Four Responses To This Current Pressure

I. This pandemic is affecting the whole world. It’s a fiery trial for both believers and unbelievers. Pressure reveals what’s on the inside of a person.

***Lk. 21:35-36 It will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass...***

II. Four sources of pressure behind this current ordeal

1. ***God is shaking*** – God is using this ordeal to cause unbelievers in the nations to come to a saving knowledge of Christ. God is revealing that which is unshakable, and He’s going to remove that which can be shaken. He is shaking out of His lovingkindness, because He cares so much about humanity. God’s love is behind His shaking.

***Haggai 2:6-7 For thus says the Lord of hosts: ....I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations (Jesus)***

2. ***Satan is attacking*** – For sure, satan is attacking people and nations through this virus! Satan brings pressure (oppression) through evil spirits of fear, heaviness, confusion, and infirmity. The Bible calls each of these things a “spirit”. Even the word “oppressed” comes from the Latin word for pressure, literally “pressed against”.

 ***Jn 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.***

***Acts 10:38 God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.***

3. ***Man is sinning*** – Man’s sin opens the door to pressure and stress.

 ***Prov 13:15 The way of transgressors is hard*** (KJV)

4. ***Creation is groaning*** – Because of Adam’s sin and the sin of the human race, creation is groaning. Therefore, there are disruptive weather patterns, earthquakes, and diseases from the animal creation such as rats and bats. As a result, man experiences pressure.

***Rom 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.***

III. God is looking for four responses from His redeemed people to the current pressure. As we respond in the right way, we are able to escape the snares and even thrive in the midst of fiery trials. Lk. 21:35-36

1. ***Submit*** to God’s leadership. When God shakes, we submit to His leadership.

 ***Jms. 4:7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.***.

***2 Cor. 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,***

2. ***Rise up*** against satan’s attacks and resist him. When satan attacks, we take authority and rebuke the works of satan, and we move in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)

***Mt. 16:19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”***

3. ***Repent*** of sin in your life and ask for deliverance from habitual sin. (1 Jn. 1:9, Heb. 12:1-2)

***1 Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

4. ***Restore, transform and rebuild together*** what has been destroyed through creation’s groan.

***Isa 9:10 The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with hewn stones; the sycamores are cut down, but we will replace them with cedars.”***

a. Economies, businesses, families are some of the things that need to be rebuilt and restored.

b. Vaccines, testing kits, and successful treatments for this virus need to be discovered and implemented.

c. The Church must help restore and heal communities and build new models for ministry in a post-covid world, looking to Jesus, the Chief Cornerstone.