

Staying In A State Of Readiness!

Eph. 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the READINESS that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Eph. 6:15 and with your feet fitted with the READINESS that comes from the gospel of peace.

Josh 1:16 - Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

2 Tim. 2:3-4

3 Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

4 No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

1. We must stay ready to give an answer for the hope you have!

1 Peter 3:15-16 - But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a

clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

In Grace - Col 4:6 - Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

In Humility - 2 Tim 2:25 - Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

NKJV - in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,

In The Spirit - Luke 21:14-15 - But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

2. We must stay ready to share the Gospel at all times!

Rom. 1:15-16 - That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

2 Tim. 4:2 - Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

Isaiah 52:7 - How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Isaiah 61:1-3 - The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

3. We must stay ready to give of your treasure to God!

1 Tim. 6:18-19 - Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Rom. 12:13 - Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Isaiah 32:8 - But the noble make noble plans, and by noble deeds they stand.

NKJV - But a generous man devises generous things, and by generosity he shall stand.

Heb. 13:16 - And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

I Jn. 3:17 - If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

Luke 6:35 - But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

4. We must stay ready to do good works for God!

Titus 3:1 - Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,

2 Tim. 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Eph 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2 Tim. 2:19-21 - Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who

confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness." In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

5. We must stay ready to lay down your earthly life for Christ!

Acts 21:13 - Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Rom. 14:8 - If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

John 12:25 - The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Matt. 10:28 - Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

6. We must stay ready to give an account of your life to God!

Luke 12:40 - You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

2 Cor. 5:8-11 - We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

Matt. 24:42-51 -

42. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

43. 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.

44. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

45. "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?"

46. It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

47. I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

48. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'

49. and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.

50. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.

51. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

James 5:8 - You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Matt. 25:10-13

10. "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

12. "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

13. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Joshua 1:16 - "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go."