

1 Peter 4:7-19

**The Postures of a Rapture Ready Christian**  
**Final Instructions for suffering saints**  
Guidelines for Last Days Living

**Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.**

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

**Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.**

1. Peter declared on Pentecost Sunday that Christians were living in the "Last Days" (See Acts 2:17). Many Bible writers, especially Peter and Paul, wrote about the soon return of Christ, admonishing believers to be watchful and prayerful as we await the day of the Lord. Yet, it has been 2000 years now that Christians have been waiting on that promise and we've learned that God is being patient about His return. There's a tension for Christians between being watchful and ready for the Lord's return at any moment, and also of realizing that no one knows the day and time of the Lord's return and that the Lord may delay longer. In light of this tension, let's remind ourselves of 2 Peter 3:9, and be reminded about the important reason for the delay. See also Romans 11:25.
2. Pastor Joel gave us five postures of a rapture ready Christian.
  - a. Be serious and watchful in prayer.
  - b. Love one another enthusiastically.
  - c. Be neighborly and courteous to one another.
  - d. Use your gifts and abilities to minister to one another.
  - e. Live to glorify God in all things

As we reflect on these things, was there one or more of these postures that challenged, convicted, or affirmed you, and would you be comfortable sharing this with the group?

3. We also learned that Christians shouldn't think that it's strange, or that they are unique when trials and tribulations come into their lives because of their relationship with Christ. Christians are in a tremendous spiritual battle here upon the earth. How does suffering help us to identify with Jesus on a level that we wouldn't understand apart from it?

**Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:**

- Romans 11:25

*1 Peter 4:7-19*

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- Matthew 24:42-44

**Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?**

1. If you're being honest with yourself, do you live with a rapture ready posture? Are you longing for the Lord's return, watching and praying, and are you living like you're ready to meet the Lord?
2. If you're experiencing trial and tribulation for following Christ, would you likewise accept the blessing of identifying with Christ on a new level? Perhaps God would have you think about your situation in a new way in light of this teaching.