

## MARANATHA: LONGING FOR THE ETERNAL

When we have something to die for, we will discover that the hope of the future promise is worth living for. Said another way, if something is worth dying for then why not live for it? Hope of God's unfulfilled promises is what we remain committed to asking, seeking, and knocking on Heaven's door for. I pray this message will help to anchor our hearts in hoping for the future times and refreshings and visitations in the Lord. Eden is calling. Can you hear? Do you feel the cool breeze drawing you in? Do you the eternal ache deep within your heart. Maranatha! Restore the Eternal, Lord Jesus!

**Matthew 24:35** *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*

**2 Peter 3:10-13** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup> looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

### I. GRACE TO ENDURE EVERY CHALLENGE

- A. **Matthew 16:26** *"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*
- B. As Followers of Christ Jesus, we live in the tension of the here and now and the yet to come. We can pull eternity into our lives and into the lives around us by pursuing and living according to God's Words and ways. This is spiritual warfare. We see what is not yet, and we believe in faith that God wants to fulfill that promise. (*Salvation, healing over sickness, victory over oppressive spirits, joy in/through difficulty, etc.*) Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!
- C. Whatever is established on God's Word (foundational Truth) will remain into the coming of His Kingdom. This should stir great hope in us as we experience loss, suffering, and hardship in this life.
- D. **Matthew 7:24-25** *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*
- E. What is my assignment from the Lord? What is your assignment? We have been called to follow Christ faithfully in the grace He continues to impart to us through every difficulty we face in this life.
- F. We must not be surprised by hardship and difficulty in this life. We all face difficulty. Let us not wait till life is all together before we seek God and follow Him. This is never a reality.
- G. **1 Peter 4:12-13** *Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.*
- H. **John 15:11** *"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

- I. **John 3:29** *He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.*
- J. Satan, who is the enemy of our eternal destiny, seeks those who are disconnected from fellowship; fellowship from Christ, Holy Spirit, and even the larger Body of Christ. There are some claiming Christ who have neglected the command of the Lord to remain connected to the rest of the family of Heaven. As God dwells in the eternal fellowship of the Trinity and created a family to continue to express His love, so too we are made in this image and likeness, and with this need for expression.
  - **Genesis 2:18** *And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."*
  - **Ephesian 4:11-16** *"...<sup>13</sup>till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"*
  - **Matthew 18:20** *"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."*
  - **Hebrews 10:25** *"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."*
- K. *"The three-in-one God and the many-in-one church join in one beautiful holy union, as it were, that allows all of us to experience God more fully and joyfully than if any less of us existed."* (**Jon Bloom-Desiring God** writer)
- L. Satan attempts to divide while Holy Spirit seeks to unite us into the fellowship of the God who created us for Himself. Satan seeks to get us alone so that he can devour us in our weakness. We are stronger together, safer together, and we fulfill the high purposes of God together.
- M. **Matthew 24:13** *But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*
  - **Endure** (Gk. 'hypomenō')- *to remain, abide, not recede or flee or quit; to persevere: under misfortunes and trials to hold fast to one's faith in Christ*
  - **The End** (Gk. 'telos')- *termination, the limit at which a thing ceases to be (always of the end of some act or state, but not of the end of a period of time)*
  - This can be understood as the short-term and long-term and final end of a period of testing. If we endure through the time of trial, we will experience God's promised breakthrough and response.
  - **Saved** (Gk. 'sōzō')- *to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction; to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health, including the perishing of a soul in sin*
  - Even fiery trials have expiration dates. WOW!!!

## II. GOD'S PROMISE WILL COME TO PASS

- A. **2 Peter 3:13** *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*
- B. Heaven and Earth have been given expiration dates.
- C. Whatever God speaks and declares remains forever. His words have no expiration dates.
- D. Let me hold loosely to the things of this world, lest I be like Lot's wife who couldn't detach her heart from the things of the wicked city in order to go after the promises of God. Oh that my life would not be one of seeking the world and in the end, lose my soul or even a portion of God's full inheritance He desires to give to me.

- E. The Final Generation waiting for Christ's return is compared to **NOAH'S** and **LOT'S** generations:
- **Noah**- He was instructed to prepare and watch and listen for God's direction before God responded with judgements on the earth. He was given an entire generation to prepare an ark. Noah listened and obeyed, and as a result was prepared to endure and save his family when the sudden judgements came to the whole earth.
  - **Lot**- He was possibly instructed to prepare ahead of time, disciple his family, and live separated from the ungodly lifestyles around him. When God's judgments suddenly came to the city of unrighteousness, Lot and his family were caught off guard and Lot's wife was judged for her divided heart.
- F. This life is about preparing for eternity and exchanging what we have been given for what is to come from Heaven. Maranatha! Restore the eternal!
- G. We have been assigned the task of managing and stewarding our own heart in this life, like a garden. We do not labor in vain. Whatever we sow, we will reap. Whatever we cultivate, we will receive a harvest from. The question should be, *"What are we sowing in our life; seeds of unrighteousness or righteousness?"* A harvest will come, and our hearts will reflect what we have invested.
- H. **Galatians 6:7-9** *Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. <sup>8</sup>Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. (NLT)*
- I. **Matthew 24:35** *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*"
- J. The only way we can continue to endure the temporary storms of this life is by storing up the currency of the eternal (love for God's Words). God's Words are eternal, constant, sure, reliable, powerful, personal, and corporate. God's Words have no expiration date.
- K. Like Peter, we want to declare, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* **Jn. 6:68**