

Declare this in the house of Jacob And proclaim it in Judah, saying,
“Hear this now, O foolish people, Without understanding, Who have
eyes and see not, And who have ears and hear not:

Do you not fear Me?’ says the LORD. ‘Will you not tremble at My
presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a
perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves
toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they
cannot pass over it.

But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted
and departed.

They do not say in their heart, ‘Let us now fear the LORD our God,
Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He
reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest.’

Your iniquities have turned these things away, And your sins have
withheld good from you.”

- Jer. 5:20-25

Assemblies

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Sunday Morning | 9:00 a.m. |
| Sunday Evening | 6:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 7:30 p.m. |

Elders

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Tom Brown | 502-921-2778 |
| Laymon Byers | 502-957-3627 |
| John Smith | 502-231-5341 |

Evangelists

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Ron Halbrook | 502-955-1748 halbrook@insightbb.com |
| Steven F. Deaton | 502-543-9686 sfdeaton@insightbb.com |

Phone: 502-957-5115

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Stand Fast

One cannot be a Christian and be timid for long. A soldier of Christ is expected to hold his or her ground. If we run and retreat, we do a disservice to Christ and our fellow soldiers. Therefore, we must stand fast.

Paul said, “Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong” (1 Cor. 16:13). We are not to stand fast in our own strength (Prov. 3:5). If we try this, we will fail (Jer. 10:23). We are not to stand fast in the philosophies and wisdom of men (1 Cor. 1:18-31). This will only lead to ruin. Rather, we are to “stand fast in the faith.” The faith, God’s Word, is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psa. 119:105). In it we may take a firm stand for truth and righteousness. In it we stand against Satan and the temptations he hurls at us (1 Pet. 5:8, 9). To hold our ground in the faith, we must know the faith. Hence, we must give time and attention to learning the Word of God and then be determined to live by it. Brethren, stand fast in the faith.

Christians are to stand fast in their liberty. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1). Other translations say, “For freedom Christ has made us free; stand fast therefore, and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Since Christ has made us free from sin and death, we are to stand fast and not be drawn away. Can you imagine citizens of our nation going back to being subjects of the king of England? Would any of us willfully submit to slavery or advocate a return to it? The spiritual freedom we have in Jesus is worth taking a stand for. No false doctrine or fleshly pleasure is worth forfeiting our freedom. Therefore, stand fast in your freedom.

Unity is to be prized and cherished by the children of God. Paul said, “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together

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for the faith of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27). When we stand fast in the faith and freedom of Christ, we do not stand alone. We are side by side with other soldiers of like precious faith. Not only that, but we stand in the Lord—with the Lord (Phil. 4:1). Truly, when we stand fast in the Lord, we automatically stand fast with all others in the Lord (1 Jn. 1:1-3). What a blessing it is to share with others the struggles of faithful living; to see them valiantly fighting the good fight of faith. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalms 133:1). This unity is not to be taken lightly. In fact, the Lord says He hates “one who sows discord among brethren” (Prov. 6:19). Stand fast in one spirit, one mind.

Let us stand our ground and uphold truth and righteousness. If we give a little here, we will end up giving up much there. Therefore, stand fast.

- Steven F. Deaton

Always

The Lord said, “Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!” (Deut. 5:29). He said this through Moses to the children of Israel. It was after they wandered in the wilderness for forty years and were about to enter the land of Canaan. The people had vacillated in their faithfulness to God. He wanted them to remain firm in their commitment to Him and provided every inducement to do so. However, as we now know, Israel always struggled to maintain faith in God.

Though Israel of the Old Testament is no more, there is an Israel that belongs to God—the Body of Christ. We are the true Jews today; circumcised not in the flesh, but in the heart (Rom. 2:28, 29). God still desires and commands our loyalty, even under the severest of trials (Rev. 2:10). When we are faithful to God, it not only honors Him, but also benefits us and our children. If we compromise, our fellowship is broken and the succeeding generation is harmed. Therefore, if we love our families and want to get to heaven ourselves, we must fear God and always keep all His commandments.

- Steven F. Deaton

The Power, Person, and Plan of God

The power of God is revealed in creation. We know that man is intelligent and powerful. Man has invented cars and computers, riverboats and rockets. He has traversed the world and walked on the moon. Man has even harnessed the power of the atom to make extremely powerful weapons. But Who made the moon on which man could walk? Who made the atom that man has manipulated? The Bible tells us that God created the heavens and earth, and all things in them (Gen. 1:1-25). He created man who made the cars and computers (Gen. 1:26, 27). When we observe the universe around us, we can know that God exists and that He is powerful. The Psalmist said, “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork” (Psa. 19:1).

The person of God is revealed in His Son. While the Old Testament gives abundant evidence of the nature of God—His love, hate, compassion, patience—we understand that the fullness of God was made known in Christ. Philip said to Jesus, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us” (Jn. 14:8). Jesus replied, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9). In other words, Jesus was a living, breathing example and embodiment of God. The Hebrew writer said Jesus was “the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person” (Heb. 1:3). The idea is that Jesus was the “imprint” of God, “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9). If we want to know God, we must know His Son.

The plan of God was revealed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come” (Jn. 16:13). The plan of salvation was revealed by the Holy Spirit Who searched out the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:7-13). The New Testament is the only plan of God. There is one body of truth, the faith, just as surely as there is one Savior (Eph. 4:5). All other plans are fraudulent. Therefore, if we want to know the soul-saving plan of God, we must go to the one source, the revelation of the Spirit of God.

- Steven F. Deaton

Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like Me.

- Isa. 46:9