1 – **Avoiding Spiritual Stagnation**

Zephaniah 1:12

2 - **Context of Zephaniah**

* Written to warn the nation of Judah of impending judgment (“***day of the Lord***”) before the reforms of Josiah around 620 BC.
* Judah carried away to Babylon in 606/597/596

3 - **Context of Zephaniah**

* In 1:12, God said that He will search Jerusalem and ***“punish the men who are stagnant in spirit”*** or actually ***“settled on their lees”.***
* An expression associated with wine that has been undisturbed (stagnated) and the dregs of the wine have polluted the wine to become bitter and undrinkable. (Jeremiah 48:10-12)
* A lack of change (for the better) leads to a lack of reverential fear. (Psalms 55:19)

4 - **Spiritual complacency and apathy are damning**

* God finds spiritual stagnancy and lukewarm Christians disgusting (Revelation 3:14) and it will destroy Christians today. (Proverbs 1:32; cf., Jeremiah 22:21; Ezekiel 16:49)
* *“****Woe to those who are at ease in Zion****, and to those who feel secure in the mountain of Samaria…”* (Amos 6:1)

5 - **How do we prevent Spiritual complacency and stagnancy?**

* **We remind ourselves there’s no such thing as “spiritual status-quo” - we’re either growing or regressing.** (2 Peter 3:17-18)
* Keep **hungering and thirsting**. (Matthew 5:6;   
  2 Peter 2:1-2)
* Keep “stirred up”! (2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-2)
* ***“Excel still more…”*** (1 Thessalonians 4:1, 10)

6 - **How do we prevent Spiritual complacency and stagnancy?**

* **Focus on Jesus Christ and not ourselves**.   
  (2 Corinthians 13:5; 10:12; Ephesians 4:12-15)
* Self-examination that’s on-going and not a one-time event.

7 - **How do we prevent Spiritual complacency and stagnancy?**

* **Focus on the spiritual and not the fleshly**.   
  (Revelation 3:17; 3 John 2; Colossians 3:1-2)

8 - **How do we prevent Spiritual complacency and stagnancy?**

* **Focus on the** reward (Philippians 3:12-14; Romans 8:18; 1 John 3:1-3)and **fear coming short of our goal.** (Hebrews 4:1; 1 Corinthians 10:11-13)
* We can **lose what we've accomplished** and **forfeit our reward!** (2 John 8)

9 - **How do we prevent Spiritual complacency and stagnancy?**

* **Respect, resist and fight our enemy.**(1 Peter 5:8)
* **Don’t be ignorant of his schemes**.   
  (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11)

10 - **How do we prevent Spiritual complacency and stagnancy?**

* **Redeem the time because the days are evil.** (Ephesians 5:15-16)
* Keep sowing to the Spirit. (Galatians 6:7-8)

11 - **How do we prevent Spiritual complacency and stagnancy?**

* **Love the truth.** (2 Thessalonians 2:10; Ephesians 4:15; 2 Timothy 4:1-2)

12 - **How do we prevent Spiritual complacency and stagnancy?**

* **Live with the end in view.** (2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Peter 3:11-14; Job 13:9)
* **Live like you were dying and be ready**! (Matthew 25:42, 46)