

*Stand Firm, Stay Focused*

*Matthew 24:1-14*

Everyone is a bit curious about how and when life on earth will \_\_\_\_\_. We look to \_\_\_\_\_ for answers. Jesus instructed His disciples concerning what to expect at His return in Matthew 24-25.

When Jesus said that every stone of the temple will be thrown down, the 12 asked Him when the temple would \_\_\_\_\_ and what signs would signal His \_\_\_\_\_ and the end of the age?

Jesus' answer referred both to the destruction of the temple in AD \_\_\_\_ and to the end of the age. Jesus taught that both the fall of Jerusalem and the end times would be preceded by \_\_\_\_\_ things and warned them not to be \_\_\_\_\_. They are "the beginning of birth pangs." His point was to \_\_\_\_\_.

The most important preparation for the future the Bible instructs us to make is to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ for our ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ to eternal life. And He gave the 12 their preparation instructions also.

First, know that the road ahead will be \_\_\_\_\_. Second, commit to stand \_\_\_\_\_ and stay \_\_\_\_\_, for we are responsible for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus made clear that the genuinely \_\_\_\_\_ would be the ones that stood firm and focused on the mission. This might frighten some who have \_\_\_\_\_ or not stood strong but have been less than \_\_\_\_\_. Some have even let their faith \_\_\_\_\_ for a while.

It is important to stand strong by God's grace to the end and fulfill our mission to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. It is by \_\_\_\_\_ that we are given this opportunity. But sometimes, when the way is \_\_\_\_\_, we stumble and fall and seem to have \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible is full of stories of people who quit, but later, with God's help, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. My point is it is never too late to \_\_\_\_\_ to stand firm for the Lord, and it is never too late to begin to \_\_\_\_\_.