



Stand

If it weren't for God's grace, there wouldn't need to be a discussion on standing for God. That's right! Christians are asked to stand—in God's grace.

(Rom 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.

God's grace envelopes us unlike anything else. When we think of grace, we should think of 'favor.' God favors each and every one of us and wants to treat us as his favorites. Individually, that makes you very special before your heavenly father.



We learned about God's grace from the gospel, the good news.

(1 Cor 15:1-2) Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; {2} By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

We stand in the gospel; it is the gospel which saved us; and, it is the gospel which was preached

unto us. Without God's grace, we wouldn't have the gospel, we wouldn't be saved, and we'd have no true spiritual cause for which to stand.

If you're going to stand, you're going to have to be prepared, trained, so-to-speak, ready for any conflict that may come your way. *Conflicts are designed to knock you over or out—to keep you from standing.* Are you willing to make a decision to stand? If you are, then you need to decide to prepare yourself so that you are ready for whatever conflict may come your way.

(1 Cor 16:13) Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit

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you like men, be strong.

We are admonished to stand fast in the faith, act (quit) like men, and to be strong. Faith, action and strength don't develop in you overnight. You've got to study, practice, develop over time. Those are the rudimentary aspects of standing.

In Paul's instructions to the Corinthian church, he taught them about standing by faith.

(2 Cor 1:24) Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

He repeated what we've already seen: for by faith you stand. "Faith" can refer to one of two things: the faith of Jesus Christ or your personal believing of God's word. In this verse, action is implied. Because of this, it refers to your personal

believing of God's word. When you believe, you act according to your believing. You do things. You live a certain way. After you have completed the action(s), you will see the results of your believing. By your believing of God's Word, you stand!

Paul taught the Galatian believers to stand fast in freedom (liberty). Christ made us free by what he did for us. *Many people have a difficult time believing that Christ freed us from much of anything*, but the truth is—Christ freed us from every

satanic device known to man. And, because of this, we are told to stand FAST in this freedom. The context very specifically refers to being free from the yoke of bondage, the Mosaic law. Very few of us are in bondage to the over 900 laws bound to the Old Testament believers; many of us are in bondage to a few. You

generally can't go into a church today without being taught the tithe, the ten commandments, the law of the Sabbath, respecting days, weeks, months, holy days, etc., etc., etc.. Be bold and follow Paul's teaching: stand fast in freedom from all Old Testament laws.

Paul taught the believers in Ephesus to stand against the wiles of the devil.

(Eph 6:11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

"Wiles" refers to the "methods" of the devil. The bible makes us savvy to all of the devil's methods. We know from verse 11 that the way to stand against all of them is to put on the whole armor of God. This armor refers, in part, to the nine manifestations of holy spirit (the gift). That's a subject

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for another Artios Letter.

(Eph 6:13) Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

There's no question about it; use the whole armor of God to prepare and enable you to stand!

Paul taught us in Colossians about the importance of standing perfect and complete.

(Col 4:12) Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

We quickly learn that another's prayers help get us to the place of being able to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Your stand without God and *his*

word aren't worth the shoes you're standing

in. The word of God is the will of God. You need to know God's word, and it is this word upon which you are to stand.

Did you know that your stand will help others?

(1 Th 3:7-8) Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: {8} For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

Not only that, it will bring others comfort in their afflictions and distresses by your faith (believing of God's word). Stand fast in the lord so that others can live!

As you become more comfortable with your choice to stand fast, you will eventually realize the absolute importance of standing upon God's word.

(2 Th 2:15) Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

People who embrace the desire to stand upon God's word will live like they have. Their traditions will mimic God's word. That's what Paul was talking about in verse 15. Stand in God's grace because you are his favorite. Stand upon the good news, God's word, because it saved us and gave us God's will. Prepare yourself for unavoidable conflict by believing God's word—study, practice and develop your Christian walks. Stand according to your believing; accept what Christ accomplished for you. By your believing of God's Word, you stand! Stand fast in the liberty Christ made available—don't entangle yourself with Old Testament laws. Stand against the

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wiles of the devil by operating all nine manifestations of holy spirit (the gift). Stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. Pray and have others pray for you. *Help others live by standing fast in the lord (Christ's accomplishments).*

Much love in Christ!

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