

**Revelation 16**  
**Two Questions To Answer In This Last Hour**  
**Pastor JD Farag**

KAPONO: Praise His name. Would you join me as we pray? Lord, wow, something so simple as that, Lord, when we're out and about, would we be overflowing, Lord, from Your word that we would not hold back from saying Your name, Jesus. Lord, that's the only name. We thank You, Lord, for our time in Your word.

Lord, what a Prophecy Update. Lord, I pray that if we're wrestling or struggling with anything, that we would take it to You first, that we would come before You Lord, and ask You for clarification, Lord, that You would speak to our hearts, and open up our hearts and our eyes and our ears to hear, to see, Lord, and to receive. And we ask the same thing, Lord, as we get into our study, Lord. Would You do that for us, Lord?

Again, we cannot pray enough, Lord, for our pastors, Lord. So we lift up Pastor Leitu, Pastor Mac, Lord, and Pastor JD as he teaches us Your word. We love You, Lord. We ask these things in Your name, Jesus, we say, Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. So glad you're here. You can be seated. Those of you joining us online, we're glad that you're joining us as well. Before we jump in, though, I do want to ask that you please pray for Pastor Leitu, who is scheduled for open heart surgery, Tuesday. So we're trusting God for a good report. And so — and we will pray as well here shortly.

So Second Service, as you know, is the verse-by-verse teaching through God's Word. We're currently in the last book of the Bible, the *Book of Revelation*. And our text today is *Chapter 16, verses 10-16*. So what I'm going to have you do for the reading of God's Word is stand if you're able. If not, no worries, where you're seated is fine.

Beginning in *verse 10*, John is continuing, as commanded by the Lord, to write that which he is seeing, this heavenly scene, this future judgment. And he continues in *verse 10*, **“The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.**

**The sixth angel [Verse 12] poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then [Verse 13] I saw three impure [Or unclean] spirits that looked like frogs; [Not Farags, frogs] they came out of the**

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**mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.** *[That's the counterfeit false trinity, right there]*

**They** *[Verse 14]* **are demonic spirits** *[And watch this]* **that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.** *[Verse 15]* **'Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.'** Then *[Verse 16]* **they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."**

Let's pray. If you would please join with me. Father, we're posturing ourselves before You this morning, humbly, readily admitting that we're hungry and thirsty for You, knowing that only You can satiate that hunger and thirst that we have in our souls.

Lord, as we have our Bibles open, I pray that so too would our hearts be open to receive what it is that You have for us today in this portion that is before us today. Lord, please, especially on a day like today, no distractions. Don't let the enemy get away with that. Thinking about this afternoon or what we're going to eat or this or that.

Lord would You because as only You can by the Holy Spirit, You can help us to focus and concentrate so our minds don't wander. And we really need You to do that, especially with this passage here. So will You do that for us, Lord?

Lord, we want to petition Your throne for our brother Leitu, Pastor Leitu. God, You — it's not "can you"? It's "will You." We know You can. But will You please just have everything go swiftly and be done successfully and return — Lord, You know he is so loved and so missed and so prayed for. And you also know how much I need Leitu. So please God, would You guide the hands of the physician, and that during the surgery there's no complications? And so, Lord, we're looking for a good report to come. Thank You in advance, God, for what You're going to do for our brother Leitu.

Speak now, Lord. That's why we're here. We want to hear You speak into our lives. Speak! Your servants are listening. In Jesus' name. Amen and amen. You could be seated. Thank you.

So after inquiring of the Lord concerning today's text, it became abundantly clear that there's really two questions before us that need to be answered in this the last hour, and it is

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the last hour. And not only are there two questions, the answer requires that all of us, myself included, make a decision between only two choices. In other words, it's not — it's not both. It's either/or. And I don't know if it's possible to overstate how crucial these two questions are by virtue of the fact that they have eternal ramifications for all of eternity.

For those who have stuck with us in our verse-by-verse study through the *Book of Revelation*, you've seen it's personal application vis-à-vis the prophetic information. And the reason is because I made the decision and got the green light from the Lord to focus on the personal application that's woven into the fabric of the prophetic information. And one of the reasons for doing so, and even inquiring of the Lord for His permission and His blessing on it, was because if you think about it, our weekly Bible Prophecy Updates for well-nigh two decades now, have been deep dives into the *Book of Revelation*. That's not to say that we've ignored the prophetic information by focusing only on the personal application. Rather, we've connected them.

It's been said that knowledge is information, but wisdom is the application of that information. We're also told in the New Testament that knowledge puffs up. Knowledge in and of itself, without the application or the understanding, which oftentimes requires one to humble themselves and receive it, as hard as it might be, as convicting as it usually is, and there needs to be a surrender and a humbling of oneself, making oneself teach-able, teachable.

You know the pastoral epistles; we affectionately refer to them as such, Titus and Timothy. Paul, by the Spirit, lists what the qualifications for elders and certainly pastors are, and he's got quite a list there. And there's this misnomer concerning one particular qualification on that list. And it's “able to teach.”

Wait a minute. So in order to — I can see that for the pastor. But you mean to tell me that the qualification for any elder that I lay hands on, they have to be able to teach? Well, what if they haven't been given the gift of pastor/teacher. That's a two-fold gift, dual gift. Pastor/teacher. They're very different, by the way. Pastor is shepherding and feeding and caring for the flock. Teaching is teaching and preaching of the word to equip the saints.

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So that's a misnomer because it's not able to teach. It's teach-able. In other words, an elder must be teachable. And certainly so too is this true for the pastor. In fact, the best teacher is the teacher that is teachable. I'm getting very convicted right now. I gotta go back to my notes.

I guess what I'm trying to say is that there's a — there's layers, you know, to this *Book of Revelation* that is the least read book in the Bible. Because the enemy has been met with smashing success in getting Christians to fear the *Book of Revelation*. It's so apocalyptic. That's actually what the word revelation in Greek is. It comes from the Greek word *apokálupsis*. You know what it means? Wait for it. Ooh. Revealing. Unveiling. Uncovering. You're afraid of the revealing, the uncovering, the unveiling? This is — Oh! Excuse me.

Wait, wait. One more thing, by the way, I just — I'm just curious. Don't be snarky like I'm snarky. Just, you know, season your words with grace here. I'll try. I have a question for you. Did you know that there's only one book in the entirety of the Bible — only one — that promises a blessing to those who read it, hear it, and take it to heart? Did you know that? “No.”

Do you know which book it is? *Revelation*. The only book that promises of blessing. Why? The blessing comes vis-à-vis the unveiling, the revealing of that which is yet to come, that which we as born-again Christians have to look forward to. The blessing comes because when you know that what the future holds, and that God holds the future and what's in store for you in the future for all eternity. It makes whatever you're going through easier to get through when you know what to look forward to. And what comes packaged with that is a profound blessing.

This is like the fourth, fifth time I've taught through the *Book of Revelation* because I'm greedy for God's blessing. No. I'm, you know, just, I love this book. It's been said that if a pastor truly loves his congregation, he'll teach them verse-by-verse the *Book of Revelation*. I love you, man!

So again, I'm trying to paint this picture on the canvas of today's sermon by reiterating why we're focusing on the personal application that comes from the prophetic information, really

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the prophetic information even in the chapters about the 7-year Tribulation serve as a catalyst for the personal application.

Because see, whether we realize it or not — I'm including myself in this and I'll try not to look at anybody — but we come to a church like this on a day like this — which, by the way, I'm so glad you're here today. That's all I'm saying.

But we come with an anticipation, even an expectation — nothing wrong with that — that we're going to hear God speak into our lives in and through His word, through His mouthpiece. I, by the way, I apologize in advance for the mouthpiece that He's chosen to use as the vessel, the instrument. But that's why we're here, isn't it? I mean, why else would we come? To gain more knowledge and information because we want to be in the know? No! The reason we're here is because we have a personal relationship with our God and Savior, and we have God, the Holy Spirit, indwelling us, that creates a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

And I love how one said it. It's the Spirit of God through the Word of God, ministering to the people of God. And so that's what's happening. And that's why we're here. That's why I'm teaching this book this way.

Now, I'm going to address one last question before we start with the first question. I'm going to address one question before we start with the first question? Scratch that. Give me a do-over. I want to resolve a matter before we get to our first question. That was way better. The matter has to do with this notion that why in the world would we even bother with Chapters 6-19, all of which deal with, in graphic detail, the wrath of God being poured out on a Christ rejecting world during the 7-year Tribulation, when we're not even going to be in the 7-year Tribulation.

In other words, why bother if we're raptured before the 7-year Tribulation? Answer: We have so many applicable takeaways from the 7-year Tribulation, and such is the case with the text that we have before us today.

And that brings us to our first question in *verses 10 and 11*. Which kingdom am I a citizen of? Now, remember the preface was that it's — you got — we have two questions between

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two choices only, and you can't choose both. You know this isn't Baskin-Robbins, okay? So here John tells us that the fifth angel poured out his bowl.

Remember these golden bowls have — are filled with the wrath of God, and it's a different wrath than the wrath in *Chapter 6*. In *Chapter 6*, the word in the Greek is *orgē*. And the word for wrath in *Chapter 16* is *thymos*, from where we get our word *thermos*. It is a boiling over wrath, a rage that has reached its boiling point.

So we saw in *Chapter 15*, which was a pivotal chapter, an important chapter for sure, the preparation for these last seven judgments. First were the seven seals, then the seven trumpets, and now the final seven bowls of God's wrath. And these bowls are given to seven angels who poured the wrath out. Well, this is an interesting bowl because it plunges the Antichrist's kingdom into darkness.

I was thinking about in Exodus, and by the way, the parallels. Maybe next week. Did I say that last week? I'm making no promises. But there are so many parallels with the plagues in Egypt to these judgments. But I was thinking about the darkness that fell upon Egypt, and it says — interesting detail — it was a darkness that could be felt. That's dark.

Well, this is similar. And what gets me, and I'm sure you, like me, is that even after all of this, I mean, they still refuse to repent. Would you kindly allow me to clarify what repentance actually means? Because I still think that — and I'm speaking in broad terms — that there's really not an understanding of what repent means.

So I say the word “repent,” the first thing that comes to mind is that repentance is synonymous with penance. It's not. In the original language, repentance is *metanoēō*. *Meta* in this context is literally translated as “change.” *Noēō*, from where we get our English word “notion” is literally translated “mind.”

Are you connecting the dots? To repent means to change mind, change your mind, and then God can change your heart from the inside out by way of the Holy Spirit. Because see, God's not going to make the decision for you, instead of you, or force you to make a decision. No, we've been given a free will. It's our choice.

That's why when He created Adam and Eve, placed them in the garden with apparently a lot of trees with delicious fruit all over them. But He included — see, I wouldn't have done this.,

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which is why I'm not God, and neither are you, by the way. He included in those trees in that garden, one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Effects added.

Of this one tree thou shalt not eat. God, what are You doing? It's kind of like this. Someone says you can't have that. Makes you want it more. That's the sin nature after sin entered the world. But see, the propensity, the proclivity to sin and choose to disobey God was still present in that garden, as it will be in the Millennium.

For those who neither accepted the mark of the Antichrist nor salvation in Jesus Christ, they're going to be the ones to populate the Millennium, the Kingdom Age, the 1000-year Millennial Reign, not us. We get our glorified bodies. Oh, thank You, God! And we rule and reign with Him as His bride by His side for 1000 years. It's like an enforced righteousness.

So back to the “why” here. See, God wanted them to choose Him. I mean, if He didn't — think about it like this, hypothetically — if He didn't put that tree in the garden, He's giving them no choice. (Stumbling over words)

I guess we gotta serve God, obey God, love God, choose God. Because I'm looking around and it's either God or God or God or God or God or... So what's God doing? God, in His sovereignty, has given man sovereignty over his own will. And don't think for a second that God was surprised or caught off guard when Eve was deceived. It's not like, “Oh! I can't believe they did it. They chose that one tree. They disobeyed Me. Now what are we going to do? Plan B.”

Oh, that's almost blasphemy. Because Jesus is not plan B! Jesus was the plan all along. It's been referred to in the New Testament as the final Adam, second and final Adam. The first Adam blew it. The Adam bomb. No.

[ Laughter ]

That was no extra charge.

So Jesus the Christ came as the second and final Adam to redeem mankind and the earth, which Adam and Eve signed the title deed over to Satan when they sinned and disobeyed God and partook from that tree.

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Pastor, where are you going with this? Well, listen, the reason I'm wanting to emphasize why understanding the meaning of repentance is so important is for two reasons, the first of which is that they refuse to change their minds, and in so doing would also change their citizenship. Again, repentance = change mind. These are earth dwellers, citizens of the kingdom of Satan.

Because there's only two choices. You've either got the choice between the Kingdom of God or the kingdom of Satan. And when one truly repents — and by the way, *Romans 2:4*, very important verse. **“It's the kindness of God that leads a man to repentance.”**

You know, there's two kinds of sorrow in the Bible. Paul writing to the Corinthians. There's the sorrow of being caught. You know, when you're a kid, and you get caught with your hand in the cookie jar. “I'm sorry.” “No. You're sorry you got caught.”

I would use the traffic illustration, but I'm an upstanding, abiding citizen. You know, I abide by the laws of the land. But just hypothetically, you know, you exceed the speed limit. You get pulled over. The police officer asks you, you know, of course, for your registration information and, he says, “You know, do you know how fast you were going?” “No.”

And then he shows you on his radar that you were going like 20 miles an hour over the speed limit. And what's your response? “Oh, first of all, I didn't know.” And then second you say, “Oh, I'm sorry.”

Yeah. You're sorry, all right. Listen, you're sorry you got pulled over and caught exceeding the speed limit. But Paul says it's a godly sorrow that leads to a genuine repentance. Now watch this. If I'm truly sorry, I'll change and do a 180. I'll change my driving habits, and I won't get pulled over in the first place. Because that is true repentance brought about by godly sorrow.

There's a worldly sorrow: The sorrow of being caught, found out, exposed. And there's the godly sorrow. And the way you know the difference, the litmus test is if you see a change in direction, a change of mind.

And here's another thing, and I don't mean to complicate it. I know I can do that. I want to try to communicate this as simply and succinctly as I can. One can repent and change direction, turning from something, but may not lead to them turning to Jesus Christ.

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Example: An alcoholic can repent and turn from alcohol, but not necessarily turn to Jesus Christ. So you — do you understand now the meaning?

And by the way, repentance is not a prerequisite for salvation. We bring nothing to the table of salvation. You know, repent! What do I...? Well, it's automatic. When I acknowledge that I'm a sinner and my need for the Savior, and I believe in Him and trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins, I think that that's the change, isn't it? But don't put anything in front of salvation. We are saved by grace through faith. **"It's the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast."**

In other words, you know, that's actually called lordship salvation, which is a false teaching that implies and even states that we have to do something or bring something to the table of salvation for salvation. No, it's already been done. **"It is finished."** Notice Jesus didn't say it is finished, however... Or it is finished if... No.

My go-to is the — we effectually refer to him as the thief on the cross. I mean, you know, when it comes to water baptism — that's another false teaching — baptismal regeneration, that you have to be water baptized to be saved. Wow, we got some big problems. You better start ripping pages out of your Bible if that's true because that's works. That means I have to do something.

And by the way, the thief on the cross, Jesus did not say to him, truly, truly, I say unto you, if you can figure out a way to get off this cross, go get water baptized, get back up here, you'll be with Me today in Paradise. I mean, I'm sorry for the silly illustration, but I think you get the point. Repentance is making a decision to change our minds from our citizenship in the kingdom of Satan to citizenship in the kingdom of God.

Listen to what Paul wrote to the church in Philippi. *Philippians 3:20*, **"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."**

There's one reference to — I can't offhand think about chapter and verse, where it's at, but I think it's the Apostle Paul that talks about the language of heaven. Here, he's talking about our citizenship in heaven. But the language of heaven. In other words, some people, they don't know the language of heaven.

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Why? Because they don't know the word of God, which is the language of heaven. Oh, they speak the lingo. That's different. It's been called Christianese. And be very careful with the Christianese stuff. Because they — in fact, I think that's going to come up here in a minute when we talk about the second question. So I don't want to get ahead of myself.

But we are citizens of heaven. Our names are written — in fact, the Lamb's Book of Life, by the way, is — they would have known exactly in that day, at that time, what that meant. Every city and town had a book that had written in it the names of the citizens living there. So if you moved, they blotted it out. You don't live there anymore. The Lamb's Book of Life.

And don't you find it rather interesting, curious that the name gets blotted out? The inference is, is that it had to already be there to begin with in order to be blotted out.

Notice there's no mention of adding it in. “JD got saved.” “Okay, what's his name again?”

No. I reject Christ. My name is already there. It gets blotted out. Why? Because it's not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So every man, woman, child ever born from the beginning of time throughout the ages, their names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life because that's God's will. That's God's desire. And if they reject Him, because it's appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment, and if they reject Him and don't accept Him, their names are blotted out and not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

*Revelation 5:10.* This is where it gets kind of weird a little bit because of the day and the times in which we live. **“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests...”** Where's your robe? Did you know that you're a priesthood, the priesthood of believers? You're a priest and a kingdom. **“...to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”** Speaking again about the Kingdom Age.

When we say — I don't mean to offend Catholics or those coming out of Catholicism. But you know, there's this practice within that false religion to obtain sainthood. And they make a big deal about it. And they've been — so they got all these saints. I'm like, dude, you're already a saint. You're already a priest. You don't need them as the go-between. You have unfettered access to God.

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The veil, by the way, a foot-and-a-half thick — imagine that — that separated the Holy Place and the Most Holy, the Holy of Holies, the shekinah presence and glory of God in the Tabernacle and subsequently the temple. In the temple, Solomon's temple, when the veil was torn at the resurrection, that thing, the sound alone would have been just absolutely horrifying. We think about veil, you know, a thin little. No, a foot-and-a-half thick. I think it shouldn't even be called a veil or a curtain. Sounds to me like a braided wall barrier. And that had to be there.

But He came, and was crucified, and buried, and rose again from the dead, and is coming back again, and He defeated death. And now we have, like the writer of Hebrews says, access to the throne of grace, and we can do so with boldness, not arrogance, confidence, not in self, but in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. At any time we can come to the throne of grace because He's made us a kingdom and priests.

I tried it. It didn't work well for me. It might work better for you, depending on what your name is, but I just can't yet say — it's even hard now — Saint JD. It just doesn't work. It doesn't, you know, fit. It's just weird. But the truth of the matter is, I am a saint. Some of your older Bibles will have Saint Paul, Saint John, Saint Matthew, Saint Mark. Saint JD. See, it doesn't work. It doesn't work.

This has one on the slide. I was — I had kind of a rough week. You have to show me grace. This is question number 2, even though it says 1. It's in verses 12-16. At least I think I got that right. Which spirit am I following after? Now, don't be too quick to dismiss this under the banner of being a firm grasp of the obvious. "I mean, come on, Pastor JD, don't you know who you're preaching to? You're preaching to the choir."

Not so fast. First, I need to point this out. We have the final parenthetical passage, true to form, right after the sixth judgment is meted out. You had a parenthetical passage providing us with additional information in between the sixth and seventh seal. We had a very big parenthetical, like four chapters big parenthetical passage with a lot of information after the sixth trumpet judgment and before the seventh.

And here after the bowl, the sixth bowl judgment, we got a little itchy bitsy parenthetical passage that's going to provide us with some additional important information; otherwise, it

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wouldn't be there. It's kind of filling in some blanks before that seventh and final seven — again, the number of completion — judgment is meted out. That's next week.

So like with the two kingdoms, there are two spirits. It's either/or, one or the other, such that we're led by either the spirit of demons or were led by the Spirit of God.

“Come on Pastor, we're Christians. I'm born-again. I can't — I'm not — I'm not following spirits and demons. What's matter with you? Are you?”

Okay. We got to resolve this because that is untrue. What I just said isn't true. Just because you're a Christian does not mean that you're not following after demonic spirits. This is where discernment of spirits is of paramount importance. We're talking about this being a matter of life and death for eternity. This is serious stuff. There's no playing around here. There's no playing church. We're not on the playground. We're in a battleground still, and we'll always be as Christians, as pastors.

1 John. Now keep in mind, Saint John, the Apostle John, who was inspired to write the book we're studying, *Revelation*, and the *Gospel of John*. This was a busy, busy guy. In his first epistle, *Chapter 4:1-6*, listen, right out of the chute, he acknowledges that he's talking to Christians, his brothers and sisters in Christ, not non-Christians.

He says, *verse 1*, **“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”**

Oh man John, how am I going to be able to know? You know, I'm not the sharpest knife in the kitchen drawer, you know.

Well, *verse 2*. **“This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: [Listen. Watch this] Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”**

Wow! Have a nice afternoon. This was then. So too is this true for us now, even more so, I would argue. The spirit of antichrist? Wait, wait, wait, wait. So the only way to know and discern and test the spirits to see whether or not they are from God is do they acknowledge Jesus Christ as God? The Mormons don't. That's not of God. That's not the Spirit of God. The Jehovah's Witnesses don't. Those are the two main ones that we know.

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But if someone is unwilling to acknowledge that Jesus Christ came in the flesh — see, they were dealing with Gnosticism, and what Gnosticism — so insidious — was teaching — Gnostic, gnosis, knowledge — was that you separate the soul from the body. So it's sins that you commit because the body — that doesn't count. So you can do whatever you want. It's just the sins of the soul.

So the reason why John, by the Spirit, delineates that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh, he's dealing directly in his refuting of Gnosticism. And actually Gnosticism; we've covered it before. It's got some layers to it. And it, by the way, it is alive and well today. I'll just say this much so I don't belabor the point. But the movies you watch are promoting Gnosticism without even knowing it.

I'll mention two. 'The Matrix.' You're imprisoned. Jehovah is actually the bad guy. Lucifer was trying to free Adam and Eve from slavery in the matrix, from Jehovah. That's just one. 'The Truman Show.' These are blockbuster movies that, you know, many people have seen. I've not seen 'The Matrix.'

I did watch 'The Truman Show.' And there was such an uneasiness as I'm watching it because the architect was the bad guy, and he was enslaving and imprisoning — what's his name?— Carrey. Not John Kerry. That's the politician. (Chuckling) Jim Carrey. Yeah. Oh, I'm not completely losing my memory.

So Jim Carrey, you know, is trapped in this matrix, this prison. It's all a show. And he breaks out of this prison planet, so to speak. Gnosticism. There's an interesting scene in the movie, when he's on the boat, and it's, I want to say 122. It doesn't say *Psalm 122*, but it's a clear reference to *Psalm 122*, which is all about Jesus Christ becoming a man and dwelling among us. Emmanuel.

See, in Gnosticism, Sophia created Jehovah, and Jehovah got a little carried away. The power went to his head, created Adam and Eve, and then kept them enslaved. And Lucifer was sent, the light bearer, to show them the light, to free them from this prison that Jehovah created. Was that too much? I better leave it at that and quit while I'm ahead, which I'm really not.

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*Verse 4.* Again, listen to the tone. **“You, dear children, [Some of your translations render it beloved] are from God and have overcome them because the one who is in you [The Holy Spirit] is greater than the one who is in the world [The demonic spirits]. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, [Worldview, a worldly worldview] and the world listens to them. [Verse 6] We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”**

Did you catch that? You know, this is actually *1 Corinthians*. I don't want to get ahead of myself. Can I draw your attention to — are you still with me? Man, I took you out on a boat on the Truman Show, and now we're back.

Okay, *1 Corinthians Chapter 12*, beginning in *verse 7*. **“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit...” “...to another [Listen] discerning of spirits to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”**

Discernment of spirits. Just because you don't have the gift of the discernment of spirits does not mean that you don't have spiritual discernment. God has given you spiritual discernment. God has given you an amazing brain and mind and intellect, and He's also giving you the Holy Spirit living in you. And never go against that check that you feel. That's Holy Spirit going, “No!” The Holy Spirit gets grieved, and the Holy Spirit — sometimes we don't hear Him because the Holy Spirit speaks in a still, small, refining voice like a whisper. But the volume of our lives is so loud we don't hear the Holy Spirit going, “Don't. No, there's something not right here.” Warning, warning, warning, warning. Discerning, discerning, discerning, discerning.

Let me take you to *1 Corinthians 2:14*. **“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God [Why?] for they are foolishness to him and cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”**

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This was you and me before coming to Christ. Remember trying to pick up a Bible? You're going, what? What? Now, in Paul's day, they rejected Christ because, and the Spirit of God because having the Savior of the world crucified on a Roman cross; that didn't reconcile. They thought that that's foolishness and they didn't accept it. Problem is, as Paul would also write to the Corinthian church, **“God chooses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise and the weak, to shame the strong.”**

Why? Because in the end, God alone gets all the glory. And you're looking at it. That's my resumé, actually, right there. You're looking at me going, it has to be God, look at him. He gets all the glory.

“Did you go to cemetery — I mean, seminary, or what? Do you have degrees? You have a PhD?”

“No, I'm JD. Is that close enough? I'm just a disciple of Jesus. That's what JD stands for.”

“You mean you don't have any formal education? You didn't go to college, let alone Bible college?”

“No. Heck, I barely graduated high school.”

“And you're teaching the word of God?”

“Yeah. It's by the Spirit of God. This is not me.”

The best complement that you can pay me is when you say something like this to me.

“Wow. I was so blessed. And I know it wasn't you.” (Chuckle) No, for real. Because I know then, you know, I'm not getting in God's way, nor am I touching God's glory.

You know, when the vessel begins to taint the flavor of the content, you know, like the wine flasks, they're marred because they take on the flavor of the vessel. And one of the things that I learned early on, and I was taught — and I'm so grateful to my pastor and the pastors that God used to speak into my life early on — is that you've got this wine, a type of joy, the joy of the Lord, the word of the Lord.

But don't let the container, the vessel taint or mar the flavor of that wine. In other words, you know, like **“No flesh will glory in My presence.”** Even with the priests in the Tabernacle service when they would step up to the altar, they had to have literally all their flesh covered

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with long robes, so that when they went to the altar — and no artists could do anything to distract from the worship at that altar. So no artwork. And the priest that go and offer the offering, I want all of their flesh covered up. I don't want to see any flesh. So I'm pretty covered up. I mean, the only thing...

*1 Timothy 4:1.* We're almost done. I appreciate your patience. This is the last one. But we need to do real talk now. Real talk. You know what I mean by real talk? This is where it gets real.

So if I could just humbly ask for your undivided attention as I read just one verse in *1 Timothy Chapter 4*, and it's *verse 1*. **“The Spirit [That's capitalized, the Holy Spirit] clearly says [Expressly, some of your translations render it] [Explicitly] says that in the last days, some will [Abandon] turn away from the faith [And turn to] and follow after deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.”**

Some of your translations render it doctrines of demons. “Wait a minute. I'm sorry, Pastor. With all due respect...” Whenever somebody says, “with all due respect,” I know what's coming. Brace yourself. With all due respect, you're about to get corrected, rebuked.

This is a Christian church. Yeah, but Timothy was a pastor of that Christian church. And what he's saying explicitly is what the Holy Spirit has been warning about clearly, that in the last days, our day, there are going to be some who are going to turn away, abandon the faith. Why are they going to do that? Because they've been seduced by these deceptive spirits. And they start following after them, not knowing that they are being taught the doctrine of demons. Did you know that demons have doctrine?

I'll close, but before I do, I just want to share something openly, from my heart to yours. This breaks my heart because this is exactly what's happening today. Some, who prior to 2020, you would have thought were sound and solid. Not in a million years. And they got seduced and deceived. And they're following these spirits, demonic spirits that are teaching them things taught by demons.

I'll just ask, and then we're done. Which spirit are you following after? Which spirit am I following after? Oh, would to God that it would be the Spirit of God.

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Kapono, come on up. Stand up. We'll close in prayer and song. I appreciate your patience. Tough stuff, but good stuff.

Father in heaven, this is a very convicting. passage of scripture that I think all of us, again, myself included, need to take heed to. Maybe it requires that we just introspectively quiet down and lower the volume of our very busy and loud lives and have You just search our hearts concerning this.

If we're born-again and we're saved, then we can't lose our salvation. But this falling after spirits thing, well, that's — that's the question on the table. Because if a Christian can be swayed and turned away, that's kind of a game changer for us.

So Lord, will You please search our hearts, see if there be anything at all that would keep us from hearing You, loving You, following hard after You like David, who had a heart after Your own heart. May the only voice that we give ear to be that of the Holy Spirit. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.