

# PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In  
The Lord!

Stand  
Firm

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Lesson Forty

# Philippians

## Rejoice In The Lord!

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to be strong in their faith.

**Scriptures:** Philippians 4:1

**For Memory:** “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. I Corinthians 16:13

### Stand Firm

The verse we study today is a looking back kind of statement. Paul has just listed, in chapter three, things that Christians should do as they live up to God’s calling.

He urged them, in verses 2-3, to be careful who they listened to and whose teaching they believed. He gave his testimony that all the important things he had been or done in the past were nothing compared to his relationship with Jesus. He tells them that he is as determined as the front-runner in a race. He is going to win the prize of God’s calling.

In verse sixteen he challenged the Philippians to live up to what God had given them. In verse 20, he reminds the members of the church there that they are citizens of Heaven and that Jesus is going to come back for them someday.

Then, in chapter four, verse one, he says, therefore (since all this is true), they should stand firm. The picture here is of a soldier who is armed and ready, both feet firmly planted on the ground, waiting for the advancing enemy to attack. That soldier is not moving, nor does he plan to move. He will stand firm!

He says that they are to stand firm in the Lord. Probably sometime you have experienced failure in your life. Maybe you said, “If only \_\_\_\_\_ had been there I would not have failed.” Maybe you were thinking about a parent, a good friend, or maybe a teacher. You knew that if that person had been with you to give you support or advice, you would have succeeded.

Paul said that when they stand firm they should do it “in the Lord.” We can succeed when we face temptation or take on a difficult task knowing that the Lord will be there with us. When we work with the assurance of God’s presence, we can succeed. Think about it, God has promised that He is with us always. In the Great Commission, Jesus said that He would be with us to the end of time. Matthew 28:20. Paul said in Romans 8:29 that there is absolutely nothing that can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus. So, Paul was saying that we should never take on any task, face any temptation, bear any load without our Lord!

It is clear that Paul truly cares for the church at Philippi. In this verse, he speaks

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lovingly to them. He calls them his brothers. He says that he longs for them. He really does want to be with them. And, he calls them his “joy and crown.”

We have heard him speak of joy as we have made our way through this letter. Here, he says something entirely new. He calls them his crown. We are aware of the practice of placing a beautiful crown on the head of a king or queen. However, here Paul is talking about a different kind of crown.

In his day, when an athlete won, he was given a crown. It was made up of wild olive leaves, with green parsley and bay leaves woven into it. It was the height of success for an athlete to wear that crown. Let’s go back to verse 14 of chapter three, where Paul was totally focused on reaching the goal...winning the crown. The Philippians, to whom Paul had ministered and who had been living the Christian life as Paul had taught them, were the symbol of success for Paul. They were the real life victor’s crown for Paul. Their success was a sign that Paul was succeeding as God’s missionary.

For you and me, today’s lesson should encourage us to stand firm and to stand with others who need our encouragement as they stand firm.

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.



### Teaching Tips:

1. You might think of ways to demonstrate standing firm to your students. Think of situations where they might be called on to stand firm, i.e., facing temptation, etc.
2. If you have a personal example of failure because you had no support, you might want to use it. You may also have an example of when someone provided support to demonstrate to your students what it is like to “stand firm in the Lord.”
3. Songs about faithfulness, hope, eternal life, and the presence of God and Jesus are appropriate. “Holiness is what I long for.”
4. Pray with your students: Thank God for people who will stand with us in difficult times. Thank Him that He is always near and knows all that we go through in life.
5. Keep in mind that all of chapter three is leading up to the first verse of chapter four. Actually, the chapter division is regrettable here. Most scholars think that the chapter division should be at the end of chapter four, verse one.

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### *Student Worksheet*

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### Stand Firm

=The verse we study today is a looking \_\_\_\_\_ kind of statement. Paul has just listed, in chapter three, things that \_\_\_\_\_ should do as they live up to God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

=The picture here is of a soldier who is armed and ready, both \_\_\_\_\_ firmly planted on the ground, waiting for the advancing enemy to \_\_\_\_\_. That soldier is not moving, nor does he plan to move. He will \_\_\_\_\_.

=Paul said that when they stand firm they should do it “in the \_\_\_\_\_.”

=God has \_\_\_\_\_ that He is with us \_\_\_\_\_.

=Paul was saying that we should never take on any \_\_\_\_\_, face any temptation, bear any load without our \_\_\_\_\_!

=Paul was totally focused on reaching the goal...winning the \_\_\_\_\_. The Philippians, to whom Paul had ministered and who had been living the Christian life as \_\_\_\_\_ had taught them, were the symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ for Paul...his real life victor’s crown.

=Today’s lesson should encourage us to stand \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ with others.

### How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer, and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.