

# Four Things That Will Prepare You For The Future

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## **Introduction**

Our world is rapidly changing and world events are quickly moving towards the Second Coming of Christ. This time period is best described as a chaotic time where everything that can be shaken will be shaken. Jesus return will unseat His enemies, and this will produce unparalleled challenge geophysically, atmospherically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, economically, and politically, as Satan seeks to hold on to his power on earth.

We are not left without help! God has given us His Word and the Holy Spirit to enable us to prepare and stand during times of tumult. They are ahead of us!

Wise believers will prepare now.

Here are four things that will prepare you for the future.

### **1. Assert your spiritual authority in Christ**

You have a spiritual authority over your person, your small children, and your house.

Colossians 1:13 (AMPC)

[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 2:15 (MSG)

He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

Colossians 2:15 (PHILLIPS)

And then having drawn the sting of all the powers ranged against us, he exposed them, shattered, empty and defeated, in his final glorious triumphant act!

Colossians 2:15 (God's Word)

He stripped the rulers and authorities of their power, and made a public spectacle of them as he celebrated his victory in Christ.

Colossians 2:15 (Complete Jewish Bible)

Stripping the rulers and authorities of their power, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by means of the stake.

Colossians 2:15 (ESV)

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Colossians 2:15 (AMPC)

[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].

Luke 10:17-19 (NKJV)

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." (18) And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:19 (NLT)

Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.

Matthew 18:18 (AMPC)

Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid and declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit and declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NLT)

Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, (10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Satan and his demonic helpers are looking for any inroad into a life.

Remove from your home emblems of demon power.

Keep your kids away from Halloween rituals or costumes depicting the demonic!

## 2. Keep your thoughts clean.

Martin Luther

You can't keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair.

You can't keep thoughts from coming into your mind, but you can keep from dwelling on them.

Satan's attacks begin with thoughts.

1 Peter 5:7-9 (NKJV)

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. (8) Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)

Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

### Devices

(Olive Tree Enhanced Strong's Dictionary)

g3540. νόημα noēma;

from 3539; a perception, i.e. purpose, or (by implication) the intellect, disposition, itself: — device, mind, thought. AV (6) - mind 4, device 1, thought 1; a mental perception, thought, an evil purpose, that which thinks, the mind, thoughts or purposes.

g3539. νοέω noeō; from 3563; to exercise the mind (observe), i.e. (figuratively) to comprehend, heed: — consider, perceive, think, understand.

AV (14) - understand 10, perceive 2, consider 1, think 1;

to perceive with the mind, to understand, to have understanding to think upon, heed, ponder, consider.

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

### 3. Meditate on scripture to keep your faith strong.

Ephesians 6:16 (NKJV)

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV)

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

#### Fight

g0075. ἀγωνίζομαι agōnizomai; from 73; to struggle, literally (to compete for a prize), figuratively (to contend with an adversary), or genitive case (to endeavor to accomplish something): — fight, labor fervently, strive. AV (7) - strive 3, fight 3, labour fervently 1; to enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games to contend with adversaries, fight. metaph. to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers, to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something

Mark 11:22-24 (NKJV)

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. (23) For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. (24) Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 1 - NKJV

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; (2) But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. (3) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. (4) The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. (5) Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. (6) For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly

shall perish.

Proverbs 7:1-3

My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. (2) Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. (3) Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Ps 119:97-99 - NKJV

Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. (98) You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. (99) I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.

## **Definition**

### **Meditate**

1897. הגה haga; a primitive root (compare 1901); to murmur (in pleasure or anger); by implication, to ponder:— imagine, meditate, mourn, mutter, roar, x sore, speak, study, talk, utter.

AV (25)- meditate 6, mourn 4, speak 4, imagine 2, study 2, mutter 2, utter 2, roaring 1, sore 1, talk 1; to moan, growl, utter, muse, mutter, meditate, devise, plot, speak ( Qal) to roar, growl, groan to utter, speak to meditate, devise, muse, imagine ( Poal) to utter

7878. שיח siyah; a primitive root; to ponder, i. e. (by implication) converse (with oneself, and hence, aloud) or (transitively) utter:— commune, complain, declare, meditate, muse, pray, speak, talk (with).

AV (20)- talk 5, meditate 5, speak 4, complain 2, pray 1, commune 1, muse 1, declare 1; to put forth, mediate, muse, commune, speak, complain, ponder, sing

### **Quote from The Hidden Man by E.W.Kenyon, p. 53-54.**

“The mostly deeply spiritual men and women I know are people who have given much time to meditation. You cannot develop spiritual wisdom without meditation. Joshua 1:8 *‘This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success’* (or deal wisely in the affairs of life). Take time to meditate in the Word. Shut yourself in alone with your own spirit where the clamour of the world of the world is shut out. If you are ambitious to do something worthwhile, I would suggest that you take ten or fifteen minutes for meditation...learn to do it. In other words, begin the development of your own spirit. You may develop any gift that you wish to. The most important gift that God has given to you is the spirit. It is the development of this spirit that is going to mean more to you than any other thing. The great majority of men do not think. They live in the realm of the senses. The senses have limitations. Your spirit

has practically no limitations. You can develop your spirit life until you dominate circumstances. Your spirit has practically no limitations. You can develop your spirit until you dominate circumstances. Your spirit can come into vital union with deity, become a partaker of the Divine nature. That spirit, with God's nature in it, can fellowship with God on terms of absolute equality with God Himself. Do you see your limitless possibilities? Jesus brings you into contact with spiritual things, not mental things. Spiritual things are as real as physical things. Your spirit can come to the point where the things in His Word will become as real to you, and Jesus will become as real to you as any loved one. You can see the necessity of your taking time to meditate, to get quiet with the Lord. You must take time to sit with His Word and let the Spirit unveil His Word to your spirit. If you will, you will know Him in reality."

#### **4. Stir up your prayer life.**

Samuel Chadwick

Satan fears nothing from prayerless studies, teaching, and preaching. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

Cover every area of your life in prayer. And do it every single day.

Pray in the spirit!

Romans 8:26-28 (NKJV)

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (27) Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (28) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 (AMPC)

We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.

John 16:13-15 (NLT)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. (14) He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. (15) All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

Learning to pray effectively is like learning to ride a bicycle. You just have to start with your first feeble attempts!

From How to Pray by R. A. Torrey:

*As He drew nearer and nearer to the cross, and realized that upon it was to come the great final test of His life, Jesus went out into the garden to pray. He came "unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here while I go and pray yonder." (Matt. 26:36) The victory of Calvary was won that night in the garden of Gethsemane. The calm majesty of His bearing in meeting the awful onslaughts of Pilate's Judgment Hall and of Calvary, was the outcome of the struggle, agony and victory of Gethsemane. While Jesus prayed the disciples slept, so He stood fast while they fell ignominiously.*

*Many temptations come upon us unawares and unannounced, and all that we can do is to lift a cry to God for help then and there; but many of the temptations of life we can see approaching from the distance, and in such cases the victory should be won before the temptation really reaches us.*

**I want to encourage all of us to take some extra time to pray about everything that concerns our life. Our marriage, our children, our relationships, our job, our finances, our health, our future, our church life, everything.**

**When you get specific in prayer, worry fades away and confidence rises within!**

Philippians 4:6-7 -CEV

Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. (7) Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.

R. A. Torrey:

*Our whole life should be a life of prayer. We should walk in constant communion with God. There should be a constant upward looking of the soul to God. We should walk so habitually in His presence that even when we awake in the night it would be the most natural thing in the world for us to speak to Him in thanksgiving or in petition.*

**These scriptures have been the basis for answered prayer for my own life for over**

## **40 years:**

### **Numbers 23:19**

God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

### **Psalms 89:34**

My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

### **Psalms 119:89**

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

### **Psalms 138:2**

I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

### **Isaiah 40:8**

The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

### **Isaiah 55:11**

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

### **Jeremiah 1:12**

Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word."

### **Matthew 24:35**

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

### **Matthew 21:22**

And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

### **Mark 11:24**

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

### **John 15:7**

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

### **John 16:23-24**

And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**1 John 3:22**

And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

**1 John 5:14-15**

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.