

Lesson 10 | May 9, 2021

A Steadfast People

Study Text: Acts 4:1–20; 1 Peter 3:13 through 5:11

Central Truth: By God’s grace, Christians can endure fiery trials.

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

The God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you (KJV).

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 (NIV).

Learning Objectives

- Help students learn how to overcome the challenges of imminent trials.
- Encourage students to explore how they can face suffering for the sake of Christ, while maintaining humility and commitment to Jesus.
- Lead students to adapt the concepts of today’s study into their everyday lives.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: We all appreciate people we can depend on, people who are not easily swayed by whoever is talking to them at the time. In a world where social media shapes attitudes and people often measure their own value by the number of “likes” they get on a particular post, it is easy to become more concerned about what others think than about what God wants. **He calls us to be steadfast in our faith, no matter what is happening around us.**

Opening Activity—Steadfastness

Ask your students to name individuals they know who are steadfast in their faith or those who are steadfast in some other way. Ask them to give examples of what those people do to “make the list.”

Say: What does it mean to be steadfast in faith? Does the idea of steadfastness seem to be an important quality in today’s world? Why can steadfastness be challenging for even a mature believer? (Share your highlights from the following text.)

A preacher asked everyone to raise their hands if they want to go to heaven. All but one boy raised his hand. The preachers asked the young boy why he did not want to go to heaven. The boy said he did want to go to heaven. He thought the preacher was asking him to go to heaven right now.

One Halloween a young man walked down the aisle of the church in a devil's costume complete with a pitchfork. A young man jumped out in front of him and said, I was on your side all the time.

What makes you give up?

The term “steadfast” speaks to a quality of being adamant and unswerving in one’s beliefs and convictions. But when we consider the spiritual state of the world around us, it can become easy to wonder if we can even remain steadfast today. This concern is all the more reason to explore and ponder the Scriptures covered in this study. This is also an important reason to study all of the Scriptures. **It is difficult to be steadfast in your beliefs if you are unsure of what those beliefs should be.**

Part 1—Speaking Up

Do Not Be Afraid

1 Peter 3:13–17

[1Pe 3:13-22 KJV] **13 And who [is] he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy [are ye]: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For [it is] better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. 18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.**

Say: Have you ever been in a situation where you should say something to change the course of a conversation or to defend yourself or someone else, but fear kept you from speaking up? What kinds of fears might keep you from speaking up? (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Persecution against Christians was widespread in the first century. As a result, **Peter was writing to believers who faced ongoing opposition to their faith. Notice, then, as you read through 1 Peter 3:13–17, the references to specific actions and attitudes: Be eager to do good, consider yourself blessed if you suffer, do not be afraid, revere Christ, prepare to answer opposition.** These steps, as well as others contained in these verses, go contrary to the natural human response to opposition. As such, they convey the reality that a Christian can have confidence in God even amid the worst of what life in this world has to offer.

Peter made it clear that Christians would face difficulties. In verses 13–14, he reminded his readers of the possibility of suffering for doing good. Such suffering was far better than suffering for doing evil. After all, evil ends in judgment, while serving the Lord leads to God’s promises. This is why they need not become fearful in the face of threats.

The key to facing threatening situations without giving in to fear lies in one’s relationship with Jesus Christ. Peter urged his readers to honor Jesus as Lord of their lives and stay prepared to answer those who questioned their testimony (verse 15). In giving their answer, **Peter urged his readers to be gentle and respectful, which would ultimately protect them from slander (verse 16). Better to go through hard times because of good living, Peter emphasized, than to face hardship because of something evil they had done (verse 17). Furthermore, they could have peace to find good, helpful words because the Holy Spirit ministers to the people of God in such trying times** (see Luke 12:11–12)..

Discuss

? What would you say if you were mocked for your faith? What if you were threatened with imprisonment (or worse)?

? How can suffering be considered a blessing?

Peter Was Not Afraid

Acts 4:18–20

[Act 4:1-20 KJV] 1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, 2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put [them]

in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. 4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand. 5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, 6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, 9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, [even] by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. 14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them [is] manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny [it]. 17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. **18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**

Say: When Peter wrote about opposition in his Epistle, he was speaking from experience. Not only in this passage from Acts 4 do we see Peter facing opposition; later, he was imprisoned (Acts 12:1–19), but was miraculously delivered in response to the prayers of believers. Sometimes, we may think the opposition to the Church is stronger now than ever before, but a study of Church history will show that the Church has always faced opposition. Yet God’s plan is never thwarted. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Fear in the face of opposition can be understandable, but Peter met his opposition courageously. **In Acts 4, Peter experienced hardship for doing good. He and John were facing the Sanhedrin—the highest court in Judaism—in the aftermath of the healing of a lame man. The Sanhedrin ordered the men to cease preaching or teaching about Jesus (Acts 4:18). Peter and John gave a simple answer: the Sanhedrin could decide for themselves their guilt or innocence, but Peter and John could only speak from their own experience (verses 19–20).**

Peter responded in the way he described in 1 Peter 3. He showed no fear in the face of these accusations. Rather, he stood firm before the group, confident that he and John had obeyed God. He further showed respect in the way in which he answered these men.

Opposition is common for believers who dare to live out their faith in public ways. Yet no one needs to live in fear because of this. Instead, **every Christian should look to Scripture to help them know the best way to respond to opposition. Whatever the response, each believer should stand firm and confident in his or her commitment to Jesus.**

Discuss

? Do you feel fearful when you witness to someone? If so, why?

? Based on this portion of the study, how should you respond when you are faced with opposition?

Resource Packet Item 1: Fear in the Workplace

Distribute copies of the case study, and allow time to read it individually, and respond to the questions. Or, use the study as a classroom exercise. Follow this by leading your class in a discussion of their responses.

Part 2—Suffering in Christ’s Name Rejoice in Suffering

1 Peter 4:12–16

[1Pe 4:1-16 KJV] 1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of [his] time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. 3 For the time past of [our] life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: 4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with [them] to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of [you]: 5 Who shall give

account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. 6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. 7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. 8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. 9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging. 10 As every man hath received the gift, [even so] minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, [let him speak] as the oracles of God; if any man minister, [let him do it] as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. **12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy [are ye]; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or [as] a thief, or [as] an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if [any man suffer] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.**

Say: Suffering is never a pleasant experience; yet, Peter teaches that we can rejoice in suffering, especially if our suffering is because of our faith in Christ. Just think of how much He suffered for us as He gave up the glory of heaven, lived among humanity, and gave His life in the most humbling and brutal way in order to provide our salvation. Suffering for Him is a small way for us to identify with His sufferings. (Read Philippians 3:10–11 aloud, then share your highlights from the following text.)

It is natural for Christians to question life's setbacks. After all, Scripture lists many promises of blessing for Christ's followers. Since God is our all-powerful Heavenly Father, it seems reasonable to the human mind that He would prevent any disaster from happening to His children. But He does not always do this.

Peter did not get involved with any "if/then" questions about Christians' suffering. Instead he took a three-step approach to the subject. First, he warned Christians not to be surprised if they should meet with a "fiery trial" (1 Peter 4:12, KJV). Second, he directed believers' attention to their Savior, stating that Christians "participate in the sufferings of Christ" (verse 13, KJV). Third, he

identified joy as the fitting response to such suffering (verse 13). Peter wrote about the issue of suffering for the cause of Christ.

We might wonder how joy is possible during suffering. This kind of thinking could even seem to be a denial of reality, a desire to convince oneself that the suffering isn't really happening. **But Peter was not advising believers to deny their pain. Rather, he wanted Christians to change their focus from their pain to the blessings of their relationship with Christ (verse 14). Peter would never have denied the suffering Jesus experienced on the cross. Nor was he advising Christians to mindlessly claim they were happy in the middle of life's sorrow and pain.** Jesus was willing to faithfully obey His Father to bring about the plan of salvation. Followers of Christ are also part of that plan and will receive God's eternal reward when Christ's glory is revealed (verse 13).

Our response to life's difficulties will be determined by whether we limit ourselves to our human viewpoint or identify with God's plan. We can see only the present. Our Heavenly Father knows the future. He knows the endless blessing that awaits all who will identify with His Son, even to the point of persecution and enduring the world's attacks.

Yet we also must keep in mind that it is also possible to suffer because of wrong choices we have made. Peter warned Christians that this kind of suffering is not a reason for the joy he had just described, listing sinful choices that can carry harsh consequences (1 Peter 4:15). It is interesting that both murder and being a busybody are mentioned, reminding us that while we can be judged by civil authorities, seemingly small sins can ultimately bring judgment from God. **Any kind of sin in the believer's life is unacceptable.**

On the other hand, any suffering that Christians face in serving God is not a cause for shame but an opportunity to glorify God (verse 16). While it may seem strange to suffer for doing what is right and pleasing to God, Christians must endure, entrusting themselves to God.

Resource Packet Item 2: Responding to Suffering

Distribute copies of the work sheet. Divide your students into small groups and assign one of the Scriptures to each group. Then allow time to share their responses in class.

Discuss

? What kinds of suffering are not cause for rejoicing?

? Should we rejoice in suffering that is not specifically for the cause of Christ, yet is not related to sin? Explain your answer.

Commit Yourself to God

1 Peter 4:17–19

[1Pe 4:17-19 KJV] 17 For the time [is come] that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if [it] first [begin] at us, what shall the end [be] of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls [to him] in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Say: Peter concluded his message to his suffering readers in 1 Peter 4:17–19. He referenced Proverbs 11:31, which says, “If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!” (NIV). He then challenged his readers to commit themselves to God, even when suffering, and to continue to do good. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Peter connected present suffering for the cause of Christ with the everlasting results of how a person has responded to Christ (verses 17–18). **When God finally judges all humankind, those who are faithful to the gospel, those who are “God’s household,” will be saved (verse 17, NIV). Although Peter did not specifically describe the destiny of those who do not follow Christ, his intended message is clear: They will have no hope when they stand before God.**

Peter’s words deliver an important message to Christians: If we suffer because we are living according to God’s will, we can entrust our future to God (verse 19). He is our faithful Creator. His plan for our lives has always included everlasting blessings in heaven that we cannot begin to imagine.

There is an old saying that goes, “Trouble troubles us all.” Even while living faithfully for God, we may face troubling times. Such events sometimes come because we are living for God. Believers and non-believers both will find themselves suffering. Unlike the unbeliever, however, the believer can rejoice in suffering, knowing that this is the same path Jesus walked. **In times of suffering, Christians must continue to live faithfully for God. The outcome of living this way far surpasses what awaits unbelievers in eternity.**

Resource Packet Item 3: Judgment

Distribute to your class copies of the work sheet “Judgment.” This sheet presents Scriptures dealing with judgment of non-believers as well as believers. Allow your class time to complete the sheet. Also take time to answer any questions that may arise from the sheet.

Discuss

? How can suffering build your faith and help you become more committed to God?

? How can your response to suffering be a witness to unbelievers?

Part 3—Staying Humble and Standing Firm

Submit to One Another

1 Peter 5:1–5

[1Pe 5:1-5 KJV] 1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight [thereof], not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over [God's] heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Say: In this final chapter of his first Epistle, Peter instructed church leaders as well as other believers. Leading God's people is a great responsibility, and Peter used the metaphor of a shepherd to illustrate this. We must recall that Jesus himself is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), and church leaders are representing Him. Peter also gave an assortment of relevant instructions to believers. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Peter began this passage by addressing church leaders (1 Peter 5:1–5). Pastors and other leaders must not serve out of greed, but from the desire to help people grow spiritually (verse 2). They must also guard against the inappropriate use of power and money. Note the specific instruction of “not lording it over those entrusted to you” (verse 3, NIV). Spiritual leaders are to live as examples of humble service. Those who strive to get their way through threats, emotional pressure, or abuse of power or authority are not the good shepherds God desires to be over His flock. But for those who will lead and serve faithfully, there is a “crown of glory” waiting as their reward (verse 4).

It is evident that Peter included the concept of submission in his words, as verse 5 states: **“In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another” (verse 5, NIV). Submission has been taught throughout this Epistle (see 2:13,18; 3:1,7). In 5:5, Peter told young men to submit to the elders in the church. Rather than allow a generational divide to occur, the younger people in the church are to show respect to their elders. Yet this is not to be one-sided; all are to submit to one another, elders and youth, and be humble toward one another by putting others first (verse 5; see also Proverbs 3:34).**

[Pro 3:34 NIV] 34 He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed.

Discuss

? How does the metaphor of a shepherd inform what God expects of leaders?

? List the various instructions given to believers in this passage. How can these be applied in your daily life?

God Will Exalt Those Who Stand Firm

1 Peter 5:6–11

[1Pe 5:6-11 KJV] 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. 10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you]. 11 To him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Say: A steadfast faith will stand up under the pressures of persecution and temptation. Peter reminded us that we do have an enemy, but we have a God who is bigger. We can rely on Him to help us stand our ground in the face of the enemy. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

God will exalt those who are humble (1 Peter 5:6). This does not mean God will elevate them in the eyes of their peers. Rather, He will lift them up when the trials of this life weigh them down. This phrase also reminds Christians that humility is highly regarded in God's eyes, even when humbling circumstances threaten to defeat or discourage us.

Peter's invitation in verse 7—to cast our cares upon the Lord—reminds us of Christ's foundational teachings about relying on Him (see Matthew 6:25–34; 11:28). We are encouraged to lay our anxieties in His hands, trusting Him to take care of us. **We can find encouragement in knowing that just as the persecuted first-century Christians trusted the Lord, we can rely on Him as well.**

[Mat 6:25-34 KJV] 25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they

sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.

[Mat 11:28 KJV] 28 Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Even with such reassurances, Peter wrote of spiritual alertness, recognizing the reality of our spiritual adversary, the devil (verses 8–9). We are not to passively hope that the devil will leave us alone, but instead guard against temptation.

In verses 10–11, **Peter evoked the image of a soldier who stands his ground when the enemy attempts to overcome him. Such resistance is active but not self-centered. Rather, we are to stand strong in our faith, not trusting in our own will or determination to get through trials. When those struggles ultimately come to an end, we will be in His presence, glorifying His name, forever.**

Discuss

- ? How do you distinguish real humility from false humility?
- ? What does it mean to be spiritually alert?

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: Paul encouraged Christians to continue in the faith (Colossians 1:23). In today's study, Peter urged Christians to remain steadfast in their faith. When people experience salvation, they place their faith in Jesus Christ. Such a commitment, in turn, must be followed by a life lived with a steadfast faith in Christ's lordship over their lives. The Bible says nothing about what we might call "easy-believism." Instead, it calls everyone to a steadfast faith in the Son of God.

Living It Out Ministry in Action

- Take inventory of your life in light of this study. What corrections need to be made?

- Confront any fears that you have about standing up for your faith, trusting God to help you overcome all fear.
- Pray for believers around the world who are currently suffering for their faith.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Steadfast Heart.
Psalm 57:1–11

[Psa 57:1-11 KJV] 1 [[To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.]] Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until [these] calamities be overpast. 2 I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth [all things] for me. 3 He shall send from heaven, and save me [from] the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth. 4 My soul [is] among lions: [and] I lie [even among] them that are set on fire, [even] the sons of men, whose teeth [are] spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword. 5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; [let] thy glory [be] above all the earth. 6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen [themselves]. Selah. 7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. 8 Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I [myself] will awake early. 9 I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. 10 For thy mercy [is] great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. 11 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: [let] thy glory [be] above all the earth.

Tuesday:

Steadfast Expectation.
Psalm 62:1–12

[Psa 62:1-12 KJV] 1 [[To the chief Musician, to Jeduthun, A Psalm of David.]] Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him [cometh] my salvation. 2 He only [is] my rock and my salvation; [he is] my defence; I shall not be greatly moved. 3 How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall [shall ye be, and as] a tottering fence. 4 They only consult to cast [him] down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah. 5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation [is] from him. 6 He only [is] my rock and my salvation: [he is] my defence; I shall not be moved. 7 In God [is] my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, [and] my refuge, [is] in God. 8 Trust in him at all times; [ye] people, pour out your heart before him: God [is] a refuge for us. Selah. 9 Surely men of low degree [are] vanity, [and] men of high degree [are] a lie: to be laid in the balance, they [are] altogether [lighter] than vanity. 10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart [upon them]. 11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power [belongeth] unto God.

12 Also unto thee, O Lord, [belongeth] mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Wednesday:

Steadfast God.

Daniel 6:19–27

[Dan 6:19-27 KJV] 19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: [and] the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? 21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. 23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. 24 And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast [them] into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den. 25 Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he [is] the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion [shall be even] unto the end. 27 He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Thursday:

Steadfast Determination.

Luke 9:51–56

[Luk 9:51-56 KJV] 51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, 52 And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. 53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw [this], they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save [them]. And they went to another village.

Friday:

Steadfast Faith.

Colossians 2:4–10

[Col 2:4-10 KJV] 4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. 5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, [so] walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Saturday:

Steadfast Confidence.
Hebrews 3:12–15

[Heb 3:12-15 KJV] 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.