

## Standing on Your Own Two Feet

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### Introduction: Are You Being Responsible with Your Own Life?

- A. Many refuse to be responsible, wanting somebody else to be responsible for them!
- B. Many view their life as something that they have little or no control over.
- C. Many people in America who have many freedoms that allows great fulfillment in life, live irresponsible lives because of their *fear of failure*.
- D. What have we done with the great freedom Christ has given us from sin?
  - 1. Have we used it to be responsible, to live life for the fullest to God?
  - 2. Or have we become irresponsible, lacking faith in the power of God?

### I. Personal Responsibility Before God

- A. At the Judgment Day, each *individual* (not couples, groups, or nations) will be judged for the things they have done (**2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12**).
  - 1. No one can stand in your place on Judgment day.
  - 2. God will examine the case of each individual with close scrutiny.
- B. Each individual will not be judged by how wicked or righteous their parents were, but be judged according to the life he or she lived (**Ezekiel 18:20**).
  - 1. We do not inherit righteousness any more than we inherit Adam's sin!
  - 2. Though family heritage is "Christian," each will have to stand alone.
- C. We will be judged *not* by the circumstances of our lives, but by the standard of God's word.
  - 1. There is a temptation to follow the crowd out of an almost mindless conformity; to believe something is right because the majority does.
  - 2. We can *choose not* to conform! (**Rom. 12:2**)
  - 3. The standard of judgment will be not what age or society we lived in, but God's word (**John 12:48**).

### II. How to Take Responsibility for Your Own Life!

- A. Make the decision *yourself* to do what is right! (**Josh 24:15**).
  - 1. No one else can make the decision *for* you to serve the Lord, to do what is right in life.
  - 2. Taking responsibility for what your life can be in Christ is a decision that is *yours* and *yours alone* to make! (**Acts 22:16; cf. Prov. 22:6**).
  - 3. Walking away from sin is a decision you and you alone can make (**Eph. 4:22-24**); True repentance comes *from the heart* (**Rom. 2:5**).
- B. Be honest with yourself
  - 1. Taking charge of your life takes hard work and self-examination of changes that are needed for God (**2 Cor. 13:5; Jas. 1:22-25; Ps. 4:4**).
  - 2. Acknowledge or confess your sins and work to correct them without blaming others for your own mistakes (**1 Jn 1:8-10; Lk 3:8; cf. Ac 8:22**).
  - 3. Face the necessary challenges and problems that are before you instead of ignoring them or running away from them (e.g., **Acts 20:24; 21:10-14**).
  - 4. Allow yourself to be opened and exposed by the word of God for what you truly are in the sight of God (**Heb. 4:12-13**).

- C. Learn to “stand on your own two feet.”
  - 1. While we all need help from time to time along the way, each Christian must learn to carry his own load for the Lord (**Gal. 6:1-5**).
  - 2. When brethren aren’t around, am I living for the Lord as I ought? (**Phil. 1:27; 2:12; cf. 2 Cor. 12:20-21**).
  - 3. There is a great temptation to lean on others to such a degree that we do not have a “leg to stand on” on our own (e.g., convictions of truth, commitment to worship and study on our own, the resistance to sin, etc.).
  - 4. We must come to recognize our *personal* responsibility to obey God and not expect others to do our work for us (**Gal. 6:5**).
- D. “Keep on, keeping on!” (Persevere!)
  - 1. Your life will get nowhere fast if you “sit on your hands” or quit at the first sign of adversity or challenge.
  - 2. Those who take responsibility for their own life persevere until their have completed what matters most (**Heb. 12:1**).
  - 3. All of the good intentions and big dreams we have for the Lord will never come true if we don’t take *responsibility* for them.
  - 4. To *really* make something out of your life for the Lord, learn to persevere! (**Heb. 10:36-39**).

### III. What Does It Take to Stand for the Lord?

- A. Love the Lord (**John 14:15**).
  - 1. Being responsible for the Lord will stem from your love for Him (**2 Cor. 5:14-15**).
  - 2. Is there anything in this life that you would be willing to *fight* for?
  - 3. Are you willing to *fight for the Lord*? (**2 Tim. 4:7-8**).
  - 4. Self-centeredness and self-pity only makes things worse and your life will become less and less of what you want it to be for the Lord.
  - 5. If we *truly* love the Lord, we will demonstrate it by our *actions*.
- B. Believe in the Lord (and His word).
  - 1. Too often we do not responsibly fulfill God’s commands because we do not *believe* in them! Our *hearts* are not convicted! (**Heb. 4:2**;
  - 2. Taking responsibility for your life, to obey His will in life requires taking to heart the Scriptures as words that come from God (**1 Thes. 2:13**).
- C. Trust in the Lord.
  - 1. Many times we do not stand because we are afraid!
  - 2. We need to put our trust in the Lord who is with us, even when we are being persecuted (**Ps. 27:1-3**).
  - 3. There is no work that God has given us that we cannot accomplish with His help! (**2 Cor. 3:4-5; cf. Phil. 4:13**).
- D. Be resolved to put the Lord first.
  - 1. Until you do, you will not be able to stand for the Lord (**Mat. 10:37**).
  - 2. Standing for the Lord, not for men is what the Lord requires (**Gal 1:10**).
  - 3. Where we stand with **God** is what matters the most! (**Rom 14:4**).

**Conclusion: Those Who Stand for the Lord Will Be Made to Stand by God Through Our Lord Jesus Christ (Jude 24-25).**