

So Stand

You have probably heard the old adage that goes something like this: “if you don’t stand for something you will fall for anything.” During my high school years in the 1950’s was the first time I heard this. Many times since I have received this admonition.

After hearing this so many times I began to ask myself some questions. What if I stand for something wrong? Does it mean I’ve already fallen for anything? For what should I stand? And what is “anything?” What does stand even mean?

The word “stand” appears 273 times in the King James Bible; 54 times in the New Testament. In the New Testament there are two prominent words translated “stand.” In the Old Testament there are several words translated “stand;” two of these are prominent. When taken together in context they all mean the same thing: to take up a position and stay in it.

Then in what or in whom and how and why shall the believer stand?

I. Stand in the Word of God

- Isaiah 40:7-8 – “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.”

And that, dear believer, is in what and why we should stand. So now what does God’s eternal word say about our stand?

II. Stand in the Lord

- Psalm 61:2-3 - “From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.”
- Proverbs 1:32-32 – “For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.”
- Psalm 4:8 – “I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.”
- Philippians 4:1 – “Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the lord, my dearly beloved.”

So now, why should we stand in the Lord? Because He is our shelter and strong tower in whom if we stand we have safety and we can sleep in peace. I Thessalonians 3:8 says, “For now we live if ye stand fast in the Lord.”

Stand in the Lord!

III. Stand in the faith

- I Corinthians 16:13 – “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”
- II Corinthians 1:24 – “Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.”

- Ephesians 2:8 says, “For by grace are ye saved through faith...”

Stand in the faith!

IV. Stand in grace

- Ephesians 2:8 – “For by grace are ye saved...”
- Romans 5:2 – “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
- I Peter 5:12 – “By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.”

Stand in grace!

V. Stand in the gospel

- Philippians 1:27 – “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.”
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 – “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that

he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...”

And that is the simplest, purest, most complete presentation of the gospel wherein we can and ought to stand.

Stand in the gospel!

VI. Stand in your speaking

- Do you want to be a soul winner? I do. Acts 5:20 says, “Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”

Stand in speaking!

So in all of the above SO STAND!

Dick Chamberlain

Addendum

For your additional study of this subject I am including an outline of a message I preached several years ago. All of the main points are from the book of Philippians chapters 1 and 2. I hope this will be helpful.

Stand Together

Philippians 1:27-2:16

- I. As one person – 1:27
 - a. Stand fast
 - b. One spirit
 - c. One mind
 - d. Striving together

For the faith of the gospel

- II. With one purpose – 2:2
 - I. Likeminded
 - II. Same love
 - III. One accord
 - IV. One mind

For the fullness of joy

- I. One plan – 2:1-2:16
 - A. Four temperaments – 2:1
 - 1. Consolation
 - 2. Comfort
 - 3. Comradery
 - 4. Compassion
 - B. Four tests – 2:12-16
 - 1. Character – 2:12a
 - 2. Courage – 2:12b
 - 3. Cooperation – 2:14
 - 4. Continuance – 2:16

For fortitude of the body