

Stand Firm

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Thessalonians 2:13-3:5.

B. Faith in a God of love, power and justice is a difficult thing in light of the evil in our world.

II. In the midst of an evil world, Christians are expected to be different.

A. We have a hard time believing that God loves us, but this is where Scripture always starts. God loves us even though He knows all our evil. (John 3:16)

B. God called us that we might be saved.

1. Salvation refers to many things.
2. Fundamentally, it points to a change of person and relationship.
3. The process of salvation is through sanctification of the spirit by the Holy Spirit.
4. One must purposefully believe in Jesus.

C. The step that brings us to belief is Jesus' call.

D. The goal is the glory of Jesus.

III. Activities made possible to the believer.

A. Stand fast—do not give in to pressure.

1. The believer already has what it takes.
2. One must draw upon God's resources accordingly.
3. God has not given a believer unto temptation more than he can bear. (I Corinthians 10:13)
4. The believer under pressure must review his resources.

B. Hold fast—do not give up the truth.

1. This truth refers to Apostolic Truth.
2. One must hold fast in order to stand fast.
3. The Scriptures are to be sought for Christ.

IV. When in trouble, God is to be sought for help.

V. The naked Word of God has power.

VI. Paul prays for protection—Paul does not ask for the opposition to be eliminated but to be delivered through it.

VII. All we need today is the love of God and the patience of Christ.

Application questions:

1. What is the basis of the Christian's salvation? Why is it significant that it is the work of God and not the work of man?

2. How would you respond to someone who says that he simply does not have what it takes to battle temptation in his life?

3. Why is holding fast to the Word important in order to stand fast against pressure? How are you holding fast?
