

STANDING STRONG

THE CHALLENGE TO STANDING STRONG

- A. The negative pull
 - 1. Distractions - lots of options in life
 - 2. Disappointments - with other Christians/God
 - 3. Distresses - problems and pressures we all face
- B. The counteracting force **(1 Thessalonians 3:2-3a, 8 NIV)**
 - 1. People are used of God to strengthen and encourage our faith
 - 2. The end goal of strong faith is to stand strong in the Lord

FROM WEAKNESS TO STRENGTH

- A. The silence was telling **(1 Kings 18:21 NIV)**
 - 1. These people should have had an answer
- B. The altar of the Lord had been abandoned **(1 Kings 18:30 NIV)**
 - 1. Another sign that pointed to the nation not standing firm
- C. Their hearts did turn toward God **(1 Kings 18:36-40 NIV)**
 - 1. It took a miraculous sign to turn the people back
 - 2. But this time they got it right and spoke out - the Lord He is God
 - 3. They were willing to execute the false prophets

STANDING STRONG IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT

- A. Have an answer for the God question
 - 1. Don't go silent - we are believers **(Romans 10:10 NIV)**
 - 2. Affirm your faith, not your doubts
- B. Don't demand or wait for a sign
 - 1. Faith involves believing before seeing **(John 20:29 NIV)**
 - 2. And what signs have you already seen
- C. Don't be intimidated by the opposing voices in the world
 - 1. Our culture is becoming increasingly vocal in their disdain for God
 - 2. God's ways are different and higher **(1 Corinthians 1:21-25 NIV)**
- D. Build/repair your personal altar
 - 1. We are honoring and acknowledging God in our everyday lives