

**Standing Firm Discussion Guide**  
**Change Factor - Lesson 1**  
**(September 8, 2024)**

This study guide is based on the message that is available on YouTube.

**Opening Discussion:** Share a letter or email you received that encouraged your faith.

**Dive Deeper:**

1. Read Colossians 1:1-8. Who wrote the Book of Colossians, and to whom was this letter initially written? How are these brothers and sisters in Christ described in verse 2? How would you define a faithful believer?
2. What is the Good News, and who brought it to the Colossians? What impact did this one person's witness have on this town? Discuss what prevents believers of our day from sharing the gospel, which can also impact an entire community.
3. What was the result of the Good News, according to verse 6? How has the message of Jesus transformed your purpose, self-centeredness, behavior, and ability to love? Share how your spiritual transformation has produced fruits, such as peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.
4. In verses 3-4, what motivates Paul to be grateful to God regarding the believers in Colosse? How have you been blessed by other believers' love and faith? Share practical and creative ways you can share your God-given love.
5. Read Galatians 5:22, Romans 5:5, and Colossians 1:8, and discuss our source for genuine love. How do these verses encourage you to call on the Holy Spirit to help you love people, including the difficult? Read 1 John 4:19 and Luke 6:32, and discuss how love isn't just a warm emotion but an obedient attitude.
6. With the Colossians as our example, how can our church family be inviting and loving to the people that visit or attend our services? Share how you are personally willing to express God's love to those that enter our church doors. How can our sincere gestures fulfill our church's mission statement: To make it easy for people to **know** Christ, **grow** with friends, and **impact** the world?

**Encouragement:** The power of the Good News not only transforms individual lives but communities, countries, and the world. Be obedient, go, share, and impact your world.

**Application:** How will you apply Sunday's message and this discussion to your life?