

Faith for the End Times



Scripture: Luke 17:20-37 NKJV

Having faith in Christ Jesus in the end times is the key to living victorious. Not just in His name, but in His character, and the ways of God. In this passage Jesus is describing what it will be like when the Kingdom of God comes, but first He says that it does not come by mere observation - but that the Kingdom is **within you**. It all starts with God making His home within our hearts through faith in Jesus Christ. This relationship grows as we faithfully and steadfastly walk with Him.

Jesus speaks of a day that we will long to see his return, which paints a picture of how bad it will become. When he returns it will be suddenly, as suddenly as the rains fell and the earth was flooded in Noah's day, as suddenly as fire and brimstone fell from heaven and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. The people were living life, and doing as they pleased - but judgment was coming. So will it be when Jesus returns for His church. **Let us not look back to the world, instead keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.**

Discussion questions:

1. *Jesus referred to Lot's wife who looked back. What happened to her and what was He wanting his hearers to understand from His reference?*

2. *When Jesus said, "In that day when the Son of man is revealed do not go back down from your roof top to get your belongings," What did He mean?*

Scripture: Luke 18:1-8 NKJV

After Jesus describes the coming Kingdom and what it will be like in that day (in Luke chapter 17), He tells them that **men always ought to pray and to not lose heart**. Jesus will be looking for faith, and faith is strengthened in **prayer**. We MUST continue on in prayer, with passion and with expectation. It's interesting that He used the analogy of a widow woman continuing to petition an unjust judge who does not care about man nor fear God, yet she got what she asked for because of her persistent prayer. It's a stark contrast to how we have a just God who cares deeply, and **will** avenge his people - speedily.

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Discussion questions:

1. Jesus said, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" Discuss this statement. What did He mean? How do you respond?

2. Discuss the importance of persistent prayer in troubled times.

Scriptures: I Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV, I Thessalonians 5:1-11 NKJV

In part of this passage Paul speaks of those who have died in faith in Jesus, and not to become overwhelmed in grief as those who have no hope in Him. The phrase I desire to point out is, "We who are alive and remain," it's denoting an active and living faith **while we remain here in this world. We are in it, but not of it.**

Next, Paul declares we are not in darkness so that day does not overtake us as a thief, because we are sons of light and not of darkness, we are alert and not asleep (just a quick note: this sleep he is talking about is not the sleep of a physical death as stated in the previous chapter. This sleep is speaking of those who are in darkness, who are dead spiritually). A great encouragement to our faith is we are **not** appointed to wrath - but to obtain salvation through faith in through our Lord Jesus Christ! We are to comfort and build up one another in the faith as long as we remain in this world!

Discussion questions:

1. From these two passages discuss your understanding what it will take as a body of believers to live in faith.

2. Through out this whole study there is a common thread of deliverance for faithful believers. Discuss what you see.
