

Stand

1. Stand

Have you ever purchased something that did not work and then try to take it back to the store? That is what so many Christians do. They hear the Good News and then they don't wait long enough to see it become real in their own life, and they return it as something that does not work!

Sometimes it is difficult to believe the truth we cannot see and feel with our 5 natural senses.

No Victory without Conflict -We must recognize that we dwell in an enemy's territory. His aim is to keep lost people lost and going to Hell. His aim for Christians is to get them so interested in the Kingdom of the World and its systems of money, entertainment, power, popularity, etc., so that they are not even aware that they could live by a higher kingdom, the Kingdom of God. Satan does not always use "bad" things to tempt us, sometimes he uses the "good" things of the world to lure us away from God's Kingdom. Satan uses circumstances and ideas to convince us that we are not **SITTING** with Christ, that we should not **WALK** like He walks and that we should give up instead of **STANDING** on the promises. We are heirs of the Kingdom of God, so why should we live like those people who are not?

Standing against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:11 says, "Put on the whole armor of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Now that we understand Sitting (who we are in Christ), and Walking (living a life worthy of the Lord), we are prepared for spiritual conflict, which is called Standing.



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His Cross +
Sit

Your cross =
Walking and Standing

Victory

God's plan to take care of all of your needs is to give you fruit from the seed of the Word. Satan's plan is to block that fruit by stealing the seed and/or making you unfruitful. Standing is the final step in bearing fruit for your life. Standing is only for those who have received SIT and WALK. Standing means to

hang on with patience, faithfulness, perseverance, and to speak faith words no matter how bad circumstances look and no matter how bad you feel. It means to practice what you learned in Sitting and Walking every day.

Here is how it works:

Jesus was teaching His disciples in Mark chapter 4. He told them that **THE** mystery of the Kingdom of God was contained in this parable. He asked them in verse 13, “And He said to them, ‘Do you not know this parable? And how then will you know all parables?’” Jesus used this very visible agricultural example of seed being sown to explain and unveil the mystery of the unseen world. Mark 4:9-11 says, “And He said to them, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear.’ And when He was alone, they who were about Him, with the Twelve, asked Him concerning the parable. And He said to them, ‘To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God. But to those outside, all *these* things are *given* in parables.’”

The entire Kingdom of God works like this parable. God plants the seeds of His Words in our hearts (regardless of the condition of our heart). These seeds represent all of God’s purposes for our lives, beginning from being born again, to being filled with the Spirit, to being healed physically and mentally, being provided for, bringing us into our proper relationships in life, and everything else that is God’s purposes for us. It all works by the seed of the Word being planted.

Mark 4:14-20 says, “**The sower sows the Word.** And these are those by the wayside, where the Word is sown. And when they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the Word that was sown in their hearts. And these are those likewise being sown on stony places; who, when they hear the Word, immediately receive it with gladness. But they have no root in themselves, but are temporary. Afterward when affliction or persecution arises for the Word’s sake, they are immediately offended. And these are those being sown among thorns; such as hear the Word, and the cares of this world, and the deceit of riches, and the lust about other things entering in, choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. And these are those sown on good ground, who hear the Word and welcome *it*, and bear fruit, one thirty, one sixty, and one a hundredfold.”

Notice that Satan comes to steal the Word. This is really the only weapon that Satan has against mankind; to steal the Word or to blind us from the Word (2 Corinthians 4:4). If any person would receive the Word of God, they would be saved and go to Heaven. If any person would receive and believe the Word of God, they would be healed spirit, soul and body, their needs would be provided, their life would be in order. Satan cannot hurt anyone who believes the Word of God. He can and does tempt them, he can put signs on them that make it look like the Word is not true, but he cannot hurt you if you are totally submitted to the Lordship of the Word, Who is Jesus Himself!

We will always need to overcome difficulties, but we can overcome and win. The way in which we overcome, the results, are God's business. Often things do not work out according to our plans. However, we can trust Him in all things!

If Satan can get you to act according to your old nature (flesh) and the way of the world, he can steal God's promises. Galatians 5:19-21 says, "Now the works of the flesh are clearly revealed, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revelings, and things like these; of which I tell you before, as I also said before, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (The seed of the Word bearing fruit in your life.)

So in a very simple, childlike way of looking at spiritual warfare, let's focus on Satan's only weapon and on our response to his actions. Standing, or spiritual warfare is not reserved for the saint of God who has been walking with God for 20 years. No, it is for every child of God; and God makes it possible for all of us to perform warfare in His might and power. We do not have to be experts. Remember, God gives grace to the humble. James 4:6 says, "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says, God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the **humble.**"

There is a process that God has in transferring His will to earth.

To convert our problems into blessings takes time and it takes our patience to hang on after all hope seems to be gone.

In Luke 19:11-13 His disciples thought that the Kingdom of God was coming to earth right now, that all their problems would be solved the next day. He taught His disciples a lesson for you and me.

"And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, **Occupy** till I come" (Luke 19:11-13).

He told a parable about a king going into a distant country to obtain a kingdom and he would soon return. He called his servants and gave them each an amount of currency equal to about 4 months of salary (10 minas). He told them to **occupy** until He came back. Many of them detested his authority.

There were four classes of people present at his return.

1. The group that detested his authority and did not want anyone to reign over them were banished from his presence and killed.

2-3. Others *occupied* or did business and traded with the currency. According to their success, they were given more currency and rewarded with kingdom authority over many cities.

4. Others did not *occupy* because they thought that the king was a mean person who would punish them for ***occupying***. Not only did they not get any rewards but his currency was taken away. Use it or lose it!

What is this word ***occupy***?

The word *occupy* means to do business, to trade for profit. Business by definition is to take a raw material or service, add value to it and make it more profitable so it can be useful or sold. It means to exchange or to even change something to make it more profitable. It is used in the Bible to describe people who had businesses, cattle farms and other businesses both good and bad.

Proverbs 3:13-18 says, “**Blessed is the man who finds wisdom**, and the man who gets understanding. For the profit (merchandise, or ***occupy***) from it is better than the gain from silver, and its produce more than fine gold; she is more precious than rubies; and all the things you can desire are not to be compared with her.”

We are to change our problems into profit. We are to take the raw materials of problems and do business with them by producing blessings. Another word is reconcile, which means to turn something from an enemy to a friend.

Matthew 25 unfolds this mystery.

The parable of the Talents; Matthew 25:14 is almost the same parable as Luke 19. The master left, and left the currency later to return.

The Wise and Foolish Virgins: Matthew 25:1 Tells about 5 foolish and 5 wise virgins. The only difference was that the foolish did not hang on long enough when their bridegroom was late in keeping his promise. The foolish did not have enough oil to hang on long enough.

Virgins mean that they kept their sins cleansed before the Lord. So they were all believers. The difference is in being wise or foolish. The wisdom is hearing God speak. The Lamp would be the Word of God (Ps 119 & Proverb 6:23) and the oil would be the Holy Spirit. When those are combined it equals perseverance, patience, staying power and the fruit of the Spirit. Then they know that their Lord is going to come to deliver them even if ALL HUMAN hope is gone. They are going to hang on to what Jesus said to them no matter what. The Lord will come back now, into your situation to change your problems into blessings. The wise virgins knew their master's personality. I can hear them saying, “I don't care if he is late, he is a man of honor and integrity, he will keep his word. He will never leave me nor forsake me.” The wise virgins stay connected to God and His Word and His Holy Spirit to such a degree that nothing can move them.

So what is this WISDOM?

Wisdom is knowing and relying on the fact that the Cross of Jesus absorbed all the evil and everything must turn out to be a blessing. The law of gravity says that whatever goes up **MUST** come down. The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1) says that all evil has been disarmed, and now must be a blessing, IF you believe.

Wisdom is knowing that all things have been reconciled through the Cross. Not just people, but all things. “And through Him having made peace through the blood of His cross, it pleased the Father to reconcile all things to Himself through Him, whether the things on earth or the things in Heaven.” (Colossians 1:20)

Reconcile is a powerful word. Strong's Concordance calls it “to bring back a former state of harmony.” It is defined “to repair, to put back into working order, making peace between two opposing views or groups.” Vines Bible Dictionary defines it “to change from enmity to friendship.” The Cross of Jesus Christ takes all of our “enemies,” whether they be people, demons, circumstances, sickness, poverty, everything, and changes them into a friend. This is Wisdom! Christ crucified!

2 Corinthians 5:18 says, “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:” So this is our ministry here on earth, to take all the enemies of our lives, dip them into the blood and Cross of Jesus Christ, and turn them into friends. I can tell you by the Word of God and by my own experience, that this is true, it works, if you stand.

Wisdom is knowing that Satan has been defeated by the blood of Jesus. What does it mean to have victory over Satan? How does the blood of Jesus give us power? “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” (Hebrews 2:14,15).

“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him” (Romans 6:8,9).

These verses say that Satan was “destroyed.” What does that actually mean? He seems to be running around doing a job of destroying others.

The word destroy is defined in Strong's Concordance as:

- 1) to render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative.
- 1a) to cause a person or thing to have no further efficiency.
- 1b) to deprive of force, influence, power.

When Jesus and you and I were raised from the dead, we were born again as new race that is no longer subject to Satan. He has no more dominion over us. We have dominion over him. Satan used his ultimate power on Jesus at

the Cross, and Jesus was resurrected after that. Satan has no more power to exert. He is out of tools and weapons.

He can still destroy an unbeliever, and he can deceive a believer, but if we know the truth, he cannot harm us any longer. As far as we are concerned, he is destroyed. If we stand on the truth, all Satan can do is lie to us. Satan has no power over the new creation; that includes you and me!

“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy” (Colossians 1:18).

Job chapter 28 indicates that true wisdom is really found in suffering. Job 28:12 says, “But where shall wisdom be found? and where *is* the place of understanding?” The answer, I believe, indicates that when our flesh dies, when we are going through dark places of “death,” then we can hear true wisdom. Job 28:22 says, “The place of ruin and death say, We have heard the fame of it with our ears.” Proverbs 11:2 also supports this when it says, “When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”

This is the script of life. We need to recognize where we are in it. It will make suffering more compatible. Yes, Jesus is returning to earth someday, but He will also return for you now, to turn your problem into a blessing.

A good example of this kind of overcoming is Daniel in the lion’s den in Daniel chapter 6. Daniel was wholly following God and became persecuted by his enemies and God’s enemies. Rather than being delivered *from* the lion’s den, he overcame *in* the lion’s den. The result was his enemies were totally defeated.

“At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: ‘May you prosper greatly! I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he endures for ever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.’ So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian” (Daniel 6:24-28).

I doubt that Daniel would have prospered, and that his enemies would have been defeated if he had not gone through the lion’s den.

What is our responsibility during the waiting period?

Standing requires that we do something, we are not to just wait around. Hebrews 6:12 says, “ We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

We must maintain our “virginity.” That is we must stay clean before the Lord. We must keep short accounts with our sins, and keep them confessed and cleansed before God and man..

I also believe that the Bible teaches us that during this waiting period, we are to use the Word of God as a sword.

Ephesians 6:17b says, “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

We are told in Hebrews 3:1 “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.” Jesus takes our confession to the Father as our High Priest, and the Father sees to it that it is accomplished, provided it is the Word of God. The enemy also takes our confession, our negative confession, and accomplishes what we say.

When the Word of God is confessed and prayed over a person or a situation, it is powerful! Jesus created everything by His Word. Jesus IS the Word. Jesus gave us the authority to use the Word as if it were Him saying it!

John 1:1-3 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being.”

When the Passover was administered to Israel in Exodus 12, the Israelites were told to put the blood of an innocent lamb over their doors and the death angel (demon) would “pass over” and not hurt them. Jesus is the Lamb of God, and we can put His blood over our doors and over the doors of our loved ones and those that we pray for. How?

Revelation 12:11 says, “And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony. And they did not love their soul to the death.”

The words of our mouth will apply the blood. Notice in Exodus 12 that as long as the lamb’s blood stayed in the basin, it did no good. But when they took the hyssop, dipped it in the blood and applied to their door, then God and the devil could see it. The hyssop was a common weed that did not seem to have much value. The words of our mouth do not seem to have much value, but when we dip them into the Word of God (Who is Jesus Himself) and apply them as blood, God sees it and the devil sees it!

Jesus takes our confession and makes it powerful. Hebrews 3:1 says, “Therefore, holy brothers, called to be partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.”

When we speak God’s Word, Jesus takes it to the Father and asks Him to perform it.

John 16:23 says, “And in that day you shall ask Me nothing. Truly, truly, I say to you, Whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He will give you.”

Then we can enter into rest and let the Word do the work.

Hebrews 4:1 says, “Therefore, a promise being left to enter into His rest, let us fear lest any of you should seem to come short of it.”

Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing apart of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Angels go to work when they hear God’s Word.

Psalms 103:20 says, “Bless the LORD, O angels of His, who excel in strength, who do His command, listening to the voice of His word.”

Demons flee!

Psalms 149:5-9 says, “Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to carry out vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, (representing our spiritual enemies) to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with iron-bands, to carry out on them the judgment written; this is an honor for all His saints. Praise the LORD!”

Really, this is not even fair to Satan. Look how God treats him.

Luke 10:19 says, “I have given you authority to trample on **snakes** and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”

The enemy lost before the war started. Joshua 11:18-20 says, “Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time. Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle. For it was the LORD himself who hardened their (the enemy’s) hearts to wage war against Israel, **so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them (the enemy) without mercy**, as the LORD had commanded Moses.”

Go ahead and think of your worst problem. Now think of or look up a promise in God’s Word.

Now you decide. Which one is changeable, and which one is unchangeable?

“May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us” (Psalms 67:5,6).