

## Last Days Guide to Victory – Part 5

### “Protecting your Heart – Eyes – Ears & Family”

2 Timothy 3:2 “Realize this, in the Last Days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable...”

According to Biblical predictions of the Last Days, the Bible says there will be a widespread tendency to **throw away fixed ethics or moral absolutes** and embrace “**floating ethics**” that adapts as one seems necessary.

You need to ask yourself questions and prepare yourself to receive God’s answers:

#### 1. Be careful not to allow “floating ethics” into your life

**Are you sticking with the word of God and refusing to go the “floating ethics” way of the world, regardless of the consequences?**

- Doing so will put you on a collision course with people you know who have gone astray with a culture in decline.

The Lord calls us to be unmoving in our commitment to Biblical truth:

- Are you staying grounded in the Bible?
- Have you allowed yourself to “float” regarding basic principles of the Bible that should be fixed forever in your heart and mind?

The spirit of this age is seductively leading people off track with fear of being accused of being “intolerant, irrelevant, un-scientific, homophobic, racially insensitive, and non-progressive.”

These are the terms we’re hearing today!

The Church of the Lord needs to stand up and be anchored firmly in the truth of God’s Word on these topics and boldly declare what the Lord has to say.

Psalm 37:3-7 “**Trust** in the Lord and do good [continue to do what is right], dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. **Delight** yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. **Commit** your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light and your judgment as the noonday. **Rest** in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.”

## 2. **Be careful not to be beguiled by a deceived world in these last days.**

Since this is the last days with a great “falling away” being a trait of the times, we will see an increase of this degenerating process all around us.

We are in a generation seeing the effects of seducing spirits causing society to disconnect from moral standards once held to be the common rule and view of society.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 “The Spirit speaks distinctly/expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing** spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in **hypocrisy**; having their **conscience** seared with a hot iron.”

**Seducing** = impostor or misleader, deceiver.

**Hypocrisy** = acting under a feigned part, deceit.

**Conscience** = moral consciousness.

**Seared with a hot iron** = cauterized, to render insensitive.

- You must take the responsibility to be the guardian of your own mind, it is your responsibility to insure that you are not being duped/fooled along with the rest of the world as it is being swayed into lawlessness away from Gods’ order.
- This is a time of great lies and deception – lying spirits and doctrines of demons have been loosed on the earth to confuse and bring people under great deception to receive the anti-Christ spirit of lawlessness now at work. It will only get worse.

### **Questions:**

1. Is there any stance you have taken on a subject that may not be agreement with Scripture?
2. Have your thoughts begun to be open to accept if the Bible is out of touch/dated and you need to take a more liberal/progressive stand toward sin?

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

- As you submit yourself to the Truth of God’s Word and come into agreement with it, light will shine upon you to show you the right way to walk in rooting out deception.

## 3. **Be careful not to become contaminated by the spirit of this age.**

**Contaminated** = “Soiled, stained, corrupted, infected by contact or association. Made un-useful by the introduction of un-wholesome or undesirable elements.”

Those without a Biblical foundation are on unstable and unreliable paths that float on trends rather than a fixed faith that is in the absolute truth of God’s Word.

Matthew 13:23 “He that received seed into the good ground is he that hears the Word, understands it, bears fruit some thirty, some sixty, some hundred-fold.”

1 Corinthians 15:33 “Be not deceived, evil **communications/companionships/friendship corrupt/defile** good manners.

### **Questions:**

1. Am I being faithful to the standard of God’s Word in all areas of my life?

If you have and are faithful, be prepared to be misunderstood for that stand. You will be accused of being antisocial, contrary, noncompliant, intolerant, narrow-minded, bigoted, inflexible, obstinate and uncompromising.

You, as the Church, need to STAND UP and refuse to be contaminated by the spirit of the age:

Isaiah 56:1-2 “Thus says the Lord, Preserve justice and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come and My righteousness to be revealed. How blessed is the person who does this, and the son of man who takes hold of it;”

1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **But resist him, firm in your faith**, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”

Philippians 1:27 “Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, ... I may hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;”

### **Questions:**

1. How do you respond when you sense hostility from those who don’t agree with your unwavering stance of faith and conviction? Does it disturb you too deeply? Are you more concerned with what they say about you and feel towards you than what the Lord says?
2. Are you willing to pay whatever price is needed to hold fast to the truth?

3. Are you tempted to give ground to protect yourself?

Matthew 10:32-39 “Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies ME before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than ME is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for MY sake will find it.”

As the Last Days progress, this question will become more and more urgent for our times. It’s good to examine our lives now!

4. **Be careful about what you allow in through your Ears**

The foulness of today’s society is shocking, yet we hear so much, we are being desensitized.

**Questions:**

1. How do you react when you hear foul language?
  - Nothing, flinch, speak up, feel grieved, remain silent.
  - Steve McDaniel when I used the name of the Lord in vain.
2. Are you able to sit through a movie or TV show without being disturbed by the language or actions? Do you get up and leave the room or change the channel to avoid it going in your ears?

Your hearing is so important that even faith comes to you through your ear gate:

Romans 10:17 “Faith comes by hearing [continually hearing], and hearing by the word of Christ.”

3. Is God pleased with what you allow through your ear gate?

**Be careful what you allow in through your Eyes**

Lot saw so much wickedness that transpired around him on a regular basis that he became numb and hardened to the evil his eyes continually beheld.

- He lived in that atmosphere so long that his persistent residence there, seeing the wrong images, it eventually vexed his own soul – 2 Peter 2:7-8  
“and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men [for what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds]”

**Vexed** = “Tortured” by constantly seeing sin around him and accommodating what he knew was wrong – Lot eventually subjected his mind and soul to unrelenting torment or torture.

The enemy is waging warfare against us and if we allow images into our minds through our eyes and ears, we open gates for him to attack our minds.

### **Questions to ask yourself:**

1. What do the movies, TV shows, videos, games I watch say about my commitment to God and His Word?
  - You are the guardian of your eyes and ears, so be honest with yourself about what you are entertaining yourself with.
2. Is it edifying to your spirit to grow stronger in the Lord?
5. **Be careful to spiritually lead your family and children**

2 Timothy 2 clearly forecasts that the home/family will come under assault in the Last Days.

### **Questions to ask yourself:**

1. How often do you read the Bible to your children or with your family?
2. How often do you pray with your family?
3. How often do you take time to help family members think through difficult subjects/issues and see what the Scriptures say about these things?
6. **Be careful not to give way to a spirit of fear**

Shrinking back in fear in the face of all that is happening in culture around you is not the correct response.

Hebrews 10:38-39 “Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition/waste, ruin or loss; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

This is the greatest hour for the Light of the gospel of Christ to shine through you, instead of running for cover, we need to help those who are around us who don't know the Lord and need His salvation.

Proverbs 24:10 “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.”

- This is not a rebuke, but a reason why you might faint and a summons to add to your strength.

### **Questions to ask yourself**

1. Are you preparing yourself to be pro-active in sharing God's truth and light, or are you trying to make excuses and hide and protect yourself from possible retribution?
2. Are you cowering in fear from what is happening in the world around you, or are you taking the posture of shining as a light into the darkness to help others?
3. What are you doing to help others? How are you preparing to be an instrument that brings healing and restoration to those around you who are hurting and wounded?

This is our opportunity to shine as the Light of Jesus into the darkness.

People are looking for solutions to their moral problems, and you have the answers they need.

We must not give in to the many fears that would confront us:

- Fear of man
- Fear of failure
- Fear of being personally overwhelmed

Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.”

Proverbs 14:27 “The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death.”

Determine to seize every opportunity to wisely and lovingly speak truth to those who desperately need your voice!

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