

Persevere to the End, Pt. 4

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Today, we're meeting in the Netherlands, and normally this area of the world would be watching last Sabbath's sermon that was given in the US. That was *Part 3*, which you'll be listening to later on. It's a sermon series we're going to continue on, *Persevere to the End*, and this is going to be *Part 4*. And it won't affect your ability to follow the sermon series at all because that part we went through last week over there, it can be fit in anywhere and still be a part of this particular subject, persevere to the end.

So, every year around this time of year, I don't know if for sure it comes into your mind, but it comes into my mind, especially as we get closer to the Last Great Day. Every year, we know that there are going to be fewer people than we had the year before, as a whole. Because people aren't being called at this time, at the end-time here, like it had been in times past, for a purpose and a reason, in how God works with us. And yet every year, people quit, people go off to do something else, or have to be disfellowshipped because of not living true before God.

So, anyway, that's a hard thing to go through, a difficult thing to go through, and it gets old. I guess that's a good way of putting it. Of people you've known for so long, in many cases, sometimes not that long, but nevertheless, it hurts inside. And hate to see people making those choices. But that's what's kind of sobering about this series, is that it is an individual choice. And the reality is, when it's all said and done, as well, not everyone is going to choose God, not everyone is going to choose this way of life, not everyone is going to want it. And it's kind of hard to imagine that even though they are told and know that the choice is actually death, that's what they choose, knowing what's coming, or at least what's being told to them.

Because it's going to be kind of hard once you're resurrected, you're living life a second time, and you realize that this isn't normal, that you have a second life in a totally different kind of world, and yet it's told to you that you have a choice to make now. And so many are not going to choose this way of life. That's, to me, kind of a mind-boggling thing, to think that the human mind can be that way.

And yet, we should be able to learn that by looking at the world today to see how the world is. There is just a lot of insanity in the human mind sometimes, in different people's lives and what they choose to live, what they want to live, and they really don't care about anything else except the way they see it, the way they want to live it.

And again, it's a choice. Not one that God wants anyone to make, not one that any of us, once we get to know someone, that we want them to make. We want them to stay together. We want people to choose this way, to hold on to it and fight for it. Because it is a fight, and it'll be a fight in the Great White Throne as well.

So, going through this subject here, persevere to the end, because that's what it's about. It's not partway, it's not being baptized, and then at some point, something else in the world becomes more important to us. It's a matter of a personal conviction; if everyone has it, if we all choose that, that we want God's way of life, that we realize how awesomely blessed we are and what lies ahead forever, forevermore.

I know we can't grasp that fully. But to recognize or to know that we have a choice of life and continuing on if we choose God's way of life and not our own way of doing things, God will bless us in ways that we can't even begin to imagine. And anyway, why people would choose to go against that is a little mind-boggling, hard to understand. You really can't understand it.

It's like people trying to understand things that happen in people's lives. They get psychologists and different ones to examine someone's life, why did they do this, why did they do that, why did they make such insane choices? And the reality is, there is no soundness in that kind of life. So, to try to understand why they might have made those choices or when they made them when they were younger or as they got older is immaterial. It doesn't do any good because you can't change that mind. Only God can by their own choice. Incredible.

That's why I've always been dumbfounded by people who want to understand people on death row and people who have murdered others or murdered a lot of people. And you think... And they want to understand, "Well, how did this happen? Why did they...? What happened in their life? What happened at their home, or whatever, to create this?" You think, they had choices. A lot of people have different kinds of lives and hard lives, but they make different choices. Amazing.

Let's turn over to Isaiah 44. Last week, in *Part 3*, when we went through some of the life of Hezekiah, even though we'd covered some of that before recently, we went on and looked into some other parts of his life that has to do with this particular subject of persevering, living what God has given to us. But persevering also includes, and with the definition, "holding fast," holding fast to what we have. You can't let go. Holding fast means that. You don't let go; you hold on to something. And that's what we have to do; you have to battle to the end. It's a lifelong battle.

Isaiah 44:1—Yet now hear, Jacob, or listen, more appropriately here, **My servant, Israel, whom I chose**. So again here, what an incredible thing that God gave a name that pictures something in the future. So, He called an individual, worked with an individual that He was going to give the name of Israel to, and because of what it means. So, there are those things throughout the Old Testament that to me are incredibly inspiring sometimes, as you dig deeper into them or as God reveals them to us, of what they really picture in His plan and His purpose.

And so, this was for a physical fulfillment in the beginning, the nation of Israel, the one God was going to work with as a physical people. But we know that that didn't produce what God intends to produce in

time. It's a spiritual Israel. And so, God gave that name, which is "Israel," which is "God strives/perseveres," is what that means. And we have to as well. It shows what we have to do.

God has persevered for a long, long time. He doesn't quit. He continues on, holds on to His plan and purpose, and brings it to pass. Incredible!

So, it says, "Listen, Jacob, My servant, Israel, whom I chose." What an awesome thing that God chooses us. We don't know why. Each one of us, we have no idea why God chose me, you, whomever, and we can look at others and think – because I have in times past, especially in the beginning of my calling – whether it be different family members or different ones that I have known and thinking of their makeup, their minds, their life, and think, "But why me?" And I think a large part of that sometimes is because we know ourselves, we know what's in us, we know our thinking, depending on what you were called out of.

Anyway, so God says, "Whom I chose." **This is what the Eternal says, the one who made you and formed you from the womb and will help you.** So, God has given that in life, the ability. All life is given by God. And so, God has given that ability, but there are times, too, that God has a hand in certain things that He brings about that we will learn more about as time goes on.

But when it says, "formed you in the womb and will help you" – very unique. There are things about life itself, the formation of life in the womb, that God knows in such intricate ways of the kind of person, even, in that case, when He intervenes to do something on a special plane like this, that this person is going to have certain qualities and characteristics that He's going to work with in a unique way. Awesome! Just like it talks about King David.

Do not fear, Jacob, My servant; Jeshurun, which means "upright one," **whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on whoever is thirsty.** Hebrew. "On the thirsty one" is what the Hebrew word is here. But again, something we can learn from. Are we thirsty? Do we want to drink in God's way of life? That's up to each individual. We have to make those choices.

And floods on the dry land. So, God gives physical examples of things to show His great power of what He can pour out upon us, like a physical flood. And that's what it's going to be like, in example here, God's spirit that can work in our life. Powerful, mighty, to accomplish what He wills if we yield to it.

Because what is happening in our lives, in our minds, and our minds being transformed, I hope you're in awe of your life and the fact that God Almighty is working in your mind. He's given you a part of His very being in the mind to help change the way we think. That's a miracle. That's an incredible thing that's taking place. Because I don't want to be the way I have been in times past. I don't want to be selfish. I don't want to have "lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life" at all. I so look forward to the time that that doesn't exist anymore. Awesome! That we can get rid of that and have right minds

toward one another, strong minds toward one another in everything we think and everything we say, being for one another, having God's kind of love toward one another.

That's what it's about, having peace. Because that's what produces peace, having a right mind toward one another. The reason there isn't peace, whether it be in families or in communities or in nations, is because of that mind and not being right toward others, not thinking right toward others. Because people care more about themselves and what they want to get or get from someone. Horrible, human nature. It really is. And we just have to come to hate it.

And an incredible thing of how it works in us, the more we see what we are – it's kind of a dangerous thing in some ways, but it's not; it depends on how we use it – we can begin to see it in people, because we see it up here. There are things we can see in the nature of other people that they don't see. You know, God has to reveal those things to us. People don't see themselves for what they are, for who they are. And yet God shows us who we are, and as we begin to see that and the spirit that's there, we see it in the world and we see it in life and we see it has to be gotten rid of because it creates every misery, every drama, every hurt, every pain. What an incredible world when that can begin to be gotten rid of and we can have peace, Jerusalem. That's what God's desire is for His Family.

I will pour My spirit on your offspring, and My blessing on your produce. So, He's telling him what He will give, and those who are able to become a part of Israel, especially spiritual Israel, and the blessings that God says will follow even on offspring in their life. They're going to have opportunities. And whether it be now or in the future, whether it be in the Millennium or the Great White Throne, that's already a part of God's purpose and God's plan.

...My blessing on your produce. They will spring up among the grass like willows by streams of water. But that's only if they make that choice. But as far as God is concerned, it's already before them, it's before all mankind. But not everyone wants it, and not everyone will choose it.

John 7. Always boils down to whether somebody really wants God and wants what He has revealed to them. Once truth begins to be revealed, it's a choice. Do you want this? How much? Are you set on it? Is your mind set on it? Are you ready to fight for it until it's at the end in the sense of human life?

John 7:37—In that day, the great day of the Feast, Joshua stood and declared, saying... So, in that last day. So, you think of the last day of the Feast, and here He's going to speak, and yet you think about a story like this in the midst of the subject matter of what we're covering, it says a lot. Because He knew what the Last Great Day was about. People at that time really didn't. They didn't grasp everything at all by any measure. There were a lot of things that were revealed later on, especially in the book of Revelation, things that would happen toward the end and what would happen in the future, although there are things in the Old Testament. But He began to give certain truth, understanding.

Says, **If anyone thirsts, let them come unto Me and drink.** So, we can only really do that once we're called. People don't just make that choice in the world.

I think of what we saw, at least in the States last week, when an individual was shot, and a huge stadium filled with people that have a traditional type of belief (traditional Christianity), and yet not understanding what it's all about, what's going to take place, what's going to happen. They haven't been given that yet. And that's a toughie because you realize not everyone is really going to choose it once they're given it.

Because people live other things in this life, but when God reveals His way, it's very hard for the human mind sometimes to acknowledge "I've been wrong. I've misunderstood almost everything that's been taught to me about Christ, about God's plan, and God's purpose." And this choice then of putting out of the mind, no longer want to be a part of Easter, no longer wanting to be a part of Christmas, no longer wanting those things in my mind, no longer wanting this feel-good type of religion in the sense of having to build yourself up mentally to hold on to something, but something that is genuine and true because of God's holy spirit.

That's a vast chasm of difference, and it's hard for people, even sometimes in God's Church, to grasp that, to grasp what God has given to us that the world just doesn't have. And that not all are going to choose it. That's something that, in the last several years, God has been showing more and more.

That Last Great Day and what happens at the end of it is not a small thing. Billions, billions of people out of all time who will not choose and want God? You can't understand that kind of thinking, that kind of a mind. And refuse what God has offered? Why?

So, they've become satisfied with that physical life, and if this is all there is, they're going to live it their way. Amazing!

If anyone thirst, let them come to Me and drink. And that's a choice we have to make on a continuing basis. How do you do that? It's by wanting this way. You persevere and do the things that God says because you want this way of life, and you know you can't do it on your ability and your own power, so you know that you have to look to God and cry out to God for help. You need His holy spirit!

Just because we've been impregnated with it, all the more so we need that constant flow of God's spirit in the mind to be able to hold on to what God has given to us. Because, it's not that hard; I've seen far too much of it within the environment of the Church. Far more have left than ever been called. Incredible amount of people. And by certain choices. Incredible that that happens.

Whoever believes on Me or into or unto Me... It's believing who He is. You know, as I've been writing this last book here, that's been pounded home even more so than ever before, of what that kind of terminology means, what it means in the world of traditional Christianity, and what they're taught, and then the truth. And it really goes back to, to believe unto Christ, to believe in a Joshua, the first thing is

the first thing He came to do, to die, to be our Passover. That's where it all begins. And that's what it means to "believe unto Him." It's to believe He is our Passover. And yet, some of these things are throughout scripture, but the world would rather hold on to Easter, even in traditional Christianity. You think...

Things are black and white there, but you know, the mind just can't see it fully unless God gives them help. That's an awesome thing to understand, what you've been given.

Whoever believes on Me or unto Me, as the scripture has said, out of their inwards shall flow rivers of living water. So, what an incredible thing that God says we're going to be able to receive of that holy spirit and it's going to be able to flow out in our life. How? By how we respond to God, by how we strive to change and start to obey and live His way of life and continually doing that as we grow, seeking to obey Him, seeking to live His way of life, striving to make sure that we're not sinning, that we're not being pulled into the world, that we're being pulled away from God.

Because everyone who has ever left, they have been pulled away from God by their own choices, because they let up, they quit praying, they quit seeking God's holy spirit. That's a guarantee. They begin to let down. They're not asking for help every day, for God's holy spirit to be in them because they knew they needed help spiritually. They quit doing that at some point. They quit crying out in belief. They might have prayed, said something in passing, something they want, and their mind is on physical things more than spiritual, but to do it in spirit and truth, to cry out to God because "I know I need help every day to fight this mind and to fight the pulls of this world and to be strong in spirit because I can't do it on my own."

We should be believers of that in a very powerful way, to realize if we're not doing what we need to be doing on a daily basis? "Give us this day our daily bread." And yet people focus more on the physical and making a scene at a restaurant or whatever, and everybody holding hands and praying because they're going to thank God for their daily bread. And that's not what it's about! It's about what is spiritual – that we need to be fed daily spiritually. And that's crying out to God because we need help. That's what it's about. It's not about the physical food!

We get caught up in things and don't understand what Christ is saying. But in the Church, we should understand that powerfully so. God wants it to be in spirit and in truth from in here, in our minds, from our heart, genuine before Him that we want Him, we want that power, we want that life living in us, and we know we need help, that's why we pray. We're to pray every day.

If someone is not praying every day, you're on dangerous ground. You truly are. You're not relying on God; you're relying on yourself. You don't fully believe yet how much you need God.

It doesn't have to be long, long prayers. But to go before God on basic things? We should be able to do that. We should see that we need to do that. Because you can't live this on your own. You can't

persevere on your own. Everyone who's left has begun to let down spiritually in that regard first because they become weaker, things in the world become more important. Perhaps someone, obviously, the opposite sex (nowadays, you never know), and that kind of thing going on, or it's money, or it's working on Saturday, or it's working on Friday after sunset, because people become more consumed with wanting more, not understanding this life goes by so fast.

Is this all you want? You just want what God has given to us in this physical life, and knowing that's going to be it? And then the Great White Throne, and likely to make the same decisions again, especially if you've been in the environment of the Church.

Which brings up a very important thing. To really understand what one has done when they are separated from God, as far as the Church is concerned, in disfellowshippment, to be separated from God's spirit, to understand what it means, a person has gone that far for that to have to be done means they've turned their back on Christ.

To become antiChrist? That's a horrible choice. After He died for us so we could be put under the water, so that we could come back out of the water, be forgiven of all past sin, and then from then on every day, if need be, whatever it is in life, to be forgiven of sin. To go before God and ask to be forgiven of sin through our Passover, Joshua, the Christ, so that God the Father will continue to dwell in us, so that Joshua will continue to dwell in us, so we can continue in the Church, in the Body of Christ.

Because that's what that's about. We want them to be in us so we can grow spiritually, so we can continue in the Body of Christ, the Church of God, and not be separated from it. Because to be separated from it means we are separated from Christ and from God. It's a simple thing, but it's a horrifying thing. And yet every year. Know of a situation right now, that if somebody doesn't come clean, doesn't get their life together, they're going to be gone shortly.

Think, what a horrible thing to have been around the Church for so long and then to get caught up in carnal, physical things that can pull you away from the truth. What a horrible choice. When in reality, we should be fighting against things that we see are sin or that can pull us away or pulling at us even. Because we want to hold fast, because we want to persevere, because we want the name, Israel, to be a part of spiritual... to be in Elohim, to be in God's Family.

So, seems like sometimes it doesn't take very long, even after the Feast, this one's gone, that one's gone. Why such choices?

So, it's an admonition to us before the Feast to consider some of these things. Because I'll tell you, if you're watching the news on a regular basis whatsoever, this world is in huge trouble. To see what China is doing? I mean, generals, different ones are coming right out and saying they know they're planning for war. They know they are. Look at what they're building and the amount of money they're putting into it, and everything that they can, they're putting into strategies.

Read another one here the other day about some strategies they have for nuclear war, and it's insane, some of the things they're all planning. And yet, if anyone doesn't see what's coming, it's just a matter of time. The economy of the world, things are in a bigger lie today than they were in 2008. Because what led up to 2008, people were living in a big lie, and it finally came to a point where they couldn't push the lie anymore, and it came crashing down on the whole world.

What they're holding back now and what they're doing now in financial markets, some of the same kind of stuff that was happening back then, but now it's so much greater, so much... In so many other areas of economies and corporations, and it's just holding on by a thread. It really is. The economy of the world is just holding on by a thread. And that thread is being held up by God because it's not going to snap until the other part snaps, and it all snaps together, same time this time, when this world begins to go under, war breaks out.

Think of what's happening in Israel itself and them becoming more isolated. And only because of one other country and one other leader right now that's showing them some help, favor, if you will, to give them a greater boldness to do what they're doing. And yet the world is turning against them more and more. And you think, we live in insane times. But this is leading into greater war.

You think of Syria and Türkiye now getting together more, and you look at Syria and think of what they've done and the person there leading all this and the games that people are playing. I don't know about you, but all these things just make me so sick. What's happening with Russia and Ukraine, it should just make you so sick that human beings are like this, and knowing what's coming. Because Putin isn't going to let down. He's pressing it right now in every area he can to see what the reaction is going to be. And they pretty much know what the reaction is and the games that people play. And when that day comes, powerful.

North Korea, all the nuclear weapons that they now believe that they actually have, the ability, if they don't already have them. And now, with ballistic missiles that they're testing to reach anywhere that they really want to reach? You get a nation like that? Crazy.

So, why anyone would give up this close blows my mind. And yet I thought about some of those things as well in the sense of thinking, why would ... why would some still come to the point, right up to the time of Christ's coming, of turning away from this way of life? And yet I know that's going to happen because God's given that very clearly so. And it's easier to see now because it's easy for the human mind to begin to blame God. "Well, I didn't know it was going to be this bad! I didn't know it was going to be this hard. I can't believe what I've been told." You think people can't change, twirl around on a dime like that? Of course, over here it's got to be something else, isn't it? Ten Euros? What do you call a "dime" over here? Do you have such a thing as ten cents in Euros? Okay. I don't know. We have the expression in the states of turning quickly on a dime. Whatever. It's a fast turn.

But how some could do that to the very end in God's Church? Boggles my mind. You're almost there! He's almost to return, and you're going to throw it all away now? Crazy.

Verse 39—Now, this He spoke of the spirit, which all who believe unto Him should receive; for the holy spirit had not yet been given, because Joshua had not yet been glorified. So again, this matter of being thirsty, this matter of a desire to drink in of God's way of life, the power that's there that God gives us through the holy spirit—only to His people—is a very powerful thing. But we have to want it.

Sometimes, it seems like it can be so difficult because of the drama that is in life, and sometimes our own lives, if we're not careful. The drama that enters into it can kind of blind us; it becomes foggy, and the harder to see how blessed we really are, how much God has really given to us. To whether we see what He's given us in the mind is a matter of riches to us more than anything in this world, more than anything physically in this world as far as riches is concerned.

You know, they had a lottery in the US here recently, was almost up to one and a half billion dollars. I don't know how many got it. Sometimes it's two or three that get it on the same day, and then they have to split it up. That's a shame. No, just kidding. That's what they think, "Could have had the whole thing." And you think that's what riches are to people, it's physical things, wealth, whatever it might be. And yet, what God has given to us is so much greater if we can see it that way, if we believe it that way, that this is what's valuable, what's in here, what He's given to us, His way of life, His truth that we don't want to let go because we value it.

And if you value something, well, that's what it's all about. It's the value you place on it more than other things. If the value is greater on something else, it's not so hard to leave God's Church. It happens every year. Choices, choices; and only we can make those choices.

So, God's blessed us mightily, that we be blessed to even carry the name Israel on a spiritual plane, to know what that's leading to, to becoming part of Elohim. So, God has given us names. He gives us things like this for a purpose that we hold on to because He wants us to hold on to this way. He wants us to embrace it with all of our being.

Anyway, God's Holy Days reveal a spiritual journey that we go through from Passover, as we're getting close to now going through Atonement, on into the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day, an incredible plan. 7,100 years of time. It's not a whole lot in God's plan. Not a whole lot. Seems like it to us sometimes. Seems like seventy years might be a long time if you're in your thirties or your forties, or maybe even your fifties. But time goes on. You know what, you get there, and you realize there's not a lot left.

Puts a good perspective on things if you can think that way when you're younger, to realize this life goes by pretty fast. What's the most valuable thing you can have in it? What's the most valuable thing you can

have after it's all over with? Because everything you build up, everything you do in life, it's going to be gone except for what God gives us. That continues on. That's what we take with us, what's up here.

Let's turn over to Galatians 6.

So, all this entirety of all the Holy Days, God has given to us an outline; He's given to us a blueprint of what we can live by and follow and keep our focus on. That's why God has us focus on the Holy Days as He does every year, once a year, every Holy Day, because they help us to keep focused on what He's doing that we can be a part of, that we can share in. And it's a part of realizing you want to keep persevering one year to another. You get to the Last Great Day, and you look forward to the next one. You keep going.

Galatians 6:15—For in Christ Joshua neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. So again here, especially with Paul and some of the early apostles, if you will, the things they had to deal with. Especially Paul, because he had to deal with this matter of the Jews coming into his area, some who were already there, actually, and some becoming a part of the Church at different times, being called, and then gentiles as well, larger mass groups of gentiles being called into that mix.

But there was always that element of this matter of something that is physical that they upheld to be so important in their lives if they were a Jew, and that was circumcision. And yet God revealed to Paul that no, it's about the heart. It's about this. And again, that's a spiritual matter, and it reveals whether someone is of a spiritual mind to receive what He had to say or not.

And so, He's telling them here, neither one—neither one—whether it's circumcision or uncircumcision, they avail nothing. But a new creation, that's what it's all about, of what God offers to us, a creation that takes place in the mind. That's something that has always inspired me, been rather amazing to understand, that God has been creating since the very beginning. It didn't stop. You know, the world, especially traditional Christianity or different ones, if they believe in creation week and any of that at all, then they believe it ended, you know, it's over with, creation. And yet, it was just beginning because it's about a spiritual creation. It's about God's Family.

And so, that's why God put the earth here and put it back in a certain way at that particular time before He created Adam and Eve. And then He created them, and then started with one of their sons. God began a creation in him, in the mind. Incredible! And it's been going on ever since, different ones who have been called to have this creation take place in the mind. Because that's the purpose of all creation, to become a part of Elohim, and it starts here in the mind.

And so, over the past 6,000 years, God has been calling people, drawing people to Him to work with, to perform a spiritual creation that takes time. It can't be done in a week or two weeks or a month or a year. It's for a long time that God's spirit, the impregnation of His spirit, has to work within the mind and the spirit that's already here by our choice on a continuing basis because it's a matter of repentance and

change and growth and seeing ourselves and wanting God's way of life, and making those choices constantly so that this can change.

Through the power of God's spirit, the mind becomes more at one, in agreement with God over time. We grow spiritually. And it takes a long time for that creation to become complete to where God, in essence, can seal it; it's sealed, it can continue on in physical life, but it gets to a point where God says, "Now, I know you," and you're set as far as the mind is concerned and you can be in His Family after you're dead, that that's already settled. That's happened throughout time, six thousand years. There are those it's completed in their mind and their being, and then when they die, it's an absolute surety that they're in God's Kingdom, in Elohim, will be when they're resurrected. And so, everyone who has ever been called has that opportunity, that ability to share in that. And so, He says, "a new creation."

Now, as many as walk according to this rule... It's absolute, the process, the way it's accomplished, what God is doing according to a new creation that He is...in what He's doing in the minds of different ones who are called.

...peace and mercy unto them, and upon the Israel of God. So, it reveals here even more so that this is who... It's not talking about a physical nation. It's talking about a spiritual one. It's talking about this new creation and the Israel of God, that God is creating a spiritual Israel, a family. This is just one of many names. God has given different names. Whether it be Mount Zion, whether it be Jerusalem, whether it be whatever, different things that are there, but all a part, in that respect, of what is reflected by Elohim, by God's Family.

Let's turn over to Hebrews 3. So, all who walk in what God is creating are spoken of in this manner because of what He's creating, again, in spiritual Israel, in God's making of His creating.

Hebrews 3:6. So again here, talking about persevering means "holding fast" as I mentioned at the beginning of this particular sermon series, this sermon today in *Part 4* here.

Hebrews 3:6—but Christ as a Son over His own house... So again here, it's talking about Him being High Priest, it's talking about Him being Messiah, Him being the King of kings. When it speaks of the King of kings, it's something that's yet to come to this earth. He hasn't fulfilled that part yet. He's going to. So, He'll be the King of many kings. Not of the world. Not physical kings in different countries and so forth, it's talking about the God Family. He will be the King of kings.

So, **Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast.** So again, it's a choice to hold fast. Or do we play around with the world? Do we play around with becoming lax and letting down and becoming lukewarm and being Laodicean, in that respect, as far as the spirit is concerned? Because all seven of those Church areas, their attitudes, there are things that are reflected in them, ways of thinking, ways of responding to God, and that is one of many that should be one of the greatest lessons

of all, that you can't coast, you can't let down. You can't fall asleep. Because that's not acceptable to God.

You have to be desirous and on fire for His way of life. There needs to be some spark in there. And if we're not on fire, what are we? If we're not on fire for God's way of life? What does it mean when the fire begins to go out? And you look at the coals or whatever of wood in a campfire, and it's about to go out, you're going to have to put some more on it. You have to keep the fire going. There are things we have to do to keep the fire going. And that's up to us, our choices. And that's a matter of a relationship with God if we grasp it.

...but Christ is a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope. So, these are beautiful scriptures if we see them spiritually; they really are, in what they're saying. We hold fast to a confidence that God gives to us. He says you can have confidence, you can have confidence in what you're doing, you can have confidence in the fact you're overcoming and growing, you can have confidence in the fact that when you sin and you go before God and ask for forgiveness, it's gone. He doesn't beat you over the head with it. He doesn't want you to go back to it the next day either. But if you did, if something happened and you were weak and you're still fighting a particular fight and you repent again, you can have a confidence there in a relationship with God because you've chosen Him, you want His way of life, you want His help, and you keep fighting and you're determined to fight until it's conquered, God forgives. Awesome!

So, a confidence in so many things that we can have, in who we are, that we are God's Family, that we are God's children, that we do have the truth. I feel sorry for people who get to a point where they don't know if it's the truth anymore. Well, what do you believe? Do you believe that there was an apostasy? I think of all those who were scattered, all those who are in different organizations. To not, after a certain length of time, come to a point where you could say, yes, we can look at this and see there was an apostasy.

That doesn't require God's spirit fully, truly. If you've had the truth and you know the truth, knew the truth, and you knew there was going to be an apostasy, and you see the Church broken up in the manner that it is and no longer working toward this hundred... That's why they got away from this 144,000. There are certain things you had to get away from, you couldn't teach anymore. Because if you really believed that anymore, you realized...

In the way it was believed. Because before it was believed it had to be at a particular time in the end-time, there had to be 144,000 who were in the Church. That's what it was about. And then a great multitude of many others through time or whatever, or, I guess, people coming in at the end, whatever it was that was there. We didn't know yet. We didn't grasp it yet what God was telling us about those things. And so, if people really believe that they ought to know if they only have a few thousand, you

know, ten thousand, eight thousand, six thousand, what happened to the Church? We had an apostasy. That really isn't rocket science. Anyway, God's people should have known better. Truly.

...rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. So again, choices, choices, choices. This is a good definition of persevere, holding fast a confidence we have the truth. And the only way you can continue to believe the truth and hold on to it is through God's spirit, because you can lose it just like that and be gone. You can actually go so far that you end up writing a book that's absolutely insane, demonic in every way. How can anyone in God's Church go that way? And yet I've seen so many who have gone the way of a demonic world who have left God's Church. That's something to be afraid of, to be fearful of. That that could happen? Who would want that? You give your mind over to demonic beings and not to God? Horrifying that someone in God's Church could do something like that, who's left.

But that's the danger of leaving God's Church, people's minds are no longer blessed and protected and helped by God's spirit. God doesn't hear them anymore. Because what is inside is not God anymore. And those are simple things to grasp and understand.

And again, I've known so many in the time I've been in God's Church who have gone absolutely nuts, haywire, lost their minds. I mean, have lost their minds. Get emails every once in a while (it's too often as far as I'm concerned), from an individual who could hardly write a coherent sentence because the mind jumps from one thing to another. Insanity, things that happen to the mind.

There are spirit beings out there that are demented, Satan being the main one, and then all the others, some of them... So, in thinking he is able to plan certain strategies and so forth, able to do various things, and he is an incredible being in that respect, in a sick way, as far as power and ability, having lost anything to do with God a long, long time ago, obviously. But those minds are out there, and they want to see you fail. They want to see...

And so, once you're cut off from God's spirit, God's favor, and God's protection, that's a horrible state to be in. I've seen people turn to all kinds of things that are wacko, wacky in belief after they are gone from God's Church. Sometimes, before they've left, and that's part of the reason they're gone. But anyway. You start messing around with different things in a spirit world, and people in God's Church ought to know better than that, that you don't mess with things in a spirit world, meaning a demonic spirit world, because you can literally lose your mind.

And you think, and where are they going to be in the Great White Throne? Well, if they're resurrected, they've lost their mind, and it doesn't just automatically come back. It doesn't automatically come back to what it was long before, before they made their stupid mistakes, because they perverted their own mind. Whatever mind you have when you die is the mind you have when you're resurrected. If you're in God's Family and you're sealed, that's awesome; you're going to be in Elohim. But if not, where is that mind? Exactly where it is when it dies.

What a horrible thing to take place in people's lives, to make such choices and not understand the consequences of wrong choices. It's such a simple thing in life. Everything has consequences. Choices always have consequences. They can be good, or they can be bad. And so often we see then, obviously, in the world, they are bad, bad consequences, bad results, bad things happen. But it shouldn't in God's Church.

That's why I hate to see people make those choices and leave or have to be put out. It's very unpleasant having to tell someone, "You're no longer a part of the family of God. You're no longer a part of the Church. You can't return. You can't have fellowship." Most don't care.

Thankfully, some repent and get a hold of their life. That's an awesome thing when that happens. That's happened more in the last ten years than I've ever seen it in God's Church any time before. Usually, when someone is gone, they are gone for good.

Hebrews 3:12, dropping down a little bit. **Take heed, brethren...** "Take heed." That's a stern warning. It's like to be careful, more than just to be careful. **Take heed, brethren, unless there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief.** Can that happen? That's what happens. That's exactly what happens when someone gets to that point. They've gotten to a part in their life where they don't believe the way they did before.

Somewhere along the line, they begin to lose their belief of what was true. Somewhere, they began, little bit by little bit, to question, to have doubts about, whatever that might be, about what they believed. And if they could have one area, like one that's been a stumbling block for a lot of people who left, the ordination of women. And if they can find fault with that and say, "Well, that can't be of God, that can't be right, because this is what this says and this is what that says," and they don't have a belief and understanding of where we are now at the end of six thousand years and how God reveals things to the Church in the first place.

And if that's gone, then it's easy to begin looking at...well, another truth begins to be questioned, "Well, what about that one?" Even maybe just not a whole lot of thought given to it, but after a while, you get to where you really don't believe different things. And after a while, you can literally lose it all to where you don't believe the Sabbath. I mean, how insane is that? To where you don't even believe the Sabbath or the Holy Days anymore. So, how far can a mind go once it's been in God's Church? All the way – all the way away from God.

So, God says, inspired Paul to write, "Take heed, brethren, unless there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief." Because not to believe what God has sacrificed to give to us, what Christ sacrificed to give to us, to turn against that after we've had our minds opened up to see it and to know it and to believe it, holding on to it, and now all of a sudden coming to a point where it begins to go, God says it's an evil heart. There is evil that's entered into the mind, the thinking, and the heart.

...in departing from the living God. And that is a horrifying thing, to depart from the living God. Once you've received the impregnation of God's holy spirit and you make certain choices, that's a horrific thing. I think there's been too much in times past where people have felt like, well, they can repent later on: "Maybe when Christ is coming, then I'll see it and believe it," or "In the Great White Throne, when I'm resurrected, then, then I'll be able to get back to this." But for right now, there is something else they want or have chosen.

The mind can think that way, which is insanity. It's not sound. It's not true. Because it doesn't work that way, because you can sear your own conscience, you can sear your own mind. And that's the danger of it. That's why this belief that most people are going to be saved during the Great White Throne is absolutely not true. Because in times past, in the Church, we've kind of had that kind of belief – universal salvation, almost – that everyone who is resurrected is going to choose God, you know, or can change, or... No, they won't want to. They're not going to choose to do so.

And that, maybe, is a hard thing to grasp, but I'll tell you what, it's not hard for me anymore to believe that with all my being because I've seen over and over again what the human mind can do in an environment where people know the truth and then, in time, turn away from it. And just because it's the Millennium, and just because Christ is on earth and the 144,000, doesn't mean people are going to choose it or want it. You'd think everybody would. Not true. Not even during the Millennium. Not everyone is going to choose this way of life. Going to be a lot, not a few, but a lot who don't.

And that's a hard thing, it really is. And it just boils down to each one of us then realizing, "I'm responsible for this. How much do I want it? Do I cry out to God for it?" And if we do, God will bless us and help us through the entire journey. Awesome. But you've got to want it, you've got to value it, you've got to treasure it above everything and everyone else. God is first. Awesome!

...unless there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, departing from the living God. But, it says "exhort one another daily." That's an awkward translation. So, people get this wrong idea of people going out here and exhorting each other, not understanding what it's really talking about. It's an awkward translation. We are not able to exhort one another daily in this context and by definition. The word is most often translated as "to beseech," or a form of it. And the term "one another" is not really used like this at all, but it's more about ourselves.

That's how the word and the phrase here is really to be translated. It's about ourselves and what we are to do. We don't have a job going out exhorting other people. Instead, God says, we have a job of taking care of this, this, making sure that we're exhorting this, looking in the mirror, and making sure that we are striving to do what God says and live by what God has given to us.

So, this indeed needs to be far more accurately translated as **But yourselves beseech daily**, you know, to receive from God exhortation, if you will, the truth. It's about ourselves beseeching. Just like I've asked

here, "Beseech who?" Again, the context is about God, about beseeching God because you want this way of life, you want this to change.

So, it's more about what we're doing here because this is the only thing you have control over. You don't have control over other people. You can try to be a right example, and that's the best thing to do in helping other people and encouraging when people are having a difficult time or struggle, or whatever it might be, and being there for them. Sometimes, you don't even know what to say.

Reminds me of talking to David Conley here recently. When you're on a bed like that and you've been there for weeks in a hospital and you don't know, life and death is staring you in the face, which one is it going to be, it's a tough thing. Been there, done that, don't like it. It's not a pleasant thing. But it's a reality, and we all have to do that some time as time goes on, except for those who get changed in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. They got it made.

But to go through the process of getting older and getting weaker, or different things happening, or accidents, or illness of some sort. And then talking to him and basically getting to a point, even to Shelley, saying, "You know, I don't even have words to express. I don't know fully what to say." But it's the fact that you're there, that you show concern, that counts, and people receive that. But that's a hard thing in life, you know. That's what we can do, we can be there for one another. And that says it in many respects. And if someone is close to you in an area, in a vicinity, and you're able to do that, then indeed, strive to do that by all means.

But again, here, this matter of trying to exhort someone else to do something different or change something, it's kind of misused in that regard.

So again here, it's about each one of us and how we respond to God and how much we want God's way of life and how much we're fighting for it, that we're beseeching Him daily. That's what we should do daily, beseeching God daily. And if we're not doing that, it's said over and over again, especially throughout the New Testament if we can see it, it's there, every day to desire God, to want God, to want what God's given to us, to realize, to hold on to this, to persevere to the end we have to have help. And we need Him every day.

So again, **verse 12**, reading it as it is, **Take heed, brethren, unless there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God, but yourselves beseech**, in context here, **God**. "But yourselves beseech God," if you will. **...while it's called today, unless otherwise any of you become hardened through the deceitfulness of sin**. Because that's what happens. If we're not beseeching God daily, if we're not striving to draw closer to God daily, if we're not fighting this battle daily and talking to God about it and letting Him know... He knows already that you need His help, but you have to ask for it. He doesn't just give it out because "I know they know that. But you know what, they're not doing it. And if they're not doing it, I can't give it to them." Because it's a part of believing the process and how it works as well in obeying God.

Because Christ told us, He gave us in essence a commandment to do that about prayer and about prayer life, about looking to God and realizing there is no other way to have that kind of strength except through that process. And if God's been patient with you and merciful to you and you've missed a lot in times past, now is the time to correct it, now is the time to change, now is the time to address it, and to realize the kind of dangerous times that are in this world.

Because there is greater power, that there are, certain beings have and will be given as this comes to an end. They're let loose. They're already out there, but when they have ability to do war, which is what it's talking about in Revelation and so forth, this matter of being kept back as Satan and the demonic world is, from exercising certain power, it's just like the different revivals, when it's time, they're given that ability.

And there is a lot of evidence, in essence, that they're out there already, the demonic world and things that they're doing. And Satan is going to have more power as well when we come to that specific point in time of certain things that are going to be done, when we get up to a certain Trumpet. He's going to be given a lot more power to influence and bring to pass things that are prophesied concerning Europe and concerning the United States, and so forth.

But to understand in the midst of all that, even though it's happening in a physical world, they hate you. They hate God's Church. They hate God's people. And we're not going to go down, in essence, or we're not going to go through this totally unscathed, if you understand what I'm saying. You are going to have to look to God for help and be closer to God than you've ever been in the sense of desirous for protection, for help, for favor. But it is a matter of being strong in God's spirit. It's a matter of being close to God on a daily basis because you need His help. This is just a forewarning of things that are getting ready to happen, and we need to be ready for it, okay, on a spiritual plane.

God gives us a lot of protection, and has for a long time, but this, this is a moment in time, if you will, that is like a testing, a trying that's going to take place, even in the environment of God's Church, and it's on a spiritual plane. We need to be close to God; we need to be crying out to God for His help and His protection from that world. I hope you do that on a regular basis, to ask for protection for yourself and for others in the Church, to be protected from that particular part of the world, the spirit world. Because the more powerful they become in what they're doing now and are going to continue to be given more power to do later on, means that if we're not close to God, they have more power to come at us as well. Okay? I hope you understand what I'm saying. It's a power on a spirit plane that's being allowed for them to have for a time, and we're part of that target.

It's not just what's happening in the world. God's people are part of that target. But you have nothing to worry about if you're close to God. You have nothing, in that respect, to fear if you're close to God. And you need to have that in your mind as well; God is the one who protects us from that power. "Because

greater is He that's in us than he that's in the world," speaking of that demonic world and of Satan himself.

And so, if God is strong in us because we're praying daily, because we're crying out for God daily because we recognize the danger of this world and what's coming and what's transpiring now and what's going to continue to come at us, then we're smart, we're wise because we're practicing what God has shown us, and we'll go through it very well.

But if we're lingering out here and not fully convicted of such things, we can become an easier prey for those beings. Because they haven't yet been given their max power for what's going to take place at the end here.

But yourselves beseech while it is called today. And when is today? Huh. It's every day. Every day! What was that crazy song we were listening to yesterday? We heard on the way down there, it was something about "Yesterday... Yesterday is worse than..." "Today is worse than yesterday." Anyway, it was a goofy Irish song. And you think, what a horrible outlook on life, "Today is worse than yesterday." And you think, you didn't get very far. But with God, it can be the reverse of that, "This day is better than yesterday." Each day is supposed to get better.

So, "But yourselves beseech God while it's called today," while you're still alive, while you're still able to do what you need to do.

Oh, and I thought I'd mention too. Kind of passed it up about Dave Conley. He had the two valves replaced and is recovering, it seems like, fairly rapidly right now. They got him up already, pretty fast there, and he's been able to walk a little bit. And he's been down for so long that that's a tough thing to go through, when your body, your muscles... It takes time to get strength back, even there. But he was so depleted because of his kidneys and what happened there, and then the water around the heart and the liquid they had to take off, and then finally two valves being replaced, and now being able to start moving around and so forth. Awesome. So, humbling. Didn't want to leave that out in the air here without at least mentioning it.

Anyway, again here, it goes on, **unless any of you become hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.** So again, keeping close to God, otherwise it can come at us, and this spirit world can come at us. And we've had a long period of time where that spirit world hasn't been doing that. It had a heyday at one point, and that was during the Apostasy and after. Powerful, what took place, that had been prepared for years to get to that point, and then what took place then. But they've been fairly quiet in one regard, especially within God's Church. But you have to be on your toes spiritually.

For we are made partakers of Christ. Right along with Christ. That's something hard to grasp. Inheritors with Christ. To understand scriptures like that and what it means? The universe. I can't comprehend it, but I know it's true. There is so much there, so much to be done, so much to accomplish that's going to

be exciting, fulfilling, awesome, that we can't even begin to grasp it all. But to begin to seek some of it? To me, it's exciting.

For we are made partakers of Christ... To receive, to be molded and fashioned, to be created after that likeness, to be in Elohim as well. **...if we hold...** Or the word "hold fast", that's what it's about. **...hold on to the beginning of our confidence...** "The beginning of our confidence." So, what an incredible thing, God takes us back to when our minds were opened up, to when we're able to be baptized, when we came to that point, and although we grow a lot more in what we're able to perceive and see, there is that confidence and boldness that oftentimes right in the beginning, especially in the first year or so, that's very strong. That's why it talks about that first love and making sure we never lose that.

...the beginning of our confidence steadfast, meaning "secure, firm" **unto the end.** Again, a good definition of perseverance, holding on steadfast until the end.

So, I think of the warnings that follow what was given concerning the Apostasy to the Church, and how we in PKG, just talking about that a moment ago, then, and thinking about the ones who are following that period of time. And such warnings should be in our heart even that much more, if you would.

Let's go back there and read some of that. 2 Thessalonians 2. So, there are those who have gone through it, who were called out of Worldwide, able to continue on or from that period of time, I should say, and others who have come in, obviously, since that time. And it's one of the most incredible lessons that will ever be taught throughout the Millennium, and the Great White Throne, is what happened to God's Church, people who were impregnated with God's spirit, what happened during that period of time leading up to the Millennium, toward the very end, and toward the very end of an era that God allowed to take place, an apostasy in the Church. Incredible!

And you know, God let that happen to try people, to test people, to see what people's choices were, to see what people would choose, to show what happens to a large group of people, that can happen to anyone if we let down, if we begin to coast, if we begin to think we're doing okay and not realizing, no, we need to continue to battle, we need to continue to fight. There is a lot... No matter where we are in our growth, there is much to be changed. Because it's a matter of growth. It's a matter of continuing growth. And you can't get to a point where you just get to a certain point and that's it. It doesn't work that way on a spiritual plane.

2 Thessalonians 2:1—Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Joshua, the Christ, and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ has come. So, over and over again here, it's talking about looking to that period of time.

I think of the prophets and what things that they wrote. "They looked for a City whose builder and maker was God." Different ones, Abraham, and different ones they talk about, and yet they all had that

same spirit and attitude of a desire to see what God was bringing to pass, going to bring in time. They believed in a resurrection to life again. And yet to understand all the details of it like we do because of what God has given us in the outline or the blueprint of the Holy Days.

We've been so blessed since Herbert Armstrong's time and on up because those things were planted in him, if you will, given through him about the Holy Days, that he began to work with the Church and teach the Church in ways that they really didn't have in the beginning. They didn't have it to the same degree. They couldn't see and grasp and comprehend the things to the same level as what has been given toward the end. And reasons for that, obviously. I think of the book of Revelation, hadn't been written yet, and other books, even as time went on, to give more understanding before the book of Revelation.

But again, how blessed we are that all that has come together at a time because we're there, because we're at a time He's about to come. And so, all this is in that context about Joshua, the Christ, coming and being blessed to write this in a certain way because they didn't know if it was then in their time. Because he was giving them an outline, "You're going to know when that time is." And basically, "We don't know what it is, but this is what's going to take place in God's Church."

Let no one deceive you by any means; for, basically, talking about that day will not come... for unless the falling away, the apostasy, comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. What an amazing thing to have this written so long ago by Paul. God gave him the mind, the blessing of seeing what needed to be written, what needed to be told to the Church. Not for that time, but for our time, that we're the ones who would be called 1,900 plus years later—incredible—who would live through this.

...the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped. So again, we're to receive from this exactly what happened, and understand it. People in God's Church who turned against God, people in God's Church who wanted something different, who wanted to change things to be more like the world.

There were some under him, his own son included, who didn't like being different, who didn't like to stand out as being different from traditional Christianity and the rest of the world around them. He wanted to be more like that. He wanted to be more in line with them so they didn't look weird. Well, what is your definition of weird? I don't feel like we're weird. I feel like we're awesomely blessed, a special people, a unique people before God that He's called. He tells us that. We are a special people, a special priesthood, a holy priesthood, all of us that are part of the Body of Christ.

And yet, if you begin leaning toward certain friendships in the world and you get to know certain ones in the world and you begin to want what they have so that you're not looked at as being different, what happens? The Apostasy. Because that's what they wanted. They wanted teachings that went along with the world. No longer seeing what Herbert Armstrong had given. They preferred to go back to an

observance of Easter, Christmas, keeping of Sunday. We should be dumbfounded that that even could have happened in any fashion or form. But we lived through it.

Thousands and thousands and thousands of people in God's Church embraced that, overnight in some cases. In some cases, in a few hours on the phone with Joe Jr.. That's all it took some ministers, three or four hours on the phone with Joe Jr.

I've mentioned this many times, of one individual who was traveling from one area to another to serve. I believe he was being transferred into another region, so he stayed that night with us on the way over. The next, was it the next day, or two days later, called us back and talking to us, I didn't know him. I didn't know him. He wasn't the man I knew. A minister that we had been together with in Pennsylvania, and here... And he stayed in our home, a couple of days earlier, whatever the time was before he got on the phone with...

And he explained that he had this conversation with Joe Jr.. And I think he was on the phone for three to four hours or whatever, and all these new things he received. Totally... Sunday, Easter, all the doctrines of traditional Christianity, basically. And it's like, "But if you want to keep the Sabbath, that's okay, as that day, every day, is a good day to worship God." That's the reasoning that came back: every day is a good day to worship God, but we're going to do it on Sunday. Well, why are you doing that if every day is okay? Why don't you just start something new and do it on Wednesday! I'm just kidding.

Anyway, the mind and what happens to the human mind in the thinking. But it's an experience you can't forget. I see his face, and I think, "What happened to you? Talked to you two days before this," whatever it was, "we sat together in the house eating. Two days later, I don't know you. I have never known you, evidently." Well, we did. But it was a choice.

And you think, that's why we ought to have a measure of fear about being separated from God, of being separated from Christ at any moment in time, every day, today—today and every day—because if something can happen that fast from a demonic world... Because they're the ones who were over this. They're the ones who pushed it even more.

But each person made their own choice. But they were so weak they couldn't hold up against it. That's why it happened, because he was so weak on a spiritual plane those beings were able to work with him through an individual in California over the telephone, and that kind of reasoning and thinking, and all of a sudden, that power working on him as well in his mind, and he succumbed to it. He gave in to it. He embraced it, and he believed it, and threw all the other beliefs he ever had away. How do you do that?

Now, that should scare the you-know-what out of you, just to be quite blunt. That's why I'm talking about that which is coming. If you're not close to God? And that can happen right up to the return of Christ, that if you're not close to God and those beings are there, it can happen to you. If you're not looking to God, if you're not truthful with God, if you're not at one with God, if you're not persevering to

the end, if you're not seeking this way of life, if you're not holding fast to what God has given to you, the same thing on a spiritual plane can happen to you as happened to that man. You can lose it in three hours. And all of a sudden, your mind can believe something totally foreign, what you were called out of.

You think that can't happen? It happened over and over and over and over again in God's Church during a month or two there, where minister after minister did exactly the same thing, began to listen to that stupidity from headquarters, and began to play around with it. You cannot reason, and you shouldn't get into such thinking and conversations with others anyway. That kind of power and that kind of reasoning with someone of such a mind, if you're weak...

And if you're weak, that was your choice. I hope we all understand that. If we're weak at any moment in time spiritually, that was our individual choice to allow it to happen. Only you can choose God. Only you can choose to pray to God every day and put Him first and ask for help. If you're not asking for help every day, you're walking on dangerous ground in the Church at the end of this age. Because God doesn't owe it to anyone to receive protection. If our choice isn't God and God first, and we're doing what we're told we should be doing, that's our choice to obey or not to obey.

My hope is that everyone will obey. But you know what, I know it's not going to be that way. God has already revealed that. All the way up to the time of Christ's coming. And who do you think is going to have the great power in accomplishing some of that? The demonic world. Because individuals have let down, because someone isn't doing what they should be doing, they're not looking to God.

And you'd think, of all times, if you see the world crumbling around you, that you're for sure going to be praying more and every day at that time, you're going to be looking to God for His holy spirit to be dwelling within you. But the truth is, that's not the case. Because if you don't do it now, just because something is happening in the world doesn't mean you're going to be doing it then in spirit and in truth. And that's what's required. Just calling it like it is. It should shake us up a little bit if we're not doing what we should be doing. We should be repenting then.

That means you're going before God and repenting and saying, "God, forgive me, because I haven't been coming to You every day, because I haven't been crying out to You for Your holy spirit every day, because I haven't been asking You every day to help me to conquer the sin in my life, the selfishness that's in my life." Because it's in every one of us. And so, we have to ask for help to fight against it, and we have to ask God for help of His holy spirit because we don't want to be cut off or to become weak in it at all in any fashion or form, especially not now.

Because we live in some of the most dangerous times that this world will ever see. I hope you understand that! We live in the most dangerous time. Yes, on a physical plane, but they are spirit beings, and they know what God has said, that they're about to be, this time, put away for a thousand plus years beyond that, to not be in the presence of mankind at all. And do you think they believe God at this point in time? God has always done what He said He's going to do, and so there are certain things they know

about God. But they keep fighting, and they keep fighting against Him. And they're going to keep fighting now.

But there are certain things they have up here that they're tormented by. It's a torment to them, especially to Satan. So, don't think they're not going to try to come at God's people. Because they are. Forewarning. But nothing to fear at all if you're crying out to God every day, because you determined a long time ago (and if you haven't then, you better now), God is first. That's our choice.

Anyway, I may or may not come back to this in the final sermon, but we're going to go ahead and quit there.

But I think of the Apostasy oftentimes, not every day, but when I get into a subject like this, it comes to mind because you think of what happened then and how quickly things happened. Of what can happen to individuals who have been impregnated with God's spirit ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty years and more in God's Church. Some who have taught God's way as ministers ten, twenty, thirty, forty years plus, who became weak, who allowed themselves, in that respect, not to be looking to God, not crying out to God, not crying out for His holy spirit, and in a few hours lost control of their minds. Awesome. Horrifying that such a thing can happen.

So, we have to be on guard. That's what it means to be on guard, to be alert, and to understand the times we live in. And that's why God's letting us know the times we're living in, that things are getting closer and closer. And when they erupt, it's a spirit world that's heading it, the whole thing, and much of it is going to try to come at us, but we don't have to worry if we're close to God.