

A photograph of Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a red tie. The background is a light-colored wall with a blue vertical element on the left. The image is framed by a thick black border.

**“MR. GORBACHEV,
TEAR DOWN
THIS WALL!”**





Stand Firm! (Part 2)

Philippians 4:1-23

*Now it is God who makes both us and you
stand firm in Christ (2 Cor.1:21a)*

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Phil.1:6)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phill.2:12-13)

*Therefore, my brothers, whom I love
and long for, my joy and my crown, stand
firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.*

(Philippians 4:1)

I. Stand firm for the unity of our church.
(vv.2-3, 5)

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*I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche
to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I ask you also,
true companion, help these women, who have
labored side by side with me in the gospel . . .
(v.2).*

I. Stand firm for the unity of our church.
(vv.2-3, 5)

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites (Romans 16:17-18a).

II. Stand firm in the Joy of the Lord. (v.4)

III. Stand firm in prayer and don't worry.
(vv.6-7)

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A. We are commanded to not worry about anything.

III. Stand firm in prayer and don't worry.
(vv.6-7)

A. We are commanded to not worry about anything.

do not be anxious about anything (v.6a)

B. We are instructed to take all our concerns to God in prayer.

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but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (v.6b)

“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us.

Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.

If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others.

If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely. . . .

See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.”

- Martin Luther

C. We are promised that God will provide us with supernatural peace.

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And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (.7)

IV. Stand firm in the way you think.

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Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (v.8)

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“The verb *think about* (*logizomai*) means to ponder, to give proper weight and value to, and to allow the resultant appraisal to influence the way life is to be lived.”

– Alec Motyer

*whatever is true, honorable, just, pure,
lovely, commendable, excellent and worthy
of praise*

V. Stand firm in giving glory to God.

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*To our God and Father be glory forever and
ever. Amen. (v.20)*

“This is not simply a formula that Paul feels constrained to drop into his text once in a while, without giving the words much thought. Rather, the apostle wants to remind his readers that . . . all of Christian discipleship, all of Christian virtue, all of Christian resolution, all of Christian perseverance, must be offered to the glory of God.

“It is a sad fact that some Christians will hear the injunctions of this chapter—resolve to pursue like-mindedness with other true believers; resolve always to rejoice in the Lord; resolve to be known for selflessness; resolve not to be anxious for anything,

but learn instead to pray; resolve to think holy thoughts; resolve to learn the secret of contentment; resolve to grow in the grace of Christian gratitude and courtesy—and they will treasure these virtues as little gods to be coveted.

“These goals are simply not worthy of that much energy and commitment if they are regarded as ends in themselves. But if they are cheerfully and lovingly offered up to God—that makes all the difference. We resolve to pursue these virtues not only because they are good, but because God demands them and gives us the grace to live them out.

And the result is that he receives glory.”

– D.A. Carson