Standing Firm-Loving Well: Pray
John 17:13-23
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John 17:13-23 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. [14] I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. [15] My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. [16] They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. [17] Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. [18] As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. [19] For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. [20] "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, [21] that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. [22] I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one-- [23] I in them and you in me-- so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ with being in the world but not of it

_____ the light: This is the clear verdict: The light of genuine truth has come into the world and people love the darkness rather than the light because their works are evil. Everyone who practices the fallacy of self-salvation hates the light… John 3:19-20a (JOT)

_____firm: "Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. John 17:13-14 (TLB)

2. _____ to stand firm in the tension

Lord, _____ me: I am not asking for you to take them out of the world, but help them to stand firm in the face of the evil one…they are not of the world…sanctify them through the truth and your Word is truth. Just as you have sent me to seek, serve, and sacrifice, I am sending them! John 17:15-18 (JOT)

Lord, _____ me: "These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Matthew 7:24 (MSG)

Lord, _____ me: Just as you have sent me…I am sending them. It is on their behalf I am consecrating myself so that they may be set apart and made holy by the truth. I am praying not just for them but for everyone who will believe their message…. John 15:18-20 (JOT)

3. _____the sinking sand

_____: "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17 (NCV)

Spiritual Action Step:

In what area of your life are you struggling to stand firm? Are you sensing that you are being overwhelmed by the sinking sands of our time? Do you desire a life that has more joy and hope? The Apostle Paul reminds us: *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* (Romans 10:9, NIV) God loves you very much and wants you to be his child. You cannot save yourself, accept God's grace for you that is only found in Jesus. Accept this gift of grace by believing that Jesus is Lord and receiving his forgiveness. This week join us in our small group study to allow the Holy Spirit to lengthen the light of Christ in your life.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; MSG: The Message; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; TLB: The Living Bible; NCV: New Century Version.