

~ 19th May 2024 ~

The VIBE

Series: 'STAND FIRM'

Message: 'IMMOVABLE' - The value that's not cool but crucial!

Scripture: 1st Corinthians 15:50-58 NIV.

Disciples who are steadfast and immovable do not become fanatics or extremists, are not overzealous, and are not preoccupied with misguided gospel hobbies.

David A. Bednar

***55 'Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?'***

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm.

Let nothing move you.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.



During this season in the life of our church and our world, there's so much uncertainty around, if ever there was a time to 'Stand Firm' it is surely now!

'Stand Firm' is one of Paul's favourite statements!

In terms of the classic epistles to churches – Corinthians, Galatians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Philippians and Ephesians – this statement is found in each one of them.

It is interesting to note Paul is actually just echoing some of Jesus' words, every one of the first three gospels recalls Jesus at some point saying, "Stand Firm."

The one I especially love is in Luke's gospel.

The background to this is Jesus saying to His disciples there could come a point in your future when you are going to be mistreated because of me.

So, He says, "***Stand Firm, and you will win life.***" (Luke 21:19 NIV)

In Christ, you are a new creation, strong and immovable, built to stand when others sit.

You can withstand any setback.

You can survive anything the enemy throws at you.

And it's all thanks to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, dear ones, 'Stand Firm!'

Grace and Peace,
Orrell

Combined Churches Prayer Meeting

We are hosting this month's local Combined Churches Prayer Meeting, this **Tuesday 21st May, 6pm to 6.30pm** in our Gympie Church. We hope you can join us in welcoming our visitors and to pray for pressing issues.

Joy Circle

This **Thursday, 23rd May 2024, 9:30am** in the CE Room. Margaret Benstead will be sharing some of her story and there's a whole new experience awaiting you!

Continued Call to Prayer

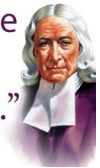
Please stop and join us in dedicated prayer, wherever you may be, at **7.30pm** on **Friday evenings** (alternatively, pray at a time that better suits you). We're giving thanks for Orrell's and Christine's time with us, for their future ministry and for Uniting 4570's next ministerial appointment - someone who will share our vision and plans. *N.B. Corporate Prayer and Communion each Tuesday, 8am, CE Room.*

"I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist, but I am afraid lest they should only exist as a dead sect, having the form of religion without the power.

That will undoubtedly be the case unless they hold fast both to the doctrine, spirit and discipline with which they first set out."
- John Wesley, 'Thoughts Upon Methodism' (1786)

"Let your words be the genuine picture of your heart."

John Wesley



Operation Christmas Child

During **May** we're collecting '**Personal Care Items**', such as ... toothbrushes, nail clippers and emery boards, face washers and soap, hair brushes, combs and hairbands, etc. Please don't include anything that may leak such as toothpaste, shampoo and hand cream.

Church Office Doorbell

When there is only one person working in our Gympie church building at any given time, the doors are kept locked for their personal safety. A doorbell has been installed for your convenience should you visit during the week. It's located on the wall, just outside the emergency exit doors, adjacent to the stage area.

"All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move."
(Benjamin Franklin)

"Being steadfast and immovable with our heels in tar on the Lord's side of the line is the only strategy that works long-term against Lucifer."
(Sheri L. Dew)

Beloved

The Apostle Paul addresses us as his dear family in 1st Corinthians 15:58 NIV.

We are part of a family that cares deeply for one another and as His church we are to be a visible, and physical expression of caring love.

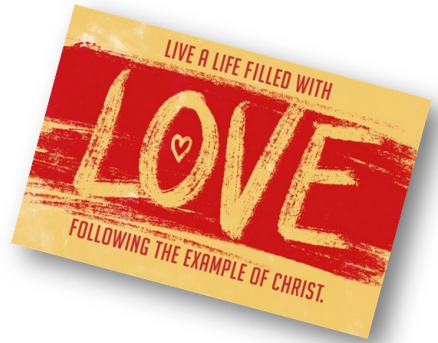
Even though we may sometimes feel alone, we still belong to the great family of God.

The Greek phrase for 'stand firm' implies stability, firmness, and strong devotion to something or someone.

We are encouraged and challenged to remain committed to Christ and devoted to His mission. Several metaphors come into play here.

One can think of a tree standing firm against a strong wind, soldiers holding down a fort, or a spouse supporting an ailing partner.

To stand fast is to be loyal, faithful, devoted, and unmoving.



Prayer

Father God,

Teach us what it means to be strong and immovable in our faith.

Help us to live our lives in ways which glorify and please You.

Jesus, Lord, and Saviour; guide and unite us in vision and purpose.

Holy Spirit, fill us, strengthen us, help us to be more like Jesus.

Thank you, Father, for the life You have given us to live this, and every day.

Thank You for the breath we are breathing, and the joy we experience in Jesus Christ.

When life is difficult, Father, it gets hard to remember all of these truths.

Re-align our hearts, today, God.

*Remind us of who You are, and **Whose** we are.*

Foster in us a focused, forgiving and obedient spirit, ready to get up and go out to share the love of Jesus with the people You have placed around us.

Lord, make us strong and immovable.

Let the lies and distractions of the enemy fall dead at our feet and fly over our heads, never taking root in our thoughts or hearts.

Father, amplify Your voice and Your Truth above all other voices in our lives.

Help us to be laser-focused on You, Father, so we are able to withstand the arrow of distraction inevitably pointed in our direction.

Father, we pray the words of Paul's letter to the Corinthians over our lives: -

Let nothing move us!

Let us always give ourselves fully to Your work, Lord, because we know our labour in You is not in vain.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission

The Great Commandment: *"³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' ³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments (Matthew 22, 34-40, NIV).'"*



The Great Commission: *"¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28, 18-20, NIV).'"*

These Two Go Hand in Hand. A Great Commitment to The Great Commandment and The Great Commission Will Grow a Great Church.

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

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Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Rev Orrell Battersby.. 0423 985 200 orrell@gruc.org

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or



UNITING 4570
Better together

Offering & Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 86 • Children 8 • Facebook 105 • YouTube 13
Total Week's Offering: \$ 1,965.00 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.
Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101
(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)