

Partners In Courage, February 2015

The Case for Preparation

Sermon by D. Wes Daughenbaugh

INTRODUCTION:

Over the years I've collected a list of virtues, each with a short definition. Of the 115 different virtues I've collected, one is called PREPAREDNESS. That's really not a virtue. *It's a value, the fruit of several other virtues.* Prudence is the wisdom to see what's coming and do something about it in time. Discipline is the ability to make oneself do the right thing, even if it seems hard. Alertness is the ability to see what's happening right now. Knowledge is the virtue that knows what to do and how to do it. Obviously, God wants His people to be virtuous. So does God want His people to be prepared for natural disasters, for terrorist attacks, for economic collapse and/or for social chaos? Does it somehow undermine faith and trust in God to store up food, medicine, water purification systems, and the like?

For several years now I've been going over my list of virtues and feeling pretty good about how most of them are fleshed out in my life—until I come to that word, PREPAREDNESS. I always say to myself, "I've got to work on that one." Yes, I believe God is saying to His people everywhere, "WORK ON THAT ONE—AND DON'T DELAY!"

1. GOD IS INTO PREPARATION, AND WE ARE TO IMITATE GOD.

Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God as dearly beloved children and live a life of love. Okay, we are supposed to imitate God by living a life of love. But God is also organized, sees way ahead, and prepares. God is wise. Let's look at some of the things God prepares just to get the idea deeply into our spirits that to be prepared is a good and godly thing, not something only weird "preppers" do.

Psalm 7:13 **He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows.**

Psalm 23:5 **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.**

Psalm 78:50 **He prepared a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death but gave them over to the plague.**

Psalm 85:13 **Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.**

Proverbs 9:2 **She (God's wisdom) has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.**

Proverbs 19:29 **Penalties are prepared for mockers, and beatings for the backs of fools.**

Isaiah 30:33 **Topheth has long been prepared; it has been made ready for the king. Its fire pit has been made deep and wide, with an abundance of fire and wood; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of burning sulfur, sets it ablaze.** (God prepared hell for the devil and his angels—and its preparation was done thousands of years before the devil will be thrown into it.)

Ezekiel 7:23 **"Prepare chains! For the land is full of bloodshed and the city is full of violence."**

Nahum 1:14 **The Lord has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: "You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile."**

Jeremiah 18:11 **"Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the Lord says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'"**

**** Because of the national sins of America God has prepared deadly weapons, flaming arrows, a path for his anger, plagues, penalties, beatings, disasters of various kinds, a grave for the wicked, and eternal punishment for the wicked.

God is abundantly prepared to bring national judgment upon America. If you believe this is true, then wouldn't it make sense that God wants to help you to be prepared for times of chaos and calamity?

Isaiah 25:6-9 **On this mountain the Lord Almighty will *prepare* a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”**

God prepared salvation for the whole world on Mount Calvary and there, through the sacrifice of Jesus, death was destroyed!

John 14:2-3, **“My father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to *prepare* a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”**

1 Corinthians 2:9 **“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has *prepared* for those who love him.”**

Colossians 1:5 **Your faith and love spring from the hope *stored up* for you in heaven.**

Hebrews 11:14-16 **People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has *prepared* a city for them.**

Revelation 12:6 **The woman fled into the wilderness to a place *prepared* for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.**

These verses just show us that our God looks way ahead and prepares. It's part of His nature. Now if we are to imitate God, then spiritual, mental and physical preparations would be a good thing. So be thinking, “AM I PREPARED AS MUCH AS GOD WOULD LIKE?”

2. NO PREPARATION LEADS TO SHAME, OR WORSE.

Hebrews 11:7 **By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.**

**** God wants to warn us of things not yet seen and tell us what to prepare for, just as He warned Noah and told him what to do. Genesis 6:18 **I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. V21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and *store it away as food* for you and for them.**

**** Paul wrote to the Corinthians about being prepared to give a large offering for the saints in Jerusalem who were going through hard times because of famine. He had told them to prepare the offering. My point is that if the people were unprepared when Paul came to collect the offering, they would have been ashamed. 2 Corinthians 9:4 **For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident.**

If disasters come upon America and you have to ask the unsaved neighbors around you for food, or a flashlight, emergency radio, or medicine—you are going to be ashamed that they were more in tune with the times than you.

How ashamed we would feel if sudden disaster came upon this country and grocery stores were suddenly emptied and we had nothing for our families. We'd say to ourselves, “Oh how I wish I would have listened to that inner voice that was telling me to make preparations.”

There is a difference between “holy fear” and the “spirit of fear.” We follow God’s leading and prepare, not because we are fearful, BUT TO AVOID FEAR. Proverbs 31:21 **When it snows, she has no fear for her household; all of them are clothed in scarlet.** (Sounds like woolen long underwear.) v25 **She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.** The good wife of Proverbs 31 prepared warm woolen clothing for her family in the summer so that when it snowed she would have no fear for her household.

3. WE MUST PREPARE BUT DO SO WITH A RIGHT MOTIVE.

**** One of the biggest “preppers” in the Bible was struck dead because he stored up things for himself. Jesus told of a rich man who had such abundant crops that they would not fit into his barns. Instead of sharing with the poor, he decided to build bigger barns to hold it all. He wanted to say to himself, **“You have plenty of goods laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”**

But since his motivation for preparing for the future was so selfish God said to him, **“You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?” This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God,**” (Luke 12:16-21).

Very few of us will have that man’s problems, because WE DON’T have goods laid up for many years, not in food storage or savings or silver or gold. In fact, WE DON’T have anything stored up for much more than a WEEK, let alone many years. However, as we seek to make amends and become prepared let’s remember that preparing from merely selfish motivation BRINGS judgment from God. It’s not enough to be a “prepper.” We must be “sharers.”

Paul wrote, **“Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need”** (Ephesians 4:28).

**** Joseph gave instruction to Pharaoh of Egypt about being prepared for seven years of famine. In each of seven years of abundance they were to save one-fifth in reserve **“to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine”** (Genesis 41:36).

We always need to be thinking of OTHERS. Nehemiah said, **“Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength”** (Nehemiah 8:10). There will always be people who have nothing prepared. The poor, the elderly, the mentally disabled probably do not have the resources to store or save much of anything. We should remember that our preparation isn’t just to keep our selves comfortable in hard times, but rather, to be able to keep ourselves from burdening others, and help those who cannot help themselves.

**** Paul desperately wanted to avoid being a burden on anyone. This is a good motive. **“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody”** (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12)

Paul also wrote, **“Nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate”** (2 Thessalonians 3:8-9).

Remember, if you store food and provisions selfishly it will BRING God’s judgment to your door. But if you store food and provisions so that you will not be a burden to anyone and so that you have something to share with those in need—God will bless those pure motives and your actions will

not only bring earthly security, but such actions will result in heavenly rewards for your kindness and thoughtfulness and generosity.

4. PREPARE, BUT TRUST IN GOD.

I want to speak to you from my heart. I'm big on trusting God. My concern is that I don't have some false assumption that causes me to fail to prepare. God doesn't want us trusting in our preparation, but I don't think our trust in God should preclude us from preparing. *Wisdom and prudence are not enemies of trust.*

**** Even if we prepare, we will need to trust in God because I doubt if we could EVER prepare enough to be secure in this world unless angels are guarding us. However, I remember an old Burma Shave sign from when I was a boy. This company would put up little poetic signs that you would read as you drove along. One said, "The angel that guards you (next sign) while you drive (next sign) retires at the speed (next sign) of 65. Burmashave." There's wisdom in that. God will guard us, but if we reject wisdom and prudence I think we've tried to push trust into a role it wasn't intended to play.

However, if we push wisdom and prudence too far, then they are forced into the area where trust is supposed to take over.

Jesus said, "**Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?**" (Matthew 6:26). Jesus wants us to trust God, and not trust our provisions. However, if we get lazy and refuse to sow or reap then we'd be left to eat what the birds eat—worms!

Since provisions can be stolen, it's not wise to trust in them. But let's not trust in laziness, or trust in false assumptions that God is going to suddenly drop provisions in our laps if we have neglected His warnings and instructions and spurned His virtues as if they were unnecessary burdens.

5. SPIRITUAL PREPARATION IS ALWAYS THE MOST IMPORTANT KIND.

In any crisis, nation judgment or disaster your only REAL security is your ability to get an answer to prayer. That's why we want to keep our spirits free from bitterness, critical judgment of others, self-pity, anger, malice, hatred, ingratitude and any other "internal problem." We must get rid of internal problems so that God will turn our external problems into blessings and miracles.

This has always been my emphasis, and I'm assuming that my partners and people who buy my CDS and books are probably much more spiritually prepared than physically prepared. So I'll make just a few brief comments on this point.

Amos thundered to ancient Israel, "**Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, Israel, prepare to meet your God,**" (Amos 4:12). God is coming to America and to all who deny Him and disobey Him. If you have repented of every sin and you eagerly desire to do right and you are doing right to the best of your ability and if you love to spend time with God—THEN you are prepared for a meeting with God.

One man died and went to heaven. Jesus met him and said, "I see Myself in you. Come in. You are welcome here." The man did come back to life, but longs to get back to heaven. My point, we're ready to meet God if we are allowing Christ to live big in us.

Another aspect of spiritual preparation is to be really full of God's word. When people are falling into panic and fear, we need to be full of God's promises so that we can take every thought captive. That's why Paul said, "**And (have) your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**" (Ephesians 6:15). I believe this means to MEMORIZE God's word so that you are PREPARED. The Amplified translation says, "**And having shod your feet in preparation (to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news) of the Gospel of Peace.**"

Each part of the armor of God relates to the Word of God. To be armored up means to have a dynamic friendship with the Bible, God's Word. To be spiritually prepared, feed on much larger portions.

**** Remember Pop Eye cartoons? The crusty old sailor, Pop Eye, would always eat a can of spinach before fighting the bad guys. If he ate spinach, he always won. God's word inside our hearts and minds gets us ready to worship in crisis, believe in faith when others fail in fear, and keep on obeying God when others are lawless and perverse.

Noah was eventually prepared physically because he first "walked with God" in intimate fellowship. *No other preparation even comes close to this in importance.* But just because it's MOST important doesn't mean we should not prepare physically. Noah just had it in the right order—first spiritual preparation, and second—physical preparation.

6. WHAT KINDS OF PHYSICAL PREPARATION SHOULD WE MAKE?

**** Turn off all your electric power and try to live one day without electricity. Then make a list of what comes to mind. How would you open a can? What food could you eat that wouldn't spoil?

**** I was listening to a radio interview of a man who had been a Muslim. He was in a terrible car wreck and after calling on Allah and getting no help he loudly prayed to the "God of Abraham." Jesus appeared to him. He was gloriously converted and now risks his life spreading the good news instead of jihad. In this interview he was asked if the terrorists are going to blow up a single city to do something bigger than the attack of September 11, 2001. His answer was ominous. He said, "No, they want to do something that will affect the entire nation. I believe they have plans to attack the power grid and shut it down with five strategically placed bombs."

Our power grid is vulnerable as it is and large blackouts have occurred in various states just because of a transformer blowing up or something minor happening. If one or more nuclear power plants were blown up, the entire nation could be plunged into darkness.

If that doesn't happen, some natural disaster could knock out power. This is our greatest vulnerability.

How would you heat a room in your home without electricity?

What would you use for lighting?

Lamentations 1:11 **"All her people groan as they search for bread; they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive."**

Proverbs 6:6-9 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest." The ant stores enough food to make it through three months of winter. That's wise. Most of us have only a few days of food, unless we have food in a freezer. But that would quickly spoil. Food in a time of crisis will be worth more than gold. I believe everyone should have at least one month of food.

**** Water is even more important than food. We should all have a way to purify water and some stored water. We could live a month with no food at all, but we could only live a few days without water.

**** Silver or gold. *Sooner or later, our dollar is going to become worthless.* If it happens suddenly in some great economic blizzard or hurricane (such as Pastor Shane Warren saw in a vision) then something like gold or silver coins would be tangible forms of money that would still have value even in some kind of new currency that would replace the dollar.

**** Years ago a young man was powerfully filled with the Spirit when I laid hands on him. He began to have visions and dreams. In one vision he saw people proceeding up a beautiful mountain with trees, bushes and flowers. Suddenly there was a snap and the delusion of beauty was broken. Everyone sunk up to his or her armpits in sand. The scenery had been a deception. Some people were able to proceed up the mountain by stepping on branches and at the top of the mountain those people

had to battle demons for bags of gold and silver. He had this vision around 1991 before the Federal deficit got out of control.

The mountain was the mountain of prosperity. The fake scenery is the national prosperity we enjoy, but which is really built on trillions of national debt. The SNAP will be when the house of cards finally comes tumbling down and the whole nation is plunged into the reality of our debt. When that happens, gold and silver will still be real money.

Robert Kiyosaki, author of Rich Dad, Poor Dad series of books wrote in his most recent book SECOND CHANCE that he believes we should all buy and hold some silver, since it has an industrial use, is in short supply, and currently is priced almost below what it costs to produce it.

**** WHAT ABOUT GUNS AND AMUNITION?

I'm going to be buying one or more weapon or weapons of self-defense. I heard recently that 100,000 Muslims a month are immigrating into the United States. Our southern borders are still wide open. Our government's policy toward Muslim terrorists has caused them to multiply exponentially. My take on things is that days are coming when the police and sheriffs that have kept us safe in the past will NOT be able to keep us safe from terrorists and mob violence that is coming. Mexican drug gangs, as violent or more so than ISIS terrorists, are also crossing our southern border. It's only a matter of time before the nation will be completely destabilized by violence unless massive prayer turns the tide.

**** What if our government WANTS destabilization to happen as an excuse for seizing power? I hope not. I have no proof of that. One prophetic lady who was on Sid Roth's TV show said that she was caught up to heaven and Jesus told her that the church in America would have to really pray hard or there would NOT be a presidential election in 2016. He said crisis of such magnitude would happen that the present government would use it as an excuse to stay in power. Was that lady credible? What about Rick Joyner's dream/vision of such violence spreading across the nation that militias sprang up everywhere as people cooperated to protect their homes and neighborhoods.? We still have a constitutional right to bear arms, and I believe we should take advantage of those rights and speak up in defense for those rights. We must protect our families.

Song of Songs 3:7-8 Look! It is Solomon's carriage, escorted by sixty warriors, the noblest of Israel, all of them wearing the sword, all experienced in battle, each with his sword at his side, prepared for the terrors of the night.

I don't have to guard the President or a king but I want to guard my own family from the terrors of the night. I believe all churches need to have security people who are "packing heat" so that if there is some attack against the congregation they can step up and save the day. In Colorado Springs a man came to church to kill hundreds. He had several guns and almost 1,000 rounds of ammunition. He shot two people dead in the parking lot of a mega-church but as he entered the church lobby a lady on their security team shot him dead. She saved hundreds of lives that day.

Nehemiah 4:17 Those who carried materials (for building the wall) did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other.

**** When I preached in Pakistan in 1993 the house I stayed in was built like a fort with a huge wall around it and a locked gate. A guard armed with a shotgun was on

duty at all times. We have not needed to own weapons of self-defense in the past. But the days are coming when law enforcement will NOT be able to guarantee our safety.

**** Recently I bought a book by National Geographic called COMPLETE SURVIVAL MANUAL by Michael S. Sweeney. I got it at Barnes and Noble bookstore. It is a hard-back book, full color on every page, and was bargain priced at only \$8.98. It's loaded with information. We need books and training courses like this.

**** We need to have first aid materials in some kind of a kit so that in emergencies we could have more than simple Band-Aids available. If you take some kind of medicine that you can't do without, it would be good to built up a three-month supply. In fact, it would be really wise to take a first aid course from the Red Cross or some agency like that. I'm sure the Red Cross could recommend what to put in a good first-aid kit.

**** I intend to buy a SilverLungs machine so that I can make my own ionic or cholodial silver. With the world connected by airlines, a plague can spread from one part of the globe to the other side in one day. Silver products kill antibiotic resistant bacteria and hinder any kind of virus from replicating. In the event of a real plague, I would want to be able to get my children and grandchildren protected with the best silver products.

My web site, www.christsaffection.com will have soon have links to companies that sell preparedness products and if you buy through our link Gospel Net Ministries would get a commission. That's called Affiliate Marketing. It would be one more way you could support our ministry while protecting your family.

7. SEVERAL LAST THOUGHTS

It seems to me that God is allowing the feathered nest of the American Church to be torn to pieces through the immigration policies of our government. We would be content to pursue "The American Dream" instead of the Great Commission. We would not go to Mexico or Somalia to preach the Gospel, but would play it safe and only send missionaries. Now God is bringing the Muslims and the Hispanics to us! He loves them!

I believe God is calling us to MUCH MORE PRAYER, as a way of life. And I believe God is calling us to EVANGELISM as never before. I've made changes in my soul-winning booklet HOW TO RECEIVE THE LIFE OF GOD. For ten years I stopped promoting it because of some wording in it. God clarified my definition of salvation. Finally, I made the needed changes. I'll enthusiastically get that book into Spanish and then more and more languages. It went into 17 languages and had 272,000 copies printed before I stopped marketing it. I'm going to be producing other evangelism tools as well.

We must be more devoted to finishing Christ's Great Commission than to living securely in middleclass comfort in our own safe place, dreaming of ever greater prosperity.

For inspiration and instruction on how to witness to Muslims and the vision to save America from becoming a Muslim nation, go to www.koome.com. This is the web site of the man who had the vision of Jesus when he called on the God of Abraham. You can hear his amazing testimony there.

FINALLY: Remember in the book of Genesis when God gave Pharaoh two dreams with the identical interpretation? Joseph told Pharaoh that it came that way because the mater was firmly

decided by God and that the seven years of abundance would surely be followed by seven years of famine. Nothing would change that.

The only verse in the Bible that is repeated in two different places that I know of is this verse: **The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty,** (Proverbs 22:3 and Proverbs 27:12). Why did God put the very same verse, in exactly the same wording in two places? Why wasn't once enough? That's something to think about, but it reminds me of Joseph's words to Pharaoh, "The matter is firmly decided by God." Apparently, God wanted to EMPHASISE the need for preparation so He repeated the proverb. Again, this is the only verse in the Bible, that I know of, that has an exact duplicate.

**** I suppose we should have prepared for coming disasters years ago. Now we have very little time left to prepare. We are already in the cycle of four blood moons, a tetrad that includes a solar eclipse. The last three times this happened something monumental happened with the Jews. These eclipses happened in 1492, and the Jews at that time were expelled from Spain. Columbus discovered America—which became the nation most welcoming to the Jews. Then in 1948 when the boundaries of Israel were re-established there was another series of lunar eclipses with a solar eclipse. The last series of four lunar eclipses with one solar eclipse was in 1967 when the Jews recovered Jerusalem during the "Six Day War."

Now we are in another series of eclipses plus they overlap with a Shemitah year that ends on Sept. 13, 2015. Every seventh year was a Sabbath year in ancient Israel. The last day of the Shemitah year was a day of release, when all debts were cancelled. The last two Shemitahs ended in mega-stock market crashes on the exact day that ends the Shemitah—"the day of release" when all debts were to be cancelled in ancient Israel. September 13 will also be a solar eclipse. Read THE MYSTERY OF THE SHEMITAH by Jonathan Cahn for details. Although we cannot be sure, it would seem that some great difficulty will happen for Israel that will start out bad and end good. But it also seems that some great judgment will hit America by then. If it does, most Christians are woefully unprepared to weather any type of disruption in the food supply, the money supply, and electrical supply. What about you? What can you do to WALK WITH GOD and protect your family?

If you have an inner witness of the Holy Spirit that bears witness with this message, please don't delay. Get educated and informed and begin to add things to your list of needed preparations.

**** A few years ago God taught me the GRAPH OF RESPONSIBILITY. Usually, to get food, mankind has to plow, plant, cultivate, harvest, grind grain, bake bread and God makes the sun shine, the rain to fall, and the seeds to sprout. God does about half, we do about half. But in times of great crisis, God changes the graph and picks up most of the responsibility, as He did for Israel in the Wilderness after they were taken out of Egypt. Food fell from the sky until they crossed into Canaan land, and then the graph changed back to normal.

I believe we have a responsibility to prepare much more than we've been doing and I believe time is short. If we do our best to prepare, God will make up the difference when our preparations prove to not be enough. But I don't want to sail into crisis times in an irresponsible way because miracles typically happen for those who have done as much as they can do—and then—God does the rest, miraculously.

May the Lord guide you into all truth, show you the future, and bless you as you seek to responsibly protect and provide for your families. May His name be exalted throughout the whole earth as He leads, guides, provides and protects His people. "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.

I LOVE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.