

Stand Firm Under Fire
April 4/5 2009

For the last 43 days we have been fervently following Jesus Christ by Cross Walking together. What is Cross Walking?

“Daily dying to sin and selfishness so we can boldly serve others in Jesus name out of passionate love for Him.” Galatians 2:20

Why are we Cross Walking? Because Jesus said in Matthew 10:38 - “If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine.”

Being a Cross Walker includes standing firmly for Christ when you are pressured to compromise your behavior and convictions as a Christian or even cave in on your confession of Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. All of us want at those moments to stand firm in the fire of testing and not melt under the heat of possible negative consequences. All of us want to be courageous Christ followers not cowards for Christ. Romans 1:16

What fears do you fight with that put you at risk of compromising your convictions or behavior as a believer or your confession of Jesus Christ as your Lord?

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| Fear of rejection or ridicule | Fear of physical pain |
| Fear of relational tension/ loss | Fear of emotional trauma |
| Fear of insufficient money | Fear of death |

Whatever you fear still has control over you and you live trying to protect yourself from having your fears come true. But like Job, God can allow what we fear to even come into our lives to show us He can deliver us from all our fears! **Job 3:25**

The Holy Spirit wants to work with every believer to deliver them from all their fears and help them stand firm in life’s fires. **Psalm 34:4-6**

Being continually freed from our fears prepares us for the fires of testing that are part of following Jesus Christ. **John 16:33**

How then do we work with the Holy Spirit to get and stay free of all our fears?

1) Focus on our fearless Savior not on the fires we fear! We follow a fearless Savior who freely stepped into the fires God put in front of Him to accomplish His will. He is the ultimate hero who feared no man and put our gain ahead of His pain. The Holy Spirit can make us like Jesus as we focus our lives on becoming just like Him. **John 18:4-11**

2) Fill up with God’s love instead of fear because love is what truly conquers fear. Jesus’ fearlessness came from faith in and love for His Father. Pleasing His father ruled His life, not self preservation or pain prevention. He knew His Father would get Him through whatever He had to walk through to glorify Him and accomplish His will. **Luke 22:42; John 18:11; Matthew 26:53-54; John 19:10-11; 1 John 4:18**

3) Find hope for your own freedom from your fears by feeding your faith with the amazing transformation of “fire failures” disciples into “fire makers “for Jesus Christ. The same Spirit who transformed them from cowards to courageous disciples can transform you. John 18:25-27; Mark 14:50-52; Acts 4:8-10; Acts 4:18-20

Remember, unresolved fear can be destructive and deadly. It was fear that caused both Pilate and the Jewish leaders to sin greatly against God. They crucified out of fear the very Savior who came to save them from their fears and sins. **John 19:6-9**

The best time to deal with our fear is before you are in the fire of testing. Then your faith is “fire-proof”! The Holy Spirit can set you free from all your fears so you can face even the fires of life fearlessly. **Daniel 3:16-18.** Whatever fire you go through He will go through it with you and bring you through it victoriously. **Daniel 3:24-27**

Discussion Questions:

1) Do you think of Jesus as your fearless Savior who stepped into the fire God put Him into to do His will? Read or watch John 18 and 19 and focus on how fearlessly Jesus responded over and over again. What can we learn from Jesus about going through the fires of testing?

2) What are your fears honestly? Have you asked the Holy Spirit to deliver you from all your fears? Review how Peter failed at the fire and denied knowing Jesus. What did Peter need to do before He got to the fire to stand firm in the fire of testing? What do you need to do to become more fearless like Jesus and not compromise when tested?

3) Go to the scriptures in Acts and in Daniel and see how the Holy Spirit helped God’s people stand firm in the fire and got them through the fire even more on fire for God. Do you believe He can do that for you? Pray for those you know who are going through the fire right now and for mutual deliverance from all your fears. Who are you going to invite to our Easter events and services?