

BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.

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Still here! Still standing!

There are many challenges in life that leave us out of breath and gasping for relief. It happens to everybody. All of us face difficulties and traumatic moments that tempt us to cry out in despair or silently retreat. We may hold fast to God's promise for a while, but sometimes the pressure and antagonism of the moment overwhelms us, and we are prompted to surrender.

In the midst of this despair, the Word of God advises us to "cast not away our confidence." This confidence is birthed by our trust in God and His Word. We can be sure that not one word He has promised will fail.¹ According to the Scripture, God does not lie.² Therefore, His promises always come to pass if we believe in them.

The key for us is patience. The Scripture declares that we need patience so that we might receive God's promise.³ The Greek word for patience, *hupomone*, can be defined as "cheerful, hopeful endurance."⁴ It means to be constant and unchanging in spite of the difficulties.

It is especially interesting that this definition counsels us to endure trauma cheerfully. Yet, the apostle Paul agrees with this definition. In Colossians 1:11, He prays for the church to be strengthened by God's power so that they can walk in patience and longsuffering WITH JOYFULNESS.

What a dramatic trio – patience, longsuffering, and joy!

According to the Greek dictionary, the Greek word longsuffering, *makrothumia*, adds godly restraint to our behavior. Beyond patience, or cheerful endurance, longsuffering stands against

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wrath and revenge. Yes, I have difficulties – maybe of my own making, maybe not – but I am hanging in there with great restraint. There are some things I am NOT going to do and some things I am NOT going to say. Instead, I am going to walk with God and obey His commands.

Holding fast to God's promise, I wait for the victorious outcome to my trauma. I refuse to surrender even though standing patiently with great joy and contentment is difficult. Yet, there will be a time of waiting. Most blessings don't instantly appear. But, it is better to wait patiently while God fulfills His promise than it is to give up and lose.

Standing On The Promises

Russell K. Carter, 1896

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

THE RACE

We cannot expect victory if we live in sin. Obviously, sin is a hindrance, and God's Word does not advocate patience and longsuffering while we continue in sin. We must repent. In addition to repentance, Hebrews 12:1 counsels us to lay aside every weight as we run our race. A weight is not immoral or illegal. It is simply a hindrance. Of course, a hindrance to me is not necessarily a hindrance to you.

Years ago, I played tennis every week. I was also teaching three Bible studies a week and raising two small children. Over time, I began to realize that God was dealing with me to give up tennis. But

I didn't really want to surrender my time on the court. It wasn't illegal or immoral, and of course, it was good exercise, so I was slow to obey His leadership. It was a glorious day, however, when I finally obeyed God and gave my full attention to His direction.

Like repentance, obedience is necessary to victory. The Word of God must be honored. It must be first place in our lives. One precious lady came to me to explain what she was going to do in a certain situation. Although I appreciated her sincerity, her decision was not scriptural. I turned to the Word of God and said to her, "Let's see what God says about this." But, because she had been advised by a family member, she was hesitant to receive heaven's counsel. She did not want to disappoint her family.

The key to her victory was to obey God. Of course, we must love our family. Jesus said to love one another as He loved us.⁵ Yet, loving others does NOT contradict God's other commands. We must purpose in our heart to relinquish all behavior that opposes God's Word.

When we love God with all our heart, we obey His commands. We quickly repent of every sin, following all of His directions. Then, as we stand patiently, exercising godly restraint, we can be confident that our wait ends in victory.

GOD'S STRENGTH

According to the Word of God, we can be "strong in the Lord and in the power of his might."⁶ But, here is the question. Will God find us standing in His strength, holding fast to His Word? Will He see us and say, "They are still here and still standing."?

Victory isn't for quitters. The Scripture declares, "Having done all, to stand! Stand, therefore."⁷ While we are standing, God will answer the cry of our heart. What a glorious Father! What a faithful God!

¹1Ki 8:56 ²Tit 1:2 ³Heb 10:36 ⁴G5281, Strong's ⁵Jn 13:34 ⁶Eph 6:10 ⁷Eph 6:13-14