

STANDING BELIEVER

1. Definition:

- A. Standing is a term in the Word of God which describes the believer under pressure yet remaining stable and positive to God's righteous standards.
- B. Bible doctrine, promises, and knowing the person and character of Christ enable the believer to take the heat from the world system and stand for truth.
- C. Standing, then, is a synonym for endurance, positive volition, patience, and maturity.

2. Hebrew Terms for Standing

- A. AMAN, to be firm, stable, durable, lasting and permanent. Psalm 89:28 speaks of the covenant of God establishing the positive believers family line forever. When a believer stands with doctrine he is standing with the Eternal God.
- B. YATSA, to stand before a judge knowing you are innocent, or to stand before an enemy, is the meaning here (Exodus 8:20; 9:13). Moses stood before Pharaoh and gave an account of his positive volition to Jehovah and told Pharaoh his need of salvation. He stood in the courts of evil, as a witness in time of God's greater power and plan for humanity.

Exodus 14:13, believers still stand and watch God take care of their enemies at times.

Joshua 1:5, when the Lord promotes you, then no one can stand against your armies.

Proverbs 22:39, a man who takes pride in his work will stand in promotion before kings. Kings admire beauty and integrity in a person's work. If you do your job as

unto the Lord, then He will promote your name in your company and in the community. Business will come your way and you will gain in prosperity.

C. KUN means to stand upright in integrity.

Psalm 119:73, the believer here is on a death march and is standing under tremendous mental and physical pain for 22 days.

Judges 16:26, 29, Samson regained maturity and stood against the armies of evil, killing 3,000 of them in his last supernatural act of strength.

D. NATSAB means to take a stand, stand firm with someone.

Deuteronomy 29:10, this means to stand firm in God's promised covenant for He keeps His Word. This gives the believer peace of mind.

Psalm 82:1, God stands among His own people and judges their rulers.

Proverbs 8:2, Doctrine stands at the gate of the city as the prophets teach there. The people are accountable to God as the faithful men stand and teach the Word of God to the people of the land.

Amos 7:7, 9:1, the Lord stands by the wall and the altar which signifies that He is going to judge them as a nation. When believers refuse to stand for truth and influence their nation for Christ, then the Lord will stand against that nation in judgment.

E. UD, means to stand erect once again, restore, relieve and endure.

Psalm 20:6-8, the believer trusts in the strength of the Lord, not in weapons only. The Lord is the believer's

weapon and enables him to stand in all situations.

F. AMAD means to place yourself in a situation so that you are able to minister to someone. In this position you are to persist, endure, resist temptation, to persevere so that others can be helped with truth.

Exodus 3:5, Moses was ministered to by God so he could minister to the people.

Exodus 9:11, Moses has to persevere in his ministry to the Pharaoh and Egypt for he had to prove that evil cannot stand before God's hand.

Deuteronomy 1:38, Joshua matured and stood with the Lord and because of him Israel would inherit the land.

Esther 5:1, Esther stood before the king in order to save her people.

Job 30:20, Job stood in great suffering and testing to prove that God was fair and righteous. His undeserved suffering is the greatest example in history, apart from Christ's, of how God can use a believer to vindicate His glory and integrity.

Proverbs 12:7, the righteous will stand as God promises.

Summation of point 2.

- God never expects us to stand under pressure with only human strength and ability.
- Believers have an advocate with God the Son who will help us to stand against evil in time.

- Believers stand with doctrines from the Lord against what Satan throws against them.

- There are times when the believer stands against individuals, against a nation, against friends who disagree with his integrity, as in the case of Job.

- Every generation must have at least one person stand with personal integrity (Psalm 20:6-8).

3. Job was called upon to stand under the greatest of pressures with maximum suffering for an indefinite period of time.
 - A. Job 16:17-19, even though he suffered he knew that he had an advocate who would help him with his case.
 - B. Job thought God was punishing him at first but could not figure out why.
 - C. Then he concluded that God knew what He was doing even though he didn't, so he rested in God's integrity.
 - D. He refused to acknowledge any personal evil in his life for he believed that he was innocent, which he was.
 - E. Job's suffering reveals to us:
 - 1) Personal behavioral justification.
 - 2) Maximum unexplained suffering.
 - 3) Standing believer under friends testing, a direct Satanic attack.
 - 4) Sovereignty and righteous God in time.
 - 5) Limitations upon Satan in time.

4. In the New Testament the believer is required to stand in grace.

A. HISTEMI means to stand in Greek.

Romans 5:2, the believer stands in grace and not on the Law. Therefore our perspective is based upon grace, not Law. We obey God because of His love and actions towards us through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:24, the believer stands firm in the doctrines he has learned and satisfies God in time with his

behavior.

Ephesians 6:13-14, the believer who is prepared for spiritual battle is the one who is required to stand firm in pressure.

B. PARISTEMI means to stand alongside.

2 Timothy 4:17, Paul was under maximum pressure as an apostle and everyone deserted him when he needed support. The Lord stood with him and that carried him through it to victory.

C. STEKO

1 Thessalonians 3:8, the believer stands before Christ and is evaluated by Him in time.

Galatians 5:1, the test of the standing believer is not to go back to the old comfortable ways of living under the Law and old sin nature, but rather live according to his freedom in Christ.

Philippians 1:27, the attitude of the standing believer is one of striving together for the sake of the gospel.

D. KINDUNEUO means to stand in the face of danger when teaching the truth. You become a target of ridicule, criticism and antagonism because you stand for Christ and expose evil for what it is.

1 Corinthians 15:30, since the resurrection is true, the more you talk about it the more danger you will face.

2 Corinthians 11:26, Paul faced many dangers in his life due to teaching the ancient world about Christ.

5. Entering the Danger Zone of Maturity and Service

Galatians 5:1, Learning to stand in freedom of grace doctrine takes a believer some time since it goes against

our legalistic trends. I call this Alpha grace maturity and a person qualifies for the Glory crown for maturing and standing on grace (1 Peter 5:4).

- A. A pastor must build his ministry on grace teaching and actions. It is a temptation to retreat back to programs and gimmicks when he does not see progress and church growth.

Each of the churches in Revelation 2 and 3 had some testing before they were cleansed of legalism, religion, Adamic nature thinking. The Smyrna and Philadelphia churches had matured and passed this test. The other churches were failing their test and substituting human good and legalistic trends which hindered their gospel influence.

- B. Each believer must learn to look at the local church as a place of growth and personal ministry. They must understand the purpose of the church is to give them doctrine which they will use each day to organize their priorities.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27, each believer has to learn to fight in with grace in the Christian life.

- C. Finally, the believer reaches a point where he is willing to take a public stand against human good and evil. Then he speaks to others on the job, in the community, in the church, about the Lord and about the Biblical solutions to the problems we face in life.

6. The second area of the danger zone and grace blessings is called Beta grace (1 Thessalonians 3:8).

- A. This is where the believer stands and develops an appreciation of the way Christ controls history.

He is aware of his nation's history and how the Lord has controlled provided freedom, laws of divine establishment, spiritual freedom, prosperity and opportunity.

He knows that human events are not independently caused but rather monitored and sometimes directed by the Lord Himself.

- B. The believer knows about suffering of all types and is able to identify types of suffering and give counsel for handling them.

The soul has comfort rather than fear, tranquility rather than worry, peace rather than depression due to remembering God's provisions for suffering.

1 Peter 5:1-4 and Romans 12:14-15 explain that a mature believer enjoys seeing other members of God's team promoted. He rejoices when souls are saved, new people joining other Bible teaching churches, more missionaries sent out with the Word of God, and the service of other Christians in the body of Christ.

He has learned to submit to his own pastor-teacher and local church so he rejoices when the body of Christ expands or advances.

This person has overcome human competition and jealousy against other local churches involved in the same ministry.

All things are controlled by God and therefore he recognizes that God distributes blessings as He sees fit.

We cannot work and earn what God wants to give to us. Grace is the issue, not hustling for Christ.

He does not sneer and reject other Christians who are ministering in the same areas of evangelism and edification.

This believer recognizes the importance of the personal high priest, ambassadorship, and ministry of every believer, including their husband and wife, and therefore

does not try to lord it over other believers by emphasizing his ministry over the ministry of others.

This believer recognizes that God works through others as He works through his life, and that no one believer's ministry is more important than any other believer's ministry.

- D. This mature believer appreciates the character of Christ, Ephesians 3:17, and how He controls the spiritual gifts distribution and function in any geographical area.

Only immature, jealousy filled believers will compete with other churches for bodies.

It is not wrong to evangelize, but don't become arrogant over whose church is the largest, or has the largest budget for outreach.

- 7. The third area of mature standing is Gamma Grace. This means that the believer will stand with sound doctrine all his life and then into eternity.

The categories of danger increase for this type of believer for Satan directly opposes him. For example, the apostle Paul faced many areas of opposition, listed in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, due to his stand for Christ.

2 Corinthians 12- Paul was given an affliction in the flesh, a thorn, which was demonic torture, to keep him on track and out of arrogance. It is easy to become arrogant when you know so much more than your congregation. Therefore, God gives to each one a certain degree of suffering that humiliates us and reminds them of their human frailty.

This believer's area of influence expands and the opposition to his ministry increases.

A temptation is to believe that you have become a human celebrity and are more important, due to personal ability,

than others.

The believer has to orient to the celebrityship of Jesus Christ in time so he will not be influenced by arrogance, (Philippians 3).

Rewards for standing in the Gamma grace category is the crown of life (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10). The Smyrna believers were told they would suffer for the next 243 years due to Roman persecution. If each generation would continue to stand in the faith then they would receive this crown.

9. Delta grace is the ultimate area of spiritual growth, service, and suffering for Christ.
 - A. Very few believers ever have reached this area but the Apostle Paul did, 2 Timothy 4:17.
 - 1) The Apostle had friends forsake him and Christ alone stood alongside him.
 - 2) The believer has withstood pressure and opposition for long periods of time yet has great comfort in his soul.
 - B. The depth of understanding of this believer far surpasses all others in experiential knowledge and grace.
 - 1) He does not just know the truth, he has lived it for many years!
 - 2) When he speaks it is not from reading, it is from personal experience with the Lord!
 - C. The reward for standing in Delta grace is the crown of righteousness.
 - D. The believer's life is used to condemn the actions of Satan in time and prove God's integrity, Job 1-2.

