

FINDING ANOTHER PLACE TO STAND

1Co 7:24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein **abide with God**. KJV

1Co 7:24 Friends, stay where you were called to be. **God is there**. Hold the high ground with him at your side.
(Message Bible)

It is interesting to note that this verse is found in a chapter dealing with relationships. On one side there were married people wanting to be unmarried and on the other side there were singles wanting desperately to leave the single state and get married. Paul in this chapter shares the true secret of happiness. It is not found in marital status, job status, or even financial status. So in what situation or circumstance does true contentment or joy come from? We see in this verse that **it comes from continuing and being close to God wherever we find ourselves!** How can we stand being in a challenging job situation or a place in our lives where we do not have something or someone that we want so badly? **It is by being in that situation with and close to God. Communion with God makes life worth the living- no matter where or who you are with.** How does someone find contentment in a marriage that is not what they had dreamed? It is by being with and close to God.

Have you ever said, "I just can't stand this situation anymore!" or "I just can't stand not having a spouse!" or "I can't stand my job anymore!" **Maybe you are standing in the wrong place!** You might be saying, "Great, I knew I was in the wrong place, so I am getting out of here and moving on to the place where I am finally going to get my needs met!" That is not what I meant by standing in the wrong place!!

Rom 5:2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith **into this grace in which we stand**, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

When we can't seem to stand our circumstances and situations we find ourselves in we can choose to stand somewhere else. **We can stand in God's grace!** How do we stand in God's grace in the midst of where we are standing in the natural? **It is by faith.** As we grow in our communion and relationship with God we will find the ability to

flourish and be content no matter where we are. Our faith in God causes us to flourish no matter what our circumstances are outwardly. The drawing influence of the world to Christians is that Christians can be in the same situations and circumstances as they are in but they inwardly flourish and are joyful even in the midst of outside circumstances that show no reason for it.

This being the case, is it right then to believe and expect that God will change our unfavorable circumstances and meet our outward needs and desires? **Absolutely!** Not only are we to stand in the grace of God **BUT ALSO** we are to rejoice in the expectation of the glory of God. This does not just mean heaven one day! We can rejoice knowing that God will deliver us, bless us, and fulfill our deepest hearts needs here in this life. This will bring glory to God. However, God first wants to be our first love, our only obsession, and our true heart's passion. When this is the case God can really bless us and it really will be a lasting blessing. If this is not the case then what we think will be a blessing will turn out to be only a detriment because of our own selfishness and immaturity.

So today if it feels you can't stand it any longer, change where you are standing! Fellowship with God and find another place to stand called- the grace of God!

1. Is there anything in your life right now that you are having a hard time standing?
2. How do you think keeping in mind that God is right there with you in that situation help you?
3. Faith exercise: This week focus on and try to be conscience of the fact that God is with you no matter where you are. Talk to him throughout your day. Share both the irritations and joys you are experiencing. He loves sharing both with you! Practice His presence in your life.
4. Confession: I thank you God that you are with me right now. You are with me in this situation and place in my life. I choose to stand in your grace right now. I thank you that your grace is empowering me and infusing into me right now the strength to live where I am right now victoriously. I believe that my outward circumstance will change for you're your glory but until then I am happy with you where I am right now!