

Living Ready

In a world full of uncertainty and spiritual battles, one of the most important ways we can live is in a state of readiness. Being prepared isn't just about having our physical affairs in order—it's about maintaining spiritual alertness and preparedness for whatever God may call us to do.

What Does It Mean to Be Ready?

Readiness is a very important way to live our lives. We don't know what tomorrow holds or even what the rest of today might bring. Earth is a battlefield, and it's crucial for us to always be ready for whatever comes our way.

As one minister put it: "You're either in a faith fight or you're getting ready for one." This reality means we must constantly prepare ourselves spiritually, mentally, and practically for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins: A Study in Preparedness

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the story of ten virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom. This parable reveals a sobering truth about the kingdom of heaven—even among believers, there are those who are prepared and those who are not.

Five Were Wise, Five Were Foolish

The story shows us that five virgins were wise and five were foolish. All ten were part of the kingdom of heaven—they were believers, Christians. But half were prepared and half were not.

The foolish virgins took their lamps but brought no extra oil. The wise virgins took oil in their vessels along with their lamps. When the bridegroom was delayed, all ten fell asleep. But when the cry came at midnight that the bridegroom was coming, only the wise were truly ready.

What Does the Oil Represent?

Oil in Scripture represents the Holy Spirit. The psalmist declared, "The Lord has anointed me with fresh oil." This speaks to our need for a fresh anointing every single day.

Just as we need daily bread for our physical bodies, we need daily spiritual nourishment. We can't live off of what we heard from God last week, last month, or last year. We need fresh revelation, fresh word, and fresh anointing from the Holy Spirit daily.

Why Can't We Share Our Oil?

When the foolish virgins asked the wise to share their oil, they were refused. This wasn't selfishness—it was wisdom. The wise virgins understood that spiritual preparedness cannot be borrowed or shared at the last minute.

There's a time to say no, even to people in need. We must be led by the Spirit, not just by needs or guilty consciences. Being led by guilt rather than by God's Spirit reveals insecurity in our faith and relationship with Him.

The Importance of Being Led by the Spirit

We want to be led by the Spirit of God, not just by the needs we see around us. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice." As His sheep, we must take time to tune in and listen for His direction.

This means developing spiritual sensitivity and staying in sync with God through daily prayer, Bible reading, and maintaining our relationship with Him. When we're spiritually sharp and ready, we can discern God's will in every situation.

Learning from Noah: Moving and Preparing

Noah provides an excellent example of readiness. When God warned him of things not yet seen—a flood that had never happened before—Noah did two things: he moved and he prepared.

This is exactly what faith does. When faith hears from God, it acts upon the word that God has spoken. Noah didn't just believe; he built an ark. He prepared for the fulfillment of what God said was coming.

Are You Ready for God's Blessings?

Readiness isn't just about preparing for difficult times—it's also about being prepared to receive God's blessings. Are you ready for an abundance of good things? Do you have the capacity to handle increase when it comes?

With greater blessings come greater responsibilities. If we want greater blessings, we must make room for them. Otherwise, they can become overwhelming and we may lose what God has given us because we weren't prepared for the increase.

Practical Steps to Living Ready

Daily Spiritual Maintenance

Just as we clean ourselves physically each day, we need daily spiritual maintenance. This includes:

- Fresh time in God's Word
- Daily prayer and communion with God
- Staying filled with the Holy Spirit
- Keeping healing scriptures fresh in our minds
- Maintaining our covenant relationship with God

Being Punctual and Prepared

Our natural habits often reflect our spiritual condition. If we're consistently late for appointments and unprepared in natural things, it likely reflects where we are spiritually. We should train ourselves to be on time and prepared in all areas of life.

Staying Spiritually Sharp

We must put on the whole armor of God daily. This isn't because we're expecting bad things to happen, but because we live on a battlefield and need to be prepared for whatever comes our way.

Our faith should be strong enough to quench every fiery dart of the enemy. Some battles are quick, others are long and drawn out. We need to be prepared for both.

The Consequences of Being Unprepared

When the foolish virgins finally arrived at the wedding feast, they found the door shut. Despite their pleas of "Lord, Lord, open to us," the response was devastating: "I do not know you."

This teaches us that there will come a time when being late means being too late. God is merciful and gives us slack, but we shouldn't mistake His patience for approval of our lack of preparation.

Life Application

This week, commit to living in a state of spiritual readiness. Examine your daily habits and ask yourself: Am I getting fresh oil daily? Am I staying tuned in to God's voice? Am I prepared for both the challenges and blessings that may come my way?

Start each day by spending time with God, reading His Word, and asking for fresh anointing. Don't rely on yesterday's spiritual experience—seek God afresh each day. Practice being punctual and prepared in natural things as training for spiritual readiness.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What areas of my life show that I'm living "a day late and a dollar short"?
- Am I getting fresh oil from God daily, or am I trying to live off past spiritual experiences?
- How can I better prepare myself to receive the blessings God wants to give me?
- What steps do I need to take to be more spiritually sharp and ready for whatever comes my way?

Remember, readiness is a choice. You can decide today to stop being foolish and start being wise. Make the decision to be ready for everything coming your way—both good and challenging. Don't let another day pass without being fully prepared for all that God has in store for you.

Quotes

1. "Are you getting prepared for God to be able to use you?"
2. "If you don't prepare, even though God might want to do something great with you, if you don't do your part, He'll have to look for somebody else."
3. "When He comes to me, I want Him to find me ready—watching, waiting, and prepared."
4. "We live on a battlefield—earth is a battlefield. It's important for us to always be ready for whatever comes, because anything can come."
5. "You're either in a faith fight, or you're getting ready for one."
6. "We need a fresh word from God. We need His Word to be fresh to us every day—fresh revelation, fresh insight, fresh life."

7. “There are a lot of Christians who are spiritually sick—weak and unhealthy—because they’re living off what they heard days, months, or even years ago.”
8. “We want to be led by the Spirit, not just by needs.”
9. “If you’re being led by a guilty conscience, you’re not being led by the Spirit of God.
10. “Most people’s problems didn’t just happen in a moment—they developed over time from living out of sync with God.”
11. “It would’ve been unwise for the five wise virgins give what they invested their lives to have to those who did nothing to prepare?”
12. “Faith is always present tense. It’s not ‘one day’ or ‘someday’—faith is now.”
13. “If you’re constantly late naturally, how on time are you spiritually?”
14. “Just because our being late is okay with others, doesn’t mean it’s okay with God.”
15. “Our actions provide opportunities for us to examine ourselves, sharpen ourselves, move quicker, be more prepared, and get ready for the truly more important things.”
16. “We want to be ready for whatever our Lord calls us to do.”
17. “Faith moves and prepares for the fulfillment of what God has promised.”
18. Faith doesn’t wait—it moves in anticipation.”
19. “If your treasure isn’t there, your faith isn’t there.”
20. You can’t say you’re in faith for God to supply all your needs and then not tithe—you’re not in faith.”

Verses

1. Matthew 25:1

2. Matthew 25:2

3. Matthew 25:3

4. Matthew 25:8

5. Matthew 25:10

6. Matthew 25:11

7. Matthew 25:12

8. Hebrews 11:7