

Jesus is Lord
2 Corinthian 4:1 -6

"The phrase "god of this world" (or "god of this age") indicates that Satan is the major influence on the ideals, opinions, goals, hopes and views of the majority of people. His influence also encompasses the world's philosophies, education, and commerce. The thoughts, ideas, speculations and false religions of the world are under his control and have sprung from his lies and deceptions..."

This is not to say that he rules the world completely; God is still sovereign. But it does mean that God, in His infinite wisdom, has allowed Satan to operate in this world within the boundaries God has set for him. When the Bible says Satan has power over the world, we must remember that God has given him domain over unbelievers only. Believers are no longer under the rule of Satan (Colossians 1:13). Unbelievers, on the other hand, are caught "in the snare of the devil" (2 Timothy 2:26), lie in the "power of the evil one" (1 John 5:19), and are in bondage to Satan (Ephesians 2:2)."
 gotquestions.org

Colossians 1:13 *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,*

- I. One of the greatest threats to our standing firm in the faith is discouragement. If we are not careful, we will find ourselves losing heart and not caring that we are being transformed into Jesus likeness with ever increasing glory. We must take to heart that our faith has made us overcomers of the world. *"This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it who overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."*

2 Cor. 4:1

Joshua 8:1

1 Jn. 5:3-5, 18-20

egkakeō (en-kā-ke'-ō) to lose heart, become discouraged, to be weary in anything, or to lose courage

- II. Another powerful force that can keep us from standing firm in the faith is Satan. He works to keep believers from living in the power of the Spirit. He also works to keep the lost from believing in the gospel. We are to resist him by making every effort to stand firm in the truth, in our imputed righteousness, in the peace we have with God, in our faith, in our salvation, in the Word of God and in prayer so that we stay strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. .

2 Cor. 4:2-4

Eph. 6:11

John 3:18

2 Timothy 2:25-26

John 3:19-20

1 John 5:19

Eph. 2:2

Eph 6:10-11

Eph. 6:13

"If he has the opportunity, he's going to hold you, and he will blind your mind to the truth. And he will fill your mind with poison and prejudice against God and the things of God so that it is impossible for you to think rationally about our relationship with God through Jesus Christ." Chuck Smith

2 Peter 5:8-9 *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

- III. The most powerful force we have working for us to keep us standing firm in the faith is the mighty power of our Savior Jesus Christ. We have his light shining in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. Our salvation means that we don't serve Satan; we serve Jesus Christ. It means that we don't bow down to Satan; we bow down to Jesus Christ. It means that we don't live according to Satan's lies; we live according to Jesus' truth.

2 Cor. 4:5-6

Titus 3:4-6 *4But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5He saved us, not by the righteous deeds we had done, but according to His mercy, through the washing of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6This is the Spirit He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,...*