

Monday, September 7: Stand Firm

By: Terry Kountz

Reading: 1 Peter 5

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” — 1 Peter 5:8

Peter reminds us that we have an enemy who wants to weaken our faith and pull us away from God. That's why he tells us to stay alert and pay attention. We can't just coast through our faith and assume we'll always be strong.

The enemy often uses things like discouragement, temptation, busyness, bitterness, and isolation to get us off track. But we don't have to face those things alone. Staying in God's Word helps keep us grounded, and being connected to other believers gives us people who can pray for us, encourage us, and help us stand firm when life gets hard. This is why joining a group is important.

Peter also reminds us that our struggles aren't wasted. God is using even difficult seasons to grow us and strengthen our faith. He is the God of all grace, and He promises to restore, strengthen, and establish us. Even when we don't understand what God is doing, we can trust that He isn't finished with us.

As we walk through life together, let's stay humble, stay connected, and stay close to Jesus. Let's look out for one another and be willing to step in when someone is struggling. We are stronger when we stand together. And through every season, we can remember that our Good Shepherd is with us. He is guiding us, strengthening us, and giving us the grace we need for whatever comes next.

Prayer: In the face of challenges and trials, grant me the strength to resist the enemy's attacks. Help me to stand firm in the faith, knowing that You are my refuge and our strength. Give me the wisdom to discern his schemes and the courage to resist them.

Tomorrow's Reading: 2 Peter 1

Tuesday, September 8: Keep Taking Steps

Reading: 2 Peter 1

"Make every effort to respond to God's promises." **2 Peter 1:5**

Peter reminds us that following Jesus isn't about simply making a decision and then staying the same. God wants us to keep growing.

Peter encourages believers to build on their faith by developing qualities like goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, and love. Growth doesn't happen overnight. It happens one step at a time as we continue to follow Jesus and allow Him to shape our lives.

Sometimes we can become comfortable in our faith. We go to church, read our Bible, and know the right answers. But Peter challenges us to ask a deeper question: Am I actually becoming more like Jesus?

The good news is that we don't have to grow on our own. God has already given us everything we need to live a godly life. Our job is to stay close to Him, keep pursuing Him, and be willing to let Him change us.

Think about an area of your life you need to grow in. Maybe it's patience, self-control, kindness, or loving someone who is difficult to love. Ask God to help you grow in that area today. When you pray that prayer, look for one opportunity to put it into practice. Don't worry about becoming everything at once. Just keep taking the next step.

Prayer: Father, thank You for giving us everything we need to follow You. Help us keep growing in our faith and becoming more like Jesus. Show us the areas where we need to grow and give us the strength to take the next step. Help us not become comfortable or stagnant but continue pursuing You every day.

Tomorrow's Reading: 2 Peter 2

Wednesday, September 9: Grounded in Truth

Reading: 2 Peter 2

“So you must be on your guard; then you will not be carried away by the errors of these wicked people and lose your own secure footing.” 2 Peter 3:17

Peter gives a warning in 2 Peter 2 about false teachers and people who distort the truth of God's Word. His message is simple: don't believe everything you hear.

There will always be voices trying to pull us away from what God says is true. Sometimes those voices sound convincing, but that's why we need to know God's Word for ourselves. The more we know Scripture, the easier it becomes to recognize what doesn't line up with it.

Peter isn't trying to make us fearful. He's encouraging us to be wise and grounded. We don't have to chase every new idea or follow every popular opinion. We can stand confidently on the truth of God's Word.

Our faith becomes stronger when we're consistently in Scripture, connected with other believers, and willing to let God's truth shape how we live. So, my challenge to you is to take time to read God's Word today. The more God's Word fills your heart, the better prepared you'll be to recognize truth and stand firm when other voices compete for your attention.

Prayer

Father, help us stay grounded in Your truth. Give us wisdom to recognize what is false and courage to stand firm in what is true. Help us spend time in Your Word and allow it to shape our thoughts, choices, and lives. Keep us close to You and protect us from being led astray.

Tomorrow's Reading: 2 Peter 3

Thursday, September 10: God is Patient

Reading: 2 Peter 3

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants all to repent."
2 Peter 3:9

Sometimes we wonder why God hasn't answered a prayer, changed a situation, or let Jesus return. I know I have. From our perspective, it can feel like God is taking too long. But Peter reminds us that God's timing is not the same as ours.

God's patience isn't weakness or delay. It's mercy. He is giving people more time to turn toward Him. Every day that God gives us is another opportunity to know Him, grow in Him, and help someone else discover His grace.

That also challenges us to be patient with people. We may want someone to change immediately, but God often works in people's lives over time. Instead of giving up on them, we can pray for them, love them, and continue pointing them toward Jesus. God is patient with us, so we can learn to be patient with others.

We talk about Who's Your One. One person you are praying for and actively looking to have faith conversations with. Pray for your one or for one person who doesn't yet know Jesus. Ask God to draw them to Himself and then look for one simple opportunity this week to show them the love of Christ.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for being patient with us. Thank You for giving us time to grow, change, and draw closer to You. Help us trust Your timing and show that same patience to others. Give us opportunities to point people toward Your grace and love.

Tomorrow's Reading: John 1

Friday, September 11:

Reading: John 1

Tomorrow's Reading: John 2