



November 7, 2017

## Steadfast to the End

By Teresa Hampton

Have you ever known a person who had been faithful for many years, only to find out they recently left the church or embraced false teaching? You thought they would remain steadfast to the end. It prompts us to know more about standing fast in the faith. Steadfastness describes the ability to maintain constant spiritual focus despite external fluctuations. Synonyms in scripture include: stand fast, stand firm, continue, persevere, endure, remain true, abide in, immovable, unmovable, faithful, faithful to the end,.

What can we do to remain steadfast? Peter said, *“be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 3:17-18). Ceasing to read and study God’s word, is a recipe for spiritual disaster. It leaves us vulnerable to false doctrine. We should always hunger to know more about our Lord and His will for us, because this is how we abide in Him (John 15:9-11).

Peter wrote to Christians experiencing intense persecution. He was very concerned that they were spiritually faltering, *“Resist him [Satan], standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings”* (1 Peter 5:9). Peter wrote in his second letter, *“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked.”* (2 Peter 3:17). Today, we are engaged in spiritual warfare. Satan uses his cunning devices to lure us away from God's word, so Peter’s words serve to warn us.

The writer to the Hebrews addressed Christians who were considering turning back to Judaism. He reminded them of all the faithful ones who had gone before them, from Abel to the prophets (Hebrews 11). Beginning chapter twelve, he drew an amazing word picture of a grand arena. Spectators in the stands, like a great cloud of witnesses, were cheering on the runners in the race below. Who were the witnesses? They are the faithful ones he wrote about in chapter eleven, from Abel to the prophets. Christians, you and I, are running the great race. Their exemplary lives shout to us, *“Be steadfast! Don’t give up! You can win the crown!”* He continued, *“Lay aside every*

*weight, and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Then he told how to win the race, “looking to Jesus, the author [originator] and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Jesus endured a shameful death on the cross because He saw the joy ahead of him. We, too, must focus on the joy waiting for us, the crown of life we will receive if we are steadfast to the end!

**Today’s Verse:** *“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12).*

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#### **Bonus: Verses about Steadfastness (NKJV)**

1 Kings 13:8 *But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water in this place.*

2 Kings 18:6 *For he clung to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.*

2 Kings 22:2 *He did right in the sight of the LORD and walked in all the way of his father David, nor did he turn aside to the right or to the left.*

Job 23:11 *"My foot has held fast to His path; I have kept His way and not turned aside.*

Job 27:6 *"I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go. My heart does not reproach any of my days.*

Isaiah 50:7 *For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.*

Daniel 3:18 *"But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.â€*

Luke 9:51 *When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem;*

Acts 2:42 *They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

Acts 4:19 *But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge;*

Acts 4:20 *for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."*

Acts 20:24 *"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.*

Romans 4:19-20 *if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (Eph. 4:14).*

Galatians 6:9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

Colossians 2:5 *For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.*

1 Thessalonians 5:21 *Test all things; hold fast what is good.*

2 Timothy 1:13 *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*

Hebrews 3:6 *but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.*

Hebrews 3:14 *For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end*

Hebrews 4:14 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

Hebrews 10:35-36 *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*

Hebrews 10:39 *But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.*

1 Peter 5:9 *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*

Revelation 2:25 *But hold fast what you have till I come.*

Revelation 3:11 *Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*