



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

STANDING FIRM IN THIS WAY PHILIPPIANS 4:5B-6A  
TO: WYOMING LEGISLATORS, SPOUSES AND THE GOVERNOR  
FEBRUARY 23, 2011

Dan File, PO Box 1088, Lake City, CO 81235 [dan.file@capitol.com](mailto:dan.file@capitol.com) Hm- 970.944.2551 Cell- 303.345.8830 Office- 970.944.1088 [www.capitol.com](http://www.capitol.com)

*How will you stand firm and endure today's trials as you serve in the Capitol? Paul was so concerned about this issue of standing firm that he wrote in 1 Thessalonians 3:8, "Now we really live if you stand firm in the Lord." We can be encouraged to stand firm for in John 16:33 Jesus says, "In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." In adversity, we look to Christ for His strength in our weakness and struggle. He is the all sufficient One Who meets our every need. Everything that comes our way serves only to clarify and purify our love for Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must submit our life to God, finding our joy and life in Him alone. We dare not compromise with this world as we are tested or assaulted. We cannot give in under the testing or yield to temptation to sin. We must stand firm in our faith knowing that beyond this life and all the trials that come, there awaits a crown and life forever with Jesus Christ. May God give us a deep joy in the certainty of this hope He has set before us! Therefore, may the habit of our lives be to **stand firm!***

## I. STAND FIRM "IN THIS WAY"- PHILIPPIANS 4:1-6

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:1-6*

Paul is clear as he exhorts believers to stand firm "in this way" and then clarifies what he means in the following verses. Paul desires for these believers to be stable in Christ and stand firm in the Lord in a certain manner. God doesn't leave us without direction but reveals in His Word how we must live. Paul was an example of having to enduring hardship for the sake of the gospel. And he was an example to the Philippians of standing firm and immovable through those hardships *because* of God's faithfulness and constant provision. Since it is so critical our lives are characterized by firm standing, we will spend more time reviewing and understanding these Scriptures that they may continue to transform our lives compelling us to a greater passion for God and His glory!

## A. WITH UNITY. PHILIPPIANS 4:2-3

*"I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life." Philippians 4:2-3*

Unity in the body of Christ, with fellow believers is critical to being able to stand firm. If Satan can bring about dissention and friction and it is allowed to continue, it will fracture the church of Jesus Christ. Paul desired the church to be strong and withstand hardships from the outside and remain intact on the inside, not crumbling from disunity. As believers, we are called to the same common goal of proclaiming the gospel and glorifying God, intent on that sole purpose alone. True unity, true like-mindedness is hard, especially when you've been hurt or wronged. But it is essential and Paul begins here as he exhorts us to stand firm! For this to be true, we must totally submit our thoughts and minds to the authority of Scripture. In order to "think the same things" (the meaning of harmony), we must be tuned to the same tuning fork of Scripture! Only by submitting to Christ and His Word are we able to live in harmony with one another. We are called to think and live Biblically with an unconditional love that seeks the welfare of all. There is no room for selfishness or discord because it damages the testimony of our Lord.

## B. WITH JOY IN THE LORD. PHILIPPIANS 4:4

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" Philippians 4:4*

Joy is found in Christ alone. It is the result of a relationship with our Lord and is produced by the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-26) Joy is eternal and doesn't come or go because it is found in the secure, eternal relationship with Jesus Christ that never changes. Therefore, it characterizes the life of a true believer and is present regardless of life's events that can test the foundation of one's faith. Because our joy is in Christ, it is limitless regardless of what comes our way. This is a life lived beyond feelings, emotions and experiences that may be great or devastating. We may not always rejoice in our circumstances, but we can always rejoice in the Lord. Firm standing believers bring stability and joy to circumstances in life.

## C. WITH A FORBEARING SPIRIT. PHILIPPIANS 4:5A

*"Let your gentle spirit be known to all men." Philippians 4:5a*

It isn't easy to be known by a "gentle or forbearing" spirit. We are to stand firm through harsh or unfair circumstances and rejoice always in the Lord with a gentleness that endures mistreatment without any malice or bitterness towards others. And all of this is done without compromising on the truth in absolute humility. If we succumb to unfair treatment from others with sin, anger and vengeance, then we give way to sin in our lives and do not stand firm. We must give serious consideration regarding our calling to love with gentleness and forbearing to all men. Can we be satisfied with less than

## BIBLE STUDY

LEGISLATORS/SPOUSES/GOVERNOR & STAFF/LSO: WEDNESDAY @ 6:30 AM, WYOMING STATE CAPITOL  
HERSCHLER BUILDING, COMMONS AREA, BREAKFAST SERVED

# CAPITOL COMMISSION WYOMING

## STANDING FIRM IN THIS WAY PHIL. 4:5B-6A

---

our “*due*”? If our lives were characterized by this internal attitude with the resulting external obedience, what a difference our testimony would have!

### D. SECURE THAT OUR LORD IS NEAR. PHILIPPIANS 4:5B

*“The Lord is near.” Philippians 4:5b*

Paul exhorts us to stand firm, united in our purpose to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoicing with a forbearing spirit that remains patient even when submitted to mistreatment from others all for the sake of the Gospel! Then Paul reminds us of the great truth that God is present with us always! He is near to every believer every moment of every day. He knows what we are going through. Because our Lord is near, He is able to give us aid, carry our load, our burdens and our concerns. He is able to give us grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16) His grace is sufficient for all our trials and hardships both now and in the future. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) Psalm 73:28 says, *“The nearness of God is my good.”* Because God is near, we do not need to fear or be anxious. God reminded Joshua of His presence in Joshua 1:6-9 before he went in to possess the Promised Land. Jesus reminded His disciples before His ascension that He would be with them always in Matthew 28:19-20. Remember Who God is!! He is the all powerful, all knowing, sovereign Lord of the universe! Because God is with us, because He is near, we can be strong and courageous! The knowledge of Christ’s presence with us now and the certainty of His glorious coming again enables us to stand firm without wavering!

### E. ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING. PHILIPPIANS 4:6A

*“Be anxious for nothing...” Philippians 4:6a*

Often when we face trials, we forget that the “Lord is near”! We fail to remember God’s incredible attributes at work in us. Obviously the Philippians were worried about the hardships they were confronted with and Paul exhorts them to stop worrying because the Lord is near.

---

“**anxious**” Greek word “**merimnao**,” means anxious, anxiety, fretful worry, nervous over impending disasters or failures.

---

Paul exhorts these believers to stop worrying. Why? Fret and worry reveal a lack of trust in God’s sovereignty and power. Our confidence in life doesn’t come from ourselves but the all powerful God! That’s why Paul tells us not to worry about one thing! “*Nothing*” is a very exclusive word. It leaves out everything. There is nothing we are to worry about because we are saying there is something God can’t handle. How are we to keep from being anxious about the challenges in life and trust God?

Only by knowing God more and more each day! Hosea 6:3 says, *“Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord. His going forth is as certain as the dawn; and He will come to us like the rain, like the spring rain watering the earth.”* The more we know God and Who He is, brings about a stability and confidence in our lives. Paul knew his God, clung to Him and his confidence was found in the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:5 says, *“And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.”* Paul labored *“according to His power which mightily works within me.”* (Colossians 1:29) Paul knew it was God Who was at work in him. Something more is needed to do the supernatural work God has called us to. Knowing God and living in light of the truths about Him will enable us to find His grace to be sufficient through the greatest hardship!

What is your view of God?? Do you know and understand the truths of Scripture that reveal God’s character and rule, resulting in great assurance through life’s challenges? Or do you have a low view of God which leads to anxious worry! The way you live your life reflects your view of God. A.W. Tozier said, *“The Church has surrendered her once lofty concept of God and has substituted for it one so low, so ignoble, as to be utterly unworthy of thinking worshipping men.”* This low view of God shows itself in believer’s lack of understanding of His nature and purposes and shows outwardly in the believer’s lack of confidence in God. This results in the acceptance of worldly remedies for problems that God can handle if we would just rely on Him. We must trust and submit ourselves to God and His Word. It is this low view of God that makes us unstable and vulnerable to trials, temptations and just responding in worldly ways to circumstances that arise in our life. May we heed the words of A.W. Tozier and have a lofty and high view of the Almighty God. May we remember that God is near and therefore be anxious for nothing! May we rest in the confidence of our God and thus steadfast, standing firm in the Capitol. God gives us everything we need to live the life He has called us to. It’s a high calling but His grace is sufficient and His presence is assured.

*“Counting Jesus as never absent is boliness evermore!” Hudson Taylor*

*“To care is a virtue, but to foster cares is sin, for such anxiety is not trust in God but a trusting in oneself, which comes to inward suffering, fear and worry.” Jac J. Muller*