



Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 20 March 2022

As described in the sermon, the Christianity Today Magazine last week contacted a number of Church Groups and Ministries in Ukraine, inviting each to share about what they were currently doing. In addition they were asked to describe..

- The issues of faith that they were Processing (wrestling with) right now
 - The scripture passages that were helping them Persevere
 - Their Priorities for prayer and action
1. Which response from which Ukrainian church/ministry had the biggest impact on you? And why?

Some of faith-issues they were processing (wrestling with) were as follows:

- How do we handle our feelings of rage and anger towards the aggressor?
 - Where is God's justice here?
 - Is this still the Day of God's Favour, and the Day of his Salvation?
 - Is this as much a spiritual battle as it is as a physical war?
 - How will this war change us – are we to be defined and shaped by evil?
2. Why is it important that the church/ Christians in Ukraine not only join in helping the humanitarian efforts, but also wrestle with & respond to these faith issues too?
 3. What faith issues are you wrestling with at the moment?

Please read Ecclesiastes 3.1-8

The Senior Pastor of Irpin Bible Church, Kyiv, writes, "We haven't chosen it, but a time of war has visited us. Now is a time to weep and mourn and to speak out. The days of laughing and dancing will return for some, but this is not the time. Loving an enemy who comes with a weapon requires turning him back, and those who do not mobilize militarily must do so spiritually—in unceasing prayer and speaking out with spiritual insight and moral clarity. The aggressor needs to be confronted."

4. What do you think of this?
5. How might we partner in the spiritual battle for Ukraine, and for our own society?

The Ukrainian Pentecostal Church pose the question, Is this still the day of God's favour, the day of his Salvation in Ukraine? **Please read the passage that has encouraged them to persevere in 2 Corinth 6.1-10.** They write, "Despite our many troubles, we must remember that today is the day of salvation. We do not feel it, but in Christ we have enough to open wide our hearts to serve the needs of those around us, and share in the hope of Jesus' salvation, like Paul did."

6. How does this speak to you in your life and ministry?

Valentin Siniy from the Tavriski Christian Institute writes, "I drove away from my home city, hearing behind me the rocket launchers bombing it, I thought this will change us all. But how will it change us? Are we all to be subject to this evil?" **Please read 2 Corinthians 3.17-18, and Romans 8.28**

7. Why is the Christian hope uniquely able to minister into the darkness?