

Title: Called to Stand
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Matthew 5:18-20

¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

a: We must stand in the power of His might

Ephesians 6, 10-13

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

b: New Testament Grace and Old Testament Law

Source of grace: Jesus Christ (the cross)

John 1:17

For the Law came through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- **Murder in the heart**

Matthew 5:21-22

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not murder*, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'

²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

- **Adultery in the heart**

Matthew 5: 27-28

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old '*You shall not commit adultery*.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

What grace is not

- **Grace is not mercy – more**

Hebrews 4:16

Therefore let us come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- **Grace is not a license to sin.**

Romans 5:20

But the Law entered so that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.

- **Grace is not a crutch**

Romans 5:21

so that as sin has reigned to death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

c: Accountable to God

Romans 3:19

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

1 Peter 4:4-5

⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

d: Weapons

1. Accountable to one another

James 5:15-16

¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

2. Fasting

The purpose of fasting

Fasting, like prayer, is a focused exercise.

We may trust God for a **specific breakthrough** in our own life or in somebody else's life. Whether that breakthrough is financial or relational there's always a set goal we want to accomplish when we fast. Another goal may be that of maintaining one's spiritual sensitivity and fortitude through fasting as a regular discipline - especially in the case of an active commitment to the ministry of intercession and/or deliverance

- When and not if.

Matthew 6:16

"When you fast, do not be like the hypocrites", He did not say **if** you fast.

3. Prayer

Jude 20

²⁰ But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

4. Worship

Psalms 95:6-7

⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

⁷ For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.

Revelations 4: 11

¹¹ " You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

5. Meditation

Psalm 1: 1-3

¹ Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

Joshua 1: 8

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

6. God's word

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

- The word of God is our Sword

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Jesus said

Matthew 4: 4 & 7

⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*'"

⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, '*You shall not tempt the LORD your God.*'"

Matthew 4: 10

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, '*You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.*'" ¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*

1 Timothy 6: 12

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.