



Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

*Our desire is that you may grow in the grace
and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*If you have a prayer request, for
which you would like us to pray,
please fill out a prayer sheet at
the back table and give to Lyle.*

Q & A

January 18, 2015

9. When even mature Christians look at 6,000 years of Biblical time, prophecies, pre-ordained evil upon the earth, a Church Age that has struggles to produce significance beyond that of the Early Church, the Creeds, the Reformation and its truest crusaders and Confessions—then couple that with present day madness, chaos, Godlessness, theologically vacuous evangelical churches, plus overwhelming personal tribulations, and a “God who hides Himself” (Isa. 45:15) —it is easier than we think to start losing our faith in an Omnipotent God who will pour out His promised wrath, return, judge the world, take His rightful throne, and establish a perfect Kingdom with the saints.

In the face of all this, how do we hang on when we really are so alone, and His Word seems so distant?

9. When even mature Christians look at 6,000 years of Biblical time, prophecies, pre-ordained evil upon the earth, a Church Age that has struggles to produce significance beyond that of the Early Church, the Creeds, the Reformation and its truest crusaders and Confessions —

1. The believer will always be in the minority.

Matt 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

2. The believer will always exist in a hostile environment.

John 15:19

19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

- Sinful fallen world.
- Living under the curse.

—then couple that with present day madness, chaos, Godlessness, theologically vacuous evangelical churches, plus overwhelming personal tribulations, and a “God who hides Himself” (Isa. 45:15) –

2 Tim 3:1-5

- 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
- 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,
- 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,
- 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
- 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

1 Tim 4:1-3

- 1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
- 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,
- 3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

2 Tim 4:3-4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

–it is easier than we think to start losing our faith in an Omnipotent God who will pour out His promised wrath, return, judge the world, take His rightful throne, and establish a perfect Kingdom with the saints.

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2 Peter 3:3-9

- 3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,
- 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."
- 5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,
- 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.
- 7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
- 8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.
- 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

What does the believer do?

1. Don't soil your garments.

Rev 3:4

4 'But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

2. Deny ungodliness & worldliness.

Titus 2:11-13

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

3. Live above reproach.

Phil 2:14-16

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

4. Keep on rejoicing.

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

John 16:33

33 In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Rom 5:3-5

3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Rom 8:35-39

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 Just as it is written,

"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Cor 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Tim 4:7-8

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

The Four Crowns of Scripture



The Crown of Righteousness

- * II Tim. 4:6-8
- * I Cor. 9:24-27

*Faithfulness in accomplishing God's will
for your life.*



The Crown of Life

- * James 1:12
- * Rev. 2:10

Faithfulness in trials.



The Crown of Joy

- * I Thes. 2:19
- * Phil. 4:1
- * I Cor. 3:12-15

Faithfulness in witnessing and discipleship.



The Crown of Glory

- * I Peter 5:1-4
- * I Cor. 3:12-15

*Faithfulness in correctly shepherding the
flock of God.*

5. Trust God that He will take care of you.

Isa 45:14-17

14 Thus says the Lord,
"The products of Egypt and the merchandise of Cush
And the Sabeans, men of stature,
Will come over to you and will be yours;
They will walk behind you, they will come over in chains
And will bow down to you;
They will make supplication to you:
'Surely, God is with you, and there is none else,
No other God.'"

**15 Truly, You are a God who hides Himself,
O God of Israel, Savior!**

16 They will be put to shame and even humiliated, all of them;
The manufacturers of idols will go away together in humiliation.

17 Israel has been saved by the Lord
With an everlasting salvation;
You will not be put to shame or humiliated
To all eternity.

Isa 41:10

10 'Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Isa 41:13

13 "For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand,
Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'

Isa 42:6

6 "I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness,
I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You,

Isa 43:1-2

1 But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel,

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are Mine!

2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,
Nor will the flame burn you.

Isa 43:5

5 "Do not fear, for I am with you;

Isa 45:5-7

5 "I am the Lord, and there is no other;

Besides Me there is no God.

I will gird you, though you have not known Me;

6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun

That there is no one besides Me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other,

7 The One forming light and creating darkness,

Causing well-being and creating calamity;

I am the Lord who does all these.

Isa 46:9-10

9 "Remember the former things long past,

For I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is no one like Me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning,

And from ancient times things which have not been done,

Saying, 'My purpose will be established,

And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

9. When even mature Christians look at 6,000 years of Biblical time, prophecies, pre-ordained evil upon the earth, a Church Age that has struggles to produce significance beyond that of the Early Church, the Creeds, the Reformation and its truest crusaders and Confessions—then couple that with present day madness, chaos, Godlessness, theologically vacuous evangelical churches, plus overwhelming personal tribulations, and a “God who hides Himself” (Isa. 45:15) —it is easier than we think to start losing our faith in an Omnipotent God who will pour out His promised wrath, return, judge the world, take His rightful throne, and establish a perfect Kingdom with the saints.

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Life of Christ

Matt 26:31

31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'

Matt 26:56

56 "But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets." Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

Life of Paul

2 Tim 4:16

16 At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me;