

Philippians 4:1-3 - Stand Firm

Verse 1

My beloved brethren – Paul uses this phrase 4 times in his epistles. James uses it 3 times. Paul also ends this verse with the word “*beloved*”.

Whom I long to see – This is the only occurrence of this word in the New Testament and it conveys an affectionate yearning for someone.

My joy and crown – They were his *present* source of joy and also his *future* crown.

Crowns in the New Testament

-Imperishable Crown – 1 Corinthians 9:24

To those who exhibit discipline.

-Crown of Exultation – 1 Thess. 2:19

To those who lead others to Christ.

-Crown of Righteousness – 2 Timothy 4:8

To those who love His appearing.

-Crown of Life – James 1:12, Revelation 2:10

To those who persevere under trial.

-Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:4

To those who faithfully serve.

So stand firm in the Lord – 11 times in his epistles Paul encourages us to stand firm! In chapter 4 he tells us what it means to stand firm:

1 – Live in harmony with one another.

2 – Rejoice in all circumstances.

3 – Dwell on proper thoughts and practices.

The command to stand firm comes in chapter 4 because we must first learn the principles of chapters 1-3.

Therefore... stand firm in the Lord...

Chapter 1 – The Single Mind.

“...conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ...”

Chapter 2 – The Submissive Mind.

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit...”

Chapter 3 – The Spiritual Mind.

“For our citizenship is in heaven...”

Verses 2-3 Peace with others

I urge – Paul did not command but appealed to them to apply the principles he had taught.

Live in harmony – This is the word *phroneo* that is used over and over in Philippians and means “same minded”.

In the Lord – These two women needed to keep their focus on Christ and model their thoughts and lives after His.

True comrade – The word literally means “yokefellow” and may refer to Epaphroditus or the main elder at Philippi.

These women who have shared my struggle in the gospel – Both Euodia and Syntyche had been involved in Paul’s ministry.

What was their struggle?

Euodia means “Success”.

Syntyche means “Lucky”.

Perhaps the meanings of their names give us a hint that their conflict was in their personalities.

They were both believers who shared in the work of the ministry.

With Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers – These were others in the church at Philippi that were involved in furthering the gospel. Whether or not these people were also involved in the conflict is unclear.

Whose names are in the book of life - Meaning that they are believers or that they have honored status.

The Book of life

The Bible refers to more than one “Book of Life”.

Those who are alive on earth – Exodus 32:32-33

Those who are believers – Revelation 20:12, 15

Those who are faithful believers –Philippians 4:3

Are you at peace?

Are there other believers with whom you have conflict?

Are you standing firm?

Single mind

Submissive mind

Spiritual mind