

# Stand Strong and Firm in the Faith:

**COLOSSIANS 1:28-29 AMP--WE PROCLAIM HIM, WARNING AND INSTRUCTING EVERYONE IN ALL WISDOM (that is with comprehensive insight into the word and purposes of God), SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERY PERSON COMPLETE IN CHRIST (mature, fully trained, and perfect in HIM). FOR THIS I LABOR, STRIVING WITH HIS POWER AND ENERGY, WHICH SO GREATLY WORKS WITHIN ME.**

## COMPLETE IN CHRIST?

**A Legacy of Commitment and Obedience—John 14:15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. John 15: 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.**

**A Legacy of Love—John 14: 37 Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’<sup>e</sup> 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” John 15:12-13 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.**

**A Legacy of Joy— (not conditioned on circumstance) John 15:10-12 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you..... -Acts 16:22 (Paul & Silas in Prison) The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered that they be stripped and beaten with rods. 23 And after striking them with many blows, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to guard them securely. 24 On receiving this order, he placed them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly a strong earthquake shook the foundations of the prison. At once all the doors flew open and everyone's chains came loose. 27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, presuming that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul called out in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself! We are all here!”**

**A Legacy of Peace given to you by Jesus starts with submission to His will. John 14:27 AMP Peace I leave with you; My [perfect] peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. Also- Peace with others---Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification**

**The Legacy of Servitude and Humbleness—Phillippians 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>a</sup> 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>b</sup> 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, <sup>c</sup> being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**



**A Legacy of Guidance and Instruction.** The Word is the Sanctifier, convicting us to live in submission and to repent. 2 Timothy 3:16 **16**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness. **17**so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work....

Hebrews 4:**12**For the word of God is living and active *and* full of power [**making it operative, energizing, and effective**]. It is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating as far as the division of the soul and spirit [**the completeness of a person**], and of both joints and marrow [**the deepest parts of our nature**], exposing *and* judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart...

**A Legacy of Multiplying.**...Matthew 28:19- Jesus gives us the first step to a Legacy for Him when he said **go ye therefore into all the nations, making disciples**...not just coverts. It's commanded to tell the world of Jesus, AND then to make lovers of the word, disciples of Jesus who teach others.

**A Legacy of Forgiveness**-Mature Christians leaving open the door of reconciliation open to immature Christians is a demonstration of the legacy Christ showed on the cross...

Luke 23:33-35 **33**When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals, one on His right and the other on His left. **34**Then Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."** And they divided up His garments by casting lots.

**A Legacy of Reconciliation**-Matthew 27:34 **34** There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. Possibly the last temptation Christ dealt with was refusing gall-the bitterness that would keep reconciliation from those who were rebelling against God.. Hebrews 12:15 NIV See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 **18**All this is from God, who through **Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation**; **19**that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20**Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God

**A Legacy of Prayer-** Jesus prayed every morning, in the garden, on the cross. In everything He did, whether blessing the bread to be multiplied or before He was to teach, he prayed. Luke 6: **12** **In those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and He spent the night in prayer to God**

**A Legacy of Giving-** Christians giving to others, prayers, blessings, gifts, time, and lessons which God has given you, results in a furtherance of the kingdom. Luke 6:38 **Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."**

John 3:16-**For God so love the WORLD that HE GAVE his only begotten so, that whosoever believes in HIM shall not perish but have eternal life.**  
**[We are most like the Father when we GIVE.]**



**A Legacy of Holiness-** Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: **1 Peter 1: 15** But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, **16** for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” **Matthew 5:48 NKJ** **Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.** (when Jesus said ‘it is finished’ on the cross, “finished”=complete=”perfect”)

**~~HOW DO WE DO THAT?** Hebrews 12:2 **Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.** **3** Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart....

**~~ WHY DO WE DO THAT?-Colossians 1:19** For it pleased the *Father* for all the fullness [of deity--the sum total of His essence, all His perfection, powers, and attributes] to dwell [permanently] in Him (the Son), **20** and through [the intervention of] the Son to **reconcile all things to Himself, making peace [with believers] through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say,] whether things on earth or things in heaven.** **21** And although you were at one time estranged *and* alienated and hostile-minded [toward Him], *participating* in evil things, **22** yet Christ has now reconciled you [to God] in His physical body through death, in order to present you before the Father holy and blameless and beyond reproach-- **23** [and He will do this] if you continue in the faith, well-grounded and steadfast, and not shifting away from the [confident] hope [that is a result] of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, .....so that I might make the word of God fully known [among you]-- **26** *that is*, the mystery which was hidden [from angels and mankind] for ages and generations, but has now been revealed to His saints (God’s people). **27** God [in His eternal plan] chose to make known to them how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope *and* guarantee of [realizing the] glory.

**WHEN WE FIX OUR EYES, THOUGHTS, AND HEARTS, AND ABIDE IN JESUS, THE PERFECTER AND AUTHOR OF OUR FAITH, TRUSTING IN HIS TEACHING, HIS STRENGTH, HIS POWER, HIS GRACE, THEN WE WILL CAN STAND STRONG IN FAITH AND COMPLETE IN CHRIST.**

