

HAVING AN END TIME FAITH



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Introduction

People experience anxiety when they think about the future; however, it does not have to be that way. For those who know God, thoughts of the future bring eagerness and comfort. For example, describing a woman who knows and trusts God, ([Proverbs 31:25](#)) says, “She smiles at the future.”

Key thoughts to keep in mind about the future are, first, God is sovereign and in control over everything. He knows the future and absolutely controls what will happen. The Bible says, “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, *Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’ . . . Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it”* ([Isaiah 46:9–11](#)).

The second thing to remember about the future is that the Bible outlines what will occur in “the end times” or “latter days.” Because the Bible is God’s revelation to humankind, and because God knows and controls the future, then it stands to reason that when the Bible speaks about

what will occur in the future, we can believe it. Concerning predictions about the future, the Bible says, "No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (**2 Peter 1:21**). This truth is evident in the fact that, unlike the false prophecies made in other religions or by individuals such as Nostradamus, the Bible has never once been wrong – every time the Bible has predicted a future event, it happened exactly as Scripture said it would.

When considering how to understand and survive in the end times, answer these three questions:

1. How should I interpret what the Bible says about the future (biblical prophecy)?
2. What does the Bible say will happen in the end times?
3. How should what the Bible says about the future affect the way I live today?

The Signs of the End Times Leading to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Jesus and the apostles instructed those who follow Christ to watch, wait, and be ready for His second coming, to pray and not be consumed with the cares of this life, and to look up for our redemption draws near.

(Matthew 24:42–44) "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

(Mark 13:32–37)

The Day and Hour Unknown

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'

(Matthew 24:6–8) You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation,

and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.

- In the Olivet discourse Jesus Christ told us to watch for certain signs that would indicate when the end times would occur.

(Matthew 24:14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

How are you preparing for the end time?

What is an end-time Christian called to do?

As Peter sees it, end-time Christians are called to do one thing: they are to practice holiness and do good to others wherever and whenever they can. They are supposed to work the works of God “while it is day”.

(John 9:4) As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

Faith

1. What is faith? Being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Dictionary - belief in, devotion to, or trust in somebody or something, without logical proof. Belief in and devotion to God.

2. What role does faith plays in a Christian life?

3. How important is faith? Without faith we have no place with God, and it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to please him. **(Hebrews 11:6)**

4. Are we born with faith?

5. Can we study the word of God and get more faith?

6. Where does faith come from? Faith is not something we conjure up on our own.

- Faith is a gift from God.

(Ephesians 2:8–9) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

7. How did we earn it? We didn't deserve it, have earned it, or are worthy to have it. It is not from us, it is from God. It's not obtained by our power or our free will. It is simply given to us by God, along with his grace and mercy, and according to his holy plan and purpose.

8. Why have faith? God designed a way to distinguish between those who belong to him and those who don't.

9. What is the reward for faith? (Hebrew 11:6) He rewards THOSE who earnestly seek him. This is not to say that we have faith in God just to get something from him. God loves to bless those who are obedient and faithful.

(Hebrews 11:6) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

10. Where can find an example of this? (Luke 7:50) Jesus is engaged in dialog with a sinful woman when he gives us a glimpse of why faith is so rewarding. He told her your faith has saved you, go in peace. The woman believed in Jesus by faith, and he rewarded her for it.

(Luke 7:50) Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

- Jesus often recognizes faith as the catalyst for healing and salvation.

11. What is something that all Christians should have faith in? Knowing by faith that we will be in heaven with God for all eternity.

(1 Pet 1:8-9) Though you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.

12. What is the faith Chapter in the Bible? (Heb. 11)

Why? Because in it great deeds of faith are described.

- a. **V.4** By faith Noah prepared the ark in a time when rain was unknown
- b. **V.7** by faith Abraham left his home and obeyed God's command to go he knew not where and then offered up his son.

13. Why is faith the cornerstone of Christianity? Without demonstrating faith and trust in God we have no place with him. We believe in God's existence by faith.

14. Can faith fail us at times? Yes why? Because it is a gift of God, given to his children, he provides times of trial and testing in order to prove that our faith is real and to sharpen and strengthen it. **(James 1:2-4)**

(James 1:2-4) Trials and Temptations

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

15. Will God test our faith? (James 1:2-4) Consider it pure Joy, because the testing of our faith produces perseverance and matures us, providing evidence that our faith is real.

16. Who is the perfecter of our faith? (Heb 12:2) Jesus is described as the author and perfecter, or finisher of our faith.

17. What is an author? An originator or creator. Greek here means captain, chief leader, or prince.

Jesus controls our faith, steers it as a captain steers a ship, and presides over it and cares for it as a monarch care for his people.

Perfecter-completer or finisher and speaks of bringing something to its conclusion. We see that Jesus both creates and sustains our faith. **(Eph 2:8-9)**. That gift comes from Christ, its creator.

18. Can faith be lost? He is also the sustainer of our faith, meaning that true saving faith cannot be lost, taken away or given away.

19. Why is this great new for Christians? Christ has created our faith and he will watch over it, care for it, and sustain it.

Conclusion:

If Christ is not the finisher and perfecter of our faith, who are we? We are neither born again nor are we true followers of Christ. I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the **PROMISED** Holy Spirit, who is **GUARANTEE** of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his Glory. **(Phil 1:6) (Eph 1:13-14)**.

(Philippians 1:6) being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

(Ephesians 1:13–14) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.