

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	22
Sunday AM Worship	31
Sunday PM Worship	18
Wed. Bible Study	19
Offering	\$1570

How the Church Worships

PRAYER } ■ Acts 2:42
■ Acts 12: 5
■ 1 Timothy 2:1

SINGING } ■ Vocal
■ Ephesians 5:19
■ Colossians 3:16
■ 1 Corinthians 1:21

PREACHING } ■ Teaching
■ Acts 20:7
■ Galatians 1:6-8
■ 1 Corinthians 1:21

LORD'S SUPPER } ■ Weekly
■ Acts 20:7
■ Luke 22:19-20
■ 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

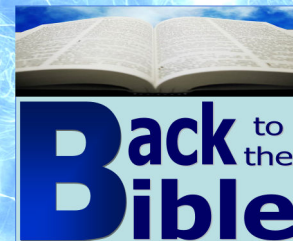
GIVING } ■ 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
■ 2 Corinthians 9:6-7



*"God is a Spirit:
and they that
worship him
must worship
him in spirit
and in truth."
John 4:24*



Evangelical Bible Church



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship:...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

HOW TO STAND FAST IN THE LORD!

Tim Canup

It is truly heart-breaking to hear of a Christian who has fallen away, turned back to their old life of sin. In Philippians 4:1, Paul pleaded for these Christians, whom he loved so dearly to "...so stand fast in the Lord..." The words "stand fast" has the idea of remaining firm, true, unwavering – to be faithful. Paul's earnest plea for them was to remain true to God. As Christians, we must be aware of the constant attacks upon us by Satan. These trials and temptations could be compared to storms at sea. At some point in time, even the strongest Christian can waver or drift a little or be completely blown off course. However, it is the strong Christian who seeks to immediately correct their error and then to strengthen their faith to prevent future occurrences. As he wrote to these Christians, notice with me three ways from Philippians 4:1-7 which will help us to "stand fast in the Lord."

BE UNITED:

Paul wrote, "I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord" (Philippians 4:2). God never intended for man to journey through life alone. Ultimately we have God with us (if we are living faithfully), but we also have one another. In Galatians 6:1-2 we read, "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." In answer to the false charge of casting out devils by power of Satan,

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Jesus said, "...Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matthew 12:25). In giving his credentials as a true prophet of God, Amos asked, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). Paul was pleading for unity; he understood the destructive nature of division (cf. Philippians 4:3; 1:27; 3:16; I Corinthians 1:10).

How can we stand fast in the Lord? One thing that will help is to stand with other STRONG Christians! No! They cannot do for us, but they surly can help. When I was in high school, the tennis coach advised us that for us to get better, we needed to play against someone who was better. This also involves us helping those who are weaker. The fact is that there is strength in numbers. The old saying that you cannot walk through a barn and not come out smelling like the cows is true. Our associations matter (I Corinthians 15:33). Our desire then should be to be with other faithful, strong Christians. If the church is not united together, it can never stand!

BE JOYFUL:

Paul wrote to these Christians and said, "Rejoice in the Lord always: & again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). Standing fast in the Lord means we are overcoming sin and temptation and is a good way for us to overcome is to rejoice. We should be a happy Christian. No, rejoicing alone will not save us, but for those who are saved it will help to overcome. Why? Because we know we are the children of the eternal God of heaven and we know we have been redeemed from our sins. The Psalmist said, "...happy is that people, whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 144:15).

Some Christian sometimes act as if they have been weaned on sour pickle. For those who are sour and bitter, who are always murmuring, complaining and unhappy, they are a pushover to Satan (cf. Philippians 2:13-14). We learn what happened to the children of Israel because of their constant complaining in wilderness, "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, & were destroyed of the destroyer" (I Corinthians 10:10). Will there be "bad days"? Yes! What the Bible teaches is for us to let it go; take the lows with the highs. When given a lemon, make lemonade. Christians should be happiest people on earth (Psalm 122:1). Surely we would expect to walk around sorrowful and then expect others to come join our misery?

Not only are we to rejoice, but Paul also said, "Let your moderation be known unto all men" (Philippians 4:5a). The word "moderation" has the idea of "forbearance, gentleness, meekness." It is strength under control. It has to do with having the proper attitude. It has the idea of "I am in control of my life because I have turned it over to God. It is impossible to rejoice and not let our moderation be known to all around. Why? The rest of

verse 5 says, "The Lord is at hand." We should always act as if God is standing right beside us watching. If you want to give the devil fits, then "Rejoice in the Lord!" How can we stand fast in the Lord? Be Joyful!

BE PRAYERFUL:

Finally, Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." Paul told them to stop worrying, it was out of their control anyway. He reminds them they must put their trust in God, in all things (cf. Matthew 6:19-34). Rather than worrying, he told them to be prayerful, and not just during certain times or occasions, "but in **every thing** by prayer..." The Christian must have attitude of gratitude, besides, most things we worry about can be changed. When we are right in our prayer life, other aspects will be in order also. When Paul said, "let your requests be known unto God," doesn't He already know? Yes! But prayer is not for God, it is for us to help us realize our dependency on Him. It helps us keep proper perspective in life.

By being regular in our prayers, we can have a better assurance we are standing fast. We can know we are at peace with God (cf. Philippians 4:7). The peace of God is far better than anything known to man; "which passeth all understanding." This peace will keep us safe (I am not suggesting we cannot fall from grace). If we truly are striving to live in harmony with the Word of God, then He will keep us, by providing strength and a way of escape. We can stand fast in the Lord by being prayerful!

CONCLUSION:

Paul said, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12). In this verse, Paul was speaking of our trying to stand alone or on our own. As Proverbs 3:5 tells us, "Trust in the LORD w/all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." After we have become a Christian, we then must diligently strive to serve God and reach the eternal goal. Is it going to be easy? No! Will it cost us anything? Yes, everything! Will the reward be worth it? Without a doubt! But we must continue to "stand fast in the Lord." To help us do that, Paul reminds us that we must be united, joyful, and prayerful.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oct 31 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Nov 7 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Nov 14 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell