

**ANSWERS TO BASIC QUESTIONS PART IV:
HOW DO WE PROTECT OURSELVES AT THIS TIME?**

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Lk. 21:25-26

“...The nations of the earth will be troubled and will not know what to do. They will be troubled at the angry sea and waves. ²⁶ The hearts of men will give up because of being afraid of what is coming on the earth....” (NLV)

I. JESUS SPOKE AS A PROPHET AND AS A PASTOR ABOUT THE THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING.

- A. He prophesied that before His return, bewildering events would happen and that the intensity of the anguish will continue to increase until He returns. People will respond in different ways: some will faint from fear (**v. 26**), but others will be full of faith, *“lifting up their heads”* (**Lk. 21:28**) to see King Jesus instead of just seeing the events that happen. Puzzling events will include financial crises, pests, terrorism, racial clashes, violent weather, persecution, etc.
- B. People surprised by the increased anguish will be more vulnerable to fear. To us this events don't take us by surprise because Jesus warned us about it two thousand years in advance; It only takes by surprise those who are not attentive to what Jesus says. When something takes you by surprise, it can become a trap (**Lk. 21:34**), but not when you're ready.

II. HOW DO WE PREPARE?

Lk. 21:34 y 36 “Watch yourselves! Do not let yourselves be loaded down with too much eating and strong drink. Do not be troubled with the cares of this life. If you do, that day will come on you without you knowing it... ³⁶ Be sure you WATCH. PRAY all the time so that you may be able to keep from going through all these things that will happen and be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

- A. **Watch yourselves!** Jesus told us that we must recognize what is happening not only outside but within ourselves. Corruption of the heart will be more dangerous than the anguish of nations.
- B. **“que vuestros corazones no se carguen de glotonería y embriaguez y de los afanes [preocupaciones] de esta vida...”**
 - 1. **Carousing:** This speaks of allowing excesses that diminish spiritual strength through immorality or other pleasures outside the will of God.
 - 2. **Drunkenness:** Many people seek to escape their pain or anxiety by finding relief in substances that alter the mind instead of seeking peace by connecting with Jesus.
 - 3. **Cares of this life:** Many will be overcome with the anxiety that comes from bitterness against those who block their goals concerning their position, provision and protection.
- C. **Watch therefore, and pray always that you may [i]be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come:** Jesus gave His people practical pastoral advice. To

watch is to be alert. This exhortation focuses on the mind, we grow in understanding by watching the biblical signs of the times that are progressively developing before our eyes. And that leads us to pray which strengthens our hearts and unleashes His resources in the reality of the earth.

- D. *That they are found worthy:*** It also translates as *"be strengthened."* A fervent spiritual life leads to courage and zeal for God. The idea is to be strengthened to respond to the Lord as He deserves. The distressing events that are taking place will reveal the foundation on which we stand. God in His sovereignty allows the storms so that we can realize if we really are in Christ or not.

Lk. 6:47-48 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock."

- E.** Many of us may think that we are grounded in Him, but when the threat of something bad comes, it becomes clear if we really know and trust Him.
- F. **Jesus tells us that we must live a lifestyle in which we come to Him daily, listen to His words and practice them.**** When Jesus speaks of someone who, when building his house, ***dug and deepened and laid the foundation on the rock***, it means that we do not allow ourselves to be superficial; We are not content to comply with a certain spiritual practice but we **really take time to be with Him, listen to what he has to tell us every day to put it into practice and thus we can live safely and in victory over anguish.**
- G.** Our security is not a political party that wins or loses elections but is anchored in Christ. Some believers have placed their trust in a wrong place, in political affiliation or in merely human movements such as feminism and liberalism. They are with a false sense of confidence in things that will be devastated at the end of the era.

III. WHAT CAN WE DO AS THE FAMILY OF FAITH? Thank God for the church community here at Houses of Light our mission of purpose:

Cultivate Passion for God and Compassion for Others. We do this by encountering God in prayer and worship, reflecting on His Word receiving the revelation of His love for us and for those around us.

Rom. 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

IN OUR CHURCH WE HAVE 4 CORE VALUES THAT ARE PART OF THE GROWTH PROCESS OF EACH MEMBER AND AN ANSWER FOR ALL THIS END TIME CRISIS:

- 2. **OUTREACH:**** We have passion to reach those who have not had an encounter with Christ. We do this through personal evangelism, as Friendship Groups and as a church in outreach events (**Mt. 28:19**). Multitudes need those who are walking in power and with the understanding of what God is doing. The people with understanding are part of the solution rather than a contribution to the confusion.

3. **AFFIRM:** We have passion so that each person affirms himself/herself in his/her walk with Christ and can stand firm in the midst of the coming storms; This happens in Inner Healing Retreat and in the course of Affirming Your Steps.
4. **LEARN** (Train): We have passion for each person to mature in their faith and live in victory in their family while facing the current challenges. This happens in the School of Discipleship through systematic teaching and in Friendship Groups where personal discipleship occurs (**Eph. 4:16**).
5. **ACTIVATE:** We believe in the purpose of God in each person therefore we have passion for each member of the church to discover his/her call in God, is trained and serves in the different areas of the ministry. **We love serving others and encourage everyone to have the privilege of contributing to the work of God.** Service is the display of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in action. We serve from a place of joy and excellence.

We love what God is doing in our church and we understand that we must position ourselves to receive greater understanding to know what the Lord is doing; and greater strength to love better when the pressures increase.

IV. EVERYONE NEEDS TO GO THROUGH THEIR GROWING PROCESS TO BE STRONG FOR THIS TIME. Every person who attends our church is important and is celebrated for who he/she is and for their growth process:

6. We invite everyone to attend an **Inner Healing Retreat:** Repentance is experienced (**Acts 3:19**); There we talk about the work of Christ on the Cross (**Col. 2: 14-15**). People receive inner healing and are freed from bonds (**Lk. 4:18**) so that they can function in both their family and the local church.
7. Then they attend the Course **Affirming Your Steps** to maintain the healing and victory they received in their retreat.
8. The growth process continues as they attend the **School of Discipleship** in which everyone is given a solid foundation to stand firm in the faith and fulfill their role within the home and community. Always connected with a **Friendship Group**...

V. NO ONE HAS TO BE ALONE IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING THAT IS HAPPENING: In each House of Light Friendship Group we have passion for 4 things to happen in each person who attends:

1. **FELLOWSHIP:** We foster friendship so that everyone is connected to the body of Christ and receives his growth. (**Eph. 4:14-15**). Our goal is for all members to be accompanied when they face challenges and to be celebrated in their achievements.
2. **EDIFICATION:** Each week we reflect together on the Word and learn from each other (**Heb. 3:12-13**). Multitudes will need those who are walking in power and courage, with the understanding of what God is doing. The people with understanding will be part of the solution instead of contributing to the confusion.
3. **MINISTRY:** We pray and declare the Word of God for each other to receive all that God imparts through our brothers and sisters of the body of Christ (**James 5:16**). We affirm all people through the Spirit of prophecy by declaring the truth of who they are in Jesus.

4. **OUTREACH:** We love the community in which God has placed us and we have a passion to reach our friends, family and neighbors. We pray and do evangelism together (**Mt. 5:16**). **That is why we are launching today our month of compassion in which we all approach those around us to show them the love of Christ.**

VI. A WORD OF COMFORT AND HOPE FOR ALL OF US

- A. In the midst of everything we hear in the mass media and widespread fear, God gives us His faithful promise.

Ps. 91:1-16 ***"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. 3 For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. 4 He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection... 6 Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday. 7 Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you. 8 Just open your eyes, and see how the wicked are punished. 9 If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, 10 no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. 11 For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. 12 They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone... 14 The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. 15 When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. 16 I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation."***

- B. The idea is to live in the shadow of the Almighty, submitted to His authority which leads us to develop a total confidence not to live in fear of mortal diseases. The Lord promises total security to those who love Him. That is why we cultivate passion for God as a priority.

VII. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can you strengthen yourself to stand firm in the storms?
2. Explain the vision of the church to your friends in the Friendship Group
3. How can you overcome fear in this time? Share it with your acquaintances
4. Pray according to Psalm 91 for protection and peace for each family represented in your Friendship Group.