STANDING steadfast in the faith.
“I’ll praise You in this storm,
And I will lift my hands.
For You are who You are,
No matter where I am.
Every tear I’ve cried,
You hold in Your Hand,
You never left my side.
And though my heart is torn,
I will praise You in this storm.”

“Praise You In This Storm”
Lyrics by Casting Crowns
Amanda Buys’ Spiritual Covering

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The Priestly Blessing ...

*Numbers 6:24-26*

“24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: 25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: 26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

Hebraic Translation

“Yahweh will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, Yahweh will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, Yahweh will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete.”
Standing steadfast in the faith.

We are adopted children of God by faith.

* The fact that we are not born as Israelites,

Or ...

* That we are not all trained up in Biblical Principles properly,

... does not disqualify us from the Kingdom of God. Instead we by faith are adopted in.

Jacob – the father of the nation of Israel – shows us that this principle was operative, by faith, in his time in the physical.

**Galatians 3:29** “29 And if you belong to Christ [are in Him Who is Abraham’s Seed], then you are Abraham’s offspring and [spiritual] heirs according to promise.”
Joseph, Jacob’s favorite son, was providentially brought to Egypt for a purpose. After he was made prime minister – second only to the pharaoh – Joseph had two sons.

Joseph’s sons are a mixture of:

• Hebrew and,
• Egyptian.

They have grown up in the palace, within the culture of the sun god, and other pagan influences. They truly are sons of the pagan and Gentile world!

As Jacob lies dying, Joseph comes to visit and brings both boys with him.

Jacob makes a prophetic statement that he will adopt both boys into the family an equal terms:

• Joseph has to agree – he turns over his rights as father to Jacob.
• The boys have to agree – they have a new father, and more importantly, they exchange the world’s palace for a life of shepherd boys!
This is the adoption that we are talking about – under our own mandate, we make a choice through our faith in Y’shua to become sons of the Living God.

Colossians 1:4 “4 For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus [the leaning of your entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness] and of the love which you [have and show] for all the saints (God’s consecrated ones),

Colossians 2:5 “5 For though I am away from you in body, yet I am with you in spirit, delighted at the sight of your [standing shoulder to shoulder in such] orderly array and the firmness and the solid front and steadfastness of your faith in Christ [that leaning of the entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness].”

But for this book, we are talking about the “steadfastness of our father”.

We are by nature:

• Open to opinions of other,
• Open to worldly temptation,
• Open to giving into the call of the body and soul.
So how can we be strong in faith?

I submit to you, that the answer lies in our belief that God will always be faithful.

Because we see that God is always faithful in all circumstance, trial and tribulations … we can build our faith.

Interestingly, in the theme of this book, we have two words that in the English language seems to complement and add to one another.

Steadfast

Deuteronomy 7:9
Psalm 78:8, 37
Isaiah 49:7

Faithful

And
Psalm 87:37
Psalm 119:86

However, both these English words come from the same Hebrew word.

Strong’s Hebrew 539: aman (52d); a prim. root; to confirm, support:—believe(26), believed(11), believes(2), bringing(1), carried(1), confirmed(5), doorposts(1), endure(1), enduring(3), established(3), faithful(21), firm(2), fulfilled(1), guardians(3), has assurance(1), have faith(1), have…assurance(1), lasting(1), nurse(3), put your trust(2), puts…trust(2), reared(1), reliable(1), stand still(1), sure(4), trust(4), trusted(1), trustworthy (1), verified(1).

The full definition of aman means:

• To build up,
• To support,
• To foster as a parent,
• To be morally true,
• To go to the right hand,
• To nurse [as father].

Let’s follow this pattern as we look at the story of Moses and he stands holding his hands high while the army rages war below him.
Exodus 17:12  “12 But Moses’ hands were heavy and grew weary. So [the other men] took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Then Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side and one on the other side; so his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

Here we see the word a-man, and it describes emunah, translated as “firm”.

If we again follow this pattern and translate the verse below by taking out the word “faithfulness” and replace it with “firmness”, we see a whole new meaning.

Psalm 89:1-5  “I WILL sing of the mercy and loving-kindness of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness from generation to generation. 2 For I have said, Mercy and loving-kindness shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness will You establish in the very heavens [unchangeable and perpetual]. 3 [You have said] I have made a covenant with My chosen one, I have sworn to David My servant, 4 Your Seed I will establish forever, and I will build up your throne for all generations. Selah [pause, and calmly think of that]! [Isa. 9:7; Luke 1:32, 33; Gal. 3:16] 5 Let heaven (the angels) praise Your wonders, O Lord, Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones (the holy angels).”

We see that God will:

• Stand firmly with us,
• Support the congregation.

The second Hebrew word for steadfast [Job 11:15] is:

Strong’s Hebrew 3332: yatsaq (427a); a prim. root; to pour, cast, flow:— cast(14), casting(1), dished(1), firm(1), hard(2), hardens(1), molten(2), pour(14), poured(13), ran(1), set down(1), steadfast(1), washed away(1).

The full definition of yatsaq means:

• To pour out [molten],
• To place firmly,
• To cleave and grow fast [glue together].

Finally, let’s look at the word for “stand”.

_____________________________________
prim. primary, primitive
Strong’s Hebrew 5975: amad (763c); a prim. root; to take one’s stand, stand:—abiding(1), act(1), appoint(2), appointed(15), arise(11), arisen(1), arose(3), attend(1), attended(1), broke(1), changed(1), confirmed(2), continue(1), defend(2), delay(2), endure(5), endures(4), enduring(1), enter(1), entered(2), erected(1), establish(1), established(2), establishing(1), fixed(1), fulfill(1), gives stability(1), halt(1), halted(1), hung(6), join(1), last(1), living(1), make a stand(1), oppose(1), opposed(2), persists(1), place(1), placed(2), present(3), presented(1), presented(1), propped(2), quake(1), raise(2), raised(1), refrain(1), rely(1), remain(5), remained(4), remains(5), replaces(1), represent(1), resist(1), restore(2), restored(2), retains(1), rise(2), rose(1), serve(1), served(3), served(4), service(3), serving(1), set(12), sets(3), stand(121), stand still(1), standing(67), standing upright(2), stands(15), station(1), stationed(8), stay(8), stayed(2), staying(1), stood(110), stood firm(1), stood still(11), stop(3), stopped(9), survives(1), take a stand(1), take their stand(1), took his stand(1), took their stand(1), wait(1), waited(1), withstand(1), withstand(1), withstanding(1).

The full definition of amad means:

• To rise,
• To accomplish,
• To continue,
• To rise up [as on eagles’ wings].

Amad can therefore be said to mean to “rise up as a son or heir” or to be “ordained” as a son or heir.

All these Hebrew words carry the intent, purpose, and destiny of a father. They also bring the understanding that we must focus on our relationship as sons and daughters of a Father.

And so we start to see a clearer picture of Who God Is … A God Who:

• Pours Himself out for us,
• Cleaves to us until we have grown [closely knitted] together,

prim.primary, primitive
• Will build up our character and mental values,
• Will support us through every difficulty,
• Will raise you up to fly on eagles’ wings!

Do you have this Image of God imprinted in your spirit and your soul?

Or do you still have the vestiges of a Greco-Roman mindset, which says you must:

• Become holy,
• Pray,
• Fast,
• And so forth,

… in order to be loved by the Father, and stand steadfast.
You see the Covenantal lifestyle is:

- Relationship before obedience,
- Listening before doing,
- Reacting in God’s Ways before my own ego!

Being steadfast and faithful therefore comes a part of yours and mine nature when we:

- Accept that God is Good.
- Accept that God as our Stronger Partner, and will always do what He has promised.

A reality check … to keep our feet on the ground.

Abraham:

- Follows God,
- Moves to Canaan,
- Builds prayer altars over the length and breadth of the Land.

Yet ...

Abraham still arrives and lives through a famine notwithstanding God’s Promised Blessing.

Jacob:

- Meets God at the vision of the ladder,
- Builds an altar,
- Makes a covenantal promise after wrestling with God.

Yet ...
Jacob still arrives back in the Land of Blessing to live through a famine.

Abraham:

* Receives the promise of being a multitude of nations,
* Walks in obedience,

Yet …

Abraham still waits until he is very old before the promised son arrives.

Your circumstances may not look, feel, or taste like the prophetic promises and blessings you’ve been given. Your fellow believer may look and act like they are extremely and abundantly living in blessing. However …

Those who stand steadfast and faithful will know that:

* God is changing the infrastructure, climate, and culture of those around you so that His Plans can come into place.

Ruth … a steadfast woman.

Are you a Ruth-woman of God?

Ruth 1:18 “18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said no more.”

Ruth gives us the attribution of a woman of God. Her circumstances however, – at face value – certainly do not seem to reflect a child of the Kingdom of Light.

Remember – although a Moabite – she is adopted into the Kingdom of God when she willingly accepts the calling.
Ruth 1:16-17  "16 And Ruth said, Urge me not to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God.  17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts me from you."

And yet, as a child of the King of kings she lives in poverty, begging for a meal.

However, from within the spirit of Naomi she has heard and seen the promise of a Redeemer.

Notwithstanding all the hardship, Ruth:

• Listens to the quiet Voice of the Holy Spirit,
• Looks for the touch of a blessing from God,
• Lives, humbly, an obedient lifestyle of a Godly woman, honoring her mother Naomi.
Ruth was “determined to go”. Let’s have a look at this word “determined” in the original text.

**Strong’s Hebrew 553: amets (54d); a prim. root; to be stout, strong, bold, alert: — conquered(1), courageous(11), determined(1), harden(1), hardened(1), increases(1), made his obstinate(1), made firm(1), made haste(2), made strong(1), makes her strong(1), mighty(1), proved...strong(1), raises(1), strengthen(6), strengthened(3), strong(2), stronger(1), summon(1), supported(1), take courage(2).

The full definition of amets means:

- To be courageous,
- To be steadfastly minded,
- To fortify and strengthen oneself.

**Conclusion**

Paul tells us that we must “stand steadfast in faith”. The question that you need to ask yourself is this …

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*.prim.* primary, primitive
Do I try to build my faith through works of prayer, fasting, ministry, and so forth?

Or …

Do I strive for greater intimacy with my Father?

When you truly know your Father, you will live at peace in spite of – and in the midst of – every circumstance that prevails. Why?

Because you will know that Father God is changing the spiritual space and dimensions in the heaven above you as well as on earth. This is in fact a time:

• To meet God intimately in prayer as an act of worship to hear what He says,
• To study the Word [Torah] so that you will know God’s Character,
• Act on every action that God and the Holy Spirit reveals irrespective of the physical domain surrounding you,
• Enter into warfare to claim back your inheritance [like Isaac when he went to take the “stones” of circumstances out of his well of blessing].
As you grow deeper into an understanding and relationship of intimacy with Abba Father, you will put your faith in His Faithfulness and never be disappointed.

**Deuteronomy 7:9**  “9 Know, recognize, and understand therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, Who keeps covenant and steadfast love and mercy with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations,”

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**  “23 And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). 24 Faithful is He Who is calling you [to Himself] and utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it [fulfill His call by hallowing and keeping you].”

Shalom!