

## FACING THE FUTURE WITH FAITH AND COURAGE

### *Note to the speaker:*

Help audience to appreciate that the fatalistic attitude of living only for the moment is very shortsighted. Explain how faith, based on accurate knowledge of God's Word and his sure promises, can enable us to face the future courageously despite worsening world conditions or personal problems. Emphasize the privilege we have to share our hope with others

### **WHY YOUR VIEWPOINT OF THE FUTURE MATTERS** (7 min.)

Many people, including youths, think seriously about the future (*w01 5/15 3-4; w01 8/15 5-6*)

While acknowledging the reality of crime, disease, pestilence, and war, some try to be optimistic (*g 1/06 5*)

Others become frustrated because of the magnitude of mankind's problems and live only for the moment (*Isa 22:12, 13; ip-1 237*)

Without a firm hope for a better future, people tend to live for the present (*1Co 15:13, 32; w01 11/1 7*)

Since the early Christians may have been influenced by this dangerous attitude, the apostle Paul saw the need to strengthen their faith (*w97 8/15 12; w97 11/1 24*)

He reminded them that Christ's death fulfilled prophecy, thereby heightening their appreciation for spiritual realities (*1Co 15:3, 4*)

This helped them to have confidence in the future

Today, as Jehovah's Witnesses, we are optimistic about the future, but on what is our optimism based?

How does faith enable us to face the future with courage, to handle personal problems now, and to endure persecution and pressures as we serve God?

What can we do to increase our faith and courage?

### **HOW FAITH AFFECTS OUR VIEWPOINT** (16 min.)

Christian faith is real—not blind credulity (*Heb 11:1*)

It is based on solid evidence (*it-1 804*)

The visible universe and its orderliness testify to an invisible Creator and the manner in which he wants things done (*Isa 40:25, 26; Ro 1:20*)

The reliability of God's Word and the accurate fulfillment of its prophecies give further basis for faith in all his promises (*Jos 23:14; Ro 10:17*)

Through Bible study, Jehovah's Witnesses know what God has promised and why nothing can thwart the fulfillment of his Word (*cl 9-11*)

Scriptural truths help us to face the future with confidence

God made the earth to be inhabited (*Isa 45:18*)

He will not let it be destroyed by weapons (*Ps 104:5; Ec 1:4*)

Instead, he will bring about global disarmament (*Ps 46:9*)

God will "bring to ruin those ruining the earth" (*Re 11:18*)

Jehovah will not allow disease to wipe out the human race

Sickness will be removed (*Isa 33:24*)

Health will improve until perfection is reached (*Job 33:25*)

Jehovah has promised to preserve the righteous through the war of Armageddon (*Mt 24:22*)

Since God's very name is linked with the fulfillment of his Word, he will not fail to do what he says

Revelation 7:9, 14 assures us that "a great crowd" must be alive on earth when "the great tribulation" begins

Jehovah will never permit the extermination of his people (*Ps 116:15; cl 73-4; ka 408-9*)

Such Bible knowledge strengthens our faith and gives us courage in the face of present crises

### **PERSONAL PROBLEMS OVERCOME WITH FAITH AND COURAGE** (16 min.)

Everyone faces problems and tragedies that cause anxiety

Many have daily concerns about providing necessities, worry about health care, or experience anxiety about getting married or rearing children

Such matters affect us, but caring for them to the exclusion of spiritual interests is self-defeating (*Lu 8:7, 11, 14; 21:34-36*)

Courageously demonstrating faith in Jehovah's promises ensures sustenance and brings true happiness (*Mt 5:3; 6:33*)

A loved one may die

Faith in the resurrection promise enables us to grieve with hope, unlike unbelievers (*Joh 5:28, 29; 1Th 4:13; cl 287-8*)

Understanding how Jehovah fulfills his Word in our behalf bolsters our courage (*g01 7/22 22-3*)

Christians face outright persecution

We look to “the God who supplies endurance” (Ro 15:5)

Our brothers and sisters in modern times have faced persecution with full reliance upon Jehovah (*w03 9/1* 23-8)

Experiencing Jehovah’s help during trials fortifies us to face the future with faith and courage (Ro 5:3-5)

**SHARE IN TALKING ABOUT YOUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE** (6 min.)

Knowing what to expect, a person can prepare and thus reduce stress and anxiety

We have a sure hope: God’s ruling Kingdom will soon cleanse the earth (Da 2:44)

We want to share this hope with all others for whom Christ died

Infuse them with confidence in the lifesaving Kingdom truth (Ps 145:7, 11-13)

Help them to learn how they too can face the future with faith and courage

If you are not yet one of Jehovah’s Witnesses, study God’s Word, the only source of reliable insight into the future

Learn about Jehovah God, Jesus Christ, and the Kingdom

Continue associating with God’s people, and you too will be able to face the future with faith and courage (De 31:6)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)