

The Bible uses the expressions 'hold fast' and 'stand firm' quite frequently, and I think for a good reason. For instance, in 1 Corinthians 16.13; we read, 'Stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong'. In Philippians 4.1, Paul says again, 'stand firm thus in the Lord'. In Hebrews 10.32, the writer tells us, 'you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering (NIV)'. Also, Hebrews 6.19 calls our hope the 'anchor of the soul'; different words, but the same idea. William Barclay says that the word used in Philippians 4.1 for 'stand fast' (steteke) is the word which Paul uses for a soldier standing fast in the shock of battle, with the enemy surging down upon him. It makes me think of standing fast in the raging stream of life. I was reminded of this when I went backpacking not too long ago with a group of friends. We came to a wooden bridge that had been set upon the loose rocks of a stream and tied to each bank with a steel cable. At least, it had been tied at one time, for now one end had slipped away. I thought of 'standing fast' quite seriously as I stood in the powerful current of that icy, rain-swollen creek trying to put the bridge back into place.

My neighbor's dog knows how to stand firm. It will sit in the middle of our street at home and never budge when you drive up. You just have to drive around him. I tested him one time, driving as close as I could to him, but he never moved. If we could only just approach life in a manner similar to this, not even batting an eye as life's problems rush down upon us. With God's strength, they cannot run over us.