

## Taking a Stand

If we are correct and right in our Christian life at every point, but refuse to stand for the truth at a particular point where the battle rages -- then we are traitors to Christ.

[Martin Luther]

I think about this sometimes...I think about how much I Love God... About how I want to live to please HIM....

**Jesus words to us today:**

**And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.”**

(John 8:29 NLT)

But I wonder, If when I'm pushed to Defend Christ, To fight for HIM... If I will be THIS Strong, Like I Feel...

**We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**

(2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV)

Or... Will I be like His own Disciples... His best friends... The ones He trusted the most in this world...

Who betrayed HIM when it came time to defend HIM...

**He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.**

(John 1:11 NLT)

The ones who said they would NEVER leave HIM... When it really mattered they turned and ran... They stuck their heads in the sand and denied even KNOWING HIM....

**Peter said to him, “Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.”**

**Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.”**

(Mark 14:29, 30 NLT)

I feel like I could NEVER do this... That I am SOOO Strong in my Faith... That I could NEVER deny knowing or loving MY GOD.... BUT...

THAT is EXACTLY what Peter said...

**“No!” Peter declared emphatically. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!” And all the others vowed the same**

(Mark 14:31 NLT)

How could this happen??? How could someone so close to Jesus... Someone whose whole life revolved around following HIM.... Watching HIS miracles and His healing of people daily... How could he deny knowing HIM three times in one night...

**Then the maid who was in charge at the door said to Peter, You are not also one of the disciples of this Man, are you? He said, I am not!**

(John 18:17 AMP)

And if HIS best friend... Who followed and loved Him could say this... Then what does that say about me... Who hasn't even met Him face to face....

**Jesus words again: “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”**

(John 20:29 NLT)

This is why God left us His Word... So we can read it and believe it and grow stronger... And learn from others mistakes... How to be even stronger in our faith...

**The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.**

(John 20:30, 31 NLT)

I believe that we must be prepared for the day when we need to defend or take a stand for Christ... The day is coming... We need to be ready... God knows already how we will respond...

Just as HE knew how Peter would respond.... But He also knew Peter's heart and His Love for GOD...

**Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.**

(1 Corinthians 16:13 NLT)

May JESUS pray for US the way HE did for Peter... That we may be Strong in our faith and that we won't fail HIM... Or our own faith... But if we do... That we may turn immediately and become even stronger in our faith and share that strength that God Gives us with others.... Just as Peter did...

**But I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren.**

(Luke 22:32 AMP)

Peter went on to live his life for Christ... And in the end kept his word and died for Christ.... We may not get a second chance like Peter...

Lets be ready to stand strong the first time....

Simon surnamed Peter died 33-34 years after the death of Christ. According to Smith's Bible Dictionary there is "satisfactory evidence that he and Paul were the founders of the church at Rome, and died in that city. The time and manner of the apostle's martyrdom are less certain. According to the early writers, he died at or about the same time with Paul, and in the Neronian persecution, A.D. 67,68. All agree that he was crucified. Origen says that Peter felt himself to be unworthy to be put to death in the same manner as his Master, and was therefore, at his own request, crucified with his head downward." - See more at: <http://amazingbibletimeline.com/>

My prayer for us today is that we read God's Word... Learning from others weaknesses... Always turning and growing stronger from our own failures too... Praying to God to make us Super Strong in our faith... Ready and willing to carry through with our stand for Him... Not just in thought... But in our words and actions too...

**Words from Peter himself:**

**Therefore, your minds must be clear and ready for action. Place your confidence completely in what God's kindness will bring you when Jesus Christ appears again.**

(1 Peter 1:13 GWT)

**Although you have never seen Christ, you love him. You don't see him now, but you believe in him.**

**You are extremely happy with joy and praise that can hardly be expressed in words**

(1 Peter 1:8 GWT)

Amen

Written in October 2014