

STANDING FIRM IN THE LORD

AN INVITATION: If you live outside our area and cannot find a teaching church, we invite you to be part of our congregational internet ministry. www.doctrinalstudies.com

This lesson is important to DSBC because over the last 20 years we have lost hundreds of particularly good doctrinal teaching churches in America, because they didn't survive the same attack in the Angelic Conflict.

This lesson will study five aspects of the importance of Standing Firm in the Lord, in this Angelic Conflict.

It is important that we take this seriously as a teaching church, both locally and nationally via the internet.

1. Paul sent timothy back to the new converts of Thessalonica to report on their survival in the attack of Satan (The Angelic Conflict) after the Pauline Team was forced out by persecution.

Paul wanted Timothy make a thorough inspection of the spiritual casualties from Satan's attack as soon as possible.

- He wanted to know how battle weary, and spiritually worn down were these new converts as the result of Satan's assault.
- He wanted a casualty report of the spiritually wounded, desertions, and those still fighting the good fight of faith with the spiritual Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Eph.6:17; 1 Thess.3:2-3).

2. It was also Timothy's responsibility to rally the troops by teaching them Categorical Bible Doctrines regarding this spiritual warfare. (Eph.6:10-17) This Angelic Conflict.

(1 Tim.6:12) "Fight the good fight of faith; **take hold of eternal life to which you were called, and you made a good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**"

(1 Pet.5:8-9) "**Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering is being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.**"

(2 Cor.2:11) "In order that no advantage be taken of us by satan, **for we are not ignorant of his schemes.**"

(Eph.6:11) "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

3. Paul was comforted by Timothy's "good report" of the Thessalonian believers "standing firm in the faith."

(1 Thess.3:7-8) "**For this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith. for now, we really live (zao/ p.a.subj) [contingent on what?], if (3cc / maybe) you stand firm (steko/ p.a.ind.2pl) [not giving into other options] in your faith.**"

- They chose to walk by faith and NOT by sight! (2 Cor.5:7)

Paul was comforted as a **spiritual parent** to these new believers and their spiritual growth. Like a proud parent, Paul is bragging on them.

(1 Thess.2:11-12) “Just as you know how we were **exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children**, so that you would **walk in a manner worthy of the God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

4. Note the JOY that Timothy’s good report brought to Paul!

They were “Standing firm in the Lord” amidst great persecution.

(1 Thess.3:9) “For what thanks can we render to God for you in return **for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account.**”

(Jas.1:2) “**Consider** (hegeomai/ a.m.impv.2pl) [a strong command] **it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.”

(Jas.1:3) “**Knowing** (ginosko/ p.a.ptc.nplm) **that the testing of your faith produces endurance.**”

(Jas.1:4) “And **let endurance** (he hupomone/ nsf) **have** (echo/ p.a.impv.2pl) **its perfect result** (teleios ergon), **so that you may be** (eimi/ p.a.subj.2pl) **perfect** (teleios) **and complete** (holokleros) [whole, sound in every way] (1Thess.5:23), **lacking** (leipo/ p.m.ptc.nplm) (God’s grace is sufficient) (2 Cor.12:9) **in** (en+loc) **nothing** (meden).”

5. Standing firm in faith amidst the heat of the Angelic Conflict warfare (satan’s assault) is when and where the warfare is won in a Church Age Believer’s life! (1 Pet.5:8-9; Eph.6:10-17).

(1 Pet.5:9) “**But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing** that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.” (we are not alone!)

THE FAITH CYCLE (1 John 5:4)

