

Living in the Last Days—2

4 Ways to Live for Jesus in the End Times

In the Last Days ...

- **People will grow colder. (Matthew 24:12)**
- **Truth will be twisted. (1 Timothy 4:1)**
- **Faith will be tested. (Matthew 24:9-10)**

How will we live for Jesus until He returns?

How to Live When Time Is Short

- **Speak Boldly**
- **Live Purely**
- **Love Deeply**
- **Endure Faithfully**

1. Speak boldly: Declare Christ even when it costs you.

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ²We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 NIV

**Boldness doesn't mean you're never afraid.
It means your conviction is bigger than your fear.**

2. Live purely: Live to honor God, not to please people.

... we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery ... ⁶We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else ...

1 Thessalonians 2:4-6 NIV

The biggest danger to your faith is living for the approval of people.

3. Love deeply: We don't just share the gospel; we share our lives.

... Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 NIV

4. Endure faithfully: Stand firm when the pressure is greatest.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 3:7-8 NIV

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13 NIV

- **Where is God calling me to share my faith, even if it costs me?**
- **When do I care more about pleasing people than pleasing God?**
- **Who have I kept at a distance that God is calling me to love?**

- **What trial is God using to strengthen my faith?**

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other ... ¹³May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes ... 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **1 Thessalonians 3:7-8**. What does enduring faithfully look like for you right now? How can you practically stand firm in the Lord?

Where is God calling me to share my faith, even if it costs me?

When do I care more about pleasing people than pleasing God?

Who have I kept at a distance that God is calling me to love?

What trial is God using to strengthen my faith?

This week, ask God to help you live well in the last days. Remember that He is faithful, even when life is hard. His work is worth our time.