

Be Steadfast

I. Introduction

- A. In his conclusion to the “resurrection chapter,” the apostle Paul exhorts Christians to be steadfast. Consider some things Scripture teaches in connection with this theme.
1 Corinthians 15:58

II. Not “Resist All Change”

- A. The words “be steadfast” are not the equivalent of “resist all change.” In fact, part of God’s will for us is having a *willingness* and *eagerness* to change as needed. **James 1:21**

III. Not “Hold Fast to Manmade Traditions”

- A. Furthermore, God’s command to be steadfast is not about holding fast to traditions that originate with man. While being a “traditionalist” in things that are morally neutral is OK, such does not make one more steadfast. More generally, holding tightly to opinions, personal preferences, etc. is not what steadfastness is about. **Matthew 15:2, 9**

IV. Not “Be Contentious”

- A. It’s also key to understand that being steadfast is not a “license” to be argumentative or condescending. Being steadfast does not negate the need for gentleness and kindness toward others.
Titus 3:1-2; Galatians 6:1

V. ...But Stand Firm in the Faith

- A. What steadfastness *is* about is standing firm in that which the Lord teaches to be true. It’s about having the courage and resolve to believe and practice what God says is right, regardless of worldly influences. **1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 4:14**

VI. Requires Knowledge

- A. To be steadfast in what God says is right, we must know what He says is right and wrong. Growing in knowledge and understanding of God’s will is crucial to standing firm in the faith. **2 Timothy 1:13**

VII. Requires Commitment

- A. Moreover, steadfastness of faith demands a commitment to the Lord that truly puts His will first. The steady obedience God is looking for does not waver out of fear of displeasing others or leaving one’s comfort zone.
Matthew 13:20-21

VIII. Anchored by the Lord

- A. God provides great aid to help us be steadfast through trials. For instance, He gives us assurance that with every temptation we face, a way of escape exists so that we can say, “No” to sin. Remembering His all-seeing nature can also help us stand firm in the faith. **1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 4:13**

IX. Anchored by Hope

- A. A specific blessing God allows us to have that encourages steadfastness is hope. The greater our desire for heaven is, and the greater faith we have in God’s faithfulness, the stronger our anchor through life’s trials will be.
Hebrews 6:19; 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

X. Conclusion

- A. In consideration of God’s faithfulness and His promises, may we serve Him with steadiness and consistency, and not be tossed to and fro by worldly influences.
1 Corinthians 15:58