

“You CAN Keep Standing”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Knowing that some are people dealing with challenging situations, let us see how the Word encourages us to continue steadfastly in the faith despite circumstances.

¹²With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.
¹Peter 5:9,12

⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.
^{James} 5:8

¹³Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. ¹⁴Do everything in love.
¹Corinthians 16:13-14

²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
²Cor. 1:21-22

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes . . . ¹³Therefore put

Notes:

[a]

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.

¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.
^{Ephesians} 6:10-11,13-18

Our Heavenly Father has given us everything we need to stand firm so be assured—you CAN keep standing.

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...with The Sojourner

“Hope Resurrected” (Teaching Sketch)

Colossians 1:23 (NIV)



There is an open door, the open door to all the things of “The Kingdom.” So the question might well be, “How do I access them?”

We must seek out these matters in God's Word! All things of God come through the funnel of faith and faith comes via the Word. Without faith it is impossible to please God. It is not enough to believe in God, but you must also believe that he rewards those who seek him. ^[1] It seems reasonable that a person will not reach out for something if they do not believe that it is possible to attain or get the thing for which they are reaching. Why try? We know that the scriptures tell us, in Proverbs, that hope deferred makes the heart sick. ^[2] A person, therefore, who has not seen things for which they have had hope becomes discouraged and downcast, perhaps even defeated in life. They simply give up! “Why try?” they say. These people, often, have no joy or pleasure in their lives, they are often, simply waiting to die. Scrip-

ture informs the Believer that the joy of the Lord is their strength. ^[3] So we must believe in the Lord with all our heart and not

Notes:

[1]
Hebrews
11:16

[2]
Proverbs
13:12

[3]
Proverbs
3:5-6

[4]
I Corin-
thians
13:12

[5]
1 Corin-
thians
13:13

[6]
1 John
14:6

6-7

on our own understanding ^[3] because we, in this life, see darkly ^[4] the things of The Kingdom. This darkness of vision can only be improved by fellowshipping with God in the Word, in the Spirit, and in our deeds. The Apostle Paul said faith, hope, and charity (love) ^[5] abide with the believer and the greatest of the three is love. Why is love the greatest? Love is the greatest because God is Love. ^[6]

Hope

Hope is necessary in the pursuit of the things of The Kingdom because with faith comes hope. They are traveling companions. Faith and hope are much more than concepts. The Spirit brings us hope to lift us up. Please understand, hope is not a wish. Hope and wish have become synonyms in today's

Scripture: Colossians 1:23 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope^[a] held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Philippians 1:19-20

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.^[b]
²⁰I eagerly expect and hope^[a] that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life

Notes:
^[a]elpis
el-pece'
(to anticipate, with pleasure); expectation or confidence:—
faith, hope.
^[b]Or salvation
^[c]Hebrew
נָחַם לִי אֱלֹהִים
to ch-eleth
to-kheh'-leth
; expectation:—
hope.

or by death.

Proverbs 13:12

12 Hope^[c] deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

Romans 10:17

¹⁷Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"Hope Resurrected" (Teaching Sketch)

Colossians 1:23 (NIV)

culture but they have not always been so. Beware of Satan's devices in corrupting words. One of the best examples is the word "bad," which on the street has become a synonym of "good." Notice as these words have changed, things which were once thought of as unthinkable in public have now become acceptable! Hope is not something you want, but hope is in something you already have. This is why, if the Spirit of Christ lives in you, then Christ is your hope! Therefore, the Believer is to cherish a desire with anticipation and trust that God is faithful to his word, just as he demonstrated to the Israel^[7] over and over, as well as the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Jesus trusted God the Father to raise him up from the dead as he relied on the hope of God's promise. We must trust in the hope of God to understand that we walk in "The Blessing," God's blessing, which gives us the fruit of "The Blessing" which is what we often refer to as blessings from God. So we live in a state of hope as we trust God to do all he

promises with an assured reliance on HIS character, ability, and strength.

[7]
Nehe-
miah 9:8

[8]
Luke
24:13-29

[9]
2 Corin-
thians
1:21-22;
5:5;
Ephe-
sians
1:13-14

[10]
Romans
8:10-11

[11]
2 Corin-
thians
1:20

Holy Spirit A Deposit

Believers must understand that the Holy Spirit of God residing in them is God's deposit to prove his faithfulness that he will do all he has promised in this life and in eternity.^[9] This deposit is like that of a person who goes to purchase land and to show that they are serious and intend to keep their word, put up surety money to show they will be faithful to carry out their promise.

Faith — Hope — Love

The Holy Spirit of God resides in the believer. In fact the scripture say to the Believer that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in them.^[10] We must not only believe God exists. We must even trust God to keep his word in all matters. This is the time spoken of in prophesy. The open door is open for the greater works. We need to walk through it into the promises of God!^[11]