

Stand Fast in the Truth

BY PASTOR DAVID ROSALES



Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught. 2 Thessalonians 2:15a

Are you as passionate about your walk with God today as you have been in the past? If not, then you may be backsliding. Scary thought, isn't it? The truth is, not only must we have that fire for God when we first accept Christ, but we also need that fire to continue as we grow and walk with Him. When that fire begins to fade, as it may sometimes do, then it must be rekindled or stirred up, as Paul instructed Timothy: **Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you** (2 Timothy 1:6a), also translated **to fan into flame** (NIV).

You can have as much passion and excitement about Jesus Christ now as you did the day you first got saved. Remember the message you heard—that your sins could be forgiven, you could have a new life, and heaven would be your home? Do you remember how radical that was? Do you remember how exciting, fresh, and new it was to you? If you were anything like me, your whole life was transformed because of that message.

That message—the Gospel—brought me forward to publicly accept the Good News of God's gift of salvation, and I want to continue going forward with the Lord even though the enemy will try everything he can to shake me up and pull me away. I believe that in almost every believer's life there will come a time when Jesus will ask us, as He did His disciples in John 6:67b, **"Do you also want to go away?"** Sometimes our very foundation can be challenged and shaken through events in our lives, but we need to remain strong in Him. Even John the Baptist wavered. He and Jesus had been preaching the same message—**"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"** (Matthew 3:2). But after he had been put in jail, John heard that Jesus was doing things differently than he had expected. While he was still in jail, John sent his disciples

to ask Jesus, **"Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"** (Matthew 11:3b). Jesus responded, **"Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me"** (Matthew 11:6b). To paraphrase what Jesus was saying, **"Blessed is the one who isn't stumbled when he discovers Me to be different than what he had perceived Me to be."**

If things in your life are not going how you expected, stand fast in your faith in Christ. Don't get apathetic or lose heart. Hold fast to the promises in the Word of God, because those promises will strengthen you in your times of trial.

The closer you get to the Lord and the more you see Him, the deeper you begin to fall in love with Him, and the more aware of His complexity you become. The Lord told Isaiah, **"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts"** (Isaiah 55:9).

In many ways, the Gospel is very simple because a child can embrace it and be saved; but it is also complex because it applies to the various layers of our lives, ages, and experiences. We find that God, from our infancy to adulthood, is capable of filling every gap—and that is discovered through experiencing Him and walking with Him. When I encounter something I don't understand, the best thing for me to do is retreat to the one thing I do understand: I am beloved of the Lord.

I must stand firm in my belief that if God loves me, He will not allow something into my life that is going to harm me. Therefore, I will choose to trust Him in all things. He is in control of all things, and I need to have the strength that comes from Him. God's love is the motivator for all of this: He loves you, He gave His Son for you, He will be with you, walk with you, and work

in you. His love will give you freedom, and it will give you life.

Not only are we to hold fast to the truth of God's Word, but we need to be obedient to it as well. If our walk contradicts our words, then the Gospel is compromised and we lose our testimony. Word and work must be consistent. Even though we may desire to be obedient, we are also frail; so we need the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God to comfort our hearts and establish us in our faith.

Have you taken a step backwards in your walk with the Lord? Has some sin shaken your foundation, has apathy set in, or do you feel frail and helpless? Take heart: God still

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loves you. **"I have loved you with an everlasting love"** (Jeremiah 31:3b). Confess your sin or lack of faith to Him, and He will forgive and cleanse you. Then He'll restore you and put you back on your feet so you can go forth for His glory. Speak to Him today. Then hold on to Him as tightly as you can, and watch what He'll do in your life! ➔

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