

ORDER OF SERVICE

October 3, 2021

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Baptisms
Worship in Message
Worship in Giving

Wayne Braudrick

Stand Firm In Grace

1 Peter 1:1-2

Stand Firm Series

Life Change: We live by the full measure of God's grace.

Who, then what?

1 Peter 1:1-2

Who is Peter?

What is Peter's Big Idea?

Theme of the study (what the study is about): Peter's first general letter is one of those rare books where a clear purpose statement is delivered. (1 Peter 5:12) That declaration to stand in God's grace sets the tone for the entire epistle and drives Peter's argument.

What are his other themes?

Who were these people?

Who is God?

God is triune.

God is in charge.

God is gracious.

What does God do?

Who are we?

Christians are sojourners.

Christians are empowered to live differently.

What do we do now?

- Name one area where you may struggle to persevere/stand firm.
- Think of one aspect of your personality that is too much driven by you and not God's grace.
- Consider what earthly thing might draw you into thinking this is home.
- Reflect on some aspect of life where you can't seem to see clearly.

Make specific commitments in response.



STAND FIRM

a study of 1 Peter

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



#1 BESTSELLER
THREE MILLION COPIES SOLD

Why Some Companies
Make the Leap...
and Others Don't

GOOD TO GREAT

JIM COLLINS

Coauthor of the bestselling
BUILT TO LAST

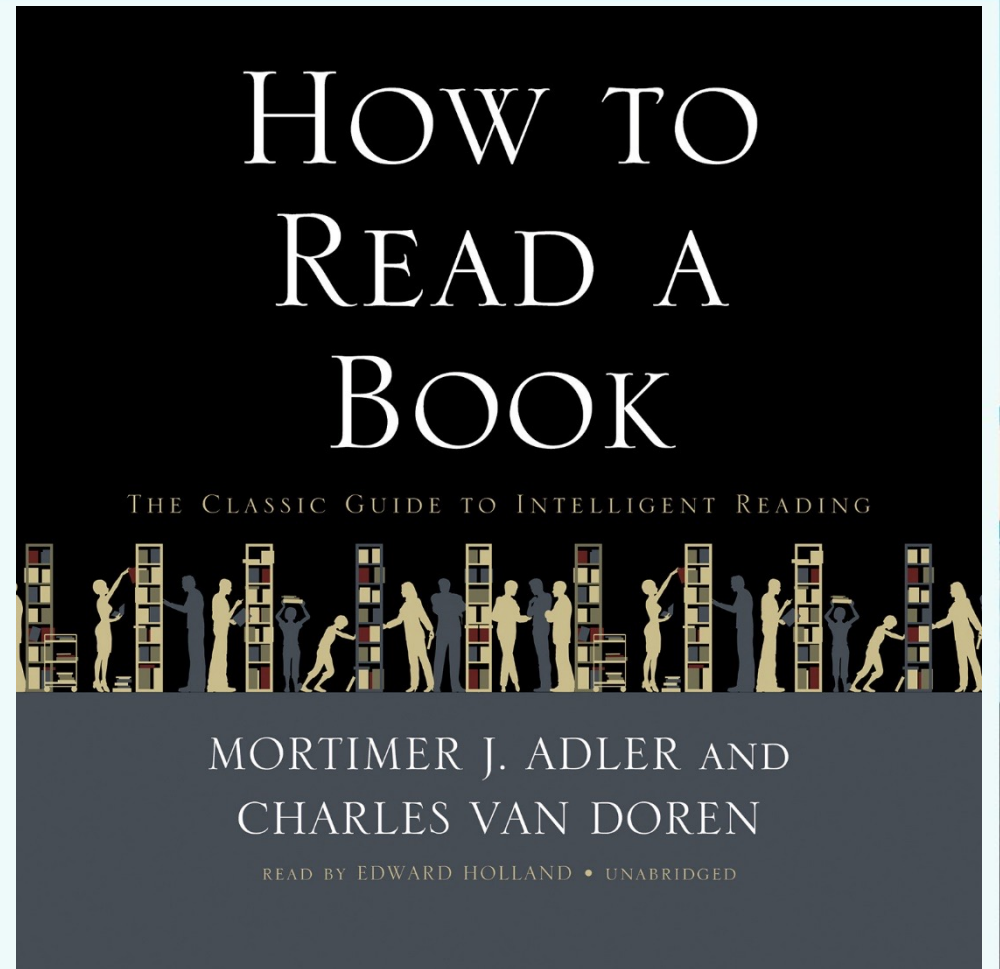
First Who...then What.

Get the right people on the bus, the wrong people off the bus, and the right people in the right seats before you worry about where you are going to drive the bus.

– Jim Collins, *Good to Great*



**Adler's rule:
For best understanding,
first discover who and
then work on what.
– Mortimer J. Adler**



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For best understanding, first discover who and then work on what. – Mortimer J. Adler

WB addendum: *Who then what* is a classic formula for adventure, change, learning, and success.

Discover speaker & audience first, then grasp the big idea.

First Who...Then What



1 Peter 1

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ:

To those chosen, living as exiles dispersed abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ.

May grace and peace be multiplied to you. ^{CSB}

Titus

Phil

Heb

Jam

1 Peter

2 Pt

1 Jn

2 Jn

3 Jn



courtesy The Chosen



courtesy The Chosen

Peter denies
Carl Bloch 1865



Peter preaches
Charles Poëerson 1642



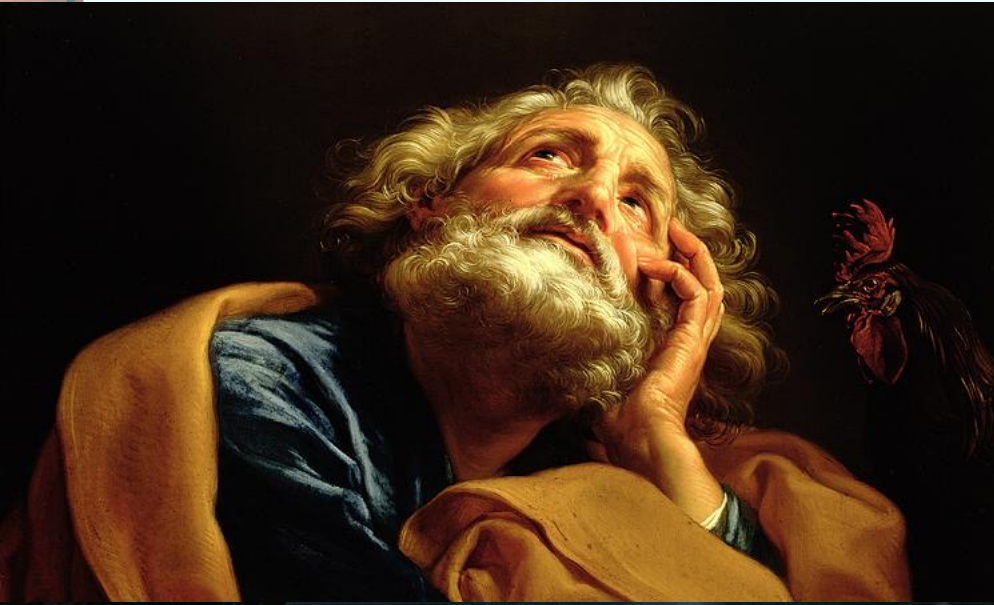
***Theme of the study (what the study is about):* Peter's first general letter is one of those rare books where a clear purpose statement is delivered. As with John's gospel, this purpose statement comes near the end (1 Peter 5:12; John's is found in 20:31.) That declaration to stand in God's grace obviously sets the tone for the entire epistle and drives Peter's argument.**

1 Peter 5

12 Through Silvanus, a faithful brother (as I consider him), I have written to you briefly in order to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! ^{CSB}

Peter

Pompeo Batoni ca. 1782



Sadly, this piece was stolen and its location is unknown.

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***The Militia Company
of District II under the
Command of Captain
Franz Banninck Cocq
and Lieutenant
Wilhelm van
Ruytenburgh***

Rembrandt 1642

- That's a city gate behind them.
- They are musketeers.
- Rembrandt himself is in the painting... peeking over that guy's shoulder.
- There's a dog barking!
- A chicken is hanging from the girl's dress.





courtesy Rijksmuseum



courtesy Rijksmuseum



- She has a crown – the sign of royalty.
- There's a fuzzy, halo-like quality around her, used to depict a spirit.
- She is resplendent in gold.

***Civic guardsmen from the company of captain Jacob Backer and
lieutenant Jacob Rogh
Nicolaes Eliasz Pickenoy 1632***



courtesy Rijksmuseum



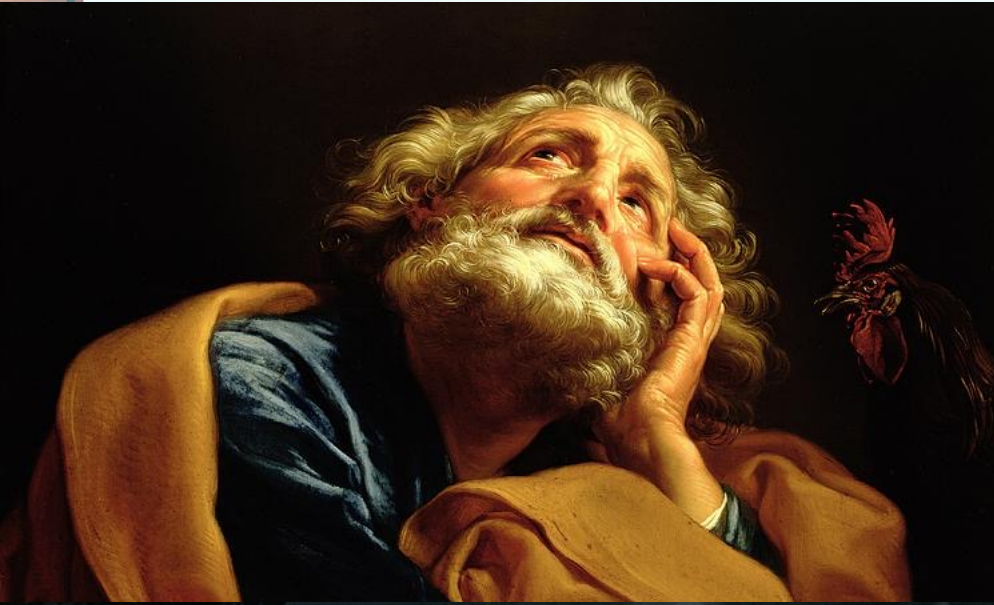
- Her face is not young as she's a city, not a child.
- She is decked in gold to show the golden gift of God's grace that crowned the Dutch state, which was born miraculously out of religious persecution.
- This company of District II had a symbol: a golden chicken claw.

Thus, the golden female represents God's grace which these men are dedicated to defend.

The Night Watch is all about standing firm in grace.

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1 Peter

Main theme: Stand firm in God's grace. Sub-themes:

- 1) The Christian is a pilgrim, passing through this world.**
- 2) The Christian has a higher purpose. Avoidance of pain, amassing of wealth, and other foci of this world are not comparable to the purposeful living for eternity.**
- 3) The Christian is transformed and empowered to live differently.**

1 Peter

**Main theme: Stand firm in God's grace. Sub-themes:
1) The Christian is a pilgrim, passing through this world.**

When scientific achievement, the welfare state, and dialectical materialism combine to make our century too worldly-minded, 1 Peter recalls us to the heavenly and eternal outlook, and reminds Christians that they are but strangers and pilgrims here. – Alan M. Stibbs, *The First General Epistle of Peter*

This point has been most important in changing my perspective on the dysfunction of the world, the suffering that is a part of this life, and how I should live undaunted in the face of it all. As Dr. Constable said at seminary, “Christians are really citizens of heaven and our sojourn here on earth is only temporary.” – David Wade

1 Peter

**Main theme: Stand firm in God's grace. Sub-themes:
2) The Christian has a higher purpose.**

Similarly, when relief from physical disease, and the provision of physical comfort tend to be treated by some as the primary Christian objective, we need the reminder of 1 Peter that holiness matters more, and that all who would follow Christ must, in a selfish and sinful world, be prepared to suffer for righteousness' sake, and to recognize that God uses suffering for the highest good. – Alan M. Stibbs, *The First General Epistle of Peter*

1 Peter

Main theme: Stand firm in God's grace. Sub-themes:

3) The Christian is transformed and empowered to live differently.

Also, when moral standards...tend to seriously decline, and when genuine young converts to Christ are tempted to spend their enthusiasm more in words than in deeds, we need the challenge of 1 Peter to express our response to Christ and the gospel in transformed behavior in relation to our fellowmen. – Alan M. Stibbs, *The First General Epistle of Peter*

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May grace and peace be multiplied to you. ^{CSB}



ILLYRICUM

MOESIA

BLACK SEA

THRACE

MACEDONIA

EPIRUS

AEGEAN SEA

ACHAIA

IONIAN SEA

CRETE

MYSIA

LYDIA

CARIA

LYCIA

PHRYGIA

PAPHLAGONIA

BITHYNIA

GALATIA

PONTUS

CAPPADOCIA

PISIDIA

PAMPHYLIA

LYCAONIA

GILICIA

SYRIA

CYPRUS

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

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**Greek: πρόγνωσις prognosis = fore-ordination;
foresight + forethought**

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Plan for sculpture "America"
John Bell 1874



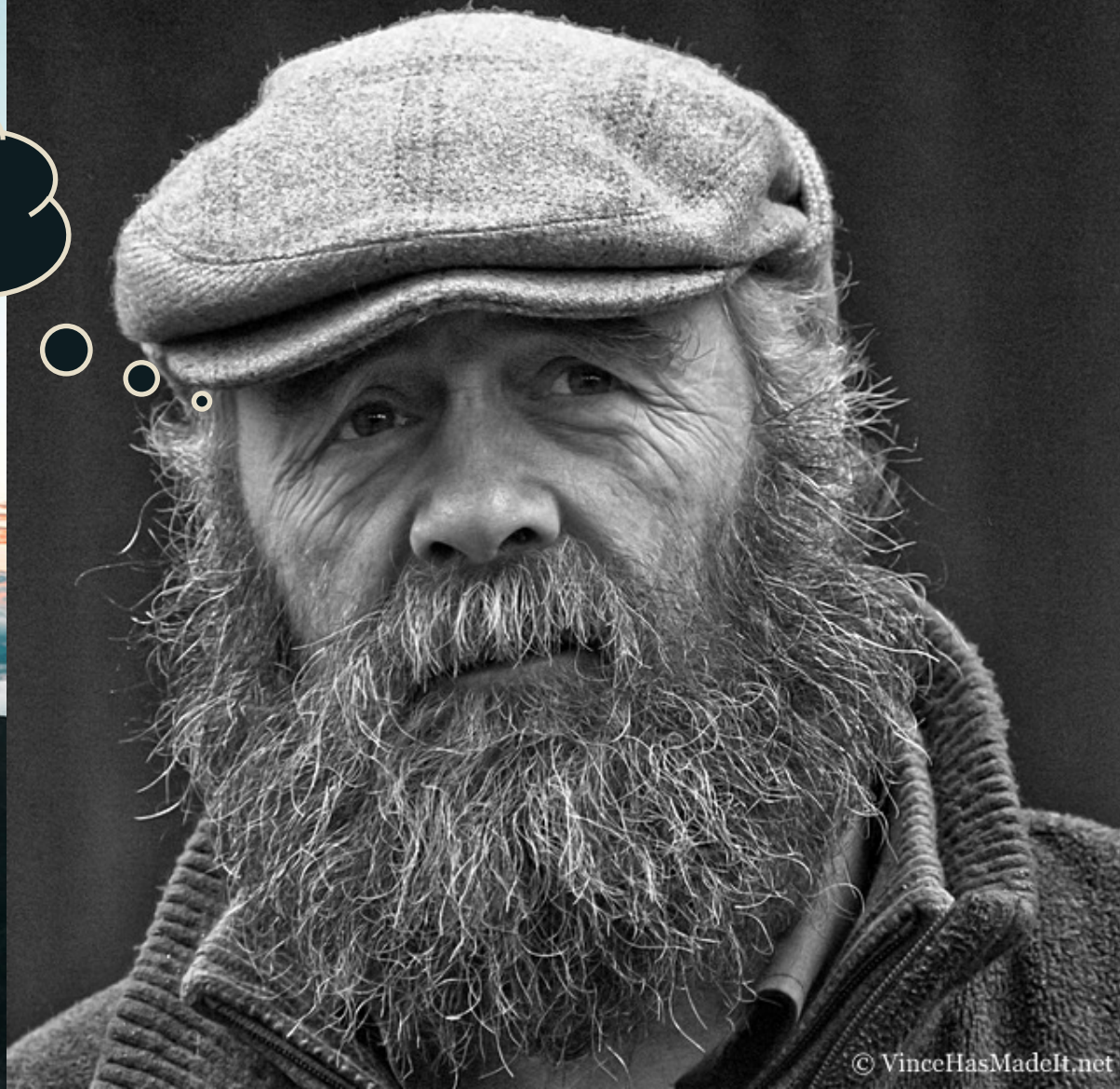
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Please, do not call this fatalistic – a small-minded charge brought against Peter by people who just want to be god themselves. In reality, the Bible teaches both that we have responsibility as humans and that God is fully sovereign.

Ah cannae
ken this!



1 Peter 1

chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ.

Greek: πρόγνωσις prognosis = foresight + forethought



When there's something in the Word of God that I don't like, the problem is not with the Word of God. It's with me.

– R.C. Sproul

Ephesians 1

**⁴ He [the Father] chose us in him [Jesus the Son],
before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and blameless in love before him. ⁵ He
predestined us
to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ
for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace
that he lavished on us in the Beloved One. ^{CSB}**

It is comforting to know that I cannot screw it up. I cannot be stupid enough, not bad enough, or off my game so much that it thwarts His plan. – Cindy Sharp



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May grace and peace be multiplied to you. ^{CSB}

Complete list of those who deserve God's gracious salvation:

chosen to be recipients of God's grace

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ: To those chosen, living as exiles dispersed abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient and to be sprinkled with the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you. ^{CSB}

Deut 7:6 For you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth. ^{CSB}

Psalm 105

**43 He brought his
people out with
rejoicing,
his chosen ones with
shouts of joy. ^{CSB}**

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May grace and peace be multiplied to you. ^{CSB}

Ephesians 2

¹⁰ We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. ^{NLT}

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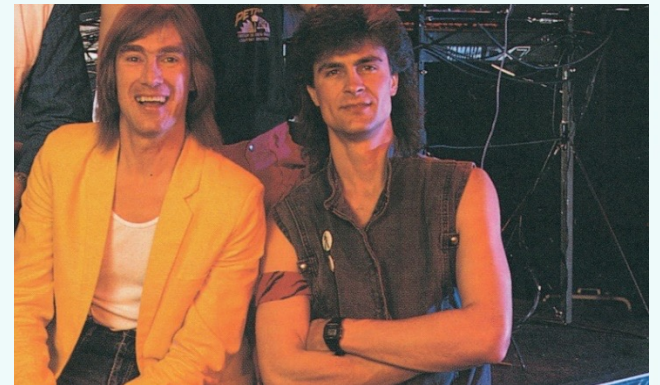
The Sojourner's Rose
Jake Weidmann 2014



**We are strangers, we are aliens
We are not of this world
We are envoys; we must tarry
With this message we must carry
There's so much to do before we leave
With so many more who may believe**



**Our mission here can never fail
And the gates of hell will not prevail
Jesus told us men would hate us
But we must be of good cheer
He has overcome this world of darkness
And we will soon depart from here
– Peter Case & Ben Vaughn,
“Not of This World”**



1 Peter 1

To those chosen, living as exiles dispersed abroad in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient



Greek order: through the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience.

I was picking up meds at the local pharmacy. One of my boys was sick, and I was one tired momma. I was going round and round with a not-so-helpful helper behind the counter. My very human self wanted to rip into her, but it was as if the Spirit had a hold of me with one hand over my mouth. I was so upset that it sure as heck was not me keeping my attitude at bay. I surrendered to God in that moment, and the Spirit even put a sincere “thank you” in my mouth as I left. Whaaaat! – a Momma Bear

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Objective (what we hope to see God accomplish in us through the study): That we live by the grace of God – persevering today in light of the glory of tomorrow.

STAND FIRM

A person is silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky, standing on a dark, rocky mountain peak. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, red, and blue. The overall scene is serene and majestic, with a geometric pattern of overlapping triangles in various shades of blue and white overlaid on the background.

a study of 1 Peter



STAND FIRM

a study of 1 Peter

Premise (why we are studying this): The Christian needs to understand the simple truth of God's grace and live by it alone. Christians should dwell on earth as people who are: bound for a future grander than anything temporal, transformed by God's gracious election, and operating according to a greater purpose. Sadly, that is rarely our experience, necessitating our engagement with God's word from Peter. When we so engage, the Lord changes not only us, but the world.

Beleaguered by indelicacy and indecency, by tastelessness and vulgarity, our sophisticated society is given on one hand to a hatred of ultimate truth and on the other to irrational passion...Skepticism, caricature, and ridicule of the gospel abound. Secularism is no less hard-core than pornography... [Yet] the same was true in the first centuries...and the early church didn't say, "Look what the world is coming to!" they said, "Look what has come into the world!" – Carl F. H. Henry, *The Christian Mindset in a Secular Society*



What do we do now?

- **Name one area where you may struggle to persevere/stand firm.**
- **Think of one aspect of your personality that is too much driven by you and not empowered enough by God's grace.**
- **Consider what earthly thing might draw you into thinking of this as home.**
- **Reflect on some aspect of life where you can't seem to see clearly.**

- **Name one area where you may struggle to persevere/stand firm.**

Answer: Prayer. I tend to such confidence in self that I neglect the truth that I need to engage with God all the time.



Commitment: Stop and pray every time I pick up my phone to play Mario Kart. (And not to win the race!)

- **Think of one aspect of your personality that is too much driven by you and not empowered enough by God's grace.**

Answer: Sense of justice. I will fight for right by my fake power of anger or indignation.

Commitment: Stop every time I write some self-justification in an email or hear self-righteousness from my mouth. Those are the tip-offs that I need to stop and yield to the Lord.

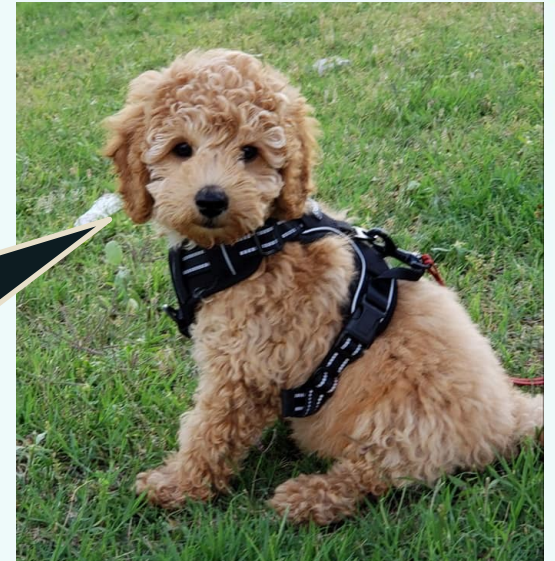


- **Consider what earthly thing might draw you into thinking this is home.**

Answer: My precious family.

Commitment: Love them properly. Every time I think of them, praise God for them and commit to follow Him, not them.

**Worship nothing but
God. Not even me.**



- **Reflect on some aspect of life where you can't seem to see clearly.**

Answer: Near-term future of Christians in US society.

Commitment: Count my blessings every time I get concerned.

A person is standing on a rocky shore, looking out at the ocean during a sunset. The sky is filled with warm, orange and red hues, and the water reflects these colors. The words "STAND FIRM" are overlaid in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image. The person is positioned between the "F" and "R" of the word "FIRM".

STAND FIRM

- **Reflect on some aspect of life where you can't seem to see clearly.**

Answer: Near-term future of Christians in US society.

Commitment: Count my blessings every time I get concerned.



If you wish, share yours w me. mwbraudrick@friscobible.com



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a study of 1 Peter