

## **Taking my stand**

Taking a stand for truth has never been more vital, nor more challenging. We live in a time when conviction is often confused with intolerance, and compromise is praised as wisdom. Yet followers of Christ are called to something higher — to take a stand not in pride or anger, but with courage, conviction, and compassion.

Paul's words to the Corinthians still echo with power and relevance: *“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”* (1 Corinthians 16:13, NIV). In a culture that pressures us to conform, our faith must be anchored in conviction, not convenience. Like Daniel in Babylon, we are called to maintain integrity in environments that may challenge our values. *“Daniel resolved not to defile himself.”* (Daniel 1:8). His strength was not drawn from public approval but from private devotion. Taking a stand begins in the unseen places — in prayer, in Scripture, in the daily choices that no one else witnesses. A true leader stands before they are ever asked to because conviction has already been formed in quiet fellowship with God. Strength is forged in solitude before it is tested in the crowd.

Jesus' words remind us of where true freedom lies: *“Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* (John 8:32, NIV). Truth today is often treated as something flexible and subjective, yet Jesus declares Himself as *“the way, the truth, and the life.”* (John 14:6). The real question for us is this: will we live by eternal truth or by temporary trends? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood firm when everyone else bowed. Their courage was not rebellion but reverence (Daniel 3:16–18). In our workplaces, our schools, and our communities, the modern idols may look different, but the pressure to bow remains. Standing in truth may cost us comfort, but it brings spiritual freedom and divine favour. Integrity is rarely popular, but it is always powerful.

Yet standing firm does not mean standing harshly. *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* (Romans 12:21, NIV). Taking a stand is not about being loud; it is about being loving. Jesus showed this when He faced the woman caught in adultery. He neither condemned her nor compromised truth, saying, *“Neither do I condemn you; go now and leave your life of sin.”* (John 8:11). The way of Christ is not to shout louder than the world but to shine brighter within it. Our convictions must always be clothed in compassion. In the digital age, when arguments rage on screens and voices are amplified by emotion rather than reason, we are called to a quieter strength. Leadership grows when others sense that our beliefs are rooted in love, not condemnation.

Standing together gives strength when standing alone feels impossible. Scripture reminds us that *“though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12, NIV). The early church understood this well; they faced persecution not as isolated believers but as a united body, praying and standing side by side. Their unity became their testimony. Jesus

Himself prayed *“that they may be one... so that the world may believe.”* (John 17:21). When families pray together, when churches stand together, and when communities serve together, conviction becomes movement and faith becomes visible.

Our ability to stand does not come from our own strength but from divine empowerment. Paul reminds us to *“put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground.”* (Ephesians 6:13, NIV). Every piece of that armour equips us to resist fear, doubt, and deception. David faced Goliath not with superior skill but with spiritual authority, declaring, *“I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty.”* (1 Samuel 17:45). That same authority is given to those who walk in faith. Our declaration must be: I stand not in my ability but in His authority.

Standing firm is not a momentary act; it is a lifelong discipline. Paul continues in that same passage, *“After you have done everything, to stand.”* (Ephesians 6:13b, NIV). When the storms of life rage and the world continues to shift beneath our feet, Christ remains our firm foundation — *“the rock on which we stand.”* (Matthew 7:24–25). The call of God to each of us is simple yet profound: stand firm in faith, in love, in unity, and in truth, until He returns.

So we pray, “Lord, strengthen us to stand firm in Your truth, to love without fear, and to lead with courage in every sphere of life. May our stand bring honour to Your name and light to this world. Amen.”

### **Questions**

In what areas of your life or work do you feel God is calling you to take a stand, and what might that practically look like this week?

How can we ensure that our convictions are expressed through compassion rather than confrontation, especially in today’s divided culture?

What does it mean to “stand firm in the faith” in a world where truth is often seen as subjective?

How can unity within families, churches, or workplaces strengthen our collective witness to the world?

When challenges test your faith, how do you remind yourself to stand not in your own ability, but in God’s authority and strength?