

Psycho Love

Saturday, October 3, 2026 10:16 AM

Good morning Arising Church!

Last week during worship the Lord gave this Body a word about cultivating, removing distractions to make room in our hearts so that we can stay awake and alert. It so moved my heart, my wife's heart and the heart of my sons that we all began to fast different things in our lives that we knew were taking up space that we wanted to devote to Him to become more sensitive to His voice. In fact, in our family we have been discussing this for a few weeks and it seems this message is only growing in importance.

The Spirit is wanting to get our attention and the Lord is preparing us to hear His voice with a sensitivity like never before and His Word has the answers we need. Let's go back to a discussion between the disciples and Jesus where they asked Him a question that men have longed to understand for 1000's of years so that we can gain insight into the schemes of the devil and the needed response from believers.

- **Matthew 24:3 (ESV)**

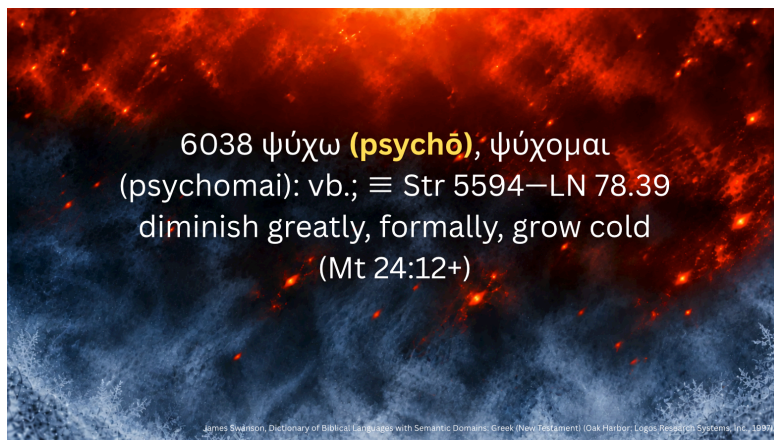
³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

- The disciples sit down with Jesus and ask about the end of the age. Jesus gives them insight into what will happen.

- **Matthew 24:12 (ESV)**

¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

- The NASB and the NIV say the love of MOST will grow cold. Jesus goes on to describe a widespread spiritual collapse that happens during the last days. And look at this word for cold.



6038 ψύχω (*psychō*), ψύχομαι (*psychomai*): vb.; ≡ Str 5594—LN 78.39 diminish greatly, formally, grow cold (Mt 24:12+)

James Swanson, [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



Although this pronounced See-Kho we found it fitting that it looks like the word psycho. One of the ways that the word psycho is used in our modern language is to refer to someone who is wildly unpredictable.

You may be surprised at whose love grows cold in the coming days but the Bible instructs us from beginning to end how to deal with this issue of love growing cold. Today we are going to walk you through how God identifies it, how people fall into it, and how to get out of it. Let's start with a letter to the churches from Jesus Himself.

- **Revelation 2:1–4 (NIVUK)**

¹To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. ²I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. ³You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

⁴**Yet**

- There is an awareness and even a stating of the good things that have been done...but God ends with "yet" because He is about to focus on the thing that will cause their lampstand to be removed if they don't correct it.
- He does it again with Pergamum

- **Revelation 2:12–14 (NIVUK)**

¹² 'To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

¹⁴ **Nevertheless,**

- Here the word "**nevertheless**" is used, God lists the good things they have done but changes the focus to what will bring — There are things present that must be dealt with or God will come and fight against them with the sword.

- **Revelation 2:18–20 (NIVUK)**

¹⁸ 'To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

²⁰ **Nevertheless,**

- Again with Thyatira — "**Nevertheless**". In spite of the good they have done, if repentance does not take place for these things, the judgement of God will come and children will die.
- Let's pause and ask the question, what will it look like and feel like for the love of most to grow cold around us?
- Not just once the love has grown cold, but as it's growing cold. What are the signs that something is growing cold?
- Look at the last church to be told this in revelation

To Sardis:

- **Revelation 3:1–2 (NIVUK)**

¹To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, **but** you are dead. ²**Wake up!**

- How can someone have a reputation of something but on the inside be something different?
- What are the words of God in response? WAKE UP!
- God is not fooled at all about what condition the church is in. Recognize in all these churches, the Lord speaks to them with complete knowledge of what each church is doing and what state they are in — and the judgement that will occur on account of their state.
- In light of these things, consider the apostle Paul's words in 2 Thessalonians concerning the last days.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:7-12 (ESV)**

⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who **now restrains it** will do so **until** he is out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

⁹The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹Therefore God sends them a **strong** (or **powerful**)

to love the truth and so be saved. -- therefore God sends them a strong (or powerful) delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹²in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- Though you may have seen this passage many times before consider this, before the lawless one is released fewer people are delusional and believing what is false...but then God releases him, and sends the powerful delusion **SO THAT THEY WILL BELIEVE WHAT IS FALSE AND BE CONDEMNED! All who HAD pleasure in unrighteousness.**



- Imagine a man with this much in his life of what is pleasing to God and this much of what is not pleasing
- What do you think his focus and emphasis is on as he assesses himself?



- Now imagine this second man, less of what is pleasing to the Lord but what do you think his emphasis is still on as he thinks about his life?
- Do you think the first man is comforted as he compares his life to the second man?



- But look at the third man. He has more that is pleasing to God than the others. He has seeming reason for confidence as he compares himself to the others.

- Reason for confidence as he compares himself to the general.
- Now think in your mind, **Nevertheless!**



- In light of what we just read in 2 Thessalonians 2, when the power that has been held back is released in conjunction with God sending a powerful delusion, in the last days this man is in danger of what is not pleasing overtaking what is pleasing.
- This is the meaning behind Jesus' address to the churches where he says in Revelation 2:5 if you do not address this thing, He will come and will remove the lampstand.
- The result is this:



- And Matthew 24 makes it clear this is what's going on:
 - Matthew 24:12 (NIV)**
¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of most will grow cold.
- What is the cause of love growing cold...why do people have to be told to wake up...why do they fall asleep.
- Let's go back to the disciples during Jesus' last moments before His death, when the hour had finally come
 - John 13:26–30 (NIV)**
 26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.
 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.
 So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. 30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.
- Judas didn't just betray Jesus, he betrayed all of them
- Evil was right there in their midst, the catalyst that would cause all of them to fall away and they couldn't see it (the threat)**
- Jesus identified it, but they didn't understand





- Earlier in this passage, Jesus says to his disciples that he had to wash their feet even though the rest of their body was clean.
- He said to his disciples, you are clean though not every one of you

Let's read it:

○ **John 13:6-10 NIV**

6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7Jesus replied, "**You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.**"

8"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "**Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.**"

9"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10Jesus answered, "**Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.**"

- It was the minority of their body, it was the minority of their group, but unless it was washed or dealt with they would have no part with Him in His ministry.
- Can you see the seeming drastic difference here? It is a minor part, yet the consequence for not having it cleansed is that you will have no part with the Messiah.
- Let's take a look at Matthew 26 and we'll look at the parallel account of the last moments Jesus has with His disciples after this, to get a clearer picture of this concept:

○ **Matthew 26:31, 35 (ESV)**

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "**You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'**"

³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And **all** the disciples said the same.

- Jesus just said, you will all fall away
- Peter and all the disciples saying I will die with you...**overestimating their confidence**
- We are not talking about Peter we are talking about YOU

A combination of not realizing the threat and confidence because of the good you have done (rich young ruler, church in revelation, peters confidence) leads them to falling asleep in the garden.

It was their regular practice to go to the Mount of Olives. Yet most of us only know of this next story from that night:

○ **Luke 22:39–46 (ESV)**

³⁹ And he came out and went, **as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives**, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he came to the place, he said to them, "**Pray that you may not enter into temptation.**" ⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "**Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.**" ⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, **strengthening him.** ⁴⁴ And being in agony **he prayed more earnestly**; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them **sleeping for sorrow**, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "**Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.**"

This regular practice of praying on the mount, became rote, and led to them being unable to stay awake—despite Jesus clear warning.

There is a warning to stay awake and pray so they did not fall into temptation. This isn't the first time that Jesus warned them about this and gave them the solution. Take a look at this next passage in Luke 21:

○ **Luke 21:34–38 (ESV)**

³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with **dissipation** and **drunkenness** and **cares of this life**, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

³⁷ And every day he was teaching in the temple, **but at night he went out and lodged on the mount called Olivet.** ³⁸ And early in the morning all the people came to him in the temple to hear him.

- Dissipation: the process of gradually disappearing, scattering, or wasting something valuable like energy, resources, or wealth
- Drunkenness: numbing, distracting
- Cares of this life: anxiety, idolatry

These things weigh down the heart, lull us to sleep, so that as the Lord's will is unfolding we are caught in a trap.

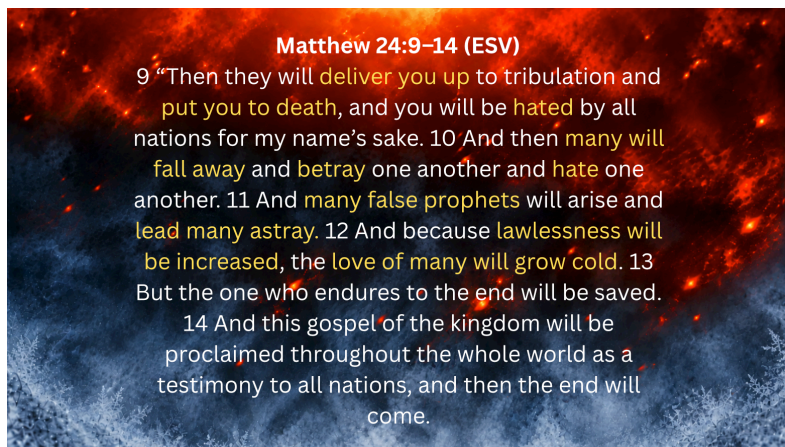
Take a look at this slide to see how many times Jesus states **STAY AWAKE, SEE, RECOGNIZE, BE ALERT**:



The problem the man who has mostly good but allows some wickedness doesn't realize is he is only able to stand... for now: But the power of the lawless one combined with the powerful delusion that God sends will capitalize on the wickedness that has been allowed to persist and will end up causing the love of most to grow cold.

Recognize that this call to stay awake is not simply for a special group of people. It is a call to you. You must **WAKE UP**, PUT AWAY distractions in your life and have your feet washed by Jesus, so that you may be one of the few whose love does not grow cold.

Look at Matthew 24 and see what all those whose love has grown cold will do to the rest:



○ **Matthew 24:9–12 (NIV)**

Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. **10** At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, **11** and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. **12** Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

- Deliver you up, put you to death, fall away, betray, hate, lead many astray, increase lawlessness.
- You might say I'll never do anything like that (like Peter, like all the disciples). But the text says "many and most". Realize that YOUR love CAN grow cold too.
- The truth is, if we do not wake up and stay alert, **these things are not beyond any of us.** you may say, "not me Lord I would never" but what do you think Peter's example was preserved for? to lower him in your eyes or to warn you?

In Matthew 24 Jesus says the love of most will grow cold but he who endures to the end will be saved.

This is true but is not complete. When Jesus addresses the churches He ends with the same charge...to him who overcomes.

(BRIEFLY EXPLAIN)

To He Who Overcomes THE PROMISES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES REVELATION 2-3		
EPHESUS	Revelation 2:7	To He Who Overcomes
SMYRNA	Revelation 2:11	To He Who Overcomes
PERGAMUM	Revelation 2:17	To He Who Overcomes
THYATIRA	Revelation 2:26	To He Who Overcomes
SARDIS	Revelation 3:5	To He Who Overcomes
PHILADELPHIA	Revelation 3:12	To He Who Overcomes
LAODICEA	Revelation 3:21	To He Who Overcomes

Consider the words to the church in Ephesus:

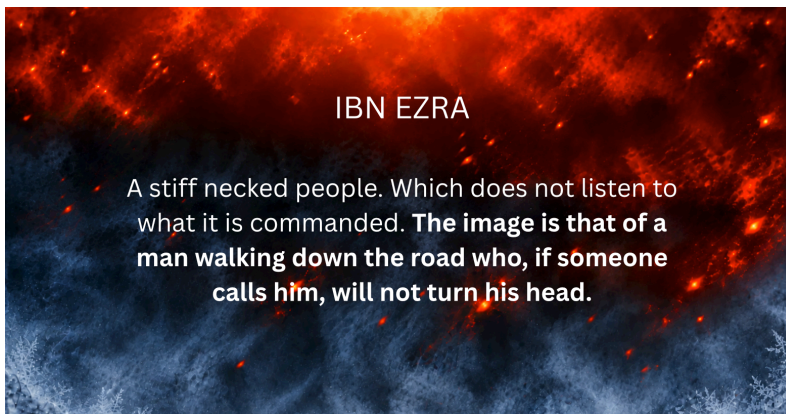
- **Revelation 2:4 (LSB)**
4 'But I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.

This is the thing that Jesus states is against this church. What does this actually look like? When you first fall in love with Jesus, you gave up everything for Him... But what happens overtime — you then turn and spend the rest of your life trying to get it back. There must be a returning to your first love — a purified heart.

We don't just want you guys to endure in the state you are in, you must overcome.

At the end of Joshua's time as general the Lord says to him, there is still much land to be taken. He left nations in Israel to teach the people warfare who had not experienced it yet. He told them they would not win the battles all at once in Deuteronomy 7 but rather little by little. When your body gets cold slowly, the proper way to restore you is to warm you up slowly. Rather than trying to destroy all of what remains in your heart that is not pleasing to God all at once, we are going to do this little by little. We are going to clear away that which distracts, that which is unpleasing little by little.

- **Deuteronomy 10:16**
¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stiff necked.
- What's the difference between these two things?
- Internal (Condition of heart) vs External (Action of being stiff necked)



IBN EZRA

A stiff necked people. Which does not listen to what it is commanded. **The image is that of a man walking down the road who, if someone calls him, will not turn his head.**

Michael Carasik, ed., *Exodus: Introduction and Commentary*, trans. Michael Carasik, First edition, The Commentators' Bible (Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 2005), 284.

- This is exactly what took place with the disciples
- The truth is, you cannot heed/obey instruction, or "be not stiff-necked", without *first* undergoing a circumcision of the heart.
 - **Acts 7:51 (ESV)**
You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit.
- Think for a moment about who this was spoken to: the religious who would go on to stone Stephen a man of God.
- We much more than we want to admit, are more like the Religious leaders and Pharisees in this story.
 - Becoming callous in our hearts by distractions, subtle idolatry, sleepiness.
 - Over confident in our own "good deeds"
 - Which makes us heed less of the Holy Spirit's voice.
- **Deuteronomy 30:6**
The LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, **so that** you will **love** the LORD your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul.
- A circumcision of heart **will** produce real love. It will keep you from psycho love.
 - **Psalms 95:7b-8 (ESV)**
Today, if you hear his voice,
 ⁸do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
- It is time...*Today* for us to allow the Lord to circumcise our hearts for the cutting away of the flesh, for the washing off the feet for the removal of what does not belong. No more rationalizing, making excuses, or pushing away the voice of God.

Ephesians 5:1–18 (NIVUK)

¹Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But among you there must not be even a **hint** of sexual immorality, **or of any kind** of impurity, or of greed, because these are **improper** for God's holy people. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are **out of place**, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵For of this you can be sure: no immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—**has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** ⁶**Let no one deceive you with empty words**, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be partners with them.

⁸For **you were** once darkness, but **now you are** light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in **all goodness, righteousness and truth**) ¹⁰and **find out what pleases the Lord**.

¹¹Have **nothing** to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but **rather expose** them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴**This is why** it is said:

**'Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'**

¹⁵**Be very careful**, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, **but** understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. **Instead**, be filled with the Spirit,

- It was hard for Peter to understand that his feet needed to be washed
- It was hard for the disciples to realize Judas was a threat to their group
- It must have been hard for a family to understand why a whole house would need to be torn down for some mold
- But we must put away that which distracts and lulls us to sleep so that we can wake up, hear His voice, be filled with the Holy Spirit and have hearts that are united to fear Him and overcome what is coming on the earth