

## Too Much Pressure

Throughout the New Testament, we read of the many warnings by Christ regarding end-time demonic activity. His warnings cover five primary spiritual enemies of mankind. These main five demon spirits are often highlighted by Jesus in his teachings. In Matthew 24, the warnings are very pointed and very sobering. We see throughout Christ's message what to expect at the very end.

- 1) Deception
- 2) Violence
- 3) Iniquity
- 4) Apostasy
- 5) Fear

The spiritual struggle we all are experiencing, even in this hour, cannot be captured in one exclusively singular term. Since 2020, whenever the pit was opened and the spiritual battle intensified beyond description, it would be almost impossible to specify simply one of the spirits above as the sole reason men are falling away from the truth in these last days.

Ironically enough, these spirits have been common to mankind from the very beginning of time. They certainly are no strangers to us now. They will not be unveiled at the end of time, as some may assume Christ is saying, seeing they are and have been our most common enemies always. Why, then, would Christ warn us of enemies we are already very commonly acquainted with now? Furthermore, how do enemies we presently know so well and contend with so often cause many men to lose out in the end? How have we historically stood strong for so long against these demons and even prevailed over them from generation to generation, but in the end, they eventually cause many to fall away? How do so many ultimately lose their dominion over these spirits at the end? What was Christ really warning us about?

The church has seemingly fought every imaginable satanic force that the bowels of hell have ever vomited out. But we discover in Matthew 24 that Jesus introduces us to an enemy that we, to date, have never encountered. This unnoticeable secret weapon of hell will only be employed during the final chapters of human history. No, it won't be the five big boys we commonly fight now and openly mention time and again, but yet they will have more influence and greater results in the end because of this secret weapon that Satan has now but has never utilized on an intense scale before. We are experiencing the first waves of this spiritual activity now, and during the final days of mankind, it will be unleashed with unmitigated and unprecedented strength. This one enemy is causing men to lose their minds even now. To throw the towel in and give up now. "IMMEASURABLE PRESSURE!!!"

Matthew 24:21

21) For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

The Greek term for tribulation is mentioned 45 times in 43 verses in the New Testament. It is defined as “a continuous and intensely grinding pressure.” Jesus unveils Satan’s secret formula that will strengthen the enemy’s hands in the last days. Not simply pressure, but “Great Pressure.” The greatest pressure the world has ever witnessed will cause the same enemies we now commonly have dominion over to rise up and destroy the majority.

We are feeling this great pressure building up now, yet it is only JUST beginning. There has always been much pressure in the kingdom of God, be sure. But this prophetic demonic pressure to come, as Jesus Himself announced, is above and beyond any pressure recorded in the history of the world.

This forecasted tidal wave has not even hit the shoreline yet but look at the carnage piling up already. Men are succumbing to it now. God is slowly turning off the faucet and methodically tightening the vise to complete the plan of redemption. The initial waves of “great pressure” are hitting now. To find faith in this hour of demonic pressure will become rare. Faith is evermore at a premium even now. The very elect are warned to take heed at the end of time. Why? Too much pressure.

Daniel 7:25 warns us of the end-time demon that will wear out the saints of the most High. Jeremiah 12:5 asks the rhetorical question: If the footman hath wearied thee... what shall you do at the swelling of Jordan? What will this great pressure cause you to do? Consider these updated and current results of too much pressure.

We are witnessing the retirement age for pastoring dropping more and more as men retire earlier and earlier due to unrealistic expectations placed upon them. Why? Too much Pressure.

Many no longer have the two traditional Sunday services of morning and evening anymore. Why? Too much Pressure.

Revival schedules in most places are trimmed down to standard service nights now. Many consider a standard weekly schedule of services to be one service on Sunday and one on Tuesday. This abbreviated church schedule allows for a longer, uninterrupted week to accommodate self-interest activities. Long gone are the 4-5 consecutive service nights a week for 6-8 weeks in a row to cultivate spiritual momentum. Two weekends in a row with one-midweek night service sprinkled in is a long revival campaign now. 6-8 services total would be a heavy-handed revival effort indeed. Why? Too much Pressure.

Less overall church services a year than ever before in the history of modern Pentecost. Why? Too much Pressure.

Weaker prayer rooms void of spiritual headship that sets the example by openly pressing and intensely leading the people to pray. Why? Too much Pressure.

Pleasantly polished praise singers, leading people in praise, replaced the intense worship leader pressing men to worship. Our platforms have been re-imaged and replaced to reflect a stage setting. Why? Too much Pressure.

Televised Church services, making it justifiably convenient for the carnal to be unfaithful and the sinner to be entertained. Why? Too much Pressure.

Church Facebook pages are colorfully filled with party announcements advertising social events of every stripe, and variation abounds. Almost a weekly party of some kind is going on continually. Why? Too much Pressure.

One hour or more praise services and 25–30-minute sermonettes. More time is spent in music practices than is ever invested in pre-service prayer. Why? Too much Pressure.

There are new and trendy coffee and snack areas in our holy places of worship with baristas to assist people prior to their spiritual engagement with God. It evidently is asking too much for people to come soberly to church with a spiritual attitude towards God and worship protocols anymore. Why? Too much Pressure.

Gone are the days of those gut-wrenching, travailing cries of saints produced by heavy conviction preaching. Gone are the altar benches that symbolize the mourning stations for sinners and saints. Gone are the sacred desks of old-fashioned pulpits anymore. That one sacred piece of furniture that once symbolized being “pulled from the pit” or pulpit has ceremoniously been shined up to reflect a nondescript, and non-offensive office lecture podium. Why? Too much Pressure.

The new motto and objective of modern-day Pentecost is “You Belong Here.” Consequently, they then strive to offer you the most relaxing and most enjoyable religious experience possible. From the pleasant and polished sounds of contemporary music and singing to the relaxing and choreographed non-offensive praise services, all the way to the chicken soup for the soul preaching that “encourages” the sinner and “uplifts” the carnal. I must agree... in that type of setting, all sinners emphatically “belong there.” Spirit-filled apostolics should flee for their lives, however. The purpose of this charismatic chaos is clear - “No Pressure.”

They want to have “good” church, to be sure. They certainly want to have a “Good God” in their midst without a doubt. But they also want to have “fun” church too. Henceforth, the definitions of these phrases must be revised to be more culturally relevant. The challenge for leadership is to blend a refreshingly “peaceful” move of God with a non-challenging religious atmosphere that relaxes sinners and appeases the carnal. To this end, they have succeeded in reproducing an old brand of Pentecost known as Laodicea. How did Laodicea get revived again? Too much Pressure.

Religious entertainment has replaced red-hot intensity in our services today. We are having less church but more parties and fellowship activities than ever before. Laodicea initially sought quality of services over quantity but ended up virtually bankrupt of both.

Why? Too much Pressure.

Pressure... such as the world has never seen.

Bill Pitman