

# A Steadfast Spirit in Prayer



***"In warfare and seasons of trouble, there is a quality of suffering and perseverance that actually births in us a greater anointing to work the works of God. God actually trusts us because He trusts what He sees of suffering inside our heart and life. We cannot build anything without suffering... Good leadership knows how to suffer; they know about patience and perseverance to stand their ground."***

God is looking throughout the earth, and He sees those who are steadfast in spirit. Is your spirit steadfast even during times of intense spiritual warfare? Do you know how to stand steady in hard times even when the enemy targets you with lies? Are you standing your ground in your thought life, and are you bringing your thoughts captive to Christ?

It's not easy to navigate through life with all the uncertainties facing us. We go through times of job promotions and losses, prosperity and adversity, love and loneliness. We must learn to be very careful in our walk through life. I remember when I was simply walking with my husband and looking at the beauty of nature when suddenly I stepped on a small round chestnut, lost my balance, and fell on the ground. A little shaken and with a few scrapes and bruises, he helped me up. We carefully continued walking steadfastly forward. Little round chestnuts were all over the road. Almost as if they were dangerous landmines, I gingerly stepped around them as we proceeded on our walk. That day I learned a lesson about walking steadfastly.

How do we navigate through such constant change and intense warfare in our thoughts? How do we navigate around the landmines in life? It seems that our inner resolve must be strong. A fixed heart in prayer positions us, strengthening us from within to receive God's power moment-by-moment and day-by-day. God wants us to stand firm by taking our thoughts captive through prayer. Obviously while walking I wasn't standing firm. And what happened? I fell! But I got up quickly and proceeded on, being much more careful.

Even if we have made a great fall, we can get up and get moving again. But we need to be careful of the landmines. They can be negative thoughts about God, about ourselves, and about others that especially tempt us during a difficult time. Strongholds are powerful. But God will help us to be steady if we resolve to be faithful and steadfast in spirit and in prayer. He will renew a steadfast spirit within us. King David prayed

for a steadfast spirit and wrote in Psalm 51:10:

***"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."***

My husband put many new windows in our house. Windows are important. This life is a small window of opportunity to stand fast in prayer, to choose to love God with all our heart, and to believe His truth in the midst of difficult circumstances. God sees whatever suffering each one of us has to go through in this life. Suffering and perseverance is an important part of life. When we face suffering, there is a powerful anointing for fellowship with God. He is inviting us to draw nearer to His heart through it.

One of the books I wrote is called The Invitation. God is inviting us into a glorious place of power and relationship, but it's up to us to receive it. Will we accept His invitation? Will we be steadfast in seeking Him? Will we cling to His truth and His Word? We all love to be invited to special

events by important people. This invitation is the greatest invitation any of us will ever receive in this life.

The challenge for us is to love God and believe Him through everything that comes our way. This is where we will find His strength and grace to carry us through. King David was a man after God's heart who constantly pursued Him. A steadfast heart knows how to take thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ. We have a window of opportunity right now to pursue God. David declared in Psalm 108:1, "My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul."

I have noticed in my life that after I have gone through an especially enduring season of warfare, God brings a breakthrough and increases the anointing in my own personal life. I look back and see the grace of God that carried me through. The battle has to do most often with taking thoughts captive in prayer and believing God for breakthrough. Satan does not like prayer. Standing strong in perseverance is a daily task, but God's grace has been sufficient. If you are involved in prayer, I am sure you can identify. Battles make us strong, firm, and steadfast. We read this in 1 Peter 5:10:

***"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."***

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