

Standing Firm/Falling

Definition of stand: to maintain an upright position on one's feet; to hold a firm position or attitude; to endure or resist something. It is a place or position where one remains fixed or holds ground.

Definition of steadfast: Firmly fixed in place; unwavering, loyal. To be resolute, unyielding, faithful, immovable.

- **Psalm 78:37, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 112:7, I Corinthians 15:58**

Definition of fall: to move downward, typically rapidly and freely without control, from a higher to a lower level; to lose balance and collapse; a sudden uncontrollable descent.

Believers are faced with falling:

Proverbs 24:16, Psalm 37:23-24, II Peter 3:17, James 3:2

The wicked stumble:

Jeremiah 50:32, I Peter 2:8

Different ways a person can fall:

- **Physically:** to lose your balance or footing; to slip due to external factors.
- **Emotionally:** to sink into depression or despair; to experience heartache and then become overwhelmed with negative, troubling, or accusatory thoughts.
- **Morally:** when one defies God's law or is resistant to His will—resulting in yielding to temptation, deception, and rebellion
- **Socially:** when you turn from a posture of unity within your marriage, family or community to division. This can lead to a negative effect on one's reputation.
- **Spiritually:** to walk by the flesh instead of the Holy Spirit. To return to a former lifestyle or serve a lesser god
- **Financially:** to suffer setback/ruin

Another look at ways to fall—4 examples

- Gravel—**undermine** (to erode the base or foundation of; lessen the effectiveness, power or ability of gradually or insidiously(sabotage))
- Ice—**prevailed** over (to overcome and defeat an opponent; overwhelmed, get the better of; overwhelm; knock for a loop)
- A trip wire—**snare** was laid (a snare is something hidden by which one is entangled, trapped or deceived)
- Pooled curtain—**hidden reef in love feasts** (a reef that is not visible at the water's surface and is a danger to people and boats; not able to see until it is too late to turn back. It can be a person who is causing harm that will undermine the community)

To Stand:

Physically: Requires balance, firm foundation, removal of obstacles. Must strengthen legs and core to hold your position under pressure. One may also require outward support (cane, handrail, a hand)

Spiritually: One must have faith and endurance—be able to hold up under pressure. It is not within a person to accomplish without the Holy Spirit. A posture of humility is a declaration of independence.

How do you hold territory and remain standing?

- Defend or remove obstacles
- Occupy
- Refuse compromise in order to gain territory
- Resist thinking that undermines faith
- In time of peace—prepare for war