

# **YOU ARE ALWAYS ON MY MIND**

Part 1 of YOU ARE ALWAYS ON MY MIND. Various Passages.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 23, 2023.

## **SHORTS AND REELS**

### **GIVING THANKS**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV) Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

### **THINKING OUT LOUD**

1. Every spiritual advance will be met by a satanic attack. Be prepared, but don't back down.
2. A friend's season of pain is our time to share Christ's healing love.
3. As a sailing ship drifts without the wind, so a prayer-less Christian goes nowhere.
4. Our doubts are invitations to go deeper with Christ, deeper in his Word, deeper in study, and deeper in communion with him.
5. The question is not, will I face suffering? The questions are: 1) am I spiritually prepared to suffer? 2) will I use suffering to make me bitter or better? 3) Will I grow in faith or shrink back? 4) Will I become more or less like Christ? In his suffering he said, "Not my will, but yours."
6. Prayer puts us in partnership with God. The Holy Spirit puts God in partnership with us.
7. The biggest roadblock to sharing Christ is not opposition, it's indifference: "You have your truth, I have mine. Ho hum."

8. American Christianity is big business. Everyone is selling something. Buyer beware!
9. The Lord is always working, moving, helping, building. Never give in to discouragement, but watch him through eyes of faith, and give praise.
10. The greatest danger to spiritual health is not persecution, the greatest threat to resilient faith is an easy, untested, complacent life.
11. Step out in faith to do hard things, and watch the Spirit fill your life.

## **INTRODUCING OUR ELDERS' TEAM**

1 Peter 5:1-3 (ESV) So I exhort the elders among you ... 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you ....

## **FIGHTING FOSSILIZATION**

1 Corinthians 14:25 (ESV) ... and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

### **Over time, churches tend to fossilize.**

- The glory of the Lord leaves.
- Church is duty, not delight.
- Policies and procedures replace spiritual reality and power.

### **The antidote to fossilization is giving center stage to:**

- The living Jesus. Churches that work as if Jesus is alive and well will be alive and well.
- The Holy Spirit. He is the spiritual Reality who makes church a delight and supersedes policies and procedures.

## **MAKING DISCIPLES**

Luke 24:47 (ESV) ... and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

**Our culture is post-Christian and the church is marginalized.**

- How can we continue to make disciples?

**What we can do in our circles:**

- Be a point of light - a loyal, loving friend.

**What we can do together:**

Be a safe place - welcoming everyone.

**What I can do:**

Be a priest - connecting heaven to earth.

## **DOUBLING DOWN**

2 Timothy 4:2-3 (NLT) Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. 3 For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching.

**Before Jesus returns, a Great Apostasy will devastate the church.**

- A massive number of professing Christians will walk away from the faith - Matthew 24:9-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

**Bible teachers: now is the time to speak clearly and boldly.**

- Teach the pure word of God with courage and conviction.
- We don't need domesticated religion, or sermonettes for Christianettes, or junk-food preaching.
- We need the meat of the Word, God's steroids for our souls.

# **CORNERSTONE GROUPS - TALK IT OVER**

Pick one or more of these questions to discuss this week.

## **Review Sunday's teaching on multiple topics.**

- Review Sunday's study guide or watch Peter's teaching on YouTube.
- What part of the teaching most impacted your thinking?
- Summarize the main ideas in your own words.

## **Prayerfully apply the insights of the teaching.**

- Discuss how we can ensure that whenever the church meets, 1) the Holy Spirit is welcome, 2) Jesus is front and center, and 3) people encounter the living God. What part does each one of us play in this?
- The Great Apostasy is a sad expectation (See Matthew 24:9-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). Discuss any signs of it beginning that you see. What can we do as a small group to encourage each other to stand firm in the faith? What role does our personal responsibility play in holding on to faith?

## **Pray together. Be bold.**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us faith to find and follow Jesus. Thank you that the Holy Spirit is present and working in our lives. Thank you that our lives are built on the person and work of Christ. Please build our spiritual muscles. Use this small group to encourage us to stand firm in faith. Make the Cornerstone a strong, courageous, and faithful church family. We give you praise and glory. In Jesus' Name. Amen!*

## **Preparation for Next Sunday.**

- Read and review Revelation 1-7.
- Read Revelation 8 several times.