

Firm in Faith; Isaiah 7:7-9

I. Steadfast

- a. God admonishes us to be steadfast (firm in faith) often
- b. James 1:12 (ESV); Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.
- c. Hebrews 3:14 (ESV); For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.
- d. In a short 10 minutes I was able to find 33 times in the New Testament where we are encouraged to remain faithful – firm, steadfast (I'm sure there are more, I only looked up the words 'firm' and 'steadfast')

II. Ahaz

- a. Isaiah 7:1 (ESV); In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it.
- b. These two kings overlap by only two years – Ahaz began his reign over Judah in 732 BC and Pekah is killed by Hoshea in 731 BC
- c. 2 Kings 16:1–4 (ESV); ¹ In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign. ² Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God, as his father David had done, ³ but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. ⁴ And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.
- d. According to Coffman, all the kings of Judah had turned a blind eye to the licentious worship in the high places – until Ahaz
 - i. He was the first king to actually participate
 - ii. “Under every green tree”
 - iii. Jeremiah 3:6 (ESV); The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: “Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore?”
- e. Even though Ahaz was evil God had promised to keep a descendant of David on the throne of Judah
- f. God continually pleaded (through the prophets) with Israel and Judah, wanting them to return to Him – the One, True God
- g. Isaiah 7:3–6 (ESV); ³ And the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer’s Field. ⁴ And say to him, ‘Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, ⁶ “Let us go

up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,”

- h. If only Ahaz had heeded Isaiah’s (God’s) advice
- i. If only Ahaz had been steadfast, firm!

III. Immovable

- a. Being ‘firm in the faith’ is being immovable
- b. 1 Corinthians 15:54–58 (ESV); ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
- c. We sometimes equate the idea of being immovable with being stubborn or hardheaded
 - i. There are some things we should be stubborn and hardheaded (but loving and gentle) about
 - ii. Acts 4:11–12 (ESV); ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
 - iii. John 14:6 (ESV); Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
 - iv. “All roads lead to Rome” – that may be true of Rome, but not of Heaven!
- d. We sing a song, “I Shall Not Be Moved”
 - i. Some of the lyrics say, “Anchored in Jehovah,” “though all hell assail me,” “though the tempest rages”
 - ii. We sing, “like the tree that’s planted by the waters” over and over
 - iii. Yet, sometimes we allow the storms of life to move us – to remove our faith in Jesus even completely
 - iv. Matthew 16:26 (ESV); For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?
- e. No matter what Satan may throw at us we have to remain steadfast
- f. No matter what God puts in front of us we must remain steadfast (Abraham and Isaac Genesis 22:1)
- g. Revelation 2:10 (ESV); Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto (***even to the point of***) death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- h. “If you are not firm in the faith, you will not be firm at all” Isaiah 7:9b
 - i. God links this event with Ahaz, Syria, and Israel to the Cross
 - ii. Isaiah 7:10–14 (ESV); ¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear

then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

iii. Note that God is talking to a reprobate King who has burned his children to the false God, Molech – who has participated in licentious pagan worship with prostitutes

iv. God wants Ahaz back – God wants him to be ‘firm in the faith’

i. If we are not standing on a solid foundation, then we are in sinking sand

IV. Firm in the Faith

a. Build your house on the sand and be washed away by the world

b. Build your house on the rock and survive whatever comes your way