GROWING IN STABILITY #SermonStability Growing God's Way Part 11 Dr. Mark Jackson, November 12, 2017 2 Peter 14-18

1 Corinthians 15:58a Therefore, my dear brothers, **stand firm**. **Let nothing move you**. (NIV)

How To Be a Stable Christian

1. STAY MORALLY PURE (vs 14)

2 Peter 3:14 So then, dear friends, since you are <u>looking forward to this</u>, make every effort to <u>be found spotless</u>, <u>blameless</u> and <u>at peace with him</u>. (NIV)

James 5:8 ...stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. (NIV)

2. STAY BUSY WITNESSING (vs 15)

2 Peter 3:15 And remember, <u>the Lord's patience gives people time to be saved</u>. This is what our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom God gave him— (NLT)

Romans 2:4 God has been very kind to you, and he has been patient with you. God has been <u>waiting for you to change</u>. But you think nothing of his kindness. Perhaps you do not understand that God is kind to you so that you will <u>change your hearts and lives</u>. (ICB)

2 Corinthians 5:11 ...It's no light thing to know that we'll all one day stand in that place of Judgment. That's why we work urgently with everyone we meet to **get them ready to face God...** (MSG)

3. STAY IN THE SCRIPTURES (vs 16)

- **2 Peter 3:16** Sometimes there are things in <u>Paul's letters that are hard to understand</u>. And some people explain these things falsely. They are ignorant and weak in faith. They also <u>falsely explain the other Scriptures</u>. But they are destroying themselves by doing that. (ICB)
- **1 Corinthians 2:14** But the person who isn't a Christian can't understand and can't accept God's thoughts, which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in. (LB)

Hebrews 2:1 We must listen very carefully to the truths we have heard, or **we may drift away from them**. (LB)

4. STAY ON GUARD (vs 17)

- **2 Peter 3:17** You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, **be on guard** so that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and **lose your own stability**. (ESV)
- **1 Peter 5:8** Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. (CEV)
- **1 Corinthians 10:12** Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could <u>fall flat on your face</u> as easily as anyone else. <u>Forget about self-confidence</u>; it's useless. <u>Cultivate God-confidence</u>. (MSG)

5. STAY CLOSE TO JESUS (vs 18)

2 Peter 3:18 But <u>grow</u> in the <u>grace</u> and <u>knowledge</u> of our <u>Lord</u> and <u>Savior</u> Jesus Christ. To him be <u>glory</u> both now and forever! Amen. (NIV)

Colossians 2:7 Let your <u>roots grow down into Christ</u>, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will <u>grow strong in the truth</u> you were taught... (NLT)

James 4:8 <u>Come close to God</u>, and <u>God will come close to you</u>. <u>Wash your hands</u>, you sinners; <u>purify your hearts</u>, for your <u>loyalty is divided</u> between God and the world. (NLT)

John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can **come to the Father** except **through me**. (NLT)