

Paul writes in his letter to Timothy: “The Lord stood by me and gave me strength.” This is quite a testimony on Paul’s part. Paul has been through enormous sufferings, setbacks, and humiliations. He’s been imprisoned, beaten, and struggled throughout his life with a “thorn in the flesh.” It is a proclamation of faith for him to state: “The Lord stood by me and gave me strength.”

All of us present today have had times of joy and sorrow; happiness and heart-break; success and failure. We’ve known victories and defeats; pleasures and pains; had confidence and struggled with confusion. By the grace of God, we are ~~today~~^{here}. Can we, like Paul, proclaim: “The Lord stood by me and gave me strength?”

As members of the human family, we were created to be with one another. We can’t make it through life all on our own. It is worthwhile to be aware of the people who assist us to make it through our day: the ones who acknowledge us, greet us, inquire as to our well-being, share themselves with us. Through them the Lord stands by us. Through them, the Lord gives us strength.

This week, before we go to sleep at night, consider how the Lord touched us and blest us during the day. Offer a prayer of gratitude from our heart. Our prayer can be as simple as Paul’s proclamation: Thank you, Lord, for standing by me and giving me strength.