

Study on STANDING ON TWO SQUARE FEET
Follow-Up Questions on Sunday's Message
April 10, 2011

Psalms 24:3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, And has not sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

When do you think it will happen that anyone will be able to ascend the hill of the Lord, or to stand in His holy place?

What would be the pre-requisites to being able to do this?

The message this week was purposely filled with very much personal assessment and application. We were admonished to **Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong (I Cor. 16:13)**. There are three individuals in the NT who deals with our being on the alert. Who are they and why do they admonish us to do this?

What do you think it means to stand firm in the faith?

Romans 13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. 11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

One of the reasons we are to be on the alert is found in this passage. What is the reason?

How does Paul admonish us to act in this passage, and why?

We need to be on the alert against three enemies. What are the three enemies? And how do they work?

We were asked to remember the time when we first came to Christ, and to remember that faith is a free gift. **Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.** From that point in your life, what were you to do, and how were you to do it?

Ro 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. How is faith going to grow?

I Peter 2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all guile and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

What are we supposed to do in respect to the Word?

What salvation do you think Peter is talking about here, and why do you think so?

How will growth with respect to the salvation of the soul take place?

Just like a baby grows physically on mother's milk, gradually advancing to solid food, we are admonished to grow spiritually. Peter says here to long for the pure milk of the word so that we can grow. Paul also uses physical food to illustrate spiritual food. **1Co 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. 2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, 3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not mere men?**

What was the milk that Paul initially brought to the people at Corinth?

Why was Paul not able to give them solid food? What was the problem?

If you were to go on in the text in I Corinthians 3, what would you find out that 'solid food has to do with?

The writer of Hebrews also speaks of milk and meat. He writes: **Heb 5:11 Concerning him [Melchizedek] we have much to say, and [it is] hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes [only] of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.**

14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. How would things concerning Melchizedek have to do with the meat of the Word?

The one who partakes only of the milk is not able to do something. What is it and why?

So we see that milk has to do with growing up and the meat has to do with further growing up! (How do you say it differently than that?) So, why did you begin coming to Cornerstone? And why do you listen to the messages and come to Bible Studies?

Has growth taken place?

If we are to grow in our faith, what can we expect to happen?

From the recent series Pastor John has taught, we certainly have been well acquainted with the message concerning the need for the testing of our faith, haven't we? Why do you think we *need* to have our faith tested?

I Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. What comparison is made here?

Paul makes a similar comparison in II Corinthians chapter four, Paul where he writes: **Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.** (vv. 16-18)

What comparison is being made here?

How would our inner man be being renewed day by day?

Is there any other way to do this?

Where would we expect to come across trials and temptations?

And so, James tells us how we are to view these things. He writes — **James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.** So, all in all, how are we to look upon these trials/temptations?

God gives us an example of His hand connected with testing us in **Deuteronomy 8:16 “In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end...”** Why does God allow this, and how would it be good for us in the end?

We can know that God does not allow more than what we can handle. **I Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.**

What does it mean that He will provide a way of escape? What does it not mean?

In the message, we dealt with a couple brief scenes from the life of King David. Do you remember what we can learn from these two scenarios?

Then in Sunday's message, we looked at the remainder of the way James dealt with temptations, and the resultant testing with respect to our patiently enduring so that we can come to maturity. In fact in the midst of this, James says that we are not to be deceived about these things. **James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.**

Why can we not say that God is the One Who tempts us?

What does tempt us?

And what are the steps in sin coming to pass?

And what is the end to sin being fully accomplished?

How might we be deceived?

But rather than God being the One who tempts, what does He bestow upon us?

And what might the end result of this be?

All in all, what have you learned about standing on two square feet of ground?