

Standing Firm Philippians 3:17- 4:1

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Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. Philippians 4:1 (English Standard Version)

Therefore don't throw away your confidence, which has great reward.³⁶ For you have need of endurance . . . Hebrews 10:35-36a (ESV)

Take-Home Truth: A Christian's relationship with God is made strong when he or she **actively pursues** that relationship.

Know who you are and live out who you are as a citizen of heaven.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV)

A believer's responsibility: To give his or her primary allegiance to Jesus and actively work to expand heaven's influence in the world.

"Our Father in heaven . . . your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven . . ." Matthew 6:9b-10 (New International Version)

Watch and imitate mature Christians.

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. Philippians 3:17 (ESV)

You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings . . . 2 Timothy 3:10-11a (ESV)

. . . set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift you have . . . ¹⁵Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 1 Timothy 4:12b-15 (ESV)

Avoid being influenced by people far from God.

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. Philippians 3:18-19 (ESV)

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. Colossians 1:21 (NIV)

“He who is not with me is against me . . .” Matthew 12:30a (NIV)