

Student Activity

Franz Wohlfahrt: Standing Firm in Faith

Name _____

In 1944, at a time when Franz was certain he was about to be executed, he wrote a poem titled, “In My Faith I Will Always Stand Firm.” His poem allows us a rare glimpse into his faith and his attitude as he approached what he thought was the end of his life when he was only twenty-four years old.

In small groups, read his poem and then discuss and rank the events from Franz’s testimony (1-8, 1 being most severe) to reflect some of the difficulties and/or risks of his standing firm. Members in the group may also offer additional examples to be added to the list. Then in your small groups, answer the discussion questions below.

“In My Faith I Will Always Stand Firm”

In my faith, I will always stand firm,
Though this world may taunt and cry,
In my hope, I will always stand firm,
For a beautiful, better time.

In my love, I will always stand firm,
Though this world repays with hate,
Devoted, I will always stand firm,
Though this world disloyal stays.

From God’s Word, flows the might of the strong,
And the weak ones it powerful makes,
In God’s grace, I will always stand firm,
On my own, I could never remain.

With my life, I will even stand firm,
And as I my last breath confer,
You should with that dying gasp hear:
I stand firm, I stand firm, (I stand firm.)

--Franz Wohlfahrt, 1944

- _____ Refusing to wear a military uniform or do military drills at work camp (circa spring 1940)
- _____ Refusing to salute Hitler or offer the “*Heil, Hitler*” greeting (circa spring 1938)
- _____ Continuing to work despite painful gangrene infection at labor camp in Germany (circa 1942-1943)
- _____ Witnessing with his father door to door as a teenager (circa early 1930s)
- _____ Maintaining religious beliefs after the execution of his father, Gregor (circa winter 1939)
- _____ Witnessing to fellow prisoners and guards despite being forbidden to do so (1941-1945)
- _____ Being baptized into the Jehovah’s Witness faith despite persecution and a government ban (circa summer 1939)
- _____ Dodging bombs from frequent Allied air raids over his labor camp (circa 1945)

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Discussion Questions

1. After reading Franz's poem, what impressions do you have of his state of mind when he wrote it? Do you think he was experiencing conflicting emotions? Why or why not? Which of the lines support your perception?
2. In your opinion, which lines have the most emotional power? Why?
3. Which three events in his life did your group decide would be the most difficult in which to "stand firm" in faith? Why?
4. Describe a time in your own life when you maintained a belief or principle even though you may have suffered ridicule or hostility as a result. Alternately, envision a situation in which you hope you would "stand firm" despite the consequences.