



# Power From on High

**Series:** Power From On High

**Title:** Paul's Farewell Speech,  
Part 5

**Lesson:** 110

**Text:** Acts 20:28-31

**Date:** Sept. 7, 2025

## **Elders have eight primary responsibilities.**

1. To live a life worthy of imitation
2. To serve the Lord
3. To preach God's Word
4. To evangelize the unsaved
5. To be led by the Spirit
6. To oversee the Church
  - A. Practice personal vigilance
  - B. Shepherd the flock

**C. \_\_\_\_\_ the flock**

Acts 20:29–38 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

## **God warned Israel to watch out for the false prophets.**

Jeremiah 14:13–14 But, “Ah, Lord God!” I said, “Look, the prophets are telling them, ‘You will not see the sword nor will you have famine, but I will give you lasting peace in this place.’ ” 14 Then the Lord said to me, “The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.

Deuteronomy 13:1–3 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’

3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you.

Acts 20:29–38 I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

**“wolves”**

**“savage”**

**Churches are most \_\_\_\_\_ from false teachers when elders are faithful to their God-given duty to protect the congregation from spiritual harm.**

**“I know” (eido) -**

**“come in among you”**

**“not sparing” [me pheidomai] -**

**The internet escalates the threat in three ways:**

1. Error spreads with lightening speed.
2. There is no church oversight.
3. It can undermine the teaching and authority of local pastors.

30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

**“among your own selves”**

**Judas Iscariot** is the clearest example of a false leader who arises from within the circle of Christ’s followers.

**Judas serves as a warning that false teachers often emerge closest to the \_\_\_\_\_, where their deception is most dangerous.**

**“perverse things”**

**“draw away”**

**“after them”**

31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

**The protection of the church depends on the elders’ \_\_\_\_\_ to teach and preach about the dangers posed by false teachers.**

Ephesians 4:11–14 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers (**Pastor-teacher**)

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the **building up** of the body of Christ; 13 until we all **attain** to the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God, **to a mature man**, to the **measure of the stature** which belongs to the **fullness** of Christ.

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

1 Timothy 1:3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may **instruct** certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. 20 Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 1:15 You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.

17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

2 Timothy 3:1–9 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. 6 For among them are those who enter into

households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith. 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you **contend earnestly** for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

**There is biblical precedence established by the apostles not only to call out false teaching, but to call them out by**

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1 Timothy 1:19–20 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. 20 Among these are **Hymenaeus** and **Alexander**, whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 2:17 and their talk will spread like gangrene.  
Among them are **Hymenaeus** and **Philetus**,

2 Timothy 4:10 for **Demas**, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

2 Peter 2:15 forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the **son of Beor**, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

3 John 9 I wrote something to the church; but **Diotrephes**, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

### **Ephesus and other churches were subjected to false teachers:**

The church of Ephesus had been taken over by the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.

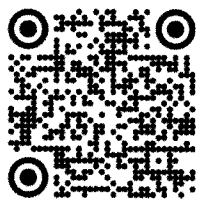
The church of Smyrna and Philadelphia - was subjected Synagogue of Satan

The church Pergamum - was influence by the false doctrine of Balaam”

The church Thyatire - tolerated the woman Jezabel

## Discussion Guide

1. According to this passage, why is continual vigilance to guard the flock so crucial for church leaders and church communities?
2. What practical steps can church leaders and members take to “be on guard,” as Paul instructs in verse 31?
3. Considering Paul’s prediction of internal division, how can a church practically cultivate unity and protect itself from internal threats?
4. How should believers respond when deception arises within their church?



***Meet  
the staff***



***Online  
Giving***



***Weekly  
Announcement***

**Answers:** Protect, protected, truth, dedication, name