

## Stability

II Corinthians 1:24, "Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy; for by faith ye stand."

We are commanded to stand firm many times in scripture. It is a militant picture of the prepared soldier enduring the rigors of the battle, equipped with the tools of warfare. We take on the "armor of God" and "wrestle against...spiritual wickedness."

Here, Paul addresses a foundational aspect of standing: faith.

The enemy is clever. He knows that without our faith he we cannot stand and he knows how to attack that faith.

He will attack with doubt of God's Word. This was the original tactic in the garden of Eden: "Hath God said?" Did God REALLY tell you that? Did the Lord lead you that way? Is that really the Word of God?

You may feel immune to this question or challenge, but Satan knows when you are vulnerable to the arguments and skepticism of the world. He will exploit your circumstances and situations to cause you to question the Truth. God also knows your vulnerability and has promised to "make a way to escape" the temptations thrown at us. The answer lies in trusting when we cannot see or understand. If you trust someone completely, you will exercise confidence even when the evidence seems to go against him. You know he will be shown to be faithful when the truth is fully revealed. So it is with God. You exercise faith knowing that eventually He will be shown to be true and all opposing Him in error. Faith acts in that confidence.

Satan will also attack you with doubt of self: "Is my faith strong enough? It doesn't feel like confidence." Faith ACTS on the Word of God, regardless of the feelings. James does not say "I will show you my faith by my feelings," but "I will show you my faith by my works." If you trust someone, you will act on his advice even when it seems contrary to what you feel. The evidence of your degree of confidence in them is the degree of obedience to their words, not your feelings. So it is with God: the evidence of our faith is our obedience to His instruction, especially when circumstances and arguments would influence us otherwise.

We "stand by faith."