

## Look Up

With everything going on, it's easy to look across the world and think...this is the end? Is Jesus getting ready to come back?

**Matthew 24:3-8** - 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?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. 5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. **See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.** 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 **All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.**

*The end has not come. The birth pains are the beginning...don't be alarmed this has t happen.*

**Matthew 24:10-13** -10 And then **many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.** 11 And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. 12 And **because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.** 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

What does this mean for the believer? How do we endure to the end?

### 1. DON'T LET YOUR LOVE GROW COLD

- How do you keep your love from growing cold? You keep offenses out of your heart.
- **Luke 17:1** Jesus said **It's impossible that offenses won't come.**
- **The opportunity for offense will come.** It already has, and it will continue to come again.
- **Proverbs 18:19 NLT** - **An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city.**  
*Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.*
- **Offense is the bait of satan to harden our hearts.**
- Guard your heart - Proverbs 4:23 - Keep it with diligence...tend it like a garden...keep the well pure. Out of it flow the issues of life

**Hebrews 3:12-13 NLT** - 12 Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. **Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.** 13 You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," **so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.**

**Life is too short to live offended.**

- **Proverbs 10:12** - *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.*
- **When you are offended you can either rehearse it...or release it**
- **Colossians 3:13** - **Make allowance** for each other's faults, and **forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.**

## 2. WATCH AND PRAY

**Luke 21:34-36 NIV** - 34 **“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down** with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 **For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth.** 36 **Be always on the watch, and pray** that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

That word “watch” there means to be vigilant...to be awake...or woke...to not slumber

Matthew 25 Jesus tells Parable of the 10 virgins 5 wise, 5 foolish - The whole parable was to let them know to be ready

Let your worry turn to prayer. Let your discouragement turn to prayer. Let your anger turn to prayer. Let your hurt turn to prayer.

**Praying is more powerful than complaining.  
God moves when we pray not when we complain.**

## 3. LOOK UP

**Luke 21:28 NLT** - 28 **So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!”**

The follower of Jesus does not have to despair...we have hope! Fix your eyes on Jesus

**Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT** - *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 **We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.***

Whatever you focus on will determine where you go!

**John 16:33 NLT** - 33 *I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. **But take heart,** because I have overcome the world.*

## 4. GET RIGHT WITH GOD

If there’s any fear in you at the thought of Jesus coming back it’s time to get right.

**1 John 4:17-18 NLT** - 17 *And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So **we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence** because we live like Jesus here in this world. 18 *Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. **If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.****

**2 Corinthians 6:2** - **Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

You don’t have to fear. You can look ahead with confidence and joy!