

Putting Things In Perspective

Steadfastness

*2 Peter 1:1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with **steadfastness**, and **steadfastness** with Godliness, 7 and Godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. 11 For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

The word steadfast traces back to the Old English word stedefæst, a combination of stede, meaning "place," and fæst, meaning "firmly fixed." Picture a steadfast person standing firmly in place, not wavering or budging an inch, and you'll have a good sense of what this word means.

The KJV translates Strong's G5281 in the following manner: **patience** (29x), **enduring** (1x), **patient continuance** (1x), **patient waiting** (1x).

- ❖ steadfastness, constancy, endurance
- ❖ in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings
- ❖ patiently, and steadfastly
- ❖ a patient, steadfast waiting for
- ❖ a patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong=G5281&t=KJV>

How long do you wait? How long do you wait, before you give up, (quit)?

*Ephesians 6: 10 Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.** 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.** 14 **Stand therefore,** having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, **keep alert with all perseverance,** making supplication for all the saints,*

❖ “Stand therefore”

*Hebrews 11: 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation.*

hypostasis:

- ❖ a setting or placing under
 - thing put under, substructure, foundation
- ❖ that which has foundation, is firm
 - that which has actual existence
 - a substance, real being
 - **the substantial quality, nature, of a person or thing**
 - **the steadfastness of mind, firmness, courage, resolution**
 - **confidence, firm trust, assurance**

Hebrews 11: 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

❖ 120 Years of waiting for the fulfillment of the Word of the Lord.

Hebrews 11: 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

❖ 25 Years of waiting for the fulfillment of the Word of the Lord.

Hebrews 11: 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

❖ Abraham held steadfastly to the Word of the Lord

Luke 9: 51 When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. 53 But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem.

Luke 9: 51 (KJV) And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

❖ Jesus was Steadfast to follow the Word of the Lord

*Acts 21: 10 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" 12 When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." 14 And **since he would not be persuaded**, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done." 15 After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem.*

❖ Paul could not be dissuaded

We need to set our face to expect and complete the Word of the Lord for our lives.

- ❖ There will be those who try to talk you out of it. (Acts 21:12)
- ❖ There will be those who reject you because of your tenacity. (Luke 9:53)
- ❖ Time will be against you while you wait for the Word of the Lord to be fulfilled. (Hebrews 11:11,12)
- ❖ We must do everything to take an immovable position of "standing" on the Word of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:13,14)
- ❖ The only way to stand is to be "strong in the Lord." (Ephesians 6:10)