

Being Prepared

So important to be prepared for any emergency which is why we practice fire drills and how we respond.

In keeping with this theme I decided to wear my paramedic uniform today, just in case anyone had a panic attack or anything I'd be ready to help. I've got my instruction book and gloves so I'm ready to go.

Skit:

Me: Paul, you look rather pale and short of breath, are you Ok? Come and sit down.

Paul: Don't feel well, just want to lie down.

Me: O.K. Lie down over here and I'll see what I can do to help. It could just be a simple syncope (that's a faint for those who don't know). Although you might be anaemic or hypotensive – I'll check my instruction book...um...H. Y. P...

Paul: groan...

Me: ah here, I've got just the thing for you (pulls out syringe) – I'll give you a shot of adrenaline. That'll get you going! (squirt syringe)

Paul: ARGH!!!

David Huntley: STOP!!! Adrenaline is dangerous; you could easily cause cardiac arhythmics leading to death. Interrupts and takes over giving a living example of a genuine investigation.

Thank you David and Paul

David a picture of being prepared:

Preparedness is built on the inside.

Not reliant on uniform, book, being on duty.

A reflex anytime anywhere

It's something he is, not a job he does.

I'm not the real deal:

Even though I might look the part

Talk some of the talk

Act like I know

It's not been built in me

Not comparing the process to become prepared as very different.

Being made ready involves the process of transformation

Jesus wants to build into us His own character and nature at the deepest level. Paul says in

Gal 4:19

¹⁹ My children, with whom I am again in labour until Christ is formed in you—

Forming Christ in us involves the process of transformation.

When Christ is formed in us, in any situation at any time, no matter what the pressure or opposition, Christ will come out of us. Persecution will be met with love, humility and devotion unto death. This needs to be built.

(Bride pic, response of heart)

This process is in the inner man and this is where God works by His Spirit and His word.

God sends His word as truth and light

Only He can see what's really in our hearts and knows how to set us free. That's why His word is like a two edged sword with the ability to cut right into our inner being:

Heb 4:12-13 ¹² *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* ¹³ *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

Ps 119:130 *The entrance of Your words gives light; (like opening a door of tent)*

We can think we are in one state and He sees something else:

Rev 3:1 *'I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, ^[a] but you are dead.*

Rev 3:17, 21 ¹⁷ *Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,*

²² *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

What the Spirit is saying to this church:

Can we see that the prophetic words God has been speaking over the last few years in this booklet and all the messages that have been delivered are Christ's letter to this church at this time?

He has been clearly saying the same things over and over.

- He doesn't want us to remain hidden/covered (He will expose)
- He doesn't want us to remain the same as we were or as we are (Cindy's word)
- He doesn't want us to remain in the fake when He's calling us to the genuine (white horses)
- He doesn't want us to remain lethargic/apathetic (trumpet is calling us into His presence)
- He doesn't want us to remain in fear (the breath blowing the trumpet is His love)
- He doesn't want us to remain asleep (He's waking us up Ps 24:7)
- He doesn't want us to continue living wrong (He's teaching us to live right Joel 2)

- He doesn't want us to remain in cruise ship mode (He's called us a military ship)
- He doesn't want us to in our old mind sets/old spiritual landscapes (He's breaking and leading into new)

What's the purpose of Him speaking to us?

It is to pierce and penetrate to the very inner parts of us and bring change.
To make us ready and prepared as His bride.

Q Will that "hurt"?

Most probably...a sword, piercing, cutting is obviously getting to places that are usually inaccessible

Q What's the ultimate purpose?

To reveal to us a new way that can't be found any other way, so that we can, by responding with faith, enter into the life of God - His rest. The purpose of Him speaking is to get to the very core of our heart, even the thoughts and intentions. The one thing that stops it is if we harden our heart.

Q Do we welcome his sword/word no matter what "pain" it might bring?

Q Do we allow it to exist but limit how far it can penetrate?

Q Do we ignore it and hope it will go away and stop annoying, pricking, interrupting us?

Q Do we resist it and argue against it because we don't/can't understand?

Q Do we trust it is God wielding the sword?

Q Do we trust His ability to do what only He can do, or do we hold onto control?

Q Do we look at the prize and the prize giver or only at the sword and the sharpness of its edges?

Being prepared is to not be taken by surprise:

It's to those who don't repent that He comes swiftly like a thief.

Rev 2:16 *Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly (unexpectedly),*

Rev 3:3 ³ *So remember^[b] what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.*

So how do we respond?:

Is our heart naturally receptive?

Feel exposed so cover/hide/reject/run/fearful/shrink back/overwhelmed

Gal 4:16

¹⁶ So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

Is the Word we are hearing profiting us?

Hebrews 4:2 *...but the word they heard did not profit them because it was not united by faith in those who heard.*

(didn't enter His rest/His life)

Heb 12:5-14 A Father's Discipline

⁴ You have not yet resisted ^[d]to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; ⁵ and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,

*"MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,
NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;*

*⁶ FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."*

⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had ^[e]earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of ^[f]spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

- Who resisted sin to the point of shedding His blood to purchase us?
- He's loving us as sons: it's about relationship and closeness
- We mustn't take it lightly (caring little) when He speaks
- He warns us not to become faint or weary

• If we respect and subject ourselves to our Father it brings us into life
(If we are feeling overwhelmed it's often because we are viewing through the filter that looks at what we are to do to fix the things He's showing? WE have to change us. But our part is allowing Him entrance into our innermost parts and submitting to Him and His word as it cuts and then brings life in us.)

Testimony: what are you feeding on?

- Big picture: so that we may share in His holiness – transformation
- Keeping our eye on the result, fruit of righteousness helps us endure the pain of discipline

Heb 4:7

*“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,
DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.”*

Let's look at how King David responded to the Lord's cutting word:
David's rebuke and response in Ps 51:

Psalm 51

A Contrite Sinner's Prayer for Pardon.

For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when ^[a]Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Sitting as judge,
passed judgement on case
judgement seen as just
becomes his own rebuke
throws himself on the known character of God (mercy and love)

51 *Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;*

According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

² *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity*

And cleanse me from my sin.

³ *For ^[b]I know my transgressions,*

And my sin is ever before me.

⁴ *Against You, You only, I have sinned*

And done what is evil in Your sight,

So that You ^[c]are justified ^[d]when You speak (agrees with God's judgement)

And ^[e]blameless when You judge.

⁵ *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,*

And in sin my mother conceived me.

⁶ *Behold, You desire truth in the ^[f]innermost being, (sees bigger picture – transformation)*

And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

⁷ ^[g] Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; **(acknowledges his total need of God)**

^[h] Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ ^[i] Make me to hear joy and gladness,

Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide Your face from my sins

And blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create ^[j] in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew ^[k] a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence **(relationship with God are more precious than anything again)**

And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation

And sustain me with a willing spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,

And sinners will ^[l] be converted to You.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation;

Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

¹⁵ O Lord, ^[m] open my lips,

That my mouth may declare Your praise.

¹⁶ For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it;

You are not pleased with burnt offering. **(knows God doesn't delight in his efforts to fix this, mend the relationship or make himself better)**

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; **(is poor in spirit and can receive from God)**

A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

This is the place where God works in us. He's after access to build and create His truth, His character, His image/likeness in the depths of our being. It invariably will involve the bringing of His truth, His wisdom, His purity, His Spirit.

It will be empowered by and recognised by His joy, our willingness and the power to sustain/continue in the process.

We bring our broken and contrite heart and spirit – knowing in the depths of our being that we do not have in ourselves righteousness that He can accept. Neither do we come with the things we can do or say in the hope of pleasing Him.

Our hope rests entirely on Him; His character, His mercy, compassion and unfailing love.

The place He has designed for us to know Him is in our innermost parts. He is Truth, He is Wisdom.

He has designed it so that we have to open those places to Him (like a door with only an inside handle). The opening process only happens with submission, humility and repentance. Pride and independence will always cause the door to remain closed. A broken spirit and contrite heart are moments of truth of the reality of who He really is and who we are that can lead to our opening the door in faith.

Rev 3:19 Be zealous and repent.

20 Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him and he with Me.

Art Katz:

A true priest is one who has an accumulation of the inward workings of God in the hidden place.