

# God Will Begin To Correct All Things

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Recorded October 3, 2016

Today is the Feast of Trumpets. In fact, someone brought a ram's horn. It's sitting right here on the edge of the lectern. I had to restrain him from blowing it. I am not about to take that challenge, so you're not going to hear me blow it today.

Let's turn to Leviticus 23:23 and see God's instruction for this day. This is a very unusual holy day.

**Leviticus 23:23.** *And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying, 24) Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall you have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. (KJV)*

The Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge says: *A memorial of triumph or a shouting for joy with trumpets.*

Quite often, the trumpet could be blown as a shout, not a musical note. It's a memorial of triumph and a shouting for joy today. Why joy today? Why would we have joy on this day? As we're going to see, it marks war.

The fact is: Today marks the beginning of the reestablishment of God's government on this earth. For that we can have joy. Christ will begin to rule this earth and not Satan. We can have joy over that. Let's turn to Revelation 11:15. It's talking about this day. This is a day of beginnings of God exerting His influence, His power, His might and authority in the affairs of mankind over the whole world, not just among the church today.

**Revelation 11:15.** *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven ... (KJV)*

Can you imagine that angel sounding with a trumpet and voices singing and praising?

*15b) ... saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (KJV)*

Today is the beginning of that time.

*16) And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, (KJV)*

This is what they said when they fell on their faces.

*17) Saying, We give You thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which are, and was, and is to come; because You have taken to You Your great power, and have reigned. (KJV)*

God is taking control through Jesus Christ this very day. The Feast of Trumpets, you see, marks the beginning of this process, of God saying, "Enough, you've had your six thousand years (roughly); you've done it your way and look at the world. Look at the mess down through history, the diseases, the deaths, the bad government, the health problems, the education problems, the pollution problems. Look at what you've created. Enough is enough."

We see here that on this day, power and control is being taken away from Satan the devil. Then on this day, you see, we can have great joy as the trumpets indicate because God is going to begin to correct all things. That is the title of the sermon.

### God Will Begin To Correct All Things

The first point we want to make is that to correct all things:

#### **1. It initially requires war.**

Let's turn to Isaiah 11. We are celebrating today, and we look forward to the time it actually happens. Given the condition of the world, that time is getting shorter and shorter.

*Isaiah 11:4. But with righteousness shall he judge the poor ... (KJV)*

The word "poor" in Hebrew can mean *weak*, and we are the weak of the world in God's church. There's no question about that. It can also mean, *the oppressed*, and anyone who cares about humanity, who cares about other people is oppressed by what is going on. Look at what is happening in Syria and those poor people and the kids. They're being maimed and killed. Those people are oppressed too. We are oppressed and depressed just thinking about it. We know the outcome, but still we grieve when we see the suffering of mankind.

*4b) ... and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth ... (KJV)*

He will stand up for the meek and the humble who want to see Him return.

*4 continued) ... and he [Christ, on this day] shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (KJV)*

That is starting this very day.

Let's go to the New Testament, Revelation 19. God is going to spank humankind this day. Notice what happens.

**Revelation 19:11.** *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse ... (KJV)*

Can you image that? Somehow the spiritual realm is opened, because heaven is a spiritual realm, but somehow, we get a peek into that spiritual realm. The sky parts like a curtain or something, and suddenly this rider with a white horse comes and is seen by the people on earth.

*11b) ... and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does justice [notice this] and make war. (KJV)*

He is coming to make war on this day.

*12) His eyes were as a flame of fire ... (KJV)*

You see a white horse coming through a curtain in the heavens and this being on this white horse has flames of fire. That's going to get somebody's attention very fast.

*12b) ... and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*

*13) And he was clothed with a vesture [garment or robe] dipped in blood ... (KJV)*

Signifying what was about to happen.

*13b) ... and his name is called The Word of God.*

*14) And the armies which were in heaven ... (KJV)*

Notice, He comes first, but He is followed by armies that are just unimaginable to the human mind.

*14b) ... followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. (KJV)*

If you look at other scriptures, and that's a totally different subject, but this is most likely the first fruits. Who would be white and clean at this time other than resurrected first fruits?

*15) And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it [here's what He's going to do] he should smite the nations ... (KJV)*

Now there are other scriptures and that's another subject, and I'm going to talk about this on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, but the nations are in rebellion. They are gathering together under the beast to fight Jesus Christ as He returns.

15b) ... and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. (KJV)

This tells us that God and Christ spank very, very hard when people openly rebel against Him. Finally, enough is enough, the account book is closed and the punishment begins. When people openly disobey and oppose God, as the world will do, God strikes back very quickly and very harshly.

Why will He bring war? Why war now, rather than come and just gather everybody together and sit around the camp fire and sing Kumbaya and all of that, why war now? Let's go to Jeremiah 4. We're establishing the case that, to correct all things, Christ has to wage war first, and this is why. This is talking to Israel, but it applies to the world, and it can apply to the church.

**Jeremiah 4:22.** For my people ... (KJV)

Ultimately all mankind are God's people. The church today is God's people. Israel, back in the Old Testament were God's people.

22b) ... is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish [silly] children, and they have no understanding: they are wise to do evil ... (KJV)

The only wisdom they have is a carnal, Satan-inspired wisdom to do the most evil possible in the shortest amount of time.

22 continued) ...but to do good they have no knowledge. (KJV)

To me, that sounds like a description of the United States of America right now. It is just amazing that the two people who are at the head of the two parties that are jousting for presidency are both so flawed and have so many problems morally and ethically, that this is what we've come to. This is what our nation decides to elect as leaders? So, it's pick your own poison; there are two different evils. Which one do you want? Both of these candidates are flawed and have sinned and have done horrible things, and yet they're put in front of us and the average American has to make a choice. Thankfully we don't have to.

Let's go to a second scripture that speaks to why Christ will bring war. It's talking about this very day.

**Hosea 8:1.** Set the trumpet to thy mouth [this very day]. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.

2) Israel shall cry unto me, My God, we know You.

We're your people. We're blessed. We're special people.

*3) Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.*

*4) They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not ... (KJV)*

Meaning God would not want someone ruling His people with the character of some of the people that are put up as princes or kings or candidates.

*4b) ...of their silver and their gold have they made them idols [absolutely], that they may be cut off. (KJV)*

Obviously, this is talking about Ancient Israel, but if you look at the world today, the world is walking down the same path as fast as it can. In fact, it's not even walking, it's running to do evil and to make idols. God is finally tired of it on this day.

Humans who are in the frame of mind to oppose God, the only thing they understand is force. If you have set your mind to oppose the return of Jesus Christ, no matter what you see in the heavens, you want your abnormal lifestyle and you want to keep it, and you will fight to keep it, and you won't come under any other rule. You will fight. Since they won't listen, the only thing they understand is force, war. The world and its problems are so great. We could spend the rest of the sermon just talking about the problems of this world and how great they are. In every nation, it doesn't make any difference if it's third world, first world or in between, the sins and evil are so great that you can't come in and remodel it. You can't patch it up. You can't refurbish it. The evil and the sin is so great, the world must be completely torn down.

We had a microcosm of that in the Worldwide Church of God. You couldn't reform it, you couldn't change it, and God allowed it to be completely torn down. The auditorium is the only thing left standing at the campus at what used to be Ambassador College. Given the rumblings in southern California and around San Diego the last couple of days, that may come down too. It wouldn't surprise me.

My point is that the only way to rectify and reform and change all things is to start with a clean slate. The only way you can do that is through war. All man's administrations, man's dominions, man's idols all must be torn down and just scraped off the face of the earth. That is what will happen on this day.

That's the first point. Correcting all things requires war.

## **2. Only God can correct the world and all of these evils.**

Human beings cannot do that. Only God is wise enough to do that and only God has the power to do that.

Thankfully, all of us are free from that burden. How would you like to be in charge of correcting the world's ills? If you want to drive yourself crazy, go ahead, but thankfully, God is going to step in because He and Jesus Christ are the only ones that have the

power and wisdom to know what to do to make it happen, and it starts with war as we just covered.

I've even heard some high-ranking ministers in past years in the church openly say that they would like to do that. They would like to have the power to do that. They would like to take the sword and start swinging it as the head honcho, so to speak. Thankfully, none of us are going to do that, because we would screw it up. Even as spirit beings, we'd screw it up.

I believe (this is just my personal opinion) that when we are resurrected, we're not going to have all power and we're not going to have all wisdom. God's not going to just wave a magic wand and suddenly we're just like Him in power, wisdom, discernment, understanding, experience and all of that. I don't believe it will be that way. I don't believe it could be that way. Now, when we're resurrected, guess what, we're going to have increased capacity to be like God because we're spirit beings. We won't get tired. Our mental capacity will be light years ahead of what we have today. We will have increased capacity to learn to be like God and to gain the wisdom to be like God, God is going to give us an eternity to approach His level. Through eternity, you see, God is always going to be ahead of us. Otherwise we would be like Satan. "I want to be like God." God is always going to be a step ahead of us because He will always be our Father, and He will always have more experience, more love, more understanding, more discernment and more wisdom than us. God will give us, as spirit beings, power and authority only to the degree that we have wisdom to use it and use it properly and to use it in love and out of concern for those we serve. God will not let a rookie go out and command the troops. It just won't happen in my view.

Today's Christian churches don't understand that it is God who is responsible for fixing all the world's ills. Most Christian churches today and in some other non-religious groups feel it's their responsibility to go out and fix the world, and we understand that they want to do good and want to make the world a better place. There's no problem with that, and you marvel at some of the good works that some of these groups do. Doctors without borders, for example, they sit there in Syria dodging bunker busting bombs trying to patch together a few individuals as best they can. You have to admire them for it.

But most "Christians" today (and I say that in quotes) believe it is their responsibility to fix things, and that's why they get involved in politics. That's why they get involved in human government. That's why they vote. They say, "If only we could only get enough people together, we can do this or run this guy out of office, or have this person be president, etc., and in doing so, they eliminate God out of the equation, thinking that they can do it. They don't understand that only God and only Jesus Christ will correct all things. If you look in the Bible, there is no record in the New Testament that the apostles or the disciples became involved in human government. You cannot find it. Paul wasn't running for mayor of this city and Peter wasn't running for the head of that province or trying to politic the Romans to put him in this or that position. It is not there. They stayed away from human government because they knew that God's will was

going to be done, and they wanted to be instruments in God's will. They would not take things into their own hands to do what they thought is best because they knew they didn't have the wisdom of God to know what is best. We are blessed to know today that it is God's prerogative to straighten everybody out, and thankfully, it is not our responsibility to straighten anyone out like that. It's not our responsibility.

Notice Romans 12:19. This is God's responsibility, not ours. We apply it sometimes on a personal level, let's say a dispute between two people, but it also applies on a national level and a world level.

**Romans 12:19.** *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves ... (KJV)*

If somebody does you wrong, don't go after them. Don't take vengeance.

*19b) ... but rather give place unto wrath ... (KJV)*

That means put it in its place. Don't let it consume you.

*19 continued) ... for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Eternal. (KJV)*

That is exactly what's happening on this day. God is taking matters into His own hands after six thousand years roughly, and God is saying, "I will take vengeance; I will straighten everybody out this day." As I said, God is the only being that has the wisdom and power to do so. God will take care of fixing this world because the problems are too great for humans to fix, as we see.

You look back eight years ago, when President Obama ran. There were all of these promises to fix all these things, and guess what, the problems that were to be fixed are all worse. Even in his own hometown of Chicago. He made some promises there, and the death rate is going up. Lower taxes for the middle class; guess what, it didn't happen. Get us out of the Middle East; guess what, it didn't happen. The list goes on and on.

The problems are too great for humans to fix, and our two presidential candidates today don't learn any lessons. They keep making all these promises and there is no way they can keep these promises because the problems are too ingrained and Satan is there stirring the pot, and they do not recognize Satan because they're not called. They don't understand.

Let's go to Ezekiel 36 and look at verse 26. This is how God fixes the problem. This is the key to fixing the world's problems. It can only be done this way, and God is the only being that has the ability to do this because He is supreme.

This is a promise. The process is beginning this day.

**Ezekiel 36:26.** *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you ... (KJV)*

The spirit man has today is inspired by Satan, the devil.

*26b) ... and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh [that man has had for 6,000 years], and I will give you a heart of flesh. (KJV)*

So, the key to correcting the problems of this world start in the human heart. You can build new buildings, you can clean up the air, you can clean the water and the seas and replant things and do all of that, but if man's heart doesn't change, nothing is going to change. Nothing will change at all. Correcting the heart is the key to correcting all things. Only God can do that. Men cannot do that.

This scripture tells us how God is going to accomplish this.

**Revelation 21:3.** *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying ... (KJV)*

Can you imagine hearing a voice out of heaven that just thunders throughout the entire world? What a day.

*3b) ... Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people [not Satan's people], and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. (KJV)*

What a time. This is the only way it's going to work.

*4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (KJV)*

Now this isn't going to happen overnight, as we all know, but the process starts on this day. It starts with the beginning of the fall holy days.

*5) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. (KJV)*

God will make all things new, not a man, not an organization of men. It can't happen. Only God can do this.

What we do is wait for God to do this. We who know the truth are blessed that we understand that what we have to do is wait for God to fix things, beginning with Christ's second coming and it brings joy to us on this day to contemplate the prospect of Christ plowing through from the spiritual realm to the physical realm on a white horse. We take joy at that and we just can't wait for this day to happen. We eagerly wait on Him to tell us what to do. We're not going to go out and do it on our own. We will be following



Him and we will be waiting around until He tells us what He wants us to do. There will be no loose cannons in God's kingdom. We're going to be helpers, not as jack-booted leaders with swagger sticks, as has been portrayed in the past. The whole idea was for us to strut on stage and have people worship us. No. Worship God, worship Jesus Christ. We are there as helpers. Tell me what to do and I'll do it. We will never take things into our own hands. God will give us responsibility as we show Him that we have the ability to handle that responsibility.

The question for us as we close this second point is: Do I have the faith in these words that we just read? Do I have the faith that this is actually going to happen? Maybe some of us will be dead when this happens, but if we're alive, do we have the faith that one of these days, we're going to look up into the heavens and see them part and see Jesus Christ on a white horse, coming out of the sky with thunder? Do we have that faith? Do we have the faith that only God can straighten out this world?

As I said, that's the subject for today. The second point is that only God has the power to do that, not us.

### **3. Until Christ returns, our part is to have patience now, for God to correct all things.**

We would like to see things straightened out right now. I'd like to see congress straightened out. I'd like to see the Supreme Court straightened out. I'd like to see the executive office straightened out, and our local government and our state government. We would like to have it right now, but that is not part of God's plan.

So, we need to have patience to allow God to do His will to correct all things according to His plan, according to His due course, and not when I want it to happen. God's people have been waiting for millennia for this to happen. Let's turn Revelation 6:9, regarding opening the fifth seal. This is a picture of those who have died in Christ in the Old Testament and New Testament, following God's way.

**Revelation 6:9.** *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls [lives] of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:*

*10) And they cried with a loud voice ... (KJV)*

This is all figuratively. This is in vision, of course.

*10b) ... saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? (KJV)*

Figuratively speaking, these dead people are crying out saying, "God, how long is it going to be? We've been dead 900 years, 1,000 years, 3,000 years. When are you going to make it happen?"

You see, they are patient in death, figuratively speaking, waiting for God to pull the trigger. Remember, Christ said that He didn't even know when the time is, only the Father knows. Before the world is corrected on this day that we symbolize today, we need to be corrected first. It's a scary thought to think. Is God holding it up because of me? Or is God holding it up because of the state of the church right now? Does God say, "They're not growing and learning as fast as they need to. They're not showing the fruits of repentance and the fruits of conversion as much as they need, so I'm going to turn the clock back a little bit." That's a scary thought.

We, individually, and the church as a whole must be corrected so that we can be ready to be the Bride of Christ. If we're not ready, we're not ready. At some point, like when the Father tells the Son, "It's time to go," God is going to close that curtain. The time is over. God will say, "You had your chance. It's over now. I told you that you needed to repent and overcome. I told you that these sins are not going to be allowed in the kingdom. You read the words and you knew it. You had my spirit, but you did nothing with it. So, the time is up." The lake of fire is the result.

We must be corrected to be Christ's bride. Us becoming the bride of Christ cannot happen until we have the mind of Christ. How is Christ going to marry someone who is not likeminded? How is He going to marry somebody that doesn't think the way He thinks and doesn't view the important things of life as He does? Christ isn't going to marry somebody that's a rebel. Christ isn't going to marry someone that's unclean. Christ is only going to marry somebody that is like Him and has proved that they will do whatever it takes to be like Him and are willing to come under His authority and are humble enough to say, "God, You know it all. I am just a foot-washing servant. Just tell me what you want. I'll be happy to do it. Just have mercy." We must have the mind of Christ.

***Philippians 2:5.*** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (KJV)*

In this third point, we're talking about patience. We have to understand that Christ and the Father straightening us out takes time. It doesn't happen overnight as we all know. Conversion means converting from what we were before we were called to the image of Jesus Christ, and that takes time. Here is a blessing that God showers upon the church.

***Ephesians 4:11.*** *And he gave [it's a gift] some, apostles ... (KJV)*

We read the words of those apostles today.

*11b) ... and some, prophets ... (KJV)*

We read those today. It's a gift.

*11 continued) ... and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (KJV)*

Notice the purpose of the gift.

*12) For the perfecting [maturing or completeness] of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (KJV)*

All of this happens until a certain point, until something happens on our part.

*13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man [or woman], unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: (KJV)*

We come from the old person, vile, evil, selfish and carnal, to becoming in the image of Jesus Christ. That doesn't happen with the wave of a magic wand. It happens with conversion, study, fasting, prayer, experience, taking a couple of steps forward and taking a step back, understanding the evil and the consequences and the scars of sin, having that experience. We say, "I'm never going to do that again, and then going forward and forward. It takes time, and in my case, it takes a lifetime. I'm just ashamed to admit it. The spiritual lightbulb with me only went on about ten or fifteen years ago, and I'm getting close to fifty years in God's church. I'm a slow learner. The fact is, it takes a lifetime.

*14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine ... (KJV)*

We see that happening in the greater church today, this trend and that trend, this new thing and that new thing.

*14b) ... by the sleight of men ... (KJV)*

There are deceivers and tares out there.

*14 continued) ... and cunning craftiness ... (KJV)*

There are very smooth speakers, very cunning people out there.

*14 continued) ... whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*  
*15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him [Christ] in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (KJV)*

The words here are "grow up." That takes time. Thankfully, God is patient with us and He gives us the time, and we have to have patience now to allow God to work His will in this horrible world.

God is patient with us, and I cannot tell you how patient He has been with me. If I look back at my life and remember the things I said and the things I did as an allegedly converted one at that time, I just cringe. Yet, I look at God and see how patient He has

been with me. He could have pulled the plug any time He wanted, and He didn't. He picks us up, dusts us off, and says, "Now, read these scriptures and reflect." He doesn't say that to us, but that's ultimately what happens. He causes it to happen. "Read these scriptures and think about what you just said or what you just did, and tell Me how you're going to justify this, and tell me, can you do this in the kingdom?" Of course, we finally, kind of slowly come to the realization that we can't behave this way or think this way. So, if God is that patient with us, we need to be patient with each other.

I've had people come to me and say, "This is wrong. You've got to do this right now." My response is, "Now, wait a minute. Is God that way with you? Does God just take a whip and a chair and come after you, or does He instruct and help along the way?"

***Ephesians 4:2.*** *With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;*

That's our part. That is a job we have to do today.

Strong's defines "forbearing" as *to put up with*. We have to put up with each other. We're not all the same. As John said, "We're not all yellow pencils." We have to cut each other some slack and realize that we are not all on the same level. In a certain area of our life, maybe this person is more converted in this area. Over here, in a different area of our life, maybe someone else is more converted and gets it. Yet God is patient with us, therefore, we should be patient with one another.

In Colossians 3:13, the same word is used again. Put up with one another.

***Colossians 3:13.*** *Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another [for past offenses], if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do you. (KJV)*

Yet I've heard people in the church, both ministers and members say, "I will not forgive." One woman said, and I've said it before, "I will not forgive until they crawl on their knees before me." I've heard a couple of ministers indicate people by name and say, "I will not forgive this person." Wow, that tells me that someone who carries that attitude will carry that attitude into the lake of fire. We have to unilaterally forgive one another. Forgiveness is unilateral; reconciliation takes two. But we can forgive right here and right now, anybody who has ever done anything against us. Sometimes I wonder if God is holding things back because we are not there yet. We still hold grudges, we still have issues and we're not ready to forgive.

God brings circumstances to pass in our lives to help us build patience, that's patience with others, patience to wait on God to do His will.

Let's turn to Romans 5:3. This tells us something key to our physical lives and how God deals with us on a physical level. Paul says:

**Romans 5:3.** *And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also ... (KJV)*

That is a unique concept, to glory in trials, but He explains why.

*3b) ... knowing that tribulation works patience; (KJV)*

If you've been in the church any period of time, you know you've had one trial after another trial after another trial. Guess what happens. God gets us through them all. So, the next time we have a trial, we don't get so shook up. We don't get our tail in a knot about this trial because we know. We take a deep breath and realize that God got us through all these others, and He will get us through these as well. So, we don't get so shook up about it. We're more calm and more at peace. Tribulation works patience.

*4) And patience, experience ... (KJV)*

That experience to know that God is there and He will take care of us.

*4b) ... and experience, hope: (KJV)*

If we've had experience over decades in God's church, then we have the hope of the resurrection, we have the hope of being there when Christ returns.

*5) And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the holy spirit which is given unto us. (KJV)*

We don't have to be ashamed, because we have God's holy spirit, and He will get us through this particular trial and we have patience as a result.

God brings circumstances to pass in our lives that build patience in us. As I said before, we say, "God, I want patience, and I want it right now." That's counterintuitive. It doesn't work that way.

**James 1:3.** *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. (KJV)*

That means a trial of our faith. It might be a healing trial or a job problem or whatever. It works patience.

Then we have this admonition:

*4) But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. (KJV)*

Strong's defines the word "entire" as *complete in every part*. So, God brings trials upon us to work patience. Then because we have patience, we can endure more trials, we can experience life without getting all shock up and wigged out about it. We become complete in every area of our life over a period of time.

Then that allows something very important that we find in Luke 21:19. If we have patience, then we get to grab onto something. I'll read it from the King James and then we'll explain because in this area, the King James translation is not correct.

**Luke 21:19.** *In your patience possess you your souls. (KJV)*

The Greek word for "possess" means *to own*. That's Strong's 2932. It says, in your patience, you can own. The word "soul" is "psuche", and it means *your life or your mind*, and both apply. It says if you have patience, then you take possession, you own your mind, meaning you can control your mind. If a bad thought comes in, you can just banish it immediately. You can turn the switch and don't even think about it. If a picture comes into your mind, you can do exactly the same thing. You take control of your mind. You own it. If we can control our mind, we can control our life. We can control our words and our deeds. By having patience in God to correct us and to correct all things that will begin this day, we own our mind. We possess our mind and our life.

So, you see, having patience gives us time, perspective, endurance, so as not to be led astray or deceived doctrinally, not to be pushed back into the world.

In this third part, we learn that we need to have patience now in letting God do His work, patience with other people (brothers and sisters) and then having patience with ourselves and allow God to do His work in our life.

#### **4. Until Christ returns, God is going to be with us to correct us, to protect us and to take care of us.**

If we have faith that He is going to correct all things into the future, if we have that faith that Christ is going to return and everything is going to be corrected over time, then that same faith will tell us that God will take care of us now in this life until He is done with us. Then we die or Christ returns. We will have faith that He will take care of us now. We don't have to worry. We don't have to tie ourselves in little bitty knots.

Let's go to 1 Corinthians 10:13, a very familiar scripture, but I will read it from the New Living Translation because it puts a little different slant on it.

**1 Corinthians 10:13.** *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience ... (NLT)*

These temptations are no different. People who have gone before us have experienced the same thing. Notice this next sentence.

**13b) ... And God is faithful...** (NLT)

God is faithful. What is He faithful about? He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it.

*13 continued) ... He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure [so you will not give in to it]. (NLT)*

We have to have faith in God that He will do that for us, even in the midst of horrible severe trials, life threatening trials.

Let's look at one example where we can have faith right now, and we see this, it seems, just about every day on the news. Dorothy and I were remarking the other day, every time you turn on the news there's another shooting. I think they define mass murder or shooting as four or five in the same location. There have been hundreds so far, this year. We generally watch the news in the evening if we're home, and invariably there's another shooting. Like this six-year-old boy that just died. He was in the hospital for a couple of days. He was at school on the playground, killed by a fourteen-year-old.

If you said fifty years ago, that this was going to happen, people would think you were nuts, but now it happens every day. A couple of years ago, I went out east when my son Brit invited me to go to the Super Bowl. On the way to the stadium, we went right by the Sandy Hook Elementary School. I remember seeing that and I just got a knot in my stomach. You almost want to vomit to think that twenty-two little kids were murdered in their own allegedly safe school, where they are there to learn and play and develop as kids, and somebody walks in and shoots twenty-two of them.

We have shootings at malls and sports events where people routinely go. There are shootings in parking lots. Satan and his demons are right in the middle of that. What Satan is doing is creating a world where nobody feels safe.

I got pulled over by a police officer recently. I was going a little too fast around a curve, and the trooper was coming from the other direction and he made a U-turn, and the dust was flying. I pulled over, got out of the car, which was a mistake. I was there leaning against the car. The officer asked, "Do you know why I pulled you over?" I said, "Yes, I sure do. I shouldn't have done it." He said, "I won't give you a ticket this time, but just take it easy."

This was after he decided not to give me a ticket, and it would have been politically correct to say it before, but I said, "We really appreciate what you do out here." He told me, "The one thing you shouldn't have done is stepped out of your car. We like to see you sitting there with your hands visible. I'm not worried about it in this particular case, but in the future, sit in your car and make your hands visible." I commented to him, "Every time you pull someone over, somewhere back in your mind, there's a thought saying, 'this might be my last stop.'" He said, "No, it's not in the back of our mind, it's right in the front of our minds. I said, "Well, I really appreciate what you do in the fact that you put your life out there for the rest of us."

You see, Satan is creating a world where nobody feels safe, even the law enforcement officers don't feel safe. In Los Angeles and Chicago, there are more gang members than there are police. It's a scary thought.

Satan is creating a world where nobody feels safe, and as a result, more people are carrying weapons. In my home state of Texas, it looks like the OK Corral. People are carrying weapons all over the place. Yet for us as God's people, there is no record in the New Testament where the apostles or the disciples became involved in the military or in militias to protect themselves. That's why I had to get out of the Air Force. Also, there's no record in the New Testament of them taking up arms to protect themselves. You don't find it.

I think I said this once before, but a few years ago, in this very room, about five or six years ago, after the shooting in one of the churches in Wisconsin where a guy walked in and killed the pastor and maybe a few others. Memory fails at this point. A couple of months later I walked into church and this fellow came up to me and said, "I've got a 45 right here and I'll take care of things. I'll protect you." I thought, "Oh my, a loaded gun in church where we have kids running all over. That's the last thing we need." He said he would correct the situation and take the law into his own hands and take care of it. He had faith in his weapon, but he didn't have faith in God to take care of it. I told him to leave, and if he wanted to come back, he had to come back without the gun, and never bring it in again. We talked about it afterward, and he said, "What about Peter taking up the sword?" Here is just one example. Christ is being apprehended before He was murdered.

**Matthew 26:51.** *And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. (KJV)*

The Apostle John, in his account, says it was Peter. What did Christ say? Did He say, "I need your support, and I'm glad you brought the weapon?"

*52) Then said Jesus unto him [to Peter], Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. (KJV)*

This is something we need to be very careful about.

Then Christ repeats this principle in Revelation 13:9.

**Revelation 3:9.** *If any man has an ear, let him hear.  
10) He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity ... (KJV)*

In other words, if a minister leads somebody astray into the captivity of Satan, that minister is going into captivity too.

*10b) ... he that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword ... (KJV)*



Oh-oh, I don't want to be there.

*10 continued) ... Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. (KJV)*

What? How does that follow being killed by the sword? Well, you have to have patience and faith that God is going to take care of it, to rely on God, not a sword or a gun as this guy did. Then we see that the apostles and the disciples completely trusted in God to take care of them. Christ rebuked Peter, and there was some speculation that he cut the guy's ear off while trying to split the guy's head in two. Remember, Peter was a fisherman, not a military man, and he swung so erratically that he cut the ear off. He wasn't very skilled with the sword.

The apostles and the disciples completely trusted in God to take care of them, provide for them, protect them, and as we've seen, correct them.

**Matthew 5:38.** *You have heard that it has been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:*

Yes, that's what they had heard; that's what they had been taught.

*39) But I say unto you, that you resist not evil ... (KJV)*

It's not our business to change the world right now.

*39b) ... but whosoever shall smite you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.*

This means you don't go out to get slapped in the face, but rather than fight back and double up your fist and nail the guy, just calm down and turn the other cheek.

*40) And if any man will sue you at the law, and take away your coat, let him have your cloak also.*

*41) And whosoever shall compel you to go a mile, go with him twain [two]. (KJV)*

Roman soldiers could compel a citizen to go a mile. Christ said, "If a Roman soldier tells you to run this errand and go a mile, you go two rather than gripe and complain and whine about it."

*42) Give to him that asks you, and from him that would borrow from you turn him not away.*

*43) You have heard that it has been said, you shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.*

*44) But I say unto you, Love your enemies ... (KJV)*

Love those that offend us, those that are against us.

*44b) ... bless them that curse you ... (KJV)*

I think all of us have been cursed by people, mostly behind our backs, but bless those that curse you.

*44 continued) ... do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; (KJV)*

Human nature is to fight back, and I have to admit, I have fought back at times in the past. That's one of the lessons I have learned. You just can't fight back. Let God take care of us, let God protect us, let God go to war for us if need be.

*45) That you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he makes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

*46) For if you love them which love you, what reward have you? Do not even the publicans the same?*

*47) And if you salute your brethren only, what do you more than others [the unconverted, we would say]? Do not even the publicans so?*

*48) Be you therefore perfect [complete or mature], even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. (KJV)*

Then that is repeated by Paul in Romans 12, where he says, "Don't give place to wrath. Don't take vengeance. Don't recompense evil for evil." So, that same principle is followed through by the apostles in the New Testament. Paul says, "If your enemy is hungry, feed him." But the key is don't be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. Love and goodness wins out.

Let's turn to Proverbs 20:22, the last scripture under this point. Until Christ returns, we have to have faith that God is going to correct us and do what's best for us and protect us, and take care of us in every way. Here it's talking about waiting with patience on God.

***Proverbs 20:22. Say not you, I will recompense evil ... (KJV)***

Don't say, "It's my job to take care of the situation. No, but notice what it says.

*22b) ... but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee. (KJV)*

In this particular example, that's why we don't need to arm ourselves. However, you see, God sometimes tests us and allows us to be put in circumstances to see if we have the faith that He is going to protect us.

There are other areas of faith. If we get sick, do we have the faith that He is going to heal us? We do what we can, but beyond us doing what we can, do we have faith that He is going to heal us?

Do we have faith that God will protect our mind if we call on Him, to protect our mind from the evil that is around us, and from Satan's provocations, the thoughts and pictures that come into our mind? Do we trust that God will protect us from the evil one? Satan is far more powerful than we are. I've known a few people in the church who put that to the test to their own hurt. They challenged Satan, and guess what, Satan won. They didn't have faith in God. They felt that they themselves could oppose Satan, and when Satan revealed himself, they were a changed person from that day forward. We have to have faith that God will protect us, not through any power that we have.

So, closing out this fourth point, we have to have faith that God is going to take care of all things in this life and in the next life. As we have seen, we must have patience to wait until He does. We moan and groan and long for Christ to return, but we have to have patience. Life is going to get tougher and tougher, but we must have patience and faith that God will be with us until the very end, and He will take care of us.

Let's conclude. God tells us what we have to be doing until Christ returns, while we patiently wait in faith. That's found in Revelation 14:12. This defines the patience of God's people.

***Revelation 14:12.*** *Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that [1] keep the commandments of God, and [2] the faith of Jesus. (KJV)*

It's not our faith, not the faith we can work up, but the faith that Christ had when He walked this earth. So, if we're going to patiently endure, we have to have the faith of Jesus, and we have to keep the commandments.

As this Feast of Trumpets approaches in fulfillment, on the day that it actually happens, the time between here and now and that gets shorter and shorter, we have to keep the commandments of God more strictly than ever before. We must have the faith that God is going to correct all things according to His timeframe and not ours. We have to have the patience until He does.

So, let's remember that this day memorializes the fact that God, indeed, is going to correct all things, and we are here to watch that happen and participate as He allows us to participate. We are so blessed in being alive at this time and possibly witnessing this tremendous event.