

# STAND FAST IN THE FAITH!

**NAKIA MCKAY**

TEXT:

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

AMPLIFIED

Be alert and on your guard; stand firm in your faith ([b]your conviction respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, keeping the trust and holy fervor born of faith and a part of it). Act like men and be courageous; grow in strength!

SUBJ: Stand fast in the Faith! (Tell your neighbor, "Stand fast in the Faith!")

INTRO: In this passage of scripture the Apostle Paul is giving encouragement to the brethren at Corinth, that they should be watchful and stand firm in the faith, because he knew that following after Christ, their faith would be challenged!

(NOTE: He knew that some of things that the believers would go through would really challenge them and their faith!)

And here's the reality people of GOD, it doesn't matter how Holy you are, it doesn't matter how long you been saved, it doesn't matter how many tongues you can speak in, At some point, something is going to challenge your Faith!

(EXP#) That sickness in your body you've been dealing with for so long is going to challenge your Faith.

(EXP#) The suffering in your life is going to challenge your Faith.

(EXP#) That situation in your family is going to challenge your Faith.

(EXP#) The trouble in your marriage is going to challenge your Faith.

(EXP#) Problems with your children are going to challenge your Faith.

(EXP#) Your lack of finances are going to challenge your Faith.

(EXP#) unexpected issues and situations are going to challenge your Faith.

At some point, something is going to challenge your Faith And you have to be watchful and stand fast, because without faith you can't last!

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(EXPOUND) Your Faith is where your hope comes from!

(EXP#) Without Faith, you have no hope that it's already getting better!

(EXP#) Without Faith, you have no hope that tomorrow will be a better day!

(EXP#) Without Faith, you have no hope that I'm healed!

Your Faith is where your hope comes from!

Job 1:18-22

18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: 19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. 20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, 21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and

naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. 22 In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

(EXPOUND) Without Faith, you can't see that everything that happened in your life, that GOD is still a good GOD!

(EXP#) Without Faith, you can't see that everything you lost, that GOD is still a good GOD!

(EXP#) Without Faith, you can't see that this situation that I'm going through, that GOD is still a good GOD!

(EXP#) Without Faith, you can't see that this trouble that I'm dealing with, that GOD is still a good GOD!

Your Faith is where your hope comes from!

Paul said in  
1 Corinthians 16:13  
Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

There were three pieces of advice that the Apostle Paul was sharing:

BODY:

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**#1 You have to guard your Faith!**

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(EXPOUND) You have to watch out and make sure that you don't lose your faith!

Luke 8:22-25

22 Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. 23 But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. 24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. 25 And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

(EXPOUND) See you have to guard your faith because when you don't have faith, you become fearful!

(NOTE: The disciples lost their faith became fearful!)

That's how we do when we don't guard our faith! We become fearful!

(EXP#) The doctor said come back for the test results.

(NOTE: Oh Lord, I wonder what he saw!)

But when you have faith, you say, "LORD, I know ain't nothing there because I'm already healed!"

(NOTE: He just want to take me off these blood pressure pills!)

(EXP#) The Bank left a voicemail telling you to call them!

(NOTE: Oh Lord they trying to take my house!)

But when you have faith, you say, "LORD, I thank you because you must

have erased all my debt and paid off my house!"

Luke 8:23-25

23 But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. 24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish.

(EXPOUND) See FAITH and FEAR can't occupy the same space!

Either you have FAITH or you have FEAR!

2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

(EXPOUND) Whenever fear comes into your life, you need to rebuke it out of your life!

(NOTE: I rebuke you devil in the name of JESUS!) This is not of GOD!

And the way you guard your faith is stay away from faithless people!

(NOTE: You have to make sure that everybody around you, is speaking faith with you!)

(EXPOUND) When you're surrounded by FAITH people, what happens is that you create an atmosphere filled with Faith!

(NOTE: And with FAITH flowing around, you'll be building up your Faith!)

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend!

(EXPOUND) When you speak by faith, you build me up! And when I speak by faith, I build you up! And if we keep speaking faith to each other, then all we'll have is "Faith" flowing between the both of us!

(NOTE: We'll charge the atmosphere with FAITH!)

(EXP#) Brother, you can overcome that depression.

(EXP#) Sister, can't No weapon formed against you prosper.

(EXP#) You are more than a conqueror!

(EXP#) By his stripes you're already healed.

(EXP#) You can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens you!.

JESUS said in  
Matthew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

(EXPOUND) JESUS said, "Wherever there are two or three FAITH believers gathered together in my name, I'm always there and I never travel alone."

He said, "I always brings the Father and Holy Ghost with me, and when we Show Up, we Show Out!

(EXPOUND) Surround yourself with FAITH people!

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**#2 You have to be grounded in your Faith!**

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(EXPOUND) When you're going through trying times, you have to stand fast in your Faith!

(NOTE: You have to be grounded in your Faith!)

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

(EXPOUND) When you're going through something, you have to stand firm in your faith!

(EXP#) You have to be steadfast and unmovable!

(EXP#) You got to be able to stand in the face of adversity knowing that no weapon formed against me shall prosper!

Ephesians 6:13-14

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

(EXPOUND) After all that you've been through and after you've done all you can, you STAND!

(SONG) Donnie McClurkin says, "What do you do when you've done all you can, You just stand, watch the Lord see you through"!

CONCLUSION:

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## **#3 Stay faithful in your Faith!**

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(EXPOUND) You have to stay faithful in your Faith!

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

(EXPOUND) Listen in life, we're going to go through something's, we're going to have some trials and tribulations, we're going to have some circumstances and situations, and during these trying times we have to "be thou faithful unto death."

(NOTE: We can't allow what we go through, to make us unfaithful!)

(EXP#) Job lost his property, he lost his children, then he told his wife to get lost and through all of it, he stayed faithful to GOD!

(EXP#) The Hebrew boys were thrown in the fiery furnace and stayed faithful in their faith

(EXP#) Daniel was thrown in the Lions den and stayed faithful in his faith!

(EXP#) Stephen was stoned to death and stayed faithful in his faith!

(EXP#) JESUS was persecuted and crucified, and stayed faithful in his faith!

(NOTE: Some of us have one bad thing happen to us OR we get our feelings hurt and we curse GOD and leave the church!)

When life happens to you, you have to stay faithful to GOD and not let LIFE make you want to give up on GOD!

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

(EXPOUND) Paul said, "If nothing else, let us be found to be faithful!"