

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

09/30/12 - Standing In Sufferings

RG AUDIO 093012

1 Peter 5:1-11

In contests of strength, the "last man standing . . ." is always victorious! On the banks of the Red Sea, Moses encouraged the Israelites to "Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring . . ." (Exod. 14:13b) In the Hebrew Psalter we read ". . . he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand" (Ps. 40:2b).

C. S. Lewis writes: "Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is . . . You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later . . . We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because he was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means?the only complete realist."*

Only in Christ are we able to "Resist [the devil], standing firm in the faith," because Christ Jesus is Alpha-Omega, the "last man standing"(Col. 1:15b).

*C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, (San Francisco: Harper Books, 2001)