



*Standing Firm!*

**Overview of 2 Thessalonians:  
Standing Firm in the Midst of Suffering**  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 NKJV  
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**INTRODUCTION**

Sequel to 1 Thessalonians:

- It is written just a few months later while Paul is in Corinth.
- Some misunderstood his teaching about the second coming of Christ.
- Christ could come at any moment – some reasoned no point in working every day.
- Many stopped working, just sitting around waiting for Christ’s return.
- Using prophecy as an excuse, surviving off the generosity of the others.
- Others viewed continuing persecution as a sign of “the day of the Lord” or the last days.

Responding quickly, Paul sends this second epistles to the young church.

Reminder: Lord will return! In the meantime,

- Live responsibly in light of the truth of Gospel
- STAND FIRM in the faith and obedience to the Word of God

Paul’s concerns: Right doctrine and Right living:

- Begins by commending their faith in Christ.
- Consoles these victims of suffering and persecution.
- Christ will return and reward the faithful / punish the wicked.
- Paul prays that God will be glorified through their faithful and consistent service.

Paul prays they would **STAND FIRM IN MIDST OF SUFFERING!**

**What does it mean to Stand Firm in our Faith?**

*“to refuse to change a decision or position; it also means to defy, to hold, to hold up, to withstand, to resist or confront with resistance; it also means to be brave, to endure, to weather, to face with courage.”*

**The Collins online English dictionary**

**“Stand firm”** - to be or remain steadfast in conviction despite attack, or efforts to persuade.

**God would have us stand firm in our Faith!** (armor of God, Ephesian 6).

## STAND FIRM IN THREE WAYS:

### 1. STAND FIRM IN \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Thessalonians 1:3-5 NKJV

#### **What does it mean to persevere?**

*continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success; to continue to do or try to achieve something despite discouragement.*

#### **Paul tells the Thessalonian believers that they have displayed perseverance through:**

- Growing in their Faith — *because your faith grows exceedingly...*
- Abounding in their Love for each other — *the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other...*
- Patience and Faith in their persecution and Tribulation — *for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure...*

### 2. STAND FIRM IN \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 NKJV

Approximately 8,810 *promises* in the entire Bible.

7,706 in Old Testament - 1,104 in New Testament - \*133 in Deuteronomy 28, most in any chapter.

**Vance Havner**, “We’re sitting on the premises when we ought to be standing on the *promises!*”

#### **What is the Promise in this passage?**

- To repay those who trouble us! (v.6)...*God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you...*
- To give rest to us who are in Christ!  
(v.7)... *and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus...*
- To exact vengeance upon those who don’t know God and have chosen to disobey the Gospel!  
(v.8)... *taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel...*
- To glorify us with Him when He returns! (v.10)... *when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe...*

### 3. STAND FIRM IN \_\_\_\_\_

**Certainty** that is rooted in that which is known or proved to be true Indisputable

- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 NKJV
- **Power** - “*dynamei*” = (dynamic) ability;
- *Jesus said in Luke 10:19 NKJV “power = dynamin.”*

#### **We Stand Firm in the midst of Suffering through Power, by:**

1. Prayer — (v.11a) *we also pray always for you...*
2. Faith — (v.11b) *fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power...*
3. Grace — (v.12) *according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*