

Stand Firm in God's Grace

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes

Based on the "We Stand Firm" Series of Matthew Rogers

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Opening Prayer

- Pray for humility to submit our cares to God and trust His mighty hand in our lives.
- Ask God to help us stay alert and stand firm against the enemy's attacks, relying on His grace.

Ice Breaker

What's one situation in your life where you've had to "think on your toes" or handle an unexpected moment, and how did it turn out?

Key Scripture

1 Peter 5:12 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Through Silvanus, a faithful brother (as I consider him), I have written to you briefly in order to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!

Sermon Summary

As Peter concludes his letter, he uses a beautiful juxtaposition: calling believers to humble themselves under God's mighty hand while also standing firm against the enemy. This seeming contrast works because God's grace is at the center—enabling us to submit in trust and patience while remaining vigilant and strong in faith. The encouragement is to cast our cares on Him, resist the devil, and stand firm in the true grace of God.

Discussion Point 1: Humble Yourself

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:6-7 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you.*

Point Summary: Being humble means deliberate submission to God's authority, trusting Him completely with our worries, and patiently waiting for His timing. It's recognizing that God's mighty hand is protective and caring, not crushing, and that He will exalt and support us after suffering. This humility isn't weakness but a strong act of placing ourselves under the One who is most trustworthy.

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it look like practically in your daily life to “cast all your cares” on God instead of holding onto control or worry?
2. How have you experienced God’s care or support during a time of waiting or difficulty—can you share an example that encouraged your trust in Him?

Discussion Point 2: Stand Firm

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:8-9 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

Point Summary: Standing firm requires being sober-minded and alert, actively watching for the enemy’s tactics like temptation, discouragement, isolation, or twisting suffering. We resist by staying firm in faith, remembering we’re not alone—other believers face similar struggles. This vigilance pairs with humility because it’s not self-reliant pride but God-empowered strength.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the enemy’s common lies (temptation, discouragement, isolation, or questioning God’s care in suffering) do you find most challenging right now, and why?
2. How can knowing that fellow believers worldwide are experiencing similar things help you stand firm when you feel alone or overwhelmed?

Discussion Point 3: God’s Grace at the Center

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:10-11 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while. To him be dominion forever. Amen.

Point Summary: The beautiful juxtaposition of humility and firmness is held together by God’s grace through Christ. He promises to restore, establish, strengthen, and support us after suffering, giving us the foundation to both submit and resist. Without grace at the center, humility becomes pointless and standing firm becomes impossible—Jesus must be the core of our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what areas of your life might something else (worry, pride, busyness) be trying to take the center instead of Jesus, and what would it look like to reorder that?
2. How does the promise that God will personally restore and strengthen you after suffering encourage you to both humble yourself and stand firm today?

Wrap-Up

Peter's closing words tie everything together: humble submission and firm resistance find their balance in God's true grace. By casting cares on Him, staying alert, and resisting the enemy, we stand firm—not in our strength, but in the grace that restores and supports us through Christ.

Challenge

This week, intentionally practice one act of humility (like casting a specific care on God in prayer) and one act of standing firm (like resisting a temptation or lie with truth from Scripture). Share your experience next time. Also, consider how this connects to any ongoing church emphasis on prayer or spiritual growth.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God for His grace that enables us to humble ourselves and stand firm.
- Pray for strength to resist the enemy's tactics and for restoration in areas of suffering.
- Ask Jesus to take His rightful place at the center of each person's life.

Handout

Stand Firm in God's Grace – Life Group Handout

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:12 (CSB) “...*this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!*”

Beautiful Juxtaposition

- **Humble Yourselfes** (Submission, Trust, Patience) Under God's mighty hand – cast cares on Him!
- **Stand Firm** (Sober-minded, Alert, Resist) Against the prowling enemy – firm in faith!

Grace in the Center Jesus must be at the heart—only then can humility and firmness work together.

Personal Reflection

1. One care I need to cast on God this week: _____
2. One enemy tactic I'm facing: _____ How I'll resist it with truth: _____
3. Steps to put Jesus at the center: _____

Prayer Prompt Lord, help me humble myself under Your hand and stand firm in Your grace. Amen.

