



The 7 Churches of REVELATION 2 & 3



Ephesus

Rev 2:7

To him who overcomes

I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."



Smyrna

Rev 2:11

He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."



Pergamos

Rev 2:17

To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat.



Thyatira

Rev 2:26-28

And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—



Sardis

Rev 3:5

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life



Philadelphia

Rev 3:12

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.



Laodicea

Rev 3:21

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

The 7 Churches of REVELATION 2 & 3



Ephesus

Rev 2:7

He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says** to the churches.



Smyrna

Rev 2:11

He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says** to the churches.



Pergamos

Rev 2:17

He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says** to the churches.



Thyatira

Rev 2:29

He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says** to the churches.



Sardis

Rev 3:6

He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says** to the churches.



Philadelphia

Rev 3:13

He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says** to the churches.

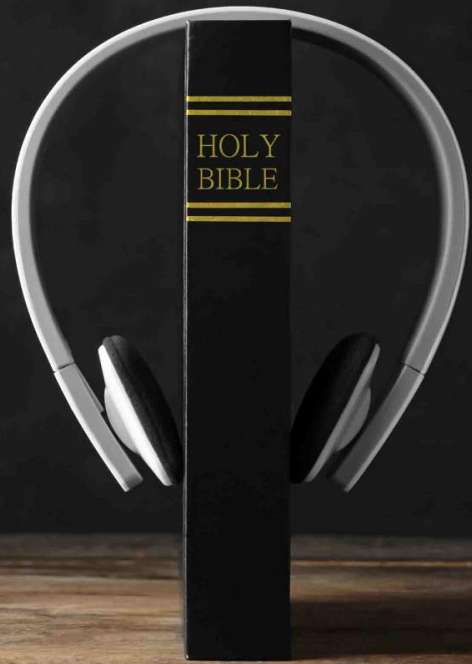


Laodicea

Rev 3:22

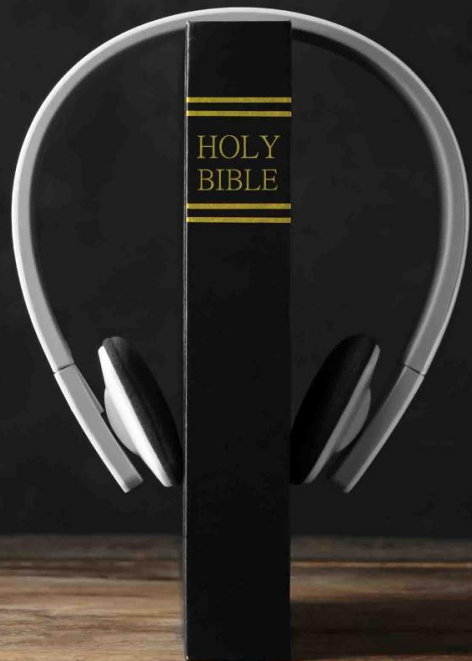
He who has an ear, **let him hear what the Spirit says** to the churches.

HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING...



Hear what the Spirit is saying ...

- I. Regarding the Last Days
- II. Regarding the Inward Witness in Believers
- III. Regarding the Lord's Return

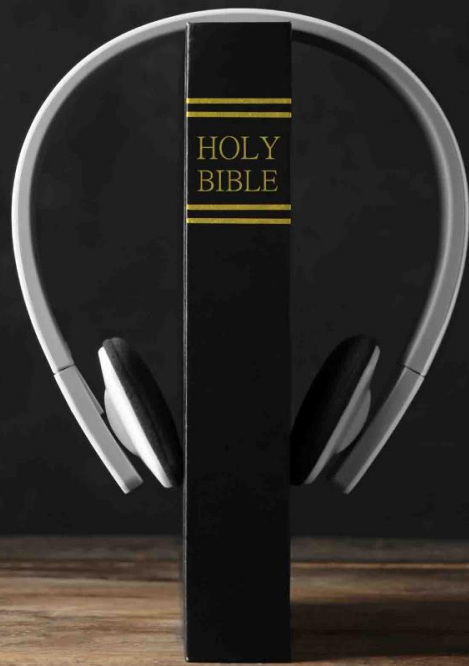


Hear what the Spirit is saying ...

I. Regarding the Last Days

II. Regarding the Inward Witness in Believers

III. Regarding the Lord's Return



I. Hear what the Spirit is saying **REGARDING THE LAST DAYS.**

The Spirit expressly says that **in the Last Days**, some will **depart from the faith**.

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

Now the Spirit **expressly** says that in **latter times** **some will depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

1 Timothy 4:1 (AMP)

But the [Holy] Spirit **explicitly and unmistakably** declares that in **later times** **some will turn away from the faith**, paying attention instead to deceitful and seductive spirits and doctrines of demons,

1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV)

The Spirit **clearly** says that in **later times** **some will abandon the faith** and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

I. Hear what the Spirit is saying **REGARDING THE LAST DAYS**.

The Spirit expressly says that **in the Last Days**, some will **depart from the faith**.

Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, **will He really find faith on the earth?**

Matthew 24:12 lawlessness will abound, **the love (agape) of many will grow cold**.

BarnaResearch+Focus+xWLdrs&xPs

May2022-Ps-62%-No-B-w/v



Focus on the Main Thing!

- How not to lose our faith?
- How not to depart from our faith?
- How not to fall?
- How not to be deceived-distracted-lost?
- How to finish well to keep the faith?

How not to lose our faith? How not to fall?

There are
TWO CONDITIONAL PROMISES
 to us that we will not fall.

How not to lose our faith? How not to fall?

There are **two conditional promises** to us that we will not fall.

1 - Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is **able to keep you from stumbling**, and to **present you faultless** before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy ...

2 - 2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For **if you do these things**, you will **never fall** ...



How not to lose our faith? How not to fall?

Conditional Promise # 1

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy ...

Jude 1:20-21

20 But you, beloved, (1) *building yourselves up on your most holy faith*, (2) *praying in the Holy Spirit*, 21 (3) *keep yourselves in the love of God*, (4) *looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ* unto eternal life.



Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved, (1) building yourselves up on your most holy faith. WHY?

- The Spirit expressly says that in the last days, some will depart from the faith
- We must earnestly contend for our faith [Jude 3]
- Without faith, we cannot please God [Hebrews 11:6]
- We walk by faith, not by sight [2 Corinthians 5:7]
- Our eyes must fix on the unseen, not the seen [2 Cor 4:18]
- We must guard the simplicity of our devotion to Christ [2 Corinthians 11:3]



Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved,
 (1) building yourselves up on your most holy faith. HOW?

- Faith comes from hearing the Word in our spirit [Romans 10:17; Galatians 3:3, 5]
- We must hence, regularly partake the Word
 - The Word is Milk-Bread-Meat - our spiritual nourishment
- Develop our Spirit of Faith in our Prayer-Worship [2 Corinthians 4:13]
- Always hold v tightly to the Lord Jesus
 - the Head [Colossians 2:19]
- Regularly meditate the Word
 [Psalm 1:2; Joshua 1:8; Jeremiah 17:7]



Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved,
 (2) praying in the Holy Spirit. HOW?

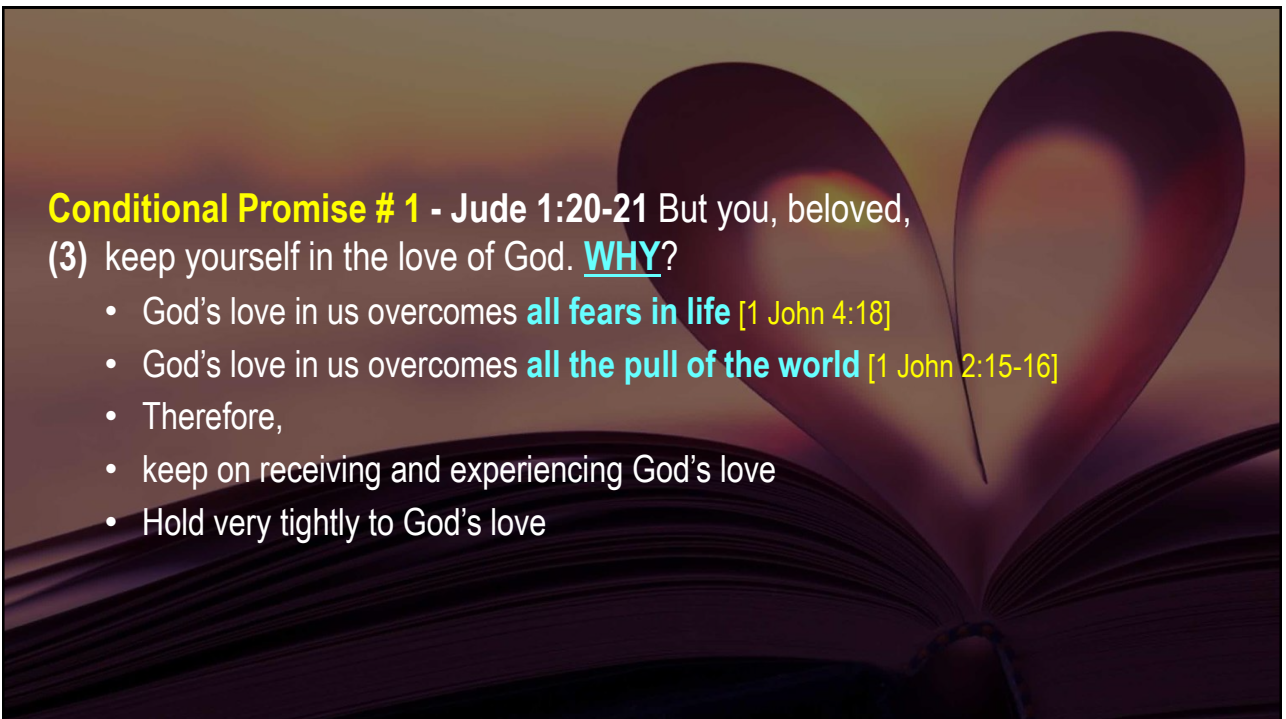
- As led by the Holy Spirit
- Agenda empowered by Him
- Commune with God all that is in your heart and mind
- All kinds of prayer - Thanksgiving, Praise & Worship, petitions, groans, requests, sighs, in mind, in feelings, tongues, pray the Word, etc.
- Just connect with Him!
- Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:26-27





Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved,
 (2) praying in the Holy Spirit. HOW?

- Pray even when
 - in doubt - discouraged - disappointed - despondent
- Pray until you overflow with:
 - Faith (2 Corinthians 4:13)
 - Hope (Romans 15:13)
 - Love (Ephesians 3:14-20)



Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved,
 (3) keep yourself in the love of God. WHY?

- God's love in us overcomes **all fears in life** [1 John 4:18]
- God's love in us overcomes **all the pull of the world** [1 John 2:15-16]
- Therefore,
- keep on receiving and experiencing God's love
- Hold very tightly to God's love

Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved,
(3) keep yourself in the love of God. HOW?

- Continually receive & experience the love of God [Ephesians 3:14-21]
- Establish routines to do so - TAWG, Corporate Worship, etc.
- Pray for His love to be poured into our hearts by the HS [Rom 5:5; 1 Cor 13:4-8]
- Fellowship with the God of Love [2 Corinthians 13:14]
- Take note of significant milestones of your experiences
- Experiencing the love of God boosts our faith and walk

Tim Keller - diagnosed with Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer - i/v 10 Apr 2022



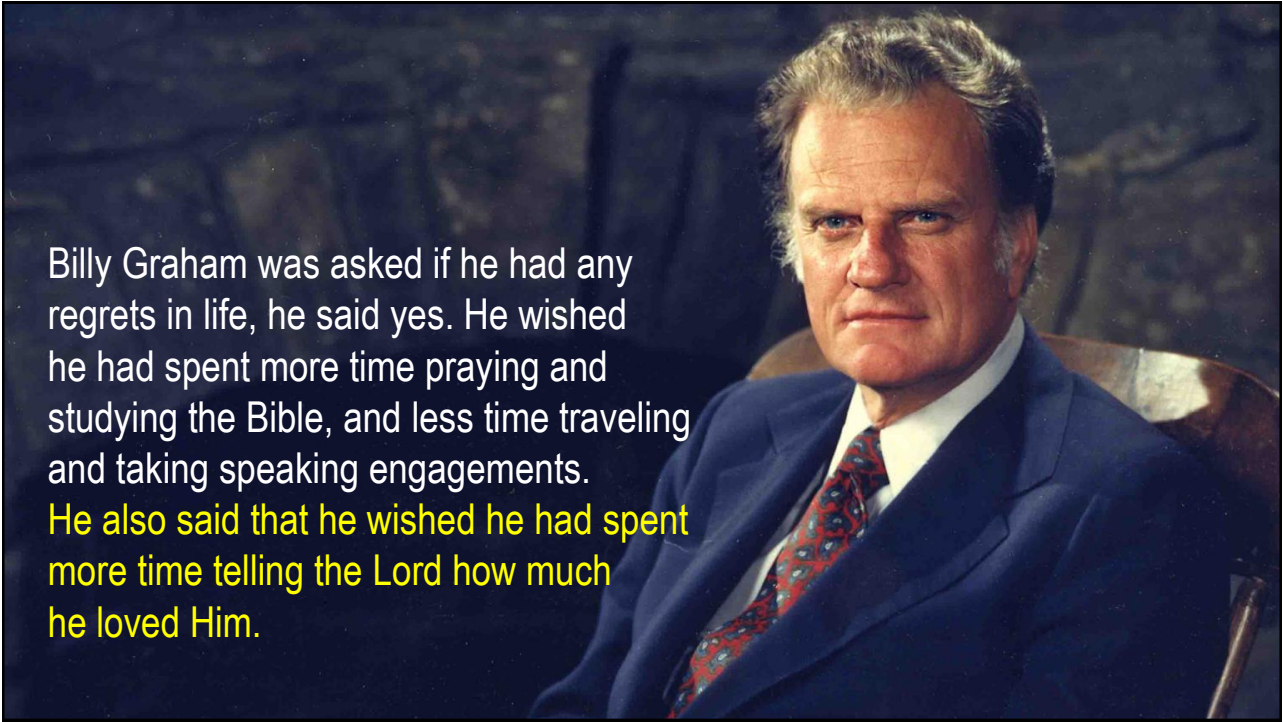
Encounter with your own mortality will change how you see your life, etc.

*“It’s one thing to believe God loves you, another thing to **actually feel His love.***

It’s one thing to believe He is present with you.

*Its another to **actually experience His Presence ...** know the Lord ...*

My experience of His Presence and His love must double, triple, quintuple or I wouldn’t make it!”



Billy Graham was asked if he had any regrets in life, he said yes. He wished he had spent more time praying and studying the Bible, and less time traveling and taking speaking engagements. He also said that he wished he had spent more time telling the Lord how much he loved Him.

Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved, (3) keep yourself in the love of God. HOW?

- Guard your theology-beliefs about God. E.g. Song - He Gives and Takes Away wrongly attribute to God as direct source of evil and pain [Job 1:21-lament of Job]
- Know the Character & Attributes of God as perfectly good
- He gives good and perfect gifts [James 1:17]
- He gives the best [Luke 11:13; Romans 8:32]
- Goodness and Mercy follow us as we abide in Him [Psalm 23:6]
- Warning not to ascribe to God that He is the source of evil and pain [Isaiah 5:20]
- Instead sing and proclaim [Psalm 103:1-5]

Instead of Job 1:21, sing and proclaim Psalm 103:1-5

Psalm 103:1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! **2** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits (Ps 68:19) **3** Who forgives all Your iniquities (+sins+trespasses), Who heals all your diseases (divine healing-health-life), **4** Who redeems your life from destruction, (protection) Who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, (Ps 23:6) **5** Who satisfies your mouth with good things, (Prov 10:22) so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's (Is 40:31).

Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved, (4) looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Mercy = not reaping in part or full, what we have sown in past
- Always humble ourselves to seek His mercies [Hebrews 4:16]
- Keep short accounts with God [1 John 1:9]
- Forgiveness, Cleansing, Covering
- Strive for a conscience clear before God & Man [Acts 24:16]

Conditional Promise # 1 - Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved,
(4) looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 1:13-14

13 although I (apostle Paul) was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

Conditional Promise # 2 - 2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall ...

2 Peter 1:5-7

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith virtue (moral excellence-goodness), to virtue knowledge, (experience) 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.



Conditional Promise # 2 - Peter's Own Journey

Faith - F crisis [Luke 22:32]

Virtue - Character - man of your word - denied the Lord x3 - failed

Knowledge - experienced forgiveness, love, restoration [Jn 21:15-17]

Self-control - rebuked by Paul [Gal 2:11]

Perseverance - thru' persecution [Acts 4-5]

Godliness - Be Holy [1 Peter 1:15-16]

Brotherly kindness - have fervent love - love covers [1 Peter 4:8]

Love - of God to death - crucified upside down [Jn 21:19]



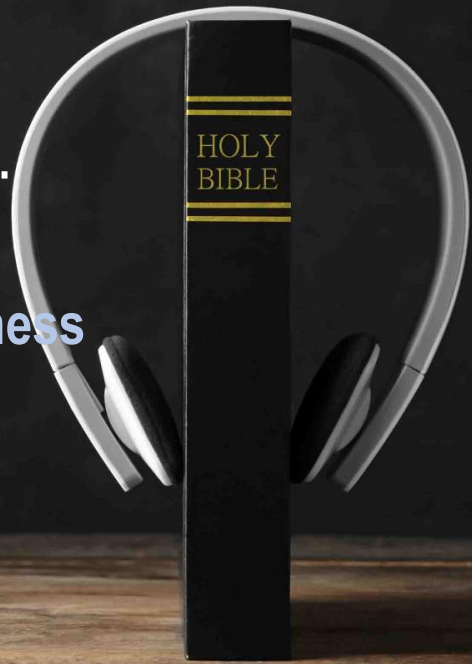
Conditional Promise # 2

2 Peter 1:8-11

8 For **if** you **possess these qualities in increasing measure**, they will **keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**. 9 But **whoever does not have them is short-sighted and blind, forgetting** that they have been **cleansed from their past sins**. 10 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **make every effort to confirm your calling and election**. **For if you do these things, you will never stumble**, 11 and you will receive a **rich welcome** into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Hear What The Spirit Is Saying ...

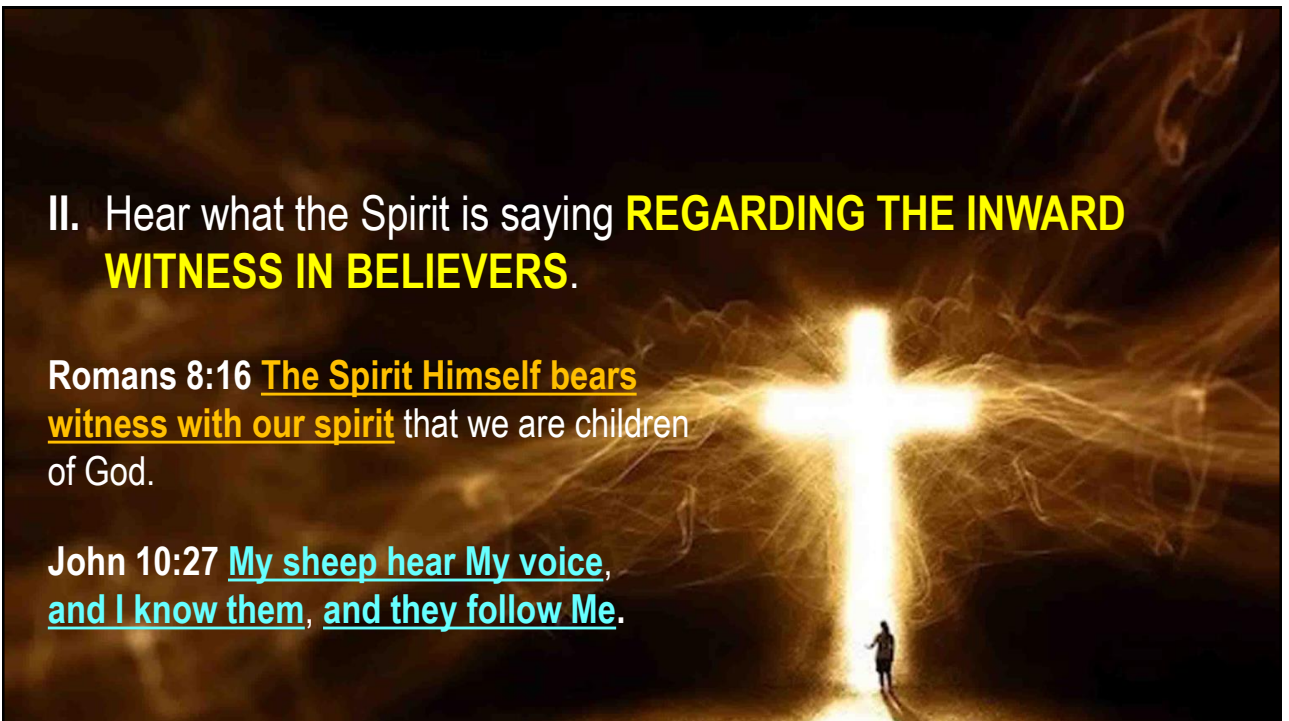
- I. Regarding the Last Days
- II. Regarding the Inward Witness in Believers**
- III. Regarding the Lord's Return



II. Hear what the Spirit is saying **REGARDING THE INWARD WITNESS IN BELIEVERS.**

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.



II. Hear what the Spirit is saying **REGARDING THE INWARD WITNESS IN BELIEVERS.**

In decision-making and guidance, the Holy Spirit will confirm to our inward witness:

1. the **Word** that we **know** (Psalm 119:105; Romans 9:1) [vs ignorance]
2. our **thoughts** and **feelings** that are **yielded** to Him

In decision-making and guidance, the Holy Spirit will confirm to our inward witness:

1. From the **Word** (Psalm 119:105)

Direction

Broad
Principles

Laws

Instructions

EG1: Exodus 20:1-17

EG2: 2 Corinthians 6:14

EG3: Romans 12:17-21



In decision-making and guidance, the Holy Spirit will confirm to our inward witness:

2. The **Wisdom of God** as we seek Him. The **details** of the guidance.

BGR → Who to marry? Friends? Social Groups

Studies → Which course to take?

Work Career → Handling difficult colleagues? Is it time to leave?

Medical Condition → 2nd or 3rd Opinion?

\$\$ Upgrade Downgrade Financial Freedom → Savings - Investments



Details of the guidance from the following influence our thoughts & feelings:

- Our specific situations and circumstances
- Counsel from mentors, friends, experts, people connected to the decision
- Words of knowledge and wisdom
- Divine appointments and connections
- Dreams, visions
- Insights - Downloads
- Access to resources and searches, etc.

In decision-making and guidance, the Holy Spirit will confirm to our inward witness:

2. The **Wisdom of God** as we seek Him.

The Holy Spirit directs us in our **thoughts** and **emotions** on the matter.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will **put My laws in their mind** and **write them on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Hebrews 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will **put My laws into their hearts**, and **in their minds I will write them**.

Laws

Mind

Heart

Put

Write

Jer31:31-34

knowledge - understanding - wisdom

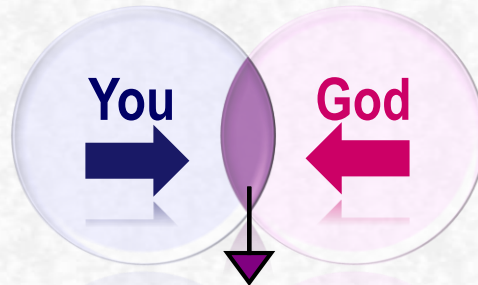
Decision-making Process



Two Conditions:

1. Do Proverbs 3:5-6 always
2. Romans 14:23
- Decide by faith

- ✓ **God** desires to always guide and lead you.
- ✓ **You** must always desire to be guided by God.



The area of overlap is the “Hallelujah” sector where God’s Will is your will.

What are God’s laws?

“**Mandata**” = moral laws that are to be obeyed absolutely.

“**Exemplar**” = examples used in parables and stories that reveal principles to follow; they are not commands.

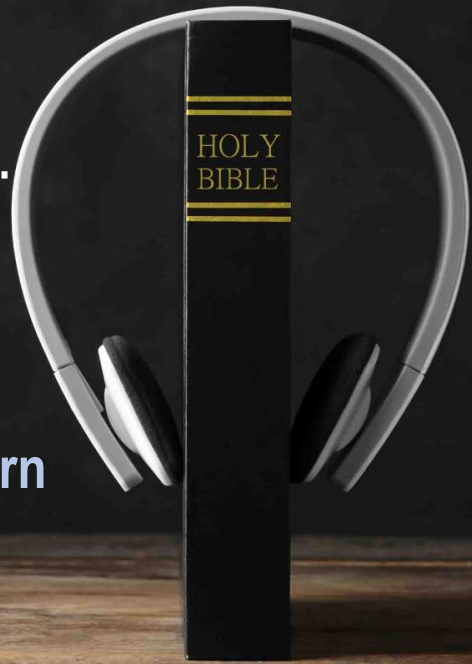
EG1: of Peter walking on water
(focus on Jesus)

EG2: of Jesus telling the rich young ruler to sell everything to follow Him (idolatry)

EG3: widow putting in 2 copper mites
(sacrificial generous giving)

Hear What The Spirit Is Saying ...

- I. Regarding the Last Days
- II. Regarding the Inward Witness in Believers
- III. Regarding the Lord's Return**



III. Hear what the Spirit is saying **REGARDING THE LORD'S RETURN.**

Revelation 22

v 7 - Behold I am coming quickly!

v12 - And behold, I am coming quickly.

v20 - Surely I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus!



III. Hear what the Spirit is saying **REGARDING THE LORD'S RETURN.**

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 until HE is taken out of the way

The HE is the Holy Spirit in the Church (believers) - Raptured!

III. Hear what the Spirit is saying **REGARDING THE LORD'S RETURN.**

1 John 3:2-3

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Jude 1:20-21

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

III. Hear what the Spirit is saying **REGARDING THE LORD'S RETURN.**

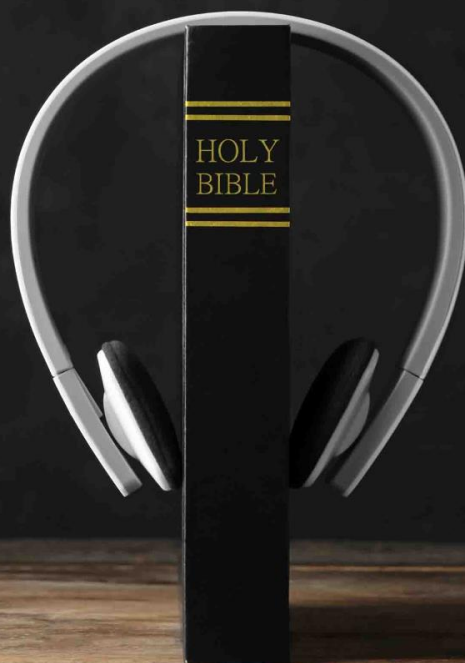
Titus 2:12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **13 looking for the blessed hope** (not AC; Mark of Beast; Conspiracies on world govt & Vaccines, monkey pox, etc.) and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ ...



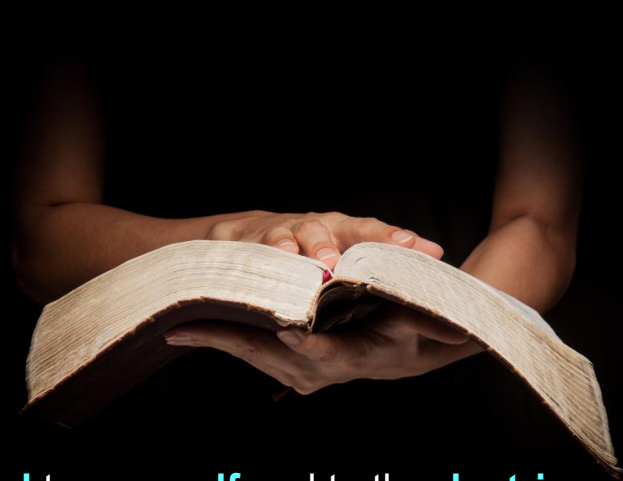
SUMMARY

Hear what the Spirit is saying ...

- I. Regarding the Last Days
- II. Regarding the Inward Witness in Believers
- III. Regarding the Lord's Return



BOTTOM-LINE



1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine.
Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself
and those who hear you.