



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### “STANCE”

#### (Part 2 of the Swing that is of Utmost Importance)

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A stance is the way in which someone stands, especially when deliberately adopted (as in sports). It does not matter where we stand if we have the proper stance. We need a sure foundation in our walk with God so that it will function as God designed it to (Mt. 7). We have to stand firm in the Lord always (Phil. 4:1).

#### How do we stand firm in the Lord?

Standing firm means being steadfast in our belief; resisting temptation, negative influences, and false teachings or persecutions (Lam. 3).

- 1. We should keep our eyes on Jesus Christ** (Heb. 12:2). Christian life requires hard work. It requires us to give up whatever endangers our relationship with God (1 Jn. 2:15). We should be running for Christ and not for ourselves, thus, keeping Him in sight. We have to fight the good fight of faith and run the race until we reach our goal (Heb. 11:6).
- 2. We should persevere.** It requires perseverance when we are challenged or opposed. We should not lose heart or give up. God promises to give us strength of character with the help of the Holy Spirit and fellow believers in the community.
- 3. We should stand on the Word of God.** Nothing else can move us when we are standing on sure foundation which is the Word of God.
- 4. We should maintain a heavenly perspective.** (1 Cor. 15:58; Jn. 15). We should not be affected when faced with various trials because we are attached to the Lord. Our labor will not be in vain with the Lord because of Christ's resurrection. Our heavenly perspective should be developed on how Jesus sees it; hence, our trials are aligned with God's purpose. We should not let discouragement over an

apparent lack of result to keep us from working.

- 5. We should be patient.** Sometimes we become so excited with upcoming events that we have trouble waiting. We should always seek God's will when we plan for the future and patiently endure our trials. We can also be instruments of God to give comfort to others.
- 6. We should have faith in God** (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:17). God's love is relentless, unstoppable, radical, forgiving, patient, etc. There is always hope in whatever is happening in our life (Luke 18:7). When we are tested, we are in the season of learning (1 Pet. 1:6-7; 4:12). It is an honor to be coheir or partaker of Christ's sufferings.
- 7. We should listen to the instructions of our teachers** (Rom. 10:17). Jesus calls His followers the light and salt of the earth. Satan is working hard to put out the light and contaminate the salt to make it insipid (2 Tim. 3:1-7). Beware of who we are listening to. We have to stand firm on God's Word (Rom. 4:19-22; Jer. 1:12).
- 8. We should not quit.** Some of our plans and dreams may be buried because of the mistakes that we have made. We have to stand up and learn a lesson from them. God is a God of many chances. He takes what you messed up and turns it into something good.

#### Conclusion:

If we do not have the proper foundation, nothing else in our walk with God will function as God designed it to. Jesus is our sure foundation.

#### Reflection:

Faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17).

1. What are you hearing? What are you listening to?
2. What has your faith in God doing in your life?

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