how to stand victorious before god one day

(Revelation 14:1-5)

Revelation 14:1-5 Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. 3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

*Runner﻿’s World* magazine[[1]](#footnote-1) told the story of Beth Anne DeCiantis﻿’s attempt to qualify for the 1992 Olympic Trials marathon. A female runner must complete the 26.2-mile race in less than two hours, forty-five minutes to compete at the Olympic Trials.

DeCiantis started strong but began having trouble around mile 23. She reached the final straightaway with just two minutes left to qualify. Two hundred yards from the finish, she stumbled and fell. Dazed, she stayed down for twenty seconds. The clock was ticking—less than a minute to go.

DeCiantis staggered to her feet and began walking. Five yards short of the finish, with ten seconds to go, she fell again. She began to crawl, the crowd cheering her on, and crossed the finish line on her hands and knees. Her time? Two hours, 44 minutes, 57 seconds.

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I love stories like that. Most of us have never run in a marathon but we all know that it is a very difficult race to accomplish. There are all kinds of things that can happen along the 26-mile long course that can knock you out of the race. It’s very grueling and there is really no guarantee that even if you are feeling good ten miles into the race, that you will be feeling good when you get to mile number 20.

Another thing is that, unlike Beth DeCiantis, many people who stumble in marathons do not get up. Sometimes they are injured and sometimes they are simply exhausted. The bad thing about stumbling in a marathon is that it not only can keep you from winning the gold medal, sometimes it can even prevent you from finishing at all.

Just before the Apostle Paul’s was martyred, he said he had fought a good fight, finished his race, and kept the faith and that his reward from God was waiting for him. The same is true of this group of believers we have read about in our text this morning. Look at Rev 14:5 again. It tells that these Tribulation believers:

…are **without fault** before the throne of God…

How did they accomplish that? How did they keep from stumbling?

That’s what I would like to speak to you about for just a few minutes this morning.

**Title:** How toStand Victorious Before God One Day (Prayer)

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The 144,000 will share the good news of salvation by faith alone in Christ alone during the most awful period of time the world will ever experience---the last 3.5 years of the Tribulation which Jesus called “Great Tribulation.” The Man of Sin will control the world and no one will be able to buy or sell without his mark. God’s people will be hunted down and killed. This is Revelation 13.

But then in chapter 14, John has an entirely different vision.

---144,000 standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion. (Christ is now on earth standing in the very place where He will rule over the earth for 1000 years. And all 144,000 of His faithful servants from the Tribulation Period are there with Him. The Father’s name is written on their forheads (marking them off as His faithful servants) and, according to v. 5, they stand faultless (or, without spot) before God’s throne.

**“Nobodies” before men will be “somebodies” before God.**

(Comments) The **servant** is greatest! Well done, good and faithful **servant!**

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In his vision, John not only sees these faithful servants with Christ in Jerusalem, but he also hears really loud noises coming from heaven. And he hears people in heaven playing musical instruments and singing: Notice v. 3:

Revelation 14:3 They sang as it were a new song before the throne … and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Notice that the only ones who could understand this song were the 144,000. Because they had lived a very dedicated life before God on earth, God lets them in on something that no one was privy to. And this brings us to the next point here:

When we “make music” for God down here, God will “make music” for us up there!

In other words, in eternity, God will bless his **faithful** servants with access to blessings and pleasures that others will not experience.

Psalm 16:10 says:

…in Your presence is fullness of joy; **at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Satan will give you pleasure “**for a season**.” At God’s right hand are pleasures that last **forever**!

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Now, in vv. 4-5, John tells us why God rewarded these people so greatly.

## A. They didn’t wallow in the mud of this present world

4a These are the ones who were **not defiled** with women, for they are virgins.

(Not literal, but symbolically). Virginity symbolized personal purity. (Comments)

## B. They followed Christ faithfully

4b These are the ones **who follow the Lamb wherever He goes**. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

**C. They spoke the truth to others, not lies**

5 And in their mouth was found **no deceit**, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

They spoke the truth of God’s Word to others and were honest people as well. Thus….they were…

**Without fault =** without spot,unblemished (Christ was an unblemished, sinless sacrifice)

We can’t be perfect, obviously, but we can stand before God with a very rewardable life---without fault before the throne of God.

“Bob, you said that you were going to give us a promise from God that will help us accomplish this.”

Jude 24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and **to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy**, 25 to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Keep you from stumbling = into *major* moral or doctrinal failure.

This gives us hope. Because of this promise we can **KNOW** that God can enable us to remain true to Him until the day that we see Him. We don’t have to make a mess of our lives morally or doctrinally.

Now this verse does ***not***say that God will keep all believers from ever stumbling. It says that He is *able* to do this. But we must ask Him for it and live by faith.

Folks, we know from the Bible that God in His wisdom is allowing our world to go down the tubes. And in the days to come before the return of Christ, we shouldn’t expect things to get easier. BUT, we must never forget thatno matter how bad circumstances become on planet earth,

God is able to keep his “runners” from stumbling and to present them faultless before His throne!

**Illustration:** An old pastor told the following story to a young man who was getting ready to start a life of service to God. He said,

"When my son was small, we often walked together out through the fields and neighboring pasture behind the parsonage. At first the little fellow would hold onto my little finger, but he found that when he stepped into a hoof-print or stumbled over something, his grip would fail and down he'd go in the dust or snow. Not giving it much thought, my mind on other matters, I'd stop and he'd get up, brush himself off, and grab my little finger again, gripping a little harder this time.

 "Needless to say, this occurred frequently until one day as he was brushing himself off, he looked at me and said, 'Daddy?' I replied, 'Yes, Son, what is it?' He said, I think if you would hold my hand, I wouldn't fall.'

We don’t have to go through life wondering if we can finish well. We have his Word that He will “hold our hand” if we will ask Him---in other words---He will give us the strength we need no matter how difficult life becomes. One day, the 144,000 will stand victorious with the Lamb—**and so can we**!

And no matter how difficult life gets, and no matter how dark the world around us becomes, His promise remains the same---**He is able to keep to keep you from stumbling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy!**

1. 08-1991 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)