

## "See, I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be as cunning as serpents and as innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16)

**As** we come closer to the end of time, it will become harder to stay faithful. The temptations will get greater, and the desires of the world will rage against righteousness. Our own need for security and the security of our families with become an every present oppression against faithfulness. We have unlimited spiritual resources at our fingertips right now. We also have pastors and leaders readily available for council. This will not always be this way. Darkness will come upon the earth and every Christian must be ready to stand on their own without a pastor, or even a Bible. Only the faith we've invested in and the words of God we have hidden in our hearts. This is why I made this study. We don't know what tomorrow holds, or who we'll be able to help or get help from. So I wanted to create a basic guideline on how to stand strong- a roadmap to faithfulness. If we can remember these guidelines, we will be much stronger to stand alone in the days of trouble.

#### Beware False Doctrines By False Prophets And Teachers

Matthew 7:15-20 "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are savage wolves. You will know them by their fruit. Grapes aren't gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles, are they? In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a rotten tree produces bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a rotten tree cannot produce good fruit. Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into a fire. So by their fruit you will know them."

**2 Peter 2:1-22** "Now there were false prophets among the people, just as there also will be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. (2) Many people will follow their immoral ways, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned. (3) In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. The ancient verdict against them is still in force, and their destruction is not delayed. (4) For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but threw them into the lowest hell and imprisoned them in chains of deepest darkness, holding them for judgment; (5) and if he did not spare the ancient world but protected Noah, a righteous preacher, along with seven others when he brought the flood on the world of ungodly people; (6) and if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and destroyed them by burning them to ashes, making them an example to ungodly people of what is going to happen to them;

(7) and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man who was greatly distressed by the immoral conduct of lawless people— (8) for as long as that righteous man lived among them, day after day he was being tortured in his righteous soul by what he saw and heard in their lawless actions – (9) then the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials and to hold unrighteous people for punishment on the day of judgment, (10) especially those who satisfy their flesh by indulging in its passions and who despise authority. Being bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to slander glorious beings. (11) Yet even angels, although they are greater in strength and power, do not bring a slanderous accusation against them from the Lord. (12) These people, like irrational animals, are mere creatures of instinct that are born to be caught and killed. They insult what they don't understand, and like animals they, too, will be destroyed, (13) suffering harm as punishment for their wrongdoing. They take pleasure in wild parties in broad daylight. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceitful pleasures while they eat with you. (14) With eyes full of adultery, they cannot get enough of sin. They seduce unsteady souls and have had their hearts expertly trained in greed. They are doomed to a curse. (15) They have left the straight path and wandered off to follow the path of Bosor's son Balaam, who loved the reward he got for doing wrong. (16) But he was rebuked for his offense. A donkey that normally cannot talk spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's insanity. (17) These men are dried-up springs, mere clouds driven by a storm. Gloomy darkness is reserved for them. (18) By talking highsounding nonsense and using sinful cravings of the flesh, they entice people who have just escaped from those who live in error. (19) Promising them freedom, they themselves are slaves to depravity, for a person is a slave to whatever conquers him. (20) For if, after escaping the world's corruptions through a full knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the Messiah, they are again entangled and conquered by those corruptions, then their last condition is worse than their former one. (21) It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than to know it and turn their backs on the holy commandment that was committed to them. (22) The proverb is true that describes what has happened to them: "A dog returns to its vomit," and "A pig that is washed goes back to wallow in the mud."

## Don't Forget The Truth That Has Been Taught To You. Protect it and let it grow roots in you. Don't let the worries of life kill what has sprouted in you.

Mark 4:10-20 "When he was alone, those who were around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. (11) He said to them, "To you is given the mystery of God's <u>Kingdom</u>, but to those who are outside, all things are done in parables, (12) that 'seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest perhaps they should turn again, and their sins should be forgiven them." (13) He said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How will you understand all of the parables? (14) The farmer sows the word. (15) The ones by the road are the ones where the word is sown; and when they have heard, immediately Satan comes, and takes away the word which has been sown in them. (16) These in the same way are

those who are sown on the rocky places, who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with joy. (17) They have no root in themselves, but are shortlived. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they stumble. (18) Others are those who are sown among the thorns. These are those who have heard the word, (19) and the cares of this age, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. (20) Those which were sown on the good ground are those who hear the word, and accept it, and bear fruit, some thirty times, some sixty times, and some one hundred times."

# ✓ Reject The Spirit Of The World

John 8:44-45 "You belong to your father the devil, and you want to carry out the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and has never stood for truth, since there is no truth in him. Whenever he tells a lie he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies. But it is because I speak the truth that you do not believe me."

• We are freed from this spirit of Satan and his lies to receive the Spirit of Truth. John 14:17 "He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor recognizes him. But you recognize him, because he lives with you and will be in you."

Jesus warns those to be on guard who've been made clean through the truth! Matthew 12:43-45 "Whenever an unclean spirit goes out of a person, it wanders through waterless places looking for a place to rest but finds none. Then it says, 'I will go back to my home that I left.' When it arrives, it finds it empty, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and settle there. And so the final condition of that person becomes worse than the first. That's just what will happen to this evil generation!"

• If we have received the Spirit of truth and then allow it to leave us, we are in great danger of being possessed by even more demonic lies of the Devil.

**1 John 4:5-6** "They are of the world. Therefore they speak of the world, and the world hears them. (6) We are of God. He who knows God listens to us. He who is not of God doesn't listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

John 16:13-15 "Yet when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own accord, but will speak whatever he hears and will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. That is why I said, 'He will take what is mine and declare it to you."

#### **Stay Focused On The Prize**

#### THOSE WHO TURN BACK

Hebrews 10:37-39 "For "in a very little while the one who is coming will return—he will not delay; but my righteous one will live by faith, and if he turns back, my soul will take no pleasure in him." Now, we do not belong to those who turn back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."

#### **BOTH HANDS TO THE PLOW**

Luke 9:61-62 "Still another man said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say goodbye to those at home." Jesus told him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

#### DON'T BECOME A CASTAWAY

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** "You know that in a race all the runners run but only one wins the prize, don't you? You must run in such a way that you may be victorious. Everyone who enters an athletic contest practices self-control in everything. They do it to win a wreath that withers away, but we run to win a prize that never fades. That is the way I run, with a clear goal in mind. That is the way I fight, not like someone shadow boxing. No, I keep on disciplining my body, making it serve me so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not somehow be disqualified."

#### LORD, LORD?

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who keeps saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will get into the kingdom from heaven, but only the person who keeps doing the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name, drove out demons in your name, and performed many miracles in your name, didn't we?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who practice evil!"

#### SHEEPS & GOATS

Matthew 25:31-46 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels are with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) All the nations will be assembled in front of him, and he will cull them out, one from another, like a shepherd separates sheep from goats. (33) He will put the sheep on his right but the goats on his left. (34) "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who have been blessed by my Father! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, (35) because I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me. (36) I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' (37) "Then the righteous will say to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you something to eat, or thirsty and give you something to drink? (38) When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or see you naked and clothe you? (39) When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' (40) The king will answer them, 'I tell

you with certainty, since you did it for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.' (41) "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who are accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels! (42) Here's why: I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. (43) I was a stranger, and you didn't welcome me. I was naked, and you didn't clothe me. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' (44) "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or as a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't help you?' (45) Then he will say to them, 'I tell you with certainty, since you didn't do it for one of the least important of these, you didn't do it for me.' (46) These people will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

## Jesus told him, "I am <u>the way</u>, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)



#### **Use And Carry Your Cross:**

Luke 9:23-26 "He said to all, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. (24) For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever will lose his life for my sake, the same will save it. (25) For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits his own self? (26) For whoever will be ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed, when he comes in his glory, and the glory of the Father, and of the holy angels."

#### **Use To Your Will And Self Daily:**

**1 Corinthians 15:31** "I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

#### **4** Encourage And Provoke To Good Works:

Hebrews 3:12-13 "Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God; (13) but exhort one another day by day, so long as it is called "today"; lest anyone of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

#### **4** <u>Stay In Unity, Share, & Be Single Hearted:</u>

Act 2:46 "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"

#### Love Each Other & Love God:

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also love one another. (35) By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Matthew 22:37-40 "Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) A second likewise is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' (40) The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

**1 John 4:19-21 "We love him, because he first loved us.** (20) If a man says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who doesn't love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? (21) This commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should also love his brother."

#### Share The Gospel:

Acts 17:17 "So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who met him."

Act 5:42 "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

Matthew 28:18-20 "Jesus came to them and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

#### **4** Be The Salt And The Light- Don't Hide:

Matthew 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its flavor, with what will it be salted? It is then good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under the feet of men. (14) You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can't be hidden. (15) Neither do you light a lamp, and put it under a measuring basket, but on a stand; and it shines to all who are in the house. (16) Even so, let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

#### Search The Scriptures Daily:

Act 17:11 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

#### 4 Pray:

Luke 11:2-4 "And He said to them, When you pray, say: Our Father, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, as in Heaven, so also on the earth. (3) Give us day by day our daily bread, (4) and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

#### 4 Praise God Everyday:

Psalms 146:2 "While I live, I will praise Yahweh. I will sing praises to my God as long as I exist."

Psalms 118:17 "I will not die, but live, and declare Yah's works."

## Sing And Do What You Told God That You Would Do:

Psalms 61:8 "So I will sing praise to your name forever, that I may fulfill my vows daily."

#### **4** Receive His Blessing And Give Him Your Burdens:

**Psalms 68:19-20** "Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burdens, even the God who is our salvation. Selah. (20) God is to us a God of deliverance. To Yahweh, the Lord, belongs escape from death."

**1 Peter 5:6-7** "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; (7) casting all your worries on him, because he cares for you."

#### **Receive Those That God Sends To Teach You:**

Jeremiah 7:25-26 "Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. (26) Yet they didn't listen to me or incline their ear, but made their neck stiff. They did worse than their fathers."

#### Search Him Out Daily As An Individual And Nation:

**Isaiah 58:2** "Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways. As a nation that did righteousness, and didn't forsake the ordinance of their God, they ask of me righteous judgments. They delight to draw near to God."

#### **4** Cry Out To Him For His Mercy:

**Psalms 86:1-9** "Hear, Yahweh, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. (2) Preserve my soul, for I am godly. You, my God, save your servant who trusts in you. (3) Be merciful to me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. (4) Bring joy to the soul of your servant, for to you, Lord, do I lift up my soul. (5) For you, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive; abundant in loving kindness to all those who call on you. (6) Hear, Yahweh, my prayer. Listen to the voice of my petitions. (7) In the day of my trouble I will call on you, for you will answer me. (8) There is no one like you among the gods, Lord, nor any deeds like your deeds. (9) All nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord. They shall glorify your name."

#### 4 <u>Seek Wisdom:</u>

**Proverbs 8:33-36** "Hear instruction, and be wise. Don't refuse it. (34) Blessed is the man who hears me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my door posts. (35) For whoever finds me, finds life, and will obtain favor from Yahweh. (36) But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul. All those who hate me love death."

#### **4** Stand Ready For His Return:

Luke 21:34-36 "So be careful, or your hearts will be loaded down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day will come on you suddenly. (35) For it will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. (36) Therefore be watchful all the time, praying that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Matthew 24:36-51 "But no one knows of that day and hour, not even the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (37) "As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (38) For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ship, (39) and they didn't know until the flood came, and took them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (40) Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and one will be left. (41) Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and one will be left. (42) Watch therefore, for you don't know in what hour your Lord comes. (43) But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. (44) Therefore also be ready, for in an hour that you don't expect, the Son of Man will come. (45) "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his lord has set over his household, to give them their food in due season? (46) Blessed is that servant whom his lord finds doing so when he comes. (47) Most certainly I tell you that he will set him over all that he has. (48) But if that evil servant should say in his heart, 'My lord is delaying his coming,' (49) and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eat and drink with the drunkards, (50) the lord of that servant will come in a day when he doesn't expect it, and in an hour when he doesn't know it, (51) and will cut him in pieces, and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. That is where the weeping and grinding of teeth will be."

#### **4** Don't Worry About Tomorrow– Live Today For God:

Matthew 6:25-34 "Therefore I tell you, don't be anxious for your life: what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing? (26) See the birds of the sky, that they don't sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns. Your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you of much more value than they? (27) "Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan? (28) Why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin, (29) yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these. (30) But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith? (31) "Therefore don't be anxious, saying, 'What will we eat?', 'What will we drink?' or, 'With what will we be clothed?' (32) For the Gentiles seek after all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. (33) But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well. (34) Therefore don't be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Each day's own evil is sufficient."

#### • This Verse Pares Well With The Following:

Matthew 16:25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever will lose his life for my sake will find it."

#### **Press On And Endure:**

Philippians 3:12-14 "Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect; but I press on, that I may take hold of that for which also I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus. (13) Brothers, I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do. Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

**2 Timothy 2:1-5** "You therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) The things which you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (3) You therefore must endure hardship, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (4) No soldier on duty entangles himself in the affairs of life, that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier. (5) Also, if anyone competes in athletics, he isn't crowned unless he has competed by the rules."

#### 4 Cling & Obey:

**Deuteronomy 13:4** "You shall walk after Yahweh your God, fear him, keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and you shall serve him, and cling to him."

#### • He Is Watching To See If You Will!

**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** "This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. (14) For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil."

# ✓ PRAY THESE EVERYDAY

## Pray To Escape What Is Coming!:

Luke 21:34-36 "So be careful, or your hearts will be loaded down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day will come on you suddenly. (35) For it will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. (36) Therefore be watchful all the time, praying that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man."

#### **Pray That God Protects You From The Devil:**

John 17:15 "I pray not that you would take them from the world, but that you would keep them from the evil one."

Luke 11:2-4 "And He said to them, When you pray, say: Our Father, who is in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, as in Heaven, so also on the earth. (3) Give us day by day our daily bread, (4) and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

# In Closing...

The journey is long. We will enter into the kingdom of heaven through much pain, suffering, trials, persecution, and tribulations. Yet, rest assured that we will enter. As long as we do not give up!

Galatians 6:9 "Let's not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season, if we don't give up."

We must be convinced that it will be worth it all. Our love for God and man must triumph over our love for self. We must deny the desire for ease, security, and pleasure. Lastly, we see in the following verse that we find the key. Remember Your First Love: The joy of being with your God and Savior. Then, do those things that started your romance with your Heavenly Father.

Revelation 2:2-5 "I know your works, and your toil and perseverance, and that you can't tolerate evil men, and have tested those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and found them false. (3) You have perseverance and have endured for my name's sake, and have not grown weary. (4) But I have this against you, that you left your first love. (5) Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I am coming to you swiftly, and will move your lamp stand out of its place, unless you repent.

It will be your love for God and Man that is the only thing strong enough to stay the course. All else will fail. Even faith can fail you in the darkest moments. But if you still love God, you will press onward. Even without hope, faith, or joy. I have learned it is love for God that is the tie that binds. Love will allow you to endure all things, hope all things, believe all things, and bear all things. It is love that is the key to your spiritual survival. So above all else, love God, fight for that love, and never surrender that love!