



EXTREME TIMES REQUIRE EXTREME MEASURES II

TRUMPETING THE HEART OF GOD IN SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Saturday, 30 July 2016 | 2pm to 6.30pm
Speakers: Lai-Kheng Pousson, Kay-Chong Yeo

Worship	2.00pm – 2.30pm
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Session 1	2.30pm – 3.30pm
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Break	3.30pm – 3.40pm
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Session 2	3.40pm – 4.40pm
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Break	4.40pm – 4.50pm
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Session 3	4.50pm – 5.50pm
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Break	5.50pm – 6pm
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Closing Exhortation	6.00pm – 6.30pm
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This copy belongs to

International House of Prayer – One Thing Ministries

A Forerunner Community committed to Prayer with Worship, the Prophetic and the Great Commission

www.OneThingMinistries.net

About Us...

**IHOP-One Thing Ministries
International House of Prayer (Singapore)**

The Heart of our Vision

“John the Baptist said...the friend of the Bridegroom...rejoices because of the Bridegroom’s voice.” (John 2:29)

“Anna...did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day...and she spoke of Jesus to all...” (Luke 2:37 – 38)

“Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send out laborers into His Harvest... therefore go to all nations and make disciples.” (Matthew 9:38; 28:19)

“...for My House shall be called a House of prayer for all nations.” (Isaiah 56:7)

THE CALL AND INVITATION TO BUILD THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

My heart burns as I invite you to partner in the vision that the LORD gave us to equip people from all over the world to live lives overflowing with passion for Jesus and compassion for people. John the Baptist described himself as a “friend of the Bridegroom” as he prepared the people for the first coming of the LORD. Today, the Holy Spirit is raising up “friends of the Bridegroom” type ministries like John, with the “forerunner spirit” to prepare His Bride for Jesus’ Second Coming.

After being a pastor more than 15 years, my ministry has changed significantly. I now devote all my energy to establish a ministry that embraces fervent intercessory prayer and worship with daily fasting as a foundation for effective outreach and world evangelization. I deeply believe that unceasing intercession, worship and fasting are the vital keys to the completion of the Great Commission.

IHOP-One Thing Ministries is committed to Prayer (i.e. intercession, worship, healing, prophecy, etc.), Fasting (i.e. covering 365 days a year), the Forerunner Spirit (i.e. preparing the Church as a Bride for the unique dynamics in the End-Times), and the Great Commission (i.e. proclaiming Jesus to all nations). We are consumed with the mandate to train believers to love Jesus and others wholeheartedly as they go forth to preach the Word, heal the sick, serve the poor and plant Houses of Prayer across Asia.

However, at the heart of our ministries is the 24-hour a day prayer with worship. Our original inspiration came from Anna in Luke 2:37 – 38, the first evangelist and forerunner in the New Testament who prayed and fasted for 60 years before Jesus' first coming. We were also inspired by King David, who organized 4,000 musicians and 288 singers to worship God 24 hours a day (1 Chron. 23 – 25).

On September 6, 2003, I gathered together a few people with the burden to establish a House of Prayer in the spirit of the tabernacle of David. We know that it is the heart of God to establish a House of Prayer where “the fire on the altar shall never go out” in the land of Singapore. We trusted that people would come from all over the island – musicians, worship leaders and singers would come; finances would be provided; etc.

In 1722, an “Intercessory Missions Base” was established Germany by Count Nicholas Ludwig Von Zinzendorf. They named their settlement Herrnhut, which means “The Watch of the LORD” and they began prayer meetings that continued 24 hours a day for over 100 years resulting in the first Protestant missions movement in history known as the Moravians. To this we say, “Yes LORD, do this in Singapore even in our day!”

Leviticus 6:13 says that *“the fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out.”* It is our goal also to keep the fire burning that it may never go out! **We are calling out to all the worship leaders, musicians, singers, intercessors**, etc. who have the heart to establish this House for the LORD to join us to keep this fire burning continuously!

“So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God.” (Haggai 1:14)

Kay-Chong Yeo
Director, IHOP-One Thing Ministries
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By Kay-Chong Yeo
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God's Invitation to Understand and Strengthen

A. Introduction

1. We are living in one of the most challenging and difficult times. "Storms" are coming. The world is approaching the time of its greatest crisis – socially, economically, politically and morally.
 - a. On 2nd January 2016, the Straits Times mentioned that "we can only expect the unexpected".
 - b. The Times Magazine prediction for 2016 sounded bleak on all fronts.
2. In such a time as this, it is vital for us to know and understand with clarity and certainty:
 - a. What God is saying.
 - b. What is happening around the world in the light of God's Word and His plan?
 - c. How does He want us to respond as individuals and as a Church?
 - d. What is our role as a Church?
3. It is vital to know because we will be like a ship sailing in the midst of a storm with a map and compass. We need to understand the times and know what to do! (1 Chron. 12:32)
 - a. It will be our finest and most glorious hour if we understand, prepare and make ourselves ready. God wants us to shine, and there will be grace from God for us to walk in victory.
 - b. At the same time, it will be the most challenging and testing time if we are unaware and unprepared.
4. The greatest mistake of the Church is that we often avoid negative issues:
 - a. We are unaware of the times that we are living in, whether it is for better or for worse.
 - i. Is it wholly positive?
 - ii. Is it wholly negative?
 - iii. What does the Word of God say?

The things that are happening around us are not wholly positive or negative. We need to see the events and the times and seasons from the perspective of the Word of God. We need to know what the Word of God says.

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- b. We assume that we will automatically be ready when the time comes.
 - i. Many in the Body of Christ assume that we will automatically be ready. But this is not true as the coming storms and pressures in the End-Times will be at an unparalleled intensity never seen before in human history (Matt. 24:21-22).
 - ii. There is a process of preparation required. Only if we understand, prepare ourselves according to the way of God, will we stand and shine in the darkest hour.
 - iii. Paul prophesied that in the End-Times, there will be a great falling away (2 Thess. 2:3) even in the midst of an unprecedented harvest. It can happen to any of us and none of us are immune.
 - c. We are casual and think that we still have time.
 - i. The eschatological time-clock of God is ticking day by day. We are fast approaching the very End of this Age.
 - ii. There is such a thing as "It's too late!" as seen by the statement "...when Noah entered the Ark" (Matt. 24:38).
 - 5. Even amidst all that is happening, we must remember that:
 - a. God is in control – He is seated on the Throne.
 - b. God has a plan - All that is happening is part of the redemptive plan of God.
 - c. But God wants "something" from His people. We need to know how to respond.
 - d. God wants His church to partner with Him. We have a vital role in such a time as this.
 - 6. God has an invitation for us to cultivate and grow in intimacy and in prayer.
 - 7. We have to take the Word seriously:
 - a. Take heed of all that God is saying to us
 - b. Re-align our lives back to God
 - c. Set our hearts on God
 - d. Be intentional in our pursuit of God
 - e. Rearrange and re-prioritize our time and focus
 - 8. We have to respond now and not tomorrow! (Luke 12; Psalm 2)
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B. Overview of Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

1. This is one of the clearest passage of Scripture which best describes the time frame of human history that we are living in, and more importantly, what and how God wants us to respond.
 - a. There is enough biblical evidence and signs of the times that tell us that we are living in that time frame.
 - b. No one can clearly say exactly where or which period we are at.
 - c. However, we can be sure that we are definitely living at the beginning of the very beginning of what Jesus said in Luke 21.
2. This is the very word of the season from God.
 - a. If we have ears, hear what the Spirit is saying!
 - b. If we are wise, pay attention and respond according to what Jesus is saying.
3. In Luke 21, Jesus is speaking as both Prophet and Shepherd.
 - a. As Prophet
 - i. Jesus is prophesying of the events that are coming at the End-of-the-Age, both the positive and the negative.
 - ii. He is warning of the eschatological storm that is coming!
 - b. As Shepherd
 - i. He is exhorting His people to strengthen ourselves so that we can stand in victory.
 - ii. He is giving us advice on how to prepare ourselves so that we can overcome.
4. In Luke 21:25-36, Jesus primarily spoke about the negative events that are to come.
 - a. Even though He also mentioned about the positive events, they were not His primary focus.
 - b. His purpose was that through speaking about the negative events, He wants to:
 - i. Create a sense of urgency for us to respond.
 - ii. Cause a positive response from His people so that we will prepare ourselves.
5. In the Church, many are content to talk about the positives yet completely avoid the negatives. This has resulted in us having a false sense of confidence.
 - a. This does a major disfavor to the people of God as the End-Times has both positive and negative aspects:
 - i. Isaiah 60:1-2 – Light will get brighter, darkness will get darker.
 - ii. Joel 2:11 – The Day of the Lord is both great and very terrible.

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6. We cannot avoid talking about the negatives:
 - a. The negatives are not the full counsel of the Word of God.
 - b. The negatives that will happen in the End-Times will not be a walk in the park. It will be the most intense, challenging, chaotic, traumatic time.
 7. However, we can stand and overcome. Victory is attainable if we are prepared and ready, and this is what Luke 21:25-36 is about.
 - a. Jesus is not avoiding the “negatives”. Neither is He being negative in this passage.
 - b. Jesus is being pastoral. He focuses on the negatives so as to cause a positive response.
 - c. The passage can be divided into two sections:
 - i. v25-28: Jesus spoke as a Prophet
 - Firstly, Jesus is prophesying about what is to come – both the positive and the negative events that believers are not exempted from.
 - Secondly, Jesus is highlighting two different responses from people at the End-of-the-Age - either faint with fear, or filled with faith.
 - ii. v34-36: Jesus spoke as a tender-hearted Shepherd
 - His primary focus was on His people.
 - He is exhorting the people in what to respond and how to prepare, so that we can stand in victory and not succumb to the “trap” that will weigh down our hearts!
 8. Jesus’ main focus and primary concern in Luke 21
 - a. Not world events that are going to happen, even though it is important that we know and understand,
 - b. But that His people will understand and know how to respond intentionally. Victory and strength to stand is attainable for all who will intentionally grow and cultivate.
 - c. Things will be difficult but Jesus did not focus on what is going to happen outwardly. Jesus primary concern is that inwardly, we will overcome and not be weighed down.
 - d. There will be great negativity but greater will be the grace, victory and power made available to us. Victory is attainable if we align ourselves with God and connect with God.
 9. Things will not get better and it will get worse, but we can grow stronger. The solution thus is not to hope for things, circumstances, situations etc to become better, but to focus on us growing stronger.
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C. Luke 21:25 *“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars and on the earth, distress of nations with perplexity...”*

1. Here, Jesus is making a prophetic and strong declaration on what is going to happen before his return. It will be
 - a. Unique
 - b. Distinct (unlike any generation)
 - c. Recognizable/obvious
 - d. Unprecedented
 - e. Intense
 - f. Challenging
2. It will be so intense and distressing that many will be overwhelmed with confusion and fear (v25-26).
 - a. Jesus is talking about a unique time frame in human history where distress on the earth will keep increasing and intensifying continually.
 - b. It will not get better.
 - c. It is clear that we are entering into this unique time frame. There are enough sign-events and trend-events that the Bible talks about that are happening within our time.
 - d. All 13 signs of the beginning of “birth-pangs” (from Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21) are happening with increasing intensity in our generation.
3. We are witnessing the distress of nations now.
 - a. Nations have always been experiencing distress throughout history. But in the past, it comes and goes and there were always periods of reprieve.
 - b. What we are witnessing right now is a unique and recognizable distress that is not going to decrease. In fact, it will increase and escalate until it reaches its fullness. We are literally racing towards the fullness.
 - c. The Bible gives us signs to watch out so that we will know when these things begin (Luke 21:28). It lays out enough details and information for us to know, and this can be seen through about 150 chapters (Jeremiah 23:20; 30:24).

4. Evidence of the distressing of nations:

The last 5 years were watershed years. There have been many major shifts into negativity. There is no turning back. There have also been many seismic shifts that “trigger” the beginning of the Luke 21 time frame. All over the world, nations alike are facing unprecedented moral, economic and political crisis.

a. Moral Decay:

i. Redefining of Moral Values

- There has been a re-defining of moral values – marriage, gender issues, etc. and there has been a huge advancement of the LGBT agenda over the last few years. At the last count, at least 22 nations have legalized same-sex marriage. 25 countries have legalized adoption of children by same sex couples.
- June 26th, 2015 saw a major catalytic event when the legalizing of gay marriage by the US Supreme Court took place. This is huge because USA has a huge influence over the world, especially over the western culture. There are many negative implications to this.
 - It is one thing to sin
 - It is yet another matter to institutionalize sin and celebrate sin.
 - This is a major milestone that shifts nations towards the Psalms 2 crisis (open rebellion against God) and an increase of lawlessness (Matthew 24:12).

ii. The “Pornification” of the Society (quoting the term by John Piper)

- It is the major strategy of the evil one.
- The issue of pornography is severe now
 - It has penetrated into every household and the Church is not immune to it.
 - It is now widely prevalent and easily accessible to all, through just a simple search on the Internet or click on the mobile phone.
 - The situation will only get worse and worse as we go down the road.

iii. Note:

- We are not living in the fullness of Luke 21 yet; this is merely the beginning of the very beginning, but some of us alive today will witness the fullness of it.
- It is not too early to pay attention. Have we been wise and watchful in taking heed and responding to God in living circumspectly? The window to respond is getting narrower. We must not assume that “we still have time”.
- There are huge negative implications. We have to watch out, deal with sin radically and uproot every weakness in this area of our life.

b. Global Economic Crisis

i. The economic forecast is bleak and gloomy.

- The global economic crisis began in September 2008 with the collapse of Lehman Brothers.
- Many nations in the world are near bankruptcy (e.g. Ukraine, Greece and Venezuela). (Source: USA TODAY 8th August 2015)
- The national debt level of USA currently stands at US \$19.3 trillion (\$59,700 per citizen)! (Source: www.usadebtclock.org as of July 2016)
- On 5th Jan 2016, Bloomberg reported that world's 5 richest people lost US \$8.7 billion in a global stock selloff. On 25th June 2016, it reported that the world's 400 richest lost US \$127 billion in equities after Brexit. This includes Bill Gates who lost more than 1 billion.
- The economic forecasts for Singapore and China for 2016 are not too positive.

ii. Economic pressures will eventually lead to social unrest in the nations.

c. Political Crisis

i. With the rise of ISIS in the last few years, the world has become totally unsafe and unpredictable.

- Terrorism can break out anywhere and anytime – there is no safe place anymore.
- There is extreme stress and pressure on government and nations.

ii. Attack on Paris in November/December 2015

- This was a major tipping point that escalated the crisis onto another level.
- The world is at war – the French President has declared war with ISIS, with many nations standing with her.
- Pope Francis called it the beginning of World War III
- ISIS has declared war with many nations. Singapore is one of them.

iii. Nuclear Arms Race

- North Korea declared it successfully tested a hydrogen bomb. This marks a huge advance in its nuclear capability.
- Iran's nuclear deal with the USA, Russia, China and European Union leads to the acceleration of the Middle East nations' nuclear arms race. This may also force Israel to plan for the possibility of a pre-emptive strike on Iran.

iv. Rise of Anti-Semitism

- The rise of anti-Semitism will eventually lead us to Zechariah 14:1-2 where the nations will gather and battle against Jerusalem.
- The Straits' Times' forecast of 2016 on 2nd January, it entitled the article "Expect The Unexpected: Turbulent Times". It is apparent to all that we are living in turbulent and uncertain times.

B. Luke 21:26 "men's hearts failing them from fear..."

1. Jesus warned us of the negative responses as a result of the distress of nations. No one will be immune or exempted. Everyone, whether believers or unbelievers, is vulnerable. But we can overcome and stand if we respond to God now and prepare.
2. There are 4 common emotions that all men are vulnerable to at the End-of-the-Age. Jesus mentioned two in Matthew 24, and another two in Luke 21. They are
 - a. Confusion (Luke 21:23) - Due to lack of understanding.
 - i. There is a lack of understanding and clarity regarding what is about to happen. Many will be shocked when the distress and shakings come.
 - ii. How to prepare - We need to develop clarity and understanding of the End-Times (Matthew 24:42).
 - b. Fear (Luke 21:26) - Due to lack of confidence in God.
 - i. Fear often exists because we lack confidence in God.
 - ii. How to prepare
 - Develop our confidence in God.
 - Grow in faith (Joel 2:12-13)
 - c. Deception (Matthew 24:3, 24, 25) - Not grounded in the Word of God and His truth.
 - i. The danger of deception is not when it is all wrong, but when it is half-right and there are elements of truth in what is said or taught.
 - ii. How to prepare
 - We really need to be grounded in the Word of God and to develop confidence in the His Word and His truth (Hebrews 5:12-14). Take time to read, study and understand the breadth and depth of the Bible.
 - d. Offense (Matthew 24:10, Matthew 16:15) – Due to wrong understanding of who God is.
 - i. Very often, we all have that little seed of offense in our hearts towards God because of our wrong understanding of who God is. It may be subtle. We have to deal with it now.
 - ii. How to prepare:
 - We need to develop understanding of who Jesus is when He comes again – we need to know Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge.

C. Luke 21:27-28 *“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”*

1. Here, Jesus prophesied about the positive events and the positive response of God’s people.
 - a. The major and primary positive event is the fullness of our redemption. The fullness of redemption refers to the coming of Jesus and the restoration of the Kingdom of God here on earth.
 - b. Before the fullness of redemption happens, there are other positive events that will take place:
 - i. Revival
 - ii. Outpouring of the Spirit
 - iii. Breakthroughs
 - iv. Increase in the glory of God
 - v. Maturing of the Church
 - vi. Unprecedented harvest of souls
 - c. The positive response is that if we understand and prepare, we will arise with faith, confidence and courage, and we will shine.
 - d. The key word in this verse is to “look up”. Jesus exhorted us to look up and not to look out or look around. This means that we have to focus on God and fix our eyes on Him (Hebrews 12:1-2).
2. Two different responses to the upcoming pressure and crisis:
 - a. Fear with despair
 - b. Faith with hope
3. But we do not have to be overcome by confusion, fear, despair, and offense. In verse 34-36, Jesus gives us the key to prepare and strengthen ourselves so that we can overcome and stand.
4. Jesus gives us 2 vital exhortations so that we will not be surprised, we will have strength, our hearts will not be weighed down, we can escape the “snare” and we can stand.
 - a. Take heed
 - b. Watch and pray

D. Luke 21:34 *“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the cares of this life...”*

1. Jesus’ first exhortation is to take heed. This means to pay attention, be alert, cultivate what Jesus is exhorting us to and don’t get caught.
2. In Verse 25-28, Jesus focuses on the outward. He primarily talks about what is going to happen in the external events.
3. In Verse 34-36, Jesus focuses on the inward. He is concerned about our inward life and our heart. Jesus is warning of 3 issues that can weigh down our heart, 3 issues that causes our heart to become:
 - a. Spiritually dulled
 - b. Defiled
 - c. Clouded (in our mind)
 - d. Unresponsive to God
4. Jesus advises us to do two things that will give us strength - watch and pray. We have to find out what God wants us to watch and pray about.

E. Luke 21:35 *“For it will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth...”*

1. The phrase “all those who dwell” tells us that everyone is vulnerable.
2. “Snare” is a trap which was used to capture animals in the ancient world. There are 2 characteristics of a snare:
 - a. It is usually hidden and not obvious.
 - b. Once caught, it is not easy for the animal to escape.
3. Jesus is warning us to take heed of the “snare” that will weigh down our heart.
 - a. He emphasized three emotional snares in v. 34, which are 3 broad categories of human activity with many implications.
 - b. The key is to pay attention so as not to be caught or trapped, as this will cause us to lose our spiritual vibrancy.
4. The 3 emotional snares are carousing, drunkenness and cares of this life.
 - a. Carousing - dissipation (primarily of the flesh)
 - i. Carousing or dissipation are talking about things that will drain or diminish our spiritual strengths in the Spirit.
 - ii. They are primarily about the flesh and includes indulgence in lustful (e.g. pornography) or worldly pleasures (e.g. smart phones). This may include
 - What we eat
 - What we watch
 - What occupies us

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- iii. Over-indulgence in worldly pleasures defiles our spiritual strength. Take the smart phone as an example. It is one of the greatest “bondage” to the young generation now. Ask ourselves:
- Am I in control of the phone, or does it have a hold on me?
 - Does it shorten my attention span, especially with regards to engaging with God?
 - Are we able to switch off our phone for say, an hour a day just to spend uninterrupted time with God?
- iv. How to overcome - we have to find our pleasure in God (Song of Songs 1:2).
- b. Drunkenness – intoxication (primarily of the mind)
- i. This refers to things that cause us to be dulled in understanding God in terms of His truth and His perspective.
- ii. Ask ourselves:
- Are we able to see from God’s perspective? Why can’t we see?
 - What do we fill our minds with? Are we drunk with the things of this world, or filled with the things of the Spirit?
 - Do we fill our minds with the knowledge of this age, or with the Word of God?
- iii. The key is to take heed what we hear (Mark 4:24) and to take heed how we hear (Luke 8:18). Are we hearing the right or wrong things? Are we responding to what God is saying in the way that God requires?
- c. Cares of this life
- i. This is primarily anxiety over:
- Provision
 - Protection
 - Promotion
- ii. Eventually, this may lead to bitterness when we do not get what we expect. Quoting from Tim Keller, “Worry is not believing God will get it right, and bitterness is believing God got it wrong.”
- iii. We have to trust God, and not let the cares of this life become our main focus in life, for life is more than money, food, clothing, etc.
- iv. God knows exactly what we need and He will provide. He wants us to trust Him and seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).
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F. Luke 21:34 “... and that Day come on you unexpectedly.”

1. The term “that Day” is not just referring to that specific day where Jesus returns, but days that lead up to the coming of Jesus. It refers to
 - a. The Birth-pangs
 - b. The final three-and-a-half years of human history.
2. Many will be surprised, but not a praying, Bible-loving, prophetic Church of Jesus Christ with understanding. If we know what the Bible says, and know where all this is heading, we won't be surprised. We won't be caught unaware!

G. Luke 21:36 “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

1. The second exhortation of Jesus is to watch and pray. Only if we watch and pray will we be strengthened to overcome. The phrase “may be counted worthy” is better translated as “may be found to have strength”.
2. Things will not get better, but we can get stronger. We have to strengthen ourselves in faith and in the spirit.
3. The word to “escape” here is referring to not yielding to carousing, drunkenness and the cares of life, and not falling into confusion, fear, offense, and compromise.
4. Jesus is exhorting us to prioritize in growing our mind with understanding and growing our heart with strength.
5. “Watch” refers to growing our minds with understanding
 - a. 8 times in the gospel, Jesus emphasized the word “watch” in the context of the End-Times (Matthew 24:42, 25:13; Mark 13:9, 33, 34, 35; Luke 12:37; 21:36).
 - b. We have to watch what the prophetic scripture says about what is to come and develop understanding of the End-Times. At the same time, we have to grow in the forerunner message.
 - c. We also have to watch for the signs of the times around the world. Ask God and find out what He wants us to watch.
 - d. As we watch as a community, 4 things will begin to happen
 - i. As we fully understand what is to come, there will be an increase in urgency, and we will prepare ourselves.
 - ii. This causes us to talk and discuss amongst ourselves which leads to greater clarity and unity in purpose.
 - iii. We will spur one another to increase in our prayers and in seeking God.
 - iv. The understanding we develop will equip us to overcome deception, despair and fear.

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6. "Pray always" – the focus is on growing our heart with strength
 - a. When we engage in prayer with God, we are actually growing our hearts so that we have strength. Both Individual and corporate prayer time are important.
 - i. Individual prayer time – talk to God and let Him talk to you. It will strengthen your heart.
 - ii. Corporate prayer time - this is where we pray for the breakthrough of God and the releasing of His power.
 - b. Cultivating intimacy
 - i. We need to cultivate the Matthew 25:1-13 lifestyle, where we acquire the oil of intimacy right now, and develop our history with God.
 - c. Living out the Joel 2:12-17 lifestyle of wholeheartedness expressed through fasting and praying, gathering corporately and seeking His face.
 7. Watch and pray
 - a. We need to do both "watching" and "praying" hand in hand, not just one or the other.
 - i. Some watch but don't pray – this leads to mere intellectual knowledge.
 - ii. Some pray but don't watch – this leads to praying without understanding.
 - b. By watching and praying, we are positioning ourselves to receive greater insight and understanding of what God is doing, as well as to receive greater strength so that we will burn and shine. By doing so, we will overcome and stand as one whose feet are cemented to the Rock. May we be victorious, burning and shining in the midst of the storm (Matthew 7:24-27)!

H. Conclusion

1. It is time to prioritize and rearrange our lives so as to watch and pray.
2. This is not just about saving ourselves. It is about being the lighthouse in the midst of the storm, the beacon of hope and the Noah's Ark.
3. God is raising up a people who is wise, watchful, and praying.
4. We want to be a people who is wise, watchful and praying so that we don't add to the confusion but we will be the solution. May we say "yes" to be wise, watchful and praying!

How Then Shall We Live

A. Introduction

“Hear this, you elders, and give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, or even in the days of your fathers? Tell your children about it, let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.” (Joel 1:2 – 3)

1. The first exhortation in the book of Joel is “hear and give ear”. This means to pay close attention and learn by what happened to Israel in times of God’s judgments. (Joel 1:1 – 2:9)
2. The call to “hear and give ear” is to learn from history and to hear what Joel said. In our context, we do this by studying the book of Joel. It is a call to hear God’s heart as we prepare for future glory and crisis.
3. Joel’s challenge to us is to hear, which includes embracing a Joel 2 lifestyle that is being presented in Joel 2:12 – 17.
4. We must realize that this hearing does not come automatically just because we are Christians. It requires an intentional and deliberate cultivating of understanding of the book of Joel and living out the lifestyle.

B. Four Contributing Factors to Global Crisis during End-Times

1. Fullness of man’s sin (Rev. 9:21, 14:18, 17:5; Dan. 8:23, 12:10)
2. Fullness of Satan’s rage (Rev. 12:12, 9:21; Dan. 7:21,25)
3. Fullness of God’s judgment (Rev. 14:10, 15:7)
4. Fullness of creation’s groan (Rom. 8:19-24)

C. The Response that God requires (Joel 2:12 – 17)

1. In Joel 2:12 – 17, the LORD tells us exactly what we are to do to receive His mercy and deliverance in a time of crisis. We are to gather in solemn / sacred assemblies. This involves the leaders and people – joining together to fast, pray and repent for our sin and ask God to release His favor on our behalf.
2. This is God’s primary call to a people in crisis. It is the most practical thing we can do before and during a crisis. God releases His favor and protection in response to prayer and repentance.

3. This is the clearest passage in the Scripture that describes what God desires of us in times of crisis. As the global drama unfolds at the End of the Age, the Body of Christ has a plain roadmap. God is asking His people for a specific response.
4. The LORD does not leave us guessing what He desires from us. We can act with certainty in times of crisis. God will shake all that can be shaken. This will cause desperation so that there is no solution except in God. He will remove all our false hopes so that we hope only in Him.

D. 5-fold response that God requires in Joel 2:12 – 17

1. Develop an understanding of the severity of End-Times (v.1 and 11)
2. Turning to God with wholeheartedness (v.12)
 - a. God wants our heart more than anything else. He wants all of our love (Matt. 22:37). This reveals His heart for us - He requires us to respond to His love for us, by loving Him in return.
 - b. What is it like to turn to Him with all our heart? We are to turn from sin and flee from all that are contrary to what He wants. Turning to God with all our heart involves repenting, fasting and praying. When we turn to Him, we position ourselves to receive His favor.
 - c. The place of immunity from God's judgment is in corporate, long-term wholeheartedness for God. The only place of safety is in the midst of God's people living in obedience to Him. In this way, we receive God's favor and are kept in a place of safety from the primary cause of pressure. This is God's zeal for His people.
3. Rend your heart and not your garment (v.13a)
 - a. Traditionally, the people would tear their garments to show their grief and desperation. To rend means to tear something violently or forcibly.
 - b. What God desires is the rending of the heart which speaks of dealing radically with the matters of our heart. This is the most challenging aspect of Joel's exhortation. We must separate ourselves from anything that displeases God.
 - c. We must tear our heart away from sin. Jesus speaks symbolically of this radical tearing in Matthew 5:29. He was talking about a radical pursuit of obedience that painfully tears the heart in the process. In other words, forsake all compromises!
 - d. It can be painful when we are confronting the root systems that support sinful bondage in our lives. Sometimes, it hurts to press through until we get a breakthrough, yet this is the way to freedom. This tearing of the heart is typically the part that is most overlooked in the process.

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- e. We cannot pursue wholeheartedness in a causal way. Sometimes, we hope for a wholeheartedness that is gentle, easy and tame. It can be painful but the LORD will help us and He will empower us!
4. Repenting with Confidence because of God's tender heart – 5 fold revelation (v.13b – 14)
- a. Joel summons the people to return to the LORD. He gave 5 reasons why this is wise. We must know that the LORD desires to make a way of deliverance for us. The knowledge of God's heart for us gives us confidence to tear our hearts in repentance. If we take one step toward Him, He will take ten steps towards us.
- b. Five-fold revelation of God
- i. The LORD is gracious
- God is gracious in that He evaluates us differently from anyone else. He remembers our frailty and that we are but dust. (Ps. 103:14)
 - God is not a harsh military leader or an angry coach who rejects any form of weakness. His requirements are within the reach of the weak. He will make a way of deliverance for us. (Ps. 103:10)
- ii. The LORD is merciful
- God delights in showing mercy. He delights in watching the heart responses of His people as we encounter His relentless mercy. (Mic. 7:18)
 - God enjoys what is awakened in us when we understand that He gives us a new start after each failure. (Luke 15:1 – 24)
- iii. The LORD is slow to anger
- God is slow to anger. Jesus spoke of this to the Church in Thyatira in Rev. 2. He gave them time to repent of their immorality (Rev. 2:20 – 22).
 - God is never quick to judge but gives time for people to repent. He is patient and often gives us ample time and warning to turn from our wicked ways (e.g. read the book of Jeremiah).
- iii. The LORD is of great kindness
- When we know that He is of great kindness, then we have the confidence to press through the hindrances and repent fully. (Eph. 2:12; Heb. 4:16; Jer. 9:24)
 - Knowing that He is of great kindness will give us courage to tear our hearts because we know that God desires to restore our fellowship with Him.
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- iv. The LORD relents from doing harm
- This does not mean that God randomly changes His mind. Rather, He honors the free will of man without violating His justice.
 - God is willing to relent or to cancel the decree of judgment, instead of issuing it over a nation. Judgment comes because people refuse to change or repent. When people repent and turn to God, He will relent. Instead of releasing the judgment which they deserve, He sends blessing!
5. Gather the people to pray and sanctify the congregation (v.15 – 17)
- a. We are to blow the trumpet and call a sacred assembly. The elders assemble and gather the people; even the children are to be part of this gathering. Since no one will be exempted from this coming crisis and judgment, no one is exempted from crying out to God for mercy.
 - b. We are to consecrate a fast. Fasting positions our hearts to experience the grace of God in a greater way.
 - c. **Blow the trumpet** – boldly proclaim the coming judgment and the sacred assembly.
 - d. **Consecrate a fast** – put fasting into our schedule and take it seriously.
 - e. **Call a sacred assembly** – gatherings that are sacred in their priority in seeking the LORD.
 - f. **Gather the people and sanctify the congregation** – leaders sanctify the people under their care, by laying aside ministry programs to make seeking God the top priority in terms of their time.
6. Joel describes the wholehearted response that God desires by emphasizing necessity of earnest prayer. We are to cry out for His visitation of mercy with earnestness. (Joel 2:17)

E. Conclusion

1. We are entering a new season on the divine calendar. His glory and judgment will shake everything that can be shaken. We are in a unique period in which we have no frame of reference for. Noah is an example of embracing a prophetic message that was unfamiliar to him.
2. God wants a holy spiritual environment of faith and revelation to be established in the Church. Prayer with fasting and wholeheartedness must be an integral part of the spiritual culture of the End-Time Church.

IHOP

"And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning..." Lev 6:12

Establishing the 24/7 House of Prayer in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David

The Heart of Our Vision

At the International House of Prayer IHOP-One Thing Ministries, the Lord has called us to be a Forerunner Community that is committed to Prayer with Worship, the Prophetic and the Great Commission.

As a Forerunner Community, we embrace and seek to live out the following four heart standards (embodied in the acronym "IHOP"), in order to be a people who will partner with God in these Last Days:

- **Intercession:** a people of prayer, expressed corporately through night and day prayer and worship;
- **Holiness:** a people who have set themselves apart for intimacy with God, and who live out the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle;
- **Offering:** a people who give extravagantly to God for the advancement of His Kingdom, and who live a fasted life (ie. simply) for themselves;
- **Prophetic:** a people who stand boldly in faith, move in the power of God and have confidence in His provision, protection and direction.

As a missions base, we seek to equip and send missionaries as dedicated intercessors and evangelists with a forerunner spirit who will labour to see revival and a great harvest all over Asia.

The heart of our missions base is 24/7 worship and prayer; thus, we seek to establish a 24/7 House of Prayer in Singapore – a perpetual and sacred assembly gathering corporately to fast and pray in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David.

Two historical figures from the Bible who inspire us are Anna, the first evangelist and forerunner in the New Testament, and King David from the Old Testament. Anna prayed and fasted for over sixty years before Jesus' first coming (Luke 2:37), and King David organized and paid 4,000 musicians and 288 singers to worship God night and day (1 Chron. 23:1 – 25:31).

Our mandate is to train believers, from this place of night and day prayer, to love Jesus and people wholeheartedly as they go forth to preach the Word, heal the sick, serve the poor, plant Houses of Prayer and proclaim the return of Jesus across the earth.

Join us in the Prayer Room!

John 2:29

"John the Baptist said...the friend of the Bridegroom... rejoices because of the Bridegroom's voice."

Luke 2:37 – 38

"Anna...did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day... and she spoke of Jesus to all..."

Matthew 9:38; 28:19

"Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send out laborers into His Harvest... therefore go to all nations and make disciples."

Isaiah 56:7

"...for My House shall be called a House of prayer for all nations."

FORERUNNER SCHOOL

Equipping believers with a burning passion for Jesus to prepare the nations for
His eminent return

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD..." Isa 40:3

The Forerunner School presents the foundational Messages of the House of Prayer in a real and relevant way. More than good teachings, it seeks to present the reality of the Word and its relevance to the times we are living in.

The foundational Messages include the ministry of the forerunners who prepare the way for Jesus' return, understanding the End Times, loving Israel, intimacy with God and the House of Prayer. The School seeks to impact hearts with the living reality of the Message and thus inspire believers to run after Jesus. Practical steps will also be shared on how to live this lifestyle out.

The Forerunner School seeks to equip and prepare all believers to live out their Bridal Identity with wholehearted love for God and for people. Our desire is to see the LORD raise up ministries that function in the forerunner spirit as "Friends of the Bridegroom" – to prepare the Church as a holy and lovesick Bride longing for the return of Jesus and for the fulfilment of the Great Commission in the Last Days.



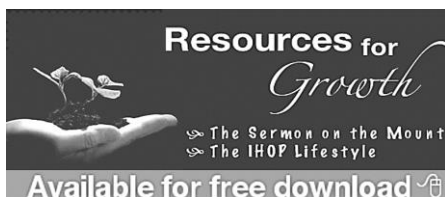
We will run these schools as long as we gather a group of 20 or more people who are committed to attend these teachings. We can also do teachings on specific topics for a church, (we can teach at your church premise if you desire), ministry (e.g. youth ministry, church camps, ..), or just as a group of friends who are thirsty to know more. Get in touch with us at info@onethingministries.net. Find out more about the Forerunner School at www.onethingministries.net/forerunner-school

UPCOMING COURSES IN THE FORERUNNER SCHOOL (2016 & 2017)

1. FSI Weekend in 2016: **The Bride of Christ** (9 to 11 September 2016)
2. One-Year Course on **The Sermon on the Mount**
(August 2016 to July 2017 – once a month on a Sunday from 3pm to 6pm)
3. Forerunner School Intensive (FSI) in 2017: Four Sundays from 3pm to 6pm
Growing in Prayer (Feb); **God's End-Time Plan for Israel** (April/May); **Understanding End Times** (July)
4. FSI Weekend in 2017: **Growing in Intimacy with God** (September 2017)

(Please refer to the website for information on dates and registration details.

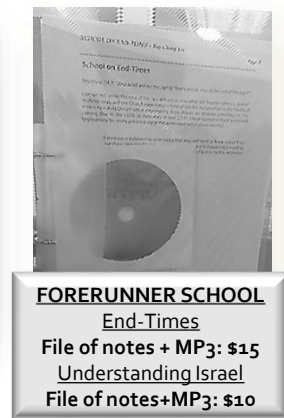
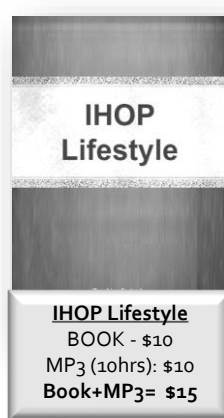
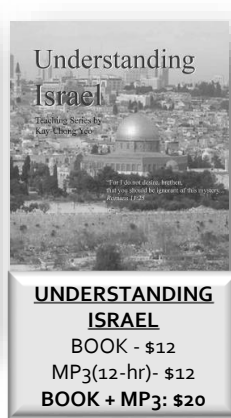
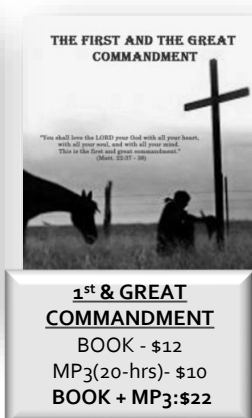
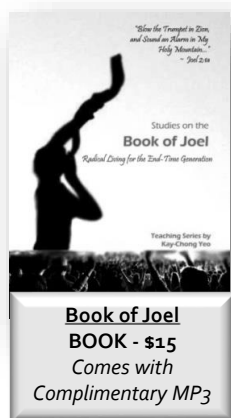
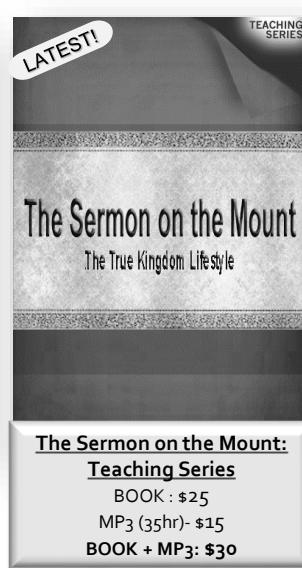
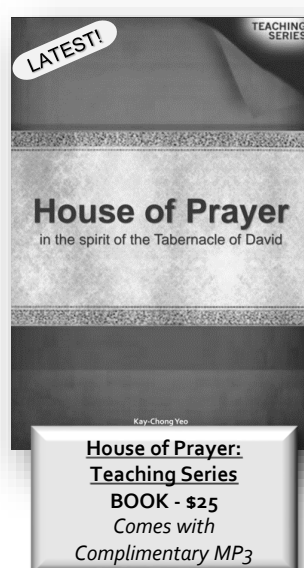
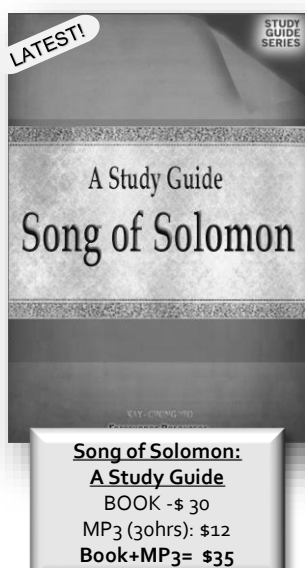
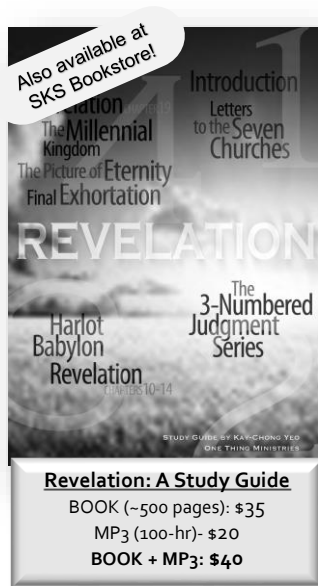
We will commence these courses as long as there are at least 20 people who are committed to attend these teachings)



Download free MP3 and PDF notes on our **Weekly Friday Teaching series** online at www.onethingministries.net/resources/weekly-friday-teachings

Titles include: What is Grace? Growing in intimacy with God (*latest!*), The Sermon on the Mount, A Call to a Season of Consecration and Contending, The I-H-O-P Lifestyle

and many more titles...



Other Book Titles Available:

Intimacy with God, The Bride of Christ, The Life of David, Encountering the Heart of the Father, The Beauty of God, The Ministry of the Forerunners. The Revelation of Jesus as Bridegroom, King and Judge etc...



MP3 Recordings

DVD-R / Thumb Drive with MP3 recordings:

Weekly Friday Teaching series:

1. End-Times : Developing Confidence in Times of Uncertainty (Jun-Aug 2013) - 20hrs (\$10)
2. Encounter God Series (Jul 2011-Jun 2012) - 65hrs (\$25)
 - Encountering the Father's Heart
 - Encountering the Personality and Emotion of God
 - Becoming a People after God's own Heart
 - Encountering Jesus as our Magnificent Obsession
 - Encountering the Person & Works of the Holy Spirit
3. The Knowledge of God (Oct – Nov 2013) – 8hrs (\$5)

MP3 on Extreme Times Require Extreme Measures II (30 July 2016)

~ 4hrs of MP3 recording on CD-R: \$4
These recordings will be made available for free download about a week after 30 July at www.onethingministries.net/resources/free-mp3-articles

1. Take Heed, Watch and Pray!
2. A Revolution of Love
3. Strengthen What Has Become Weak
4. The Word of God for the nations

(Topics may vary according to what speakers will share on the actual day)