

Soul Strength, Part 6: The Power of Influence

Luke 12:1-3 ESV

Pastor Brian Uyeda, October 17 & 18, 2026

Q: How do we stay strong in an unstable world?

¹ In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. – Luke 12:1

1. We examine our lifestyle and _____ influences that align with God’s truth. (Luke 12:1)

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” – 1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV

Biblical Hypocrisy =
Falsely representing God; looking good while masking a different heart.

Pharisees = Chose religion over relationship. Performance over progress.

¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. – Ephesians 3:16-17 NLT

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. – Psalm 32:8 ESV

Live it out:
What can I do today, to take my eyes off the world, and focus on the power and truth that God wants a personal relationship with me?

² Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ³ Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops. – Luke 12:2-3

2. We fully trust & faithfully _____ God’s word to all our choices and actions (Luke 12:2-3)

²⁴ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” – Matthew 7:24-27 NLT

- Real growth in faith does not come from knowing more information.
- When we take God’s word and put it into practice, our private life and public life begin to match.

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. – James 1:2-4 NIV

Live it out:
Where in my life is the gap between what I say and what I do?
Where do I behave differently based on who’s watching?
What choice and action do I need to apply to the things I identified in the first 2 questions?