



# The Life of Jesus (86)

Stand Firm  
to the End

Matthew 24:10-13



## #1 Stand Firm to the End

After teaching all these signs and characteristics of the last days, Jesus added,

“The one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” (Mt 24:13)

Jesus suggests ‘standing firm’ as one of the important virtues that His followers must have to prepare for the last day.

The original Greek word that’s translated as ‘stand firm’ is ὑπομένω (hupomeno). It means to hold fast to one’s faith in Christ under difficulties and trials.

Since the last days will be days of persecution and suffering, Christians will have to learn to persevere and endure all kinds of difficulties, trials, temptations, and more.

## #2 Stand Firm to the End

Many verses in the Bible emphasize the importance of perseverance especially when it comes to one's salvation.

The apostle James said, “**Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial** because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him” (Jms 1:12)

Here, James presents ‘persevering under trial’ as a blessing not because perseverance and trials themselves are blessings, but because of what they ultimately lead us to.

**Those who persevere under trials and hold fast to their faith against all kinds of tests will receive the crown of life,** namely the glorious salvation that the Lord promised to give to those who believe in Him.

“**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven**” (Mt 5:10-12).

### #3 Stand Firm to the End

Perseverance plays a significant role in our salvation. The Bible doesn't leave any room for the possibility of receiving salvation without patience.

Salvation doesn't only mean the forgiveness of sins that we may receive while living on earth. **Salvation will truly be made perfect when we receive everything that Jesus promised**, such as the resurrection, eternal life, and our heavenly inheritance in the kingdom of God.

In this sense, our salvation hasn't been completed yet. And it won't be finished until Jesus comes. And **we can't reach the completion of our salvation without perseverance.**

The devil never leaves us alone. He will do his best to alienate us from Jesus using all kinds of weapons such as persecution, hardships, fear of death, temptations, worldly pleasure, and more. **So, perseverance, standing firm through trials, is closely related to our future salvation.**

## #4 Stand Firm to the End

When we face all kinds of trials because of our faith in Jesus, we should be able to rejoice. And we actually can rejoice because we already know how it will end—we'll receive complete salvation as the result of keeping our faith to the end.

“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials... for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1Pt 1:6,9)

This glorious hope and this joy of salvation are what enable us to hold fast to what we believe against all kinds of difficulties. That was also how Jesus endured all the mockery, pain, suffering, and even death on the cross.

“For the joy set before him he endured the cross” (Heb 12:2b)

## #5 Stand Firm to the End

On the cross where Jesus experienced the most extreme suffering and pain physically, emotionally, and spiritually, He was paradoxically full of joy.

Because He knew what His suffering and death would lead to—the salvation of the whole world—He could rejoice even on the cross. That’s the mindset we’re to have as we’re living in the last days even now.

“...Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And **let us run with perseverance** the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...**” (Heb 12:1-2a)

When we lose sight of Jesus and all His promises, we can’t follow His way in this world, full of evil things and temptations.

But, **those who fix their eyes on Jesus** and all His promises that will ultimately come true will always stand firm to the end.



## #6 Stand Firm to the End

The meaning of the word ‘ὑπομένω’ (hupomeno) is to hold fast to one’s faith in Christ under difficulties and trials.

But there’s another meaning of this word. It also means ‘to remain or abide without receding or fleeing.’

For example, Luke 2:43 says, “After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, **the boy Jesus stayed behind** in Jerusalem…” (Lk 2:43)

Here, the Greek word hupomeno is translated as ‘stay behind.’ So, this word means not only enduring something but also **staying somewhere**.

This does a great job explaining how we can hold fast to our faith in the face of persecutions and temptations. **We can’t do it unless we remain in Jesus**. We have to admit that the power that enables us to persevere under trials doesn’t come from us, but from Jesus Christ.

## #7 Stand Firm to the End

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (Jn 15:4-5)

There's no branch that can bear fruit without being attached to the tree. A branch cut off from its tree only loses its vitality and soon dries up. Likewise, we can't do anything apart from Jesus for He is the only true source of our joy, faith, love, and hope.





## Memory Verses

“The one who stands firm to the end will be saved.” (Mt 24:13) (1)

“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him” (Jms 1:12) (1)

“In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials... for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1Pt 1:6, 9) (2)

“...Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross” (Heb 12:1-2) (2)

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (Jn 15:5) (1)

## Reflection Questions

1) Why do you think perseverance or endurance is an important virtue when it comes to faith and salvation? What do you think Christians should endure while living on earth to follow Jesus' way?

2) The word ὑπομένω (hupomeno) means both to hold fast to one's faith under trials and to remain or abide. Why do you think it's necessary for Christians to remain in Jesus in order to hold fast to their faith to the end? What are some practical things you can do this week to abide in Him?