RECORD ⌘K

Announcements

Passage

- 1 Corinthians 16 (NKJV)
- 13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Intro

- My Topic: Standing Firm In The Faith
- Two beach pictures in my mind
  - **Slowly Drifting**
    - **Moving With The Tide**
    - Every SoCal native knows what it is like to go into the water and be surprised to find yourself 3 lifeguard towers down the beach
    - Ocean City, Maryland Beach Patrol
      - The patrol handles 1,000 to 2,000 lost-and-found people each season.
  - **Suddenly Shifting**
    - **Standing In The Waves**
    - Same stance against the waves cannot keep you from moving
      - Tides change, different directions
      - You have to adapt your position continually
    - Balance
    - Karate Kid
      - Mr. Miyagi tells Daniel:
      - "First learn stand, then learn fly. Nature rule, Daniel-san, not mine."
    - -----
      - In life, you will be pulled in different directions
      - You need that same passage again to help you stand firm against pressures from a different angle
- Stand Firm: Present Imperative Active
  - Stand Firm & Keep On Standing Firm
- So am I talking about faith today?
  - Not exactly
  - Notice: THE Faith
- The Faith
  - The collection of essential doctrines
  - The core truths of Christianity
  - Warren Wiersbe: “The faith...” is
    - that body of divine truth given to the church.
  - gotQuestions.org 7 Doctrines
    - The resurrection of Christ
    - The gospel
    - The deity of Christ
    - Salvation by grace
    - Salvation through Jesus Christ alone
    - Monotheism
    - The Holy Trinity
- Paul says there is a need for us to **Stand Firm In The Faith**
  - These doctrines are under attack
  - **Slowly Drifting**
  - **Suddenly Shifting**
- **Stand firm means you don’t move away from the essentials of the faith**
  - **Stand firm also means you don’t make traditions into commandments**

Stand Firm In The Gospel Of Grace

- Stand Firm In The Gospel Of Grace
  - 1 Corinthians 15
  - 1 Corinthians 15 (NKJV)
    - 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and **in which you stand**,
    - 2 by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast** that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
    - 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
    - 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
    - 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.
    - 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.
  - Stand Firm
    - 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and **in which you stand**,
    - 2 by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast** that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
  - Gospel
    - Jesus Christ, being God, became a man
    - Jesus died for our sins
      - 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
    - Jesus was buried
    - Jesus rose again the third day
      - 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
    - Ephesians 2 (NKJV)
      - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
      - 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
  -
  - Dangers
    - Slowly Drifting
    - Suddenly Shifting
  - Galatians - Astonished you are turning away
    - Pulled into a different direction than they were prepared for
    - Galatians 1
      - 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,
      - 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.
      - 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.
      - 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
      - 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.
    - Galatians 5 (NKJV)
      - 1 **Stand fast therefore** in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

- **Standing Firm In The Faith**
  - Recap
    - Stand Firm In The Gospel Of Grace
  - Dangers
    - Slowly Drifting
    - Suddenly Shifting
  - Shifting Waves
    - Nobody is tempted to be circumcised today.
  - If moving away from grace is the push, there is also a pull into unbalanced grace

- Stand Firm In The Authority Of Scripture
  - 1 Corinthians 5
- Stand Firm In The Authority Of Scripture
  - 1 Corinthians 5 (NKJV)
    - 1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!
      - Sin
      - Well known, in their midst
    - 2 And **you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned**, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.
    - **They leaned so far into grace that they became out of balance**
      - Puffed Up
      - Glorying
        - 6 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?
    - 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed.
      - 4 **In the name of our Lord Jesus** Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,
      - 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **that his spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus.
    - Scripture
      - Authority - Already judged
      - Name Of Jesus
      - That His Spirit May Be Saved
  - Acts 6 (NKJV)
    - 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were **obedient to the faith**.
  - Application
    - Matthew 7 (NKJV)
    - 24 "Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:
    - 26 "But **everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:
  - Dangers
    - Slowly Drifting
    - Suddenly Shifting
  - Kings commanded to write the Scriptures
    - Deuteronomy 17 (NKJV)
    - 18 "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.
    - Highest authority is subject to God and His Word
  - Correctable
    - Titus 1 (NKJV)
      - 12 One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."
      - 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be **sound in the faith**,
      - 14 **not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men** who turn from the truth.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Standing Firm In The Faith

- Religious leaders did good at standing firm in tradition
  - Matthew 15 (NKJV)
    - 8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.
    - 9 And in vain they worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**.' "

Standing Firm In The Faith

- Recap
  - Stand Firm In The Gospel Of Grace
  - Stand Firm In The Authority Of Scripture
- Dangers
  - Slowly Drifting
  - Suddenly Shifting
- 2 Corinthians 13 (NKJV)
  - 5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.
- Test Yourselves
  - Submitted to the authority of the Bible
  - Doing what Jesus says
  - God's Commands not Man's Commands

Stand Firm In The Sovereignty Of God

- Stand Firm In The Sovereignty Of God
  - Acts 14 (NKJV)
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  - 21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,
  - 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
- One thing that is a common challenge for people
  - Tragedy
  - Hardship
  - I can't believe in a God that...
  - Headline: Former Pastor Says He Lost Faith After Staff Member Beat Spouse, Faithful Mother Lost Baby
- Sovereignty
  - God CAN do whatever He wants
  - God DOES work through all events and circumstances
- Dangers
  - Slowly Drifting
  - **Suddenly Shifting**
- 2 Timothy 1 (NKJV)
  12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.
  - Spurgeon: When we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.
- Shadrack & Friends… God can saves us, even if He doesn't…
  - Daniel 3 (NKJV)
  - 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.
  - 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

- Jesus: Not My will
  - Matthew 26 (NKJV)
  - 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

- **Standing Firm In The Faith**
  - Recap
    - Stand Firm In The Gospel Of Grace
    - Stand Firm In The Authority Of Scripture
    - Stand Firm In The Sovereignty Of God
  - Spurgeon: So surely as the stars are fashioned by his hands, and their orbits fixed by him, so surely are our trials allotted to us: he has ordained their season and their place, their intensity and the effect they shall have upon us.
    - Romans 8 (NKJV)
      28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
  - 1 Peter 5 (NKJV)
    - 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
    - 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
  - Sovereignty too far...

- Stand Firm In The Responsibility Of Man
  - Colossians 2 (NKJV)

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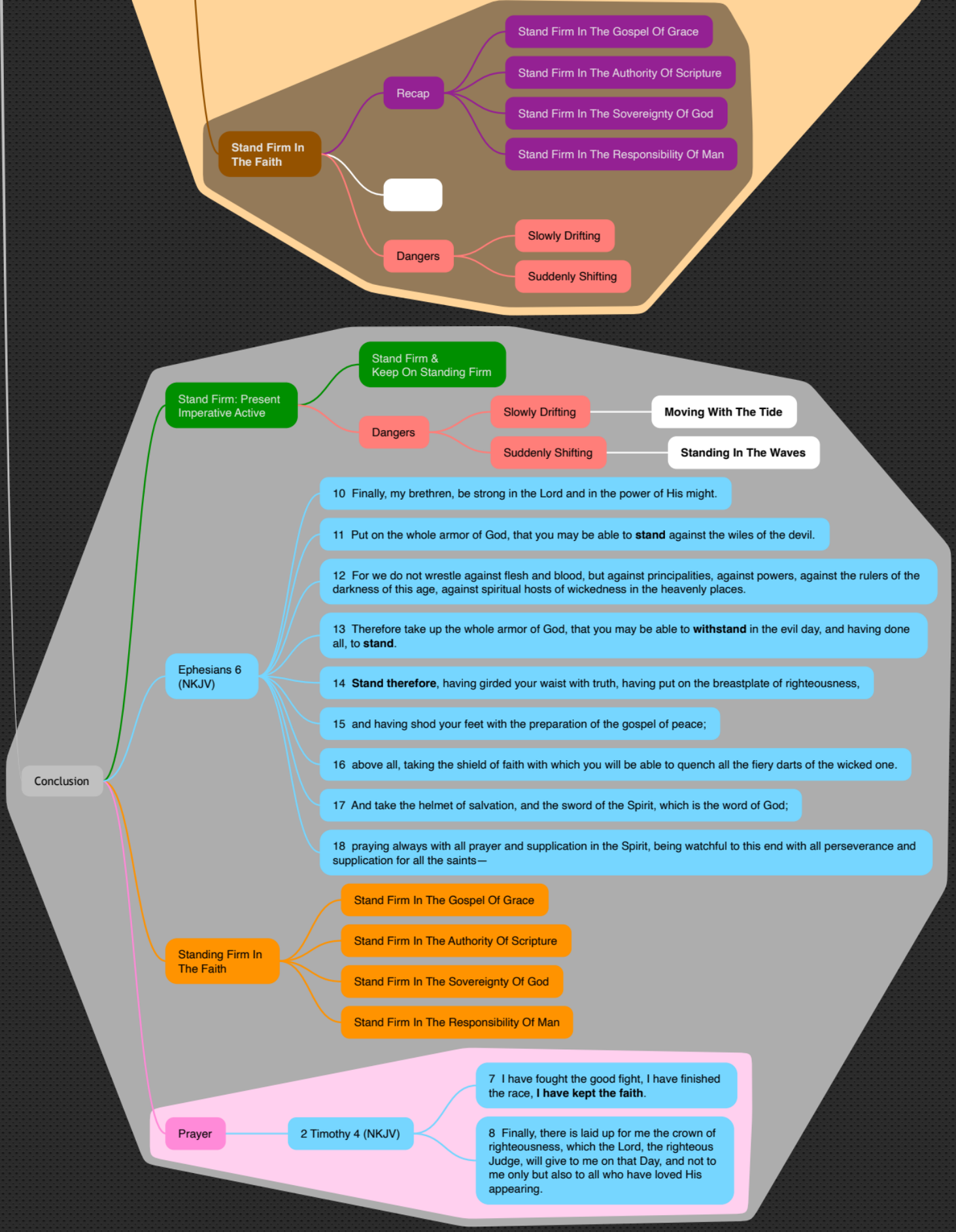
  - Colossians 2 (NKJV)
    - 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**,
    - 7 rooted and built up in Him and **established in the faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.
    - 8 **Beware lest anyone cheat you** through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.
  - Hebrews 11
    - **Hall Of Faith**
    - 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
    - 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.
    - 15 And truly **if they had called to mind** that country from which they had come out, **they would have had opportunity to return**.
    - 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.
  - 2 Timothy 2
    - 15 **Be diligent** to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth**.
    - 16 But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.
    - 17 And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort,
    - 18 who have **strayed concerning the truth**, saying that the resurrection is already past; and **they overthrow the faith of some**.
    - 19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”
    - Dangers
      - Slowly Drifting
        - 18 who have **strayed concerning the truth**...
      - Suddenly Shifting
        - 18 ...**they overthrow the faith of some**.


Stand Firm In The Faith
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Ephesians 6 (NKJV)
10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand** against the wiles of the devil.
12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand**.
14 **Stand therefore**, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
Standing Firm In The Faith
Stand Firm In The Gospel Of Grace
Stand Firm In The Authority Of Scripture
Stand Firm In The Sovereignty Of God
Stand Firm In The Responsibility Of Man
Prayer
2 Timothy 4 (NKJV)
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, **I have kept the faith**.
8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.