

Disciple Christian

Chapter 14

Go Make Disciples

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Introduction

Biblical Commentary on Making Disciples for Jesus Christ

Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given to me in heaven and in earth.¹⁹ Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you: and, see, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.”

Going and making disciples for Jesus Christ essentially means sharing the biblical principles taught by Jesus, His Apostles, and His disciples with those who have never heard — or have heard very little — of the Good News of salvation through Him.

The command to make disciples is most prominently found in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20), where Jesus charges His followers to “go and make disciples of all nations.” This imperative forms the foundation of Christian mission and discipleship. The Greek word *matheteuo*, translated as “make disciples,” means more than simply winning converts—it speaks of a lifelong process of teaching, guiding, and forming individuals into mature followers of Christ. Jesus doesn’t merely instruct believers to evangelize; He calls them to lead others into a transformative relationship with Him, grounded in obedience to His teachings. This command is rooted in His authority (“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”) and accompanied by the assurance of His continual presence (“I am with you always”), emphasizing both the responsibility and the divine partnership involved in disciple-making.

Making disciples involves intentional investment in people’s lives, as modeled by Jesus Himself. Throughout the Gospels, Christ demonstrates what it means to disciple: He lives among His followers, teaches them the truths of the kingdom of God, corrects their misunderstandings, equips them for ministry, and ultimately commissions them to carry on His work. Discipleship, therefore, is inherently relational and incarnational. It cannot be reduced to a curriculum or program; it must involve the imitation of Christ’s life, character, and mission. Paul echoes this principle in 1 Corinthians 11:1 when he says, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” Discipleship happens not only through words but also through example, modeling a life surrendered to God, walking in the Spirit, and shaped by the gospel.

The book of Acts provides a powerful continuation of the disciple-making principles initiated by Jesus. The early church grew not merely through mass conversions, but through communities of believers who were deeply committed to the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42). New believers were integrated into a living, worshiping, and serving body, where they were nurtured and equipped to, in turn, make other disciples. Paul’s missionary journeys illustrate this multiplication model: he not only preached the gospel but established churches, appointed leaders, and returned to strengthen and encourage disciples in every city (Acts 14:21–23). The pattern reveals that making disciples

is not a one-time event but an ongoing process of spiritual growth, mentorship, and multiplication.

Ultimately, making disciples is about participating in God's redemptive mission to restore all things through Christ. It requires a heart aligned with the Father's desire for the nations (Psalm 67:1–2), empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), and guided by the truth of Scripture. Discipleship involves helping others grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18), teaching them to obey all that Christ commanded—not merely intellectually, but in practical, daily living. As disciples grow, they are called to become disciple-makers themselves, perpetuating the cycle of spiritual reproduction that fuels the advancement of God's kingdom. In this way, making disciples is not just a mission of the church—it is the very essence of what it means to follow Jesus.

How Do We Make Disciples For Jesus Christ?

Making Disciples For Christ, Is preparing our own hearts, minds and daily lives in alignment with God's Word first, then allowing God's Holy Spirit to work through us to help disciple others. To God be all Glory, because we can do nothing of our own accord.

How Do We Make Disciples of Jesus Christ?

- 1) First we should understand that is Jesus and God's Holy Spirit whom makes disciples through any of us. We begin by following Jesus, by living as true disciples ourselves—walking in His love, obeying His Word, and reflecting His character in our daily lives. As we love others with Christlike compassion and share the truth of the gospel, we naturally point people to Him. But even as we teach, lead, and encourage, we must always remember: Jesus is the true Teacher. The ability to transform hearts belongs to Him alone. We are instruments in His hands, and it is only by His grace and Spirit working through us that disciples are made. So, all the glory goes to God.
- 2) Second, we are called to go—to step outside the comfort of church walls and into a world in desperate need of truth. We must boldly proclaim the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ alone, calling people to repentance with compassion and urgency. Disciples are made not by softening the message but by faithfully teaching the uncompromised Word of God, speaking it in divine love and truth. This mission requires courage, humility, and a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit, for only God can open hearts. Our role is to go, speak, love, and teach—He does the rest.
- 3) The way that we should make disciples is the way Jesus Christ made disciples. We should spend quality time with small core groups of Christians, Two or more, or for instance 3-12 individuals, like Jesus did, primarily. While it's biblical to preach and evangelize the multitudes, to declare the importance to come to Jesus Christ, it's also essential to teach and preach, verse by verse, the main doctrines of Christianity, True Discipleship, can more deeply take root through the ongoing work by Jesus Christ, as we continue to learn of and receive God's Word, in smaller core groups, and most important on an individual basis, as we each spend intimate time alone with Jesus. And although we need to learn from mature Christian Pastors and Teachers, it can't be emphasized enough that we are only to be disciples of Jesus Christ, in other words, don't follow some teacher who is

drawing your attention away from Jesus Christ onto themselves, even though he may even teach biblical scriptures about Jesus. True Christian Pastors and Teachers will always direct you to Jesus Christ to be your Lord & Savior, and everything they teach will disciple you follow Jesus Christ, and to follow the truth of Gospel of Christ, as found in all the fullness of scriptures in the Bible. As God instructs us, all of us as Christians should make disciples by teaching other Christians to observe and obey all that Jesus Christ taught and commanded in His Word.

- 4) Concentrate in sharing God's Word between each other, demonstrate a genuine Love towards each other, serve each others needs and allow Jesus Christ to teach each other, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Becoming and continuing as a " Disciple " of Jesus Christ, is a life long commitment, of being a Learner and Follower of Jesus Christ, to continue learn of Jesus Christ, to abide in God's Word, and Love, and to obey the teachings and commandments of Jesus Christ. Mainly to Love God with all our Heart, with all our mind, and with all our strength, and to Love our neighbor as ourselves. As a Disciple of Jesus Christ, It is essential for any Christian, to continue in God's Word, and learn what Jesus instructed us " To Do " and what Jesus instructed us " Not To Do " in His Word, and by so doing we will know the Truth, and Truth shall set us free. So how is possible for us, to do all the things that Jesus instructs, to Love others, and to overcome sin and temptation etc...? Well with man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. God will send us the Helper, His Holy Spirit, not just to be with us, but to dwell within those, who ask God. The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. As we live our lives as true disciples of Christ, and demonstrate His Love towards others, we should always be pointing the Way to Jesus Christ, sharing His Word, but it still remains that Jesus Christ is really The Teacher. We cannot do anything apart from God, it is His work within us, and it is His Grace that forgives us when we fall short, so all Glory goes to God.
- 5) **Prayer Is Foundational** -Discipleship must be saturated in prayer. We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance, for God to prepare hearts, and for ourselves to remain humble and obedient. Jesus Himself spent much time in prayer before major decisions and while discipling others (Luke 6:12-13). Prayer aligns us with God's will and empowers us to disciple others with spiritual discernment and grace.
- 6) **Modeling Christlike Character** - People don't just listen to our words—they observe our lives. True discipleship happens when we live out our faith consistently, in humility, love, forgiveness, and holiness. As Paul said, "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). Living a Christlike life is a testimony in itself and invites others to follow Jesus.
- 7) **Multiplication Over Addition** - We are not only to make disciples, but to make disciple-makers. Jesus' model was not just to teach His disciples to follow Him, but to equip them to go and make more disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). Effective discipleship multiplies when those we disciple begin to disciple others.
- 8) **Intentionality and Consistency** - Discipleship is not accidental. It requires intentional relationships and consistent investment over time. Jesus didn't rush through training His disciples—He walked with them, taught them, corrected them, and showed patience over several years. Discipleship today should likewise be relational, patient, and deliberate.

- 9) Biblical Literacy Is Essential** - To make disciples, we must guide others to know and rightly handle the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15). Teaching others to read, understand, and obey Scripture is central to discipleship. Sound doctrine is vital to spiritual maturity and spiritual discernment.
- 10) Church Community Plays a Role** - While discipleship happens individually and in small groups, being part of a healthy local church community is vital. The church is where spiritual gifts are exercised, where believers are equipped (Ephesians 4:11–13), and where mutual accountability and encouragement help disciples grow.
- 11) Suffering and Trials in Discipleship** - Discipleship involves taking up our cross daily (Luke 9:23). We must teach that following Jesus includes trials, rejection, and suffering—but also eternal joy and purpose. This truth prepares believers for real-life faithfulness and perseverance.
- 12) Discipleship Is Spirit-Empowered, Not Performance-Based** - Finally, discipleship is not about human effort or performance, but about surrender to God's Spirit. We don't try to be "better Christians" in our own strength. Instead, we yield to the Holy Spirit, who conforms us to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

John 8:31,32 (AKJV)“ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; 32And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

God does not want us to hide the Truth that we learn, but rather He instructs us to share His Light, Love and Truth with others, and to go into all the world and make Disciples.

After learning and applying the truths of Jesus Christ within our own lives, it is essential that we individually teach (DISCIPLE) others all about the ways of God, His love and salvation.

Jesus Christ commissioned His disciples to go into all the world and to preach the Good News.

As Christians, we should begin instructing others about Jesus Christ, within our local communities and then as God would direct each person to various parts of the world.

There is a cost of discipleship, really not of earthy money, but rather of our time and denying one's self of various things and even sometimes of friends and family, so that we can more effectively learn and share with others about God, and His salvation and love.

When we make disciples, we should teach the word of God in a way that is easily understood, and always demonstrate God's love to those whom we are teaching.

As disciples of Jesus Christ we can be used by God in a special way, and thereby, many others we also have eternal life and gain eternal riches beyond compare.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 28:18 (AKJV) “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power is given to me in heaven and in earth. 19Go you therefore, (Make disciples) and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20Teaching

them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you: and, see, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 10:1 (AKJV) And when he had called to him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease

John 8:31,32 (AKJV)“ Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; 32And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Jesus calls believers in Him to become disciples and learn, instruct and apply His teachings to others; This is a fundamental aspect of His ministry, and He instructs and encourages His followers to do the same.

Matthew 4:19: In Matthew 4:19, Jesus calls His first disciples, saying, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." This not only establishes the concept of discipleship but also underscores the transformative aspect—disciples are made, not just recruited.

Matthew 28:19-20: The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 encapsulates the mandate for making disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." This charge involves not only evangelism but the ongoing process of teaching and mentoring, encompassing the entire journey of discipleship.

Luke 6:40: In Luke 6:40, Jesus articulates the goal of discipleship, "A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher." This emphasizes the transformative nature of discipleship—followers becoming like their Master through the process of training and learning.

John 15:8: In John 15:8, Jesus speaks about bearing much fruit, stating, "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." The evidence of being a disciple is seen in the fruitfulness of a transformed life, reflecting the values and character of Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:2: In 2 Timothy 2:2, the apostle Paul instructs Timothy, "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." This passage illustrates the generational aspect of discipleship, highlighting the responsibility to pass on the teachings of Christ to others who can, in turn, disciple others.

Acts 14:21-22: In Acts 14:21-22, after Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel in Derbe and made many disciples, they returned to encourage and strengthen them. This exemplifies the ongoing relationship and investment in the lives of disciples beyond the initial stages.

The specific calling of being and making disciples is foundational in Jesus' ministry, emphasizing not just a one-time decision but a lifelong process of transformation and growth. Discipleship involves not only learning from Jesus's example through His Word, moreover through the leading of God's Holy Spirit and by other Christians but actively engaging in the process of guiding and nurturing others in their walk of faith.

John 13:34-35: Jesus emphasizes the importance of love in discipleship, saying, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." This

underscores the relational aspect of discipleship, highlighting that genuine discipleship is characterized by love for one another.

Matthew 10:24-25: In Matthew 10:24-25, Jesus acknowledges the shared identity of discipleship, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master." This reinforces the idea that discipleship involves aligning one's life with the teachings and example of the Master.

Philippians 3:17: In Philippians 3:17, Paul urges believers to imitate him as he imitates Christ, "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us." This extends the concept of discipleship to the broader Christian community, encouraging believers to follow the examples set by those who are mature in their faith.

1 Corinthians 11:1: Paul sets himself as an example of a disciple in 1 Corinthians 11:1, saying, "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." Here, the call to discipleship involves following the example of those who are themselves following Christ, creating a chain of influence and growth.

Colossians 1:28-29: In Colossians 1:28-29, Paul expresses his goal in discipleship, "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." This reveals the labor and commitment involved in the process of making disciples mature in their faith.

Biblical Commentary: "How Do We Make Disciples for Jesus Christ?"

By God's Holy Spirit Working Through Us:

Remember always it is God who does the work of making disciples - we are only the vessels for Jesus Christ and Holy Spirit to work through us as we submit and faithfully do the will of God only as He specifically directs.

The work of making disciples is first and foremost a divine work, not a human endeavor powered by effort alone. **Jesus Christ is the true builder of His Church** (Matthew 16:18), and the Holy Spirit is the one who convicts hearts, opens spiritual eyes, and empowers transformation. As believers, we are called to be faithful vessels—willing instruments through whom the Spirit works to accomplish God's purpose on the earth. Jesus said in **John 15:5**, "Apart from me you can do nothing." This underscores the truth that effective discipleship is not about charisma, programs, or persuasion, but about abiding in Christ and allowing His Spirit to bear fruit through our lives. Without the Spirit's guidance and power, our efforts are empty; but when we submit ourselves wholly to God's will, He works through us to call and shape disciples for His glory.

Submission is key in the process of making disciples. God is not looking for ability as much as availability—a heart fully surrendered to Him. When we submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit, He shows us when to speak, how to serve, whom to reach, and what to say. The early Church gives us a clear model of this in the book of Acts. The apostles were ordinary men,

but they were filled with the Holy Spirit and deeply committed to obeying Jesus. Their boldness, wisdom, and effectiveness did not come from themselves but from the Spirit of God working through them (Acts 4:13, Acts 1:8). They didn't operate out of personal ambition or human strategy but moved in step with the Spirit's direction. As we yield ourselves to God's voice in prayer, worship, and the Word, we align with His purposes and become channels for His life to flow into others.

Furthermore, making disciples involves more than sharing a message—it is about living a life shaped by Jesus (Yeshua) that others can follow. Paul told the Corinthians, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1). Discipleship happens through example, through shared life, and through relational investment. But even our Christlike character is the result of the Spirit's sanctifying work within us (Galatians 5:22–23). As we walk in the Spirit, we manifest the fruit of love, patience, gentleness, and faithfulness—all essential in the journey of mentoring and nurturing others. We must remember, then, that any good we offer to others is what Christ has already formed in us. Discipleship is never about creating followers of ourselves, but pointing people to Jesus and helping them become more like Him by the same grace that is at work in us.

In practical terms, we make disciples by being present, intentional, prayerful, and Spirit-led. We teach the Scriptures, model obedience, encourage faith, and help others walk in the freedom and calling of Christ. But we do all this from a place of dependence, not self-reliance. As Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 4:7**, “We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” The goal of discipleship is not our success but God's glory. We must continually remind ourselves that we are only vessels—clay in the hands of the Potter—used by the Holy Spirit to shape and strengthen others. As we submit ourselves daily to His will and walk in step with His Spirit, God will use us to draw people into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, forming true disciples who themselves will go and make more disciples in the world.

“Our Part and Purposeful Intent is to Go and Allow God to Work Through Us”

The divine commission to “go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19) is not a passive suggestion but a direct command from Jesus Christ. While it is true that only God can truly transform a heart and draw someone to salvation, He has chosen to use human vessels—those surrendered to Him—to carry out His redemptive mission. Our part is not to create the outcome but to obey the call. Purposeful intent begins with a willingness to go, to step out of our comfort zones, and to make ourselves available. We must take initiative, recognizing that faithfulness in God's kingdom requires movement, not stagnation. **Isaiah 6:8** captures this spirit beautifully: “Here am I. Send me.” The posture of a disciple-maker is not one of spiritual control, but of humble obedience and readiness.

When we go, we are not going in our own strength or wisdom but in the authority and power of Christ. In **Matthew 28:18**, Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” Therefore, when we move forward with the Gospel, we go under His covering and with His mission. The Holy Spirit does the convicting, the healing, the teaching—but we are the

messengers, the hands and feet. **Romans 10:14–15** challenges us with the question: “How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” This is the divine partnership: God supplies the power and does the transformation; we supply the obedient step, the faithful presence, the willing heart.

Allowing God to work through us requires surrender, trust, and spiritual attentiveness. It’s not just about doing ministry, but about being led by the Spirit in every step. Jesus Himself modeled this during His earthly ministry, declaring, “The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do” (John 5:19). Likewise, we are not to rely on our plans or abilities, but to daily yield ourselves to God’s direction. We must spend time in prayer, abide in the Word, and be sensitive to the Spirit’s prompting. Our intentional “going” is not random, but directed by the Spirit—into our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, and even foreign nations. Wherever He leads, we follow, carrying His presence and truth into every place that still lives in spiritual darkness.

Ultimately, the work of disciple-making is an act of love and obedience. We go, not to prove ourselves, but because Christ first came to us. We speak because we have heard the Good News, and we share because we have received mercy. It is God’s work from start to finish, but He delights in using His people as instruments of grace. As Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 5:20**, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” Our role is to represent Him well—faithfully, humbly, and boldly—knowing that when we go in obedience, God goes with us, and His power is released to accomplish what only He can do.

More Aspects Of Making Disciples For Jesus Christ

First Learn God’s Word - Become Equipped

Apply much of what we learn to own lives first and purpose to continue to align our words, actions and behaviors with the teachings of Jesus Christ as we walk with Jesus.

Know at least the foundational doctrines of Christianity to be able to witness and teach those in other nations.

Pray about where to go, what to do, and be guided by God’s Holy Spirit

Some of us who go on a Christian Mission Outreach can serve in various needed areas, even though those individuals are not actually teaching

All of us who are born again can confess Jesus and share their personal testimony of coming to Jesus and how He works in one’s own life.

Others of us will be more used to share the Gospel and teach others more in depth

Keep Jesus at the center of all teaching and disciple-making

Baptize those who desire to follow Jesus

Demonstrate God's love and holiness in your behavior and actions

Proclaim the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ

Give a message of for those around you to repent of their sins

Develop a deep personal relationship with Jesus

Build authentic relationships with those around you

Identify people ready to hear the Gospel

Share your personal testimony of faith

Invite others to church or faith-related events

Start spiritual conversations naturally and lovingly

Clearly explain the Gospel message

Encourage people to make a commitment to Christ

Introduce new believers to a supportive church community

Begin Discipleship Teaching to help new believers grow in understanding

Encourage daily habits like prayer and Bible reading

Provide resources for spiritual growth (books, videos, apps)

Meet regularly for Bible study and discipleship groups

Model Christlike behavior in everyday life

Teach biblical principles for Christian living

Help new disciples discover and use their spiritual gifts

Encourage accountability relationships

Train disciples to share their faith confidently

Lead by example in serving others and the church

Pray consistently for the spiritual growth of your disciples

Celebrate milestones in the disciples 'faith journeys

Teach about the importance of obeying Jesus 'commands

Encourage disciples to disciple others, multiplying growth

Address doubts and questions with grace and truth

Lead disciples in outreach and mission activities

Promote reliance on the Holy Spirit in all discipleship efforts

Equip disciples for leadership roles in the church

Teach about living under God's kingdom and purpose

Keep Jesus at the center of all teaching and disciple-making

- Therefore going and making other disciples is a repeat of Chapter 8 of our own personal Christian Daily Walk and of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Making Disciples For Jesus Christ Through Christian Discipleship:

Christian Discipleship is a vital process that every believer and follower of Jesus Christ should and needs to go through by the guidance of the Holy Spirit in conjunction with the word of God. This involves a sincere believer and follower of Jesus Christ to continue to receive and believe the word of God found in Bible, as God's Holy Spirit leads a person into all truth. Discipleship involves wholehearted commitment to Jesus Christ as one's only Lord and Savior. Those individuals who have a genuine faith in Jesus, desire to love God and others and further to be diligent and faithful to learn, believe, grow in, apply and adhere to the teachings and principles of Jesus. They are not completely perfect in all of their behaviors, but purpose to repent and put to death their old sinful ways. Such individuals are correctly called "Christians" or "disciples" of Jesus Christ, and they are born again, abide in God's grace properly and are imputed the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

In contrast, are those who falsely claim to be a "christian" neither believe, nor desire to learn or follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, nor repent of their old sinful ways nor do the will of God, these individuals are pseudo christians, hypocrites and liars and have no part in God. No one can come to God the Father except through Jesus Christ, this also includes unbelievers, individuals of others religions and false worldly beliefs, idolatry etc. This Chapter contains and gives a biblical commentary on many of the main topics, doctrines and teachings found in God's Word, which we are called to embrace and live out with our love for God and for others. These principles guide us in how to reflect Jesus Christ in our lives, embody His character, and fulfill His purpose in the world.

Making Disciples For Jesus Christ Through Christian Ministry, Evangelism, and Missions:

Matthew 9:37-38:(AKJV) In Matthew 9:37-38, Jesus speaks to His disciples about the need for more laborers in the harvest, stating, "But when he (Jesus) saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. 37Then says he to his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; 38Pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.**" This conveys the urgency of the mission and the need for active participation.

John 4: 35-38 (AKJV) Say not you, There are yet four months, and then comes harvest? behold, I say to you, **Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.** 36And he that reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit to life eternal: that both he that sows and he that reaps may rejoice together. 37And herein is that saying true, One sows, and another reaps. 38I sent you to reap that where on you bestowed no labor: other men labored, and you are entered into their labors.

Every Christian, as a disciple of Jesus Christ, in a sense is or should be a type of a “missionary or evangelist” because we are all called to be ministers to those in our local communities, and country, serving the needs of the people, visiting the sick, elderly, widows, providing food, clothing, shelter to those in need etc. This primarily includes, confessing Jesus publicly, testifying of Jesus and how He alone saved us, about His grace and forgiveness, sharing His Word of truth, Bringing light and hope to a dark, confused world, and most of all for us to demonstrate the same divine love of Jesus Christ, to those around us.

Yet a “missionary” more typically refers to a Christian who is specifically called by God goes to a foreign land—or at least beyond their local community—to proclaim and teach the Word of God, sharing a message of repentance and salvation through Jesus Christ. (All Christians are not specifically called by God to a foreign mission field or project) Missionaries also declare that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. In addition to preaching, they demonstrate Christ's love through acts of service, such as building and infrastructure projects, providing clean water, teaching personal hygiene, nutrition, electricity, food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies and care, and various other assistance. They may also teach practical skills like reading, education, farming, carpentry, and other trades to help improve the lives of the people they serve.

Mission work is generally divided into two categories:

1. **Short-term mission work**, which involves serving for a few weeks or months in a foreign land; and
2. **Long-term mission work**, which typically involves serving for six months, a year, or longer

Romans 10:13-15 (AKJV) For whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.14How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

It is not necessary for a Christian to attend formal school to qualify for mission work. However, Christian discipleship, personal Bible study, logistics and research into the specific needs of the people they are called to serve can be extremely helpful. What's really most essential is spending intimate time with Jesus, in prayer, worship, meditating on God's word, and seeking the divine wisdom of Jesus, and guidance of God's Holy Spirit. Planning and seeking God's guidance in prayer for how to best help and reach a particular people group—considering factors such as regional culture, customs, geography, and climate—are all essential for equipping a Christian to be more effective in the mission field.

There are still many unreached people groups throughout the world, however now with technology and the internet more and more people are hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time. Even if you are unable or not called to be a foreign missionary, still every Christian should try to support various foreign missions projects, Christian missionaries and ministries around the world as the Lord leads.

Christians who already speak the native language or dialect of the people they are called to serve are invaluable. However, those who do not speak the language can learn over time, use human or electronic translators or use basic sign language of sorts. Remember with God all things are possible, it is the Holy Spirit that teaches all truth, we are only the vessels of the love of Jesus Christ, and to use our talents wisely. Learning the culture of a specific people group before going is also highly beneficial.

Every Christian should prayerfully seek where God is leading them to serve, responding willingly and joyfully when He calls. In doing so, they will experience God's abundant blessings—not only for themselves but also for those they serve.

Missionary work has had a profound impact on both individuals and societies, both physically and spiritually, over the centuries.

As Christians, we have been called by God to bring the love, hope, and salvation of Jesus Christ to those who are often marginalized or overlooked by the broader world. Through various world mission outreaches and projects, Christian missionaries have been instrumental in bringing needed life sustaining provisions, education, healthcare, and spiritual renewal by proclaiming hope in Jesus to regions where these resources were scarce or nonexistent. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we have not only shared His message of eternal life but have also demonstrated His love in tangible ways by meeting the physical needs of people—food, clothing, shelter, clean water, sanitation, needed infrastructure and medical care etc..

In the name of Christ, dedicated missionary servants, historically have laid a foundation for long-term transformation in communities around the world. By building hospitals, schools, orphanages, and clinics, we have helped provide the infrastructure and services necessary to uplift the most vulnerable. We have introduced practices that improve public health, reduce human suffering, and offer opportunities for growth and development. Many of the earliest healthcare and educational institutions in some of the world's poorest regions were established by missionaries who were driven by the compassion of Christ.

As we serve in His name, we are not only helping to alleviate immediate suffering but also equipping communities with the tools for lasting change. These institutions and services have been a critical lifeline, lifting people out of poverty and bringing them closer to global standards of living. Through these efforts, we, as followers of Christ, are continuing His work on earth—bringing His Kingdom into the lives of those who need it most.

Spiritually, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we have been entrusted with the incredible mission of spreading the Gospel message, a message that brings hope, healing, and transformation to countless individuals. Through the faithful proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ, we have seen multitudes come to faith, experiencing the new birth that only He can offer. By God's grace, people who were once bound by sin, fear, confusion, or despair have encountered the life-changing love, forgiveness, and redemption that is found only in Jesus. Through the Gospel, they have received lasting peace, the true peace only Jesus can give that transcends circumstances, and the gift of eternal salvation.

The most important aspect of being a missionary is bringing and demonstrating the divine love of Jesus Christ to the world. This love is made evident through wholehearted service, instilled and empowered by God's Holy Spirit working spiritually through us to reach the peoples of the world. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to reflect His character, and this means embodying genuine Christlike virtues in everything we do.

We are called to serve with **kindness**, offering a hand to those in need, and speaking words filled with kindness and understanding, not being rude or harsh unjustly. Our service is marked by **compassion**, responding to the pain and suffering of others with hearts full of empathy and the willingness to walk alongside them in their struggles. Actually putting our compassion into action doing our part to help those in need with the resources and talents that God gave us and not just walking by doing nothing. Of course we cannot aid everyone in need, but we should be attentive and willing to serve others as God directs.

As Jesus demonstrated, we should practice **hospitality**, welcoming others—especially strangers—into our lives with open hearts and open homes. We should invite others into the warmth of Christian community, making them feel seen, valued, and loved. In our words and actions, we should offer **encouragement** to those who are weary and **comfort** to those in sorrow, reminding them of their identity in Christ and the hope we have in Him.

We are also called to act with **forgiveness**, extending the same grace that Christ has shown us to those who have wronged us. Just as Jesus forgave His enemies, we are to offer the hope of reconciliation and peace, even in the most challenging relationships.

We should practice **charity**, not only in material help but in the love that seeks the best for others, even when it costs us something. We should be generous with our time, resources, and energy, sharing freely with those in need.

Through **helps** and **visitation**, we are to come alongside the hurting and isolated, offering both practical assistance and the presence of Christ's love. We should offer **empathy**, putting ourselves in the lives of others, loving others as we would want them to love us, seeking to understand their pain and needs with deep, heartfelt care. In all these things, we reflect the heart of Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve, giving His life for the sake of others.

We are called to serve with **sacrificial love**, putting the needs of others before our own, just as Jesus gave His life for us. This love is not just a feeling, but an active, self-giving commitment to others, even when it costs us personally or materially. We are also called to

serve with **humility**, not seeking recognition or status, but embracing the role of a servant just as Jesus washed His disciples' feet, demonstrating that true greatness is found in serving others.

Our service should be marked by **patience**, giving others the grace and time they need to grow and change. Like Jesus, who was patient with His disciples and the crowds, we are called to be long-suffering with others, allowing God's timing to unfold in their lives.

We are called to embody **joyful service**, serving with a glad heart, not grudgingly even in the midst of trials, knowing that our work is not in vain. Like Jesus, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him, we are called to serve others with joy, trusting in God's eternal purposes even when the work is difficult.

In all these things, we are to reflect the heart of Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve, giving His life for the sake of others. By allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us, we become instruments of His love, demonstrating the power of the Gospel through our actions and offering the world a glimpse of Christ's Kingdom.

By allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us, we demonstrate the love of Christ through our words and actions, showing the world that the Gospel is not just a message but a lived reality—one that transforms not only the lives of those we serve but also our own hearts, as we follow in the footsteps of our Savior.

In our mission work, we may also be called to help establish local churches and raise up indigenous leaders who can carry the torch of Christ's love forward. As missionaries we should support and work alongside local believers, as needed to create vibrant, self-sustaining Christian communities—communities that continue to thrive and grow long after we have departed. As foreign churches become established they become much more than places of worship; they have become beacons of light, offering education, aid, and spiritual support to entire regions, sending out more local missionaries who know their own people, customs, language and logistics. Thereby they are able to reach more people for Christ, who would not otherwise hear the Good News. As disciples of Jesus, we know that this is not just the work of individuals, but of the Holy Spirit, who continues to work through the faithful to bring the Kingdom of God to the nations.

The love of Jesus Christ, demonstrated by missionaries through both word and action, has had a profound and lasting impact on the world.

Share What You Learned During Your Walk With Jesus Christ (Refer To Chapter 8)

Biblical Commentary: “Invite Those in the Highways and Byways to Come to Jesus Christ and Be Saved”

The phrase “Invite those in the highways and byways to come to Jesus Christ and be saved” draws from the Parable of the Great Banquet, found in **Luke 14:15–24** and **Matthew 22:1–14**. In these parables, Jesus presents a vivid picture of the Kingdom of God

as a grand feast prepared by a king or master. Invitations are initially extended to a select group—those who would be considered privileged or expected guests—but they respond with excuses and reject the call. In response, the master sends his servants out into the “streets and lanes of the city” and eventually to the “highways and hedges,” urging them to bring in “the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame” so that the house might be filled. This narrative serves as a powerful symbol of God's inclusive call to salvation: the Gospel is not only for the religious elite or the morally upright but also for those on the margins—those overlooked by society or far from traditional centers of spiritual influence.

The term “highways and byways” implies places beyond the familiar, the comfortable, or the religiously respectable. Spiritually, it refers to the outer edges of society—both geographically and morally. Jesus' command to go out to these places underscores the urgency and universality of the Gospel message. In this context, the parable rebukes the complacency of those who assume they are automatically included in God's Kingdom because of heritage, knowledge, or status. It confronts religious exclusivism and opens the door to grace for everyone, regardless of background or condition. In extending this invitation, God demonstrates His heart for the lost, the outsider, the forgotten, and even the rebellious. The highways represent those far away from God, while the byways point to hidden or obscure paths where people dwell in spiritual darkness, yet remain deeply in need of the light of Christ.

Furthermore, this call to invite is not merely symbolic but instructional for the Church. Jesus commissions His followers to take the Gospel beyond temple walls and cultural boundaries. The Church must adopt the same outward-facing mission, embodying Christ's love through evangelism, service, and compassion. To “invite those in the highways and byways” means engaging with people where they are—emotionally, socially, and spiritually—rather than waiting for them to enter religious spaces. This requires humility, courage, and a Gospel-centered life that reflects grace in word and deed. It challenges believers to forsake comfort zones and personal biases, embracing a missional identity that reflects God's own relentless pursuit of souls.

In the broader Biblical narrative, this invitation echoes the overarching theme of redemption and divine hospitality. From the Old Testament prophets to the ministry of Jesus, God has continually beckoned the outsider to become an insider in His covenant family. The invitation to come to Christ and be saved is, ultimately, an offer of life, forgiveness, and eternal fellowship with God. It is not coerced but offered freely, though not without responsibility. As Jesus concludes the parable in Matthew 22, “Many are called, but few are chosen,” He reminds us that while the invitation is universal, the response is personal and decisive. Today, the highways and byways may represent urban streets, refugee camps, rural villages, or even digital spaces—wherever people have not yet heard or accepted the Gospel. The Church's task is clear: go to them, compel them with love, and offer the hope found in Jesus Christ alone.

Making Disciples Is Testifying of Jesus Christ to Others and Passing On What Jesus Taught You and Established in You to Those in the World:

The core of the Great Commission given by Jesus in **Matthew 28:19–20** is the mandate to “go and make disciples of all nations.” This command does not simply involve converting people to a belief system but encompasses the lifelong process of testifying of Jesus Christ and imparting His teachings. To make disciples is to bear witness—not just in words but in lifestyle—to the reality of Jesus’ death, resurrection, and lordship. It is through the act of personal testimony that believers communicate the transformative power of the Gospel. In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus tells His followers, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses.” This witnessing is not merely about reciting facts; it is a spiritual proclamation of what the believer has personally seen, experienced, and embraced through Christ.

Making disciples is inherently relational and requires intentionality. It means passing on the truths of Scripture, the values of the Kingdom, and the example of Christ to others. Paul’s words in **2 Timothy 2:2** illustrate this clearly: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” This model reflects a spiritual lineage—what one receives from Christ through His Word and the Spirit, one is called to faithfully transfer to others. It is not about building a following or creating clones of ourselves, but rather pointing others to Jesus, shaping their character, and helping them walk in obedience to His commands. A disciple is not simply a believer, but a student, follower, and imitator of Christ—someone who learns His ways and lives them out.

To make disciples, one must first be a disciple. Jesus taught His followers not only through formal instruction but by modeling a life of prayer, service, compassion, holiness, and surrender to the Father’s will. Those who would disciple others must themselves be transformed by the teachings of Christ, allowing His Word to dwell richly within them (**Colossians 3:16**). This internalization of Christ’s truth is what equips believers to go out and teach effectively. Discipleship is not just transferring information but forming Christlike identity in others through example, encouragement, correction, and shared life. In this way, Jesus continues to build His Church—one life impacting another, generation after generation, through faithful witness and teaching.

In a world filled with distractions, false ideologies, and spiritual confusion, the task of making disciples is more vital than ever. The call is not only to pastors or missionaries but to every believer who has been changed by the Gospel. Wherever God places us—families, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods—we are called to be salt and light, testifying of Jesus and teaching what He has established in us. Making disciples requires patience, perseverance, and love, but it bears eternal fruit. Jesus gave this commission with a promise: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). His presence and power are with every believer as they carry out this mission, advancing the Kingdom of God, one disciple at a time.

Preparedness for Christ's Return

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we eagerly anticipate the glorious second coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We long for the day when He will return in power and great glory to establish His eternal kingdom, wipe away every tear, and make all things new (Revelation 21:4). This anticipation is a core element of our faith, one that drives us to live with hope and purpose in a world that is often filled with evil, daily trials, suffering and uncertainty.

Yet, as we wait for Christ's return, we must pause and ask ourselves a critical question: *Is the Church truly ready for His return?* Is the Bride of Christ prepared to meet her Savior, or have we, in our complacency, become spiritually lethargic, distracted by the affairs of this world, and compromised in our walk with God, in various ways?

The Bible is quite clear that Christ's return will be sudden and unexpected, and that we must live in constant readiness. Jesus Himself warns us in Matthew 24:44, *"So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."* The apostle Paul reaffirms this in 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6, saying, *"For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night... So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober."* The call to be alert, to be awake spiritually, and to live with a sense of urgency is woven throughout the New Testament.

Be Alert and Aware of the Times :

Being **alert** and **aware of the times** is one of the most important aspects of preparing for the return of Jesus. The Bible repeatedly calls believers to **stay watchful** and **vigilant**, understanding the signs of the times and living in anticipation of Christ's return. In a world filled with distractions, uncertainties, temptations and deceptions, it is vital that we remain spiritually awake and discerning, so that we are not caught off guard when Jesus returns. This is not merely a call to passively wait but to **actively** live in light of His imminent return.

This vigilance requires a heart anchored in God's Word and a lifestyle marked by prayer, obedience, and holiness. Being alert means not only recognizing the external signs of the times but also examining our own lives, ensuring we are walking closely with the Lord. It involves staying grounded in truth, resisting compromise, and encouraging one another to remain steadfast in faith. As the days grow darker, our spiritual sensitivity must grow sharper. The return of Christ is not a distant event but a present motivation to live faithfully each day.

Scripture: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." —1 Thessalonians 5:6–8 (AKJV)

Be Awake:

The call to "be awake" is a call to spiritual vigilance and awareness. In the Scriptures, being spiritually awake means being alert to the reality of God's kingdom and the impending return of Christ. Jesus frequently warned His disciples to remain awake, not only physically but spiritually, because the enemy—Satan—seeks to lull Christians into complacency, distract them with the pleasures and cares of life, and rob them of their eternal perspective.

In *Matthew 24:42*, Jesus said, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." The call to be awake is a wake-up call to all believers to avoid the dangers of spiritual apathy and distraction. In *Romans 13:11*, Paul also exhorts believers to wake up, "The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." Spiritual slumber, or indifference, leaves us vulnerable to sin and deception, whereas spiritual alertness keeps us focused on Christ's return and eager to live according to His will.

Being awake means living with a sense of urgency, knowing that each day brings us closer to the day of Christ's return. It involves regularly assessing our hearts, priorities, and actions to ensure that we are living in readiness for that day.

Jesus Warns Us to Be Watchful:

Throughout His ministry, Jesus gave clear instructions about the need to be **watchful** and **prepared** for His second coming. In His teachings, He emphasized that no one knows the exact time of His return, but that we must always be ready, living in a state of alertness and vigilance.

Matthew 24:42-51 (AKJV)

"Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord does come. 43But know this, that if the manager of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44Therefore be you also ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man comes. 45Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord has made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? 46Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing. 47Truly I say to you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. 48But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delays his coming; 49And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; 50The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looks not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, 51And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- **Action:** Jesus is teaching us to be spiritually **prepared** at all times. Like a homeowner keeping watch for an intruder, we are to be **alert** to the signs of His return and live our lives in a state of **readiness**. This means living with a sense of urgency in our faith, making sure that we are **following Him faithfully, serving and ministering to others with**

the love of Jesus Christ, and pursuing holiness. The faithful servant of God is Blessed and is prepared for Christ's return.

- While the evil servant, or false Christian who does not serve, and treats others harshly without love, or engages in relentless worldliness is not prepared for Christ's return and will suffer the eternal consequences along with the hypocrites.

Seeking to be guided and filled with God's Holy Spirit -

The Parable of the Ten Virgins: Preparedness in God's Wisdom and Spirit

In the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13), Jesus underscores the importance of **being prepared** for His return. Five of the virgins were wise and had brought extra oil for their lamps, while the other five were foolish and unprepared. When the bridegroom came, only those who were ready went into the wedding banquet.

Matthew 25:1-13 (AKJV)

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened to ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom comes; go you out to meet him. 7Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8And the foolish said to the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go you rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12But he answered and said, Truly I say to you, I know you not. 13Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes.

- **Action:** The wise virgins who were prepared **symbolize those who stay spiritually alert**, maintaining a strong relationship with Jesus. **Oil** represents the **Holy Spirit**, and the parable reminds us that we must stay filled with the Holy Spirit, continually abiding in Christ, living in holiness, and making time for prayer and worship. Ask God the Father in prayer, in Jesus Name for the Holy Spirit to guide you and fill you. We can't afford to be distracted by the world, as **readiness** requires constant vigilance and an ongoing relationship with Him.

Understanding the Signs of the Times

In **Matthew 24**, Jesus speaks about the **signs of the times** that will precede His return. He warns of **false prophets, wars, famines, earthquakes**, and increasing **persecution**. These are not just random events, but signs pointing to the **end of the age**. However, Jesus cautions us not to panic but to remain **faithful** and **watchful**, trusting in His ultimate plan.

Matthew 24:6-8 (AKJV)

"And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that you be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8All these are the beginning of sorrows.."

Understanding the signs of the times requires spiritual discernment and a grounded knowledge of Scripture. While the world may respond with fear or confusion to global unrest, believers are called to interpret these events through the lens of God's prophetic Word. The signs are reminders—not to alarm us, but to awaken us to the reality that God's plan is unfolding. As we see prophecy being fulfilled and darkness increasing, our response should be to draw closer to Christ, walk in holiness, and boldly share the hope of the gospel with others.

Scripture: *"Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near: 33So likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34Truly I say to you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. 35Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."*—Matthew 24:32–34 (AKJV)

- **Action:** As Christians, we are to be **aware** of the world around us and recognize that these signs, though troubling, should not cause us to fear. Instead, they should cause us to **refocus** our attention on God's kingdom and live with a sense of urgency. We must use these signs to **refine our priorities**, focusing on eternal matters, and ensuring that we are living in a way that prepares us for Christ's return.

Living Wisely in the Present Age

The apostle Paul urges us to be **wise** and **aware** of the times in which we live, knowing that the days are **evil** and that we must **redeem the time** by living according to God's will. **Living wisely** means that we intentionally seek to honor God in every aspect of our lives—our time, relationships, and actions—while waiting for Christ's return. **Godly wisdom**, is the ability to see and respond to life from God's perspective. It is not merely knowledge or intelligence, but a deep understanding and application of God's truth and ways in everyday life, guided by reverence for God and a desire to live according to His will. It contrasts with worldly wisdom, which often exalts self-interest, pride, and short-sightedness.

Ephesians 5:14-17 (AKJV)

"Why he says, Awake you that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light. 15See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17Why be you not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.."

Living wisely also means walking in the Spirit and bearing fruit that reflects Christ's character. In an age of moral confusion and spiritual apathy, we are called to shine as lights in the darkness, demonstrating integrity, humility, and love. Wisdom in the present age involves more than just avoiding evil—it calls us to actively pursue righteousness, serve others

selflessly, and build our lives on the unshakable truth of God's Word. As we keep our eyes on eternal things, our daily choices will reflect the hope and clarity that only comes from walking closely with Jesus.

Scripture: “And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
—Romans 12:2 (AKJV)

- **Action:** To be spiritually alert and aware of the times, we must live **intentionally**, making the most of every opportunity to do God's will. This includes being diligent in prayer, studying the Scriptures, and **sharing the gospel** with others. Living wisely means that we aren't caught up in **worldly distractions** but instead live with a sense of **purpose** and **urgency** as we wait for Christ's return.

Live Not Foolishly in this Present Age

In contrast to living wisely, the Bible warns against living foolishly in the present age. Foolishness, according to Scripture, is not merely a lack of intelligence but a failure to live in accordance with God's wisdom and purpose. Living foolishly means prioritizing temporary, worldly pursuits over eternal values. In *Romans 1:21-22*, Paul speaks of those who “although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.” This kind of foolishness is marked by a rejection of God's truth, an indulgence in sin, and a focus on the fleeting pleasures of this world that will ultimately fade away.

The *Proverbs* are filled with warnings against folly. *Proverbs 14:12* states, “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.” A fool is someone who disregards God's Word and seeks to live by his own understanding or by the world's standards. This kind of life is self-centered, often filled with pride, and short-sighted, focused only on the present moment rather than the eternal reality. In *Luke 12:16-21*, Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool, who builds bigger barns to store his wealth, thinking he can enjoy a comfortable life forever, only to be called to account by God.

Living foolishly in the present age involves giving in to the temptations of the flesh, seeking personal gain, and living without consideration for the things that matter most: God's kingdom, His righteousness, and our eternal destiny. The antidote to this foolishness is the wisdom that comes from God—living with an eternal perspective, seeking first His kingdom, and making decisions that reflect our love for Him and others.

Repent

Repentance is a central theme throughout the Bible and is absolutely essential to being prepared for Christ's return. To repent is to “change one's mind” and turn away from sin and toward God, to acknowledge our wrongdoing, and to seek His forgiveness. In *Acts 3:19*, Peter calls people to “repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out,

that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." Repentance is not just a one-time act but an ongoing attitude of humility and submission before God. It is a change of mind that leads to a change of direction. It involves both sorrow for sin and a heartfelt desire to live in obedience to God.

Jesus' message was one of repentance. In *Mark 1:15*, He declared, "The time has come, the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" Repentance opens the door for God's grace to cleanse us from our sin, restore our fellowship with Him, and prepare us for His return. When we repent, we acknowledge that we cannot live apart from God and that we need His mercy and transformation in our lives.

Repentance is not about feeling guilty or condemned but about recognizing our need for God's saving grace and desiring to align our hearts with His will. It is a vital part of staying spiritually awake and being prepared for the day of Christ's return. Without repentance, we risk becoming hardened to sin and unprepared to meet our Savior.

Repent from Lukewarmness

One of the most dangerous spiritual conditions is lukewarmness. In *Revelation 3:15-16*, Jesus speaks to the church of Laodicea, saying, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Lukewarmness is the state of being indifferent or half-hearted in our commitment to Christ. It's the attitude of living with one foot in the world and one foot in the kingdom of God, lacking zeal, passion, and a wholehearted devotion to Christ.

Lukewarm Christians are often more concerned with comfort, status, and worldly success than with living for the glory of God. This indifference makes them unprepared for Christ's return, as they are not truly living with an eternal perspective or with a desire to be fully conformed to His image. Jesus calls the lukewarm to repentance, urging them to become fervent in their love for Him. In *Revelation 3:19*, He says, "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent."

Repentance from lukewarmness involves rekindling our first love for Jesus. It means moving from spiritual apathy to passionate pursuit of God, renewing our commitment to live fully for Him, and embracing the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The church must not be indifferent to Christ's return, but always on fire for Him, living each day in anticipation of that glorious day.

Repent from Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy is another condition that must be repented of as we prepare for Christ's return. To be a hypocrite is to present a false outward appearance of righteousness while harboring sin in the heart. Jesus condemned hypocrisy in the Pharisees, calling them "whitewashed tombs" in *Matthew 23:27-28*, "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees,

you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean.”

Hypocrisy is especially dangerous because it deceives not only others but also ourselves. It leads us to think we are living righteously when, in reality, our hearts are far from God. It also undermines our witness to the world, as the unbelieving world is quick to point out when Christians fail to live according to their professed beliefs. In *Matthew 7:21-23*, Jesus warns that on the day of judgment, many will claim to have done great works in His name but will be rejected because they were never truly known by Him.

To repent from hypocrisy means coming before God with sincerity, confessing our sins, and allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us from the inside out. It involves aligning our actions with our beliefs, making sure that our outward behavior reflects the inward work that God is doing in our lives. True repentance means living with integrity, being transparent before God, and ensuring that our faith is genuine and not just a façade.

Repent from Sin

Sin is the primary obstacle to being prepared for Christ's return. The Bible is clear that sin separates us from God and hinders our relationship with Him. In *Isaiah 59:2*, the prophet declares, *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."* Sin is not only an act of rebellion against God but also a spiritual disease that corrupts the soul. If left unchecked, sin leads to death and eternal separation from God (*Romans 6:23*).

To prepare for Christ's return, we must repent from all known sin. Repentance from sin is an acknowledgment of our wrongdoing and a sincere turning away from sinful patterns and behaviors. In *1 John 1:9*, we are assured that *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* Repentance from sin opens the door to forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration, allowing us to walk in fellowship with God and be ready to meet Him.

Repentance from sin is not a one-time event but a continual process of sanctification. As we grow in our relationship with God, the Holy Spirit convicts us of areas in our lives that are not pleasing to Him. We must remain sensitive to His leading and be quick to confess and turn from sin whenever it arises. Though we will still fail and fall short at times, our motive, heart's desire, attitude, and intent should be to please God, to do His will, and not to sin deliberately. This ongoing repentance should be our heartfelt response to God's patience, kindness, and mercy. Our right standing before God is made possible only by His grace, and it is this grace that enables us to keep our hearts pure and our lives aligned with His will as we await the return of Christ.

Intimate Time With Jesus

To be truly prepared for Christ's return, we must cultivate an intimate relationship with Him. This relationship is not built on mere ritual or external actions, but on a deep, personal connection with Jesus that comes through prayer, worship, and His Word. Jesus Himself

modeled intimacy with the Father, regularly withdrawing to pray and seek God's will. In *John 15:4-5*, He calls us to abide in Him: "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Intimate time with Jesus involves more than just attending church or reading the Bible. It's about spending quality time with Him, listening to His voice, and allowing His presence to shape and transform our lives. Jesus desires a deep, abiding relationship with us—one that involves both love and obedience. In *Revelation 3:20*, He says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." This intimate fellowship is essential to our preparation for His return.

As we spend time with Jesus, we are filled with His love, His wisdom, and His grace, which enables us to live in readiness for His coming. Intimacy with Christ also strengthens our faith and increases our desire to live according to His will, making us more effective in serving Him and sharing His love with the world.

Scriptures: John 15:5-10 AKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches: He that stays in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. 6If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done to you. 8Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be my disciples. 9As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you: continue you in my love. 10If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.."

Intimacy with Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian life. It is the deep, personal relationship we cultivate with Him through prayer, study of His Word, and communion with His Spirit. Just as branches draw their sustenance and life from the vine, so too do we find our strength, purpose, and identity in Jesus Christ.

Intimacy with Jesus is loving and obeying Him above all else in thought, word and deed. It is walking and communing with Him as our closest friend, yet also worshipping Him as our Lord and Savior.

In John 15:5, Jesus illustrates the importance of remaining connected to Him as the vine. He invites us into a dynamic relationship where He abides in us and we in Him. This intimate union enables us to bear fruit that glorifies God and blesses others. Apart from Jesus, we are powerless and ineffective, but in Him, we find abundant life and spiritual vitality.

Intimacy with Jesus involves spending time in His presence, listening to His voice, and aligning our hearts with His will. It requires vulnerability and openness, allowing Jesus to search our hearts and transform us from the inside out. As we abide in Him, His love fills us, His truth guides us, and His Spirit empowers us to live for His glory.

Let us prioritize intimacy with Jesus Christ in our daily lives, seeking to know Him more deeply and to walk closely with Him. Psalm 42:1 expresses the longing of our hearts: "As the

deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." May we hunger and thirst for intimacy with Jesus, finding our satisfaction and fulfillment in Him alone.

Preparing Our Hearts

Our hearts are the foundation of our spiritual lives. In *Proverbs 4:23*, we are told, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." To be prepared for Christ's return, we must first prepare our hearts. This involves examining our motives, desires, and affections to ensure that they align with God's will. Jesus said in *Matthew 22:37*, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." To prepare our hearts for His return, we must ensure that our love for God is pure, wholehearted, and undivided.

Preparing our hearts involves repentance, removing sin and idolatry, and allowing the Holy Spirit to cleanse and transform us. In *Psalms 51:10*, David prays, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." This prayer reflects the heart of someone who desires to be fully aligned with God and prepared for His return.

A heart prepared for Christ's return is made morally and spiritually clean by the atoning blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, for those who are sincerely surrendered to His lordship, by faith. It is a heart that longs for His presence, treasures His Word, and seeks to obey Him out of love rather than obligation. As Jesus taught in *Matthew 6:21*, "*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" What we prioritize reveals the true condition of our hearts. Preparing our hearts means consistently choosing eternal values over temporary pleasures and inviting the Holy Spirit to continually shape our character into the likeness of Christ. Only a heart that is committed and yielded to God can remain steadfast and ready for the day of His appearing.

Preparing Our Hearts: Cultivating Love and Holiness

Our hearts are the **core** of who we are—our desires, affections, and motivations. Preparing our hearts for Christ's return involves ensuring that our **love for Jesus** and our commitment to **holiness** are at the center of our lives. We must examine our hearts regularly, allowing God to purify us and remove any sin or selfish desires that would hinder our readiness for His return.

Matthew 22:37-38

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.'"

- **Action:** We are called to love God with all our hearts. To prepare for Jesus' return, we need to examine our hearts regularly. Are we **holding on to sin** or **idolatry**? Do we love Jesus above all things, or are there other affections that compete for our heart? We must allow the Holy Spirit to **search us**, reveal areas that need healing, and help us cultivate a heart that is fully devoted to Him.

1 John 3:2-3 (AKJV)

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure.."

- **Action:** Our **hope** in Christ's return is meant to awaken us to the utmost importance of Him **purifying** us. The anticipation of His coming should motivate us to live with purity, to turn away from anything that defiles our hearts. This means living in **repentance**, keeping a soft heart before God, and striving for holiness in every aspect of our lives. Our part in this purification and sanctification process is to have a sincere repentance regarding any sinful act that we have done, then Jesus washes and purifies us by His word, grace and His blood shed at the cross.

Guarding Our Hearts: Staying Alert to the Deceptions of the World

The world constantly seeks to draw our attention away from Christ. Whether it's the love of money, the desire for approval, or the temptation to indulge in sin, these distractions can lead us away from preparing for Jesus' return. Jesus warns us to **guard our hearts** and be aware of the things that can entangle us. Spending time with Him keeps our hearts aligned with His will and helps us to **resist** the pull of the world. Guarding our hearts requires spiritual vigilance and intentional focus. We are living in a time when worldly values are often celebrated and sin is normalized. If we are not watchful, our love for Christ can grow cold as our affections subtly shift toward things that do not honor Him. Jesus warned in Matthew 24:12 that *"because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."* To remain spiritually awake and prepared for His return, we must continually filter our thoughts, desires, and influences through the truth of God's Word. Daily communion with Christ through prayer, Scripture, and worship strengthens our discernment and keeps our hearts anchored in what is eternal.

Proverbs 4:23

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

1 John 2:15-17 (AKJV)

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God stays for ever. "

- **Action:** To stay prepared for Jesus' return, we must be **intentional** about what we allow into our hearts and minds. Spending time with Jesus keeps our hearts **focused on His kingdom**, helping us to reject the temptations of the world and live in **obedience to Him**.

Preparing Our Minds

Our minds play a critical role in our spiritual readiness. The Bible repeatedly calls us to renew our minds in order to live according to God's will. In *Romans 12:2*, Paul exhorts believers, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Our thoughts shape our attitudes, our actions, and ultimately our spiritual condition. To prepare our minds for Christ's return, we must allow God's Word to shape our thinking and focus our minds on things above, not on earthly distractions (*Colossians 3:2*).

Preparing our minds also means being alert and discerning the signs of the times. It involves focusing our thoughts on the eternal realities of God's kingdom rather than the temporary pleasures and concerns of the world. As we meditate on God's Word, our minds are renewed, and we gain the wisdom needed to live in light of Christ's return.

A prepared mind is one that is guarded against deception and anchored in truth. In 1 Peter 1:13, we are instructed to "*gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*" This biblical principle calls for mental readiness—removing distractions and disciplining our thoughts in light of Christ's imminent return. The battle for holiness often begins in the mind, where temptations, doubts, and worldly influences seek to take root. By taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5), we cultivate a mindset that is focused, watchful, and steadfast—ready to stand firm until He comes.

Preparing Our Minds: Being Transformed by God's Word

Our minds shape how we perceive the world and how we make decisions. To be prepared for Christ's return, we must **renew our minds** according to God's Word. The Bible tells us to avoid being **conformed** to the world but to be **transformed** by the renewing of our minds (*Romans 12:2*). The Scriptures provide the **truth** that keeps us focused on eternity and equips us to discern the signs of the times.

A mind anchored in God's Word becomes a powerful defense against deception, fear, and spiritual apathy. In a world filled with conflicting messages and shifting moral standards, God's truth provides the stability and clarity we need. Jesus Himself said in John 17:17, "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*" The more we saturate our minds with Scripture, the more we are able to recognize false teachings, stay spiritually alert, and respond to life's challenges with faith and wisdom. Preparing our minds is not just about knowledge—it's about transformation. As our thinking is shaped by God's Word, our hearts, choices, and character are also transformed, enabling us to live with purpose and urgency as we await Christ's return.

Romans 12:2 (AKJV)

"And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

- **Action:** We must engage with God's Word daily, allowing it to transform the way we think and live. This means **meditating on Scripture**, **memorizing key verses** about the second coming, and **letting God's truth** shape our perspective on life. When our minds are aligned with God's Word, we are better equipped to **discern the signs of the times**, resist worldliness, and stay focused on eternal matters.

Colossians 3:2 (AKJV)

"Set your affection (minds) on things above, not on things on the earth. "

- **Action:** To prepare for Christ's return, we must constantly **refocus our thoughts** on the things above. This means training our minds to **value eternal truths** over the temporary pleasures and distractions of the world. Our thoughts, our goals, and our motivations should be centered on **God's kingdom**.

Clothe Ourselves in the Love and Righteousness of Jesus

As believers, we are called to "clothe ourselves" in the love and righteousness of Jesus Christ. The imagery of clothing in Scripture often refers to the transformation that takes place when we are made new in Christ, as we take on His character and reflect His nature in our lives. The apostle Paul writes in *Romans 13:14 (AKJV)*, "But put you on the Lord Jesus Christ (clothe yourselves), and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.." This call to "clothe ourselves" is a reminder that our identity is now in Christ. We are no longer defined by our old nature, but by the love and righteousness that Christ has imputed to us.

When we clothe ourselves with Christ's love, we begin to live in a way that reflects His compassion, mercy, and grace. *Ephesians 4:24* states that believers are "to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." The righteousness we clothe ourselves in is not our own but the righteousness of Christ that He freely gives to us through His sacrifice on the cross. We are justified by faith, not by our works, and our righteous standing before God comes from Christ alone (*Philippians 3:9*).

However, clothing ourselves in the love and righteousness of Jesus also involves living out this new identity. It's not enough to simply acknowledge that Christ's righteousness covers us; we must reflect His love in our interactions with others. *Colossians 3:12-14* calls us to "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" and to forgive others as Christ has forgiven us. As we put on these attributes, we become living witnesses of Christ's love and righteousness in the world, and we are prepared for His return.

Holiness

Holiness is both a positional and a practical aspect of the Christian life. Positionally, believers are made holy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who atoned for our sins and set us apart as God's holy people. *1 Peter 1:16* says, "Be holy, because I am holy," quoting God's command from the Old Testament. This call to holiness is not optional for the believer but a command rooted in God's nature. Our holiness is a reflection of His character, and we are called to live in such a way that honors Him in all things.

Practically, holiness involves living a life that is set apart from sin and dedicated to God's purposes. *Hebrews 12:14* reminds us, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." Holiness isn't about achieving moral perfection apart from Christ but about seeking to reflect God's purity, righteousness, and love in our daily lives. It's about living with integrity, purity, and a heart that seeks to glorify God in everything we do.

The Apostle Peter wrote in *2 Peter 3:11-12*, "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming."

Holiness requires intentionality. It involves rejecting sin and embracing a life that honors God. In *1 Thessalonians 4:7*, Paul writes, "For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life." Holiness is a work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, who empowers us to live according to God's will. As we pursue holiness, we become more like Christ and prepare ourselves for His return, walking in purity and devotion to Him.

Seek God's Holy Spirit and Be Filled

The Holy Spirit is the key to living a victorious Christian life and being prepared for Christ's return. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to empower, guide, and equip His followers to live according to God's will. In *John 14:16-17*, He says, "*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. .*" The Holy Spirit not only comforts and convicts us but also enables us to bear fruit for God's kingdom and live a life that is pleasing to Him.

To prepare for Christ's return, we must actively seek the Holy Spirit and be filled with His presence. In *Ephesians 5:18*, Paul exhorts believers, "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Being filled with the Holy Spirit means allowing His presence to control and guide every area of our lives. It is a daily submission to the Holy Spirit, asking Him to empower us for godly living, to strengthen us in our weaknesses, and to enable us to live according to God's Word.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit also involves bearing the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (*Galatians 5:22-*

23). As we walk in the Spirit, we become more like Christ, reflecting His character to the world around us. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live with eternal purpose, to be witnesses for Christ, and to prepare our hearts for His return.

Matthew 25:1-13 (AKJV)

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened to ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom comes; go you out to meet him. 7Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8And the foolish said to the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go you rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12But he answered and said, Truly I say to you, I know you not. 13Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man comes.

- **Action:** The wise virgins who were prepared **symbolize those who stay spiritually alert**, maintaining a strong relationship with Jesus. **Oil** represents the **Holy Spirit**, and the parable reminds us that we must stay filled with the Holy Spirit, continually abiding in Christ, living in holiness, and making time for prayer and worship. Ask God the Father in prayer, in Jesus Name for the Holy Spirit to guide you and fill you. We can't afford to be distracted by the world, as **readiness** requires constant vigilance and an ongoing relationship with Him.

Living as Light in a Dark World

Jesus calls all of us as His followers to be the **light of the world** (Matthew 5:14-16), shining the truth of the gospel and living lives that reflect His glory. The darker the world becomes, the more essential it is for Christians to remain alert, to be **set apart**, and to live in such a way that our lives point others to Christ. **Spiritual alertness** is evidenced by a lifestyle that is different from the world's—the way we love, forgive, serve, and share the good news of Jesus.

Living as light also means we must walk in holiness and truth, refusing to compromise with the patterns of this world. Ephesians 5:8-11 reminds us, *"For you were once darkness, but now are you light in the Lord: walk as children of light... and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."* Our witness is not only in what we say, but in how we live—choosing integrity over corruption, purity over compromise, and compassion over indifference. In doing so, we not only reflect Christ's character but also become vessels through whom others are drawn to His saving grace.

Philippians 2:15-16 (AKJV)

"That you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the

middle of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world; 16Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain."

- **Action:** As we remain alert to the times, we live as **lights** in the world, pointing people to Christ through our words and actions. **Being alert** means living **counter-culturally** in a way that stands in stark contrast to the evil darkness in world, demonstrating the truth of the gospel through our lives. Our readiness for His return is reflected in how we live today—shining for Jesus in a world that desperately needs His light.

Living in the “Now and With a Future Hope

The **kingdom of God** is both a present reality and a future hope. While we wait for Christ’s return, we are called to live as citizens of the kingdom of God, even in the midst of a broken world. This tension of the “**now and with a future hope**” means that we must live with a dual awareness: **ready for His return** while actively participating in His mission on earth.

Living in this tension calls for a mindset that is both watchful and active. We are not called to idle waiting, but to purposeful engagement—serving others, spreading the gospel, and living lives marked by holiness and hope. Titus 2:12–13 reminds us that God’s grace teaches us “*that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*” Our hope in Christ’s return fuels our commitment to live for Him today. It gives us courage to persevere, strength to resist compromise, and joy in the midst of trials, knowing that the best is yet to come.

Romans 13:11-14 (AKJV)

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. 12The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. 14But put you on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

- **Action: Awake from slumber** and recognize that we are living in the final chapter of this age. While we are aware of the world’s brokenness, we are also aware of the **hope** we have in Christ’s return. This dual awareness should drive us to live **righteously, diligently, and purposefully**, always keeping our eyes fixed on His glorious return.

Praying for the Return of Christ

One of the most profound ways to stay alert and aware of the times is through **prayer**, specifically praying for the return of Jesus. The Bible encourages us to long for Christ’s return

and to **pray** for His kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. This **eager expectation** helps us stay **focused** on the future and live in readiness.

Praying for Christ's return also keeps our priorities in perspective. It lifts our eyes above the distractions, trials, and temporary comforts of this world and reorients our hearts toward eternity. As we pray, *"Even so, come, Lord Jesus,"* we are not escaping responsibility—we are inviting His reign in our lives today while longing for His perfect rule tomorrow. This kind of prayer fosters spiritual urgency and holy living, urging us to make every moment count for His kingdom. It also draws us into deeper intimacy with God, as we yearn not just for His coming, but for His presence now.

Revelation 22:20 (AKJV)

"He which testifies these things says, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. ."

- **Action: Praying for Jesus 'return** is a way of aligning our hearts with God's purposes and cultivating a sense of anticipation. It reminds us that our hope is not in the world but in the **eternal promise** of Christ's return. Let our prayers reflect our **readiness**, as we eagerly wait for the day when He will make all things new.

Conclusion:

To **be alert** and **aware of the times** is to live with **purpose, discernment, and vigilance** in anticipation of Christ's return. Jesus calls us to stay spiritually awake, making the most of every opportunity to live for Him, share the gospel, and serve others. We must be wise in how we live, guard our hearts from distractions, and prioritize our relationship with Christ. By living in light of His return, we are better prepared for His coming, and our lives become a reflection of the hope we have in Him. Let us **stay alert, live purposefully, and eagerly await** the return of our Savior.

Preparing Our Hearts, Minds, and Actions for the Second Coming of Jesus

The second coming of Jesus is the **culmination of God's redemptive plan**. As believers, we are called not only to **look forward** to this glorious event but also to **actively prepare** ourselves in anticipation of Christ's return. This preparation involves a spiritual transformation—aligning our **hearts, minds, and actions** with God's will. It requires intentionality, discernment, and a life of **holiness and readiness**, so that when Jesus returns, He finds us **faithful and prepared**.

Preparing our hearts means cultivating a deep love for God, free from divided affections. Preparing our minds means renewing our thoughts through Scripture, staying alert to deception, and keeping our focus on eternal truths. Preparing our actions means living out our faith with integrity—serving others, sharing the gospel, and walking in obedience. Each day is an opportunity to grow in holiness, to reflect Christ more clearly, and to live with

purpose. As Jesus said in Luke 12:35-36, *“Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and you yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord.”* In a world full of distractions and darkness, let us be found ready—hearts awakened, minds renewed, and lives shining—when He comes again in glory.

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Our hearts are the **core** of who we are—our desires, affections, and motivations. Preparing our hearts for Christ’s return involves ensuring that our **love for Jesus** and our commitment to **holiness** are at the center of our lives. We must examine our hearts regularly, allowing God to purify us and remove any sin or selfish desires that would hinder our readiness for His return.

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“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.’”

- **Action:** We are called to love God with all our hearts. To prepare for Jesus’ return, we need to examine our hearts regularly. Are we **holding on to sin** or **idolatry**? Do we love Jesus above all things, or are there other affections that compete for our heart? We must allow the Holy Spirit to **search us**, reveal areas that need healing, and help us cultivate a heart that is fully devoted to Him.

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- **Action:** Our **hope** in Christ’s return is meant to **purify** us. The anticipation of His coming should motivate us to live with purity, to turn away from anything that defiles our hearts. This means living in **repentance**, keeping a soft heart before God, and striving for holiness in every aspect of our lives. Our part in this purification and sanctification process is to have a sincere repentance regarding any sinful act that we have done, then Jesus washes and purifies us by His word, grace and His blood shed at the cross.

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Our minds shape how we perceive the world and how we make decisions. To be prepared for Christ’s return, we must **renew our minds** according to God’s Word. The Bible tells us to avoid being **conformed** to the world but to be **transformed** by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2). The Scriptures provide the **truth** that keeps us focused on eternity and equips us to discern the signs of the times.

Romans 12:2

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

- **Action:** We must engage with God's Word daily, allowing it to transform the way we think and live. This means **meditating on Scripture**, **memorizing key verses** about the second coming, and **letting God's truth** shape our perspective on life. When our minds are aligned with God's Word, we are better equipped to **discern the signs of the times**, resist worldliness, and stay focused on eternal matters.

Colossians 3:2

"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

- **Action:** To prepare for Christ's return, we must constantly **refocus our thoughts** on the things above. This means training our minds to **value eternal truths** over the temporary pleasures and distractions of the world. Our thoughts, our goals, and our motivations should be centered on **God's kingdom**.

Blessings vs. Consequences of Preparing or Not Preparing Our Lives by Our Actions: To Love, Serve, and Minister to Those in Need

The call to love, serve, and minister to others is not merely an optional aspect of the Christian life—it is a core component of how we prepare for the second coming of Jesus. In **Matthew 25:31-46**, Jesus makes it clear that how we treat those in need—whether we **actively serve** and show compassion or choose to ignore the hurting—has eternal significance. Our **actions** are a reflection of our hearts and a tangible way to demonstrate that we are living in obedience to God's will, and obey His greatest commandment to love Him and to love others.

The way we live **in service to others** directly impacts our preparation for Jesus' return. **Faith without works is dead** (James 2:26), and it is through our deeds of love, kindness, and mercy that we demonstrate the reality of our faith. As we await the return of our Savior, we must choose to live out His commands, following His example of **selfless service** and **compassion**. In this, we experience profound blessings as we align our hearts with God's kingdom—but we must also recognize the serious consequences of failing to do so.

Blessings:

1. Blessings of Serving and Ministering to Those in Need

When we live our lives with a focus on loving and serving others, especially those in need, we align ourselves with God's will and gain numerous spiritual blessings. These blessings

are both **present** (in the joy, fulfillment, and peace we experience) and **eternal** (in the reward we will receive when Jesus returns).

a) Inheriting the Kingdom of God

In **Matthew 25:34**, Jesus says to those who have served the needy: *"Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."* This is a **direct reward** for a life lived in service to others. Those who love and care for the least of these are granted **entrance** into the kingdom of God, a kingdom that was prepared for them from the foundation of the world. Although we are not saved by our good works, but we are only saved through what Jesus Christ alone accomplished at the cross and our faith in Him. Still our good works are the evidence of our sincere faith in Jesus thereby reaffirms our inheritance into the Kingdom of God, where as the lack of good works indicates that we truly don't have genuine faith nor love God and others and therefore denied an entrance into heaven.

- **Blessing: Eternal life and joy** in God's presence await those who faithfully serve others in Christ's name. Serving is not only a demonstration of our faith, but it is also a tangible expression of our readiness to be part of God's eternal kingdom.

b) Experiencing the Joy of Jesus

When we serve others, we experience a **deeper fellowship with Christ**. Jesus said, *"Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers, you have done it to me"* (Matthew 25:40). There is a **spiritual connection** between serving others and serving Jesus. As we minister to those in need, we are ministering to Christ Himself.

- **Blessing: Intimacy with Jesus**—In serving others, we experience the joy and fulfillment that come from partnering with God in His mission on earth. Jesus' words indicate that there is a **deep spiritual significance** that comes when we serve others as if we are serving Him directly.

c) Store Up Treasures in Heaven

When we serve others, we **store up treasures in heaven** (Matthew 6:19-21). Every act of kindness, every meal given to the hungry, every visit to the sick is an investment in eternity. These acts, done in faith, are never forgotten by God, and they are part of the eternal rewards He will give to His faithful servants when He returns.

- **Blessing: Eternal rewards**—Jesus assures that those who invest in His kingdom through acts of service will receive a rich reward. Serving others is an eternal investment, and the blessings are **far greater** than anything we can imagine on earth.

d) Becoming More Like Jesus

Serving others helps us to **grow in Christlikeness**. Jesus modeled selfless service throughout His life, especially in His sacrificial love for the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized. As we follow His example, we are shaped more into His image.

- **Blessing: Transformation into Christ's image**—Through serving others, we are **shaped** by God's love and reflect His heart for the world. This transformation prepares us for His return, making us more ready to meet Him with a heart that mirrors His compassion and love.

e) We become the Acceptable Bride of Jesus Christ

When we humble ourselves before God, we begin a process of spiritual transformation that not only deepens our relationship with Him but also unites us with the larger Body of Christ—His Church. This humbling is not simply a matter of acknowledging our imperfections but of intentionally seeking God's presence, asking Him to prepare our hearts, minds, and actions so that they might reflect His love more fully. It is through this intentional surrender and submission to God's will that we start to align ourselves with His purpose for our lives and His Church.

Humility before God is the posture that allows the Holy Spirit to work within us. In our humility, we recognize our dependency on God's grace and invite the Holy Spirit to shape us into the image of Christ. This is where the transformation happens. As we allow the Spirit to lead us, our thoughts, attitudes, and actions begin to reflect the nature of Jesus—love, compassion, kindness, and truth. Our unity in the Body of Christ is not merely about agreeing on doctrine or sharing religious rituals; it is about allowing the love of Christ to permeate every aspect of our lives so that, together, we reflect His glory to the world.

This unity is essential in the life of the Church. The Body of Christ is meant to be a living testimony of the love and grace of God. When we are united in purpose and action, we become a powerful witness to the world, drawing others to the love of Christ. The apostle Paul often spoke of the Church as a body, with each member playing a crucial role. But it is only when we humble ourselves and seek God's guidance that we can truly function in unity, each contributing our unique gifts and talents for the building up of the whole.

As we walk in humility and allow the Holy Spirit to transform us, we become more than just a group of individuals socializing in a stone building—we become the Bride of Christ, preparing for the glorious day of the marriage supper of the Lamb. This biblical illustration, found in the book of Revelation, speaks of the ultimate union between Christ and His Church, this is a reality that will actually take place. The marriage supper is a celebration of the culmination of God's redemptive plan, where Christ and His Bride are joined in perfect unity.

The process of being made ready for that day is not one of our own striving but of God's grace. As we humble ourselves, the Holy Spirit works in us to purify and sanctify us, clothing us in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. This righteousness is not something we can earn or produce on our own; it is a gift that has been given to us through the finished work of Christ on the cross. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, His righteousness is imputed to us, and we are clothed in His purity.

Just as a bride prepares herself for her wedding day, so too are we called to prepare ourselves for the day when we will be united with Christ. But this preparation is not about outward appearances or human effort; it is about allowing the Holy Spirit to purify our hearts and lives, making us reflect the character of Jesus. Through this process, we are made ready to stand before Christ, spotless and blameless, as His beloved Bride.

For the Holy Spirit to do this transformative work in us, we must place our genuine faith in Jesus Christ. We are called to receive and believe His words, to abide in Him properly, and to honor Him, receiving His grace and sanctification that He offers through His atoning sacrifice. This requires that we do not His grace for granted or abuse it by living hypocritically in deliberate sin without repentance. Rather, we must seek to live authentically, rejecting lukewarmness and returning to our first love—Jesus Christ—who is faithful to complete the work He has begun in us.

In the end, this work of transformation is a divine partnership. We humble ourselves and seek God's guidance, but it is ultimately the Holy Spirit who enables us to reflect God's love and to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ. It is through His work in us that we become unified in the Body of Christ and prepared for the glorious union with Jesus at the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Consequences:

2. Consequences of Failing to Serve and Minister to Others

While there are incredible blessings for those who live lives of love and service, there are also serious consequences for those who choose **neglect** or **indifference**. The **parable of the sheep and the goats** (Matthew 25:31-46) clearly highlights the distinction between those who **act in love and mercy** and those who fail to do so.

a) Separation from God

Jesus makes it very clear that those who fail to serve others will experience **separation from God**. In **Matthew 25:41-46**, He says to those who did not serve the needy: *"Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."* This is a **sobering warning** that those who refuse to love, serve, and minister to others will face **eternal punishment**. Their failure to act in love is seen as a rejection of Christ Himself.

- **Consequence: Eternal separation from God**—Neglecting to serve others is seen as neglecting Jesus Himself, and this rejection leads to **eternal consequences**. Those who fail to serve others demonstrate that they have not truly embraced Christ's love and, therefore, are not prepared for His return.

b) Living with a Hardened Heart

When we consistently ignore the needs of others and fail to serve, our hearts can become **hardened** and **calloused** to the plight of the poor, the sick, and the oppressed. This spiritual

hardness makes it more difficult for us to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and respond to God's will.

- **Consequence: Spiritual blindness and dullness of heart**—A failure to serve and minister can lead to **spiritual apathy**, where we no longer recognize the importance of loving and serving others as Jesus commanded. Our hearts become insensitive to the needs around us, making it harder to live a life of faith and obedience.

c) Lack of Evidence of True Faith

Jesus' words in **Matthew 25** make it clear that those who do not serve others are showing a **lack of genuine faith**. Our faith is **demonstrated** through our actions. If we are unwilling to serve others, it raises serious questions about the authenticity of our faith. A life that does not bear fruit of love and service shows a **heart that is far from God**.

- **Consequence: Faith without works is dead** (James 2:26). If we claim to follow Jesus but are unwilling to serve others, we are living in **disobedience** to His commands. This reveals a **false profession of faith** that will not stand when Jesus returns.

d) No Reward in Heaven

While the righteous will inherit the kingdom and receive eternal rewards, those who fail to serve others will have no **eternal reward**. Their lack of action will lead to a **loss of treasure in heaven**, as their lives are lived solely for themselves, without regard for others.

- **Consequence: Loss of eternal reward**—Those who fail to serve others may still be saved, but they will experience **eternal loss** of reward. Their lives will not have been a reflection of the kingdom of God, and they will face the regret of missed opportunities to lay up treasure in heaven (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

Conclusion: Blessings of Loving and Service to God and others vs. The Consequences of Neglect

In preparing for Jesus' return, the way we live matters. **Serving others** is not just a noble act; it is a direct reflection of our readiness for Christ's coming. Jesus clearly taught that **our actions**—specifically, our **love** for the **least of these**—are a tangible sign of our faith and a marker of how prepared we are for His return.

The **blessings** for those who love, serve, and minister to others are eternal. They inherit the kingdom, experience the joy of Christ, and are transformed into His likeness. But for those who neglect to serve, the consequences are severe: eternal separation from God, a hardened heart, a dead faith, and the loss of eternal rewards.

As we wait for Jesus' return, let us be vigilant in preparing our hearts, minds, and actions. May we serve others with the same love and compassion that Jesus showed us, knowing that in doing so, we are preparing our lives for His glorious coming.

Luke 12:35-36

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him."

- **Action:** Just as a servant remains ready to open the door at a moment's notice, we must live **actively**, with our hearts and hands ready to serve Christ at all times. This involves **living out our faith** through service, evangelism, prayer, and all aspects of Christian life.

Maintaining a Spirit of Watchfulness and Expectation

Jesus calls His followers to live in a **state of watchfulness**, aware that His return could come at any moment. This means that we do not live in complacency, as though we have all the time in the world, but we live in **constant expectation** of His return, ready for Him to come at any time.

A watchful spirit is not driven by fear, but by love and reverence for the Lord. It reflects a heart that longs for His appearing and desires to be found faithful when He returns. In 2 Timothy 4:8, Paul writes of a *"crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give... unto all them also that love his appearing."* Watchfulness is an act of worship—it fuels our commitment to prayer, fuels our urgency to share the gospel, and keeps our lives free from spiritual laziness. It means evaluating our priorities regularly and refusing to drift into complacency. As we maintain a spirit of expectation, we live each day as if it could be the day we meet our King.

Matthew 24:42-44

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

- **Action:** We are to live with a **watchful spirit**—staying alert, avoiding distractions, and keeping our hearts and minds fixed on the reality of Christ's return. This means we don't live as if we have endless time to repent, evangelize, or grow in holiness. Instead, we live with a sense of **urgency**, knowing that Christ could return at any moment.

Titus 2:11-13

"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and

godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

- **Action:** As we wait for Jesus 'return, we are called to live **godly lives** that reflect our **hope** in His coming. Our hope in Christ's return shapes the way we live today, enabling us to say no to the world's temptations and live in a way that honors Him.

Praying for His Return and Kingdom to Come

One of the most profound ways to prepare for Christ's return is to **pray** for His coming. The Bible encourages us to **long for** the return of Jesus, not just as an event in the distant future, but as a present hope that affects our hearts and lives today. Our prayers should reflect our deep desire for Christ to return and bring about the fullness of His kingdom.

When we pray for Christ's return, we are not only expressing hope for the future—we are inviting His rule and reign into our lives today. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray, *"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"* (Matthew 6:10). This is a call to surrender to His authority now, allowing His justice, peace, and righteousness to shape our thoughts, relationships, and decisions. Praying this way keeps our hearts aligned with God's purposes and fuels a lifestyle of expectancy and obedience. It shifts our focus from temporary struggles to eternal promises, and from worldly distractions to kingdom priorities.

Revelation 22:20

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

- **Action:** Praying **for His return** is an active way to live in anticipation of Jesus 'second coming. We join with the early Church, crying out, "Come, Lord Jesus!" This prayer reminds us that our **ultimate hope** is not in this world but in the **coming of God's kingdom**.

Are we lukewarm in our faith ? A Wake-Up Call to Repentance

While we look forward to Christ's return, the reality is that many of us are not fully prepared for it. As individuals and as the Body of Christ, we may have allowed old sinful ways to linger, become complacent in our walk with God, or neglected our calling to be witnesses to the world. Maybe we've neglected to love and serve the needs of others as Jesus loved us and called us to do so. Jesus warns in Revelation 3:15-16 about the danger of being lukewarm, saying to the church at Laodicea, *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other. So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*

Lukewarmness represents a state of spiritual indifference — a state in which we continue in our Christian walk without true zeal, passion, commitment, and are we neglecting to love

others, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, provide shelter for the homeless etc. This often comes from a heart that is divided, caught between the desire to follow Christ and the pull of the world. It's a state of half-hearted devotion that, while appearing to be faithful, is ultimately unacceptable to God. If we love the things in world more than Jesus, the love of God is not in us.

Repentance is the first step as a remedy for lukewarmness and spiritual slothfulness. It is a continual turning away from sin and toward God, a daily choice to surrender our lives to His will. In 2 Peter 3:11-12, Peter reminds us that *“since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”* The life of repentance and holiness is the life that prepares us for Christ's return.

For many of us, the need for repentance may lie in specific areas: lingering sin that we have deliberately kept hidden, slothfulness in serving others or witnessing to the lost, hypocrisy, unforgiveness, or a divided heart that seeks both God and the world. We need to examine ourselves, asking, *Are there areas of my life where I am not truly surrendered to Christ? Have I allowed my heart to grow cold, my love for Christ to grow dim?* These are tough questions, but they are necessary if we are to be ready for Christ's return.

Spend more intimate time with Jesus

Loving Jesus means more than believing in Him—it means delighting in His presence, seeking His will above our own, and adoring Him with a heart full of gratitude. As we draw near to Him in prayer, worship, and the Word, our affection for Him grows, and our lives become more aligned with His purposes. Psalm 27:4 captures this longing: *“One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.”* This kind of loving devotion keeps us spiritually awake and ready, not out of fear, but out of deep love and longing for our Bridegroom. When we spend intentional, intimate time with Jesus, we are shaped by His heart, led by His Spirit, and strengthened to live in joyful obedience—watching, waiting, and loving until He comes.

Spending quality time with Jesus is not just a matter of spiritual health or personal growth; it is **essential** for preparing our lives for His **return**. In the Bible, Jesus constantly emphasizes the need to **be alert, awake, and ready** for His second coming, which will occur at a time when we least expect it. One of the key ways to remain prepared for His return is by cultivating a deep, intimate relationship with Him, spending **quality time in His presence**, and aligning our hearts and lives with His will. This intentional communion with Jesus transforms us and helps us to live in a way that reflects His kingdom values, ensuring we are found **faithful, holy, and obedient** when He returns.

Abiding in Jesus: The Key to Fruitfulness and Readiness

In **John 15**, Jesus speaks of the importance of **abiding** in Him. This intimate connection is not just for our personal benefit but is essential for living a life that is ready for His return. As we spend time with Jesus and draw our strength and wisdom from Him, we are better equipped to bear fruit for His kingdom. It's through **abiding** in Christ—through **prayer**, **Scripture**, and **worship**—that we remain spiritually awake and prepared for His return.

Abiding in Jesus means cultivating a continual, living fellowship with Him—remaining rooted in His love, His truth, and His presence. It is not a one-time decision but a daily choice to stay close to Him, trust in Him, and follow His leading. As we abide, the fruit of the Spirit becomes evident in our lives (Galatians 5:22–23), and we are transformed into people who reflect Christ to the world. This deep, abiding relationship is what sustains us through trials, keeps us alert to spiritual dangers, and prepares us for eternity. When we abide in Him, we live with purpose, walk in obedience, and remain steadfast in hope—ready to meet Him at His coming, not as strangers, but as those who know and love Him intimately.

John 15:4-5

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

- **Action:** Just as a branch can only bear fruit when it stays connected to the vine, we can only live faithful and fruitful lives by **remaining close to Jesus**. This closeness ensures that we are **spiritually prepared**, constantly nourished by Him, and ready for His return.

Resting in Jesus: Finding Peace Amidst the World's Chaos

Jesus promises rest for our weary souls. The world often distracts us with its busyness, anxiety, and temptations, but spending quality time with Jesus provides the **rest** and **peace** necessary to stay spiritually focused and ready for His return. It's in this rest that we are able to **quiet our hearts**, reflect on God's truth, and prepare ourselves for the work He has for us.

Resting in Jesus is not a passive escape from life's pressures but an active trust in His sovereignty and care. In a world marked by fear, division, and constant noise, His rest becomes our anchor. As we learn to lay down our burdens at His feet, we find a peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7)—a peace that guards our hearts and minds and keeps us grounded in what truly matters. This rest restores our strength, renews our perspective, and reminds us that we are not alone in our waiting. As we learn to dwell in His presence daily, we are equipped not only to endure the chaos of the world but to rise above it with hope, clarity, and unwavering faith in His soon return.

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my

yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

- **Action:** True **spiritual rest** comes when we spend time in the presence of Jesus, allowing His peace to wash over us. This peace refocuses us on the eternal rather than the temporary, helping us stay alert and ready for His return, even as we navigate life's challenges.

Transformation Through the Renewal of Our Minds

In Romans 12:2, Paul instructs believers not to be **conformed** to the patterns of this world, but to be **transformed** by the **renewing** of our minds. By spending time in God's Word, meditating on His promises, and allowing His truth to reshape our thinking, we are able to live differently from the world, ready to meet Jesus when He returns. Our minds are renewed in Christ, and as a result, we are **prepared** for His coming, living in a way that reflects His holiness and righteousness.

A renewed mind leads to a renewed life—one that no longer mirrors the values and behaviors of the world but reflects the heart and will of God. This transformation is ongoing, requiring daily surrender and a deep dependence on the Holy Spirit. As our minds are saturated with God's truth, our desires, priorities, and choices begin to align with His purposes. We begin to see the world through a kingdom lens, discerning what is eternal over what is temporary. This spiritual clarity keeps us awake and ready, helping us walk in wisdom, resist compromise, and live as faithful witnesses until the day we see Jesus face to face.

Romans 12:2

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

- **Action:** We prepare ourselves for Christ's return by allowing God's Word to **transform our thinking**. This transformation is a process that begins when we prioritize time with Jesus and His Word, helping us to become more like Him and stay **spiritually alert**.

Seeking the Kingdom of God First: A Heart Focused on Eternity

Jesus makes it clear that we are to seek **first His kingdom** and His righteousness, placing Him above everything else. This is essential for preparing our lives for His return. When we prioritize our relationship with Jesus—spending time with Him, aligning our hearts with His

purposes—we live with eternity in mind. Our actions, decisions, and desires reflect a focus on His return, ensuring that we are living in readiness and obedience.

When we seek God's kingdom first, our lives take on eternal significance. We no longer live just for comfort, success, or approval in this world, but for the glory of the One who is coming again. Colossians 3:1–2 urges us, *“Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”* This heavenly focus reshapes how we spend our time, steward our resources, and relate to others. It fuels a life of purpose, joy, and spiritual alertness. As we pursue Jesus daily and make His priorities our own, we position ourselves not only to be ready for His return but to help others be ready as well.

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

- **Action:** Seeking God’s kingdom first means making time with Jesus a daily priority. As we **focus on eternity**, we live in a way that reflects His values and prepares us for His second coming. Our hearts and minds become fixed on **eternal things**, rather than the fleeting distractions of the world.

Guarding Our Hearts: Staying Alert to the Deceptions of the World

The world constantly seeks to draw our attention away from Christ. Whether it’s the love of money, the desire for approval, or the temptation to indulge in sin, these distractions can lead us away from preparing for Jesus’ return. Jesus warns us to **guard our hearts** and be aware of the things that can entangle us. Spending time with Him keeps our hearts aligned with His will and helps us to **resist** the pull of the world.

Guarding our hearts requires intentionality and discernment. We must regularly examine what we allow to influence our thoughts, desires, and affections. The enemy often works subtly—through distractions, compromises, or even good things that take the place of God. Jesus calls us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37), and this wholehearted love leaves no room for divided loyalty. When our hearts are fixed on Christ, we become spiritually alert, resistant to deception, and anchored in truth. The more time we spend in God’s presence—through prayer, worship, and His Word—the more clearly we recognize what honors Him and what doesn’t. This kind of vigilance keeps us spiritually awake and ready for His return.

Proverbs 4:23

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

1 John 2:15-17

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the

eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

- **Action:** To stay prepared for Jesus' return, we must be **intentional** about what we allow into our hearts and minds. Spending time with Jesus keeps our hearts **focused on His kingdom**, helping us to reject the temptations of the world and live in **obedience to Him**.

Choosing the “Better Part Of Time With Jesus” Over Worldly Distractions

In the story of **Mary and Martha** (Luke 10:38-42), Jesus commends Mary for choosing to sit at His feet, listening to Him, while Martha busied herself with tasks. Jesus emphasizes that **time with Him** is the “better part,” and it will not be taken away. In the same way, we are called to prioritize time with Jesus over the distractions of the world, especially as we await His return. Our **relationship with Him** must take precedence over everything else.

Choosing the “better part” means recognizing that intimacy with Jesus is not just beneficial—it is essential. In a world constantly demanding our attention and pulling us in every direction, we must be deliberate in carving out sacred space for Him. Mary’s example reminds us that true readiness for Christ’s return doesn’t come from constant activity, but from consistent communion. It is in these quiet, surrendered moments at Jesus’ feet that our hearts are aligned, our minds are renewed, and our priorities are reordered. The world will always offer something urgent—but only one thing is truly necessary: being with Jesus. As we choose Him daily over distractions, we become spiritually grounded, growing in love, trust, and readiness for His soon return.

Luke 10:41-42

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

- **Action:** Choosing time with Jesus is essential for preparing our hearts for His return. It requires intentionality—turning away from the distractions of the world and choosing to **sit at His feet**. This time spent with Him keeps us spiritually alert and ready.

Eternal Life is Knowing Jesus: The Ultimate Preparation for His Return

Jesus defines eternal life as knowing Him intimately (John 17:3). This is the ultimate preparation for His return: to know **Jesus** personally and to live in constant communion with Him. As we spend time with Him now, we are aligning ourselves with His will, growing in love for Him, and anticipating the eternal life we will share with Him forever.

Knowing Jesus is not merely about acquiring knowledge—it is about walking in relationship with the living God. This relationship is the foundation of our faith, the source of our transformation, and the goal of our eternity. The more we know Him, the more we love Him; the more we love Him, the more we long for His return. When our hearts are truly captivated by Jesus, everything else fades in comparison. Philippians 3:8 reflects this pursuit: *“I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”* Eternal life doesn’t begin the day we die—it begins the moment we enter into relationship with Him. And it is in cultivating this relationship now that we are most fully prepared to enter into His presence forever.

John 17:3

“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

- **Action:** Spending quality time with Jesus is not just about preparation for the **moment of His return** but about **deepening our relationship with Him**. Knowing Him now—through prayer, worship, and His Word—helps us live with eternity in mind, eagerly awaiting the day when we will see Him face to face.

Conclusion:

Preparing for Jesus' return is not a passive waiting but an active **living** in His presence. It involves spending quality time with Him in prayer, in His Word, and in worship. This time with Jesus **prepares our hearts** to remain faithful, holy, and ready when He returns. We must **guard our hearts**, choose Him above the distractions of the world, and make His kingdom our priority. In doing so, we will be spiritually awake, spiritually alert, and spiritually prepared for the glorious day of His return. Let us **abide in Him** daily, knowing that our readiness for Christ’s return begins with our intimate relationship with the One who is coming again.

A Call to Prepare for Christ's Return

The Call to Repentance from Sin and Worldliness

One of the most significant barriers to readiness for Christ’s return is the lingering presence of sin in our lives. Sin, whether it is outward rebellion or hidden compromise, hinders our relationship with God and our ability to live faithfully in the world.

In Matthew 24:42-44, Jesus exhorts us to *“keep watch,”* for we do not know the hour of His coming. But how can we be ready if we are weighed down by sin and spiritual distractions? Hebrews 12:1-2 urges us to *“throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles”* in order to run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Sin and worldliness entangle us, preventing us from running the race effectively and preparing our hearts to meet Jesus.

Repentance is not merely feeling guilty—it is a Spirit-led turning of the heart back to God. It is a response to His kindness, a recognition that anything which separates us from Him is not worth keeping. In 1 John 1:9, we're promised that *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* This cleansing is essential for a life of holiness and alertness. As we reject the patterns of the world and remove the idols that distract us, we make room for the presence and power of God to work within us. True repentance realigns us with Christ's values and prepares us to live boldly and blamelessly in anticipation of His return. Now is the time to cast off the weight of sin, renew our devotion, and walk in purity and purpose—so that we may be found ready, not ashamed, at His coming.

The Need for Genuine Repentance

One of the most urgent calls in Scripture is the call to repent. Genuine repentance is not merely feeling sorry for our sins, but a complete turning away from sin and a turning toward God with humility and faith. Jesus began His public ministry with this very message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 4:17). Repentance is foundational to salvation, sanctification, and readiness for Christ's return.

In Revelation 3:19, Jesus speaks to the church in Laodicea and says, *"Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent."* This shows us that repentance is not a one-time act but an ongoing posture of the heart. It is God's kindness that leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4), and His desire is not to condemn but to restore.

We must examine our lives honestly—are we excusing sin or confronting it? Are we truly grieved by what grieves God? Repentance prepares the way for revival, personal holiness, and a vibrant relationship with Christ. Without it, we risk becoming hardened, self-deceived, and spiritually dull. Let us cry out as David did in Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, God, and know my heart... See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

The Danger of Worldly Entanglements

Worldliness is a subtle but powerful enemy of spiritual readiness. It often creeps in unnoticed through our desires, habits, entertainment, priorities, and ambitions. The apostle John warns us in 1 John 2:15-17:

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them... The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

The love of the world draws our hearts away from the love of God. Whether it's the pursuit of wealth, status, materialism, or cultural acceptance, these things can quickly become idols—taking the place of Christ in our affections and loyalties. James 4:4 makes this even more clear: *"Friendship with the world means enmity against God."*

To be ready for Christ's return, we must disentangle ourselves from the temporary and fix our eyes on the eternal. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to "throw off everything that hinders." This includes

not just sin, but anything—no matter how harmless it may appear—that dulls our hunger for God. As Paul urges in Romans 12:2, *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”*

We cannot walk in step with the Spirit while dancing with the world. The time is now to renounce worldly attachments and embrace a lifestyle that reflects the holiness and urgency of the hour.

The Call To Forgive Others

One area that may be particularly difficult for some is unforgiveness. Jesus clearly teaches in Matthew 6:14-15 that *“if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* Holding onto grudges, refusing to forgive, or nurturing bitterness in our hearts can block the flow of God’s grace in our lives and hinder our readiness for His return. If we hold onto unforgiveness, we are not living in the freedom and love that Christ offers us, and we are disobedient to His command to forgive as we have been forgiven.

Forgiveness is not optional for those who follow Christ—it is essential. It reflects the heart of the gospel and the character of God Himself. When we forgive, we are not excusing sin or minimizing pain, but we are releasing others from the debt we believe they owe us, just as Jesus released us from ours. Colossians 3:13 urges us to *“bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”* Unforgiveness becomes a spiritual barrier that clouds our hearts, hinders our prayers, and leaves us unprepared for Christ’s return. Choosing to forgive clears the way for healing, restores broken relationships, and allows us to walk in the love and freedom Jesus died to give us. If we are truly looking for His return, we must live with hearts free from bitterness and full of grace.

The Challenge of Hypocrisy

Hypocrisy is another major hindrance to spiritual preparedness. Jesus often rebuked the religious leaders of His time for their outward appearance of righteousness that was not reflected in their hearts (Matthew 23:27-28). The issue of hypocrisy arises when we profess one thing but live another way. Our words and actions do not match, and we fail to live out the gospel in our daily lives.

God desires truth in the innermost being (Psalm 51:6). Hypocrisy doesn’t just damage our witness—it damages our relationship with God. While others may be deceived by outward displays, God sees the heart, and He calls us to live with sincerity and integrity. In James 1:22, we are exhorted to *“be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* Genuine readiness for Christ’s return is not about appearances; it’s about a life that is authentically rooted in obedience, humility, and love. This means allowing God to examine and purify every area of our lives—especially the hidden ones. When we surrender fully and

live honestly before God, we cultivate the kind of character that endures, bears fruit, and stands ready when Jesus returns.

In Luke 12:1-3, Jesus warns His disciples against the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. He says, *“There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.”* In the end, the truth will be revealed, and we must ask ourselves: Are we living with integrity? Are we practicing what we preach? Are we living for Christ in the private moments of our lives as well as in the public ones?

The Lord sees our hearts, and He desires truth in the inner being (Psalm 51:6). Hypocrisy is not just an issue for those in public ministry; it is a danger for all of us. If we are to be ready for Christ’s return, we must ensure that our lives are consistent with the gospel we profess.

The Importance of Words and Meditations

The words we speak and the thoughts we entertain also play a crucial role in our readiness for Christ’s return. In Psalm 19:14, the psalmist prays, *“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”* Jesus teaches us that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34). If our hearts are filled with bitterness, jealousy, pride, or anger, it will eventually show in our words and actions.

The Scriptures encourage us to guard our hearts, for everything we do flows from it (Proverbs 4:23). Our thoughts and meditations should be focused on what is pure, lovely, and admirable (Philippians 4:8). Are we allowing our minds to be filled with godly thoughts, or are we consumed with worldly desires and distractions? Are we allowing the Word of God to renew our minds daily, or are we being conformed to the patterns of this world?

Our words have the power to build up or tear down, to encourage or discourage, to reflect the love of Christ or reveal a hardened heart. James 3:5-6 reminds us that the tongue is a small part of the body but can cause great destruction if left unchecked. Therefore, guarding our words is not merely about etiquette but about spiritual vigilance. When we intentionally fill our hearts and minds with God’s truth—through prayer, Scripture, and worship—our words naturally begin to reflect His character. This inner transformation enables us to be lights in a dark world, speaking life and hope as we await Jesus’ return. Cultivating pure meditations and righteous speech is a vital part of living ready and holy before God.

A Lukewarm Walk: Fellowship with Darkness vs. Fellowship with Light

A lukewarm Christian walk is one that is marked by inconsistency and spiritual apathy. It’s the person who professes faith in Christ but whose life does not reflect the love, joy, and obedience that should characterize a true follower of Jesus. In this state, we often find ourselves rushing after worldliness, pursuing comfort, status, and pleasure, while neglecting the deeper relationship with Christ.

Jesus calls us to live as children of the light, to walk in holiness and righteousness, reflecting His character in every area of our lives. In Ephesians 5:8-10, Paul writes, *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.”* To live as children of the light means to choose fellowship with Christ over fellowship with darkness. It means to pursue holiness, not sin, and to seek His will above all else.

Lukewarmness in our spiritual lives dulls our sensitivity to God’s voice and blinds us to the urgency of Christ’s return. When we settle for half-hearted faith, we risk drifting away from the transformative power of the Holy Spirit and becoming ineffective witnesses for the kingdom. Revelation 3:15-16 warns against being lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—because such complacency displeases the Lord. True fellowship with the light requires intentional daily surrender, a heart fully devoted to Jesus, and a willingness to repent and realign whenever we stray. Only by choosing Christ wholeheartedly can we overcome the pull of the world and shine brightly as faithful followers, ready for His coming.

Conclusion: A Call to Prepare for Christ's Return

The return of Christ is an event that we must all prepare for, both individually and collectively as the Church. Are we ready? Are we living in a state of spiritual preparedness, or are we distracted, complacent, or unrepentant in certain areas of our lives?

The message of readiness is not a message of fear, but of hope. Christ’s return is our blessed hope, the fulfillment of all God’s promises, and the culmination of our salvation. But to meet Him with joy and confidence, we must live faithfully in the present.

Let us examine our lives, repent where necessary, and renew our commitment to Christ. Let us seek His kingdom first, live in holiness, forgive others, and speak words of life. May we live in such a way that when He returns, we will hear Him say, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:21). May we be ready and waiting with expectation and excitement for the return of our Savior.

The book of **Revelation** is filled with powerful revealing declarations and prophetic messages about the return of Christ, the preparation of the Church, and the ultimate judgment of the world. Several passages in Revelation speak directly to the themes of preparedness, spiritual readiness, repentance, and the consequences of being lukewarm or unfaithful. Below are key Scriptures from Revelation that relate to the themes of **Christ’s return** and our **readiness** as the Church:

The Call to Repentance and Readiness

The messages to the churches of Sardis and Laodicea remind us of the danger of spiritual complacency and the urgent need for repentance. Like Sardis, we may appear alive outwardly, but Jesus calls us to “wake up” and strengthen what is weak in our faith. Like Laodicea, we may become lukewarm, self-sufficient, or indifferent, failing to recognize our true spiritual poverty. Yet Jesus offers hope—He stands at the door, knocking, ready to

restore fellowship if we repent and open our hearts to Him. This call to repentance is inseparable from readiness; only a vigilant, repentant heart will be prepared to meet Christ when He comes unexpectedly, like a thief in the night.

Revelation 3:1-3 (Message to Sardis) *"I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you."*

- **Explanation:** Jesus addresses the church at Sardis, calling them to **wake up** and repent. They have the outward appearance of spiritual life but are spiritually dead. He warns that He will return unexpectedly, like a thief, and they must be prepared for His coming. This speaks to the need for constant vigilance and repentance as we await Christ's return.

Revelation 3:14-22 (Message to Laodicea) *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."*

- **Explanation:** The church at Laodicea is rebuked for being **lukewarm**—spiritually indifferent. Jesus desires wholehearted devotion, and the Laodiceans' self-sufficiency has blinded them to their true condition. He calls them to **repent** and to seek spiritual wealth from Him, urging them to open the door to fellowship with Him. This passage is a stark warning against complacency and spiritual apathy, urging believers to prepare their hearts for His return.

Christ's Return as a Time of Judgment and Reward

Christ's return is portrayed in Scripture not only as a glorious event of hope but also as a moment of divine judgment and rightful authority. Revelation 19:11-16 reveals Jesus as the "Faithful and True" Rider on a white horse, who judges with justice and leads the armies of heaven. His eyes like blazing fire and the sharp sword from His mouth symbolize His power to execute God's righteous judgment on the nations. At His return, Jesus will establish His kingdom in full authority as the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords," bringing both reward to the faithful and judgment to the rebellious. This sobering truth calls believers to live with a clear understanding that His coming will bring ultimate accountability as well as victory and reward for those who remain faithful.

Revelation 19:11-16 (The Rider on the White Horse) *"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.' He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."*

- **Explanation:** This passage describes the **glorious return of Jesus Christ** in all His power and majesty. He comes to judge the nations and bring ultimate justice. His return is not just a moment of hope for the believer but also a time of reckoning for the world. This should serve as a reminder to be prepared and faithful, as Christ will come to reward the righteous and punish the wicked.

Revelation 22:12 (Jesus' Return and Reward) *"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done."*

- **Explanation:** Jesus reiterates His **imminent return**, stating that He will come with His reward, to give to everyone according to their deeds. This highlights the importance of living with purpose and integrity, knowing that Christ will reward those who have been faithful to Him and obedient to His calling.

A Call to Overcome and Be Victorious

The call to overcome is a powerful encouragement for us to remain faithful and steadfast amid trials and challenges. In His messages to the churches of Ephesus and Smyrna, Jesus promises that those who are victorious will receive eternal rewards—the right to eat from the tree of life and freedom from the second death. These assurances remind us that spiritual perseverance is not only necessary for readiness but also leads to eternal security and blessing. As followers of Christ, we are called to endure faithfully, overcoming the temptations and hardships of this world, so that we may share in the fullness of God's eternal kingdom.

Revelation 2:7 (Message to Ephesus) *"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."*

- **Explanation:** The message to the church in Ephesus is a call to overcome the challenges they face, including their loss of first love. Those who **overcome** and remain faithful to Christ will be rewarded with the right to eat from the **tree of life**, symbolizing eternal life and the fullness of God's blessing. It is a call to spiritual perseverance and readiness for the eternal life promised to those who endure.

Revelation 2:11 (Message to Smyrna) *"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death."*

- **Explanation:** To the church in Smyrna, Jesus promises that those who overcome will not be harmed by the second death, which refers to eternal separation from God (Revelation 20:14). This reinforces the idea of spiritual readiness and victory in Christ, which leads to eternal security.

Revelation 3:5 (Message to Sardis) *"The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will not blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels."*

- **Explanation:** The promise to those who are victorious in Sardis is that they will be clothed in **white** garments (symbolizing purity and righteousness) and will have their names acknowledged by Jesus before the Father. The imagery of the **book of life** speaks to the eternal security and reward for those who remain faithful and prepared for Christ's return.

The Blessed Hope: Christ's Return as the Fulfillment of God's Promises

The return of Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises, bringing about a new heaven and a new earth where sorrow, pain, and death are no more. Revelation 21 paints a glorious picture of God dwelling with His people in perfect harmony, a hope that sustains believers through life's trials. This blessed hope is the assurance that all things will be made new, and that we will live eternally in the presence of our loving God. As we anticipate this future reality, we are called to live with joy, perseverance, and faithfulness, knowing that Christ's return will bring complete restoration and everlasting peace.

Revelation 21:1-4 (The New Heaven and the New Earth) *"Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth, 'for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'"*

- **Explanation:** This passage describes the **new creation** that will be ushered in at Christ's return. It is the fulfillment of God's promises — a **new heaven and new earth**, where God will dwell with His people, and there will be no more death, sorrow, or pain. This glorious future is the hope of the Church, and it is a reminder that Christ's return will bring both the judgment of evil and the restoration of all things.

Revelation 22:20 (The Promise of Christ's Return) *"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon. 'Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.'"*

- **Explanation:** This is the final affirmation in the book of Revelation, where Jesus Himself declares, *"I am coming soon."* The Church responds with a prayer of longing, *"Come, Lord Jesus."* It is a call for readiness, anticipation, and hope, as we await the return of our Savior.

Conclusion

The messages in Revelation regarding **Christ's return** emphasize both **readiness** and **holiness**. Believers are called to **overcome** sin, be vigilant in faith, and remain faithful to Christ, for His return will bring both **judgment** and **reward**. To be prepared, we must live in **expectation**, **repentance**, and **obedience**, looking forward to the fulfillment of God's promises in the new heaven and new earth.

In light of these Scriptures, the Church is urged to stay alert, to keep the faith, and to live in such a way that we are **ready** when Christ comes. May we be found faithful, with **pure hearts** and **holy lives**, eagerly anticipating His glorious return.

A Biblical Reflection on the Call to Repentance, Holiness, and Devotion

In the context of our daily walk with Christ, the question posed — *Are we lukewarm in our walk with Jesus?* — is not merely a rhetorical question, but a call to self-examination and repentance. Throughout Scripture, we are warned about the dangers of spiritual apathy and compromise. In Revelation 3:15-16, the Lord speaks directly to the church of Laodicea, saying: *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other. So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth."* This stark warning illustrates the seriousness with which God views spiritual indifference.

The Danger of Lingerin Sin

One of the primary themes we see in both the Old and New Testaments is the call to *repent* — to turn away from sin and return to God with a whole heart. Whether it is deliberate sin that we continue to practice or a passive allowance of sin to linger, Scripture is clear that unrepented sin breaks fellowship with God.

In 1 John 1:9, the apostle writes, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* The hope and promise of forgiveness are not meant to encourage complacency in sin but to urge us toward constant repentance and renewal. Deliberate sin, whether in the form of unforgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15), hypocrisy (Matthew 23:27-28), or slothfulness (Proverbs 19:15), dulls the believer's heart and leads to spiritual stagnation.

Jesus Himself was clear in His teachings about forgiveness. In Matthew 18:21-22, He speaks of the necessity of forgiving others not just seven times, but seventy-seven times, highlighting the boundless nature of God's grace that should overflow through us toward others. When we hold on to unforgiveness, we not only dishonor God's mercy but also risk hardening our hearts, making us less sensitive to His voice and leading.

The Lukewarm Condition

The lukewarm Christian life is one marked by spiritual complacency. We are neither fervent in our love for Jesus nor completely turned away from Him, but rather stuck in the middle. This middle ground is where we experience the greatest danger, for it is easy to fall into a state of spiritual slumber. The Bible calls us to a wholehearted devotion to Christ, to live with passion for His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

When we rush after the things of this world — whether it be wealth, pleasure, status, or anything that competes for our affection — we are, in effect, choosing darkness over light. James 4:4 is clear on this point: *“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God?”* Our hearts cannot serve two masters; we are either slaves to Christ or slaves to the world. If we continue in a pattern of worldliness and neglect our communion with God, we find ourselves in the dangerous position of being lukewarm.

Jesus invites us to a deeper, intimate relationship with Him. He desires fellowship with us, and that fellowship requires us to remain close, to daily deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). In John 15:4-5, Jesus says, *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”* True communion with Jesus results in a fruitful, vibrant Christian life — one that cannot be stagnant or lukewarm.

Acceptable Words and Meditations

The psalmist gives us a beautiful prayer in Psalm 19:14, *“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”* Here, we see that God desires not only our outward actions but the very thoughts and meditations of our hearts to be in harmony with His will. It's not just about what we say, but the attitude behind what we say, and the purity of our hearts before God.

We are called to examine the words that proceed from our mouths (Matthew 12:34), for they reveal the condition of our hearts. If our hearts are filled with bitterness, pride, or selfish ambition, it will show in our speech. On the other hand, when our hearts are aligned with Christ, our words will reflect His love, kindness, and grace.

Additionally, cultivating acceptable words and meditations means intentionally filling our hearts and minds with God's truth. Philippians 4:8 encourages us to think on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. As we dwell on these virtues, our inner life is transformed, and our speech naturally begins to mirror the character of Christ. In a world where careless words are common, believers are called to be set apart—

speaking life, hope, and encouragement. By daily surrendering our thoughts and words to the Lord, we invite Him to shape our hearts, ensuring that what flows from us brings Him glory.

The Call to Wake Up and Repent

The Scripture gives us many exhortations to wake up from spiritual slumber. In Romans 13:11, Paul writes: *“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”* The call to wake up is not just an emotional appeal but a reminder of the urgency of the times in which we live. Our time on earth is short, and the return of Christ draws near.

In light of this, repentance is not just an occasional act but a continual posture of humility before God. To repent is to turn away from sin and to turn toward God, not just in the initial moment of salvation, but throughout our lives. Jesus calls us to follow Him with our whole hearts, to live out His kingdom on earth, and to bear witness to His truth in our actions and in our words.

Conclusion: A Call to Radical Discipleship

The question remains: Are we walking in the fullness of our relationship with Christ? Are we truly living for Him, or are we entangled in sin, worldliness, or complacency? The answer lies in our hearts and in our actions.

If we find ourselves guilty of spiritual sloth or deliberate sin, we are called to *repent* — to turn away from those things and return to the Lord, who is faithful to forgive. The words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, and the actions of our lives must reflect our love for God. Let us remember that the heart of the Christian walk is not in outward form but in an ongoing relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. May our lives, in every way, be pleasing in His sight, as we seek first His kingdom and righteousness.

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In light of these Scriptures, the Church is urged to stay alert, to keep the faith, and to live in such a way that we are **ready** when Christ comes. May we be found faithful, with **pure hearts** and **holy lives**, eagerly anticipating His glorious return.

The Glorious 2nd Return Of Jesus Christ

How He Will Return –

The return of Jesus Christ will not be in secret or obscurity, but with great power, majesty, and glory. Scripture paints a vivid and awe-inspiring picture of this promised event. Unlike His first coming—in humility, born in a manger—His second coming will be unmistakable and glorious, witnessed by every eye.

“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and **every eye will see Him**, even those who pierced Him...”

(Revelation 1:7)

He will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God (1 Thessalonians 4:16). The sky will split, the earth will shake, and the King of kings will return to judge the living and the dead, and to establish His everlasting Kingdom.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout...”

(1 Thessalonians 4:16)

The world, which has largely rejected Him, will tremble. But for those who are His—those who have kept their lamps burning, their hearts pure, and their faith unwavering—it will be a moment of unspeakable joy and victory. The dead in Christ will rise first, and those who are alive and remain will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). What a glorious reunion that will be!

“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And **thus we shall always be with the Lord.**”

(1 Thessalonians 4:17)

But this is not a time to be complacent. Jesus Himself warned:

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

(Matthew 24:44)

Let us not fall asleep in our faith. Let us cast off every sin that so easily entangles and fix our eyes on Jesus. The signs of the times are evident. The world groans under sin and chaos. Now more than ever, we must live as those who are eagerly awaiting the return of their King.

Will He find us watching? Praying? Repenting? Serving? Loving? Or distracted, divided, and distant from Him?

The glorious second return of Jesus Christ will be a day of reckoning—but also of great hope and eternal reward for the faithful. Let us prepare our hearts, examine our lives, and long for His appearing with joy, humility, and holy reverence.

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”
(Revelation 22:20)

As Christians we wait with great expectation and excitement for the glorious 2nd return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However I beg to question is the Church really ready for His return?

Maybe some of us, need to wake up and repent from a lingering sin that we are still deliberately practicing, or our slothfulness in witnessing or serving others, or hypocrisy or unforgiveness that we are still holding on to towards someone...or Is the words of mouth and the meditations of our hearts acceptable in the sight of God? Are we lukewarm in our walk with Jesus and seldom commune with Him, yet we still rush after all worldliness and fellowship with darkness, instead of the light and goodness only found in Jesus,

Throughout the New Testament, the return of Jesus Christ is a central theme, often emphasized in terms of readiness, vigilance, and anticipation. Christians are called to live with an awareness that the second coming of Christ is imminent and that they must be prepared. The call to be prepared for Christ's return is woven throughout Scripture, urging believers to live holy lives, maintain steadfast faith, and be actively engaged in service.

The Imminence of Christ's Return

The first foundational truth about Christ's return is its certainty and suddenness. Jesus and the apostles both stress that no one knows the exact day or hour of His return. The believer is to live in constant expectation, not because the return is foreseeable at any moment but because it could happen unexpectedly.

This imminent return of Christ should not instill fear, but rather ignite a deep sense of urgency, reverence, and commitment in the heart of every believer. The knowledge that Christ could return at any moment calls us to live intentionally—pursuing holiness, guarding against spiritual laziness, and remaining steadfast in our faith. It challenges us to prioritize eternal matters over temporary distractions and to walk in the light, not in the darkness. Every decision, every action, and every moment becomes significant when viewed through the lens of His impending return. The Church must not only believe in His coming but live like it—with lamps full, hearts awake, and lives ready.

- **Matthew 24:42-44**

"Therefore stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

In this passage, Jesus likens His return to the unexpected arrival of a thief. The essence of the warning is to be vigilant and prepared at all times because the timing of His return is unknown.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:2**

"For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief

in the night."

The apostle Paul echoes this imagery of the return of Christ being like a thief—unexpected, swift, and sudden. Therefore, Christians are called to be constantly prepared, keeping watch in spiritual vigilance.

Living Holy and Righteous Lives

A key aspect of preparedness for Christ's return is living a life that reflects the character of Christ. The return of Christ is a time of judgment, and it is expected that believers will stand before Him with clean hands and pure hearts. A life of holiness is essential as a demonstration of one's readiness. Living in holiness is not merely a suggestion—it is a divine mandate for those who await the return of Christ. Holiness is the outward fruit of an inward transformation, made possible by the grace of God and empowered by the Holy Spirit. It involves a daily surrender of the flesh, a rejection of worldly desires, and a pursuit of righteousness, love, and truth. As the day of the Lord draws near, the believer must be vigilant in examining their heart and conduct, striving to be blameless and set apart in a world that is growing increasingly dark. Holiness is not legalism; it is love expressed through obedience. It is how we demonstrate our reverence for God, our longing for Christ's return, and our readiness to meet Him face-to-face.

- **2 Peter 3:11-12**

"Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God..."

Peter emphasizes that the world will one day be consumed in fire, and because of this, Christians are called to live lives marked by holiness, godliness, and a longing for Christ's return.

- **Titus 2:11-13**

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

This passage connects the grace of God to the believer's call for holiness. Living uprightly in the present age while waiting for Christ's glorious return is a key element of preparedness.

Watchfulness and Vigilance

Jesus frequently calls His followers to watchfulness, warning them to be ready for His return at any time. The metaphor of a watchman, alert and waiting for the master's return, is used often to illustrate this. Watchfulness is not passive waiting—it is active, intentional living in readiness for Christ's return. Jesus consistently urges His followers to stay spiritually alert, like servants awaiting their master's return at any hour. The parable of the ten virgins reminds us that spiritual preparedness cannot be borrowed or postponed. Those who neglect their walk with Christ or live carelessly risk being shut out when He comes. Likewise, Jesus' words in Mark 13 call believers to a life of continual watchfulness—not obsessing over timelines, but focusing on faithfulness. To be watchful is to live with discernment, prayerfulness, and a

heart anchored in hope. It means guarding against spiritual drowsiness and ensuring that our lives reflect a readiness to meet our returning King at any moment.

- **Matthew 25:1-13 – The Parable of the Ten Virgins**

In this well-known parable, ten virgins await the arrival of the bridegroom. Five are wise, having prepared with extra oil for their lamps, while the other five are foolish and unprepared. When the bridegroom arrives unexpectedly, the wise virgins are ready to meet him, while the foolish ones are left behind.

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matthew 25:13)

This parable stresses the need for personal readiness and the foolishness of procrastination in spiritual matters. Christ's return will not wait for those who are unprepared.

- **Mark 13:32-37**

"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come."

This passage stresses the importance of being on guard and awake, emphasizing that the believer's task is not to know when Christ will return but to be ready at all times.

Faithful Stewardship and Service

Preparedness for Christ's return is also expressed in faithful stewardship and active service. Christians are called to be faithful with the gifts, resources, and opportunities God has given them while awaiting His return. Faithful stewardship is more than managing resources—it is a lifestyle of devotion, responsibility, and purpose rooted in the awareness that everything we have is entrusted to us by God. As we await Christ's return, we are not to be idle or self-indulgent but actively engaged in His work—caring for others, using our gifts to build His Kingdom, and living with eternity in mind. The parables of the talents and the faithful manager remind us that Christ will return to evaluate how we lived, served, and invested what He gave us. Our goal should be to hear those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." This requires intentional living—making the most of every opportunity, persevering in love and good deeds, and remaining faithful even when no one is watching. True preparedness is demonstrated through a life that labors joyfully for the Master, knowing that His return is certain.

- **Matthew 25:14-30 – The Parable of the Talents**

Jesus tells the story of a master who entrusts his servants with different amounts of money (talents) before going on a journey. Upon his return, the master evaluates how each servant has used what was entrusted to them. The faithful servants are rewarded, while the unfaithful one is condemned.

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:21)

The key lesson is that believers are to use the time and resources God has given them for His glory, serving faithfully in anticipation of His return.

- **Luke 12:42-44**

"And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.'"

Here, Jesus speaks of faithful service as being essential to preparedness. Those who live in active service to Christ and others will be rewarded when He returns.

The Promise of Reward and Judgment

Christ's return brings both reward and judgment. The believer's preparedness is tied to the promise of reward for those who are found faithful, while there is also a solemn warning for those who are unprepared or who have failed to live in accordance with Christ's will. The return of Christ will be a day of divine reckoning—a moment when every heart will be laid bare before the righteous Judge. For the faithful, it will be a day of unspeakable joy and reward, as Christ honors those who have lived in obedience, faith, and love. But for the unfaithful and unrepentant, it will be a day of sorrow and separation. Revelation 22:12 reminds us that Jesus is returning with His reward, and He will repay each person according to their deeds. This truth should stir both hope and holy fear within us—hope that our labor in the Lord is not in vain, and fear that drives us to live righteously. The judgment seat of Christ is not merely symbolic; it is a divine appointment every soul must keep. Therefore, let us live each day with eternity in view, striving to please the One before whom we will one day stand.

- **Revelation 22:12**

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done."

This is a direct promise from Christ that He will return to reward the righteous and punish the wicked according to their deeds. This encourages believers to persevere in righteousness and faithfulness in anticipation of His coming.

- **2 Corinthians 5:10**

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

This verse reinforces the concept that Christ's return will be a time of judgment, where each person's life and actions will be accounted for.

Conclusion:

Preparedness for Christ's return is not merely about intellectual knowledge or occasional anticipation, but involves an active and ongoing process of living out one's faith with vigilance, holiness, and faithful service. The Bible calls believers to live expectantly, understanding that Christ's return is both certain and imminent. As we await His return, we are to remain vigilant, live righteous lives, and use our time and resources faithfully for the Kingdom of God.

Christ's return is not just a future event but a present motivator, urging us to remain faithful and to persevere, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58). Thus, Christians are called to live in constant readiness, with their eyes fixed on Christ's return, living lives worthy of the calling they have received, and sharing the hope of His imminent return with the world.

Just as a bride lovingly prepares for her wedding day, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for the glorious day when we will be united with Christ. However, this preparation isn't about outward appearances or mere human effort; it's about opening our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to purify and transform us so that we reflect the character of Jesus. It is through this divine process that we are made ready to stand before Christ, pure and blameless, as His beloved Bride.

Share the Good News of Jesus Christ, Evangelize, Missions, Witness

The call to share the Good News of Jesus Christ is central to the mission of every believer. In *Matthew 28:19-20*, Jesus commissions His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations," highlighting the responsibility of Christians to spread the gospel message to the world. This great commission is not just a suggestion but a command to evangelize, making it a vital part of preparing for Christ's return. Evangelism involves sharing the message of salvation through Jesus Christ—His life, death, and resurrection—with those who have not yet heard.

In *Romans 10:14-15*, Paul emphasizes the necessity of preaching the gospel, saying, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Evangelism requires both action and words. As believers, we are called to be living witnesses of Christ's love, truth, and grace, demonstrating His character through our lives while also proclaiming the gospel message through our words.

Missions, both locally and globally, extend this call to share Christ beyond our immediate circle to those in distant lands and cultures. *Acts 1:8* reminds us of the scope of our mission: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The task of sharing the gospel is immense, but it is made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit, who empowers believers to witness and reach the nations.

As we prepare for Christ's return, evangelism and missions are not just tasks to be completed but a reflection of our readiness and anticipation. The urgency of the gospel is clear, and Jesus calls us to spread it to every corner of the world before He returns, that many may come to faith and be ready to meet Him when He comes again.

Pray

Prayer is one of the most essential practices for preparing for Christ's return. It is through prayer that we maintain our relationship with God, seek His guidance, align our will with His, and express our dependence on Him. Jesus Himself modeled a life of prayer, frequently withdrawing to pray to the Father, and He encouraged His disciples to do the same. In *Luke 18:1*, Jesus tells a parable to the effect that "they should always pray and not give up," emphasizing the necessity of persistence in prayer, especially in times of waiting.

Prayer is a means by which we invite God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. In *Matthew 6:10*, Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." As we pray, we are not only preparing our hearts for His return but also participating in the advancement of His kingdom on earth. Prayer aligns us with God's purposes, helps us endure in faith, and prepares us spiritually for the coming of Christ.

In *1 Thessalonians 5:17*, Paul exhorts believers to "pray without ceasing." Prayer is an ongoing conversation with God, one that keeps our hearts tuned to Him. As we await Christ's return, prayer becomes a vital practice to stay awake, stay alert, and stay faithful to the mission He has entrusted to us. Through prayer, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, strengthened in our faith, and equipped for the work God has called us to do.

Pray for All Disciples of Jesus Christ, Around the World to Be Established in the Love of Jesus Christ and to Be Prepared for His Return

As we wait for Christ's return, one of our responsibilities as believers is to pray for fellow disciples of Jesus worldwide. In *Colossians 1:9-10*, Paul prays for the believers in Colossae, asking God "to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way." We too are called to intercede for the body of Christ, praying that fellow believers are firmly established in the love of Jesus and prepared for His return.

The global church faces many trials and challenges, and it is vital that we pray for the spiritual growth, endurance, and faithfulness of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. The Apostle Paul frequently prayed for the churches he ministered to, asking that they be strengthened in their faith, rooted in love, and equipped to stand firm in the face of persecution (*Ephesians 3:16-17*). As we pray for fellow disciples, we join in God's work of preparing His people to be ready when Jesus comes again.

In *2 Thessalonians 3:5*, Paul prays that "the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance." As we intercede for others, we are praying not only for their spiritual growth but for their steadfastness in the faith. We pray that they, too, would be faithful witnesses of Christ and eagerly awaiting His return, ready to stand before Him without shame or fear.

Pray That God Raise Up and Send Workers for the Harvest

In *Matthew 9:37-38*, Jesus tells His disciples, *"Then says he to his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; 38 Pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.."* The mission of spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth requires workers who are equipped, called, and ready to labor for the Kingdom. The task of evangelism is not for a select few but for all believers, and it requires us to pray for more workers who will respond to God's call.

This prayer is not just about asking God to send missionaries abroad, but also to raise up workers in our local communities, workplaces, and families. Every believer is a worker in the harvest field, and God can use anyone who is willing to go. In *Luke 10:2*, Jesus again urges His followers to pray for more laborers, acknowledging the need for a strong, committed workforce in His kingdom.

As we pray for workers, we are also inviting God to raise up individuals who are passionate about sharing the gospel and discipling others. This prayer is not just about asking God to send people; it is about aligning our hearts with His mission and being willing to step into the work ourselves. God may be calling us to be part of the harvest, whether through local evangelism, supporting missionaries, or living a life that reflects His love in every sphere of influence.

Praying for the Return of Christ

The anticipation of Christ's return should be a central part of every believer's prayer life. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (*Matthew 6:10*). This prayer reflects the longing for Christ's return and the establishment of God's perfect kingdom on earth. As we wait for that glorious day, we should actively pray for Christ's return, longing for His reign of justice, peace, and righteousness.

One of the most effective ways to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ is through **prayer**, specifically praying for the return of Jesus. The Bible encourages us to long for Christ's return and to **pray** for His kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. This **eager expectation** helps us stay **focused** on the future and live in readiness.

Revelation 22:20 (AKJV)

"He which testifies these things says, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. ."

- **Action: Praying for Jesus 'return** is a way of aligning our hearts with God's purposes and cultivating a sense of anticipation. It reminds us that our hope is not in the world but in the **eternal promise** of Christ's return. Let our prayers reflect our **readiness**, as we eagerly wait for the day when He will make all things new.

In *Revelation 22:20*, the Bible concludes with the words of Jesus: "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." This is the prayer of the early church, a prayer that should resonate in the hearts of believers today. It is a prayer of hope, longing, and readiness for the fulfillment of God's promises. As we pray for the return of Christ, we are declaring our faith in His sovereignty and His ultimate victory over sin and death.

Praying for Christ's return is also a prayer for justice. In *Revelation 6:9-10*, the martyrs cry out to God, asking how long until He brings justice. When we pray for Christ's return, we are expressing our desire for the injustices of this world to be righted, for suffering to end, and for God's kingdom to be fully realized.

Ultimately, praying for the return of Christ is about keeping our eyes fixed on eternity. It is a declaration that our ultimate hope is not in this world but in the return of our Savior. As we pray, we not only prepare our hearts for His coming but also help to align our priorities with His eternal purposes. We are eagerly awaiting the day when He will make all things new, and we will dwell in His presence forever.

Preparing to Be the Bride of Jesus Christ

The imagery of the church as the Bride of Christ is a profound and recurring theme throughout Scripture, symbolizing the intimate and covenantal relationship between Christ and His people. In *Ephesians 5:25-27*, (AKJV) Paul writes, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. , without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*" This passage highlights not only the depth of Christ's love for the church but also the responsibility of believers to prepare themselves to be presented to Him as a pure and spotless bride.

The bridegroom, Jesus Christ, has already paid the price for His bride with His own blood, securing the redemption of the church through His sacrificial death. As the bride, we are called to respond to this love with purity, holiness, and faithfulness. Just as a bride prepares for her wedding day by adorning herself, preparing her heart, mind, and actions, so too must we prepare ourselves spiritually for the return of Christ. This preparation is not about external appearances but about inner transformation—a life of sanctification and devotion to the One who loves us deeply.

In *Revelation 19:7-8*, it is written, "Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." This fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints. Our preparation for the return of Christ, and for being presented as His bride, is through living lives that reflect His holiness. It involves walking in obedience, living in intimacy with Him, and cultivating a life that honors Him in all things.

In *2 Corinthians 11:2*, Paul expresses his desire for the church: “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.” As the Bride of Christ, we are to remain faithful, keeping ourselves undefiled from the world and devoted to Christ alone. Our personal holiness, repentance from sin, and dedication to loving Christ with all our heart, soul, and mind are part of our preparation. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live lives that are worthy of this calling, eagerly anticipating the day when we will be united with our Savior.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is a momentous event that signifies the ultimate union between Christ and His church. It is described in *Revelation 19:9* as the culmination of the redemptive plan of God, a feast where Christ, the Bridegroom, celebrates the union with His bride, the church. “Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’”

This marriage supper symbolizes not only the completion of God’s redemptive work but also the joyous fulfillment of the covenant between Christ and His church. It is a time of celebration, of great rejoicing, and the culmination of our eternal hope. It is the moment when Christ will be united with His bride in perfect love, peace, and harmony—when all things will be made new. The church, purified and adorned in the righteousness of Christ, will finally be presented to Him, and the faithful will rejoice in His presence forever.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb also marks the final victory over sin, death, and the powers of darkness. In *1 Corinthians 15:54-55*, Paul declares, “When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” This victory is celebrated at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, where all things will be made right, and believers will enter into an eternal feast of joy and fellowship with Christ.

It is important to note that the invitation to this great feast is extended to all who have received Christ as their Lord and Savior. In *Revelation 22:17*, the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” The invitation is open to all who will repent, believe in the gospel, and prepare themselves as the bride of Christ. This invitation is one of grace, offering forgiveness and eternal life to all who accept the call.

As we prepare for this glorious event, we must reflect on the words of Jesus in the parable of the ten virgins in *Matthew 25:1-13*. In the parable, five virgins were wise and prepared, while the other five were foolish and unprepared. The wise virgins were ready when the bridegroom came, and they entered the wedding banquet with him. The unprepared virgins were shut out. Jesus concluded the parable by saying, “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

This parable underscores the importance of being spiritually prepared for the return of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. We must be vigilant, keeping our hearts and lives ready

to meet Him at any moment. Our readiness is marked by a life of holiness, intimacy with Christ, and faithful service. As we anticipate this glorious event, we are reminded of the urgency to be prepared—to live in a way that reflects our hope and longing for the coming of our Bridegroom.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is the culmination of our deepest desires as the church. It is the day when we will see Christ face to face, when we will be completely united with Him in a perfect, eternal relationship. Until that day comes, we must live in readiness, longing for the day when the bridegroom calls us home to the eternal feast that awaits us. May we be found faithful, and may our lives reflect the purity, love, and devotion of a bride eagerly awaiting the return of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.