



Pastor's Comments

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Prayer and Faith

I recently preached on “**Primary Priorities For Rapture Readiness,**” from which I wrote last week’s column on the first priority – **prayer** and concluded with Christ’s question in Luke 18:8, “*when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*” Will He find a **foundational faith in God** that sustains **persistence in prayer** and maintains a godly life in an ungodly age?

When He comes again, **will Jesus find faith** like Joseph’s that **kept him close to God** and **living pure** in a strange land as a slave faced with the lustful temptations of Potiphar’s wife (Gen. 39). Joseph’s **faith in God** spawned his **awareness of God’s holy presence** when this lust-driven woman propositioned him, only to hear him respond in absolute refusal: “*How then can I do this **great wickedness, and sin against God?***” If you **truly believe in and know God** Who is entirely **pure**, then this is the question you will ask when you are faced with sinful, lustful temptations on the Internet, TV, or elsewhere! Joseph did not minimize or sugar-coat the sin. He called it what it was – “**great wickedness!**” Lots of “Christians” **tolerate sin** in their lives because they **don’t see it as God sees it!** They see it as the world sees it. They are closer to the world than to God! They lack **genuine faith in God** and a **close personal relationship with Him!** They are not **persistent in prayer** and are **not ready for the rapture!** When one enters into the presence of the Lord like Isaiah did in Isaiah 6, the **contrast between God’s holiness and sin is distinctly clear!** When we see the Lord sitting upon His “*throne, high and lifted up,*” and hear the angels cry “**Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD**” we, like Isaiah, will be **convicted of sin** and respond in **repenting prayer,** “**Woe is me! for I am undone!**” This is the kind of **prayer and faith** we need for **rapture readiness!**

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