

## **BACK TO THE BASICS OF FAITH**

### *Stand in Liberty!*

#### **Galatians 5:1 KJV**

*1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

In Galatians 5, the apostle Paul gives the Church of Galatia a rather straight forward command. He tells them to stand fast in liberty, the same liberty whereby Jesus Christ has made every believer free! This is a very practical exhortation. From its phrasing and by the authority from which Paul spoke, we understand that he is giving us something upon which we first must aim to do, and then after the deed is done, we can very definitely expect a corresponding result.

Whenever we see this word "*Stand*" we can deduce that we are required to fixate our minds upon the task of holding fast. We know that obstacles will come against us and that the enemy will try his very best to get us down, but God is telling us that we have to stand amidst the struggle. Sometimes that "*thing*", whatever it is that we're dealing with, can have our minds in such turmoil that we are physically and emotionally strapped. We don't know whether we're coming or going.

When we're in this state, the last thing in the world that we want to think about is mustering the strength to deal with the burden another day. We just want it over and we can't understand why Heavenly Father allows it to persist. As the plot of our trouble thickens, frustration—and heaps of it—is added to the mix. The combination of frustration, stress, and struggle makes a recipe of negativity that is sure to harshly impact our overall well-being. All of it leaves us with sleepless nights, troublesome days, and a victim mentality. The three equal a negative cycle that will continue to spiral out of control.

Did you get that equation?

(Sleepless nights + troublesome days + a victim mentality = a negative cycle)

Every Christian ought to take at least a rudimentary interest in mathematics. Why? Because the Word of God is mathematically precise. I don't care where you are in the world, two plus two equals four (2+2=4). No matter how many times you add them up you are still going to get the same results. You see, God's laws are precise like that.

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I use to hear my grandmother say, "God don't bless no mess!" I get such a chuckle from that, because she was so wise and so right! In scientific terms, she was conveying the soundness of God's laws. They are immutable, inflexible, and 100% accurate with razor sharp, pinpoint specificity. You cannot escape the consequences of breaking the law regardless of what you do. If you do the crime, you'll do the time. Oh God will forgive us no doubt, but we still have to face the consequences of our actions.

You can take the elevator up a 20 story building and pray until you reach the highest floor, but if you've prayed to jump off the building and take flight, you'll witness the law of gravity in effect as you never have before; and it will probably be your last time witnessing it too. God's laws are etched in stone, so when He tells us something in His Word, it is because He wants us to learn a little something about inter-dimensional living. He's saying "Look, I told you in My Word to put on the mind of Christ so that you learn to walk in harmony with the laws that govern the universe. Your mind's got to stay on things above in heaven even though your body is walking around on earth. Got it! Your mind stays on the higher things of life, while you live and play on the good ground that I've given you. Don't hate the game, because I have beautifully designed the system to help you achieve victory! Yep, that's right! The laws are friendly towards you when you work within them, so learn to do just that!"

### **Philippians 4:6 (NIV)**

*6Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

God has emphatically admonished us to dispense with the worry, doubt, stress, and fear over our personal problems and troubles. Why do you think that is? Well because these feelings have their origin in unbelief, and unbelief works against us, not for us. When our minds are filled to the brim with worries, our unbelief sends a message to the entire universe that we do not fully believe in the liberty that God has made available through Jesus Christ.

The state of unbelief exists when our actions, confessions, and attitudes do not unilaterally convey the same message. And do you know what this does, the unbelief causes us to experience more of the same. Our situation doesn't change because our inner reality doesn't change...our confession, attitude, and behavior doesn't change. You cannot pull a positive experience out of a negative mindset. That's impossible! God set up the universe to respond to faith, not ambivalence or doubt.

The Father will not come into your being and start reorganizing your thoughts to line up with His Word! No!!! Absolutely not! If God would usurp your free-will choice and intervene in your thinking process, then you would never have had any trouble in the first place, but He will not do this. He said "**DON'T YOU BE ANXIOUS! Stop your worrying and doubting and get your thoughts on higher things. Bring your mind back to what Jesus Christ accomplished for you and**

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*in you. Open up a channel and let positive thoughts of faith and thanksgiving flow through it. Feel the presence of Christ in your inner-being and begin to so order your steps to walk in the liberty that he has provided."*

We become frustrated with God because He will not do the work of our souls for us; when really the fault lies within our own understanding of His plan as it concerns each individual's spiritual growth. The Father intends us to learn to use our minds and emotions to be high-level thinkers and over-comers. Romans 8:37 (NIV) says *"despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us."* Do you believe that, because if you do I guarantee you that your circumstances will begin to significantly change for the better.

In Galatians 5:1, God tells us to stand in the liberty of Christ, and then He further says *"And DON'T get yourself entangled in that messiness again!"* He tells us to stand, to be firmly anchored, with our minds fixed and saturated by the reality of Jesus Christ.

You and I should have paid the price for our sins, not our blessed Lord and Savior. It should have been us on that cross, but it wasn't. As you remember this extraordinarily overwhelming act of his love, your heart ought to explode with thankfulness, but listen and listen well...you can't be thankful for something you don't intend to use. Use what God has freely given you!!! Leave your worries, doubts, and fears in the Father's extremely capable hands. Concentrate on living for him...loving yourself and loving others. Embrace the freedom that was already bought and paid for by Christ. Bask in his love, walk in his power, and stand fast in his liberty today and every day of your life.

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