

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In part 4 of SP Daniel Foo's sermon series on the End-Time Church, SP reminds us that an oft repeated exhortation from Revelations is, "Let him who has ears hear what the Spirit is saying."

In this sermon, SP unpacks for us what the Spirit is saying:

- 1. Regarding the Last Days
- 2. Regarding the Inward Witness in Believers
- 3. Regarding the Lord's Return

HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING REGARDING THE LAST DAYS

Regarding the Last Days, 1 Timothy 4:1 mentions that the Spirit explicitly says that in the last days, some will abandon, depart from, or turn away from their faith. The main thing, therefore, is how we can ensure that we are **not** one of those who will turn away in those last days. How not to lose our faith? How not to be deceived or distracted? How to finish well?

SP reminds us of verses in the Bible that reveal two conditional promises to keep us from falling: (1) Jude 1:24, and (2) 2 Peter 1:10

(1) Jude 1:24 – "Now to Him who is <u>able to keep you from stumbling</u>, and to <u>present you</u> <u>faultless</u> before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."

Prior to Jude 1:24, v20-21 show us the way in which we can hold on to the promise of verse 24. "But you, (a) building yourselves up on your most holy faith, (b) praying in the Holy Spirit, (c) keep yourselves in the love of God, (d) looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

We are to (a) build ourselves up on our most holy faith:

- We do so by Hearing the Word (Rom 10:17, Gal 3:3,5), regularly partaking of the Word (1 Pet 2:2-3), developing our spirit of faith in our prayer-worship (2 Cor 4:13), holding tightly to the Lord Jesus (Col 2:19), and regularly meditating on the Word (Psa 1:2, Jos 1:8, Jer 17:7).

We are to (b) pray in the Holy Spirit.

- This means praying as led by the Spirit, with the agenda from the Spirit, and communing with God all that is in our hearts and minds (Eph 6:18, Rom 8:26-27).

- Pray until you overflow with faith (2 Corinthians 4:13), hope (Romans 15:13) and love (Ephesians 3:14-20).

We are to (c) keep ourselves in the love of God:

We do this by continually receiving and experiencing the love of God (Eph 3:14-21), establishing routines to have time alone with God, praying for His love to be poured out by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5, 1 Cor 13:4), spending time in fellowship with the God of Love (2 Cor 13:14), taking note of significant milestones of our experiences, guarding our theology of God, and knowing the character and attributes of God (Js 1:17, Luke 11:13, Rom 8:32)

Finally, we are to (d) look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- We are to always humble ourselves to seek His mercies (Hebrews 4:16), keep short accounts with God (1 John 1:9) and strive for a conscience clear before God and Man (Acts 24:16).
- 2 Peter 1:10 "Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For <u>if you do these things</u>, you will <u>never fall</u>."

HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING REGARDING THE INWARD WITNESS IN BELIEVERS

The Holy Spirit speaks to our inward witness through:

- (1) The Word that we know (Psalms 119:105)
- (2) <u>Our thoughts and feelings that are yielded to Him (Hebrews 8:10, 10:16)</u> Where God may use many different sources to guide and influence our thoughts and feelings.

God always desires to lead and guide his people. The question is whether we have the desire to be led and guided by God. We must seek to expand our 'Hallelujah Sector' where God's will is our will as well. As we are led and guided towards a decision, trust in the Lord with all our heart (Prov 3:5-6), and do not doubt but have faith (Rom 14:23).

HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING REGARDING THE LORD'S RETURN

The Holy Spirit reminds us that the Lord is returning and that as we prepare for His return:

- (1) We should purify ourselves just as He is pure (1 John 3:2-3)
- (2) We should build ourselves up in our holy faith, pray in the Holy Spirit and keep ourselves in the love of God (Jude 1:20-21).
- (3) We are also to look for the blessed hope, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and living soberly, righteously, and godly (Titus 2:12-13), adding to our faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (2 Pet 1:5-7).

CONCLUSION

In Part 4 of the Series on the End-Time Church, SP exhorts us to listen carefully to what the Spirit has to say to us.

That we should focus on the main thing, to ensure that our faith will endure to the end.

That we should be wise and desire to be led and guided by God in all of our lives.

And that we should live our lives in preparation for the Lord's return.

We need to take heed to ourselves and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this we will save ourselves and those who hear us. (1 Tim 4:16)

He who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

QUESTIONS

1. In the last days, the Spirit expressly says that there will be many who will depart from the faith (1 Timothy 4:1). Are there any around you that have departed from the faith? What happened to them that caused their departure and how has it affected you personally?

2. What are the conditions behind the promises in Jude 1:20-24 and 2 Peter 1:5-7? Which conditions do you find more challenging and why?

3. The Lord is returning soon. What are you doing to prepare for His triumphant return? What promises are you holding on to help you finish well?