

Finding Spiritual Stability

During April, our objective is to see Philippians 4.1-9 as a unit. The message in these verses is spiritual stability. Philippi was a typical church. People were on all sorts of differing spiritual levels, with all levels of spiritual stability. Paul's concern was that they work through their problems and continue on a positive growth trajectory, becoming well rooted, established, and stable.

I. Today's Great Need for Spiritual Stability

- A. Could it be said that the church today is facing a great amount of instability?
 - 1. 1 Peter 5.8: *Be sober-minded, be alert. Your **adversary** the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.*
 - 2. Satan is working with all sorts of allurements that threaten and entice believers. It is a battle for us to remain stable.
- B. Jesus warned about this: John 16:33: *I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have **suffering** in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.*
 - 1. This is a hostile world, the flesh is hostile, Satan is hostile, and there will be conflict.

II. What Scripture Says About Stability

- A. Peter warned about false teachers and agents of Satan who were always busy *seducing **unstable** people*. See 2 Peter 2.14; 3.16.
- B. James said: *But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, **driven and tossed** by the wind*, James 1.6.
- C. Genesis 49.4 - Reuben is described as being *Unstable as **water***...

III. What Philippians Says About Spiritual Stability

- A. Stand firm in the Lord: *So then, my dearly loved and longed for brothers and sisters, my joy and crown, in this manner **stand firm** in the Lord, dear friends*, Philippians 4.1.
 - 1. *Stand firm* is a military word. "Stand your ground while under attack."
 - 2. It is a command. Not a suggestion.
- B. Context of this Command... see how Paul cherished relationships.
 - 1. *So Then...*This relates back to what has been said in the third chapter.
 - 2. *...my dearly loved and **longed for** brothers and sisters,*
 - 3. *my **joy** and crown, ...,*
 - 4. ***dear** friends.*
 - 5. The command to stand firm is bathed in deep and emotional love.

IV. As We Close...

- A. 4.1: *So then, my dearly loved and longed for brothers and sisters, my joy and crown, **in this manner** stand firm in the Lord, dear friends.*
 - 1. "in this manner"
 - 2. What follows in v. 2-9 - are very basic principles for spiritual stability.
- B. You want to be a strong Christian, stable, and established? Learn the principles that are here.
- C. For every difficulty and every stress ... the answers are always found in the Word.