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## 2 Review

- The Middle East is heating up!
  - Rebuilding of the Jewish Temple
  - Resurgence of the Islamic Empire
- Time to get serious about our faith and prepare!
  - Just as Satan tried to use Peter's worldliness to stop Jesus from going to the cross,
  - Satan also wants to use those close to us to stop us from carrying our own cross as well.

## 3 Those Satan Uses

- False Prophets or Teachers who compromise the Word of God.
- Worldly Christians who don't have the things of God on their minds but the things of this world.
- Friends who want your friendship, but don't care about your spiritual life.
- Employers/Coaches who encourage you to compromise for short-term gain.
- Our own misguided dreams, hopes, and ambitions.

## 4 Our Enemy

- Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (1 Peter 5:8-9)
- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12 NIV)

## 5 Satan's Plan

- Since a child of God walking with Lord is kept safe from the evil one (1 John 5:18), Satan's plan is to tempt him/her by appealing to their sinful nature using disobedient people (Eph. 2:2).
- Satan seeks to use sinful people, immature believers, or the circumstances of living in a sin cursed world, to so stress us out that we give in and compromise our walk and so blaspheme God's name.
- Our strategy is to resist this onslaught and keep our relationship with God solid and our prayers unhindered.

## 6 Watch & Pray

- No matter where you place the Rapture, the closer we get to the coming of the Lord the more stressful it is going to become.
- So how does the Word of God tell us to prepare?

- In Mark 14:38, Jesus tells His disciples, “watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”
  - Watching – observe what is going on so that one can exercise caution and be ready to do the right thing.
  - Praying – relying upon God to lead us out of harm.

## 7 Dealing with Stress

## 8 Journey to the Darkside

## 9 Being on our Guard

- Since the forces of evil are seeking to use our trials to trip us up, shouldn't we be on our guard?
- Should we be surprised when disappointments or difficulties come our way?
- Interestingly enough, God allows these trials so that when we use our faith and respond to them appropriately we can grow and be mature.
- In fact, the Apostle James says, Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, . . .  
(James 1:2 NIV)

## 10 Being on our Guard

- So when I get up in the morning, what should I be watching for?
  - A perfect world where everything goes my way? (or)
  - A world where disappointments and frustration will probably exist and where I will need to use my faith and respond to these troubles appropriately.
- For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 Corinthians 4:17 NIV)

## 11 Being on our Guard

- What is the primary exhortation for the saints as we near the coming of the Lord? [See Insert]
- How many times are the following words used?
  - Stand firm!
  - Keep watch!
  - Be on your guard, Be alert!
  - Watch!
  - Be careful!
  - Be always on the watch!
  - Be alert and self-controlled!
  - Stay awake, don't fall asleep!

## 12 Resisting the Devil

- Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (1 Peter 5:8-9 NIV)
- In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV)

### 13 Watchman

- A Watchman is someone who signals to others approaching danger.
- If he blows the trumpet, he is faithfully carrying out his duty.
- Those who listen to him and prepare for battle will do well!

### 14 Ready Yourself

- Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. (Ephesians 6:11 NIV)
- Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (Ephesians 6:13 NIV)