



‘THE BLESSINGS OF TAKING A STAND WITH GOD’

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What does it take first?

1. MAKE A PERSONAL CHOICE.

Luke 14:26 ²⁶ “*If anyone comes to Me, and does not [a]hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life [in the sense of indifference to or relative disregard for them in comparison with his attitude toward God]—he cannot be My disciple*”

You are either for Him or not. There is no middle line in this. You are either hot or cold. You are either prepared to yield to Him or live for yourself. It is a **personal choice** you must make – ALWAYS AND ON A DAILY BASIS UNTIL JESUS COMES BACK. To do this Jesus by the Spirit is saying set your priorities right in accordance with Matthew 6:33: God – Family – Ministry – work.

2. DECLARE YOUR STAND

Timothy 2:19

¹⁹ Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God [which He has laid] stands [sure and unshaken despite attacks], bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord stand apart from wickedness *and* withdraw from wrongdoing”.

Those that have **declared their stand** and are prepared to die for God and even if God does not intervene when their faith are questioned they do not compromise on it. They have joined Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego party by saying.

They join David’s party by saying ‘*as the deer pants for the waters so my soul longs for you*’. *Lord without you I have no life and will have no full joy and peace in this life. Psalm 42:1*



They also sing this song:

You are

Chorus

You are the love of my life

You are the hope that I cling to

You mean, more than this world to me

I wouldn't trade you for silver or gold

I wouldn't trade you for riches untold.

You are, you are my everything

I wouldn't take one step without you

I could never go on.

I couldn't live one day without you.

I don't have the strength

To make it on my own

Chorus

Until the world stops turning

Until the stars fade, from the sky

Until the sun stops striving

I need you in my life and here is the reason why!

Decide to follow the path of I Peter 4:1-5

*'Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, **arm yourselves likewise** with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;*

² That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

³ For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

*⁴ Wherein they **think it strange that ye run not with them** to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:*

⁵ Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

3. DON'T WAVER IN YOUR MIND

Example in I Kings 18: 21 Elijah ask the people of Israel *"²¹ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word"*



Wavering between two minds leads to James 1 double standard lifestyle. God does not like this and will not take such a one serious. As a result you don't receive much good things from God as God expects you to.

- a. **James 1:5-8** ⁵ *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

⁶ *But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

⁷ *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

⁸ *A double minded man is unstable in all his ways*

b. 2 Timothy 2: 11 – 13

11 *“Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; **12** if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; **13** if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself”*

3. BE FAITHFUL

SERVE GOD AND FOLLOW JESUS WITH A STRONG PASSION NO MATTER WHAT. DO SO NOT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU WILL GET FROM HIM BUT SERVE AND FOLLOW BECAUSE YOU PURELY LOVE GOD AND COUNT JESUS AS VERY PRECIOUS IN YOUR LIFE.

John 6 challenge – Majority of the people followed after their stomach and ego and interest not after the person and His word that will hold them and help them to lead victorious, meaningful, purposeful and fruitful lives.

⁶⁶ *From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*

⁶⁷ *Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?*

⁶⁸ *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, **to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.***

⁶⁹ ***And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.***



4. BE AN OVERCOMER

Revelations 3:5 is something we should all consider, ponder over and keep in mind - once saved does not mean that is it a deal done - you are saved forever.

It reads "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels' Revelation 3:5 KJV

Can we take our stand like the Philadelphia Church in Revelations 3:7-13 who despite all the challenges they faced kept their faith by holding on to the little strength and the word of God they regularly received and held fast onto them and moreover did not deny His name.

The Blessings of taken a stand with God:

1. **God answers and demonstrates His power through you.**

I kings 18:36 – 39. ³⁶ And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God".

2. **Every word you prophecy will surely come to pass. The reason being you become His living witness and He confirms every word you say in defence of His name. I kings 18:41-46**

⁴¹ And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.



⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

⁴³ And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

⁴⁴ And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down that the rain stop thee not.

⁴⁵ And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

⁴⁶ And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

3. You encounter supernatural intervention, supernatural protection from harm and supernatural deliverance.

Daniel 3:22-27

²² therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.



²⁷ And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

**4. You receive a testimony and favour and promotion.
Daniel 3:28 – 30.**

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, **Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.**

²⁹ Therefore **I make a decree (favour)**, That every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: **because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort (testimony).**

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

5. God makes known His ways to you and all your path shines and shines unto the perfect day.

Psalm 103:7 “*He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel*”

6. You encounter divine acceleration from nothingness to greatness
7. Example: Joseph in Genesis 41:14 -46. You become a person of great authority and great influence.

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and **he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.**

¹⁵ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

¹⁶ And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, **It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.**



17 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river:

18 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fatfleshed and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow:

19 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness:

20 And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:

21 And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning. So I awoke.

22 And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good:

23 And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them:

24 And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

25 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.

26 The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one.

27 And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

28 This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

29 Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

30 And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

31 And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

32 And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.



*33 Now therefore let Pharaoh look out **a man discreet and wise**, and set him over the land of Egypt.*

34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

37 And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

39 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

40 Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

42 And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

43 And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

44 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt

46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.



8. You enjoy the Philadelphia church blessings. Such as God's love, He opens a door for you that no man can shut and He makes your enemies to come and worship you.

Wow what blessings to bestow on a faithful church like this. Brethren let us be like this church. Let's make our stand clear that we will not be a carbon copy of any church.

Conclusion

Will you go after these blessings? Your choice – decide.

God bless you.