

Stability

Philippians 3:12-4:1

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! Philippians 4:1 (New International Version)

“Stand firm” = Live Christian lives that persevere through any pressure.
(1 Corinthians 10:12; 15:58; 16:13; 2 Corinthians 1:21; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 1 Peter 5:9)

Paul offers **four supports that will help you stand firm in the Christian life**, four supports that will keep you stable as a believer.

- **Support #1: LIVE LIFE AS A PROCESS.**

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it . . . Philippians 3:12, 13a (NIV)

- **Support #2: REFUSE TO COAST.**

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal . . . Philippians 3:13b-14a (NIV)

Two Parts in the “One Thing”

- Forgetting: Don’t rely on past successes.
- Sustain your efforts: “straining toward what is ahead” = live life full out, now

“Press on” = Greek = a hunting word = “to pursue”

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me the—task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace. Acts 20:24 (NIV)

The time of my death is near. ⁷I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return . . . 2 Timothy 4:6b-8 (New Living Translation, 1996)

- **Support #3: KEEP FOCUSED ON WHAT’S MOST IMPORTANT.**

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize to which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NIV)

For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, ¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV)

What is the prize? To be counted as one of the called.

- **Support #4: FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF GODLY BELIEVERS.**

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:17-21 (NIV)

Citizenship = “commonwealth” or “state”

Often “citizenship” was used to designate a colony of foreigners whose purpose was to secure the conquered country for the conquering country by spreading that country’s way of doing things, its customs, its culture, its laws, and so on.