

# GNITN

#1290

## Eyes Open, Hearts Unafraid: Faith, Technology, and the Coming Age of Control

### They're Already Watching

There is a spirit rising in this age that wants to see everything, know everything, track everything, and ultimately control everything. We are told it is about safety. We are told it is about convenience. We are told it is about progress. But underneath the polished language and the sleek interfaces is something far older and far darker: man's ancient lust to become godlike. The surveillance state is not merely about cameras, data centers, digital IDs, facial recognition, and biometric systems. It is about power. It is about dominion. It is about conditioning humanity to accept total oversight as normal. And if you know your Bible, that should make the hair stand up on the back of your neck. [\*Revelation 13:16-17\*](#) says the beast "*caused all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark.*" That is not merely a warning about a future tyrant. It is a warning about a world being prepared to receive him.

### The Road Is Already Being Paved

What we are watching is not the finished beast system. But it looks an awful lot like the infrastructure being laid for it. China's Social Credit System already restricts citizens' ability to travel and work based on behavioral scores. Over 130 nations are developing Central Bank Digital Currencies - government-controlled money that can be frozen, restricted, or programmed to expire. Facial recognition systems have compiled billions of faces, giving authorities the ability to identify citizens in real time at churches, protests, and public gatherings without a warrant. Artificial intelligence now builds predictive profiles of what you believe and where your loyalties lie - from your purchases, your speech, your location, and your social network. Your phone, your smart television, and your digital assistant are generating a continuous portrait of your inner life. People are not being chained. They are being seduced. They are trading liberty for convenience and privacy for the illusion of security. That is how bondage usually arrives: not with chains first, but with benefits first. [\*Daniel 12:4\*](#) tells us that in the time of the end, knowledge shall increase. We live in that moment. [\*Daniel 7:23\*](#) describes a final kingdom that shall "*devour the whole earth and trample it down.*" And [\*Matthew 24:24\*](#) warns that the deception of the last days will be sophisticated enough to "*deceive, if possible, even the elect.*" Deepfake video. AI-generated signs and wonders broadcast globally. [\*Revelation 13:15\*](#) describes an image "*given breath*" so that it could speak and enforce global worship. Whatever the ultimate fulfillment, the template is disturbingly familiar to anyone watching modern AI. The world is not stumbling accidentally toward these conditions. The stage is being deliberately set.

### The Pride Behind the System

At its core, the surveillance state is an expression of human pride. Man wants omniscience without God. He wants omnipresence without God. He wants to build systems that imitate divine attributes while remaining in open rebellion against the Lord of heaven. But only God truly sees all. [\*Proverbs 15:3\*](#) says, "*The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.*" The surveillance state says, "*We must know everything about you.*" God says, "*I already know you completely.*" The surveillance state says, "*You will be safest under our eye.*" God says, "*Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty*" ([\*Psalms 91:1\*](#)). Fallen man does not handle godlike tools righteously. He never has. He

never will. And that is what makes all-seeing human power so terrifying. Babel is always in the blood.

### **No Fear. Not One Step Back.**

Now here is where the believer must stop trembling before the spirit of the age.

The Bible does not call us to paranoia. It does not call us to retreat into bunkers, throw our smartphones into the river, or wrap our hearts in dread. The Apostle Paul wrote some of the most fearless words in history from a Roman prison - one of the most controlled, surveilled environments of the ancient world. He was not cowering. He was writing letters that would reshape civilization. And he said this: [2 Timothy 1:7](#), *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”* And in [Philippians 4:6–7](#), *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* His peace was not the peace of ignorance. It was the peace of someone who knew exactly what was happening and trusted Someone bigger than the empire. There is a particular brand of end-times Christianity that ends up serving the enemy’s purposes - because it fixates so deeply on darkness that it forgets to be light. Jesus did not say hide your lamp until the government changes. He said let it shine. [Matthew 5:14–15](#) says, *“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”* Being aware of the darkness is not the same thing as living in it.

### **The Danger of the Digital Bunker**

There is a temptation among thoughtful believers to opt out of everything - no social media, no smartphones, no digital banking. The reasoning is understandable: if these systems will one day be weaponized against believers, why participate? But the early church lived under Caesar, a ruler who demanded worship, persecuted Christians, and used informants to arrest them. The apostles did not refuse Roman roads, Roman postal systems, or Roman coins. They used every available tool of their civilization to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Paul appealed to his Roman citizenship to reach Caesar’s own household. [1 Corinthians 9:22](#) says, *“I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”* A believer who goes completely off-grid does not become less visible to the powers of this age. They become less effective in their witness. The person who uses technology wisely and redemptively - sharing hope through the same platforms that spread despair - is the one living out the biblical mandate. [Romans 12:2](#): *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* Transformed minds. Not terrified ones.

### **Embrace the Tool, Guard the Soul**

Technology is not inherently evil. Fire warmed the early church’s homes, lit their lamps, and at Pentecost appeared above their heads. The question has never been whether a tool is powerful. The question is always who controls it and to what end. We can and should use technology for Kingdom purposes while it remains available. We can share the Gospel across social media. We can teach Scripture through digital platforms. We can use AI tools to research and communicate truth. We do all of this with gratitude, wisdom, and open hands. But discernment is a spiritual discipline, not merely a practical one. The surveillance systems being assembled are not neutral. They are being calibrated to flag, suppress, and eventually punish speech that challenges the governing consensus. And the speech most likely to challenge any future authoritarian consensus is the proclamation that Jesus Christ is Lord. The protection of religious liberty and free speech is not a political preference. It is a theological necessity. [Acts 5:29](#) still says, *“We must obey God*

*rather than human beings!”* The spirit of the mark is already present every time a government pressures a church to silence its pulpit, a platform suppresses biblical truth, or an institution demands ideological conformity as the price of participation. Train the reflex now, in the small things, so it holds when the stakes become ultimate. We do not panic. We do not bury our heads. And we do not cower in a corner pretending the world is not changing. We use the tools God has placed in our hands. We protect our religious freedom and free speech as gospel stewardship. We invest deeply in embodied community - face-to-face fellowship, the passing of bread and cup - because that community is the most surveillance-resistant network ever designed. And we keep our identity rooted not in any digital profile but in the One who said in [Luke 10:20](#), *“rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”* The days ahead may grow darker. But prophecy was not given so the saints would collapse in fear. It was given so the saints would endure in faith. [Luke 21:28](#): *“When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”*

### **Hidden in Christ**

Here is the word that changes everything. [Colossians 3:3](#) says, *“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”* Your truest life is not in your wallet, your biometric profile, your digital footprint, or your government file. Your life is hidden with Christ in God. Man can watch the body, but he cannot own the soul. He cannot erase your redemption. The world wants to mark people, sort people, flag people, and control people. But the Christian is already marked by Someone greater. [Ephesians 1:13](#) says we *“were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,”* and [Ephesians 4:30](#) says we are sealed for the day of redemption. Before the beast marks his followers, God has already sealed His own. This is why [Romans 8:35](#) matters so deeply: *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?”* No surveillance regime, no digital leash, no prophetic storm can separate the believer from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus said in [John 10:28](#), *“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”* The world may exclude. The world may blacklist and squeeze. But it cannot pluck Christ’s sheep from His hand.

### **What I Think**

I think the surveillance and AI revolution is one of the most significant signs of our times. It reveals the pride of man and prepares the stage for a system of control that Scripture described thousands of years ago. The beast system does not have to be invented from scratch. It only has to be switched on. But believers need to stop acting like the enemy has the final move. He does not. God is not pacing the halls of heaven in a panic over facial recognition databases. He is still on the throne. He has already placed His people somewhere the system cannot reach. So let the system build its towers. Let the technocrats dream of omniscience. There is still a secret place they cannot enter, a fortress they cannot hack, map, scan, or overthrow. That fortress is Jesus Christ. Use the tools God has given you in this hour. Speak the truth while you can. Guard the liberties that guard your witness. But above all, abide. Abide in the Vine. Abide in the Word. Abide in the fellowship of the saints. And when you see these things beginning to come to pass, do not cower. Do not despair. Look up. Your redemption draws near.