

STAND FIRM IN THE FIRE (Palm Sunday)

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

—  John 16:33 (NLT)

It's pressure.

It's weight.

It's something that just won't let up.

“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

—  1 Peter 1:6–7 (NLT)

A faith that is tested...is a faith that can be trusted.

“Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.”

—  Romans 12:3 (NLT)

So the question isn't just:

👉 Do I have faith?

But:

👉 Is my faith aligned?

PALM SUNDAY — EXPECTATION VS REALITY

This is the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem...

And the crowds were shouting:

“Hosanna!”

“Save us now!”

“Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”

They were celebrating Him... But they misunderstood Him.

**They were celebrating what they wanted out of Him...
Not what He was about to do in them.**

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts... and my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine...”

—  *Isaiah 55:8–9 (NLT)*

“Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...”

—📖 *Philippians 2:9–11 (NLT)*

It can seem like God doesn't meet our expectations...

But what if the issue isn't His faithfulness— What if it's our expectations?

Because faith isn't just believing strongly — It's believing correctly.

“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.”

—📖 *Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)*

👉 Am I expecting the right thing?

👉 Am I aligning my faith with His purpose— Or trying to bend His purpose to my need?

The same crowd shouting “Hosanna” on Sunday... Was silent by Friday.

The same church that worships on Sunday... Can be anxious, frustrated, and defeated by Monday.

**When Jesus didn't meet their expectation...
Their praise didn't last.**

**When life gets heavy - expectations get desperate. **

But maybe... Just maybe... It's not Jesus that's wrong.
Maybe our expectations are.
Maybe we've thought more highly of our understanding...
than we should.

Praise built on expectation will collapse under pressure.

Faith built on belonging — will stand.

Three men who didn't just believe in God — They trusted His purpose.

FAITH OBEYS GOD

"We must obey God rather than any human authority."

—  Acts 5:29 (NLT)

Obedience is not situational — It's directional.
It flows from alignment.

FAITH BELIEVES

Faith doesn't just believe God can... It believes God is
working toward the right outcome — even when I don't
understand it.

“For we live by believing and not by seeing.”

—  2 Corinthians 5:7 (NLT)

“Even though... yet I will rejoice...”

—  Habakkuk 3:17–18 (NLT)

FAITH TRUSTS GOD WITH THE OUTCOME

Trusting God is not passive — It is surrendering my expectation to embrace His purpose.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding...”

—  Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT)

When you're in the fire— You're not outside His plan.

“When you walk through the fire... you will not be burned...”

—  Isaiah 43:2 (NLT)

Standing isn't just about strength — It's about alignment. Because when your expectations are aligned with His purpose...

You won't walk away when it gets hard.
You won't collapse when it doesn't make sense.
You won't bow when the pressure rises.

**Because your faith isn't built on what you
wanted — It's built on who He is.**

PALM SUNDAY TRUTH

Palm Sunday reminds us—

If your faith is built on expectation... It will fail under pressure.

But if your faith is aligned with His purpose — It will stand... even in the fire.

You didn't stand to prove who you are. You stood...
Because you already knew
who you belonged to.

And now — You trust Him... even when it doesn't look
like what you expected.

STAND – WEEK 5

Stand Firm in the Fire

Palm Sunday Focus: *Align your expectations with God's purpose.*



EXPECTATION vs PURPOSE

John 12:13 • Hebrews 11:1

They celebrated what they wanted FROM Him... Not what He was doing IN them.

ALIGN YOUR FAITH

Romans 12:3 • Proverbs 3:5-6

Faith is not believing strongly—
it's believing correctly.

WHAT SCRIPTURE SHOWS

- ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:7
Walk by faith
- ✓ Isaiah 43:2
God is in the fire
- ✓ Hebrews 13:5
He is with you



WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE

- 🔥 Trust when it doesn't make sense.
- 🔥 Peace when it doesn't resolve.
- 🔥 Faith when it doesn't change.
- 🔥 Staying when others walk away.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Where are my expectations misaligned?
- Am I trusting outcome or purpose?
- What does "Even if." look like for me?

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE

- 👁 Notice your expectations this week.
- 🙌 Surrender one outcome to God.
- ✝ Declare: "Even if... I'm still Yours"

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Where are my expectations misaligned?
- Am I trusting outcome or purpose?
- What does "Even if." look like for me?

THIS WEEKS PRACTICE

- 👁 Notice your expectations **this week**.
- 🙌 Surrender one **outcome** to God.
- ✝ Declare: "Even if... I'm still Yours"



STAND – WEEK 5

Stand Firm in the Fire

ALIGNMENT FOR THE FIRES of LIFE

Palm Sunday Focus: *Align your expectations with God's purpose.*



THE REALITY OF THE FIRE

John 16:33 (NLT)

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT)

"...even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold..."

***A faith that is tested
is a faith that can be trusted.***



EXPECTATION vs PURPOSE

Romans 12:3 "Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us."

ON THE OUTCOME
OF MY CIRCUMSTANCES

I Overestimate Myself
Hebrews 11:1 &

I Elevate My Expectations
John 12:13, 5:15

TO THE PURPOSE
OF HIS KINGDOM

John 12:13
Isaiah 55:9-9

Matthew 6
Hebrews 13:5

“An ‘Even if...’ Faith”

Daniel 3:18 ...even if he doesn't

Habakkuk 3:17-18

...yet I will rejoice in the Lord!
I will be joyful in the God of my salvation."



ALIGN YOUR FAITH

- Romans 12:3 "God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."
- Hebrews 11:6
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Faith is not believing strongly—it's believing correctly.

Where have I put my trust?

- 👁️ In my plans or His purpose?
- 👉 In my grasp or His goodness?
- 👂 In my wishes or His ways?
- 🔑 In my ideas or His instructions?

*In the fire, you will see your faith.
That's when you'll know His faithfulness.*



Tap to Download This Week's Study Guide

