

## WHO KEEPS US SAFE?

Tonight I would like to talk one of the battles we face in this hour. We all know by experience that the enemy is *constantly* attacking us in various ways. Sometimes he attacks us through relationships—using unsaved or deceived family members. Sometimes he attacks us physically. Sometimes he attacks us financially. But the line of attack I want to focus on this evening is his *doctrinal* attack. It's my conviction that Satan is propagating one main delusion in this hour but this delusion has many faces. This delusion is taught in a hundred different ways and from a hundred different theological angles. The delusion is *false security*. If Satan can get you into an attitude or a state of false security, you have lost the race Paul talked about in Philippians three. You may not end up in Hell, but you have definitely lost the race.

I've said this before but it bears repeating—the doctrine of Eternal Security is only one of *many* teachings out there which are designed to bring people into a state of false security. Most of the people who have rejected the doctrine of Eternal Security have accepted *other* teachings or concepts that produce the same exact result. So tonight, I'm going to look at one of these concepts. I may make a series of this because there are so many teachings that Satan uses to bring God's people into a state of false security.

Let me start off by saying that one of the ways you can recognize when people are teaching false doctrine is they will only present *half* the picture or half the story. The example I'm going to use tonight comes from a woman who does a religious blog on the web. This woman is not a "minister" and she is not famous. However, if I told you her name, all of you would recognize it because you've all seen her on Paltalk. The concept she mis-uses to produce false security in people is trusting God. In an article entitled, "*Whom Do You Trust*", she writes the following:

*"For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 39:18)*

**Behold the protecting power of trust in God.** The great men of Jerusalem fell by the sword, but poor Ebed-melech **was secure, for his confidence was in Jehovah.** Where else should a man trust but in his Maker? We are foolish when we prefer the creature to the Creator. Oh, that we could in all things live by faith, **then should we be delivered in all time of danger!** No one ever did trust in the Lord in vain, and no one ever shall.

The Lord saith, "I will surely deliver thee," Mark the divine "surely." **Whatever else may be uncertain, God's care of believers is sure.** God Himself is the guardian of the gracious. Under His sacred wing **there is safety even when every danger is abroad.** Can we accept this promise as sure? Then in our present emergency we shall find that it stands fast. We hope to be delivered because we have friends, or because we are prudent, or because we can see hopeful signs; but none of these things are one-half so good as God's simple **"because thou hast put thy trust in me."**

The problem is not with the idea that we should put our trust in the Lord rather than in our own wisdom and strength, or in the strength of other men. This is very true. The problem is, this blogger is putting a *false spin* on the whole concept of trusting in the Lord. Her *definition* of what it means to trust the Lord, as well as her idea of what the outcome will always be if we trust in the Lord, is one-sided and perverted—and because of this perversion, she puts a false spin on what God said to Jeremiah.

The spin is this: if we will trust in God to protect us (instead of trusting in man or ourselves), then God will *certainly* be faithful to protect us. This spin turns a beautiful Scriptural truth into a destructive, Antichrist lie. First of all, walking by faith does not always mean we will be *spared* from physical harm. Walking by faith does not always mean God will protect us physically.

*And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: **Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.***

*Hebrews 11:32-38*

When you read the faith chapter of the Bible, you will notice that it is divided between those who were spared physical suffering by faith and those who were not spared physical suffering by that *same* faith. The same faith that *protected* David and Samuel, enabled others to willingly be tortured so they would receive a BETTER resurrection! The same faith that *protected* Gideon and Barak, enabled others to willingly embrace scourgings, being stoned, being sawn in half, and being slain with the sword!

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, **which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee;** how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!*

*Luke 13:34*

Jesus said his faithful servants—the prophets and those who were giving forth His word—were stoned and killed. Will this blogger say the prophets were *not* walking by faith because they were not protected? Will she say that the ones who delivered the word of the Lord to God’s people (and who were killed *by* God’s people) were not really walking by faith because they were not protected physically?

I doubt it.

When confronted with the truth, she would probably acknowledge it and make some excuse as to why she wrote what she did, and why she didn’t really mean what she wrote. But the fact is, what she wrote is what she *really* believes. The things she would say to defend herself or save face would only be lies that are designed to *hide* the truth.

But the implications of what she wrote goes beyond the mere protection of the body. She is using what God said to Jeremiah about protecting him physically, to validate the lie of Eternal Security. She wrote: “*God's care of believers is sure. God Himself is the guardian of the gracious. Under His sacred wing there is safety even when every danger is abroad. Can we accept this promise as sure?*”

I can guarantee you that in this woman’s mind, when she says “God’s care of believers is sure”—she means *spiritual* care as well as natural care. She is not only talking about being protected from physical harm; she is also talking about being protected from deception. In her mind, God Himself is the guardian of the believer. In other words, it’s God’s *responsibility* to protect the believer, both naturally and spiritually. The only requirement we have is to trust in Him—or to be more precise, the only thing we are required to do is *believe the promise* that God will protect us if we trust Him to protect us.

I wonder how many deluded Christians there are in this world who are doing precisely what this blogger is telling people to do? You would think this woman would realize that *every* Christian who is deceived right now *has* placed their trust in God to be protected from deception! You would think that this woman would stop to consider the fact that every Christian who follows Todd Bentley, or Benny Hinn, or C. Peter Wagner and his fellow (false) “apostles”, or Rick Joyner and his fellow (false) “prophets”, or Rick Warren, or Joel Osteen, or any of the rest of them, *have* placed their trust in God to be kept from deception! These people *believe* the promise, just like this woman does, yet they are as deceived as you can be! Of course, The reason this woman will never think about such things is because she propagates the OSAS error. In an article entitled, “*The Safest Place*”, she writes the following:

*“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (John 10:28)*

We believe in the eternal security of the saints. First, because **they are Christ's**, and He will never lose the sheep which He has bought with His blood and received of His Father.

Next, because He gives them **eternal** life, and if it be **eternal**, well then, it is eternal, and there can be no end to hell, and heaven, and God. If spiritual life can die out, it is manifestly **not** eternal life, and that effectually shuts out the possibility of an end.

Observe, further, that the Lord expressly says, “They shall never perish.” As long as words have a meaning, **this secures believers from perishing**. The most obstinate unbelief cannot force this meaning out of this sentence.

Then, to make the matter complete, He declares that His people are in His hand, and He defies all their enemies to pluck them out of it. Surely it is a thing impossible even for the fiend of hell.

We **must be safe in the grasp of an almighty Savior**. Be it ours **to dismiss carnal fear** as well as carnal confidence and rest peacefully in the hollow of the Redeemer's hand.”

I’m not even going to waste my time explaining how she is twisting the Scripture to support here delusion. If there is any doubt in the mind of those listening to me that OSAS is a Satanic lie, I encourage you to go to my web site and read *Part One* of my *Mystery Of Iniquity* series. That whole book is a refutation of all the flimsy arguments OSAS people use to support this error.

What I want to point out is that the outcome of *all* these various doctrines which are designed to produce false security in us is the destruction of the fear of God in the life of the believer, and the destruction of the fear of being deceived. Notice what she says at the end of her article—we should dismiss all our “carnal fear”. Carnal fear, in her mind, is the fear of being deceived and ending up cut off from Christ. This is precisely the fear Satan wants to destroy in the life of every believer, for once he does, you are open season for the demons. I guarantee you that this woman is walking under the power of religious spirits—not the power of Christ.

How can I make such a bold claim?

Because only a *supernatural* power could make a person who says they love the truth, and who says they love the God of truth, *ignore* not only the warnings in Scripture about the possibility of falling away, but also the clear implications upon which these warnings are based. If Jesus and the apostles believed and taught Eternal Security, then they would have never have given *any* of the warnings they did against departing from the faith! Why bother warning people against falling away from the faith if it’s not possible to fall away?

Some OSAS people will say that the reason God talks about the possibility of falling away—even though, in truth, we *can’t* fall away—is to keep us from falling away. Not only is that circular reasoning, it’s down right stupidity! If you can’t fall away because God is the one who is responsible to keep you saved, then you *won’t* fall away whether there are any warnings in the Scripture about falling away or not. If God is the one who is responsible to keep us safe and secure, then the warnings about what will happen if we fall away are useless.

According to our illustrious blogger, it’s not the warnings that keep us from falling; it’s God’s power that keeps us from falling. After all, the *only thing* the warnings of Scripture can speak to is our “carnal fear” of losing our salvation—isn’t that true. Without a fear of falling away from the faith, all those warnings are useless. Those who truly believe the promise that God will protect them have already let go of all that “carnal” fear, so they cannot possibly be affected by those warnings. The very fear these warnings are designed to utilize in order to keep us from falling, no longer exists in OSAS people.

The fact is, if Eternal Security is true, then even warning people about the *theoretical* possibility of falling away is not only unnecessary—at best, it’s a statement of unbelief. At worst, it’s another gospel. I mean, isn’t that what you are accused of whenever you tell OSAS people they are not eternally secure? Don’t they accuse you of trying to be saved “by works”, or of walking in “unbelief”?

This perverted “trust-in-God” teaching is just one of many theological arguments people use to promote false security. This blogger I have been quoting says very clearly that trusting in God’s promise to protect us is *all* that’s necessary to remain under His protection. Of course, if I did tried to point out to her how unscriptural her “trust-in-God” view is, I’d be willing to bet a hundred bucks that she would *deny* this is what she is saying because that’s those spirits operate. They will double-talk and lie and say anything they need to say, in order to keep from being exposed.

For those of you who have *not* been turned over to one of these spirits, listen to what the Scripture actually teaches. God’s people are *not* automatically protected from the deceiving power of Satan just because we

are Christians. Neither are we protected from that power just because we put our “trust” in the Lord. We are responsible to do our part in order to receive God’s protection—and our part is much more than simply “believing” or “trusting” that God will protect us. This whole idea is nothing but a demonic religious fantasy. If we do *not* do our part, we will *not* be protected—it’s that simple. Unfortunately, since this false gospel of grace has spread over the entire planet, few of today’s Christians understand this truth. And even though you try to show them from the Scripture that they are caught up in a religious delusion, they can no longer hear the truth.

For example; the Scripture says we should cast down imaginations that oppose the knowledge of God. It also says we should take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (*II. Cor. 10:5*). The responsibility for doing these things rests upon us, not God. God cannot, and He will not, cast down our imaginations *for* us or take our thoughts captive *for* us. Trusting God and believing His promises is no substitute for *doing* what He commands us to do. You can say you are “trusting” God to protect you all you like. If you aren’t taking your thoughts captive and casting down vain imaginations, then you are no more under the protection of the Lord than the drunk down at the local bar.

You see, the thing that all these false grace people have in common is they can’t stand the idea that we carry a certain amount of responsibility in our own salvation and spiritual protection. They would rather drink poison than admit what the Scripture plainly states—that we must do certain things if we are to remain in Christ or remain under the Lord’s protection. They simply will not accept the reality that if we *do* what God commands us to do, then we will have victory and we will remain under His protection. But if we are too lazy to *do* what He has commanded us to do, or if we think we don’t have to do what He has commanded us to do because He is responsible, for whatever reason, then we will experience defeat at the hands of the enemy. We will not be protected.

In this particular case, we will receive thoughts and vain imaginations from demon spirits—and if we act on them, guess what? We will be obeying Satan. That’s right! Any Christian who refuses to cast down imaginations that oppose the knowledge of God, any Christian who refuses to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, will end up serving the Devil. Indeed, the cold-blooded reality is that today, *many* Christians are serving Satan because of all the false doctrines they have been taught.

The Scripture also commands us to flee from the desire to be rich, and/or the idea that having great wealth equals godliness (*I. Tim. 6:9-11*). Once again, fleeing from these things is our responsibility. God cannot, and He will not, flee these things for us. If we choose to flee from them, God will be there to *help* us flee—He doesn’t expect us to try and flee from them in our own strength alone. Also, we will remain under His protection. But if we choose not to flee from these things, God is under no obligation to protect us and we will probably end up like the people described below:

*But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, **which drown men in destruction and perdition.** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have **erred from the faith**, and pierced themselves through with **many sorrows.***

*I. Timothy 6:9-10*

Please notice that the people Paul describes here were *Christians* who did not do *their* part and the result was, they “erred from the faith”. I’m quite sure the blogger I mentioned, who is propagating the gospel of Antichrist under the guise of trusting in the Lord, would never accept the plain meaning of Paul’s words here. I’m quite sure she would give me the same line all OSAS people use, which is that these people weren’t genuine believers—they were just religious people who *thought* they were Christians. But the fact is, the only kind of people who can “err from the faith” are those who were once *in* the faith to begin with. You cannot possibly “err” from a faith you never had!

These were God’s people, and like all of us, they were responsible to *flee* from the desire to be rich. Like all of us, they were responsible to *reject* the idea that attaining wealth is a sign of godliness. That was their part. Unfortunately, they didn’t do their part. They didn’t flee from these things and the result was, they erred from the faith; they pierced themselves through with many sorrows; they fell into temptations and snares and lusts; and eventually they *drowned* in destruction and perdition!

These *Christians* ended up damned!

We need to consider this in these days because everywhere you turn, Satan is preaching his false security through the mouths of deluded preachers, Bible teachers, and just plain old people like this blogger. These people will never accept the truth of what Paul said in First Timothy chapter six. They will never accept that these Christians ended up damned because they didn’t carry out the responsibility God placed on their shoulders. Their minds have been taken captive and they will never see the truth again.

The Scripture also commands us to flee fornication and idolatry (*I. Cor. 6:18 & 10:14*). Again, fleeing these things is our responsibility. God cannot, and He will not, flee these things for us. If we flee from them, then we will remain under His protection. But if we do not flee from them, then we will *not* be protected and we could even miss the Kingdom of God altogether.

*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: **neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.***

*I. Corinthians 6:9-10*

God never said in His Word that He would protect us *regardless* of whether or not we *obey* Him. Deluded ministers are saying this. God never said in His Word that He would protect us *regardless* of whether or not we carry out the responsibility that we have been given in this salvation process. Deluded ministers are saying this. God never said all we have to do is “believe” in His promises or “trust” that He will protect us and He will protect us. Deluded ministers are saying this. God told us very clearly in His Word that we must do certain things in order to be remain if Christ, and to be kept safe spiritually.

To be quite blunt, the idea that we will be protected by God if we will just “believe” in His promises and “trust” that He will protect us, is actually one of those *vain imaginations* Paul tells us to reject. This whole concept is a demonic fantasy that exalts itself above the Scripture and God wants us to bring it into captivity

to Christ. That means, reject it! We must reject it because it's an integral part of the gospel of Antichrist that's being preached all over the world.

One of the first questions we ask when we realize Eternal Security is a lie and we begin to understand that many people who were once true Christians are being deceived and will end up lost, is: *Why?* Why would God give so many of His own people into the hands of Antichrist?

Well, the prophet Daniel said the reason is because of their rebellion. Rebellion against what? you might ask. Rebellion against *the truth* of the Scripture. Rebellion against the true gospel, which teaches that we carry a certain amount of responsibility in our own salvation and in our spiritual protection. Instead, people have chosen to believe the gospel of Antichrist, which says God does everything for us and carries all the responsibility for our salvation and our spiritual protection. All we need do is “believe” and “trust”. People who choose this false gospel go through life *ignoring* the things God said we must do if we want to be protected from the deceptions of the enemy. Since they are convinced they are not responsible to do anything in order to remain under the protection of God, they fail to carry out many of the responsibilities God has given them. In short, their walk of faith becomes a walk of rebellion.

*Out of one of them came another horn [Antichrist], which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. It grew until it reached **the host of the heavens**, and it **threw some of the starry host** down to the earth and **trampled on them**. It set itself up to be **as great as the Prince of the host**; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. **Because of rebellion**, the host [of the saints] and the daily sacrifice **were given over to it**. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.*

*Daniel 8:9-12 NIV*

This is a very sobering passage because the people Daniel is talking about are genuine believers. The term's “host” and “starry host” are not only a reference to true believers, they are a reference to Christians who are dwelling in *heavenly* places. In other words, this is not a reference to baby Christians or carnal Christians. Nor is it talking about religious people who think they are Christians, but who are not really born again. Daniel is talking about believers who have learned how to live and walk in heavenly places. He is talking about believers who have learned how to walk in the Spirit. This is a reference to believers who were *maturing* spiritually.

The little horn is much more than a political ruler. What Daniel is describing in this passage is a powerful demonic prince. There is a supernatural power moving in the little horn that enables him to do things no human political ruler could ever do. It's not the man who reaches to the host of the heavens and throws some of the stars to the ground—it's a demonic power that does this. When Daniel talks about the little horn setting himself up to be as great as Jesus (ie: the Prince of the host), he's not talking about the man—he's talking about a demonic power. Again, when Daniel talks about the little horn throwing truth to the ground, he's not referring primarily to the man—he's talking about an invisible demonic power. With regards to the fact that the little horn will throw truth to the ground, isn't this exactly what we see happening today? And isn't it exactly what Paul warned us about in Second Timothy?

*For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And **they shall turn away their ears from the truth**, and shall be turned unto fables.*

*II. Timothy 4:3-4*

What Daniel saw thousands of years ago is being fulfilled right before our very eyes, in the spirit realm. The things we see in the visible realm—like Christians being deceived; or Christians throwing truth behind their backs and turning to religious fables; or Christians letting their love grow cold—these are all external manifestations of what is taking place in the spirit.

Unfortunately, whenever you try to tell people who have been seduced by Antichrist’s false gospel that believing and trusting isn’t enough, and that if they don’t carry out the responsibilities God has placed upon them, they are walking in rebellion and are in danger of being overcome by this powerful demonic prince, they immediately cry “legalism” and accuse you of preaching “salvation by works”.

Since they have been deceived and are walking in rebellion under the guise of “faith”, they have no idea *they* are the ones Daniel is talking about in this passage. They have no idea it applies to them. When they read what he says about the “stars” being pulled out of the heavens and trampled on, or the “host” of the saints being overcome, they imagine Daniel was talking about people like Benny Hinn, Todd Bentley, Rick Warren, and all the other apostate religious leaders of our day. They would never see *themselves* as part of the group Daniel is talking about—never in a million years!

The apostle Paul said the same thing as Daniel, regarding *why* God turns His own people over to a strong delusion. He said it’s because they refused to receive a love for the truth.

*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness **in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***

*II. Thessalonians 2:8-10*

When reading this passage, there are a few things we must understand or we will completely mis-interpret what Paul is saying. First of all, he is not talking about a man or a government. Like the prophet Daniel, he is describing the work of a supernatural demonic power. He’s talking about an invisible spirit, which he calls “that Wicked”, which is going to come *in* those who perish. No man or government can come “in” people. Only an invisible spirit can do that.

Secondly, when Paul says those who do not receive a love for the truth will perish, he’s not talking about the unsaved. He’s not saying the unsaved will perish if they refuse to accept the gospel when it is presented to them. He is talking about *Christians*. He is telling us that if we don’t receive a love for the truth, *we* will end up believing the lie that damn’s the soul.

Thirdly, Paul is telling us what to look for when this spirit starts trying to move in our lives. It will try to deceive us through supernatural power, signs and wonders. In other words, it will work in the *supernatural* realm. It will try to *duplicate* the way the Holy Spirit talks to us and leads us. It will do anything it can to convince us that it is the Holy Spirit.

You see, this is the thing everyone who is talking about the apostasy right now is missing. What you will find when you read what people are saying, is that they usually promote two errors. First of all, because they believe the lie of Eternal Security, they teach that the great falling away concerns *primarily* the unsaved masses and professing (phony) Christians. Secondly, they teach that the apostasy is an abandoning of our “Christian” culture and practices.

But Paul did not use the Greek term “*apostasia*” to denote an abandoning of all things Christian or spiritual. He was not saying that people will forsake their churches, or their church programs, or their spiritual activities and experiences, and return to their former pagan life-styles. He’s not saying all these people will return to a life of drugs or murder or dope. He used the term *apostasia* to signify a massive departure from *the truth*. That is what *apostasia* means—a defection from, or a forsaking, of *the truth*.

This is exactly what we see happening all around us. Christians are abandoning many of *the truths* laid out in the Word of God. In their quest for big numbers or supernatural power, they are casting off the restraints of Scripture and going far outside the boundaries God has established for our own protection. One of the most important *truths* that is being abandoned is the *Scriptural view* of redemption.

The Scriptural view of salvation is what I have been defending and explaining in this chat room for almost two years now—and it has a lot to do with *the truth* that there are requirements for salvation—two of which are repentance and obedience. Go into any church, in any town you like, and tell the pastor you believe the Scripture teaches that we must *obey* God in order to be saved, and watch his reaction. Unless he is one of the increasingly rare exceptions, he will reprimand you in a very condescending tone for thinking you can be saved by works.

The majority of today’s scholars and preachers are part of the great apostasy, not because they are out drinking at the bars, but because they have rejected *the truth* the Scripture teaches about salvation. The false gospel they promote equates the idea of required repentance or obedience with “earning” salvation through self-effort. That mind-set produces rebellion. When a pastor stands behind the pulpit and tells people all they have to do in order to be saved and go to heaven is “believe” in Jesus, then he assures them that after they have believed, no amount of sin can negate that salvation—if the people take what he says seriously, he has just succeeded in placing their feet squarely on the path of eventual destruction.

*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh **preacheth another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, **or another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

*II. Corinthians 11:3-4*

It's very important that we understand the last days apostasy is *not* about God's people backsliding and going back into the world to live like pagans again. Paul talked about Christians receiving another gospel and another Jesus, even back in the first century. This is what we are dealing with in the last days. Genuine believers will receive ANOTHER gospel AFTER they have received the true gospel. They will receive ANOTHER Jesus AFTER they have received the true Jesus.

The last days apostasy isn't about God's people rejecting all things "Christian". It's about them departing from *true* spirituality to a *false* spirituality. It's about them departing from the *true* God to *another* god who is posing as the true God. It's about them departing from the Holy Spirit to *another* spirit that is posing as the Holy Spirit. Those caught up in the apostasy are not leaving their churches or renouncing Christianity. They are falling from the true gospel to *another* gospel, from Jesus Christ to Antichrist!

Yet, because the counterfeit is so perfect, they don't realize what's happening! They *continue* to be religious. They keep reading their Bibles and attending their churches; they continue to evangelize and talk about God; they keep going to religious conventions to hear the hottest Christian ministers—particularly prophesy speakers. They continue to follow the latest Christian fads, read the latest Christian books, listen to their favorite Christian music, stay involved in various Christian activities, and keep operating in the spiritual gifts they may have received from the Lord—but they are no longer *following* the Lord Jesus. They are following another spirit who has taken his "seat" in their lives. Perilous times indeed!

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in **thy name**? and in **thy name** have cast out devils? and in **thy name** done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

*Matthew 7:21-23*

If all this seems too incredible to believe, it's only because we really do not take the words of Jesus Christ seriously. The Lord clearly warned us that it's possible for "Christians" to become so deluded they end up serving Antichrist instead of Jesus Christ. He warned us that many people would stand before Him one day and come to this horrible realization. The ones who are being deceived have no idea such a terrible change is taking place in them. This is precisely why they will be so shocked when they stand before the Lord and hear Him say, "I know you not". In their minds they have not left God or the Christian faith.

The term "know" is not a reference to head knowledge about God or the things of salvation. It is a reference to *spiritual union*. While these Christians have been running to and fro, talking and preaching about Jesus, evangelism, revival, etc., while they have been doing all sorts of mighty works and manifesting supernatural power in His name, while their *whole lives* have been totally wrapped up in the things of Christianity, they have actually been in union with *another* spirit. If we don't want to end up like these people, we must not allow ourselves to come under the influence of the revelations and teachings these seducing spirits are spreading like wild fire in these days—especially when it comes to defining what the true gospel is. Anyone who accepts a false or perverted gospel, even after they have accepted the true gospel, will end up like these poor deluded souls.

*And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? **Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.***

*Matthew 26:40-41*

At the most important moment of His life and ministry, the very people Jesus loved and spent so much time preparing and teaching, failed Him miserably. They could offer Him no spiritual support. When He came and found them sleeping, He warned them to “watch and pray”, lest they enter into temptation. Watching and praying was *their* responsibility, not the responsibility of God or of Jesus. They had a choice at that moment to do what the Lord said, or give into the strong desire they had for sleep.

Sleep is not a work of the flesh or a sin. It was given to us by God to rejuvenate our bodies. But in this case, something very proper and legal, like sleep, was a *hindrance* to what God had for the disciples in the spirit. They chose to give into the desire of the body and the result was, they were not prepared for the temptation they were about to face. It overcame them, instead of the other way around.

*In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. **Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.***

*Matthew 26:55-56*

Watching and praying is one of the responsibilities God has placed on *our* shoulders. Like everything else in this walk, we need His help to carry out this responsibility properly. We can't do it in our own strength alone. However, we still have to do it—and God *holds us accountable* if we fail to do it! Once we choose to do what He says, He will help us. But we have to make that initial choice. He will **HELP** us to obey Him; but He will never **CAUSE** us to obey Him. If we don't do our part; if we don't watch and pray; guess what? We *will* enter into temptation, and we will find that we are not under the protection of God. That temptation will overcome us, just as it overcame the disciples.

Don't ever let anyone tell you that God bears all the responsibility for our protection. That's a Satanic lie. We *share* the responsibility for our own spiritual safety.