

# Will I Be There?

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Throughout the seven days of the Feast we are to celebrate before God and we are to picture and have a taste of the incredible world that will exist, during the millennial rule of Jesus Christ. It is a time that we all desire and long to be a part of...when the problems of this current world will no longer exist and the entire world will be based on and operate on the laws of God. Just think how incredible it will be, to see the whole world stop what it is doing, to observe the Sabbath and observe the annual Holy Days in unison! Everyone will understand God's Law. There will be no misunderstanding, because everyone will be speaking a new, pure language. There will be universal knowledge and understanding! It will be an incredible time and God willing, each of us will be there to take part in making that world a reality.

But, we still have some time to go yet, before Christ returns and we rise to meet him in the air. Satan is intensifying his attacks and persecution; he does not want to see any of us to make it over into God's kingdom. He knows we are going to receive an incredible and awesome reward, something he can never have. Make no mistake that Satan's intent is to rob you of your crown. The more people that fall away, the more resources he has to use on those that are remaining faithful. More than ever we need to be continually praying for God's protection and for the strength to remain faithful. We all need to earnestly pray for each other and the people of God wherever they may be. Satan wants to put a stop to the truth of God going out and he does not want there to be a refuge for God's people anywhere.

How much does it mean to you to be in God's Kingdom? Have you ever taken the time, I mean really taken the time to focus and meditate, and to think long and hard about what you may have to go through before you get there? What are you willing to endure to reach the Kingdom? What are you willing to sacrifice? Sadly, there is already a great number who have fallen by the wayside as Christ foretold and there will be more.

## **Matthew 24:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. <sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**

Oh we do not need God's law now, we are under grace...once saved always saved. Those who follow God's law are just being legalistic, but that is not what this says is it?

Because lawlessness will abound...that is something to really think long and hard and very seriously about, because it is he who endures to the end that will inherit God's kingdom. No matter what else goes on around him.

We cannot let down our guard, or let ourselves become distracted. We must be ever vigilant and completely committed to our cause. We were called for a purpose and for a reason and God has work for us to do; we must see it through to the end and we must keep moving and we cannot fail.

## **Luke 12:35**

**<sup>35</sup> "Let your waist be girded and *your* lamps burning; <sup>36</sup> and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately (a state of constant preparedness and waiting). <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find *them* so, blessed are those servants. <sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."**

This is talking about the return of Christ and about being prepared. We have to remember this world is not going to go on forever. I know sometimes we do not like to think about that, it can be frightening to think about, it can be overwhelming to think about, but we must not fool ourselves as those who are spoken of in scripture who say "*Surely my LORD delays His coming*".

## **1 John 2:15**

**<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that *is* in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (that covers just about everything in this physical world) – is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

We should not want this world to linger either, this world has to pass away before God's kingdom can appear and that is something that each one of us should desire and long for very much. Do you look forward to God's kingdom and the appearing of Jesus Christ, or does it frighten you?

Everything attached to this world is temporary and fleeting and passing away, it will not last. It is the things of God and those things that are attached to Him that last forever! We must not allow ourselves to become part of this world. We are called out of this world and we are to remain separate from it and we are not to get caught up in it and all of the sin that exists, all around us. Our citizenship lies elsewhere and **it is not** of this world! We have to live a Christian life every single moment of every single day. You cannot just be a Christian on the Sabbath, or on an evening when you attend a Bible Study, or when you are among brethren. It is a full-time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week proposition! If you are not living your Christianity all of the time, then there is a problem.

We need to be reading our Bibles and studying God's word, we need to be praying and talking to God, we need to keep our minds and our thoughts on the things of God and be firmly and completely committed to reaching God's Kingdom. This world holds nothing for us; it is just a stopover on a journey. We are sojourners here. This world is a proving ground for us and all of humanity. We are here to learn and to overcome and to make ourselves ready! We are here to spread the gospel and make disciples while we have opportunity. This life is very, very temporary and Paul makes that crystal clear when he speaks of this physical life.

## **2 Corinthians 5:1**

**<sup>1</sup> For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, <sup>3</sup> if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**

We have to walk the walk and let our lights shine as an example for others. People need to know that they too can overcome and set themselves not to get caught up in this world and the fate that it is heading for. There are a lot of people out there already, that are very disheartened at the way things are going in this world. They realize that there are problems in this world that are never going to be solved. There are people out there who are becoming frustrated and who are giving up hope.

Christ tells us we are to separate ourselves from this world. That does not mean that we are not to have contact with other people and all of us should go live up on a mountain top somewhere.

What He is talking about, is not getting caught up in the things that this world is doing. We **are not** to become conformed to this world and become part of it. Those who are will pay a price.

### **Revelation 18:4**

**<sup>4</sup> And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.**

We are to set the example for others to follow; we are to attract others to be conformed to our way of life as followers of Jesus Christ. A way that leads to true life and not the ways of this world that only lead to death. We all need to honestly examine ourselves, frequently, in regard to entering into God's Kingdom and ask ourselves the question: Will I be there? How important is it to me, to be there?

When we were baptized, we accepted Jesus Christ and the sacrifice that He made to cover our sins. We made a commitment, to live our lives according to God's law and to become a new person. It was like starting life all over again, a second chance to do things right...to set ourselves to overcome, to become disciples and ultimately to enter into God's Kingdom. We put the old person that we were, away...forever and determined to move forward and not look back. It is important that we honor that commitment.

### **Luke 9:62**

**<sup>62</sup> But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."**

From the moment we came back up out of the water, we were begotten a new person, we were granted a new lease on life, our sins and the penalty of death were removed from us. From that point on, we are to live our lives in an entirely different way, God's way, and we must grow spiritually and develop into the person God wants us to be. We are a new creature in Christ and the old person no longer exists. We must develop a spiritual maturity that allows us to be anchored in the faith.

### **Luke 14:28**

**<sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it* — <sup>29</sup> lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him,**

**<sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?**

Are we prepared to stay the course and do we have the spiritual strength and perseverance to make it all the way to the end? We cannot do it all on our own, but we can do it with God's Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ living in us! The Apostle Paul is an incredible example; here is a man who went from persecuting the followers of Christ, to giving up his own life, for the sake of furthering and preaching the gospel message that Christ brought to this earth.

Can you imagine how Paul's fellow Jews treated him, once he began preaching the very gospel he had sought so hard and ferociously to destroy? Maybe some of you may have experienced just a little taste of that, if you have ever been persecuted by family, friends, or maybe even an employer for keeping the Sabbath and obeying God's laws. I have and to be perfectly honest it is not pleasant, but I did survive and I am still a part of the body of Christ and it will happen again.

Paul faced great adversity throughout his life as an Apostle and suffered many trials, some of which remained with him permanently. But, Paul persevered through all of these things and completed the work which Christ had commissioned him to do. Paul realized that he could never have made it through all of these things he faced on his own.

### **Philippians 4:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

What an awesome statement of faith and trust! We are completely and utterly dependent on God, for everything. Every day that we are on this earth, everything we have, everything we are and everything we will ever be is all by the grace of God! Of and by ourselves we are nothing; we would not even have the desire to be at the Feast, if God had not opened our minds to His wonderful and precious truth. How much do we love God's truth? Ask yourselves what are you willing to sacrifice? What are you prepared to sacrifice? Paul gave his life...

These are things that we really need to think soberly about, we are involved in something very serious here. This is not a game, it is our eternity!

Now is not the time to be faint-hearted, now is the time to start strengthening ourselves all the more and preparing for what yet lies ahead. There are those who have set dates and others who have been making predictions for years, but as we look at the world around us and the events that are unfolding, it is not hard to see that things are beginning to happen. In all honesty, there are some scary and frightening things that are prophesied to come to pass.

Everything moves according to God's timetable, but these prophecies will surely come to pass and we have to be preparing ourselves...mentally and spiritually. Many of the things that we now see starting to happen, Christ calls the beginning of sorrows. Remember what happened when the stock market crashed in the 1930's? People were leaping to their deaths, because they had lost everything. In Luke 21, Christ says that men's hearts will fail them for fear! They will literally be scared to death by the events that are happening at that time.

### **Luke 21:25**

**<sup>25</sup> "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; <sup>26</sup> men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."**

When we see these things happening, we should raise our heads and look up, for our redemption draws near. We are to be watching, not ignoring...we are to be paying attention, not distracted. Otherwise, how are we going to know when to look up? Then Christ goes on to stress the importance of watching.

### **Luke 21:34**

**<sup>34</sup> "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. <sup>35</sup> For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."**

There is more to do than just pray...we are told to watch, it is a warning! Just like this warning, Jesus Christ left some other very serious and grave warnings for us throughout the gospels, things we need to think long and hard about.

## Luke 18:7

**7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"**

What He says here should really concern us, because He is not just making a general statement, He is speaking to God's people! Are we lacking in faith? Is God's law truly written on our hearts and in our minds? Are we spending enough time studying and meditating on God's word? It is going to take great faith in God to make it through the times ahead. We come here to the Feast, to an unfamiliar place and we stay in unfamiliar surroundings in temporary dwellings, it is a physical reminder. Yet, we know that when the Feast is over we will be returning to our homes and familiar surroundings and that our belongings and creature comforts are waiting for us when we return there. That is not always going to be the case.

I worked with a man, when I lived in California, that was from Vietnam. His name was Jung and he had become an American citizen, but he was born and raised in South Vietnam. During the Vietnam War, he joined with the American forces and became a Helicopter Pilot. On the inside of his left forearm, he had some strange scars.

The scars were about 2 1/2 to 3 inches long and about 1/4 of an inch wide. I was always curious about them, so one day I asked him how he had gotten them. He told me that the scars were there for a reminder. You see, every time that he had gotten shot down, he took a cigarette and burned those places into his own arm, to remind himself not to let it happen again. His last few days in Vietnam were spent ferrying personnel and belongings out to waiting American ships, during the evacuation of Saigon.

Then it came time for the final flight. Jung knew as he flew out to the ship, for the last time, that he had a tremendous decision to make. He could return to Saigon and face the certainty of life under a communist regime, or he could leave behind everything he had ever known, his family, his home, his country, everything that was near, dear and familiar to him, to go to America and live in freedom. Jung decided he must leave and when he landed for the last time on the ship, there was not enough room to store the Helicopter, so they pushed it overboard. For Jung, now there was no turning back. He left behind a wife, children and everything he owned; he literally arrived in the United States with the clothes on his back. What a gut-wrenching decision that must have been.

We may very well be faced with a very similar situation in the future. At some point, we may have to leave everything behind, all of our possessions, our friends, maybe even family...everything that is familiar; to go to a place where God can protect us. There is also the possibility that God's protection will be to remove us out of a situation or out of a certain location. However it comes about, we must be able to recognize when the time is right to leave and there must be no turning back. What if we had to leave right, now are you ready? Are you prepared right now to walk away from everything waiting for you back home? Does your mind immediately jump to some unfinished things that you need to take care of?

### **Matthew 24:15**

**<sup>15</sup> "Therefore when you see the '*abomination of desolation*,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), <sup>16</sup> "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. <sup>17</sup> Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. <sup>18</sup> And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. <sup>19</sup> But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! <sup>20</sup> And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. <sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.**

There could very well be a time in the future when you are confronted with a situation where there will not be enough time for you to go back home, there will not be any time for you to grab personal belongings and there will not be any time to even think about it. It will be a test of our faith and whether or not we really trust and believe in God. This is not just a hypothetical situation; we can easily look back into the history of this world and see that this very thing has happened before and more than once!

We must be thinking about these things and the possibilities that may come about. We need to be close to God, trusting in Him completely and relying on Him. God removed Lot physically out of a bad situation; we could also be protected in this same way. Lot was not ready to go; even though he and his family were living amidst and were surrounded by all of that sin and evil that existed in Sodom, He tried to get out of leaving! He was more afraid of what was outside of that city, then what was within. He was hesitant and he stalled and finally he and his family were physically removed for their own protection. God was merciful to him!

## Genesis 19:15

<sup>15</sup> When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." <sup>16</sup> And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

How were they removed from the city? The angels set them outside the city...could it be said that they were borne on the wings of an eagle? In Revelation 12:14, it says that the woman, who represents the church, was given two wings of a great eagle to fly into the wilderness, to her place. God's wrath was poured out on Sodom, just as it will be in the future on Babylon, the evil world system that will exist at that time.

I was told one time, by a person who had made the decision not to attend a church anymore, that they knew how and when things were going to happen and that when they recognized the end was close, they would just show up at church again and receive protection from the things that were coming. It is not going to happen that way! God is going to allow people to believe the lies of the beast and the false prophet; they will be swept up into the world system that will be in place and embrace it, they will not even realize that they are being swept up in the deception.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:9

<sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Delusion is a psychosis of the mind; God will directly influence their minds and cause them to be deceived without them realizing what is happening to them, because they did not love the truth. The only way we are going to make it, all the way through to the end, is with God's help. We cannot do it on our own; we are helpless without God!

We need to remember that always and keep it at the forefront of our minds. God's Spirit guides us into all truth. It is God's Spirit that brings us wisdom and the discernment we need to remain faithful to the end.

There is a real need for us to practice self-examination. It is an important part of preparing ourselves and being ready. We need to pray and ask God to help us as we examine ourselves, so that we are honest and so that we are not blinded to our own faults and imperfections. It is an important part of remaining faithful.

## **2 Corinthians 13:5**

**<sup>5</sup> Examine yourselves *as to whether you are in the faith*. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless indeed you are disqualified.**

Moving forward, towards God's Kingdom, could be compared to swimming between two points within a certain amount of time. One point represents this physical life and this physical world that we live in. The other point represents the Kingdom we are striving to reach and the time between the two points represents our lifetimes. When you swim, you must propel yourself forward and overcome the resistance of the water to get to the destination. We are propelling ourselves forward, through the resistance of this world and moving away from it. We are overcoming its pull and the hold it has on us, so that we can reach the ultimate destination, the Kingdom of God.

Some of us move more swiftly towards the destination than others, but as long as we are committed, as long as we have trained and prepared properly, we will complete the journey. Along the way we see those that have become tired and those that have lost their way and are confused.

We see those who have asked for directions from those who had no real knowledge and now they are heading off into uncharted waters. Some are just treading water and going nowhere and that is a dangerous place to be. They made the decision to undertake the swim knowing what was required of them, they have the energy and the drive to remain afloat, but they just can't bring themselves to move forward. They are caught in limbo between the start and finish.

## **Revelation 3:15**

**<sup>15</sup> "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. <sup>16</sup> So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.**

Christ recognizes these people; they have the outward appearance of belonging to Him and they profess to be His. But, because they lack commitment and won't move in either direction, He will reject them. At least if they moved in one direction or the other, even if it was the wrong direction, He would know where they stood. It is their indecisiveness that gets them into trouble.

We must not be found just treading water and just keeping our heads above water, we better be firmly committed to finishing this journey and reaching our destination. Who gets there first is not important; it is the finishing that is important.

Pursuing God's kingdom is not a casual pastime, it is not a game and it is not something to be taken lightly. We are in a fight for our eternal lives and this is a battle we do not want to lose! We can claim Christ and we can profess Christ all we want, but if we do not follow His example, there will be no place found for us. There will be those who thought they were assured a place in God's kingdom, only to find that they were seriously mistaken.

### **Luke 13:24**

**<sup>24</sup> "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' <sup>26</sup> then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup> But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' <sup>28</sup> There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. <sup>29</sup> They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."**

Weeping and gnashing of teeth, is a sign of great distress. Some of these people are gnashing their teeth in anger and others are weeping in great sadness and despair. They believed that they were doing everything right, but too late they found that the door was shut to them and they were being excluded.

Some of those who are just treading water will simply give up and slip under; they grow weary, they are unable to continue and they are lost in the middle never able to fully commit. They either never understood what they were getting themselves involved in or they just had a passing interest.

Others will decide that the swim is too great of a distance and that the final destination is too far out, too difficult to reach and required too much effort. They willfully turn around and swim back into the world to fully immerse themselves in all of its temporary pleasures and pastimes. They settle for temporary and fleeting things, rather than the permanent rewards that await those that complete the journey.

We can all make it and be there at that final destination point, do not ever let Satan create any doubt in your mind about that! He will always be there to discourage and to try and cause doubt. He will always be there to cause us to stumble and to try and confuse us so that we become lost somewhere in the middle. God will see us through and we have His promise which cannot fail!

### **Philippians 1:3**

**<sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, <sup>5</sup> for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;**

You are all special to God. God is calling a very select few and He is looking for the best. God calls those people the elect and the saints. We are being tested and we are being proven, right now! If we don't measure up, then we will not be there to meet Christ in the air, because those who are will receive eternal life as glorified, immortal, spirit beings and God has to know that they are fully and completely committed to His way before that happens.

We are all here for one reason, God wants us here. He called you and He called me, because He knew we would respond and He knew each of us possess the potential to go all the way and be born as first fruits into His Kingdom. Once there we will serve under Jesus Christ in positions of honor and authority. We cannot allow anything to threaten our relationship with God. Is there anything in our lives that come between us and our God? God wants the number one position in our lives!

### **Exodus 20:4**

**"You shall not make for yourself a carved image – any likeness of *anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.**

Do we have any idols in our lives? Anything that receives more time, effort and attention than God, in our lives, is an idol. What receives the most attention in your life? Your job? Television? A favorite pastime? If God is number one in our lives, whenever we have a spare moment that is where our hearts and minds will be.

Not thinking about what is waiting for us at work tomorrow, or what is on TV that night. Christ tells us that we do not have to and that we should not, worry about anything except seeking God.

### **Matthew 6:31**

**<sup>31</sup> "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

I trained to be a pilot for a while. When I was taking flying lessons, one of the very first things I learned was how to pre-flight an aircraft. You go through a checklist and you examine everything on that list thoroughly! Your life depends on how well you perform that examination! There is no one there to look over your shoulder to see that you are doing it right, you are solely responsible. Your life is literally in your hands and if you are careless, or overlook something it can cost you your life. In the same way, our spiritual lives depend on the thoroughness of our self-examination. But, there is one difference! We are still solely responsible for performing the examination, but God will help us if we ask him. He will point out the areas in our lives that we need to work on and change.

Before you perform a pre-flight, you **do not** enter the cockpit, you **do not** start the engine, you **do not** even think about operating that aircraft until you are sure that it is airworthy. We need to show the same concern in our spiritual lives. The stakes could not be any higher! We cannot just put our spiritual lives on autopilot, sit back, and somehow hope that we end up in the kingdom! We need to take control. We need to plan and prepare. We need to plot a course and then navigate safely to our destination. We must honestly examine ourselves and fix anything we find, anything that can prevent us from being worthy. Christ tells us to pray always that we may be found worthy to escape the things that will come to pass.

## Luke 21:34

<sup>34</sup> "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. <sup>35</sup> For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

It is **NOT** a lack of faith to ask ourselves the question: "Will I be there?" We all want to be in God's Kingdom; that is why we are here! God wants us to be in his Kingdom, it gives him great joy to offer us the Kingdom and to see us respond to that offer. God is waiting with great anticipation for us to join Him and His son! God will not allow anything happen to us, if we are close to Him. He will not force us to accept the opportunity He is giving each of us, but He will lead us into His kingdom if we allow Him too!

## 1 Corinthians 2:9

<sup>9</sup> But as it is written:

*"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,  
Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

We cannot even begin to realize the incredible things that God has waiting for us. It is so much more than any material thing that you have ever dreamed of possessing. It is greater than any title you have ever desired to have. It is greater than anything you could ever conceive and build. It is greater than any place of prestige or honor you could hold on this earth. It is our every dream come true and so much more. We observe the Feast of Tabernacles, annually, to picture this incredible time, when all the wrongs of this world will finally be righted. The world will finally be at peace and all the world's problems will be solved.

Mankind will finally know peace and the true source of love and peace. It is almost too wonderful and almost more than we dare to imagine isn't it? But we know it will come to pass, because God has said it is so and He can never break His word. I would like to leave you with one final scripture.

Please go somewhere by yourself where it is quiet, open your Bible to this passage and truly take the time to reflect and meditate. Search yourselves and ask yourselves what God's Kingdom really means to you and what being there is truly worth to you.

## 1 Thessalonians 4:15

<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Think about slowly rising up into the air. Picture yourself looking down and seeing the ground beneath you becoming smaller and farther away as you ascend. As you look up, you see the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Savior Jesus Christ in all His glory and you are drawing closer and closer to Him. As you look around, you see the other transformed saints rising up right along with you. Finally, you notice your own body and as you look at your arm you see it glowing with a dazzling, white brilliance. You are filled with an overwhelming joy and peace. Suddenly it dawns on you, you realize that the race is finally over, you have made it and it is more incredible and wonderful than you ever dreamed, or imagined! You have been transformed and you have crossed over into God's Kingdom. Your life, your eternal life, is only just beginning...God speed that day.

(All scriptural references cited from the New King James Edition of the Holy Bible)