

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.

Pastor John Hicks
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"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30)

There's a common saying going around today, "If you don't stand for anything, then you will stand for nothing." The prophet Isaiah stated it this way, "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

Hearers must become doers. The faith we proclaim with our Sunday morning affirmations has to be evident in our Monday morning lives. Evil flourishes when the good do nothing.

"Theologian Martin Niemöller was imprisoned by the Nazis in 1937. He stated that when the Nazis attacked the Communists in 1933, he was a little uneasy, but he was not a Communist, and so he did nothing. They continued as other groups were targeted, but still he did nothing. And then they attacked the Church, and he was a Churchman, and he did something--but then it was too late."

In looking back over the experience, he composed the following poem: "They came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. And then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. And then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for me. And by that time there was no one left to speak up."

Evil flourishes when the good do nothing. If we do not stand firm in our faith, we will not stand at all.

In our confession of faith, we say, "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and I accept Him as Lord of my life." And when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We say all of these wonderful things, but what do with we do with them?

There's a big difference between what is going on out there and what should be going on out there. There's a big difference between what people are interested in and what they should be interested in.

The world's question is, "What is this world coming to?" The church's question is "What is coming to this world?" Will God's chosen instrument, the church, bring Christ to this coming world?

There are times when God meets our need to be comforted and strengthened. But there are also times when God knows that our greater need is to have our thinking challenged, our faith examined, our lifestyle called into question. A time when we are called to put our faith into action and stand in the gap.

Jesus doesn't call us to walk on water. He did that. Jesus doesn't call us to change water into wine. He did that. Jesus doesn't call us to multiply loaves and fishes. He did that.

Jesus does call us to believe in God. Jesus can't do that for us. Jesus does call us to trust God. Jesus can't do that for us. And Jesus does call us to love one another and stand firm in our faith and to make a difference.

Evil flourishes when the good do nothing. Hearers must at last become doers. The faith we proclaim on Sunday mornings has to be evident in our Monday morning lives.

Added note: On Saturday, March 21, we as a community will have a chance to stand and make a statement. People are encouraged to gather at 10:00 a.m. across from the old sub station at the corner of El Paso and Francisco in Clewiston, for a Unity March Against Violence. The plans are to march through several troubled neighborhoods and conclude with a rally at the Elk's park on Francisco. We love our community and want to claim it for the Light. This is one of several efforts to let certain elements know that we are not going to just sit by and let them corrupt our youth. Join us!
