



## I. Review

The command in scripture is for us to stand.

*He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. Psalm 40:2 (NIV)*

*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)*

*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)*

Chapter 4:1 - Paul's statement at the beginning of chapter 4 seems to be both a **SUMMARY** of what he has said in this epistle, as well as an **INTRODUCTION** to what he was still going to say.

Last week we discussed the idea of **PEACE** as it pertains to your ability to stand.

## II. How to Stand Firm – Function in **UNITY**

*I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Philippians 4:2-3 (NIV)*

Stand Firm is rooted in **UNITY** and with **UNDERSTANDING** (4:2, 3)

*Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Ephesians 4:25-27 (NIV)*

It is very difficult for you to stand firm when you are granting the Devil a **FOOTHOLD** in your life. Unity - the choice to function in unity is huge when desiring to **STAND FIRM**.

This, it seems, is what Paul was pleading for when he asked Euodia and Syntyche "to **AGREE** with each other in the Lord." Both were outstanding Christian women, but they needed to **RESOLVE** their differences through open **COMMUNICATION** and **MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING**.

## III. Stand Firm With a Proper **ATTITUDE** Toward Life

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7 (NIV)*

## 1. Maintain an attitude reflecting **JOY**

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (4:4)*

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-5*

Joy enables you to **STAND**.

The Greek word for Joy is "**CHARA**".

Common misconception about Joy - Joy is just another word for **HAPPINESS**.

## 2. Maintain an attitude of **GENTLENESS** and **GRACIOUSNESS**

*Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Philippians 4:5 (NIV)*

*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life - in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.*

**Philippians 2:14-16 (NIV)**

## 3. Maintain an attitude of **CONFIDENCE** in God

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*

## IV. Maintain an attitude of **POSITIVE** and **RIGHT THINKING**

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV)*

Is it **TRUE**?

Is it **NOBLE**?

Is it **RIGHT**?

Is it **PURE**?

Is it **LOVELY**?

Is it **ADMIRABLE**?

- ✓ **FILTRATION SYSTEM** of thought.
- ✓ **PRE-DETERMINE** our thoughts each day.