

Defending The Bean Patch

By
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My intention through this sharing is to encourage The Body of Christ in the Reality of our Great Salvation. This message is not intended to “pump us up” to get “excited about Jesus”: but to continue to declare The Finished Work of Christ so that we can walk every day confidently and in peaceful assurance of all that we now have in Christ. My desire for God’s People is that we may stand in full assurance: not only of Christ as our Savior, but in the Truth of our Salvation that we now have.

For too long many of us have been as the “children” described in **Ephesians 4:14**: *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”* A “child” in the Scripture denotes one who is without full knowledge, and therefore unsettled; immature in understanding his true relationship with his Father, always putting his desires and will first, seeking other experiences and relationships, and is easily deceived. But Paul says we must be “no more children” but “grow up into Him in all things” (verse 15), and this is done by “speaking THE TRUTH in love”. This means speaking and living the Reality of God’s Salvation that has been made known to us in the Person of Christ and His Cross. This sharing of Truth is to edify The Body of Christ: to

bring them to maturity, to the full measure of Christ so that they may function in the earth as The Body of The Resurrected Christ God has made them to be. And with the True Knowledge of The Son of God operating in them and conforming them into His image, they are to STAND – to rest confidently and function with an assurance of what God has done.

This is the purpose of “ministry” in the Church today, and this is my heart for you also. Now I know that we are to “spread the Gospel” so that others “get saved”: but that is not the full purpose of “ministry”. It is to build up and strengthen those Believers in their New Life, which is Christ. Paul’s heart for the Church, and mine also is beautifully stated in **Colossians 2:2**: *“That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;”* God wants us to know and experience the **“ALL RICHES OF THE FULL ASSURANCE OF UNDERSTANDING”**: comprehending The Mystery of God in Christ Jesus. And this is my heart as I continue to minister to The Body of Christ: so that we come to **THE FULL ASSURANCE OF UNDERSTANDING**. And it is when we come to a God-given Understanding of the Greatness of Christ and His Cross that we come to ASSURANCE.

When we truly “see” by the Spirit of God what Christ and The Cross have accomplished, then we can rest from our own labors, cease from fears and anxieties about “the future”, and truly REST IN HIM! So many Christians today seem so unsettled: not just in daily activities, but even in “Theological Doctrines”. Those seem to change according to natural

events, and Christians are as confused and fearful of many things as unbelievers are. This should NOT be so! This is why we have to come to GOD'S Knowledge: The Truth, The Reality as it is in Christ so that we can STAND. God said through the Prophet Hosea in **Hosea 4:6**: *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee..."* And that remains true for us today. But this cannot be MAN'S Knowledge, but God's! And The Holy Spirit is our Teacher: to take God's Truth in The Person of Christ and reveal it unto us.

And by this Truth Believers are to be 'STABLISHED IN THE FAITH'. **Colossians 2:4**: *"And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. 2:5: For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. 6: As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7: **Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith**, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8: Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."* Notice here Paul speaks of "man" beguiling and spoiling believers, and of "walking in HIM" – in Christ Jesus the Lord whom they had received from the Gospel Paul preached to them. Remember that The Gospel Paul preached was "Jesus Christ and Him Crucified"; and Paul did not receive that Gospel from man, but by THE REVELATION. OF JESUS CHRIST (Galatians 1:11,12) Notice also the "stedfastness of your faith **in Christ**" and being "rooted and built up **in Him**". This is Paul's definition of "stablished in the faith". "Stablished" is Strong's #950 which means stable, sure, steadfast – everything a child and one without

understanding is not. So God desires that we “grow up in Him” and become “stablished in the faith.”

This does not come by us being rooted in “religion” or man’s theological doctrines (we can do that, and sadly many of us are not growing in the Lord more because we are “stuck” there!): but being set firmly and remaining securely in Him - in THE FAITH (Colossians 2 does not say in “A” faith; but in “THE” Faith): in the God-given knowledge of HIM. This is not just speaking of “our faith in Him” in a religious way: but being established in HIS Knowledge, HIS Truth – of Who He is. And so in order for us to be rooted and built up (come to full maturity) in the knowledge of Him, we have to fully know Him. But I want to emphasize that the Church is encouraged to come to The Faith – of Christ and The Cross, and to be grounded firmly in The Reality of **HIM** – not in our “faiths”, meaning man’s religions.

Consider these Scriptures:

- **Colossians 1:23:** *“If ye continue in **the faith grounded and settled**, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;”* Remember again, the “Gospel” Paul preached was Christ and Him Crucified: we must not move away from that.
- **Ephesians 3:17:** *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, **being rooted and grounded in love,**”*
- **I Peter 5:10:** *“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye*

*have suffered a while, make you **perfect, stablsh, strengthen, settle you.***”

This is what God desires for all of us as Believers: to be rooted and grounded, settled and established IN HIM. And this is a Work that The Lord does in us – in our souls: revealing The Truth of Christ living in us and confirming this Reality to us. And this establishes us. But it is important that we understand that this is not simply “us” getting established in religious doctrines, but this is **God establishing us in The Truth of Christ**. And this is for a Purpose: so that we can STAND. And that means stand assuredly, confidently, not wavering. And this will be evident in how we live daily. Often the Scriptures say “stand fast”, and it implies an active, aggressive standing: not passive. There is a strength that emanates from this “stand fast” because it is not speaking merely of a literal stance, but a disposition of the mind and soul. This is speaking of one who is settled in Truth so he will not be dissuaded or discouraged.

And this attitude of the heart – fixed, settled and at peace in the knowledge of Christ affects everything we say and do. This is not a “double-minded man”, trying to quote Scripture and “make it happen”. **James 1:5:** *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6: But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7: For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8: A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”* A Believer who has come to God’s Truth has a stability in his life because of God’s Knowledge of Christ that operates in him. And this is my heart for The Body of Christ: that we

come to STAND in The Reality of The Christ who is now our Life.

Let us first consider some Scriptures regarding “**STABLISH** (ESTABLISH)”, and I want us to see that this is uniquely and exclusively God’s Work and God’s Will for us.

- **Romans 16:25:** *“Now to him that is of power to **stablish you** according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,”*
- **II Corinthians 1:21:** *“Now **he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God;**”*
- **I Thessalonians 3:13:** *“To the end **he may stablish your hearts** unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”*
- **II Thessalonians 2:16:** *“Now **our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, 17: Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.**”*
- **II Thessalonians 3:3:** *“But **the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. 4: And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.**”*
- **James 5:8:** *“Be ye also patient; **stablish your hearts:** for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”*

And now let us look at some Scriptures regarding “**STAND**” which again is a Work of God and is the condition that God desires for us once He has “established” us in The Truth: the Truth of Christ. And we really only can STAND in Truth: in The Reality of Christ: on that sure foundation that He is; that tried and tested Stone! And the words for “stand” in these Scriptures in the Greek mean to abide, continue, covenant, establish, to be stationary, to persevere, to stand fast. I am sure many of us have tried to “stand” in the shifting sands of religion and man’s idea of Christianity: but ultimately we can not stand there. We have to “build our house” and set our foundation on HIM! Then no matter what circumstances arise, we will STAND!

- **Romans 5:2:** *“By whom also **we have access by faith** into this grace **wherein we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*
- **Romans 14:4:** *“Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for **God is able to make him stand.**”*
- **I Corinthians 15:1:** *“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye **stand;**”*
- **I Corinthians 16:13:** *“Watch ye, **stand fast in the faith**, quit you like men, be strong.”*
- **Galatians 5:1:** *“**Stand fast** therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not*

entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

- **Ephesians 6:13:** *“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**.14: **Stand** therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”*
- **Philippians 1:27:** *“Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that **ye stand fast in one spirit**, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”*
- **Philippians 4:1:** *“Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, **so stand fast in the Lord**, my dearly beloved.”*
- **Colossians 4:12:** *“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that **ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God**.”*
- **I Thessalonians 3:8:** *“For now we live, if **ye stand fast in the Lord**.”*
- **II Thessalonians 2:15:** *“Therefore, brethren, **stand fast**, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”*
- **I Peter 5:12:** *“By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein **ye stand**.”*

And I think from the abundance of these Scriptures speaking of us as Believers “standing” we can see that this is God’s desire for us. We must Stand in The Truth of Christ: The Truth of The Gospel; The Reality of The Cross as a Finished Work and not allow any part of that Truth to be taken away from us. By this I mean by the enemy. And that can be the Devil, but it also can be man – our religious ideas and traditions that try to get us to compromise, pervert the Gospel and mix it with impure seed. Paul spoke of this and admonished the Church in **Galatians 1:6**: *“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8: But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”*

And **Galatians 3:1**: *“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?”* And when we allow ourselves to be “bewitched” and “removed from THE Gospel of Christ” into a false, perverted gospel we cannot stand! On the outside we may appear to be religious and are deceived in our self-righteousness: but without “The Truth” operating in us, we cannot stand as The Witness of Christ that the Lord desires us to be. And the enemy will always be working towards that end. He doesn’t mind us being “stuck in religion”, but if we become Established IN TRUTH – The Truth of Christ, then we will not be removed from Him who is our Life. And as we continue to stand **against** a mixed, perverted gospel, the enemy has lost his power to deceive and confuse us.

And this has been a real concern of my heart. Why is this “STANDING” so important? It is not just so that other Believers will be strengthened and encouraged (although that is a part of it), but Believers are to be the Witness of The Truth of Salvation in the earth. That is the function of The Church in the earth today: to be the declaration of The Reality of The Finished Work of Christ by His Cross. And in God’s mind this is a “MIGHTY WORK”. It may not have a great outward manifestation and be a popular “ministry”, but it is great in God’s View. And I just want to close this sharing with a scripture that has greatly blessed and encouraged me many times. **II Samuel 23:11:** *“And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. 12: But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.”*

Here is a person most of us have never even remembered in the scripture. But Shammah is counted among David’s Mighty Men because he defended the bean patch! He stood in the midst of the ground (where the SEED was planted) and he defended it. And the Hebrew word there for “STAND” is Strong’s #3320 meaning to place anything so as to stay, continue, remain, be able to withstand up, stand fast. That was the heart of Shammah – standing in The Truth, standing in The Word of God: defending it even at the risk of losing his own life. It was a determined heart – fixed upon The Lord that gave him the courage and strength to slay the enemy that came against God’s people. And **The Lord** wrought a great victory! And I believe this was essential to

many of the other battles that David fought for Israel. There must be those who are willing to “stand in God’s Truth and defend the ground”. I believe that this is also essential in the Body of Christ today. To many it may not look like “a great work”: and it may have sparse participation by the masses. But The Lord needs those who will stand in The Truth of The Gospel, defending it against all its enemies.

So my question and challenge to us today is: are we allowing The Lord to **establish us in The Truth of Christ**: in The Reality of The Finished Work of The Cross? And out from that Truth operating in our very souls, not just being “religious information in our mouths”: are we **standing** with a true assurance of Him, and what God has made us to be in Christ? And are we **defending** that Truth at all costs: even to the very laying down of our lives – most importantly “our religious lives”? If we are, the Lord through us is able to realize a Great Victory, and God sees a “MIGHTY MAN” doing a MIGHTY WORK for he stands in the TRUTH of CHRIST.

I leave you with these thoughts: **I Corinthians 15:58**: *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”*

And this is my heart in continuing to come to you: **II Peter 1:12**: *“Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, (so that you may you) be established in the present truth.”*

AMEN