WP-17 FAITH IN PRACTICE

A Fixed Heart: Standing Firm Through the Storms

STATEMENT

Storms come to everyone, believer or not. The difference is a fixed heart: a settled, deliberate trust in a specific promise of God that holds steady when circumstances do not.

Read time **4 min** Sources & resources **4** Series **Faith in Practice** Author **Lee Gregory**

01 ABSTRACT

Jesus ended the Sermon on the Mount with two houses facing the same storm. One stood and one fell, and the difference was not the weather but the foundation. This paper looks at why some people are tossed by every circumstance while others stand firm, and the practical steps Scripture gives for building a heart that is “fixed.”

02 TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE

Some people live as victims of circumstance. Asked how they are doing, they say, “Pretty good so far, but the day isn’t over yet.” Their faith is never spelled out, so they cannot tell whether God came through. When things go well they are happy; when they don’t, they lament.

Others have thought it through. They know where they are and where they are going, and they have a specific promise from Scripture to stand on. Even they can be overwhelmed when life moves too fast and they forget to stop and return to that promise.

Israel at Massah and Meribah is the warning: they “tested the LORD by saying, ‘Is the LORD here with us or not?’” (Exodus 17:7). God is God whether we are calm or panicking. Questioning His presence in every difficulty is what Scripture calls testing Him.

03 STORMS ARE CERTAIN

“Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock” (Matthew 7:25). Both houses got the storm. Notice the difference: the wise man “listens to my teaching and follows it” (7:24). Believing is not enough; acting is required. “Faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless” (James 2:17).

04 WHAT CHOKES IT OUT

In the parable of the sower, the Word is choked by “the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things” (Mark 4:19). This happens gradually, like the frog in slowly heating water. Guard what you watch, hear and allow to influence you: “pay close attention to what you hear” (Mark 4:24).

05 HOW TO FIX YOUR HEART

- **Choose your promise in advance.** Find the scripture that addresses your situation and settle on it.
- **Set your mind deliberately.** “Those who are dominated by the Spirit think about things that please the Spirit” (Romans 8:5).
- **Build reminders.** God built memorials into Israel’s life: the rainbow (Genesis 9:14–15), the Sabbath, Passover, tassels on clothing (Numbers 15:39), memorial stones from the Jordan (Joshua 4:6–7). Keep records of what God has done.
- **Praise before the victory.** Jehoshaphat, facing three armies, sent singers ahead of his army; “at the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the LORD caused the armies… to start fighting among themselves” (2 Chronicles 20:22).
- **Rely on His strength, not yours.** “The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness” (Romans 8:26).

06 SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT

OBSERVATION	DATA & SOURCE	CONFIDENCE
Storms come to everyone	Matthew 7:24–27. Matthew 7 ↗	HIGH
A fixed heart is not afraid	“They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the LORD to care for them. They are confident and fearless” (Psalm 112:7–8).	HIGH
Faith requires action	James 2:14–24; Abraham’s faith “made complete” by his actions (2:22).	HIGH
Worry chokes the Word	Mark 4:18–19; Matthew 6:25–34.	HIGH
God commands reminders	Genesis 9; Numbers 15:39; Joshua 4:6–7.	HIGH
James lived it	James, Jesus’ brother and author of the epistle, led the Jerusalem church and was martyred about AD 62 (Josephus, Antiquities 20.9.1).	MODERATE

High = directly measured, or stated plainly in the text. **Moderate** = well-supported, with recognized debate. **Interpretive** = consistent with the text, but depends on how the passage is read.

07 OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED

OBJECTION

If God is in control, my attitude doesn’t matter.

RESPONSE

God’s power does not change with our mood, but Scripture repeatedly links outcomes to whether people trusted and acted (Matthew 7:24–27; Hebrews 3:19). Our part is to stand on what He said.

OBJECTION

This sounds like positive thinking.

RESPONSE

Positive thinking trusts the mind. A fixed heart trusts a specific promise from God and acts on it, even when feelings say otherwise.

08 CONCLUSION

The storm is certain; the outcome is not. A heart fixed on a specific promise from God, guarded from worry, reminded of His past faithfulness and backed by action, stands when the storm hits. These truths matter to RG3 because they produce mature people and stable lives, and out of that ground a stable company is built.

> *“They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the LORD to care for them.” Psalm 112:7*

09 FURTHER RESOURCES

SCRIPTURE **Matthew 7:24–27: the wise and foolish builders** New Living Translation
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%207%3A24-27&version=NLT

SCRIPTURE **2 Chronicles 20: Jehoshaphat’s victory** New Living Translation
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Chronicles%2020&version=NLT

SCRIPTURE **James 1–2: trials, faith and action** New Living Translation
https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%201-2&version=NLT

Biblical Worldview White Paper Library