Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren September 11, 2022

Morning Worship Service:

Philippians 4:1

Stand Firm in the Lord

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Ι.	Christian	Affection	IS UTFO	unaea in	CTOO'S	Love for t	US.

2. Our Joy in Suffering Comes from Christ's Victory Over Death.

3. So We Are Called to Stand Firm Together in Christ.

CONCLUSION: In this one brief sentence, the Holy Spirit through Paul summarizes this whole section of Philippians by encouraging them to stand firm. But this is not a call to dig deeper. It is not a guilt-trip to manipulate them. It is a loving encouragement to stand in the freedom of their being beloved. Being loved by Christ and Christ's people gives strength to our feeble knees and sturdies our stumbling feet. The walk with Christ for which we have been called begins with us standing in the reality of His delight in us and belonging to loving siblings. This is the source of our joy in travail and how we share the victor's crown.

Exodus 14:10-14

¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and *they feared greatly*. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "*Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord*, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Second Chronicles 20:13-17

¹³ Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. ¹⁴ And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. ¹⁵ And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. *Stand firm, hold your position*, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' *Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed*. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you."

Daniel 11:29-35

" ... He shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant, but *the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action*. ³³ And the wise among the people shall make many understand, though for some days they shall *stumble* by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder. ³⁴ *When they stumble, they shall receive a little help*. And many shall join themselves to them with flattery, ³⁵ and *some of the wise shall stumble, so that they may be refined, purified, and made white*, until the time of the end, for it still awaits the appointed time.

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free; *stand firm* therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

First Peter 5:6-12

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be soberminded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, *firm in your faith*, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. ¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. *Stand firm* in it.