



A CALL TO WATCH

WATCH FOR THE WAY HE SPEAKS AND REVEALS HIMSELF

God Speaks To Us From The Realm Of Eternity Into Our Finite Realm. The language God uses is intended to express and communicate His thoughts, His desires and His will. Jesus spoke to the churches in the book of Revelation exhorting them to listen; they needed "ears to hear" His messages; Revelation 2:7;11;17;29; 3:6;13;22. All throughout scripture we discover that God's chief desire is to reveal Himself to us, so that we may be drawn into personal relationship with Him; see Isaiah 54:3; Philippians 3:10-14.

Important Facts Concerning Our Ability To Hear:

1. There is a spiritual war to keep Christians from seeing and hearing accurately. The enemy with his covert operations, desires to remain hidden, to keep people blinded, distracted and confused. God's people should not be ignorant or destroyed for a lack of knowledge; Hosea 4:6; 2 Corinthians 2:11.
2. The Holy Spirit is not human and His first language is not English. He is a Spirit, Who communicates with us in the language of the spirit. If it seems that He is silent, it is possible that we have not recognized the ways in which He communicates with us.
3. The Lord resists the prideful, and hides Himself from those who are "wise" in their own eyes. He reveals Himself to the humble, "childlike" ones; Luke 10:21; 1 Peter 5:5.
4. When the Lord introduces Himself, He brings an element of wonder and "awe", aimed at drawing us into relationship with Him. (On the contrary, "religion" introduces uniformity, pushes for performance, and insists upon an adherence to rituals).
5. The Lord gives us "basic guidelines", a general sense of direction in the beginning. This measure of uncertainty (concerning the details of His truth or plan for us), will keep us dependent upon Him, and will cause us to seek Him daily for guidance.
6. When I seek to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth, and my pursuit is to truly know Him, then the "seeing" and the "hearing" will follow; Job 42:5.
7. If I place other loyalties, priorities or relationships above the Lord Himself, I will not hear accurately. The condition of my heart is important; other "voices" and opinions coming from other influences, can affect my spiritual hearing; Luke 8:8-10, 17-18.

How Does God Communicate With Us Or Reveal Himself To Us?

1. The Lord speaks truth to us through the Scriptures, the living Word of God, which contains the written language of God; John 17:17; 1 Peter 1:25.
2. He speaks to us through an inner voice, or "witness" of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The "still, small voice" is the language of the Spirit heard from within; John 10:3-5.
3. The Lord can speak to us through the audible voice of God, a language heard from the outside; Matthew 17:5; Acts 9:4-5.
4. The Lord speaks to us through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. His supernatural "Body Language" consists of "power" gifts, "inspirational" gifts, and "revelation" gifts; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.
5. The Lord can speak to us through our everyday conversations. We can hear Him when our own language is spoken; Luke 24:15-32.
6. The Lord can speak to us through Parables, Riddles or Dark Speech, which are examples of God's symbolic language; Numbers 12:8; Psalm 78:1-3; Matthew 13:13.

7. He can speak to us through Visions or Trances, which are the picture language of God; Acts 16:9-10; 22:17-21.
8. God can speak to us through Dreams, the sleep language of God; Genesis 37:5; Matthew 2:13; 27:19.
9. God can speak to us through Laughter or Weeping, which communicates His emotions to us; Genesis 18:12; 21:1-6; Psalm 2:4; John 11:35.
10. The Lord can speak to us through our Circumstances. He instructs us through the practical language of everyday life. He doesn't always "Wow" us; 1 Kings 17:7-9; 19:12-13; Luke 12:27.
11. God speaks to us through His Creation. His handiwork declares spiritual truth and Kingdom principles; Genesis 1:14; Numbers 22:28-34; Romans 1:20.
12. God can speak to us through Angels. From Genesis through Revelation, we see that God's heavenly messengers can communicate with us; Judges 6:12; 21; Luke 1:26-38; 2:8-15; Acts 10:3-7. (However, we are not instructed to initiate conversations with them).
13. God can speak to us through "Prophetic Acts". Certain behaviors or actions are like "signs", which point to coming events, or they may reveal what God is about to do; Jeremiah 43:8-10; Ezekiel 4:3-9; Acts 21:11.
14. The Lord speaks to us through Supernatural Peace, which is His "calling card". This is the language of confirmation, of inner rest; Philippians 4:7; Romans 14:17.

Other Examples Of How The Lord Has Spoken To People:

1. Mary did not recognize Jesus' physical appearance after His resurrection (in the flesh), but she did recognize His voice; John 20:15-16
2. Two of Jesus' disciples did not recognize Him walking beside them (in another form), but they recognized Him at the table of communion"; Luke 24:30-32
3. God has spoken through the plagues of Egypt; Exodus 1-14
4. God spoke to Moses out of the midst of a burning bush; Exodus 3:2
5. God spoke (of Aaron as His choice) by a rod that budded, bloomed and produced almonds overnight; Numb. 17:8
6. God spoke through a donkey that fell on his knees; Numb. 22:27-28
7. God spoke to Gideon through a fleece upon the ground; Judges 6:37-40
8. God's messengers discovered that knowing God's voice was the secret to surviving in the days of famine; 1 Kings 17:2-9; 1 Kings 18:4
9. Jesus did not "strive" or quarrel. He did not utilize self-promotion, neither did He "broadcast" divine mysteries to the multitudes; Matthew 12:19; 13:10-17
10. The Lord is patient with His servants, and will call to us again and again. He will confirm His voice to us and will give us instructions; see 1 Samuel 3:2-11

When The Lord Speaks - as my Shepherd, He PROMPTS and LEADS me. There is a personal courtesy that He brings; it is His embrace which results in a union of free wills. He speaks in love, in a recurring, tugging of my heart. He expects obedience, but He is not a taskmaster. He is kind, but also severe; Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 11:22.

When The Enemy Speaks - he is like an intruder. He will attempt to FORCE HIS WAY in. He is invasive, accusing and deceptive. He will distort the true message of the cross. He seeks to control, to overpower me, PRESSURING me to move in haste without waiting upon God. He brings confusion, fear and intimidation; Matthew 4:3-10.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS THAT POINT TO A TRUE OR FALSE REVIVAL

All Supernatural Activity And Spiritual Manifestations Must Be Tested Before They Can Be Received As Authentic. Supernatural experiences alone are not the criteria to be used to determine a genuine visitation. TRUE MESSENGERS, movements and manifestations (A GENUINE REVIVAL) will contain or produce these elements:

- a. True repentance, which produces godly thinking, speaking and behavior; Luke 13:3,5.
- b. An emphasis on intimacy with God and holiness.
- c. Growth in grace: faith, love, humility, mercy.
- d. Ongoing prayer / intercession.
- e. A burden for the lost.
- f. Adherence to the scriptures.
- g. Biblical signs and wonders.

Seducing Spirits And Deceiving Spirits Can Creep Into A True Visitation. Beware Of:

1. Those who attempt to divide the flock or destroy covenant relationships.
2. Those who introduce false doctrine, lying signs, flattery or other unscriptural practices.
3. A mixture; the counterfeit contains partial truth and the "leaven" of error; Galatians 5:9
4. 2 John 9 addresses those deceivers and tells us that the way to recognize them is by doctrine: "Whoever transgresses (goes beyond the boundaries set forth and already established) and does not abide (live in, trust, stay in, remain) in the doctrine of Christ does not have God".
5. If anyone has a spirit that he can "use", it is not the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is God and no one uses God; no one is free to operate in spiritual gifts when or how they please.
6. Those who attempt to overpower another's free will/actions through domination, manipulation and control in order to obtain a desired result are utilizing another spirit.
7. Manifestations of sensual, unnatural body movements; anything that is self-exalting, rude, degrading, vulgar or spiritual competition is NOT from the Holy Spirit.
8. The giving and receiving of "ear tickling" words which glorify a ministry or a person.
9. An emphasis upon money, or the giving and receiving of money, in expectation of prophetic words or gifts. Anyone who promises a reward or a healing for giving into their ministry is false! True gifts of the Holy Spirit are not "dispensed upon command".
10. Running after supernatural manifestations is error. Jesus said that a wicked and adulterous generation seeks or demands "signs"; Matthew 12:39; 16:4; Luke 9:54-55.

God's Word Is The Standard By Which All Things Are Measured; Hebrews 8:5. There is a "man with a measuring reed" (a plumbline) who stands in the gate; he measures the temple, the altar, the City, and them that worship therein; see Ezekiel 40:2-3; Zechariah 2:1-2; Amos 7:7-8; Revelation 11:1; 21:15-16. This "measuring" will:

- a. Evaluate – by separating the holy from the profane; distinguishing truth from error; see Ezekiel 44:23-24.
- b. Determine – the source of manifestations and experiences; 1 Corinthians 12:10.
- c. Examine – the fruit (the outward display) of what we see and hear; Luke 6:43-45.
- d. Address – what needs correction; James 5:19-20.
- e. Restore – others in the spirit of meekness and humility; Galatians 6:1

Paul The Apostle Commended The Believers In Berea; Acts 17:10-12:

- a. They were called "more noble" than those in Thessalonica.
- b. They received the word with "all readiness of mind".
- c. They searched the scriptures daily (to prove what they saw and heard).
- d. As a result of their diligence, many others became believers.
- e. Paul wrote in his epistle to Timothy: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"; 2 Timothy 3:16.

True Ministries, Movements and Manifestations Are Holy And Pure:

1. True messengers have separated from worldliness and are consecrated unto the Lord. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord; Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:8.
2. True ministries have pure motives. Godly wisdom, teaching and manifestations which follow it, are pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy; see James 3:17.
3. Proven ministries wait upon the Lord. The obedient messenger is not driven by self-will, a spirit of performance or a desire for recognition. They understand the significance of God's timing, delivering the right message at the right time; see 2 Sam. 18:19-33.
4. True messengers are obedient to God's Word; they obey His commandments. This is proof of true love for Christ; John 15:10; Matthew 7:21; 19:17; 1 John 5:2-3.
5. True ministries will encourage others to "prove all things", to hold fast to that which is good, and to abstain from all appearance of evil; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.
6. The true words of Yahweh are like a fire (burns the chaff), and a hammer that breaks the rock (of pride and stubborn resistance) into pieces; Jer. 23:29. True messages will comfort, but also pierce the heart, and penetrate the deepest part of our nature; Heb. 4:12.
7. God's ministries are the recipients of His wisdom, His power and the deep things of God. This allows them to judge accurately: "he that is spiritual judgeth all things..." The Greek word "judgeth / judged" used in 1 Corinthians 2:15, means to "investigate, interrogate, determine, examine, discern"; see 1 Corinthians 2:4-16.
8. A true visitation or ministry does not focus upon men, their gifts or a following. Jesus alone is exalted and the fear of the Lord will be present; Acts 9:31.

False Ministries Or Movements Do Not Listen To, Or Obey The Words Of Yahweh:

1. Some are rebellious and prophesy (preach) falsely because "the people love to have it so". Some will not obey His voice, nor will they receive correction. Therefore, truth is "perished and cut off from their mouth"; Jeremiah 5:31; 7:24-28.
2. Those who "set up idols in their heart" and "put a stumbling block" in front of him, God says that He will answer that rebellious one according to the idols that he has set up in his heart. God will put "a lying spirit in the mouth" of the false prophets; see 1 Kings 22:22-23; Ezekiel 14:3-9.
3. Those who do not have a love of the truth will be sent a "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie"; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11.
4. According to Jeremiah 23:16, false messengers" (prophets, teachers) are said to:
 - a. Teach you vanity (the opposite of brokenness and humility)
 - b. Speak a vision of their own minds (not from the mouth of Yahweh)

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WATCH HOW GOD BRINGS A SEPARATION

A SEPARATION, a DISTINCTION is made between:

1. Abraham vs. Lot: Two Kinds Of Shepherds
 - a. Abraham – Genesis 13:14-18; 14:14-20; 17:7-21; 18:17, 22-33
 - b. Lot – Genesis 13:5-12; 15:18; 19:1-16, 29
2. Isaac vs. Ishmael: The Son (Ministry) Of The Spirit And The Son Of The Flesh
 - a. Isaac – Genesis 17:19; 18:9-14; 22:1-18
 - b. Ishmael – Genesis 16:1-4, 12-15; 21:9-14
3. Jacob vs. Esau: The Issue Of The Birthright
 - a. Jacob – Genesis 25:31-33; 27:15-36; 28:10-19
 - b. Esau – Genesis 25:29-34; 27:41-42; Hebrews 12:16-17
4. Joseph vs. His Brethren: Separation Among The Brethren
 - a. Joseph – Genesis 37:3-36; 39:1-4, 7-20; 41:12-42, 48-49, 55-57; 45:1; 47:12
 - b. His Brethren – Genesis 37:4-8, 18-28; 42:3; 45:4-8; 47:1
5. The Secret Place vs. The Shadow Of Egypt: Two Kinds Of “Coverings”
 - a. The Secret Place – Exodus 13:21-22; Psalm 17:8; 91:1-4; Matthew 23:37
 - b. The Shadow Of Egypt – Judges 9:15; Isaiah 30:1-3; 31:1; Matthew 20:25-26
6. Tabernacle of David vs. House of Saul: Two Kinds Of “Houses”
 - a. David’s Tabernacle – 1 Samuel 20:25-27; 22:1-2; 1 Chron. 15:1-3; Amos 9:11
 - b. Saul’s House – 1 Samuel 13:13-14; 15:35; 16:14; 28:6-17; 31:1-6
7. True Messengers vs. False Messengers: The False Outnumbers The True
 - a. Elijah vs. the 450 false prophets of Baal – 1 Kings 18:20-40
 - b. Micaiah vs. the 400 false prophets of Ahab – 1 Kings 22:6-28
8. Corn vs. Wild Vines – Two Kinds Of “Crops”
 - a. Corn – Genesis 41:49; 2 Kings 4:41-42; Psalm 78:24; Mark 4:28; John 12:24
 - b. Wild Vines – Deuteronomy 32:32; 2 Kings 4:39-40; Jeremiah 2:21
9. Gideon and 300 Men vs. The Army Of Israel: The Sifting Within The Army
 - a. Gideon and 300 men – Judges 7:7, 16, 22; 8:4
 - b. The Army of Israel – Judges 7:2-6
10. Disciples vs. The Multitude: The Cross Does The Separating
 - a. Disciples – Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 4:11-12; Luke 9:23-24; 14:25-33
 - b. The Multitude – Exodus 16:3; Matt. 13:2, 34-36; 15:39; 27:20; Luke 23:1; John 6:2
11. Wise Virgins vs. Foolish Virgins: Oil Is The Determining Factor
 - a. Wise virgins – Matthew 25:4, 9-10
 - b. Foolish virgins – Matthew 25:3, 8, 11-12
12. Sheep vs. Goats: Two Natures Of Cattle
 - a. Sheep – Ps. 23; Ezek. 34:17, 20, 22; Jer. 11:19; Matt. 25:33, 34-40; John 10:1-16
 - b. Goats – 2 Chronicles 11:15; Jeremiah 50:8; Zechariah 10:3; Matt. 25:33, 41-46
13. Two Cities: The New Jerusalem vs. Babylon: The Eternal And The Fallen
 - a. The New Jerusalem – Hebrews 11:10, 16; 13:14; Galatians 4:26; Revelation 21:2
 - b. Babylon – Genesis 10:8-10; 11:2-9; Revelation 18:1-24
14. Two Women: The Bride vs. The Harlot: Intimacy With One Or With Many
 - a. The Bride – Genesis 24:4-61; Matthew 22:14; Revelation 19:7-8
 - b. The Harlot – Proverbs 7:5-27; Jeremiah 3:1, 3; Nahum 3:4-5; Revelation 17:1-5

“And he (Jesus) said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it...whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple...whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple”; Luke 9:23-24; 14:27,33 (KJV)

“And you will be hated and detested by everybody for My name’s sake. But he who patiently perseveres and endures to the end will be saved (that is, made a partaker of the salvation by Christ, and delivered from spiritual death)”; Mark 13:13 (AMP)

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”; Matthew 6:24 (KJV)

“But like a boxer I buffet my body – handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships – and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit – not stand the test and be unapproved – and rejected as a counterfeit”; 1 Corinthians 9:27 (AMP)

“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God”; James 4:4 (NIV)

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me”; Matt. 10:34-37 (NAS)

“But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat”; 1 Corinthians 5:11 (NIV)

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”; Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV)

“What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore come out from them and be separate, Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you”; 2 Corinthians 6:16-17 (NIV)

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WATCH OUT FOR THE SNARE OF ERROR AND HERESY

ERROR And HERESY Has Many Facets And It Has Crept Into The Church:

1. The error of the ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT:

- a. The goal is "Love, Peace and a Brotherhood of Man". This all-inclusive, wide road leads to destruction: the uniting, merging of various faiths and concepts; Matt. 7:13-14.
- b. This non-offensive movement offers "other ways" to salvation; John 10:1; 14:6.
- c. They accept and embrace unbiblical beliefs and practices for the sake of "Unity". We are warned about "another jesus, another spirit, and another gospel"; 2 Cor. 11:4

2. The lie of the PROSPERITY GOSPEL:

- a. This teaching springs from the self-indulgent spirit of Laodicea; Revelation 3:15-18. Jesus said we cannot serve both God and "mammon"; Matthew 6:24
- b. It ignores the call to "deny self"; Mark 9:34-36; Luke 18:22-25
- c. Some are "fleecing the sheep", promising rewards for giving (to their "ministries"). Sadly, some see "godliness" as a means of "gain"; 1 Timothy 6:5-10

3. The error of UNCONDITIONAL ETERNAL SECURITY:

- a. Some teach "once saved, always saved", a counterfeit "grace" message, but notice what 2 Peter 2:20-22 says: "For if AFTER they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 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".
- b. They say that a "moment's faith" in Jesus Christ will save that individual from past, present and future sins. Jesus said we must remain steadfast in our faith; Matt. 10:22; Luke 9:62. Obedience and righteous conduct is proof of biblical faith; see 1 John 3:7-8; Heb. 5:9; 1 John 2:3, 4. (True messengers deliver the full counsel of God; Acts 20:27).
- c. This doctrine teaches that salvation cannot be lost, regardless of the person's behavior, but the Scriptures say the opposite; Matt. 7:21; Heb. 10:26, 38-39; John 15:6
- d. Their teachers say that no sin committed after they confess Christ as Savior can send a person to Hell. They claim that people who practice unholy and immoral behavior are among the saved. But the Bible says the opposite; see Gal. 5:19-21; 1 John 3:6-8
- e. The Scriptures are clear that some shall depart from the faith; the Word of God tells us that it is possible for an individual's name to be "blotted out" of the Book of Life; Exodus 32:32-33; Revelation 3:5; see also Romans 11:21-22

4. The deception of the PRACTICE OF OCCULTISM:

- a. "Angels of Light" offer "progressive revelation"; Galatians 1:8. They can introduce spiritual practices; they can produce "signs and wonders" having their source in occultic power, and New Age techniques and influences; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- b. These spiritual exercises and practices include Kundalini, visualization, contacting spirit guides, "awakening" the true self, divination, communication with the dead, etc.
- c. Occultists utilize power to gain control. They may solicit angelic visitations, through which they gain "redemptive truth". They may receive information through dreams and visions (which are often not examined in the light of scripture); 2 John 9; 2 Corinthians 6:16-17; 11:14-15. (Angels minister to the heirs of salvation, Hebrews 1:14, but we are never encouraged to initiate conversations with spirit beings).

5. The error of DOMINIONISM:

a. This theology is built upon extra-biblical prophecies and directives of a structured system of new apostles and prophets (which they have appointed), called the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). Their teaching is based upon a postmillennial model where Jesus Christ returns to a "cleaned up world". They believe that the church must "take over" and "shape" the culture, and that their efforts will be effective in "building" the Kingdom; see Genesis 10:8-10; 11:3-5. (However, the Kingdom of God is not constructed by the efforts of men, nor is it based upon human ability).

b. Jesus taught that His Kingdom is **ALREADY PREPARED**; Matthew 25:34. It does not come with observation (in a visible manner); it is among or **WITHIN US**; Luke 17:20-21. Presently, Jesus is establishing His spiritual Kingdom within a people who are salt and light in the midst of a wicked generation. They are being prepared to rule and reign with Christ by overcoming every obstacle, by being obedient to the Father's will.

c. In Scripture, a "mountain" is symbolic of a kingdom. Dominionists say that their mandate is to "reclaim" and conquer "Seven Mountains" (Business, Government, Family, Religion, Media, Education, Entertainment) prior to Jesus' physical return to Earth. However, the Holy Spirit is given to the Church that it may live in victory, to preach **THE GOSPEL MESSAGE** with power and conviction, to bring salvation to men, through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The power and authority given to the Church during this present Gospel Age **IS NOT** for the purpose of saving or converting the spheres of the system (kingdoms of men), but for **INDIVIDUALS** within those kingdoms.

d. This movement wants "across the board" unity to accomplish its goals. This unity extends to liberal, apostate churches, cults, the Roman Catholic Church and in some places, it includes Islam. Groups who embrace "Progressive Christianity" place their focus upon achieving economic and social justice, and pursue issues such as environmentalism and political empowerment.

e. Jesus did not pray for the world (Greek word "world" is "kosmos" = present world order). He prayed for His disciples; John 17:9. He said "My Kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight"; John 18:36-37. He never commissioned His Church to reform the culture or repair "Babylon"; Rev. 18:2.

f. Lucifer presently rules over the kingdoms of the world; Matthew 4:8-9. But Jesus Himself will establish a literal Kingdom upon the Earth at His physical return; Acts 1:9-11. A "royal priesthood" will reign with Him for 1,000 years; Rev. 1:6; 3:21; 20:6

6. The deception of EASY BELIEVISM:

a. This influence neglects the basic elements that lead to eternal life: repentance, true faith and obedience to God's Word; John 17:3. It offers a false comfort and convenience by telling people they can be saved by repeating a "sinner's prayer", asking Jesus into their heart. This practice (doctrine) does not exist in the Bible; see Acts 2:38; Mark 13:13

b. Instead of emphasizing the necessity of a changed heart, Jer. 24:7, 31:33-34, turning from sin and worldliness, this influence has "lulled" the sheep to sleep in complacency. There is no call to deep repentance, to being filled with the Holy Spirit, and death to the self-life; Matt. 7:21; 16:24; Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-48; 26:18-20; 1 Pet. 4:18;

c. Apart from the "New Birth"; John 3:5-8, and an ongoing walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, there can be no transformation into a "new creature"; Rom. 12:2. This influence has produced carelessness and immaturity; it does not prepare believers to endure fiery trials, hardship, persecution and tribulation prior to Jesus' return; Matthew 10:22.

WATCH AND PRAY

Jesus told us to WATCH and PRAY:

WATCH

1. Greek word means to "keep awake; be vigilant; in a state of spiritual alertness"
2. OBSERVE and be aware of the spiritual activity around you
3. Watch for the "OPEN DOOR", Revelation 3:7-8, a window of opportunity to:
 - a. SHARE the Gospel message with the Lost; Colossians 4:3
 - b. SERVE in God's Kingdom in the capacity where He leads you

"**Watch** ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man"; Luke 21:36

"Take ye heed, **watch** and pray: for ye know not when the time is...for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch**"; Mark 13:33-37

"And at midnight, there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh: go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps...and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut...**Watch** therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh"; Matthew 25:6-13

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us **watch** and be sober"; 1 Thess. 5:6

"And he (Jesus) cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not **watch** with me one hour? **Watch** and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"; Matthew 26:40-41

"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not **watch**, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee"; Revelation 3:3

PRAY

1. Pray to the FATHER, in the name of JESUS, through the power of the HOLY SPIRIT
2. Pray for the Brethren -1 Thessalonians 5:25; Hebrews 13:18
3. Pray for the Lost and the Multitudes in the "valley of decision" - Joel 3:14
4. Pray Specifically - Luke 11:9-10
5. Pray Fervently - James 5:16
6. Pray without ceasing - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
7. Pray in faith, without doubting -1 Timothy 2:8; Mark 11:24
8. Pray with the Spirit and with the understanding -1 Corinthians 14:15
9. Pray for those who persecute you - Matthew 5:44
10. Pray that your love may abound in knowledge and discernment - Philippians 1:9

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