

## STAND UP TO SELF!

“Only be strong and very courageous” (Joshua 1:7). Courage is a requirement for every day that you live. Once that reality is faced, you can start taking overcoming stands. Jesus said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.” I heard someone say, “That someone called ‘I’ must die!”

A major stand that you take in life is to stand up to self; not let self have its way, but go God’s way. I have told college students that you do not have to go trying to find yourself; self will hunt you down and destroy you.

Part of the standing up to self and denying it is standing up to your own mind and then not letting it go its own way...racing to think what it thinks on, imagining vain things and encounters with people. We are to have the mind of the Spirit, which is life and peace not the mind of the flesh which is death (Romans 8:6). Having the mind of the Spirit means the Holy Spirit leads/originates our thoughts and we think according to the Nature of the Holy Spirit, not according to the nature of the flesh. The mind tries to be lord; let it know Jesus is Lord! “And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2a). Ephesians 4:23 in the Greek says to be renewed, you Spirit your mind (as opposed to fleshing it, lusting it). Colossians 3:2 says for us to set our mind on things above.

After courageously standing up to self, which includes standing up to your own mind, you are then prepared to courageously live family life in love, then courageously interact outside the family.

Get life working in you and your family, then transport it to others.

Bottom line: Stand up, by grace with courage, to whatever tries to keep God’s intended goodness from you.