

Prophecy Update
He Will Give Calm To Me Until He Comes For Me
Pastor JD

DAVID: Will you join me in prayer? Lord, we come before You and give You thanks for everything that You do in our lives, Lord. Thank You for Your blessings, Lord. Thank You for watching over all of us. Thank You for taking care of our families, Lord. And with everything happening in the world now, Lord, we look up to You, Lord. We sit and we wait patiently. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. Oh. Oh, dear.

[Applause]

Oh.

[Applause]

I wasn't expecting that. You guys must really like me or something. I don't know. You can be seated. Thank you. You're so kind. Welcome. So glad you're here today. Those of you online, we're glad that you're joining with us today.

Before we get started, though, I want to say that Kellie and I cannot thank all of you enough for your outpouring of love, support, and especially for all of your prayers. As Pastor Leitu and Pastor Mac had shared the prayer requests, those answered prayers became praise reports. And God, as only He can, aw my wife through two major emergency spinal cord surgeries where the cancer had spread to.

It's truly, and please hear my heart on this. It's truly because of all the prayers that we were able to bring Kellie home from the hospital on Friday. Praise the Lord!

[Cheers and applause]

She shouldn't even be alive, but she is. She shouldn't be able to walk, but she can, with a walker for now. But God heard from on high and hearkened under the voice of yours and our cry. But please don't stop praying for my bride. Continue to pray for her, specifically for her pain, her recovery, and infinitely more importantly, a healing miracle from God in His unfailing love. And what a God we serve! Who is like unto our God? Thank you for your grace.

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Well, as I'm sure you know, this is the first of two services on Sunday mornings, and we devote it to the teaching of Bible prophecy by way of these weekly Bible Prophecy Updates. Then Second Service, which for those of you online, will be livestreamed that at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time. Those of you here, the worship will start at 10:45 a.m.

We're studying through, almost through Revelation. No hurry. Today's text would be *Chapter 21, verses 4 through 9* in a sermon titled 'If I Truly Knew What I Have To Look Forward To.' And in that, we're going to see four truths about what awaits believers in heaven, which are two unbelievable to be believable. But you better believe it. Because it's God's word. And as we'll see, it is absolutely trustworthy and true. I can't wait! I'm not going to do it now. I can, but I won't.

We're gonna do the Update first. And we usually encourage you to go to the website, JDFarag.org, for the entirety of the Update, which of course you still can, but because of the nature of today's personal Prophecy Update, the entirety of the Update livestream will remain on YouTube and Facebook, which I know is going to make a lot of you really happy. We will not end the livestream midstream, as it were.

Okay. Bear with me now. The reason for today being a personal Prophecy Update has to do with the title of 'He Will Give Calm To Me Until He Comes For Me.' I kept this title for well-nigh two weeks now because of what the Lord did in and through the harrowing experience of Kellie being rushed to the hospital for two urgent emergency surgeries.

And unbeknownst to me at the time, the Update draft that I had prepared, then revised, took on a whole new meaning concerning the paramount importance of the sound doctrine of the pre-Tribulation rapture being that which provides us that much-needed calm. I'm going to connect that together by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit if you kindly allow me to.

And I'll start this way. I'm thinking of Peter writing this. Because he knew the more sure word of prophecy, The more sure word of prophecy? More sure than what? The miracle that he had just witnessed in the supernatural. What miracle? Oh, you didn't know?

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Peter, James, and John were there and witnessed the miraculous Mount of Transfiguration where Jesus was glorified, and with Him, Moses and Elijah. Man, that would be it for me. I'd write a book, go on tour. I mean, wow! No, not Peter. Peter said, you know that's not what I'm hanging my hat on. Because just a few short verses later he says, I'll tell you what, I'm hanging my hat on. The more sure word of prophecy. Yeah, I was there. You were there? Wow, dude! Yeah, but that's not why. By the way, signs and wonders and miracles: Those are only catalysts to salvation.

And this is what Peter, in effect, is saying to us today. Yeah, I was there. I thought it was cool. Wish you could have been there. Me too. But you know what? No worries. Because that's not what did it for me. That's not what does it for me. Here's what does it for me. The more sure word of prophecy, that's what does it for me.

Okay, Pastor. Wow, you seem to be feeling better. Sounds like you got a little sleep. A little. But why do I say that with such strength? Because it's that more sure word of prophecy that we're living in today. Do you believe that? Do you understand the times that we are in? Do you believe that we are in the last hour? Well, what if I told you that this is what gave Peter and all those with him, before him, after him the calm by the Lord, the more sure word of prophecy from the Lord, which results in that peace and calm in the Lord.

This is solely of the Lord to us and for us, especially during those times of extreme stress, chronic pain, severe suffering, [*Hang on those two words for a minute*] worrisome anxiety, and paralyzing fear. It's that supernatural peace of God from God who is the God of peace. The peace of God from the God of peace.

And this is no ordinary peace. As Jesus said, I give you peace, not as the world gives. See, the world gives you peace that is predicated upon everything in your life going well, the circumstances of your life. And you know, when you're happy, you're at peace. Well, if you live your life like that, even as a Christian, especially as a Christian, you're going to have maybe a minute and a half a day, if that, if it's predicated upon the circumstance, which comes from happenstance.

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No, that's not the peace I'm talking about. The peace I give you is not like the world gives because the peace I give you keeps you, calms you. It's a peace like no other. Paul would echo the Savior and say that this peace is beyond comprehension, incomprehensible.

This surpasses all human understanding. Don't try to figure it out. Oh, my goodness, I feel such a peace and a calm, and everything around me is falling apart. Stop doing that because you're now functioning and operating in the realm of the logical. And Jesus is saying, no, I'm giving you something that is not logical. You're looking at it through the lens of the natural. But I'm doing something in the supernatural. It's a supernatural peace.

Paul echoed this in *Philippians Chapter 4, verses 6 through 8*. Not only does this supernatural peace and calm come in the midst of [*And take those two words out; we need them now*] severe suffering, so too does it come because of the severe suffering. But here's the thing. It's not in the way that most of us would think. But thankfully, we have an example, a model with the Thessalonian Christians who were in the midst of severe suffering. Some of your translations render it much hardship, extreme hardship. We'll see it shortly.

It's in Paul's very first letter that he ever wrote, was to the church in Thessalonica, *1 Thessalonians*. And in so doing, we're going to witness firsthand how all of us can have this same peace, joy, and calm in spite of the pain and suffering. How so? But the assurance of and looking to His soon appearing in the pre-Tribulation rapture.

Oh, Pastor, there you go again. You do this every week. I'm going to keep doing this every week. Except there's coming one week where I won't because I will be taken up. And you better be there too in the pre-Tribulation rapture. But until then, as long as God gives me breath and the grace and the privilege that is mine to be behind this pulpit, I'm going to use Paul's example and model, as you'll see in a moment, and I'm going to talk about and teach the sound doctrine of the pre-Tribulation rapture because it's sound doctrine.

Now we got a have the back story, sort of by way of a preface because you need to know some of the details about these Thessalonians. They were new believers. It's not clear, but

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it's believed that maybe they're one year old in the Lord. We call them babes in Christ, infants in Christ. They're new believers. They're young believers.

Here's another one, very important to understand. The Apostle Paul, it's believed— now, again, there's — it's not clear. There's some debate on this, but his life was threatened in Thessalonica when he started this church in Thessalonica because all of these people were coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ in Thessalonica. So they feared for his life, and they snuck him out of town because they knew that at best, he would be run out of town, or at worst he would be murdered and martyred.

You know how long he was there? Wait for it. Okay, here it is. Maybe three weeks. Three weeks? Some suggest maybe a little bit more. Some say not quite, but let's just round it up and say three weeks for purpose of discussion.

Now, why? Why do we need to know that? Because think about this. Paul had three weeks with these new believers, starting this church. They were a blank slate. And what does he teach them? The sound doctrine of the pre-Tribulation rapture. I mean, that's my story, and I'm sticking with it. Why? Well, that's — that's for mature believers. You know the ones. Was that too much?

Why? Please listen very carefully. The answer to why Paul would teach the sound doctrine of the pre-Tribulation rapture to new believers in the span of three weeks was because of their *[I need those two words back]* severe suffering. He's reassuring them of the Lord rescuing them at His appearing. Not coming. Please delineate between the two. I'm going to draw your attention to *1 Thessalonians Chapter 1*, beginning in *verse 4*. Follow along with me in your Bibles. There's this is packed so full.

Paul to them, by the Holy Spirit, writes, **“For we know** *[Not we think, we believe, we hope, we wish, no. We know]* **brothers loved by God, That He has chosen you,** *[Why? Verse 5]* **because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction.”** *[Wow!]*

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You know how we lived among you for your sake. You [Verse 6] became imitators of us and of the Lord; [And watch this] in spite of [I need those two words] severe suffering, you welcomed the message, [The Gospel] with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

And [Verse 7] so you became a model to all the believers [The role model] in Macedonia and Achaia. [It gets better, verse 8] The Lord's message [The Gospel, the Word] [I love this rendering of it] rang out from you [You couldn't keep it in] [It rang out from you] not only in Macedonia and Achaia— [Listen to this] your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and [Verse 10 - wait] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”

Please stay with me. I'll do my best. You know, I went over and over this, inquired of the Lord about this, and I counted no less than nine reasons as to why it is and how it is that the Lord brought calm to them in spite of, even because of, in the midst of their severe suffering.

Number 1, [I'll go through them as quickly as I can] they were loved and chosen by God.

Number 2, they received and believed the Gospel joyfully, full of joy.

3, they were empowered, comforted, calmed, but deeply convicted, not condemned by the Holy Spirit.

Number 4, they were hearers and doers of God's word.

Number 5, they became examples. Word spread about them all over the region of what we know today as modern-day Greece. They became role models to all the believers.

Number 6, and this is extremely important. They shared the Gospel, which they couldn't hold in, which is why it came ringing out, gushing out. I can't contain this. The love of Christ constrains me, propels me, Paul would say.

Jeremiah says, I quit. You can't quit, Jeremiah. Oh, no, I'm tendering my — here's my letter of resignation. I don't need that. You can't quit. You're a slave. Slaves, servants don't quit.

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Well, I can't, I can't take anymore. And besides, you did kind of read through and go through the terms of service with me, but that must have been a really small font, the part about how nobody going to believe, and they're going to try to kill you, and they're going to hate you. Sound familiar? And Jeremiah had just reached this breaking point. We've been there. He says, Lord, it's like You baited me. I'm going to use the word "baited." But You prevailed over me, and You put a fire in me. And I burned so hot. And there's no way I can keep this fire from not coming out.

Now, this is Thessalonian Christians. This is, I believe, what lent itself to these Thessalonians becoming so well known, and interesting: What were they so well known for? Oh, the number of subscribers to their YouTube channel, of course.

Am I — you guys okay? Is this — are we... Did you have enough coffee this morning? Okay. All right. That's what I needed to hear.

No, no, it wasn't that, their large following as influencers on social media. No, no, no, no. That's not what they were well known for. Oh, I know. They were known for their beautiful building on the windward side of Oahu. No, it wasn't that either.

What were they well known for then, Pastor? Pray tell. Their faith. Their faith. I need to keep moving.

Number 8, they turned to the true and living God in their joyful service of the true and living God.

And number 9, lastly, and infinitely more importantly because this is what ties it all together. They were waiting. They were watching.

What are they waiting for? What are they watching for?

No, it's not what are they watching for. Who are they watching for? Who are they waiting for? Jesus to appear in the air to rescue them before the coming wrath of God upon the entire earth.

Am I — are you good? Are you connecting some dots here? Okay. I'm gonna lay it down, man. You better pick it up.

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Notice, and this is key. They were loved by God. Why would the Holy Spirit inspire the Apostle Paul to pen those words that way? Because they needed to be reminded that God loves you, man. And you know what? You know when I said, “you must like me?” I used the word “like.” You know why? Because we live in a world of “likes.” We live in a world where the word “like” has, packs more punch than the word “love” that now is so cheapened. I love you. I love you too. I love me more.

Okay. how about when someone says, “You know what? I like you.” You do? Well, I'm going to like you too. In fact, I'm going to like you on social media too. What if I said to you today, “God likes you”? Would your response be one of “I thought God was mad at me”?

No, no. God's not mad at you. He's not angry with you. The devil wants you to buy that lie because that's what keeps you away from God, who is waiting on standby with arms stretched wide. And there's no baseball bat in his hand to beat you. Open arms to welcome you home, like the parable of the prodigal son. You're loved by God, not under the wrath of God.

Because, you see, God took all of His wrath and He put it on his only begotten son, so Paul could write in *Romans 8:1*, **“There is therefore now no condemnation...”** [*No anger, no wrath*] In fact, later on in *Romans 8*, the best chapter to read, along with all the other chapters in the Bible to read because he, by the Holy Spirit, makes it very clear in no uncertain terms that we're not under the Old Covenant of God's wrath. We're not walking around on eggshells around God. Oh man, I better not mess up because He's had it up to here with me. He told me till He's blue in the face.

No. He took all of that, all of our sin, past, present, and future, and He put it on His only begotten son on that cross that day to pay in full — maybe this is for someone here today, or online, or more than one. You're still viewing your relationship with your Heavenly Father through the lens of your earthly father. And as one who did that for many years, early in my Christian life, I implore you, I beseech you, meaning, I beg of you do not look at your Heavenly Father that way. We'll see that more and talk about that more Second Service.

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So they're loved by God, not under the wrath of God. And it's principally because of the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit. So powerful was the deep conviction of — not condemnation — conviction of the Holy Spirit, they welcomed it with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And this in spite of, even in light of — I need those two words — their severe suffering. Not only were they welcoming the Gospel, they were proclaiming the Gospel. And they were proclaiming the Gospel, which includes — I'm getting ahead of myself — the pre-Tribulation rapture. Don't stop at the resurrection. That's not the entire Gospel. Good news.

Nah, I'm getting ahead of myself, so stop doing that to me, making me get ahead of myself.

They were not only welcoming the Gospel, they were proclaiming the Gospel throughout the entire region, again, modern-day Greece. So much so that the news spread, the word spread, the Gospel spread, and with it their godly example of sharing the Gospel spread, making them known everywhere for their faith in the Lord and their service to the Lord. Man! They're loved by Jesus, their joy from Jesus, their service to Jesus, they're sharing the Gospel of Jesus was tethered to their severe suffering for Jesus.

Do you believe that? Are you connecting that? That's why we have *verse 10* in our Bibles, by the way. Because I, for one, would like to know how, like James says, **“Consider it pure joy, my brethren, when you encounter trials of various kinds.”**

What? Consider it pure joy? I'm in a trial, man! This has got to be a mistranslation from the original language. Let's look it up in the original because I'm sure it should be translated, consider it pure hell when you encounter trials of various kinds. No, it doesn't say that. Joy. Don't stop there either. How is it possible to consider it pure joy when you're in the midst of the trial of your life?

Because you're knowing where God's going in and through and because of that severe suffering. What's He doing? Where is He going? Oh, ho! He's producing in you actually; He's answering a prayer from you. You forgot. Remember when you prayed and said, “God, make me a man of patience?”

Oh no, you didn't. Oh yes, he did.

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If I didn't know that this was the way God was going to answer my prayer for patience, I would not have prayed for patience. How about the prayer, "God, I need strength, I need endurance, I need perseverance"?

"Okay. You got it." "Well, when? How?" "Well, I'm a send a trial your way." "Can you send a prescription?" "No. A trial. And that trial you can consider it pure joy because of what it's going to build in you, produce in you. Patient endurance. You asked Me for it. You got it."

Patience. [That's another thing] Endurance. When the two words are together, that's like a double whammy. Please hear me. I'll try not to yell. Am I yelling? Well, if I'm yelling, it's in Jesus' name, in love.

But this is why, again, we have *verse 10*. Because if it weren't for their knowing, waiting, watching for that promised rescue by Jesus from the coming wrath of God, I'm freaking out. The title of this Update would not be 'He Will Give Calm To Me Until He Comes For Me.' It would be more like: JD is freaking out now because Jesus has not yet come now.

Oh, come on, let's be honest. You can share with me your title if you want. You can be anonymous. Put it on a prayer card. This is my title. I'll read it. I won't know who you are. I'll try to do some handwriting analysis though, maybe.

So wait a minute now. You're telling me that all of the above, the Gospel ringing out from us, being a role model of the Lord's joy in us, the power, peace, and calm the Lord gives to us is what keeps us calm in severe suffering?

Actually, no, I'm not telling you that. The word of God is telling you that. And not only is the word of God telling you that, God's word is promising you that. And this is an unbreakable promise because this is God's word, and God can't go back on His word. God will keep His word.

This is why I am referring to today's Update as a personal Prophecy Update because this is exactly what the Lord did for me, in me, and I pray through me to you who, along with me, can taste and see that the Lord is good and the Lord is coming very, very, very — let me have

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this — very, very, very — did I say very? — very soon to rescue us from the wrath of God that is coming upon the entire world.

Ho! Please come Second Service. If you don't, I'll know you didn't. We have cameras, you know. No, but you need to. I'll tell you why. Because it's the icing on the cake of what we're talking about right now. You know, the Lord's going to wipe every tear from our eyes. I'm never going to die. I'm never going to cry.

That's just one verse. I'm not going to — that's all you're getting out of me. You have to come Second Service. Sorry if I'm looking. I have to be careful when I look at somebody because... So that's why I do the scan around the room. That way nobody feels singled out. Okay.

This is from my heart to yours. I have a confession to make. Don't get weird on me. It's not salacious. I have to confess that over the years as a student of Bible prophecy and now a teacher of Bible prophecy, I mean, I know this. I teach this. But you know what? Now I'm living this. Now I'm living this. Again, actually. And were it not for knowing that my Jesus is coming to rescue me, shoot me now. Actually, don't do that.

You know, I used to say over the years, and I'm kind of revising it now. I used to say, and this is not hyperbole. Literally were it not for the sound doctrine of the pre-Tribulation rapture, I would not be able to sleep at night or get out of bed in the morning. It's what keeps me sane and from going insane knowing *verse 10, 1 Thessalonians 4*.

I'm going to be rescued. He promised me. So yeah, I'm going through it, man. I'm really going through it. But God is going to rescue me. So I'm good now. I'm good. That's what gives me the calm and steadies me and readies me. It's that promise that Jesus will rescue me.

Like with the Thessalonians then we now — listen — we have the same unfettered access to what they had, and they did via this promise of Jesus rescuing us. These are new believers. How did they do it? I hate to use this word because the world totally stole it from — plagiarized it, hijacked it. Arabs shouldn't use that word. Sorry.

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What's the secret to your success? The secret to my success, as you call it, is that I've been promised by the Savior of the world, the Son of God, God the son, that I'm going to be rescued out, not protected through rescued out from the wrath to come.

So, in other words, like Paul would say, the sufferings, the severe sufferings of this world are not even worthy — they're not even in the same universe — to be compared with the glory that awaits Again, that's Second Service. That's the last thing you're getting out of me for Second Service. You can't even — (Stumbling over words) we say that — that's not an apple-to-apple comparison. Well, this isn't — that'd be like — I better not even try. I'll botch it. It'll be bad. Do I want to try? I want to try.

It's like comparing an apple with the uncountable stars in the heavens and sands on the seashore. Innumerable. By the way, did you know that that is how often His thoughts are of you? **“What is man that You would be mindful of him?”**

Oh, I'm not only mindful of you. My thoughts towards you are more numerous than the sands on the seashore, not just Kailua Beach, all the beaches in all the world, which, by the way, interestingly, it's believed that the number of sands on the sea seashores — easy for me to say — are equivalent to the number of the stars in the sky.

You know what's even cooler than that? God created those and named those, and they're innumerable. Man! He created them, and then He named them. I'm gonna name you — I hope He didn't name them JD. (Chuckling) I got a star named after me. What kind of God is this that we serve? Who is like unto you, O Lord?

Hang in there with me. Again, I want to expound on this, but I need to take a different approach to this specific to those surviving or those dying. Hang in there. I'm going to start with Pastor Tim Newman of Calvary Chapel Windward, whose wife, Kathy, died of cancer that spread on February 11th of this year, and went home to be with Jesus.

Why? Why is it that Kathy dies, but my wife still survives, both of whom are Pastors? Why? Well, here's another one for you. You can look this up later in your time in God's word. It's in *Acts, Chapter 12*. Get this. James suffers a horrific death by Herod, while at the same time, Peter was miraculously rescued from death by the Lord. What gives? Why?

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Answer: We do not and cannot yet know the ways and whys of God. But God knows, which leads us to Him, in order that we would live by faith in the Lord, fully trusting and relying on the Lord.

Did you catch that? See, everything in our sin nature, our Adamic nature, our flesh, it chafes at this notion of living by faith because faith is the antithesis of sight. And my flesh wants to see it because after all, seeing is believing. That's false. Here's the truth. Jesus said it.

Believe, and you will see. Believe, and you'll see.

No seeing is believing. I won't believe it till I see it. By the way, with AI, you know that saying "I couldn't believe my eyes"? Good. You can't. Not now. The AI videos of people are more real than real people. I think of it this way. God — it's not that God says, "No, I'm not telling you why." "I'm not going to let you in on knowing My way." I'm not."

No, it's that He can't. Because we're finite and fallen. And we could never fully understand the infinite ways and whys of God. It's like God would love nothing more than to answer every single "why" question every single "way" question. But because He loves us so much, likes us — He's really into us, likes us a lot — He wants us to just trust Him.

"Yeah, but I don't know what He's doing."

"That's okay. He knows what He's doing."

"Well, I wish He would tell me what He's doing."

"No, that's... Trust Him by faith. And you can trust Him, by the way because He's going to work it out in the end the same exact way you would have worked it out in the end if you knew what He knew and loved as He loves."

Same thing goes for prayer. You know what? It's a control issue. I won't look at anybody on this one. You know who you are, you control freaks. You got to be in control, man. That's pride. That's haughtiness. And that gets dangerously close to saying "I can do a better job at this than God is. Plus, I want to be in control of everything."

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This is why God, in His unfailing love, amazing grace, and never-ending mercy that's new every morning is doing such a profoundly deep work in my life personally. And the result is that I no longer ask “why.” Instead, I only ask “what.”

Instead of asking God why He's allowed this to happen, I now ask God what does He want me to see, know, and do by allowing this to happen. That changes the whole complexion of it. It's not “why.” It's “what.”

When I did Tamayo Perry's Celebration of Life on the North Shore, it was just so strongly prompted by the Holy Spirit because, I mean, here's this, I mean, he was the coolest guy. He used to always sit in the front. And I loved it because he laughed at my humor. (Chuckling)

No, there's a difference between laughing at me and laughing with me. I get it. That's okay. But man, he was just such a cool guy, man. I would tell him — I just — whenever I got to talk to him, I would just tell him, “Man, I — Tamayo, I wish I was as cool as you. For one thing, I wish I had your hair.” (Chuckling)

Never mind. I got my order in. Don't worry; in heaven, whoa! I'm going to have dreads, man. But when I spoke about not asking God why because how senseless. What good could possibly — this guy loves the Lord. He shares — all he would ever talk about with Kelly Slater and all the famous surfer was Jesus. That's the only thing that came out of him. You cut him up. What came out? Jesus.

And then he's on a break before his lifeguard shift. I think it was early in the morning. And a shark bites off his arm and one leg, and he bleeds out. And his wife told me when they found him, he was smiling. I think he smiled in his sleep.

So that was a big one for me because — again, I'm confessing to you that I'm like what in the world! You pulled the wrong file this time, God. No, I know what I'm doing. You don't. Trust Me. You know, sometimes it's in someone's death that people are brought to eternal life. It's important to understand that the Thessalonian Christians had many of their loved ones die prior to the pre-Tribulation rapture, and they had a lot of questions. And Paul's gone. He had to be taken out of town before, run out of town or killed.

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This was so important to them losing loved ones, the death of loved ones, that it became the impetus for Paul, by the Holy Spirit, to pen his second letter to them. Why? To encourage them, to recalibrate them, and to reconnect them to Him, and to hope. We get disconnected, don't we? Where did Jesus say, "...the enemy comes only..." [*Only, keyword only*] This is his sole goal. Steal, kill, and destroy. What's he going to steal? Your car? Here's the keys. You can have it. He doesn't need your car. You're going to steal your hope. What's he going to kill? Your joy. He's a killjoy. What's he going to destroy? That's the crown jewel. He must destroy your faith. They were losing hope.

Oh, I love it when David and Gale — by the way, if you're wondering, I'm going to expose the secret to how David can sing in a male and female voice simultaneously. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Forgive me. It's Gale in the background, voice of an angel. In the early days, it brings back fond memories of when they would lead, David and Gale would lead worship. A church of, I don't know, 20 people, including us. And it was in the old SDA building with the wooden pews. Everything echoed. Good morning... morning...morning. Because they were empty. There was no people in them.

And they were so faithful. And they would get up and sing and lead worship on Thursday nights. Just... aww, man... But you know that song, ♪ *I Would Have Lost Confidence* ♪

That's *Psalms 27:13-14*. David almost tosses in the towel, giving up all hope, except that he still was confident in the Lord and that He would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. What's that? Here. Now. I would have given up. I lost heart. Had it not been for remaining confident that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. And then he starts having a talk with himself. Different than self-talk. Don't institutionalize them yet. He says, sit down, boy, we need to talk. You be strong and of good courage.

And wait, just wait. You'll see. Just wait. You'll see what I'm going to do. I know you're losing hope. Just wait. You'll see. You'll see. I'm not done yet. What? You think I'm done?

That was pretty good, actually. That came out pretty good. I better end on a win after that.

Wait a minute. So you're saying that we can get disconnected from Him and from hope?

Yeah. What hope? Our blessed hope of *Titus 2:13*, which is better understood as our

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blessed assurance, expectation. Because we understand hope, and I — I just shriek in horror because the blessed hope — “I sure hope so.” (Said with concern)

No. No, this is a done deal, baby. I'm assured of it. He promised it. I'm expecting it. I'm waiting for it. I'm watching for it. “What are you watching for?”

“My rescue.”

“What's the rescue?”

“Oh, it's when Jesus comes to rescue me, snatch me out, take me up in the pre-Tribulation rapture.”

Listen, I'm almost done. I appreciate your patience, but please, I can't overstate the centrality of the pre-Tribulation rapture rescue being maybe that missing piece in your life. And it applies to one who dies in Jesus, as well as one who is alive and remains for Jesus.

Put another way, and please don't misunderstand me when I say this. The absence of the sound doctrine of the pre-Tribulation rapture comes packaged with the absence of His supernatural peace and calming hope.

You know when people say, “Well, the pre-Tribulation rapture is not a salvation issue.” Well, now wait a minute. Wait a minute. Are you going to dismiss it then? Are you going to reduce it then? Because that's not what my Bible does. My Bible gives it pronounced prominence.

What if I told you that the last couple weeks, as hard as it's been — I tell you, when you see the love of your life, your soul mate in such pain, neck brace, it just does something to you. The Lord who's always so faithful brought His word, His promises to my remembrance. And I hung on to them for dear life. And it brought calm in the midst of severe suffering.

Personally, I, like never before, now understand how our blessed expectation of His promised rescue is that which gives calm to us until He comes for us. I am fully convinced beyond any doubt.

My son asked me the other day, “Do you ever have doubts?” I said, “No.” And he walked away. I don't. I'm being honest. I don't. I have no doubt. I am fully convinced that, like

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with the example of the Thessalonians, we all can be empowered to do all that they did in spite of and even because of the crushing weight of excruciating pain, suffering, severe suffering, and trials.

Why am I so fully convinced? I'm fully convinced by the power of the Holy Spirit. And because I'm a believer in the unbreakable promise from Jesus of the blessed expectation of being rescued by Jesus. And the last couple of weeks, that was all I hung onto.

Why am I, emphasizing this? Because in these perilous times, the mockers and scoffers abound, falsely accusing Christians who believe this. Worse, they falsely accuse us of oh, just sitting idly by, doing nothing, just waiting for the rapture. You're one of those pre-Tribbers; are you? Here's the truth. It's the opposite that's true.

And it's evidenced by what we just saw, right, with the Thessalonian Christians. They put us to shame. I speak for myself. A year old in the Lord, grounded, solid rock foundation doctrinally. Here comes the affliction, the suffering, severe suffering, the trials, the pain, all of it. For anyone who thinks that we, as preachers, just sit idly by, waiting, doing nothing — I speak this in love — you couldn't be more wrong. Actually, us pre-Tribbers: We're doubling down and burning up because we're going up.

I'll speak for myself again. I have never in all of my life, and I've been at this for a while. I'm no spring chicken, as they say, anymore. I have never had the urgency that I have now to be busy about getting the Gospel out and be busily occupied with the Gospel of His return until His return.

Because His return in the pre-Tribulation rapture is the Gospel, the good news. I want to be — I want to be like them when I grow up. These Thessalonians, they were preoccupied, obsessed with the Gospel. It was ringing out, oozing out from them. And it was with joy, making them so well known for their faith.

Like the Thessalonian church, there's nothing I desire more than for our church, our church ohana, to be known for our faith, faith that comes from the hearing of God's word in concert with the supernatural, all-powerful Holy Spirit upon us, enabling us, empowering us to be bold and strong by faith.

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You know, there's five accounts in the *Book of Acts* where the Holy Spirit came upon a person, and every single one of them there was a holy boldness that ensued. It's the power of the Holy Spirit upon us despite severe opposition and suffering against us that brings about the sanctified strength and holy boldness in us. That's the power source. So now, like them, we, like Paul, can say, I'm not ashamed of the Gospel. Are you? You don't say it like that.

I'm not ashamed of the Gospel. I proclaim the Gospel, and I'm not going to stop. In fact, if anything else, I'm going to turn it up a notch or ten. Hang in there. We're getting there. You have treasures in heaven.

A while back — we covered this in the Prophecy Update — about the parable Jesus taught in *Luke 19:11-27*, known as the parable of the Ten Minas. Sadly, this parable has been the source of a horrible misinterpreting, which, in turn, has led many to a terrible misunderstanding of what Jesus actually taught.

The parable of the Ten Minas is unique and different than the other parables, and dare I say, it has been misused and even abused. What do you mean? Well, have you heard people just blurt out “Occupy until He comes”? No?

What's your problem, Pastor?

I have a lot of problems. But this is a big problem because this “occupy until He comes” has been used and excused many a Christian for just being busy under the banner of “I'm occupying until He comes.” Again, this is what happens when I'm not in the pulpit for a couple of weeks. So...

May I just humbly but boldly say, in love, that this is not the lesson of the parable? And here's why. It's due in large measure to the lack of understanding of what the true meaning of the mina is.

In *Luke 19:11-13*, Jesus teaches this parable, but He does so with detailed, specificity because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. So what does He do? He likens himself to a nobleman going to a distant country to be appointed king and then return, knowing that His return as king would be met with opposition from the enemies.

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So before He goes, he gives His ten servants, employees, one mina each, and He instructs them to occupy until He comes, meaning get busy about doing My work.

Did you get that? Don't occupy yourself with that, or this, or them until I come. No, no, no, no. This is a specific assignment and instruction to occupy with the furthering of My kingdom, the things of God, until I come. This is going to come into clear focus in a moment. Jesus goes on to describe what happened when He returned, saying that the first servant earned ten minas with His one mina. And good job, well done, good and faithful servant. Then the second servant earned five minas with His one mina. Well done, good and faithful servant.

But here comes the third servant, who cowered and faltered in fear and shame, hiding his one mina instead. Now what's the Lord's response to him? The one mina is taken from him and given to this servant who made ten because to whom much is given, much is required. If you're faithful with a little, you can be entrusted with much.

Then in *verses 26 and 27* — now listen very carefully — Jesus deals with His servants — His enemies who did not want Him to be king over them by judging them and having them killed before Him. You know what's conspicuously absent in this parable is any mention of the servant who feared and hid His mina being killed along with those enemies. You want to know why?

Two reasons. First, he was a once saved, always saved servant. His mina may have been taken away, but not his salvation. Yeah, but he hid it, man, out of fear. He hid His light under a bushel so it wouldn't shine. He had his mina in the handkerchief, so wouldn't it multiply. You could have at least put it in the bank and earned some interest at .000 — what is it — 000.

It's the second reason that should cause all of us, and I'm almost done, to stand to attention, myself included. This saved servant, once saved, always saved servant — that's for the benefit of those who — okay, I won't go there. Go ahead. You can send the emails in. That's fine. He was only rebuked for being unfaithful in hiding His mina and covering his light, so it wouldn't be shining or multiplying.

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Why is this important? Because it tells us what the mina actually is. The Gospel. The Gospel. Unique to this parable, unlike the other parables, everyone is given one mina. They all had the Gospel of salvation.

So when it comes to one who, well intentioned, I'm sure, says, "I'm just occupying until He comes," and they care not a thing about the things of God, they're shamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, again, in love, I just implore you; get busy about and occupy with the Gospel of Jesus Christ until He comes. Get it out! Ring it out! Scream it out! I do. I just did.

Okay. Thank you for hanging in there. Here's the takeaway in this last day. We've all been given and received the mina of the Gospel as believers. And we're commanded to make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as the Great Commission.

So why are we so busy with the cares in the affairs of this life, at the expense of getting busy about the Kingdom of God and eternal life? Why am I not spreading the Gospel? Why am I not multiplying the Gospel in my occupying until He comes?

This is the Thessalonians template, or model, if you prefer, that provides us with the reasons they were known for their faith and joy. And by the way, I want to make one real quick connection here, please.

Again, I thank you for your patience with me. You show me a Christian who shares the Gospel and shares their faith; I'll show you a Christian that is full of joy. And conversely, you show me a Christian who doesn't; I'll show you a joyless Christian. That's how God has wired us, designed us. There is no high like the high of introducing somebody to the Savior and seeing them come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

[Congregation says, "Amen."]

Could this be the missing ingredient in the recipe of joy in your life? Yeah, but I'm afraid they're going to unfriend me on social media. I'm afraid they're going to reject. I'm afraid they're going to not like me anymore. Wow. Really? I don't mean to be snarky. I don't have to try. It comes very naturally. Thank you very much.

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That's what — boy, Satan did a number on you, didn't he? Here, God want to put somebody in your path that needs Jesus so desperately. And you denied Him. You were embarrassed about your association with Him, your salvation in Him. If their expectation of rescue in the pre-Tribulation rapture was at the root, and it was, then it would be known by the fruit, and it was.

What's the fruit? *Galatians 5:22-23*. You know this. **“The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, [Can I say “calm”?] patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”**

I'm going to end with three questions. Don't you like it when I say I'm going to end? three questions? 1) What are you known for? 2) What are you occupied with? 3) What are you waiting for? Or better asked, who are you waiting for? Who are you expecting?

The answer to all three questions is Jesus. Jesus. His name is Jesus. And the Gospel of Jesus. What's the Gospel? Oh! Don't tune me out. I know you're tired. I've wiped you out. But don't tune me out. Here's the Gospel, the good news, which the word “gospel” means good news. Your debt has been paid by another. Brah, you free to go! That's the localized version of it.

Here's the Gospel. Jesus came. He was crucified. He died, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Don't stop there. And will appear one day to rescue us and take us to the place He prepared for us.

Wait a minute, Pastor. Are you implying that the pre-Tribulation rapture is included in the Gospel? Absolu – again, no, I'm not. The Apostle Paul in the word of God is. You know where it is. *1 Thessalonians 4*. We don't have time. Somebody's going, “Thank God!” *1 Thessalonians 4*, **“For we believe [Here's the Gospel] that Jesus died and rose again, and He's coming back again.”** Don't leave the pre-Tribulation rapture out of the Gospel because all you've got is the Gosp. That didn't work out very good. That's probably why it wasn't in my notes.

Before I close, do you guys get how this all connects? The pre-Tribulation rapture, severe suffering, sharing the Gospel: all nine of them are in concert, one with the other. Would to

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God, we, like the Thessalonians, would be known for our faith in Jesus, so the Gospel of Jesus would boldly ring out for Jesus. Don't you want that?

One last thing. Have I done "one last thing?" You remember when Jesus, in *Matthew 9:37-38*, said, "**The fields are white for harvest.**" White because it was wheat. I grew up in a small farm town that farmed wheat primarily. And you knew that it was harvest time, and you had a small window of time when the heads of the wheat were white. Sometimes they would delay the start of school. I mean, Hawaii's so different. What? August?

Sometimes we'd wait till October because this is — it's do or die. You either get those crops harvested or you lose them. So I didn't drive a combine. They wouldn't dare let me. I don't blame them. So I did drive a truck, the grain truck. But we worked from dawn to dusk because of the urgency of the hour because of the harvest. It was white and ready. And you better harvest it, or you're gonna lose it. Did you get that connection?

Well, we have a problem. Jesus said the problem is "**the laborers are few.**" What's the solution? "**Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**" We need some of them Thessalonians now, don't we?

Okay, let's end with the Gospel, as we always do, with the ABCs of salvation. Not a formula. You don't have to do anything. You don't have to walk down an aisle, pray a prayer, repeat after me. None of these. This is just how it goes down. There has to be this admitting, A, acknowledging that you're a sinner. Otherwise, why would you even have the least bit of interest in the Savior? Because you still fancy yourself as being a good person.

But *Romans 3:10* says, "**There's [No one good] no one righteous, not even one.**" So check that box off. And *Romans 3* tells us why. "**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**" Well, there goes that. You know how they say, "you don't have a leg to stand on"? I don't have any legs now left to stand on. So what am I going to do?

Well, that's *Romans 6:23*. I'm going to enter the sentencing phase. And it's the death sentence, "**For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" The sooner you and I acknowledge this, accept this, the sooner we'll get off death row and not die in our sin. The B, so, again, central and important: Believe.

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Romans 10:9 says, **“If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.”** Well, again, someone's going to say, “Well, I believe in God.” “Well, I believe in Jesus.” Okay. Well, *James 2:19* says, **“Even the demons believe and tremble.”** How about that? Well, so, it doesn't just mean, “Yeah, I believe, I believe, I believe.”

Okay, well, thank you so much, Pastor, for telling us and putting up a sign that says this is not the way to Kaneohe. What help is that? I hope there's not a sign in town that says, “This is not the way to Kaneohe.” I need a sign that says, “This is the way, and this is how many miles it is to reach your destination.”

So if that's not what it means to believe, what does it mean to believe? Here's what it means. To believe is to be fully convinced about Jesus, placing complete trust in Jesus, totally relying upon Jesus, and having absolute confidence that Jesus has imputed His perfect righteousness. replacing my own filthy self- righteousness.

That's what believing means. You sign the title deed of your own good works and deeds over to Him, ownership to Him. And what does He do in exchange? There's a trade, a transaction. He gives you the Holy Spirit to seal you for the day of redemption.

The C, lastly, call upon the name of the Lord or confess with your mouth. You know there's coming a day every knee is going to bow, every tongue is going to confess. The only problem is, is that if it's now, it's unto salvation. But there's coming a day when it will be too late, and it will be for damnation. **“If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”**

And *Romans 10:13* lastly, and this seals the deal, **“All who call upon the name of the Lord [And here's that word again] will be saved.”** That's simple; isn't it? Childlike, not childish, childlike simple. So you acknowledge, which leads to believing in, putting your trust in, relying upon.

And then, **“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”** So now, if I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is Lord, what's going to come out of my mouth? Jesus Christ is Lord. You're not going to be able to hold it in. I'd like to see you try.

Okay. Has Second Service started yet?

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[Laughter]

Okay. We're done. But today's "But God" testimony is going to be very different. You'll see why it comes from Arjun [*I hope I'm pronouncing your name right*] who lives in The Netherlands and writes, "Hello, Calvary Kaneohe. My prayers are with Kellie Farag and Pastor JD in their battle against cancer. How I wish and pray that JD doesn't have to go through the loss I am experiencing right now. I lost my wife, Conny to cancer three weeks ago, a very aggressive form of breast cancer. She didn't make it to the rapture, but she is with the Lord now.

I know I'm going to see her again, and that is comforting. [*Calming*] But it still feels like a big part of me is ripped out right now, a very, very lonely feeling. Husband and wife are one the Bible says, so now I am only half. That's how it feels.

[*And then He says this*] I also wonder: Lord, what [*Not why*] what is Your plan for me? Conny's funeral was only about Jesus. That was how she wanted it. The Gospel, the cross, the blood, the ABCs of salvation, and yes, the rapture. [*I had to say that with a growl*]

It was all in the sermon. Now, in the first row next to me sat our oldest daughter [*This would be Connie's daughter*] and her family. She converted to Islam in 2008. And this way she heard the Gospel. She is our "sheep number 100." It is my prayer that our shepherd Jesus, is going to get her back. God bless you all. Arjan Paans, The Netherlands"

Has David left the building? Oh, come on up, David. You know, stand up. You've been sitting for, what, 4.5 hours now? This is my way of keeping you here for Second Service. No. Sincerely, I appreciate your patience with me in the length and the strength of these Updates in these last days, this last hour, really. Would you join me in a closing prayer?

Father, for anyone that might be here or watching online that it finally just all clicked into place for today, will You make today the day of their salvation? And Lord, also, for those of us who are saved, hanging on by our fingernails to our blessed expectation of Your promised rescue, we need for You to give hope to us until You come forth. And please, Jesus, it's getting a little bit scary out there. Will You come for us soon? Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Maranatha. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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