

I SPEAK JESUS

DO YOU LIVE FOR JESUS?

Wendy Kandi

COMFORTABLY NUMB

A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi. "I have loved you," says the Lord. "But you ask, "How have you loved us? "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the Lord. "Yet I have loved Jacob. (Malachi 1:1-2, NIV)

How Did They Stop Living for God?

1. Questioning or doubting or being unaware of God's Love. (1:2)
2. Showing contempt and defiling the things of God or treating them as common. (1:6-9)
3. Useless acts or lip service which does not benefit God or His purpose. (1:19)
4. Thinking of God's things as a burden. (1:13)
5. Not aware that change has to happen. (2:4-6)
6. As God's royal priesthood, they were to lead the people into righteousness but caused many to stumble. (2:7-8)
7. They were unfaithful. (2:10-16)
8. They questioned God's justice. (2:17-3:5)
9. They stopped following God's decrees. (3:6-7)
10. They weren't giving all the tithes and offerings that were due to God. (3:8-12)
11. They spoke against God. (3:13-15)

Our Current State

1. In need and suffering who do we turn to? In abundance, do we remember whom we should thank?
2. Do we still treat God, His Church, His Kingdom, His Purpose with reverence?
3. Do we take worship and His preached word seriously and ask ourselves how we can change for the better?
4. Do we participate in Church activities?
5. Do we agree with God's way of justice or we think it's not fair?

SPIRITUAL COMA

What put the children of Israel in a spiritual coma was actually abundance and rest. They were not at war and they were not in lack but therein lied the danger. The same can apply to us, we are in a good place and in a good land that we may not realize that this is the time to be fully awake because the day of the Lord is near.

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.
(Romans 13:11-12, NIV)

When we are in a spiritual coma, we are not aware of God in our lives and what He is doing, we become inactive, barely serving God and rarely in fellowship with others not realizing that God has blessed us for His good work.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8, NIV)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1:17, NIV)

HOW DO WE LIVE FOR JESUS?

1. Stir Ourselves Up

For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:6-7, NIV)

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you... (James 4:8, NKJV)

- a. **Prayer** - A believer who lives for Jesus has to be in communication with Him and this is seen in our prayer life. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19; Philippians 4:6-7)
- b. **Word**- Read the word, meditate on the word. (Psalms 119:9, 11, 105; Joshua 1:8)
- c. **Church - Gathering of Believers** - If you are a believer and you want to live for Jesus, then you cannot skip coming to Church or other gatherings of believers. (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42-4)

2. Live For Others

Be challenged to pray and seek the Lord on behalf of those nations that are persecuted for Christ. (Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1)

Prayer Points Suggestion

1. Pray that whatever their circumstances, God will give the persecuted Christians the right words. (Ephesians 6:19-20)
2. Pray that persecuted Christians will understand and find peace in the sufficiency of God's grace, even in their weaknesses. (2 Corinthians 12:9)
3. Pray that they will not rely on themselves but on God just as Paul did when he was persecuted. (2 Corinthians 1:7-9)
4. Pray God would be present with them in their hardship, protecting them according to His will just as He did with Jesus. (Matthew 26:39)
5. Pray that their witness and devotion to Jesus would inspire those who seek to harm them and all those around them. (Luke 6:27:31)

3. Give

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)

Just as we aim to know Jesus and to follow Him, we must also seek to live for Him, to surrender ourselves wholly and to not become spiritually adrift. Let's stir ourselves up that our every word and deed will be witness that Jesus is our King and we live only for Him

Further Reading - Day 3: Following Him in My Community - Ian Mann; Day 5: Following Him in My City - Ian Mann; Drifting Away (sermon) - Lee Venning