

Spiritual Stability Requires Lifelong Practice

- **PROPOSITION**: In Philippians 4:1—9 Paul teaches us the _____
_____ so that we will not lose our footing during shaky times.
 - 1) Stand Firm by viewing others rightly (1)
 - 2) Stand Firm by living in harmony (2—3)
 - 3) Stand Firm by rejoicing continually (4)
 - 4) Stand Firm by manifesting gentleness (5a)
 - 5) Stand Firm by continual prayer (5b—7)
 - 6) Stand Firm by excellent contemplation (8)
 - 7) Stand Firm by _____ (9)

a) Practice what you have _____

b) Practice what you have _____

Result?

☞ His _____ will be _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions and praying through the issues will help you further meditate upon God's Word in order to see the areas of your life that need change.

1. Write down some of the characteristics of the apostle's life as revealed in his letters and Acts. Now, analyze your life in comparison to these. In which area do you need to grow the most? What area do you see as a strength and why?

2. What do you think are the five most common practices for Christians in our day and age that reveal they are truly in Christ? Why do we have these expectations? What references in Scripture support these practices?

3. Paul again brings up "peace" for a second time in three verses. Why is that so important both to the apostle and to his readers? From 4:6 to 4:9 there are several conditions that are to be met before you can know God's peace in your life. What are these conditions? Are you practicing these things in your life to know God's peace?

4. Why is it so important for Christian leaders to model the truths that they espouse? What should happen to a Christian leader when he falls into major moral sin? Should there be a difference between major moral sin and minor sin? Should he step down from ministry? Should a fallen pastor and/or elder be restored to their old position after they have repented? Why or why not?

5. What are some additional thoughts and/or application from this morning's lesson? What does this passage teach you about man and about God?

This week's Bible Reading:

<i>Sunday, July 11:</i> 2 Chron 36:2-Ezra 1:11 Acts 8:26-9:9	<i>Monday, July 12:</i> Ezra 2:1-70 Acts 9:10-31	<i>Tuesday, July 13:</i> Ezra 3:1-6:12 Acts 9:32-10:8	<i>Wednesday, July 14:</i> Ezra 6:13-8:36 Acts 10:9-33
<i>Thursday, July 15:</i> Ezra 9:1-10:44 Acts 10:34-48	<i>Friday, July 16:</i> Neh 1:1-3:32 Acts 11:1-18	<i>Saturday, July 17:</i> Neh 4:1-7:3 Acts 11:19-12:4	<i>Sunday, July 18:</i> Neh 7:4-72 Acts 12:5-25