — To stand firm in the Lord we must keep our eyes on faithful examples who remain true to the cross of Christ — the gospel, 3:17-21.

- (Philippians 3:17–19 ESV) Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

A. To reach our goal in knowing Jesus we must keep our eyes on faithful examples who stay true to the gospel.

Keep your eyes on ... σκοπέω [skopeo] – to look to; to turn one's interests or expectations towards and respond accordingly; to observe, contemplate; to fix one's eyes upon, direct one's attention to.

B. The imminent danger of many people turning away and becoming enemies of the gospel brings Paul to tears.

Paul warns us ... "for many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you with tears."

C. In spite of his repeated warnings he knows the fierce wolves will come in among them.

- (Acts 20:28–31 ESV) Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the

Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

D. Paul describes those who have turned away.

- i. They have changed from professing belief to now living as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Note: This does not mean that they are no longer religious but means they no longer believe in the sufficiency of the work of Christ on the cross.

- ii. Their end is destruction.
- iii. Their god is their stomach.
- iv. They brag about shameful things.
- v. Their minds are set on earthly things.

5. FIFTH PRINCIPLE — To stand firm in the Lord we must maintain a conscious, expectant awareness of our true citizenship and Jesus' return from heaven.

- (Philippians 3:20–21 ESV) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

So now we press on while waiting for Jesus to return from heaven when he will transform our bodies to be like his glorious body.

A. We must maintain a conscious, expectant awareness of the better country to which we belong.

- (Hebrews 11:14–16 ESV) For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has

prepared for them a city.

B. We must maintain a conscious, expectant awareness that we are fellow citizens with the saints of God.

- (Ephesians 2:19–20 ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

C. We must maintain a conscious, active awareness that we are waiting for our Savior to return.

D. We must maintain a conscious, expectant awareness that Jesus will complete the transformation of our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body when he returns.

CONCLUSION: Our wondrous discovery along the path of God's instruction on standing fast in the Lord ...

I have discovered that the depth of my love for Jesus Christ and the depth of his love for me ... is the nitty gritty as to how and why I will stand firm in the Lord ... my love relationship with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ...

"Nitty-gritty" ... the most basic, important, or practical details of a situation; the essential facts or core of a matter.

- (John 14:19–21 ESV) Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."