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# **Selfless life of devotion**

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**Ps Caleb Nicholes**

**Sunday Morning 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

# 1) Suffer intense pressure from all directions

## Mark 13:5-13 (NIV)

*<sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup> Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.*

*<sup>9</sup> “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. <sup>11</sup> Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.*

*<sup>12</sup> “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>13</sup> All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.*

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# 1) Suffer intense pressure from all directions

## Where does the pressure come from?

- i. **God given**
- ii. **Religion**
- iii. **Self inflicted**
- iv. **World's foolishness**
- v. **Life**
- vi. **Devil**

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1) Suffer intense pressure from all directions

a) **There will be pain**

b) **We will be flogged in the synagogues**

c) **Holy Spirit will speak through you to kings and nations**

d) **We will be hated and betrayed**

e) **Those that stand firm to the end will be saved (CRACK OR CLIMB)**

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# 1) Suffer intense pressure from all directions

## Stephen, catalyst for the move of God

### Why suffer at hands of pressure?

- i. About the father
- ii. About others
- iii. About the new move of heaven
- iv. About our destiny

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## 2) Fight against the abomination that causes desolation

### Mark 13:14

*<sup>14</sup> “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

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## **2) Fight against the abomination that causes desolation**

### **What is the abomination that causes desolation?**

- **The abomination is the church being used in an improper way which causes desolation to Kingdom operations**
- **It is replacing what is holy and divine with that which is impure**

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## 2) Fight against the abomination that causes desolation

### Seek to set up inaccurate practices in the church

- Religion
- Power hungry
- Idols of the world
- Inaccurate Christian leaders
- Pagan church

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## 2) Fight against the abomination that causes desolation

### **Greatest danger for modern day church**

**It is not famine, war, terror or poverty. It is not even the Devil or demonic powers attacking us. The greatest danger for the Western church is religion. It is watered down, complacent and restrictive Christianity. It will seek to oppose us, beat us, crush us, politically destroy us and worst of all use the church in for contaminated pursuits and worship of self.**

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### 3) Must watch carefully for the revealing of the true Jesus

#### Mark 13:32-37

*<sup>32</sup> “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.*

*<sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”*

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### **3) Must watch carefully for the revealing of the true Jesus**

- a) Be on guard, be alert**
- b) Watching for the true Jesus**
- c) We don't know the time**
- d) Jesus has put us in charge of the house**
- e) Each man has an assigned task in the house**
- f) Don't let Jesus find you sleeping**