

# LIVE READY – Part One

How about Kennedy?! She gave us a medley of songs. Encourage your little ones to sing and praise the Lord.

Quite a while back a man that we have seen on many Sunday mornings, as we are out getting breakfast, said something very profound to me. He and his wife are older and she has been in a battle with her health. She is in a wheel chair right now. They are Jerry and Doris and they are Christians. Mr. Jerry said to me that he had been praying and he was asking Jesus to help him to be ready when He comes. He said, Lord I just want to be ready. So thank you Mr. Jerry because you inspired the title of this message.

I have been hearing people saying you better get your house in order. They are saying this because of the soon return of Jesus. I even had someone say, well what does that mean? How do you do that? Is it in reference to our natural homes? Keeping our houses picked up and in order, vacuumed and the dishes done. No, it isn't. God is concerned with our spiritual houses. To live ready, we must get our spiritual houses in order.

In the OT God used to dwell first in the Tabernacle and then in the Temple among the people. He has always wanted to be with those that love Him.

**Ex:25:8** – And let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Once everything was ready, the LORD filled the Tabernacle

**Exodus 40:34** - Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation (the Tabernacle), and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

Later on King David wanted to build the LORD a house but God said no to him because he had shed too much blood. King David had to fight to take the land and bring the land to a time of peace. God promised him that his son Solomon would build the temple. King Solomon came into power in a peaceful time because of the hard battles that his father had fought. He was able to build God's temple.

**2 Chronicles 5:13-14** - It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one (were in unison), to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick (music), and

praised the LORD, *saying*, For He *is* good; for His mercy *endureth* for ever (forever): that *then* the house was filled with a cloud (at that moment a thick cloud filled the temple of the Lord), *even* the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud (the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud): for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God (temple of God).

Now He dwells inside the believer.

**I Cor.:3:16** – Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Think about what they did to present His temple to Him in the OT and how they praised Him in music and song, worshipping Him. Did you do that, thanking Him for saving you and praising Him for His goodness and mercy to you? He is worthy. Shame on us when we have His Holy Spirit dwelling in us and we never sing to Him or raise our hands to Him. Sometimes we get to a place where we forget how Holy He is or we can just be going through the motions. I hope that we would all keep tender hearts and stay humble before Him.

About 4 years ago a someone on fb shared a vision that a lady at their church had. In the vision Jesus showed her a family with children that lived out of town. The children were coming home. A day before their arrival the house was all a buzz cleaning and straightening and getting their rooms ready. The day of their arrival, they were making sure they had all the last minute things in place, their favorite snacks, tea was made everything was in place. Then a few hours before they were to arrive the family began to look out the windows. The last hour they began to stand at the door expecting them any minute. Jesus said, that is where I am on coming back to this world. He's right at the door.

Getting your house in order, is about getting ready and being prepared for a special guest to come. That special guest is Jesus!

**Luke 21:29-31** - And He spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand (near).

We see God's prophecies coming to pass. Israel became a nation again in 1948.

**Psalm 102:16** - When the LORD shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory.

### New Living Translation

**Psalm 102:16** - For the LORD will rebuild Jerusalem. He will appear in His glory.

They got Jerusalem back in the 6 day war in 1967. Israel's industry has grown. We see Jewish people returning to or what they say is "going home" to Israel. We are aware that the ones in power don't truly serve God and have nothing to do with Jesus. They are illuminati puppets. However, it still seems that Zion is being built up again. I will say this, I used to believe the televangelists when they would say that God is drawing the Jews back to their land and that prophecy is being fulfilled because of that. I don't believe that anymore. I believe that will be fulfilled during or after the tribulation.

So let's figure out how to get our houses in order.

**John 3:3** - Jesus answered and said unto him (Nicodemus), Verily, verily, I say unto thee (I tell you the truth), Except a man be born again (born from above), he cannot see the kingdom of God.

You have to repent which means to turn away from your sin and stop doing it. If you cannot do this by yourself, Jesus will help you. But He knows if you are serious or not. People like to try and justify their sin by saying "God knows my heart". I say, He sure does and you'll be judged for willful sin as well as sins of ignorance. Sometimes people don't really want to stop certain sins or their favorite sins. We get into bad habits or addictions and strongholds and we are in bondage to them. When we come to Him asking for His help we have to be sick of them and serious about repenting from them. Some people come up to the front of the church and pray the prayer of salvation to impress their girlfriend or boyfriend or because their family pressured them but their heart isn't really seeking Jesus for themselves. The person that tries to get saved for someone else isn't saved at all. Saying the sinner's prayer and not meaning it does nothing for a person. When you come to Jesus Christ you must be torn up over your sin and sorry for it. You agree with God about your sin and ask forgiveness and stop the sin. You believe that Christ Jesus died for you and rose again and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Get baptized, full immersion.

**Mark 16:16** - He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (or condemned).

Quickly after salvation you should be seeking to be baptized into the Holy Spirit. Be careful about the minister who lays hands on you to receive this baptism. Make sure they are a true servant of God before you let them lay hands on you. You can also pray and seek this baptism on your own.

**Luke 3:16** - John answered, saying unto *them* all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (with the Holy Spirit and with fire):

Jesus is the One Who does this baptism. When you pray, believe in faith that you have received what you asked for. God is faithful. Don't worry if you don't speak in tongues, that does not mean you weren't baptized into the Holy Spirit. Your life will change and you will begin to have the power of God flowing in and through you. The Word of God will come alive to you as the Holy Spirit begins to teach you. He will give you gifts to help the body of Christ and to help you to carry the testimony of Jesus.

**We are to obey.** Jesus said in John 14:16 If you love Me, keep My commandments. Jesus' commandments are different than the 10 commandments but yet His commands encompass the 10 commandments. The 10 commandments did not just get thrown out the window.

**Matt.22:37-40** - Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great (greatest) commandment. And the second *is* like unto it (equally important), Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Once Jesus fulfilled the law He became the New Covenant. We still keep and honor those 10 commandments. Jesus even made them stricter. He said if you just look on a woman with lust in your heart you have committed adultery. If you hate your brother without a cause you are a murderer. The one that trips a lot of people up is the Sabbath. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, so if you are honoring Him every day in your life and keeping Him first place you are keeping the Sabbath. As much as we can we want to set aside time to be with Him and with those that believe in Him but He is not hung up on a certain day of the week. In the OT there are 633 rules that God gave the Israelites. They were the details of how to keep the 10 commandments, by doing all of those things. Praise God we are free from all of that today. If you are truly born from above you will want to do the things that please God.

**I Sam.:15:22** - And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD (as much as in obeying the Lord)? Behold, to obey *is* better than sacrifice, *and* to hearken (listen) than the fat of rams.

A lady in the crowd where Jesus was teaching said blessed was the womb that bore Jesus and the breasts that He nursed from.

**Luke 11:28** – But He said, Yea rather, blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it (do it / put it into practice).

**Romans 10:17** - So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (through the word of Christ).

Are you **hearing**?? Do you listen to His Word anytime except in church? Are you hearing His Word on a regular basis?

How are you going to know what to obey? It is all written in the Bible. You have to open it up and read it. James 1:22 tells us not just to hear but to do the Word or else you are deceiving yourself.

**Pray**, that's when you talk to God. The Bible says in I Thess.: 5:17 to pray without ceasing. That used to trip me up. I thought, what on earth? I can't possibly go around praying all the time, I'd get nothing done. Then I heard it explained like this, you drink water every day, and you eat every day to live. In the same way you do those things every day, we should pray every day too. Never stop or give up or neglect your prayer life. Try to make it a habit in the mornings as you start your day with God. Seek His Kingdom first, read His Word and pray and when you make decisions always go to Him first. Pray before you go to sleep. Daniel had a habit of praying three times a day and Gabriel even came and answered him once while he was still praying. Jesus is our example and He was always alone in mountains and gardens praying to the Father.

**Read your Bible**, that is one sure way that God will speak to you. This is His written Word to us.

We are to search His Word and see if what others tell us is actually in His Word. We don't just take someone's word for it. We want to know His Word so that we will recognize false teaching when we hear it.

**Acts 17:11** - These (Berean Jews) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind (with an open mind), and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

**Prov.:13:13** – Whoso despiseth the Word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth (respects) the commandment shall be rewarded.

**Ps: 119:9** - Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way (How can a young person stay pure)? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word (by obeying Your Word).

We are to be obedient. We show God we love Him by obeying. We will be judged by His Word.

**Ps.:1:1-2** Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly (who does not walk in step with the wicked / who do not follow the advice of the wicked), nor standeth in the way of sinners (or stand in the way that sinners take), nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful (nor joins in with mockers). But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.

Delight in God's Word and meditate on it. Think about it and stand on it, take it into your prayer life.

If God's Word is not in you then it is not going to flow out to others. We want to be able to give a word in due season, to offer Godly counsel, to encourage the body of Christ, to be a tool fit for the Master's use to be used in winning souls for the Kingdom of God.

Jesus told all of us to spread the gospel. Pray for your families and friends, pray over the requests with me at the end of the message each week. Pray for the people on your jobs and in the schools you go to. Pray for the people in your communities.

## **CLOSING**

Are you living your life in such a way that if you died right now you are ready to go to heaven?

My dad was not saved. He had mental problems, more than likely it was demons but could have been targeting because he was in the army serving in Germany as a young man. He had such anger inside of him. My mom shared to me one time that my dad got so mad at her that

he held a gun to her head and threatened to kill her. She told him to go ahead and said she was “prayed up.” Prayed up means you know Jesus and He knows you, you talk every day and you know in your heart you are His and you are not afraid to die.

Can you say that, right now at this very moment? Are you sure of your salvation? If you died right now would you go to heaven?

## **PRAYER**