



## When Should We Stand and When Should We Run?

**1 Timothy 6:11-12:** (NASB) *<sup>11</sup>But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of faith...*



The Bible tells us to stand, fight and be courageous for our faith. It also sometimes tells us to run away from some things and some people. What is the difference? How do we know when to plant our feet solidly on the foundation of Christ and truth or when to lace up the "running shoes of righteousness" and run away? Is it always an obvious answer? Is there ever a time that we would do *both*? Wait...how would you do THAT?

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5:** (NASB) *<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup>for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. <sup>5</sup>We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*

### Unashamed, Taking a Radical Stand for Christ

- You have to preach the gospel in order for people to respond. If you profess to be a believer in Jesus Christ, you're preaching the gospel. So, listen, church. What kind of message are you preaching? What kind of life are you living? Because when we cower down in the face of suffering, we preach. When we say we believe in Christ and we live a different way, we preach. Now this is the question, are you ashamed of the gospel?*

Let us make no mistake - it is all about fighting a furious battle for our spiritual lives. It truly is all about the fight. There are times in this battle when we stand and fight and when running is part of the strategy of fighting. How do we tell the difference? From the Scriptures, of course!



**Here is the general scriptural principle that determines when to stand and when to run:**

**Ephesians 6:13:** (NASB) *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.*

**STAND!** We must be prepared to not give an inch to the enemy...AND...

**1 John 2:16:** (NASB) *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

...RUN!

These are the three things we would naturally desire as human beings and any contradiction they bring to our spiritual stand should cause us to run from them - always - without exception! We run because we stand for something.





**))) The Best Description of Facing Temptation, Joe Parks**

(In this audio clip, the speaker had previously described temptation as dangling a worm in front of a fish. He now compares our temptations to a hat with lots of things dangling from it and it is all around our eyes.)

- *See here's the problem I think with you and me. I don't even think that this doesn't even do it - the whole dangling of the hook, this whole fisherman thing. I don't think that's really real accurate. When you and I are dealing with temptation, I think it's a lot more like THIS. (Speaker puts on a hat.) This is what I think it's like. Like this is the stuff! Like this stuff is up in our face constantly, right? And this is what we're dealing with. This is the world that we live in. It's not that little dangling hook out in front of you. It is all up in your face. What do you want? I got it! And we are constantly bombarded.*



How do we firmly stand so we can run or fight? What did Jesus do with the three wilderness temptations?

**Satan saw this as a glorious opportunity to derail the plan of God:**

Matthew 4:1,3-4: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil...<sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, if you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. <sup>4</sup>But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Jesus was physically hungry and there is nothing wrong with feeding yourself when you are hungry. But this was a test of the desire of the flesh. Jesus stayed hungry on purpose in order to stay focused. Jesus stood on the word of God! He quoted Scripture to put Satan in his place.

**All three of Jesus' scriptural answers were related to the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt:**

Deuteronomy 8:3: (NRSV) *He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*

That word gave him strength to walk away from the temptation (we should run!). This was a physical need he had but it contradicted what he was out in the wilderness for.

**Who can you think of in the Bible who literally ran away from temptation?  
Joseph in Potiphar's house.**

**But he first stood firm for righteousness based on God's influence:**

Genesis 39:4-6: (NRSV) <sup>4</sup>So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him; he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.... the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. <sup>6</sup>So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge; and, with him there, he had no concern for anything but the food that he ate. Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking.

By choosing God's way, Joseph stood and excelled in the most unusual circumstances. He stood for that which is right in the sight of God.



**The "no compromise" zone, *Real Life Temptations*, Monty Williams, NBA Coach**

- (Interviewer) *How does a man deal with temptation in a traveling schedule and a busy schedule just in his life?*
- (Coach Williams) *Yeah. The Bible says, "Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lust," and there are just certain things that I'm not willing to compromise. I don't hang out. I don't go to the malls by myself. I never have a lady in my office by myself. There are certain things I don't watch on television and some people may call that religious or whatever, but the Bible says, "From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." About twenty years ago, I gave up secular rap music because I realized, and my wife let me know, that I was different when I listened to that, and I felt I was strong enough because I was a Christian to decipher what was bad and what was good. But the bottom line is, I was filling up on that instead of God's word.*

This is an example of a Christian who lives in a world in which you can get virtually anything you want.

**Back to the test of Joseph:**

**Genesis 39:7-10:** (NRSV) <sup>7</sup>And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, lie with me. <sup>8</sup>But he refused and said to his master's wife, look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. <sup>9</sup>He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

As a young man, Joseph stood firm and clear. Notice he said it would be a *sin against God*, not just his master.

<sup>10</sup>And although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not consent to lie beside her or to be with her.

There was no wavering - what is the difference between Joseph and the average man?

**Those who flee temptation generally leave a forwarding address. ~Lane Olinghouse**

**Genesis 39:11-12:** (NRSV) <sup>11</sup>One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, <sup>12</sup>she caught hold of his garment, saying, lie with me! But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

He literally ran away! Lust of the flesh - time to run!!!

**1 Corinthians 6:18:** (NASB) *Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

Running away from immorality is not cowardice; it is standing for something. It is not because you are afraid; it is because you are strong.

**Genesis 39:13-17:** (NRSV) <sup>13</sup>When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, <sup>14</sup>she called out to the members of her household and said to them, See, my husband has brought among us a Hebrew to insult us! He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice; <sup>15</sup>and when he heard me raise my voice and cry out, he left his garment beside me, and fled outside.



When we stand - and then appropriately run - we often will be falsely accused and slandered, as the standards that these actions express reveal the depths of sin that surround us. When you run away from what you should not be involved in, you expose the level of degradation of those involved.

*<sup>16</sup>Then she kept his garment by her until his master came home: <sup>17</sup>and she told him the same story...*

Lies often repeated begin to sound like truth. In spite of this, we know that the only opinion and judgment that matters is that of God Himself.



A caller from Missouri suggests we should carefully choose who we spend time with and the subject of our conversations in order to avoid temptation.



**God's way of escape, *Real Life Temptations*, Monty Williams, NBA Coach**

- *God always gives us a way out. When Moses killed the Egyptian, the Bible says he looked to the left and then he looked to the right, and any time you have to look to the left and the right you probably shouldn't be doing it. But then he (Jesus) gave Judas an option before Judas kissed him on the cheek. Jesus asked him a question and in that time span Judas had a chance to say, I'm not going to do this. So God always gives you a way out. There's no temptation that's too much for man. God always gives you a way of escape.*

All choices yield consequences, both intended and unintended. Living with sacred honor means accepting all consequences with grace and humility - even at the expense of our reputation and future. Joseph lived with sacred honor and it cost him dearly.

Genesis 39:19-20: (NASB) *<sup>19</sup>Now when his master heard the words of his wife... his anger burned. <sup>20</sup>So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined...*

Joseph was not punished for doing something wrong; he was punished for standing up for what was right.

How would you or I react being punished without cause? Would we begin to think that God had abandoned us or live our present circumstances based on truth and not be swayed by any biased perceptions of events? It is easy to want to lash out and seek justice. Sometimes that is not always the right course. Scriptural principle says we rise above that and stand - even if it is going to cost us dearly.

**What about the pride of life - our potential accomplishments - shouldn't we celebrate these?**

**First, let's look at what happened to Joseph after being thrown into jail:**

Genesis 39:21-23: (NASB) *<sup>21</sup>But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. <sup>22</sup>The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. <sup>23</sup>The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge...*

Any surprise here? God was with Joseph because Joseph stood with God! Even in prison, Joseph showed his faith in God's presence in his life where others would say God had abandoned him.



### **Afraid, Martin Luther King speech**

- *You may be 38 years old as I happen to be, and one day some great opportunity stands before you. And calls upon you to stand up for some great principle, some great issue, some great cause. And you refuse to do it because you are afraid. You refuse to do it because you want to live longer. You are afraid that you will lose your job or you are afraid that you will be criticized and that you will lose your popularity. Are you afraid that somebody will stab you or shoot at you upon your house?*

Let us go back to the temptations presented to Jesus. (Note in the book of Luke and Matthew, the temptations are listed in a different order.)

### **The pride of life is another area of personal standing and potential running:**

Luke 4:9-12: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>And he led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here; <sup>10</sup>for it is written, He will command His angels concerning you to guard you, <sup>11</sup>and, on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. <sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, it is said, you shall not put the Lord your God to the test.

IF you are the Son of God - this highly charged language was designed to make Jesus react. The devious value of Satan's offer is for Jesus to prove his sonship. It had scripturally based support and would give the people a reason to follow him. Isn't that what he came here for? Sounds reasonable, right?

### **Jesus' reaction was to quote Scripture from Deuteronomy:**

Deuteronomy 6:16: (NASB) *You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah.*

### **The actual event:**

Exodus 17:6: (NASB) *Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

Jesus was the son of God and did not have to prove it. He not only quoted Scripture but stood on the foundation of humility and the principle of God's will, way and time. He then walked away from the tempter's challenge.

*Discipline is remembering what you want. ~David Campbell*

Our next example is the standing of Paul and Barnabas.

### **Fight that which comes from without - run from that which is within.**

Acts 14:8-15: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. <sup>9</sup>This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, <sup>10</sup>said with a loud voice, Stand upright on your feet. And he leaped up and began to walk. <sup>11</sup>When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, The gods have become like men and have come down to us. <sup>12</sup>And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup>The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. <sup>14</sup>But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out <sup>15</sup>and saying, men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.



They ran away from the personal temptation of self-glory.




A caller from Connecticut suggests [Ephesians 6:12](#). Satan is always ready to tempt. [Mark 14:38](#): *Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.*

 **Early death, Martin Luther King speech**

- *So, you refused to take the stand. Well, you may go on and live until you are 90, but you are just as dead at 38 as you would be at 90. The cessation of breathing in your life is but the belated announcement of an earlier death of the spirit. You died when you refused to stand up for right. You died when you refused to stand up for truth. You died when you refused to stand up for justice.*

Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered at age 39. Do we have such courage of our convictions?

Sometimes standing up means running away from temptation. It is not running out of cowardice but out of strength if we are first standing on what is right - whatever the consequences.

 **Head straight into fear, Face Your Problems Head On, Alan Watts**  
(British-born philosopher, writer and speaker)

- *The rule for all terrors is head straight into them. When you are sailing in a storm, you don't let a wave hit your boat on the side. You go bow into the wave and ride it. When you get that sense of terror, go right at it. Don't run away. But explore, feel fear as completely as you can feel it. Head straight into it.*

Do not waiver in your direction and move forward. Joseph stood firm and yet ran away, leading to his prison sentence.

Back to the final temptation of Jesus in the wilderness...

**The first challenges were the desires of the flesh and pride - now onto the desires of the eye:**

[Luke 4:5-8](#): (NASB) <sup>5</sup>And he led him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, I will give you all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, (no it wasn't - Satan took it!) and I give it to whomever I wish. <sup>7</sup>Therefore if you worship before me, it shall all be yours... ([Matthew 4:10](#) adds: Then Jesus said to him, go, Satan!) ...<sup>8</sup>It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.

Here is the temptation of the lust (desire) of the eyes! Satan technically was correct in that he had authority over the kingdoms of this world and was willing to give them to Jesus as long as Satan could remain as “prince” of this world.

Jesus stood on the worship of God and only God! Jesus would not fall into the idea of bowing down to another.



A caller from Connecticut says she will “stand” when someone needs help and will give 110% to someone who needs help. In retrospect, there were some instances she should have run because she felt used despite her desire to help. She struggles with knowing when to help and when to walk away.



How do you tell if your help means you are being taken advantage of? Looking at scriptural principles, there is an admonition that people should be doing what they can to take care of themselves. We can assist in this. If they are not doing their part, our help can be whatever helps them to focus on helping themselves. We can't get involved with something that in the long run hurts them. The practicality of standing for what is right means sometimes we have to make tough decisions of how to participate (or not and do a greater service) in certain situations. We have to stand on something more solid than feelings.

### Another text Jesus quoted to thwart temptation:

Deuteronomy 6:12-14: (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>Take care that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>13</sup>The LORD your God you shall fear; him you shall serve, and by his name alone you shall swear. <sup>14</sup>Do not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are all around you.

By only seeing God as his focus of worship, Jesus rejected the “easy way” that Satan offered. Jesus came to save the nations of the world - Satan was essentially saying, why work so hard? We can work together on this! I can just give them to you! (Just bow down to me!) First Jesus stood and then he walked away!

**Courage combined with integrity is the foundation of character. ~Brian Tracy**



**Hedges around my life, Facing Temptation, NBA Coach Monty Williams**

- ...*putting up hedges around my life and trying to adhere to those hedges at all times has made my life a bit more simple. Being an NBA coach is hectic enough. It's exciting enough - I don't need to add to it, and yet I have five kids who are watching me at all times and they want to know if Daddy's going to say what the Lord says is right, and if he is going to do what the Lord says to do. I've had times where I've had a song on that was a bit of a gray area and my oldest child, who is a bit of an ambassador in our family; she's strong enough to ask me "Daddy, is that a song that gives God glory?" And it makes me ask questions.*



“Building hedges” is a good visual. We can build hedges that prevent us from wandering where we ought not to go. Temptation is everywhere.

### Lust of the eyes - this next text, again about Israel's deliverance, begins and ends with idolatry:

1 Corinthians 10:7-14: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play. <sup>8</sup>Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. <sup>9</sup>Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. <sup>10</sup>Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the



way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

The Apostle goes through many examples for us to know what *not* to do. Once we stand for worshipping God only, we have the tools to run from idolatry. Today idolatry is a huge trap in society, because we idolize almost everything. Idolatry puts the created above the Creator. It is an easy way for us to get off track.



C.S. Lewis quote, *Facing Temptation*, [rivchurch.com](http://rivchurch.com)

- C.S. Lewis, in his book, "Mere Christianity," says this: "No man knows how bad he is until he has tried very hard to be good." A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you only find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of the wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people in one sense know very little about badness because they have lived a sheltered life by always giving in.

### How did Peter handle the potential profitability of the Gospel?

Acts 8:14-16,17-25: (NRSV) <sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit....

Notice the continual working together. This is an important part of standing for righteousness - build one another up, protect one another, check one another's attitude and have a backup! Standing for the sake of battle is always best done in the company of others who are standing for the same thing. We can be stronger when we pool our resources together.

<sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup>saying, give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.

This was a subtle but defining moment in the development of Christianity. It could have become a money making machine (!), but what was Peter's response?

<sup>20</sup>But Peter said to him, may your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! <sup>21</sup>You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup>Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup>For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness.

There is no wavering in Peter's answer - he emphatically stands and states that greed has no part in the Gospel message. He does not entertain the thought - he shuts it down. He labels its desire as sin and wickedness.

Unfortunately today in many areas, the Gospel has become a money-making machine. That is scripturally wrong.





<sup>24</sup>Simon answered, pray for me to the Lord that nothing of what you have said may happen to me. <sup>25</sup>Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

Again, those who co-labor in the work of the Gospel encourage repentance and humility. This stand shows us a remarkable consistency with all that we have seen from Jesus' own example.

*The only trouble with resisting temptation is that you may not get another chance. ~Unknown*

 **Going to the gym, *Facing Temptation*, [rivchurch.com](http://rivchurch.com)**

- *No one has ever accused me of being an athlete. When I was in high school I was in the drama club and I played violin. The athletes had names for people like me and about six months ago, since I'm in my forties, I figured I might want to start exercising. And so I went to the gym and I could not do a pull up. Don't get me started on how bad my pushups were. Six months later, I could do a few of each of those things but before you think I'm bragging, I'm not! I go to the gym every time and I see these ripped women who can beat me up and then there's guys, too, and I realize that the reason they're so ripped is they've faced so much more resistance than I have.*

Standing by definition means you have to face resistance.

**CAUTION  
BE ALERT**

Even though we can be exercised in spiritual things, it does not mean we are always on target. Be alert! We can still make mistakes.

**Here is one of Peter's mistakes:**

Galatians 2:11-14: (NASB) <sup>11</sup>But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. <sup>12</sup>For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. <sup>13</sup>The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup>But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, if you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?

Previously Peter stood so firm in doing what was right, but in this example, he messed up. The Apostle Paul had to call him out on this error of judgment. The new Gentile Christians did not have to live according to Jewish tradition. So, to stand is to be humble *and* direct at the same time. How do we do this? Follow the example of Jesus - stand on the word, humility and worship.

**How do I stand more firmly?**

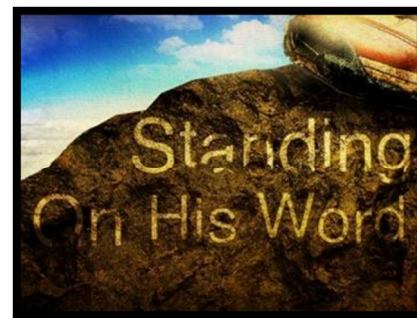
 **Need to stand up, *Standing Up for What You Believe In*, Mormon Channel**

- *So, one day I went into work and the company decided they wanted to do something that was against my beliefs. So, I thought, okay, well I need to stand up for what I need to stand up for and do what I need to do. It was probably the scariest moment of my life. You don't ever realize how strong you are until being strong is all that you have left. Being brave doesn't mean that I'm not afraid. Brave is just acting in faith.*



### Stand firm in the word - combat the desire of the flesh!

Matthew 5:43-45: (NASB) <sup>43</sup>You have heard that it was said; You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. (The Law never said this - this is what the Pharisees were quoting incorrectly - they added this thinking to the text.) <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.



Praying for our enemies (and really meaning it!) is HARD! But this is the Word...stand on it!

### Stand firm in humility - combat the pride of life like the Apostle Paul:

Romans 7:15-19: (NASB) <sup>15</sup>For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. <sup>17</sup>So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. <sup>19</sup>For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

There is an internal struggle in trying to stand firm. We are all walking contradictions who should stand firm on humility and run from our desires of the flesh and pride of life. That is what our flesh wants, but do not give it even a moment's worth of consideration. That does not mean the desire will go away, but perhaps next time it will not be so powerful against you. Or, it may be even more powerful and you will need to reset your feet again.

*It is a man's own mind, not his enemy or foe, that lures him to evil ways. ~Buddha*

 I quit my job, *Standing Up For What You Believe In, Mormon Channel*

- *When we know we don't want to face it but we don't have any other option you just have to push forward. I quit my job. We don't know what the Lord is trying to teach us, but if I really trust the Heavenly Father, it really doesn't matter what I don't understand.*

### Stand firm in worship - combat the desire of the eye! Jesus did only the will of the Father:

Matthew 22:34 -40: (NASB) <sup>34</sup>But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. <sup>35</sup>One of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, testing him, <sup>36</sup>Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? <sup>37</sup>And he said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and foremost commandment. <sup>39</sup>The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.

Pure godly worship is all consuming and keeps our eye truly focused. It helps us look past all of the temptations that dangle in front of our faces. Technology today can bring temptations into your house that were previously unheard of! Focus on worshipping God to stay on track.

2 Timothy 2:20-22: (NASB) <sup>20</sup>Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to



dishonor. <sup>21</sup>Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from **these things**, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. <sup>22</sup>Now flee from youthful lusts (RUN!) and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

What things are **these things** to be cleansed of?

**Worldly entanglements: The lust of the flesh**

2 Timothy 2:4: (NASB) *No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.*

**Cheating for the sake of the prize: The lust of the eyes**

2 Timothy 2:5: (NASB) *Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.*

**Useless, damaging arguments about words: The pride of life**

2 Timothy 2:14: (NASB) *Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers.*

Stand - always stand - run when necessary, but always stand! Stand on the gospel, worshipping God only and stand in humility to do the right things. When it is appropriate to run, run hard, fast and fully. Be armed with the armor of God.

*So, when should we stand and when should we run?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



Running away for the sake of spirituality is always based on first standing. It is therefore running based on strength and understanding and not based on cowardice.

James 4:7-8: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**Pride of life:**

1 Timothy 6:8-12: (NASB) <sup>8</sup>If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. <sup>9</sup>But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. <sup>11</sup>But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.



The Apostle Peter took a stand several times. For example, he took a bold stand with Ananias and Sapphira.

**Notice the soundness of Peter’s reasoning:**

Acts 5:1-11: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; <sup>2</sup>with his wife’s knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles feet. <sup>3</sup>Ananias, Peter asked, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? <sup>4</sup>While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!

This was dramatic - obviously there was a pre-meditated wickedness on the part of these two and the message was, such greed and self-promotion has no place in this Christian Church!

<sup>5</sup>Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. <sup>6</sup>The young men came and wrapped up his body then carried him out and buried him. <sup>7</sup>After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. <sup>8</sup>Peter said to her, tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price. And she said, yes, that was the price. <sup>9</sup>Then Peter said to her, how is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out. <sup>10</sup>Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. <sup>11</sup>And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

In the next example, Peter was publicly corrected by Paul about 14 years after Pentecost. We are repeating this example from the program to make an additional point.

**Notice the number of years after Pentecost for this event:**

Galatians 2:11-16: (NRSV) <sup>11</sup>But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood self-condemned; <sup>12</sup>for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. <sup>13</sup>And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. <sup>14</sup>But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, if you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? <sup>15</sup>We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; <sup>16</sup>yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

This issue of Jewish vs. Gentile Christian would dominate the early church... Should the Gentile Christians adopt the Law or not?

**Years later, we find Peter and the conference at Jerusalem, 20 years after Pentecost:**

Acts 15:6-12: (NASB) <sup>6</sup>The apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter. <sup>7</sup>After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup>And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; <sup>9</sup>and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup>Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke, which neither our fathers nor we have been, able to bear? <sup>11</sup>But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord



*Jesus, in the same way as they also are. <sup>12</sup>All the people kept silent, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.*

So, Peter and Paul now argued the *same side* of the issue. This shows us the lack of pettiness on their parts and how they realized their standing together was the godly approach.

***Discipline weighs ounces; regret weighs tons. ~Author Unknown***

***A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both. ~Dwight Eisenhower***

***Be sure you put your feet in the right place, and then stand firm. ~Abraham Lincoln***