

# Finish Strong!

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The day of our Lord's promised return is soon coming. The Lord has tarried longer than His church would have ever anticipated. Scoffers have come. Evil, wickedness, and darkness has increased. However, God is not slack concerning His promises. He is longsuffering, not willing that anyone should perish. As the days get darker, the church's need for endurance grows stronger. The resource for our strength is the powerful weapon of prayer. We must continue in prayer to finish strong in our journey of faith! Pray that you will have strength to escape all that is coming to pass and to stand before the Son of Man.

At some time or another, we all wrestle with uncertainties in different areas of our life: with our health, our careers, our relationships, our finances, so forth and so on. Today is a day of uncertainty for everyone. Our near future is as veiled as our distant future.

I was recently asked the question, "Why do I need a religion to live?" This was asked by a young man who started the conversation by stating that he had lost his faith. I suggested to him that religion was really about answers. I said, "Just like now, you are seeking after an answer."

Take the people of Athens for example.

*"(Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.) So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you." (Acts 17:21–23, NASB95)*

There are nearly 4,000 recognized faiths around the globe. Religions rise and fall with time; they change; they evolve. However, if it's true, it remains constant, it never changes. My friend God is true and there is no shadow of turning in Him. His word has held up under the scrutiny of time, and His power is witnessed to by all of creation and even our own existence. The bible provides us with answers from the eternal past and into the eternal future.

The world's head is spinning with beliefs, opinions, and ideologies which the bible foretold would come to be.

READ: Romans 1:25–32 (**We Live in a lost world!!!**)

The world has willingly blinded themselves by rejecting the truth of Jesus Christ and there is soon coming a day when God will remove all truth from them, causing them to believe the lies of the antichrist who is to come.

*"For this reason, God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth but took pleasure in wickedness." (2 Thessalonians 2:11–12, NASB95)*

These are they who will be left behind to experience and suffer the judgment and wrath of God to be poured out upon this world.

## **The certainty of Christ's Return!**

*"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18, NASB95)*

### **"Comfort one another with these words!"**

His coming is our deliverance, our encouragement, and our hope! If you are in Christ, your future is certain! Jesus is coming back for His church. It is a good time, an expedient time to be in the church of Jesus Christ.

*"But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.”* (2 Thessalonians 2:13–17, NASB95)

### **The Key to Endurance! The powerful Weapon of Prayer!**

*“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. “But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”* (Luke 21:34–36, NASB95)

“praying that you may have strength to escape”  
(literally be strong enough to escape) the things that are about to take place).

What are the things that we may have to endure before He comes?

Prayer: Keeps us alert; Keeps us in the light of Christ; It is our resource of strength from God.

Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith! We began our journey by faith, we must complete it by faith. If we suffer with Him, we will also be glorified with Him.

He is greater than all we will ever face.

- Greater than our suffering
- Greater than our trials
- Greater than our temptations
- Greater than our enemies
  - *“bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”* (Luke 6:28)
  - *“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* (Matthew 5:11–12)

*Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.”* (Romans 12:21)

God’s judgment is coming *“upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth.”* We must get ready, stay ready, and be ready when He comes.

Jesus is coming soon. We must make it to the finish line. How will we be able to remain faithful in such an evil world of ungodliness, wickedness, and spiritual darkness?

**We have need of endurance to finish strong** – to be ready to stand before the Son of Man – the Son of God – Jesus Christ

What words will He speak to us?

“Depart from Me, I never knew you.”

“Well done, My good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your master.”