

How to Stand Strong Under Pressure Everyday Supernatural Living – Part 11

Life Church St. Louis – May 26, 2024

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Pray Daily for your Five Friends Focus

James 1:2-4 (ESV) Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (ESV) In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:24-25 (ESV) Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

1. Remember God’s _____

Acts 7:2-4 (ESV) The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ ... And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living.

Acts 7:9-10 (ESV) “And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.

Acts 7:33-34 (ESV) Then the Lord said to him [Moses], ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send you to Egypt.’

2. Stand Firm in Your _____

Acts 7:51-52 (ESV) “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,

Acts 7:54-55 (ESV) Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, ...

Acts 7:55-56 (ESV) But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

3. Respond to Opposition with _____

Acts 7:57-58 (ESV) But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 7:59 (ESV) And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Acts 7:60 (ESV) And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

How to Stand Strong Under Pressure Study Guide

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Intro. What types of pressure are you facing in your life?

Why does God allow us to undergo trials in life (James 1:2-4)?

How is it possible to rejoice when facing pressure according to 1 Peter 1:6-7)?

In what ways does denying ourselves and taking up our cross to follow Jesus bring pressure into our lives (Matthew 16:24-25)?

1A. How did follow God's commands bring testing into Abraham's life (Acts 7:2-4)?

1B. What purpose did the trials in Joseph's life play in God's plan (Acts 7:9-10)?

1C. Why do you think that God sent Moses to the desert for 40 years before his major mission in life (Acts 7:33-34)?

1D. How does remembering God's faithfulness help us when we are under pressure?

2A. How did Stephen stand firm in his convictions in his message (Acs 7:51-52)?

2B. Contrast the difference between Stephen and his persecutors in Acts 7:54-55.

2C. What was the significance of Stephen seeing Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55-56)?

2D. What lessons can you learn from Stephen to strengthen you when facing pressure from others?

3A. Why did the Jewish leaders stone Stephen to death (Acts 7:57-58)?

3B. What is the significance of Stephen's words in Acts 7:59?

3C. How do you think that Stephen's prayer in Acts 7:60 may have impacted Saul's life?

3D. Why is it so important to forgive those who hurt us? Who in your life do you need to forgive for hurting you?