

Standing Tall in Confusing, Perilous Times

- I. **Don't throw away your confidence, even in perilous times. You will be richly rewarded.**
 - A. Jesus' advice to His disciples in anticipation of difficult times was, "Take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:31-33).
 - B. We do not throw away our confidence. We persevere in His promises till they come to pass (Hebrews 10:32-39).

- II. **God rewards those who believe and earnestly seek Him. "Without faith, it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:1-6).**
 - A. How much we earnestly seek God depends on how we perceive the Father. Why seek Him if you are not sure that He cares about you?
 - B. Jesus answered the question of the Father's concern by giving His own body and blood, and by sending the supernatural Spirit of God to fill and encourage us (Romans 5:5).
 - C. The revelation of a loving Father means everything to us as we earnestly seek Him and ask for what we need. We can release inner resources of prayer and persistence to change the world around us (Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 11:1-13).

- III. **As "salt" and "light" in the earth, our job description never changes—regardless of the politics, weather, economy, or anything else (Matthew 5:13-16).**
 - A. We risk and lower the rope so that others can succeed (Acts 9:22-25). Others do the same for us. Who are you holding the rope for? "We love, because He first loved us" (I John 4:19, E.g., Oral Roberts and the Green family).
 - B. We share our love with others in need; and, in turn, their hearts go out to us and overflow in thanksgiving (II Corinthians 9:12-15).
 - C. It is our great privilege to offer prayer for all people, including kings, and all those in authority (I Timothy 2:1-4; II Chronicles 7:11-16).
 - D. If we make the Lord our refuge, we will not experience the severity of the terror and pestilence that stalks the earth (Psalm 91). As God delivers us, we will also deliver others. We will "hold the rope" and lower others "through an opening in the wall" just as we have been rescued. We don't have to rescue others; we get to! It is our privilege and our safety net (Luke 6:37-38).

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