

# The secret to facing every situation

This title today is taken from a passage in **Philippians 4:12 (AMPC)**:

*“I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. **I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation**, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want”.*

We will come back to this scripture at the end of the message but let us start by reading the whole context of this statement in **Philippians 4:1-13 NKJV**

## Introduction:

**V. 1** – *“So stand fast in the Lord beloved”*

This was the concern of Paul in many of his letters. We read it in his letter to the Colossians and to the Thessalonians also (for instance in **1Thessalonians 3:1-8**. In verse **8** we read: *“For now we live if you stand fast in the Lord”*)

This is something that occupies the mind of any pastor: to know that no one is shaken in their faith, that everyone stands fast in the Lord, that everyone knows the secret to facing every situation.

We are not ignorant of the devil’s devices and how he tries to get people out of fellowship with God.

Paul had known this church for 10 years and he was now old and in a Roman prison. These were his last words to the church he loved so much. He shares with them and us the secret to facing every situation and standing fast in the Lord:

### 1. Stay united (v.2-3)

*<sup>2</sup>I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.*

Nothing will help the cause of the church more than the unity of its members.

We’re stronger when we’re together. **Deuteronomy 32:30** says that *“one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight”*

One of the devil’s deadliest strategies is trying to isolate believers.

### 2. Stay joyful (V.4)

*<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

The word 'rejoice' appears 10 times in this letter. It is so important that you don't let the devil steal your joy. Make a decision to rejoice. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

One of the keys to standing fast in difficult situations is to pursue the joy of the Lord. This is not the joy you find in favourable circumstances but the kind of joy that comes *independent* from circumstances – it comes from living in the presence of God.

Do not allow the enemy to pollute your life with negativity and rob your joy but stand fast in the Lord rejoicing in Him always.

### **3. Stay Gentle (v.5)**

*<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.*

In tough times it is easy to become grumpy, impatient and get on the offensive with people. However, we need to always choose gentleness.

Of all people, Christians should be known for their gentleness – not being bad tempered or having a short fuse, or being 'ticked off', disagreeable or rude.

Gentleness is a fruit of the spirit and a mark of maturity in Christ. It comes by making the decision to walk in the spirit.

It is so important never to allow negative emotions to get the best of us – because that is when the enemy can take advantage of a situation.

Stand fast in the Lord. Give the enemy no foothold. Stay gentle. Make the decision to stay gentle and keep a good attitude about everything and everyone, regardless of what's happening to you.

### **4. Stay in prayer (v.6)**

*<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*

Prayer, supplication and thanksgiving – live in uninterrupted fellowship with the Lord. This is how you stay joyful, how you stay gentle and this is how you live anxiety and worry-free. The peace of God will guard your heart and mind.

Stand fast in the Lord through prayer, supplication and thanksgiving. You can face every situation if you live in His presence.

### **5. Stay in the Word (v.9)**

*<sup>9</sup> The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Paul exhorts them to stand in all that 'Word' he had taught them for 10 years. Not only they were to stay in the Word but they were to *be doers* of the Word.

Jesus taught about the two houses who were battered by a storm. One them was built on sand and didn't stand. The other stood because it was founded on the rock. Jesus said:

**Matthew 7:24** - *Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and **does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:*

That is how you stand fast in the Lord. That's the secret of facing every situation.

## 6. Stay content (v.11)

**AMP: 11***Not that I am implying that I was in any personal want, for I have learned **how to be content** (satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or disquieted) in whatever state I am.*

**Contentment according to Paul** is to be satisfied to the point where one is not disturbed or disquieted in any situation.

The opposite of contentment is **dissatisfaction**.

Dissatisfaction is one of the deadliest weapons of satan. That is what he used against Adam and Eve:

**How do you tempt the perfect person in the perfect world to miss God?** Money was no temptation because they owned the world. Adultery was no temptation as there were only two human beings.

Satan had to get them dissatisfied. A dissatisfied heart will make wrong decisions. A dissatisfied heart is not a grateful heart. It is not a heart that acknowledges the good God does but is only set on the negative.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** - *But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

Other examples:

- a) Israel in the desert (they complained without ceasing),
- b) Paul said to the **Philippians (2:14)**: "*Do all things without complaining and disputing*".
- c) The Galatians dissatisfied with grace they wanted to go back to the Law, etc.

Contentment is a state of inner satisfaction that comes not from the absence of problems but from the acknowledgement of what you already received in Christ. Contentment is such a key to live free from anxiety and worry.

The contented heart will stand fast. It will not be moved by external pressure.

## **7. Stay in Christ**

**V.13 (AMPC)** *I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].*

**NKJV:** *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!*

Christ is the source of strength and power, He is the source of joy and peace. He is the One who infuses your life with sufficient grace for every situation.

The secret to facing every situation is out: it is Jesus!

### **Conclusion:**

Let us recap what we learned today:

- 1. Stay united**
- 2. Stay joyful**
- 3. Stay gentle**
- 4. Stay in prayer**
- 5. Stay in the word**
- 6. Stay content**
- 7. Stay in Christ**

The secret to facing every situation is out. No one at the sound of my voice needs to backslide!