

## Make Up Your Mind To Live Fearlessly And Peacefully in These Last Days!

“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, NOT to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.” — 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2

1. In 2 Thessalonians 2:2, Paul wrote to the believers and warned them about events that would occur right before the coming of the Lord.
  - He wanted to prepare them so these major world events wouldn't take them off guard and throw them into a state of panic.
  - Paul told them, “That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand”
  - “Soon shaken” The word “soon” in the Greek means quickly, suddenly, or hastily.
  - The word “shaken” in the Greek means to shake, to waver, to totter, or to be moved.
  - The tense used in the Greek points to events so dramatic that they could result in shock or alarm.
  - The Greek tense strongly suggests “a devastating occurrence or a sequence of devastating occurrences so dramatic that they will throw the world into a state of shock or distress.”

By using the words “soon shaken,” Paul was urging 1<sup>st</sup> Century believers and us to resist being easily shaken up by events that will occur just before the coming of Jesus.

He was particularly careful to mention that we must not be “soon shaken in mind.”

2. The Greek word for the “mind” describes “*everything in the realm of the intellect, including one's will, emotions, and ability to think, reason, and decide*.”
- Whoever or whatever controls a person's mind ultimately has the power to dictate the affairs and outcome of that person's life.

### Whatever captures your attention shapes your belief system!

- If you allow your mind to be doused with panic or fear, you are putting fear in charge of your life.
- Paul encourages us to remain in peace regardless of the tumultuous events that transpired around us, he urges us not to allow fear from these shocking and distressful events to penetrate our minds, will, and emotions.

Prov. 3:25-26 “Be NOT afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; [not if, but when] For the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.”

This is the days we read about in Matt 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 and the book of Revelation: Last-Days event and the beginning of sorrows coming upon the world.

- WE EITHER BELIEVE GOD AND HIS WORD OR WE DON'T.
- This is the time the faithful will be kept and preserved while the unfaithful and unbelieving will fall away.

3. Paul went on to say, “That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled....”

- The word “troubled” in the Greek indicates an inward fright that results from the shocking occurrence described above.
- The shock resulting from these nerve-racking events could be so severe that it could cause a person to be devoured with *worry, anxiety, or fear*.
- Paul is confident these events will not be only a one-time occurrence;
  - So, he uses a Greek tense that points to “an ongoing state of worry and inward anxiety” resulting from these outward events that keep occurring again and again.”
  - He indicates there is no pause between these shocking, debilitating, and nerve-racking happenings.
  - One scholar therefore translates the word “troubled” as *being jumpy or nervous*.

The following is a translated paraphrase from the original Greek words, pulling the full meaning out of each word and then transferring those meanings into the interpretive translation:

**All the words Paul used in Second Thessalonians 2:2 convey this idea:**

“Some things will be happening right before His coming that could shake you up quite a bit. I’m referring to events that will be so dramatic that they could really leave your head spinning — occurrences of such a serious nature that many people will end up feeling alarmed, panicked, intimidated, and even unnerved! Naturally speaking, these events could nearly drive you over the brink emotionally, putting your nerves on edge and making you feel apprehensive and insecure about life. I wish I could tell you these incidents were going to be just a one-shot deal, but when they finally get rolling, they’re going to keep coming and coming, one after another. **That’s why you have to determine not to be**

shaken or moved by anything you see or hear. You need to get a grip on your mind and refuse to allow yourselves to be traumatized by these events.

If you let these things get to you, it won't be too long until you're a nervous wreck! So decide beforehand that you are not going to give in and allow 'fright' to work its way into your mind and emotions until it runs your whole life."

Paul strongly urges us not to allow ourselves to be shaken or moved by anything we see or hear.

**"Get a grip on our minds and refuse to allow ourselves to be traumatized by the events that occur in the world around us or to allow fear to control our whole lives.**

Instead of letting these things "get to us" and rob us of our joy, peace, and victory, we need to be deeply rooted in the confidence of God's promises!

It is clear that Paul's prophecy about the last days is unfolding before our very eyes. Because of the many different situations that our generation is facing, we must take a stand against fear and determine to stay in faith!

But in order for us to stay in faith, **it is imperative that we keep our minds focused on the Word of God.**

Colossians 3:15 "And let the peace of God **rule** in your hearts...."

V. 16 goes on to say, "Let the Word of Christ  **dwell** in you richly...."

- When the Word of God *dwells richly* in our lives, it produces *peace* — so much supernatural peace that it actually *rules* our hearts!

The word "**rule**" in the Greek, describes an umpire who calls all the shots and makes all the decisions.

When God's Word is dwelling richly in your heart, the *peace of God* makes all the big decisions, calls all the shots, and umpires your emotions.

Rather than being led by the ups and downs of the day or by what you hear through the news, you will be ruled by the wonderful peace of God!

To receive this benefit of God's Word, you must let it dwell in you **richly**.

This word **richly** in Greek is translated **lavishly**.

- This presents the picture of you giving the Word of God a wonderful reception as you roll out the red carpet so you can *richly* and *lavishly* welcome the Word into your heart.
- When you let God's Word have this place of honor inside your heart, mind, and emotions, it releases its power to stabilize you and keep you in peace, even in the most difficult times.

**There is no doubt that we are living in the very end of the last days.**

We are a chosen generation — and we will observe events that no other generation has ever seen.

**If you are going to keep your heart fear-free so you can live in continual peace:**

- **You *must* make a firm commitment to let God's Word rule in your heart!**
- God's Word will protect your mind and prohibit fear from working its way into your emotions and turning you into an emotional mess.

“Lovers of God are snatched away from trouble, and the wicked show up in their place.”  
Proverbs 11:8 TPT

“When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?  
Your vows are binding upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to You. For You have delivered my soul from death, indeed my feet from stumbling, so that I may walk before God in the light of the living.”  
Psalms 56:3-4, 10-13

Psa. 57:1 “Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge until destruction passes by.”

**Psalms 91 every day:                      Warfare Psalm**

**American World War I soldiers of the 91st Brigade agreed to recite the 91st Psalm – the “Soldiers Psalm” – daily.**

**The 91st Brigade was engaged in three of the bloodiest battles of World War I: Chateau Thierry, Belle Wood, and the Argonne. While other units similarly engaged had up to 90% casualties, the 91st Brigade **DID NOT SUFFER A SINGLE COMBAT RELATED CASUALTY!****

**“THE BIBLE IS THE WEAPON; PRAYER IS THE WARFARE”**

**Psalm 91:1-16.** "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. 14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."