

Opposition to Christ and Christians is growing. Learn to how develop strength and maturity to stand for your Savior.

Introductory comments: Saw, Saw, Saw

John 20:3-8 Peter & John at the tomb of Jesus.

- 20:5 John saw (g0991), but did not go in. (Simple seeing with physical eyes)
- 20:6 Peter saw (g2334) the linen cloths lying ther. (Gazing attentively and considering)
- 20:8 John entered the tomb... he saw (g3708) and believed. (to perceive and **know**)

Our prayer is that you **see** (g3708) and believe the truth of God's word in each of the meetings and classes.

Standing for the Lord: what are your experiences?

- Positive
- Negative

What or Who are we standing for or against

1. 2 John 1, 4-8.....Walk in truth
2. 3 John 3,4.....Truth in us... walk in that truth
3. Ephesians 6:11-13.....Against wiles of the devil
4. Philippians 1:15.....For defense of the gospel (not defense of self or organization)
5. Romans 14:4.....To our **master** we stand
6. Acts 2:14.....Peter standing **with** the eleven
7. 1 Corinthians 16:13.....Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

How can we stand

1. Ephesians 6:10-18.....Armor of God
 - 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.
 - strong in the Lord and in the power of **His** might
 - Able to stand against wiles of the devil.
 - Able to withstand in the evil day.
 - Belt of truth, preparation of the gospel, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, prayer and supplication, watchful... for all the saints.
2. Romans 14:4.....Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for **God is able** to make him stand.
3. God gives all that we need. Let us use what **He** provides.
4. Stand **with others** for the Lord.

Cloud of Witnesses who Stood for the Lord

1. Hebrews 11.....

- Cloud of witnesses who have endured opposition
- 12:1 Let us... lay aside sin
- 12:1 Let us... lay aside weights
- 12:1 Let us... run (with endurance)
- 12:2 Let us... look unto Jesus
- 2. Joshua 1:5-9.....Joshua
 - v8 Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth
 - v8 meditate in it day and night
 - v8 observe to do according to all that is written in it
- 3. Daniel 1:8, 2:17.....Daniel
 - 1:8 Purposes in his heart
 - 2:17 Involves others
 - 6:4,5 Known as faithful to God's word.
 - 6:10 Regular quiet time of prayer and thanksgiving... since he was young.
 - 6:22 Publicly gives God glory.
- 4. Daniel 3:16+.....Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego
 - 3:16 No need to answer or defend self.
 - 3:18 Stand ground together... **we** do not serve your gods
- 5. Judges 6,7,8.....Gideon
 - 6:8-10 Remember God's past deliverance.
 - 6:13,15,17-18 Cries out to the Lord
 - 6:14 Go... have I not sent you? (Are we sent?)
 - 6:16 God: "Surely, I will be with you"
 - 6:23, 27 "Do not fear"... did as the Lord said... he feared
 - 7:3 Fearful depart.
 - 7:10-11 God encourages Gideon to calm his fears.
 - 7:15 Gideon worships... and then encourages others
 - 7:21 Every man stands in his place.
 - Gideon and his men are victorious
 - 8:22,23 Gideon asked to rule. He will not. The Lord shall rule over you.
- 6. Acts 7Stephen
 - 7:1+ Spoke the truth... faithfully... unapologetically
 - 7:54-60 Entrusted himself to the Lord
 - As a Christian, death is not failure... it is victory. Not feared.

What if I fall?

- Prov 24:16 "For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity."

Concluding remarks

- Josh 24:14-15 Fear Him... Serve Him... Choose this day (and every day) whom you will serve.
- **See** (g3708) and believe in God's faithfulness to make you stand.

Summary: Practical Suggestions for Taking a Stand for the Lord

1. Pray much for your friends, acquaintances, school mates, unsaved relatives, co-workers, and teammates, especially those with whom you have closest contact.
2. Send birthday, get well, sympathy, or year-end cards with gospel tracts enclosed to the people listed above, especially those closest to you (this is particularly effective if you are a shy person).
3. Always pray and look for openings to speak a word for Christ ("Be ready always ...," 1 Pet. 3:15).
4. Try not to distract co-workers from their work or fellow students from their studies with your attempts at evangelism.
5. Have an excellent testimony ("an excellent spirit," Prov. 17:27; Dan. 5:12; 6:3); be gentle, kind, forgiving, humble, meek, respectful, helpful, not easily provoked or angry.
 - Apologize and ask for forgiveness when needed.
6. Establish your stand early on. If offered an alcoholic beverage, cigarette, or narcotic, or invited to a strip club, R-rated film, etc., politely decline the first time.
7. Don't rail against those who may reject your overtures with the gospel. Don't stop being friendly and nice to them.
8. If you are persecuted for your stand for the Lord, "rejoice" (Matt. 5:10-12; 1 Pet. 3:14).