

A TIME TO PREPARE

By Jennifer Abigail Lawson-Wallace

There is so much happening all around us, but as we pray for our nation and look up to God to move again in our land, there's a strong impression to prepare ourselves and our hearts for what God is about to do. But, how do we prepare and what do we do at this crucial time?

There are four key things that I believe we ought to be doing at this time, as we continue to pray and stand in the gap for this nation.

1. Keep Our Eyes on Jesus – *Hebrews 12:1-4; Matthew 11:28-30; Psalm 46:10*

This is the time to shift our focus off ourselves, our challenges and everything happening around us, and fix our eyes on Jesus. Spend time with Him in prayer, learn to access His presence and get to know Him better.

Hide yourself in Jesus, learn to dwell deep and rest in Him. Spend time in worship, and give Him thanks, praise and adoration. Ask Him to draw you closer to Himself, and teach you to live in His presence and trust Him. Keep your focus on Jesus and you will not fear or despair.

2. Read, Study and Live the Word – *Ezra 7:10; Colossians 3:16; Psalm 19:7-11*

Secondly, this is the time to make reading and studying the word of God a priority in our lives. The Word of God is true, perfect, sure and steadfast, a sure anchor for these challenging times. So, make time to read your bible daily; not just your daily devotion, but the actual scriptures. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand and obey it.

Jesus said, when we pray, we should ask God to give us our daily bread. Therefore, don't just focus on reading the written word, also seek to receive a fresh word or insight from God each day for your life and concerning every situation. He is your Father and, when you when you ask, He will answer.

We need faith at this time, and Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. As you spend more time in the word, faith will begin to build up in you concerning the things you're praying for and God's ability and willingness to answer.

3. Live and Walk in the Spirit – *John 14:16-18, 26; John 16:5-15; Acts 1:8*

We need the Holy Spirit's help more than ever! If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit, then we need Him more. So, begin to surrender to the Holy Spirit daily, as you ask Him to fill you. Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit will not only fill us, He will show us who Jesus is, teach us the truth, lead and guide us, and help us live righteously.

The Holy Spirit is your source of power to overcome and fulfil your purpose. He is your source of power to bring about change not just in your life, but in your family, community, city and nation. So, get better acquainted with the Holy Spirit by asking Him each day to lead, guide, enable and empower you in all your ways. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

4. WAIT!!! – *Psalm 130:5-6; Lamentations 3:25-26; Acts 1:4*

To wait does not mean to be passive and inactive, which leads to frustration, fear and despair. To wait on God is to be patient and expectant for God's timing, knowing that your

expectation will not be cut off. God shall surely answer, He will not fail you. Learning to wait on God is an indication that we trust Him.

Waiting keeps us tuned in to God and helps us enter into His rest. Our hope and expectation in waiting, therefore, should not be on when and how God will answer our prayers, but that God WILL answer our prayers. When we wait in this manner, we will not miss it when He does answer our prayers.

Finally...

"In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:5-8)

We need perseverance to do the above four things. We need to persevere in focusing on Jesus. We need to persevere in knowing and living the word. We need to persevere in the Spirit. We need to persevere in waiting. May the Lord help us grow and prepare us, as we continue to seek His face for our nation. Amen!!!

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