



**Title: Becoming a Spiritual Man**

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## Preface

Those who are spiritual, hunger and thirst for the truth. They want to be sure God is for them and not against them in everything they do. For such a person the Bible becomes his number one resource. On the other hand the natural man hardly thinks of God at all. Maybe he'll devote one hour on Sunday morning to God, but that is it. He seldom or never refers to the Bible for guidance in his individual life.

The different outcomes for these two life outlooks, over time is extreme: salvation or damnation. One's basic life assumption concerning the existence of God is critical to how one looks at the world and interprets everything he sees. Such different assumptions concerning this key reality are why two people can see or hear the same thing, and form such starkly different interpretations. A wrong decision early in life, no matter how good one's intentions; can have disastrous consequences when one reaches the end of life on earth.

Minor course corrections are pointless when one is walking the wrong path. Such a walker will never reach his final goal unless he insures the path he is on is going to the right destination. Scripture tells us most of humanity is on the wrong path (**Matthew 7:13-14**). Do you really believe this? How can this be unless there is a real devil out to destroy us all with carefully crafted deceptions. Isn't this what we see in the world? The growing division is alarming. It can only lead to mayhem and destruction. Each side, so convinced they are right and others are wrong.

**Proverbs 21:2** tells us, *"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."* In my younger days the average person left his parent's home feeling a sense of excitement to be finally on his own. I am sure this excitement for many was mixed with varying degrees of anxiety. But even a few years back if one diligently applied himself during his school years he could expect to secure a job, fall into a certain routine of growing achievement, and start adding to his responsibilities as he developed confidence. This no longer seems to be the case with many starting out in these last days.

No matter the start somewhere along the path of time, most reach a sort of invisible wall where even the most gifted stall in their forward movement in spite of the success. Some call this wall a mid-life crisis. At some point most realize something is seriously wrong with their life. And it is if God is not central. A mid-life crisis for a successful man without God is actually a blessing in disguise if he turns to God.

Deep down in one's soul, everyone knows God exists; no matter how much he has denied or buried this reality over time. For most, God becomes irrelevant quite early in life due to the

many distractions that exist in this generation. Scripture tells us those who reject God are without excuse (**Romans 1:20**). The world, the flesh and the devil work hard to condition us all to accept a natural, secular world view which relegates God at most to a little time on Sunday if He figures into one's schedule at all. The majority of us go our own way doing what is wise in our own eyes. This is folly if the Bible is to be believed.

God allows us in our personal journey to reach a point where our growing unhappiness with the way things are hopefully causes us to wake up to the divine reality of His existence. That growing desperation in the soul of one that knows not God is there to tell us there is much more to life than we have experienced without Him. This point of desperation is being reached much sooner for this last generation to give all a chance as the world rushes toward judgment. Humanity is racing toward the end of the age. Most look to men for the answers to their needs not to God. While a God rejecting elite work feverishly to bring in a new world order, God predicted would happen thousands of years ago, time is shortening to make this key life decision.

It is a fight to discover truth in this world. Responsibility and accountability are two concepts that are rejected by a growing number of people who are looking for free handouts. The supernatural realm is very real. But most ignore biblical realities all their lives! Only after death will many discover the folly of their ways. Then it is too late to change.

**I Corinthians 2:14-15** speaks of two types of human views in this life: the natural man and the spiritual man.

Bob Hughey said this about the state of Christianity in America:

*“What began as a movement in Israel, became a philosophy in Greece, an institution in Rome, a culture in Europe, and a big rich enterprise in America.”*

The Bible alone is the one reliable source with all the answers. My prayer is that this humble book provides a shortcut to the narrow path that leads to life. Be careful where you go for spiritual help in these troubling days ahead.

Dave Winecoff

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# 1

## That empty feeling

When we reach the age of accountability, begin to take on increased responsibility and finally launch off on our own; most if the truth be known feel varying degrees of readiness for life beyond parents. No matter how brave the departing smile, few are spiritually prepared for what awaits them in the big, bad world beyond. I wasn't.

At some point in this life journey a few become aware they are nowhere near as ready to be on their own as thought at the start. Self doubt can be a sign one needs to think about changing direction, or indicate a deeper problem.

### ***Personal mistakes and shortcomings***

Personal mistakes and shortcomings open us to attacks and possible failure. Becoming aware of standards others hold (who impact our life) that are quite different from our own should be a sign of growing maturity. Initially the young look to others to adapt to their way of seeing things. Fewer look initially to themselves to see what they need to change.

We all react more or less subtly, to those around us. People are a mirror to the reality of who we think we are. The wise take notice of the feeling of others. But many are too self absorbed in this age, and don't seem to care. The reactions of others to our outward behavior should make us aware of things we might want to consider changing to reduce stress and improve our quality of life.

Some things needing change are things we have been thinking about doing any way to better ourselves. Some try to change in important areas and fail. But very frankly many of our personal quirks don't bother us, until we are made bluntly aware they bother others important in our lives. The wise eventually realize the only real control one has is personal change. It is folly to think others will ever change much because of our desires.

## **life gets hard**

Weight loss, dress, grooming preferences, and such are easy things to see. Inward change is harder to see or do much about. Behavioral modification techniques are expensive and take years of effort with sketchy results. Such difficulties of life are obstacles to progress and can eventually bring in discouragement, depression and worse.

The more difficult the change, the more important it becomes to seek God's help. It is good when people turn to God for help.

Why is it that many unhappy people seem comfortable with who they are? So many won't consider changing anything about themselves. Is it just too much trouble? Many never look at their own lives critically from the vantage point of others (employers, spouses, family members and friends). All their criticism is leveled at making others adapt to their needs. Many don't seem to care what others think or feel. It's all about them.

A great number of persons can come and go from their lives like a revolving door with no explanation. It never seems to occur to them that they are the problem. Some become so set in their way that change becomes impossible even with long term help.

Periodic self examination is always a good habit. Few, however, ever look at their own life critically. Most never become aware of things that the press of life caused us to overlook earlier, to their long term detriment.

## **a way that seems right**

The Bible says this in chapter **14**, and again in chapter **16** of **Proverbs**:

*“There is a way that seems right that leads to death.”*

This is so true.

### ***trying to change by one’s self***

When we seriously begin to try to change in even little ways like losing some weight, or stopping a habit that we notice bothers others, or trying to change a verbal habit (inappropriate swearing, etc.) we become aware how difficult it is to change ingrained habits. We regret those times we resisted family or school pressure to try a different way.

It is discouraging to battle personal habits we want to change and fail in our serious attempts at self improvement, but no longer have past support to lean on because we “burned through them” while in a state of rebellion and willful ignorance. Change gets harder for most as they grow older.

At some point the wise realize their own mind, will, emotions; and bodies have become their primary enemy to the good they want to achieve. Becoming a better person is not an easy task.

God gives us all natural talents, natural strengths and sets us in a particular environment to bless us, though some see present or earlier circumstances and conditions as not as a blessing or opportunity at all.

### ***Reaching the end of self***

Until we come to the end of where such natural blessings can take us, we can’t really begin to move into the supernatural realm where God wants us to go.

Does God ever work against our natural desires and ambitions? **Leviticus 26:19** has this to say: *“And I will break the pride of your power and I will make your heaven as iron and your earth as brass.”* I have certainly felt that my

prayers were not being heard at times, and that God might be resisting my efforts at what seemed to me to be a wise course of action in my natural way of thinking.

If I were to reexamine past motives and really focus on what was wrong in my past using the Bible as my source; at this point in my spiritual growth, I would be able to see where many of my past actions and thinking were misguided. But such analysis is not natural.

Scripture has this to say about our relationship with God.

### **our relationship with God**

*“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

#### ***James 4:4***

It is hard to give up on the world. It lets us down over and over again before we ever reach the conclusion that trying to reform the world is folly. When we look at the institutional church what do we see? It wants to cooperate with the world not change it. Compromise is the order of the day for the institutional church.

**James 1:8** has further light to share about our human nature. *It tells us this:*

*“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”*

### **empty inside**

Looking back over my past life from a spiritual perspective I see how deceived I often was in my earlier life. I went to church and wanted to please God in my actions, but I was double minded about a lot of things because I loved the world.

I grew up going to Sunday services where I heard the word of God preached. I was baptized while an infant. I had some true spiritual experiences while growing up. I certainly felt I was trying to please God. I thought of myself as one of God’s children. I certainly believed I was on the path toward an improving personal

relationship with God. Looking back to where God really became real in my life, long after I reached adulthood; I see I was more religious than spiritual.

I thought I wanted to please Him. But He wasn't really first in my life very often. Realistically, other priorities were important looking at my past choices and behaviors. While I prayed often, in a general way most of my decisions were not made in faith or bathed in effective prayer. I had a natural world view. I didn't really understand biblical faith. I was essentially ruled by my five senses. Of course they were conditioned by the god of this world.

I set goals and accomplished them in my own strength. I looked to please myself and others important to me; not God. With each recognition, award or accomplishment; achieved in my own strength; after the glow of success wore off I felt empty inside. Is this your experience?

I knew about God, but didn't know God. I hadn't yet been filled with the Spirit of God (the Holy Ghost). Certainly Psalm 23:3 was true in my life for the Father was drawing me. *"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."*

Praise God for the grace He extends to those in darkness. It took growing despair and some really hard knocks to show me I needed spiritual change and to consider making the Bible a priority. It was the only source I had not seriously gone to in spite of growing up in Christendom. I thought of myself as a believer, but in fact, I was a natural man controlled by my human nature and my five natural senses. In no way was I a spiritual man. Religious yes: spiritual, no.

To effect real change: serious dissatisfaction is key. To become spiritual one has to come to hate where one is at; the natural realm.

He or she must feel empty inside no matter how accomplished.

# 2

## *key life decision*

To believe is a verb. In some way we must take real action to step in God's direction. Until the decision is made personally at a heartfelt level to truly put Jesus Christ first in one's life; to make Him one's chief focus; that person no matter the label is bound up in the natural realm like most of humanity. Scripture tells us humanity is on the broad path moving downward toward the cliff, about to fall into hell. Do you really believe this? Or, do you like many believe there are many different, equally fine, spiritual realities.

### *real change*

To speak of being "born again" is to speak about having entered into an entirely new life and way of thinking. Many who are raised in the church believe they are "born again." I certainly did for much of my Christian life. I was deceived. I was religious not spiritual. In no way was I born again. I was not an effective witness concerning spiritual truth.

Of course there are people (new age, other major religions who may consider Jesus Christ to be a great man, but not the Son of God) who are spiritual in a sense, but are not believers in Jesus Christ. They are not "born again" in the sense in which I speak although, some are, very committed to their concept of god (**John 3:3,6**). For instance, fanatical Islamic terrorists are truly given over to their god; in a manner of speaking: possessed. Certainly not born again! The sincere in their faith, who are not Christian are according to the Bible, worshipping another

supernatural entity than the One I serve. No matter how sincere; they are in deception according to the Bible.

They think they serve God; that there are many paths to God, but they are wrong. That is why the Bible is so hated. That is why the people of the way are so despised by the world. And as the world continues to be shaped into a new world order the only ones who don't fit in are the true Christians and the Jews.

### ***religion is not it***

For many years I was in the religious world of Christianity. I talked as a Christian, but I was not "born again." Jesus Christ talking to the wisest member of the Sanhedrin who represented the people of the Book that He came to save was told that: *"You must be born again."*

I say it today: we all must be "born again" to understand the things of God and to see and hear and retain spiritual truth. If we aren't born again we will not understand even though we think we do. We will be deceived. For years I was deceived. Until one truly surrenders, that man or woman is in biblical terms a "natural man, not a spiritual man."

### ***growing up***

Growing up I had sat every Sunday in church. Though I in fact learned what being spiritual was all about, because I was exposed to the entire Bible over time, much of it went into my head but never reached my heart. Why?

Unless I had a homework assignment I was not interested in reading scripture. I did follow along on Sundays when there was a reading and when the pastor preached from the text assigned for that week in the liturgical year while sitting in the pews with my dad and brothers. My Mother was a good person, but was not a church goer though she grew up going to church.

**Matthew 22:29** says this: *"Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."*

*Who was he talking to? The religious leaders of his day!* Frankly, until I recommitted to Jesus and invited the Holy Ghost into my life, I had never seen the power of God in operation, nor did I have a desire to read the Word of God (I had no real hunger or thirst for the truth), so can understand their blindness.

### ***in one ear and out the other***

I couldn't really understand **I Corinthians 1:19**. It says this: *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."*

Such an important scripture, but like many I didn't really understand, it just went in one ear and out the other. There was little supernatural power in any of my prayer life. Mostly I just relied on memorized prayers from my childhood.

The Night I invited the Holy Ghost into my life while reading in the Book of Acts; I had been reading God's Word for several hours, becoming more and more excited about what I was reading. I pointed to **Acts 2:39** and looking up, said out loud to God in faith: I want what you are giving right here. My faith was so high at that particular moment that heaven came down into my room. That is when I had my first real encounter with the very real presence of the Living God.

Later that night I was taken in the spirit to **Psalms 63:2** and read about another person's encounter, and realized this was my experience also:

*"To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in thy sanctuary."*

I have shared this highly exciting 50 minute experience in other books so won't elaborate here.

### ***real conversion is noticeable***

If you have had the **John 3:3** transformative experience, it will be noticeable to family and friends that you are different. You won't have to say a thing. Some will

ask what has happened to you which will confirm the genuineness of your experience.

**John 1:12** is one of my favorite scriptures. It says this: *“But as many as receive him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”*

Wow! I too can operate in the power that comes from being transformed into a son of God. Wow! What a reality. How can one who gets a hold of such a promise doubt he is a true son of God?

Satan and his fallen angels and demons are masters at planting doubt in our minds that we are truly converted. Doubt, depression, fear and other such spirits are entities we must battle to become strong in the LORD. If you are not getting attacked I wonder if you are truly “born again.”

**Exodus 9:16** talks about our purpose as believers in Jesus Christ. *“...for this cause have I raised thee up, for to sow in thee my power, and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.”*

Once a believer is translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light he must begin to cooperate with God in the process of transforming and renewing his mind to control his body.

### ***be ye transformed***

I talked earlier about how difficult changing habits can be. But now in our new state we have the Holy Spirit as our helper. Look at **Romans 12:2** *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect, will of God.”*

God would not tell us this if this was an impossible task. In our natural strength it probably is impossible; but not with God’s help. Once we are “born again” and “filled with the Holy Spirit” we want to be about God’s business. Our priorities do

change. But we have to be wise. Satan has had years to work on us; to deceive us. So we need to study to show ourselves approved. (**II Timothy 2:15**)

It is our faith in God's promises in the Bible and the use of His Holy Word that gives us power to undo the works of the devil in our life and then help others. We must learn the power that comes from using His Name (**Phil 2:10**) and such wisdom as comes from serious study and careful practice. We don't want to proceed forth in a reckless manner. Jesus, himself, only did at His first coming what the Father showed Him to do.

### ***when your body acts like the enemy; take authority***

Our body and soul doesn't like discipline. We must get in spiritual shape to be used much by God after our conversion. **Matthew 16:24** says: *"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."*

How hard it is to "deny myself" after a life time of putting myself first. None of us will be used much after salvation, if we don't bring our own bodies under submission. This is possible with God's help.

# 3

## *our strongest enemy*

Our strongest enemy is the one we don't even know about. This past month we have seen a rash of killings inside our American strongholds in Afghanistan. Those they thought were allies, that they let inside the gates and treated as friends, are proving they aren't. At the first chance some are turning their weapons on us; and because our leaders refuse to see Islam as not just a religion, but also as a military and governmental system, we can't figure out what is happening. We just know we have befriended them with pure motives to help bring about a democracy and their actions shock us. But they shouldn't. Anyone who thinks they can influence a demon controlled religion is severely misled. You can't reason with demons. No amount of good will and kindness will save such a people.

### ***trust no man***

Americans are very slow to learn that a true Muslim will never see us as anything but infidels. Until we bow the knee to Allah we are his enemy. Those who want to compromise with Islam (American advocates of Crislam) think they can compromise and make peace with this religion of Islam. But Islam will never be tamed.

### **the one we call friend**

The most effective enemy is the one we call friend, and let inside our camp. We are seeing the results (betrayal) in Afghanistan. Look for it here in America too. The enemy has been invited into our nation.

The Bible says clearly to trust no man. (**Ps 146:3; Jer 17:5**) Will the average, naïve liberal in this country ever learn this lesson? I don't think so. They don't seem very interested in the Bible as a source of truth. They elected a man to run this country, our current president, who pretends to be Christian for political purposes. Obviously, his actions and words the past three years in office show otherwise. Yet, liberals don't seem to care and will re elect him again if possible. Can our nation survive another four years? He has shown where his true allegiance lies. It is with Allah, not Jesus Christ. Yet many don't see his true nature because they don't want to believe what they are seeing. But praise God. He can save liberals and muslims.

### ***the god of this world***

**Luke 4:6** gives us tremendous insight into the true character of the world. *“And the devil said unto him, all this power I will give thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me; and to whom so ever I will, I give it.”*

This passage of scripture shows clearly that until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ this world is under the control of evil. Thank God the Bible tells us how to “overcome the world, the flesh and the devil.” Without using the supernatural power that has clearly been given to the “sons of God”, we will be overcome.

From my own experience it is hard even after being born again to give up relying on natural strength, talent and position. It has become habit. But it is foolishness not to do so, and begin looking first to Christ. Here is wisdom: **I Samuel 2:9** *“He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked will be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.”* Why is this verse so true?

For the answer look at what is discovered from **Ephesians 6:12**: *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the forces of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

That is why when we are weak (look to his strength not ours) He can be strong. We can't defeat such an enemy in our natural strength.

### ***a time is coming***

We see that the Prophets warn of a time coming when things will not go well for those left behind after the rapture. Revelation, Daniel and other prophetic books all talk about a time when God will give humanity what it wants for seven years. It will be a time of great tribulation.

After the rapture of the bride of Christ from the earth the Restrainer talked about in **II Thessalonians Chapter Two** will be withdrawn. Evil will be given its day. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth at that time when Satan is thrown down to earth with his fallen angels. In their fury knowing their time is short, they will wreak havoc on the earth, until God ends the destruction by His Second Coming.

Until the restrainer is withdrawn this is what **Ephesians 1:21-22** says about Satan's power: *"Far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and has put all things under "his" feet, and gave "him" to be the head over all things to the church."*

*His church has been given power to deal with Satan. The question is who is using this authority? Not many it seems. There are so many verses that show our power over our hidden enemy. But if a believer doesn't study the Bible on his own, Satan's will distract and confuse him, to the point that he feels he is overcome.*

*Look at **Luke 4:36, Matthew 28:18, and James 5:14** to name just a few of many verses. Study to show yourself approved!*

# 4

## *develop a spiritual focus*

Our individual focus is critical. Scripture clearly shows us where our hearts ( heart is mentioned 885 times in the Bible) and passions (found 17 times in the Bible) should be. How many friends do you know that have any interest in the study of prophecy? I don't know hardly anyone. It is estimated that one of every three verses in the Bible is prophecy. Shouldn't a believer want to know if he is living in that final generation that will see the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? I would think so. If a believer is not interested in prophecy I question the reality of his focus. How can such a person expect to be ready when Jesus returns?

### ***few study prophecy***

A national poll recently discovered that only four percent of pastors are interested in prophecy. Only two percent of the believers who look to pastors for their spiritual development, study prophecy on their own.

Other words for the word "focus" in the title: are "aim, interest, heart and passion". What is your passion?

Those who are not "born again" will likely have no interest in studying prophecy or the Bible. We are all busy with many things. We must set priorities for the use of our time. Do you make time for the study of biblical prophecy? It is easy to put such a study on the back burner of one's life, and then forget its importance. Good intentions will not save us.

As believers we commit our works to God; then do what we see to do. When we are done so we look to God for more direction? What has he told you to do? Until

you do the first thing he has told you, you will not hear anything else from God. Have you truly made God the center of your life? That is what He requires.

### ***straight is the way***

**Matthew 7:14** gives us direction. *“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth to life, and few there be that find it.”*

**Psalm 119:105** says that” *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

Do you want God to be in your life, plans and actions; and to light your path? How is this possible for one who does not give time daily for the study of the Word of God? Yes it is a blessing if one’s mother or spouse or friend is a praying person and prays for you. But at some point God looks to you for such devotion. If you have no burden for the things of God, can you really expect God to light your path since He uses His Word to do it? We need to graft God’s word in, by study and meditation, to our soul and spirit.

If we want to overcome the world and not be overcome by the world, we must take to heart scripture verses like **I John 5:5** *“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

How often are you using the Name above all names, to seal your prayer to the Father for something you are concerned about and contending for?

I have talked about the importance of faith in prior writings. When I came to the LORD I had been in the church for years and thought I understood faith, but had no clue about biblical faith. When we pray in “hope” we don’t capture God’s attention. If we want answers to our prayers we must pray in “faith,” the God kind of faith; not the faith that the world understands and believes in.

**I Corinthians 2:5-6** says this: *“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God....”* I have a car, and am required to buy car insurance, but I don’t expect to have an accident because I pray before I

drive. My faith is not in having insurance which is required in case of an accident, but in a God who can keep me safe while out on the highway. I look to Him and His keeping power to keep me safe from accidents.

When God looks in my direction I want him to feel pleasure in the fact that I am His. I love what God did through His Prophet Isaiah who did not taste death. Many believe he will be one of the two witnesses mentioned in the Book of Revelation. What a mighty man of God he was. The Bible tells us *“he was a man of like faith.”* (He was like us in all ways) I find this extraordinary after reading what he accomplished for God. In **Isaiah 46:9-10** it says: *“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else, I am God. And there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times, the things that are not yet done, saying, my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure...”*

What a God we serve. He declares the end at the beginning. Wow! How can people not fear Him? It is a mystery why so few turn to him in their troubles and even fewer remember Him in their times of blessing.

### ***Scripture gives us guidance***

There is so much guidance in scripture concerning what our focus should be. Here is a very popular exhortation and example of such guidance: **Proverbs 3:6** *“In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths.”*

*“In all thy ways!”* I am still working on this. I have a long way to go to get beyond my natural thinking where I am confident in myself and don't look to God first.

I love this next verse. It tells us so much. **Acts 10:38** *“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”*

What can be learned from studying this particular verse? It gives me such hope that I can grow in God. Jesus put aside his own divine power. He operated only in what we have been given who love him and look to him as our source, the Holy Ghost. We have the same Holy Ghost, so have access to the very same power. Hallelujah! The Father is for us just as he was with Jesus at His first Coming. Yet 2,000 years ago most of the Israelis rejected Him. How could it be that they missed the One that many O.T. Scriptures clearly talked about?

This apostasy of the Jews scares me. So many of us have been critical of the Jews! Could the present day church where many believe in “replacement theology” be walking out their judgment of National Israel, bringing national blindness on the church at large, and therefore judgment to America?

Look who most Americans favor: the Palestinians, not the Jews. Could it be that many Christians are rejecting the Holy Ghost sent by the Father just like most Jews rejected Christ sent by the Father at His first coming? I hope not, but it explains the lack of biblical focus of far too many Americans today who seem to have their eyes more on the world than on the things of God such as the prophesies concerning things to come. Scary!

### ***a warning for today***

This warning below in **II Kings 17:36** seems appropriate for the generation we live in.

*“But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall you fear, and him shall you worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.”*

I don't see much of this kind of respect for what God can do in the American church today. Am I missing something? It seems to me that many of the Christians I know are not much different from Americans who don't profess any belief in God at all: Where is our nation's primary focus?

Football? Entertainment? Jobs? Golf? having fun? Politics? The economy? etc.  
Am I wrong?

# 5

## *the blessing of an overcoming lifestyle*

No one according to scripture can come to Jesus Christ unless the Father draws him. Eternal salvation is a huge blessing. No believer should take it for granted. We who are “*born again*” have been chosen by the Father to be part of His family forever. It is unbelievably good fortunate, for none of us are worthy in ourselves. Thank you Jesus!

For me the hardest part of my walk with God after being saved has been to develop an overcoming lifestyle. Satan has designed the systems of this world which he controls, to be a huge distraction (obstacle) to hinder us who receive salvation in Jesus Christ from becoming fully mature sons of God. The enemy hates us. Why? Because God loves us so!

For me a key overcoming verse has been **Revelation 12:11**. *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.”*

Are you saved? If so, you have a testimony. How often are you sharing it? Jesus Christ has already done the really hard work for us by dying on the cross; shedding his precious blood for us.

I don't know about you, but I tell you this. It is, and has been, hard for me to put my flesh to death. It wants to rule me. My body doesn't want to fast. It wants to eat more than it needs. It likes things my wife reminds me aren't good for me. Too often my body wins out my over better judgment. My body loves life. It doesn't want personal sacrifice. Renewing my mind (**Romans 12:2**) to better control my body is hard. Its hard to open your mouth and testify of Christ.

God's Word says, *"We overcome by the blood of the Lamb."* That phrase tells me Jesus already won my person fight against the world, the flesh and the devil. He has overcome all the works the devil wants to do in my own life and in my family. Will I line up with what my body wants, or will I stand with the finished work of Jesus at the cross? Will I discipline myself by dying to self?

### ***greater is he***

Another verse I quote daily is **I John 4:4** *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."* I have to continually remind myself that what is on the outside of me, the devil, is not as big as what is on the inside of me; the Holy Ghost.

Biblical faith is so critical to our ability to overcome. **I John 5:4** tells us a great truth. *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith."* Where is our focus (faith)? Is my personal faith focused on a present trial or circumstance, or is it focused on what God has promised me in His Word? My personal focus, not the focus of others with influence in my life, determines whether I will be victorious or defeated in life.

We have incredible power available to us that is already inside us. **Matthew 10:1** shows this: *"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."*

I have attempted to walk in this promised power given to the twelve and to those who followed later (us), since 1979 with some success. Sad to me is how few believers really get a hold of what God wants to do in and through them. Most of us fall far short of what God desires to do in our lives for his glory.

## ***bad things come out of hell not heaven***

Disease and sickness come from hell, not heaven. When Satan puts a symptom on me, I practice what He has given me for the edification of others, on *my own body*. I make a holy declaration against the symptom while laying hands on my effected area, and then pray for myself, and for all the others who are being similarly attacked at the moment. Usually the symptom goes away quickly.

**Luke 10:17** says this: *“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, LORD, even the devils are subject to us through thy name...”*

Two verses later (**v 19**) says: *“Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing by any means shall harm you.”*

I love the power that God makes available to us in His word to combat the world, the flesh and the devil. We have the upper hand if we will make use of these divine tools that are given to us in His Word (His promises).

The problem for me, being a creature of habit, is that too often I fall back on the familiar; the natural realm tools that are no good against a supernatural enemy. Yes, he uses people, but they are too often being motivated by dark forces. To defeat people Satan uses to come against us in some way, we need to defeat the hidden power source behind their actions or words; the devil and his demons who attempt to motivate us all directly or indirectly to cause mischief.

For too long after having been *“born again”* I was distracted and didn't get a hold of the truth in **Hebrews 4:12**. This truth is worth serious study. *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* This verse provides serious intelligence on how to defeat the enemy of our souls, if we will only learn to weld this divine sword correctly

## personal attacks

Sometimes when Satan has beaten up on me and I am feeling lower than low I like what God tells me in this verse. **Psalm 106:8** *“Nevertheless he saved them for his name’s sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.”* So often when he is attacking me I don’t think it is him because he is using what seem to me to be personal thoughts in my own head, or the verbiage of a family member, or friend who doesn’t even know he or she is possibly being used by the accuser of the brethren who is Satan.

Holy declarations from the Word of God are so important to declare over ourselves and loved ones such as this one. **II Samuel 22:33** *“God is my strength and power and he maketh my way perfect.”* If we don’t ever make such declarations then how can we come to believe they will help us?

A worldly man’s mind doesn’t think that way, so unless we discover such a declaration in the Bible or hear directly from the Holy Spirit, we will never make such declarations which are important in achieving victory in our daily struggles. Sad for me is the realization that very few Christians have much fight in them.

This next verse is a sad one for me because we all want to be loyal to friends and organizations we belong to; but there is such a thing as “false loyalty.” **II Timothy 3:5** *“Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”* It has been hard for me to give up on certain people or causes; but for the wisdom in this phrase: *“from such turn away.”* This is the truth. The anti-christ spirit in some can take you out.

**Acts 19:16** *“And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them; and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”*

**Acts 8:19** speaks to the importance of personal motivation. *“Saying give me also this power that on whomsoever I lay hands he may receive the Holy*

*Ghost.*” At first glance it seems an innocent enough statement, but it is spoken from a wrong motive. Too often my motive for doing something good has been wrong. How about you?

Many of us lack personal confidence. Yet the Holy Ghost is in us according to scripture. How about this for a personal declaration? **Psalm 119:99** *“I have more understanding than all my teachers.”*

In conclusion, it is important that we renew our minds with scripture so that we can become a biblical overcomer, and develop confidence that we can make a difference “in Christ” in the lives of others as Christ says to do.

# 6

## *patience is critical*

Often people give up just before victory would have been achieved. Many never become aware of how near they were to success. So often we defeat ourselves by lacking patience to keep standing firm until God steps in, as He promises in His Word He will do for us.

### ***don't be discouraged***

Beware of going back into the world because you didn't see something you longed, hoped, dreamed and prayed for that has not yet come to pass. Guard your heart during the tough times of waiting. Impatience can open a door for Satan to slip in through to bring discouragement and defeat.

Throughout the Bible there are biblical exhortations to be patient. Patience is especially required in our generation with so many signs of the nearness of the Second Coming and our *"blessed hope,"* the rapture of the church (**Titus 2:13**).

Waiting for this event is especially difficult for those of us who long for His appearing. But God has promised, so it will happen in due time.

I like **Psalm 51:10**. *"Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me."* What a powerful personal declaration inviting God to step in and change me. Will I wait for his timing?

**Psalm 25:4-5** *“Show me thy ways O LORD, teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”*

### **waiting can be hard**

My wife, Karen, and I believe in the pre-Tribulation rapture, which we have found, is contrary to the view of so many we know and love in our own family and friendship circle. This world is growing darker and darker and we find it discouraging that, so few among our large family and many friends, have this *“blessed hope.”* We continue to pray we will be counted worthy to be part of God’s Bride who the Groom is preparing to come and rescue.

### **two favorite verses**

**Malachi 3:17** is just one of the many verses in scripture where the mystery of the coming rapture of the church is hidden. It says: *“They shall be mine, says the Lord of Hosts, On the day that I make them my jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.”*

How often has the Lord wanted to bless me, but I missed the blessing because of a lack of patience, or because I was distracted. So missed the benefit placed before my eyes.

**Psalm 68:19** says: *“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits even the God of our salvation. Selah.”*

We who look for the soon coming rapture need patience as we wait. There has been so much speculation in the past about times and dates. After it goes by it is discouraging for those, who like an anxious bride were longing and waiting for their groom to come for them on that day and were disappointed.

## God requires patience

We find some form of the word, patience, 47 times in the Bible. The first use of a *word in the Bible can be quite instructive. The first place we find this particular word* is in **Psalm 47:7**.

It tells us to: *“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.”*

I don't know about you, but sometimes I judge myself by looking at others to assess how I am doing. According to the Bible this is a no no. It can bring discouragement or encourage pride. No, we are to look to God alone.

Following the path of this important word, patient, through the Bible would be a good study and quite instructive. Another word that captures what we are talking about here is the word, “wait.” It is found 155 times in the Bible. Its first use is **Genesis 49:18** where Jacob says: *“I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.”*

Twenty eight times we find this word used in Psalms. I like **Psalm 25:3** where it says: *“Yes, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.”*

Nine times we see its use in Proverbs. One verse that is often memorized and quoted by believers is **Proverbs 8:34**. I will let you look it up yourself.

# 7

## *running out of time*

In every generation over the last two thousand years there have been believers who felt they were living in the end of days due to incredible devastation and loss of life. Many in past centuries have suffered from terrible religious persecution, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, famine, pestilence, and war. Even the apostles believed that Christ would return in their day and suffered martyrdom. What makes our times any different?

### **is the rapture close**

Why would believers in our day, looking at what is going on, think that the terrible things happening in our day make ours the generation that will see the rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the end of the age? What is so special about the times we live in?

My answer is this. The prophecy of Jesus Christ in three of the gospels: Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 concerning the Fig Tree. We are that generation that has seen the Jews (the fig tree) return to their land, to rebirth a nation in one day in 1948. We have seen the branches of that tree (nation) spread out its leaves (borders) in 1967 with the capture of more land during the Six Day War.

### **the length of a biblical generation**

Some scholars have determined that a generation is 52 years. (Mark and Steve at APOCALYPTICTRUTH.COM have a fascinating video where they explore the different theories of what a biblical generation is: 40, 70, 80 and 52 and come up with 2012 for the rapture and 2019 for the Return of Christ.) When you add 52

years to the year 1967 you get the year 2019. When you subtract the seven final years of the Daniel 9:27 prophecy, you get the year 2012 as the start of the seven years of tribulation and the rapture of the church.

There are all kinds of other prophecies: Mayan, Inca, I Chin, Hopi, Malachi, etc., that are pointing to the year 2012. We even have a movie titled: 2012, about the end of days.

### date setting

I am not setting a date. But I am saying we are in that season where we need to look up and be ready which scripture clearly warns us to do when we see so clearly the major signs of the end of this age. I am not talking about the end of the world. Scripture clearly tells us the world will never end.

Christ promised to return for His bride and to rule and reign 1,000 years. That time is close at hand. Our generation is the only one that has seen the Jews return to their land after being driven out by the Roman Army in 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed, a million and a half Jews were killed, and a remnant scattered over the earth as clearly foretold in prophesy. Their return in our generation is a very clear sign (an impossible miracle considering the hatred of the world toward the Jews).

The book of Daniel is amazing in the details it gives us about the geneology and characteristics of the coming anti-christ. **Daniel 12:4** says this: *“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”*

### **witty inventions**

Certainly with witty inventions like the car, airplane, and computer to name just a few, we have seen Daniel’s prophecy come true in our generation. This too is clearly a sign we are that final generation. The Apostle Peter said the below statement, probably thinking his was that final generation, but certainly it is a

prophetic warning for today. **I Peter 4:7** *“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”*

Such scriptures and present day events show me we are running out of time. I am shocked at how few people agree. Most go about their everyday business, unaware of what is about to happen! Jesus Christ did warn that deception would be an important last days sign. He warned us not to be deceived. He clearly asked the question: Would he find faith on the earth when he returned? Scripture tells us that the love of many will grow cold and then the end will come.

## **hirelings**

Most pastors stay clear of the book of Revelation and have no interest in the study of prophecy. But, if one is to believe God, there is a blessing for those who do read the important last book of the bible: the Book of Revelation. What might that blessing be? They will have been warned of the things to come.

**Revelation 1:3** says this: *“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”* Blessed is he that readeth! I want to be blessed so I have read this book. Why do so many pastors shy away from teaching from this book? Could they be “hirelings.” Men who are fleecing the sheep and will run when the wolf comes.

Jesus Christ says he is the author of this book. It is not John. John just recorded what he heard and saw in this prophetic vision. What does Jesus have to say at the end of this book?

**Revelation 22:9** *“Behold I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of this prophecy of this book.”*

**II Peter 1:19-21** gives us this assurance. *“We have also a more sure word of prophecy; where unto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in*

*your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation..."*

The Apostle John didn't eat too much "fruit cake" before going to sleep. To count one's self among the serious Christians he can't avoid the unpopular prophecies. You will certainly be scoffed at if you stand with people like me.

**II Peter 3:4** warns us of scoffers to come in the final days. *"And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."*

### **a plague of double-mindedness**

There are many in the church today who are double minded and full of compromise. Such want to be popular and politically correct, rather than biblically correct. If that is one's goal to be part of the crowd, such a person will soon be in shock and terrible grief when the sudden destruction comes on this sin plagued world.

**II Peter 2:21** has this to say. *"For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them."* Terrible times are coming. Get ready. Time is short.

**I Thessalonians 5:20-21** is a clear warning to all: *"Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."*

In closing, I would tell you to *"war a good warfare."* This is the message of **I Timothy 1:18** *"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightiest war a good warfare."*

## Understanding our way

How can we understand our own way without prophecy? Prophecies tell us what is to come. **Proverbs 20:24** shows us clearly why we need prophecy.

*“Man’s goings are of the LORD, how can a man then understand his own way?”*

*The answer is he can’t without the help of prophecy.*

Clearly at His First Coming most of God’s people missed Him. He was largely rejected by the leadership of the people of Israel. They rejected and crucified the Son of God on a cross. What a massive, collective failure.

Can it happen again? Of course it can. The great majority of Christians today favor the Palestinians over the Jews according to all the polling. Many Christians today reject the claim of the Jews that they are his chosen people. They truly believe the church has replaced Israel. This is not true if you know your Bible.

Will the majority of Christians miss the coming visitation? The rapture of the church? I believe this is possible.

# 8

## ***my motivation for studying prophecy***

Before I was “born again with the baptism of the Holy Ghost,” I knew nothing about prophecy or its importance to our generation. As I analyze my church upbringing, it was mostly for me a religious experience. I certainly got exposed to some scripture, both old and New Testament on Sundays. The preaching was, I thought, solid; but as a young person very frankly, I fought to stay focused and awake. An hour after leaving the service I would have been hard pressed to remember what was said, or the focus of the teaching.

If I had heard any of the end times prophecies, which I am sure I did, they proceeded though and out of my mind without any impact at all on my way of thinking.

The opened eyed vision, I had while reading scripture for several hours because of a goal I set to read the Bible that year, was what finally and radically changed my focus and the course of my life.

As soon as I became aware of the reality of Christ in a real way (I watched him in Heaven for almost an hour, intercede for His Church on earth in an open eyed vision) I became interested in everything He had to say in the Bible. Because of my radical awakening with my vision in 1978, everything changed. With this change came an interest in prophecy.

Back in 1978 (the year of my life changing vision) I was an active duty Marine interested in history and certainly the destiny of America. In fact, I was the Operations and Training Officer of a 5,000 man combat ready division stationed on Okinawa ready to deploy to any hot spot that might develop in the Far East

such as the Korean Peninsula. My focus was war. A lot of prophecy deals with future warfare. I began to look at prophesy as the future history of warfare. My appetite for reading the Word of God was definitely awakened. I discovered much of the Bible was filled with war stories where angels and devils were impacting the battlefield.

As a career U.S. Marine and watchman on the wall so to speak, I became interested in what God thought of war and of soldiers like me. I began to see that he did take sides in conflicts; and that Jerusalem and Israel were in the center of his field of vision.

I discovered holy declarations throughout the pages of the Bible such as **Psalm 27:11** which declares: *“Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.”* David when he prayed this prayer centuries before Christ’s First Coming, had many enemies wanting to kill him. The enemy on the battlefield is trained to direct their opening volley of fire at the officers leading the approaching fighting force.

David of Old experienced much warfare and killing after having killed a lion and a bear in his youth. This prepared him to meet and kill Goliath, one of the Giants, Israel faced in conquering the Promised Land. It wasn’t his physical fighting skills that made him such a great warrior, but his dependence on Almighty God. What David learned about how to stay alive in a combat zone by pressing in to God became of immense interest to me.

It was my duty as a Marine to stay fit and ready for combat. This included reading about past combat actions to look for lessons learned. So, I became a systematic reader of scripture as I matured as a believer.

What I wondered about were things like: What is the spiritual connect between heaven and earth in the light of the history of warfare? I wondered who of the famous marines of yesteryear, were believers, and who were not. Overtime I could tell almost immediate from a war journal who was a true believer and who was not interested in the things of God.

In my early days of my faith walk after having experienced my first really powerful supernatural experience at the age of 39, I began searching between the lines of books warriors wrote to see whether they really “knew” Christ or not. The answer became obvious quickly as I grew in my personal discernment.

Also, I began to learn the difference a “heartfelt” prayer for help to God makes in outcome. Up to that time my prayers were mostly memorized ones, except for the small, periodic cries one might think to make in a time of personal desperation.

Soon I learned about the spiritual armor of God. I began to take that scripture seriously looking for supernatural protection on a daily basis.

**Ephesians 6:10** says: *“Finally my brethren, be strong in the LORD, and in the power of his might.”* This passage goes on to talk about various pieces of supernatural protection using the Roman soldiers fighting gear as teaching points.

**Zechariah 4:6** told me I could learn to fight in the spirit and it is more important than what I have been trained to do in the natural realm. *“...not by might nor by power but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”*

Do you want the power of God to rest on you? I did! This is what the Apostle Paul says he learned from his supernatural experiences with God.

*“And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me...”*

***II Corinthians 12:9-10***

# 9

## *could I be deceived*

### ***the short answer is yes***

In short: my answer is yes. The nature of deception is that those who are deceived think they are not, and that those who disagree with them are the ones who are deceived and in apostasy. This is a very scary thought. Look at the zeal of the fanatics of Islam. They believe hold heartedly they are right.

The virtue of humility is one of the most important characteristics of a true man or woman of God. In all humility we should go to the scriptures to determine who is right and who is wrong in a particular situation. Could I be deceived? Yes!

There is a clear divide in this nation. Liberals against conservatives. believers opposed to unbelievers. catholics holding different doctrinal positions than protestants, the young seeing differently than the old, scholars versus the supposedly uneducated, etc.

### **examine yourself**

**II Corinthians 13:5** wisely gives this advise: *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.”*

There are all kinds of sources in the world that people look to: personal conscience, priests, pastors, scholars, parents, employers, etc. All these sources think what they believe is the truth.

But the Bible tells us this: Trust no man. Scripture alone is reliable. Because there are so many different bible versions we need to be cautious here too. People tell you at times they think they have heard from God. In some cases they have, but often they are hearing from another source that proves to be unreliable.

Can I be deceived? I have at times been in the past. So it could happen in the present or future. I can tell you this: I look to God and try to take everything to the scriptures to see if it be so. I will listen to anyone for awhile. But no man is my final source for discovering truth.

What is scary today is that so many Americans trust their doctor, or their lawyer, or their accountant, or their business partner, or their wife or best friend or the mass media. Few seem to trust God alone and look to His Holy Word for guidance. The growth of animosity in the nation the last three years since the last election of 2008 has been unbelievable to me.

### **a growing number are clearly deceived**

What do we see in America? Betrayal! Confusion! Rejection! Strife! Division! One side accuses the other. No one seems to listen.

When will this nation turn back to God?

Our nation has slowly turned away over time from the U. S. Constitution and certainly from the Bible in growing numbers as more and more citizens look to the world elite for their answers. They are clearly bringing in a New World Order.

Our nation has been subverted by the anti-christ spirit. Can it be transformed back to God? What does prophetic scripture show us?

### **be not conformed**

**Romans 12:2** *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye, many prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

Where is the focus of most Americans you know personally? Give an honest answer. I don't care how decent, nice or honorable you think others are. What is his focus spiritually? Most people I know seem to have God compartmentalized. Sunday morning for God, etc. It seems he is put away for much of the remainder of the week.

**Ephesians 5:14** tells us this: *“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.”* Truthfully tell me: Does it seem to you that Christ is the light in the eyes of most people you know? If not, then this verse explains why. They are asleep. What is needed to wake them up?

I have shared **Proverbs 14:12** before, but it is so true.

*“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

Until a person is “born again” they are in the way that leads to death. Our culture is fixated on young, smart and beautiful. If you are old, average, or have some physical defect this society relegates you to the closet shelf.

This is what God has to say. **Ecclesiastes 11:9** *“Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.”*

## **we are all being ruled**

It seems to me that basic instinct (human nature) rules most people. Only a deliberate choice to be ruled by the will of God; the gospel of Jesus Christ, will save a person.

Am I wrong?

**II Peter 2:2** says: *“And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.”*

While **Zechariah 1:4** was probably speaking of his day, the below verse certainly applies to our day to.

*“Be ye not as your Fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried. Saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD.”*

As evil as this day we live in is, God has shown his keeping power to protect His own in prior generations. I will close by sharing **I Peter 1:5**

*“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

# 10

## *am I ready*

### **a watchman on the wall**

I am a watchman. As a commissioned officer who was appointed to this office by the U.S. Congress I feel even though retired from active service that I am a “watchman on the wall for Americans who will listen. That is why I devote time to a website whose address is: [www.waragoodwarfare.com](http://www.waragoodwarfare.com)

I see danger approaching. At this website I sound the alarm. As a “born again,” Spirit-filled” believer I feel called to work with the LORD in restraining evil (**II Thessalonians 2:7**) until I am withdrawn by the LORD of Heaven and Earth in the rapture.

What does scripture tell us is coming? SUDDEN DESTRUCTION!

**I Thessalonians 5:3** *“For when they shall say, Peace and Safety: then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child: and they shall not escape.”*

What is the cry of our State Department? Of the U.N.? of Hillary Clinton and her ilk? Peace and Safety!

### **few are ready for what’s coming**

I don’t believe my town, county, state, nation or the world is ready for what the Bible says is coming. How can they be ready if they don’t know Jesus Christ? They can’t.

In the flesh it is hard for me to feel ready either. I have prepared as best I can in a world that is deceived, and has no clue.

The Bible tells me that “in Christ” I am ready. So trusting in God’s Word I believe I am ready. As best I can, I try to help others to get ready too.

### **just a few scriptures will change one’s life**

In this chapter I want to share just a few verses as to why I think I am ready for what is coming: **Sudden Destruction!**

If one looks to scripture when examining himself, verses like **Haggi 1:5-6** will certain show us if we are right with God and walking with him.

*“Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough, ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.”*

Scripture tells me that “in Christ” I can have the mind of Christ and am not in darkness.

**I Thessalonians 5:3-4** *“For when they say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon thm, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye brethren are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief....”*

**Colossians 1:13** tells me that “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son:”

*My faith does not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God (I Corinthians 2: 5-6).* This gives me great comfort.

**Colossians 2:10** assures me: *“And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”*

I believe what this verse says: THAT I AM COMPLETE IN HIM. I therefore believe when sudden destruction comes I will be taken in the rapture of the church. This gives me great hope.

# **11**

## ***no place to run***

Four hundred years ago when the Pilgrims left Europe to run from the anti-christ spirit that was trying to wipe them out, and set sail for what is now called America, there was a vast wilderness into which they could flee. In the past Jews fleeing the anti-christ spirit fled into the wilderness according to scripture. We see that important word used 297 times in the Bible. Eventually the Jews were welcomed: into parts of America. A wealthy Jew was key to financing our war for independence during the American Revolutionary War.

But now, this once great nation, is rapidly being overcome by wickedness in high places and seems to be turning away from helping the Jews. And Christians too are being turned against by the present administration.

Where can Americans flee to in the world to escape what many believers see coming to this nation? Nowhere physical, that I can see!

### **have you noticed it getting darker**

As bad as it is growing to be here, there is nowhere else on earth to run to if the government turns against Christians. Of course the Jews can flee to Israel. Many see America rapidly going the way of Christian Germany under Hitler prior to WWII. Before the Nazis turned against Christians, who did they turn against? The Jews!

For believers in Christ, there is only one place we can run to: Into the secret place (**Psalm 91**). What is this Secret Place? During the tribulation spoken of in scripture which seems about to start, Jews during the time of Jacob's Trouble

(tribulation) have a refuge to flee to: Petra. That is where wise Jews will flee to avoid being wiped out by anti-christ at the mid-point of the Tribulation when he takes over Jerusalem until the Second Coming when he is thrown into the Lake of Fire by Jesus Christ.

For Christians left behind after the rapture, there will be no place to hide unless one believes God will establish cities of refuge in various parts of the world as He did in the Old Testament. The elect will be overcome according to Revelation. The Jews will have to flee Jerusalem and other parts of the world to keep from being killed.

**Psalm 91** speaks about a refuge and this psalm is worthy of memorization. God will soon withdraw the Restrainer (**II Thessalonians 2**) who has been supernaturally holding back the evil tide which will soon sweep over the earth like a flood.

Evil will have its day. Only God will be able to stop what is about to happen on this earth.

There will be no physical place to run to and hide, that I know of, for nominal Christians who are left behind to run to.

### **only two life choices**

There will be two choices at this point in time:

**Take the Mark of the Beast**

**or,**

**Stand with Jesus Christ and lose your head.**

*Hide right now in Jesus Christ. Accept Him as your LORD and SAVIOR. He is the only one who can save us.*

Prepare to hide out in Heaven for Seven Years while the history of the gentile age is concluded. Don't delay this decision to give your life to Jesus Christ if you haven't yet.

There is no place to run; except into the arms of Jesus.

**Daniel 7:25** says this about the anti-christ: *“And he shall speak great words against the most high, and shall wear out the saints of the most high, and think to change times and laws, and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”*

**Revelation 13:7** SAYS THIS: *“And it was given unto him, to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds and tongues and nations.”*

**Luke 12:52-53** tells us we won't even be able to trust family or friends: *“From henceforth, there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three...”*

Scripture gives us hope. **Luke 21:28** says *“And then when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth night.”* Similar verses tell us what that redemption prior to God's Wrath falling is: the rapture of the church.

### **a translation is coming**

**Hebrews 11:5** authenticates the rapture is real. *“By faith Enoch was translated that He should not see death, and he was not, for God has translated him. And before his translation he has this testimony that he pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him.”*

There is a further promise in **Colossians 3:4** *“When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory.”*

I just love the promises of God in scripture There are many that are far more direct than these and are familiar to most like: John 14:1-3, I Thessalonians 4:17-18, etc. Did you know there are tons of promises (some say 7,000) , for us to appropriate in various circumstances?

God is so good to those who love Him. Do you love Him? Trust His promises for you.



