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SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL

Part 1

EXISTING OR LIVING?

By Rayola Kelley

The Apostle Paul said of the last of the "end days" that it would be a perilous time (2 Timothy 3:1). As a person studies Scripture in regard to the last of the "end of this age," he or she can begin to understand that these times are a result of a worldwide tribulation that will touch every living soul in some way. There will be no real place to hide. In fact, the events that will exist will produce an environment that will cause people's hearts to faint in utter fear, while emotionally collapsing in complete despair.



For most Christians, there is a belief that we will be spared from experiencing such times. I do pray that this is true, but what if the events of this age begin to touch us in unexpected ways? We can tout that we would stand, but is that in light of hoping we will be spared from experiencing other facets of such dangerous times, or is it in a realistic light that perhaps the darkness that is enfolding each of our present worlds will not only touch us in some way, but it could very well reach into our souls, shaking and testing every bit of the religious foundation we might be clinging to (Hebrews 12:27)? Such a time may test the character of our faith, the sincerity of our claims, reveal the source of our confidence, and force us to consider the cost of being a Christian in a world that has always hated, and still hates, Jesus and His truth (John 7:7; 17:14).

For many believers in other parts of the world they have had to count the cost to be a Christian. For

some it has been with their very lives, for others it has been torture and imprisonment, and for others they have been cast aside by families, religions, and societies. As a result, many have lived and experienced Hebrews 11 in some way.

This brings us to a very important fact. The Bible tells us that Christ is coming back for a Church without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:26-27). In all reality, what can we as believers honestly say about the Church in America? Can we claim as a Body that what we possess would prove to be pure, holy, and acceptable to the Bridegroom? Can we honestly believe that we stand spotless when there has been no real evidence of water and fire? In other words, only water or fire can separate God's Church from the unholy and purify it from that which is profane.

We know that the Word of God is a washing machine, but it requires obedience to it before it can cleanse us. It can be a hammer that will destroy all falsehood, but it requires us to esteem it as truth. It can serve as a two-edged sword, but we must expose our hearts and souls to its sharp penetrating edges for it to have its way in our lives. We know it is fire for its very judgments can bring retribution upon those who mishandle or reject it (Jeremiah 23:29; Romans 1:16; Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 4:12)

The Holy Spirit also serves as water and fire. He is the living water that brings forth life, but He is also the fire from above that baptizes us into a sanctified, emboldened, and holy life. He sets us apart with His anointing and makes us fit for the Lord's use. However, we must be baptized into the eternal life of Jesus with the Spirit's presence and experience the sanctifying works of His fire in order to appropriate and live this life to the fullest (Matthew 3:11; John 7:36-39; Acts 2:1-5 Titus 3:5).

What if the evidence of such purification proves to be weak or missing

in our lives? Perhaps we do not really believe the complete counsel of the Word. Maybe we have misconceptions concerning the Spirit that has grieved, quenched, and vexed Him from fulfilling the will of God in our lives. What will cleanse and purify us if these two sources of purification have not been allowed to prepare each of us as a bride of the Lord?

There is another fire besides the Word and Holy Spirit that is able to purify the Lord's Church. It is persecution. Satan and his kingdom have singled out God's people. When you read about the last of the end days, persecution against God's people will escalate (Matthew 24:9-10). The truth is the Church has experienced this fire throughout the past twenty centuries, but the Church in America has not had to face such intense fires. In essence, it has been spared from the fiery ovens of affliction when it comes to blatant persecution. Granted, there has been personal persecution in various ways for some of its members, but for the Church as a whole, it has been spared such adversity. The line that brings such distinction has not really been drawn in the sand, forcing Christians to take a decisive stand. However, that is changing. Is the Church in America ready to face the harsh consequences as its members decide which side of the line they are going to stand on? Are they ready to pay the price, prepared to stand for truth and righteousness, and equipped to endure?

The problem for the last century is that Christians in America see the lack of persecution as stipulating them as being elite, special, or exceptional. However, God blessed the Church in America so He could, in a sense, use it to further His kingdom. In a way, the freedom and prosperity we have experienced in America as the Church of the Living God makes us more accountable for how we conduct ourselves. We must remain true to the purpose, reason, and source behind our liberty and blessings. We are called to fulfill a commission as

well as be good stewards with what He has entrusted to us.

Is the Church in America fulfilling its commission to the extent that it stands distinct or does it pose an image with no real substance or clout behind it? Is it unique or is it riddled with worldly compromise, dulled down by heretical influences, and shrouded in the gray areas of ineffectiveness? Does it stand distinct or is it succumbing to the political influences of the world to fit in and flow with the waves of the tolerant, but despotic Social gospel touted by wicked revolutionaries and radicals?

Obviously, if Christians are going to survive the darkness encroaching on the world, they must be standing in the light of God, walking in the light of His righteousness, and focused on the light of His eternal promises (*Ephesians 5:1-17; 1 Thesalonians 5:1-10*). Such light will not allow believers to recede into the shadows of compromise. As a result, they must come higher in their lives in Christ in order to avoid the onslaught of the wicked, religious, and political inversions and darkness that are enfolding the world like a heavy curtain. Heavenly light will always cause great distinction in the lives of God's people even in spite of the foreboding curtains of wickedness covering the hearts and minds of people (*Isaiah 25:7*). The distinction is what the kingdom of darkness will take note of, bringing forth the fire of persecution.

If Christians do not allow the light of Christ to expose their inward environment, they will never see the path or slope they are on. If they do not insist on the ways of the light, they will not be capable of honestly facing and discerning the darkness. If they do not walk in the light, they will become lost in the darkness. If they do not follow after the ways of righteousness enfolded in the light, they will never be able to venture to the place of excellence that will place them above the darkness.

Even though unregenerate man cannot see the light of God, its truths will distinguish it from the darkness. Eventually truth will insult or threaten those who prefer their darkness. Even though these lost souls cannot comprehend the light, they will resent

or rage against it once they encounter its righteous ways. Even though they cannot see the light, they will sense its illuminating, immovable ways and rush against it with malicious intent.

This brings us to the great challenge for Christians. How will each believer respond to the darkness of the last of this age? As Christians, we are to live beyond the darkness. We are to insist on the excellent ways of God's light. We are not to accept the reality created by the darkness of deception, ignorance, or rebellion; rather, we are to strive for that which would identify us to the next age, the world of eternal bliss and glory.

The real challenge is to walk in light of that which is worthy and eternal, and not merely survive in the midst of darkness. As believers who are marked by the excellence of the glory of God, it is not enough for each of us to simply get by in this present age. For example, it is not unusual for struggling Christians to think of the next world as the great escape from the misery of the present world. Granted, the idea of the world to come makes it attractive. However, the perspective of such a concept is not Scripturally sound. The truth is this present age is meant to prepare us for the next world. It all comes down to how we are walking in light of our relationship with the Lord as to whether or not we are prepared to meet Him in glory.

The Apostle Paul was willing to remain in his present status for the sake of the eternal well-being of others. His desire in regard to the next world was not to escape the present trials of the age he was living in, but to be in the presence of the One he so loved and served. His willingness to stay in his present state was a selfless gesture in light of securing eternal value in regard to others (*2 Corinthians 5:1-10*).

To Christians, spiritual survival regardless of the darkness of that particular age, comes down to living the life of Christ. It is only by surrendering to that which is worthy of all praise, eternal in substance, and divine in nature that we can be assured of living above the present darkness. We cannot accept the base ways of the present darkness without realizing that in the end we likewise will become base in our perception and attitude. We can-

not expect to come into agreement with it and not become buried by its wicked ways. We cannot walk in step with such darkness and not realize that in the end we will end up falling into the abyss of damnation. We cannot toy with such a foul environment as a means to keep it at bay or to use it for our own purpose without recognizing that in the end it will render us ineffective as it takes us captive. It is for this reason that the Bible clearly instructs us to come out and be separate from such darkness (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18*). We are not to have any agreement by touching any aspects of its wickedness; rather, we are to separate ourselves from any agreement with such darkness, flee any enticement to prostitute ourselves with it by partaking of it, and rebuke it when it begins to gain inroads into our lives, homes, and churches (*Ephesians 5:11*). After all, if we love the truth of our Lord and His ways, we cannot remain aloof, silent, or indifferent when it comes to the ways of iniquity (*1 Corinthians 13:6*).

When we study the days we live in, we are given some clear instructions as to what we must do if we are going to survive the affront of darkness upon our lives. It is clear we must be prepared to stand against the darkness, withstand it, and continue to stand as a means to truly overcome it with the very life that is present in us.

Once again, we must choose to remember that the life in every believer is the life of Christ. It is an overcoming life. It is for this reason that we as believers are able to do more than survive the darkness, but we have the means to discover in greater measure the very life of Christ in us as we struggle to walk through such darkness. The Apostle Paul stated that the life of Christ in us is the hope of glory (*Colossians 1:27*). It is the hope of realizing the fullness of Christ's glory that His very life will resonate in every breath and step we take through the present world.

This brings us back to surviving the present darkness while living and walking according to the very light of heaven. *Matthew 24:4-5* tells us the first affront will be against that which is true. For this reason *Daniel 11:32* gives us the first ingredient to victorious living in the midst of the grave

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WHAT TO FEAR

By Jeannette Haley

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” – 12 Timothy 1:7

As I think back over my life and consider those times when I was afraid, certain incidents come to mind. One of the things that stands out is the sheer dread I experienced whenever I knew that a spanking, administered by my dad, was about to take place. I have to admit, fear of spankings, and fear of my mother’s disapproval, served as major deterrents to many childhood follies. The consequences for misbehaving far outweighed any temporary pleasure that could be gained.

I also feared disapproval from school teachers, and feared rejection by my peers. I feared heights and snakes and still do. Then there were thunderstorms. I will never forget a certain major thunderstorm that occurred one summer night when my parents, grandmother, and I were camping in a tent near Glacier National Park. I was somewhere around ten to twelve years old. It was pitch black out, and we were all fast asleep when the storm hit. Lightning flashed, thunder boomed, the wind howled through the trees, and the ground shook. Women ran screaming through the camp as huge trees violently crashed to the ground. The next thing we knew, the innocent little stream we had pitched our tent close to turned into a fast flowing creek that threatened to flood us out as it began to run through a corner of our tent.

How I handled the terror that engulfed me was to cry out to God in repentance for sassing my mother. I was sure that God was going to kill me for this habitual sin, so I made a “deal” with Him that if He didn’t kill me right then and there on the spot (as I lay paralyzed with fear in my sleeping bag) I’d never sass my mother ever again. Well, obviously He spared my life, but I certainly failed many times to keep my end of the bargain.

One of the greatest fears campers and hikers have while enjoying the indescribable beauty of Glacier National Park



is grizzly bears. Nothing can clear out a campground faster than a visiting grizzly. On our memorable camping trip through Glacier, my mother happened to be standing on the shoreline of Lake McDonald when suddenly a mama grizzly with two cubs in tow, burst with a warning roar from the forest, and ran straight toward the lake. I think my mother was the only person left standing, frozen to the spot, when that bear walked right past her, close enough to touch. I can’t tell you what her fear level was because as far as I know, she wasn’t afraid. At least that is the impression I got at the time, and that impression is with me to this day. Perhaps that mama grizzly sensed a “mama grizzly” kinship with my mother. Who knows?

After traveling to another location in the Park, we camped by a remote lake. Another thunderstorm rolled in with winds so strong that our tent blew inside out. I don’t remember feeling the guilt and fear that I had that first night, but I do remember concluding, as we all crammed into the car to finish out the night, how disgusting, dangerous, dirty, and frightening camping could be.

If you have ever traveled up the “Going to the Sun” pass in Glacier Park, you may have experienced some apprehension, or even outright fear. Many people have, and with good reason. But, for a real thrill, try driving up this pass and down the other side with no brakes! That is exactly what happened to my family and me. My grandmother kept me occupied in the back seat looking at post cards while my dad, who was a mechanic, fought to keep us on the narrow road by applying the emergency brake at intervals. Even though there was a lot of tension and fear in the car that day, my child-like confidence in my dad and my basic ignorance of the deadly possibilities, kept me from giving in to mind-numbing dread.

Fear, as with any emotion, is a big topic to tackle, but it is something we all have to face as we journey through this world, and especially since the 2008 elections. Even Bill O’Reilly of FOX News commented shortly after uninformed, liberal Americans gleefully elected the wannabe dictator presently in power that “you can literally feel fear spreading over the entire country.”

How right he was! Interestingly, he talked about the fear Americans have on his show the other night. Fear can definitely be almost a tangible thing.

After all, there are only two things that stand between We the People and despotism on a scale the world has never before seen and that is God and the Constitution of the United State of America, which is God inspired. Belief in God and His Word are under continual attack, while the Constitution is being dismantled, ignored, ridiculed, and destroyed even as I write this. Maybe fear is more than appropriate—maybe fear is what could possibly drive stiff-necked Americans to their knees in genuine repentance and prayer as if their lives depended on it, because they do.

Who can deny (except the uninformed or unbelieving) that the four horsemen of the apocalypse are being loosed? (Revelation, Chapter 6.) In Jesus’ discourse concerning these end times in Luke 21, He reveals the effect on people as, “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” vs. 26.

Jesus likewise told His disciples, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” John 14:27.

How are we to “let not” our hearts be troubled or afraid? The answer is to possess the right kind of fear, and that fear begins with the fear of the Lord. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction” Proverbs 1:7. Some leaders in the religious realm are “milk and feather” salespersons. Tragically, such self-serving, false workers are the norm rather than the exception in this age of apostasy. These hireling shepherds are experts at serving watered-down milk and tickling itching ears while God’s sheep are scattered throughout the land. If you were to ask a milk and feather leader what it means to “fear the LORD,” he or she may tell you that it means to be in awe of God. Now, while we most certainly stand in awe of God and His creation, works and ways, I agree with the late preacher, David Wilkerson’s definition

of “fear.” He said that fear of God means just that—FEAR!

If this puts a kink in your antenna, then you are in trouble. Without the fear of God, you are unteachable, unwise, have the wrong perspective, and are definitely unprepared to be an overcomer. Just as I feared a spanking from my earthly father as a consequence for wrongdoing, so how much more do I fear displeasing my Heavenly Father and grieving the Holy Spirit through sin. Fearing God and being upright go together. You cannot have one without the other. *“He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him” Proverbs 14:2.*

Fearing the Lord will cause a person to walk (live) uprightly, but a person who maintains his or her own form of “good guy righteousness” without the fear of God is of the wrong spirit, motivated by pride and the flesh. Thus, such a person may appear to be righteous outwardly, but all of his or her works are considered perverse or unholy to God because they have never been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Only the righteousness of Christ as we “live and move and have our being” in Him is acceptable to God. People who reject the righteousness of Christ and His Lordship in their lives, choosing instead to establish their own form of righteousness do indeed despise God. Thus, such persons who reject the fear of the Lord will suffer great fear, not only in this life, but eternally in the one to come. *“A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; but the fool rageth, and is confident” Proverbs 14:16.*

Our faith, or point of confidence, begins with the fear of the Lord. If we are to spiritually survive—that is, maintain our faith to the end—then we must be firmly established in the Lord. We cannot be established in our faith if we do not know who God is! If we do not know for ourselves who God is, then we will fail to properly fear Him. *“In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge” Proverbs 14:26.* The next verse gives us this wonderful promise, *“The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.”*

Concerning the fear that will envelope the earth in these end days,

Jesus tells us who to fear, *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” Matthew 10:28.* The Apostle Peter tells us how we are to live in this world, *“And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear” 1 Peter 1:17.* In 2:17 he wrote, *“Fear God.”*

There are three types of fear—natural fear, demonic fear, and godly fear. Natural fear is what a person would feel suddenly encountering a burglar; or the fear a non-swimmer may feel when in a small boat in a storm; or the fear of a fast-approaching tornado. If we didn’t have natural fear, then most of us wouldn’t make it past grade school. Natural fear serves as a protection while demonic fear is an all-consuming, driving terror. If you have ever encountered an actual spirit of fear, you will never forget it. Demonic fear is traumatizing, mind-numbing torment. However, the fear of the Lord and His Word is a choice that we make based on love for the truth and life, along with faith and love of God. This is a fear that brings wisdom, life, and reward. Consider this portion of Scripture: *“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward” Psalm 19: 9-11.* *“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant” Psalm 25:14.*

What a powerful promise we find in *Psalm 31:19* which states, *“Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee: which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.”* How desperately we need to get it into our hearts and minds that not all fear is “bad,” or “negative” or something to be shunned! Consider *Psalm 34:11*, *“Come, ye children, hearken unto me:*

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.”

Rayola and I have worked with people for over two decades, and yet so few exhibit real, lasting changes in their lives. No wonder the Bible tells us that only a remnant shall be saved! What lies at the root of mankind’s obstinacy, rebellion, and unwillingness to change his way of thinking, being, and doing? I believe the answer can be found in *Psalm 55:19b*, *“Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.”* If a person truly fears God, he or she will repent, submit to God, become born again of His Spirit, walk in obedience to His will, ways, and Word and live as Paul wrote in *Galatians 2:20*, *“I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* We know that the “just shall live by faith” and therefore we must realize that the faith that pleases God and is alive with His power is rooted and grounded in the bedrock of the fear of the Lord. Any other “faith,” such as faith in our faith, faith in our feelings, faith in religiosity, faith in our “goodness,” and so forth is a false faith! We also can discern true faith by the fruit that is produced in one’s life. *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” James 2:26.*

There is a fear that is unacceptable to God because it is the fear the enemies of God experience. Concerning this fear, we read in *Revelation 21:8* a list of those who will have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death. The first group listed are “the fearful.” This brings to mind the unfaithful steward who buried his talent because of fear, and who lost his soul as a result. This type of fear dishonors God, is faithless, rebellious, prideful, willfully ignorant, foolish, wicked, and idolatrous. When people choose to fear anything more than they fear the Lord God Almighty, they are in danger of committing idolatry. Giving way to this type of fear through unbelief is a type of worship because it means there is more faith in what a person fears than in God who is above all His creation, both seen and unseen. There is no

darkness of deception, “*And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries; but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.*” It takes strength to overcome, but notice where such strength is acquired when it comes to the kingdom of heaven. Only those who truly know the God of heaven will overcome. They will not only overcome but they will be an avenue or extension of His power to do incredible feats when everything is fainting and love is growing cold in such a wicked, dangerous environment.

As I watch the great darkness of evil taking center stage in the midst of the onslaught of the seduction and lying flatteries and propaganda, I have become increasingly aware of how I need to make God my refuge. For years I have strived to make Him my Rock. Granted in the midst of the ongoing flatteries of the world, I need to stand sure on the Rock of truth. I must never lose my sense as to what is absolute and right in the midst of such insanity and despair. But, I am also aware that because of the perilous or dangerous times we are living in, we need a place to run into, a place to hide, a place where we can land and rest when the struggles and battles seem overwhelming. There is only one such place and that is God.

God cannot be our Rock or our Refuge unless we can recognize Him in the midst of the confusion brought on by lies, false accusations, and perilous times. In such times nothing can be trusted and everything will become uncertain; that is, except God. He will never change. He remains constant regardless of the present shaking and the uncertainty that is trying our souls. However, we must be ready to stand on the Rock when nothing makes sense, hide in the place of Refuge when everything is being swallowed by evil, and remain standing in the tower of His strength when everything is being brought to ruin by the tidal waves of wickedness and judgment.

God has graciously provided the place of the Rock and the place of Refuge. We know that the foundation, our hiding place, and Refuge is

Jesus (*Matthew 11:28-30; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 10:4; Philippians 2:5; Colossians 3:3*). In order for Jesus to be our foundation, we must establish every aspect of our lives on Him. For Him to be our place of refuge we must learn of Him. It is only as we learn of Him that we will develop His attitude that will allow us to respond to the darkness in the proper way. We must also establish the right disposition as a means to keep our minds and souls in complete subjection to the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Spiritual survival is no secret. However, it can remain far away from those who will not obediently walk by faith according to the life that has been freely offered and given to those who are heirs of the kingdom of God.

The question is are you simply surviving the darkness of the times or are you learning to advance through it according to the life of Jesus that is present in you? †

RAYOLA’S Q & A CORNER

CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS TOGETHER?

Q: *I feel I already know your answer to this question, but what do you think of Christian Churches doing joint services with Muslims?*

A: I have experienced a range of emotions over this unholy agreement. I have been sorrowful, appalled, and indignant, but I have not been surprised. Many in the churches have been conditioned by heretical teachings to embrace the great delusion that is sweeping the world. This great delusion is preparing people to accept the antichrist and his wicked system (*2 Thessalonians 2:3-12*).

This unholy agreement, with many other deadly manifestations, reveals that we are living in the end of the end days. These days have been clearly described in the Bible. The truth is that this unholy agreement is fulfilling prophecy concerning the different apostate religions coming together to form a one world religion. The fact that some of these so-called “Christian churches” are fornicating themselves with a different spirit as they accept a social, tolerant gospel and erect an-

other Jesus that is acceptable to all involved, reveals how truth, purity, and righteousness are casualties in this quasi environment of religious debauchery (*2 Corinthians 11:2-4*). Needless to say, this blasphemy is being committed in the name of the newest type of Christian love—that of tolerance or political correctness.

The Bible is clear that there will be a falling away from the truth at the end of the age. Jesus warned that many different “Christs” would be presented, and He questioned whether He would find true faith upon His return (*Matthew 24:4-5, 24-25; Luke 18:8*).

As I clearly consider this profane mixture of Christianity and Islam, I realize how far some of the visible church has fallen from the truth. As Christians, we are told to come out and be separate from that which is pagan, idolatrous, and wicked (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18*). We are not to come into agreement with different spirits or touch the profane in any way, regardless of how logical, tolerant, and wise it may appear. Instead of being the light, “Christians” who come into agreement with such darkness will lose what light they have and will succumb to its delusion, destruction, and judgment.

As I thought about this profane mixture taking place in the sanctuaries of so-called “Christian Churches,” I am reminded of another body who came into an unholy agreement, thereby, spiritually fornicating itself. Sadly, it was said of this body that it had works and charity that expressed itself in service. It had faith which revealed itself in patience, allowing its works to be refined in greater measure. No doubt, some of these Christian Churches can lay claim to some of these very same virtues. However, Jesus brought an indictment against this body because of the spiritual fornication it was committing.

The Lord told this body that He would give it space to repent from its abominable agreement, but if it failed to repent, He would cast it into great tribulation. He also said something else that should bring dread to any individual that can still be reached by Scriptural reasoning. He stated that

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higher power or authority than God. There never has been, and there never will be.

Those who fear God and belong to Jesus have a sure anchor for their faith. They have built their house upon the Rock, and when the storms of life come, as they surely will, and rage against their house, it will remain standing. Do we experience fear when we hear all the evil tidings of our day and age? Yes, naturally there can be a surge of fear, but then we remember who holds us in the palm of His hand. We remember that all of these things have been foretold in His Word. We remember His faithfulness and promises to His own. We remember that heaven and earth shall pass away, but His Word shall not pass away. And, with Job, we can confidently declare, *“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me” Job 19:25-27.*

May I encourage you to do a word study of fear through the Bible, and ask the Lord to show you what He wants you to understand about your own heart concerning fear—if you truly fear and trust Him with all your heart. We would love to hear what the Lord reveals to you about this subject. May you be edified and blessed as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ who promised, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” John 5:24.* †

HOW TRUE IT IS!

“Christianity began as a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When it went to Athens, it became a philosophy. When it went to Rome, it became an organization. When it went to Europe, it became a culture. When it came to America, it became a business.” (From a Steve Quayle video)

He would kill her children with death. In other words, the seed that would be produced by this profane mixture would be destroyed. You might be wondering what Church had such an indictment brought against it. It was the church in Thyatira (*Revelation 2:18-25*).

We are living in serious times. Even though a segment of the church has come into agreement with the philosophies and practices of the world, Jesus remains the same. This means the truth has not changed either.

To me the great message that must be heard by the Church is that of genuine repentance. Repentance from that which is profane, lifeless, and deadly is necessary before conversion towards that which is living, true, pure, and right can take place. It is obvious that there is a great covering of wickedness being cast over people to hide the grave darkness (*Isaiah 25:7; 30:6*). Christians need to hear what the Spirit is saying if they are to avoid or flee from the tentacles of the great judgment that will sweep the world.

This brings me to the final message of Jesus to those of the body of Thyatira who had not discovered the depth of Satan through spiritual whoredom. He told them that He would put no other burden on them other than the one they already possessed. He then instructed them to hold fast until He comes.

What is the burden Jesus was talking about? It is hard to say, but I could guess that the burden is to be faithful to keep doctrine pure, truth sharp, and love directed towards the One who is worthy to receive it. The burden also probably included separation and resistance to becoming involved with the unholy agreement in their midst.

How must we stand in these end days? The Bible is clear that we must endure to the end if we are going to be saved. This will also require believers to possess their souls in patience (*Matthew 24:13; Luke 21:19*). It will require discernment, separation from the unholy, and total consecration to holiness. †

PRAYER ALERT

Joint "Christian-Moslem" Service Was Held at National Cathedral on June 26th

On June 26, 2011, churches in 26 states in America invited Islam to come into their churches. They removed crosses and everything that offends Islam and put the Koran next to the bible on church pulpits. NTEB has reported extensively on the growing Chrislam movement. Chrislam, started in part by Rick Warren of Saddleback Church's embrace of Christianity and Islam, has grown dramatically and now has infected many hundreds of churches and denominations all across America. A new group called Faith Shared is now spearheading the move to merge Christianity with Islam, and in the process, will be provoking the very judgment of God down upon us as a nation. [Reported by: [Hebrew Nation News Alerts](#)]

INCOMING

“...we need to buckle down in our prayer closets and get sensitive to the Lord's leading. I feel its more important than ever that we can /hear from the LORD so we know what to do, what to say, where to go, stay put, shut up, fight or be silent. We have the Bible, HISTORY to give us direction and wisdom because what has gone around is coming back around.” - AK

“The people that voted for him [Obama] are also stupid, but they will probably vote for him again. It's amazing how many can be so deceived by him when the writing is on the WALL! Is it because they don't know the Lord, or are they just terribly liberal and have to go with a liberal? It defies reality to me, and makes me so angry.” - FL [Note: They do not fear God—hence, they have no wisdom.]

“We both feel so blessed to be part of the family of God. Your devotions are a welcome addition to help us keep focused on Him.” - ID

[To order Rayola's book, *Devotions of the Heart*, please contact GSM for information on how to receive a copy.]