

# HOLDING STEADFAST



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There's nothing more valuable in the Christian life than understanding the importance and the necessity of holding steadfast in our trials and how to get the great and valuable spiritual results from it.

God tells us in the fifth chapter of first Peter to be sober and vigilant because your adversary the devil, prowleth about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions (that means the same troubles, or the same kind of temptations) are being gone through by all your brethren, who are in the world. And now God's promise, "*But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*"

Many will look at that verse and think they are to 'suffer awhile' before receiving their victory. It has never been God's will for us to suffer. That is why He sent His Son here to this earth, to suffer for us, that we would not have to suffer.

Anyone who ever went to God in the Bible and based their claim for deliverance on the Atonement Blood of Christ (or some type of His Blood) was always delivered in the present moment. There wasn't a long-drawn-out case in the entire Bible.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:10 again, "*The God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory, (that means to share all His glories throughout the endless ages of Eternity) after that ye have suffered awhile (meaning, after being tempted in various ways, and met it successfully), will Himself make you perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.*"

From this verse we can see that God uses the various trials and temptations (which we meet

in this life) to perfect us in our Christian characters, perfect us in our health, and in the strength and vigor of our bodies—regardless of conditions.

It also means the peace in our homes and the salvation of our loved ones, and we will have all our needs provided financially by God's power alone. We will have perfect victory everywhere—and best of all, we will have perfect faith in God, which is the best and happiest place to be here on this earth.

We need to distinguish between troubles that people in the world and in the churches have and troubles in the will of God. Paul distinguishes this very clearly in the seventh chapter of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.

He says, "*The sorrow of this world worketh death.*" (What he means is, the troubles of this world, outside of the will of God, will end in death.) *But Godly sorrow, (that means when going through a trial) does a work that we will never regret.* (That is when meeting it right.)

Before God gets full control of us, our human nature wants to trust in anything or anybody but Him. We need to be changed and to grow and develop spiritually until we come to the place where we trust God fully for everything.

The whole object of becoming scriptural is to place our total confidence and trust in the living God alone, instead of ourselves or any human thing, from the least to the greatest thing in our lives.

The only place we will have any trouble in our lives, is where we haven't learned to trust in God alone or haven't learned to become scriptural at that point. James points that out in James 1:12, "*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, (or when he has been tested on all points, and stood every test) he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to all them that love him.* That's Eternal Life.

That shows how important it is that we hold steadfast and meet every trial and trouble right. No human being will ever be able to meet temptations right who hasn't made their decision final to do what God's Word says.

We will never be able to meet one trial successfully, nor get victory over the devil, nor be prepared for Eternal Life until we settle it to obey God's Word, hold steadfast, and trust in Him alone. That is two very important points that bear repeating—we need to settle it to obey God's Word, hold steadfast, and settle it to trust in Him alone.

The three Hebrew children were tested on those same two points. They were told if they didn't bow down and trust in Nebuchadnezzar's golden image, they would be thrown into a fiery furnace seven times hot. They knew God's Word said they shouldn't trust in anything or anybody but Him. Here they were, they had a decision to make, 'obey God's Word and trust in Him alone' or bend their back in front of that golden image.

They replied to the King, "*O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*"

Notice, they had no fear, they feared not the king, to start with and then had no fear of that burning hot furnace. They were confident that God would bring them through, and He did. They came out of that furnace and not even a hair was singed on their bodies. That is the only way that the violence of fire can be quenched.

If God can find anybody who will allow Him to bring them to that place, He will manifest His power in exactly the same way---whether it be a fiery furnace, a den of lions, or whatever it might be, God can do exactly the same today.

We have a God who is always with us, and if we have any difficulty in getting a deliverance, He will reveal the hindrance and give us all the light and strength we need as well as the deliverance. That is our Blood-Bought right, but we need to go to God personally and alone. That is the greatest value and privilege we have when going through

temptation---dealing with God personally and settling it to go to Him alone.

Many times, a temptation will come where we have never settled it to depend on God alone at that point in our lives; a place where our faith needs to be developed and perfected.

When we meet it right and hold steadfast, not doing a thing ourselves or using human plans or efforts of our own, regardless of the pressure or distress, that will enable God to deliver us from all doubt and fear of the devil and inspire us with real faith and confidence to trust in Him alone for perfect victory.

The next step then will be, believe His written promises that tell us that we are delivered when we pray. Every promise of God is true, and they already have 'YES' at the end of them.

Anything and everything that the world may be depending on for their health and protection must be thoroughly erased from our minds and come to the place where we can honestly say, "All my help from Thee I bring." That will mean perfect health, perfect protection, and a full deliverance from every attack the devil would try to oppress us with.

As one continues to grow and develop in the Christian life, the more understanding they will have of God's Word, and the more they will realize that there is a great work that is needed in us if we ever expect to receive Eternal Life. In our natural condition, we are exactly opposite to what we should be and ignorant of what we should know.

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, "*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*"

Without God's Holy Spirit working within, we will never realize how ignorant and hopeless we really are of ourselves.

Satan will try to give us an excuse for every unscriptural thing he will try to get us to do. If we have not the Holy Spirit within and haven't repented and surrendered our life to God and taken the Truth seriously, we will accept those excuses and God will not be able to work to prepare us for Eternal Life.

But it is encouraging to know that God is a Master Teacher and a perfect Workman. He can do a perfect work and will do it wherever He can find a willing and open-minded soul, one who is willing to hold steadfast. It is the most important thing that should concern anyone, to have this great work completed that needs to be done in a spiritually blind soul.

In our natural condition, we are unscriptural and living contrary to God's will in every thought, word, and action we take. We are utterly ignorant of God's plan for us that He has written out for us in His Word.

All that needs to be changed. We need to allow God to take us and to teach and develop us until we come to a full knowledge of His Word. To become thoroughly scriptural in every thought, word, and deed, and fully conformed to the very image of His Son.

We can't afford to use a little self because a little of the devil will corrupt our whole trust on God. Galatians 5:9 "*A little yeast corrupts the whole of the dough.*" Satan is constantly trying to have us use a little self, but a little self is a big mistake in the Christian's life of trust on God. The Scriptures plainly state God's will on any matter we meet.

Many times, when one will be going through a hard trial, and having trouble getting perfect victory, the devil will try to tell them they will never get their victory. He will base the reason for that on the fact that they have tried every way they know to get the victory, and they haven't gotten it. They have tried the way they got their past deliverance, and it just isn't working out like it did before.

This time you are in a trial that you cannot get out of. That is a lie direct from Satan because God's Word says in 1 Corinthians 10:13, that "*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape.*"

So regardless of how that trial comes, or where or how hard it hits us---we can rest assured that we, as a real Christian, have entered into a trial that God is regulating to do exactly what is necessary in our life, to teach us the lesson that we need to learn at that time, and to make the development in our Christian character that is needed in our life.

When going through trial, we can always be encouraged and remember that God is present with us and always willing and able to deliver us, and to turn our temptations (as we meet them right and hold steadfast) into stepping stones to develop us more and more into the very image of His dear Son, and to prepare us for Eternal Life.

All God's dealings with us are for the purpose of bringing us to a fuller knowledge of Him and His will and Word. We are to come to the place where we will know Him as He is and to be as sure and confident that He can and will do all that He says He will do. 1 John 2:6, "*He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*"

The great and all-important thing is to hold steadfast and grow and develop into the very image of Christ; receive a full knowledge of God and be brought to the place of full obedience to the entire New Testament.

That is the goal and the object of God's teaching and workmanship.



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