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**Wake Up!**

Our faith is constantly bombarded and pushed aside by various political, social, and media forces that want Christianity out of sight. However, God instructs us not to hide.

**1. Wake up and acknowledge the pressure to deny or hide your faith.**

Pressure to deny our faith is not new, it is just heightening through current legal matters. Faith in our Lord is constantly tested and we have to stand strong.

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14*

In the two books of Corinthians were letters from Peter that were meant to encourage the church of Corinth. Corinth was a city was known for its sin and wild times full of slaves, prostitution, etc. The church there was struggling, as could be expected, so Peter wrote to them to encourage and help them.

Just like physical strength, spiritual strength is built up over time, not overnight.

**Be on your guard.** **Wake up and acknowledge deception.** The enemy will attack in various forms, usually in ways that catch us off guard. Adam was tempted by Eve, not the serpent. King Solomon was lead to worship other Gods by his wives, not by the false gods themselves. And after fasting for forty days, Jesus was tempted by the devil but was able to keep his guard up.

**Stand firm in the faith.** **Stand up and walk in truth**. Base your decisions on truth. Many times going against the crowd is the right thing to do. If we know something to be true, then we should follow it. Imagine if Christopher Columbus hadn't follow what he knew to be true because of the scorn of others.

**Be men of courage.** Courage is not the lack of fear, but rather the ability to do something that frightens you. It is easy to do something if you're not afraid, but it is rewarding to do the right thing even when it scares you.

**Be strong.** **Strength is the ability to exert great force**. Without the strength to do the above things, they are all meaningless. It takes strength to be on your guard all the time. It takes strength to stand in faith and be courageous. And just like physical strength, spiritual strength is built up over time, not overnight.

**2. Wake up and acknowledge the world's intention to silence you.**

Some people have faith in money or politics, others in the media or in their families. Everyone has faith in something.

*But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29*

Everyone, in and out of politics, has a worldview. An atheist has faith in no God, but s/he has faith in that. Some people have faith in money or politics, others in the media or in their families. Everyone has faith in something.

The world wants to eliminate the Christian worldview while keeping others, but we must remind the world that we will not go quietly into the night. We are here to preach the good news and will keep doing so. Every person, including Christians, needs to cast a vote consistent with his or her worldview.

**3. Wake up and walk the fine line.**

It isn't an easy line to walk, but it is up to us to do it.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2*