

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THAT WHICH IS TO COME

By Barbara Wilkinson MARCH 25, 2006

Women's Council Retreat, Outreach Branch

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, He is the reason for this gathering, should be the center of our life and our work.

I was asked to talk on HOW TO PREPARE FOR THAT WHICH IS TO COME. I seem to always get the "How To" jobs, probably because I am a "how to" person. I'm concerned about what is to come, but I don't waste a lot of time worrying about when, where or how it will happen, I leave all that to God and just ASK Him to show me how to prepare for it.

When I was asked to talk, I asked myself what are the things we must prepare for? Most people think we must prepare for the bad times, so we have had lots of seminars on how to physically prepare for them. But I always think of the good things to come and ask how to prepare for them, because I realize that "**...it was the more righteous part of the people which were saved,**" [3 Ne 4:66] during the calamities at the death of Christ. So I figured if we work to become one of the more righteous, God will care for us during the best and the worst of times. I came up with 6 wonderful things we need to prepare for:

1. **The Endowment;**
2. **The Kingdom;**
3. **The return of Christ in his glory;**
4. **Zion;**
5. **The DAY of Judgment;** which will lead to
6. **Eternal life [OR Eternal damnation, depending on what we do or don't do.]**

So I ASKED God to show me **what we need to KNOW AND DO**, to prepare to have an **ACTIVE PART IN EACH OF THESE GOOD THINGS**.

As I study I continually ask God to, "**Open thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.**" [Psa 119:18] He is faithful to show me things as I read the Scriptures; in Scriptures read by the preacher;, quoted in a class; and last but not least though the still small voice in my mind, I was told to:

Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, DECEIVING YOUR OWN SELVES.

James 1:22

This scripture continually came to my mind, till it dawned on me that it was to be **the main theme of my whole talk**. I realized that no matter which direction our life goes, to prepare for **God's will** we must **DO WHAT HE TELLS US TO DO**.

At Wednesday night's prayer service, the opening scripture added emphasis to what I had been told:

95:3a And I give unto you a **COMMANDMENT**, that ye shall forsake all evil and CLEAVE [stick like super glue] unto all good, that YE SHALL LIVE BY EVERY WORD WHICH PROCEEDETH FORTH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD; for he will give unto the FAITHFUL, line upon line, precept upon precept;

95:3b and I WILL TRY YOU, AND PROVE YOU HEREWITH; ...

DC 95:3a,b

Let me paraphrase it so it is easier to understand:

- ℞• **If you will faithfully do what I command you to do,**
- ℞• **You will automatically give up the evil and do good.**
- ℞• **Then I can guide you step-by-step, line-by-line throughout your life.**
- ℞• **This way I can try you and prove to you that my way is the best way**

That's the end of my talk we can go home now. But Ann Taylor asked me to talk about preparing our heart, mind, and be obedient, witness and serve the Lord, so to make Ann happy I ASKED GOD to give me ideas and examples that could help you PERSONALLY TO SEE HOW TO PREPARE:

UNDERSTAND: this is a personal walk we all must take. God doesn't have us all take the same route, or go at the same time etc. SO YOU MUST PERSONALLY ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU WHAT HE WANTS YOU PERSONALLY TO DO.

When my husband, Max, decided to turn to God he was a heavy smoker and coffee drinker, an occasional drinker, would take a bet once in awhile, etc. Now if I was going to have him begin to change I would have told him to give up some of those glaring sins. But as Max read the Scriptures EVERYTHING SAID PAY HIS TITHING. What did that have to do with him returning to the Lord????? UNDERSTAND: God doesn't do things the way we do things. He sees things different than we do and He starts working with us as soon as we reach out to Him and begins to tell us WHAT HE WANTS US TO DO. Our job is to DO IT.

55:6 Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near; [That is, you take the first step toward God, He gently and continually calls you, but never forces you to come to Him. So STEP ONE is you turn to Him.]

55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts [That's what DC 95:3 told us to do]; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

The following is the HOW TO part. God showing you HIS SUPERIOR WAY THAT IS JUST RIGHT FOR YOU PERSONALLY, so listen to what He asks you to do and DO IT. Others won't understand or often believe you that it is what God is asking you to do. IGNORE THEM!!!!

55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:6-9

Don't ask me why God started Max out with paying his tithing, I still don't understand it. To me it is absolutely illogical when he had so many glaring sins to work on. Not only that, but it was a real hardship on Max. At the time he had 3 kids and a spendthrift wife who spent money even when there wasn't any in the checking account. It took all his wages just to keep up with her spending. So he took a second 8-hour a day job that was to go for tithing. He did that, 16 hours/day 5 and sometimes 6 days a week for 2 years to pay his tithing. God learned that Max believed He had spoken to him and he wanted to DO WHAT GOD TOLD HIM TO DO.

Nephi gave us one of the best admonishments found in the Book of Mormon.

Wherefore, I said unto you: Feast upon the words of Christ, For behold, the WORDS OF CHRIST WILL TELL YOU ALL THINGS WHAT YE SHOULD DO.

2 NE 14:4

Remember everything Max read in the Scriptures alluded to paying his tithing

GOD WANTS WOMEN TO PREPARE FOR THE GREAT ENDOWMENT

While working on the thoughts for this talk, God dropped into my lap an inspired paper written by Earl Curry. Don't ask me where it came from... it just sort of showed up. The paper is called **Womanhood Possibilities In DEVELOPMENT TOWARD Divine ENDOWMENT. Such Is God's Will.** See the attached copy.

He began the paper by saying.

The Lord wants womanhood, far and wide, to become increasingly spiritual, having experiences with the Holy Spirit. He wants womanhood to **PRESS TOWARD ENDOWED LIVING THEMSELVES** and also help others to likewise press. Truly the results will be wonderfully rewarding.

It again inspired me to tell you that **WE WOMEN DON'T HAVE TO HANG ON TO THE COAT- TAILS OF THE PRIESTHOOD TO EXPERIENCE THE ENDOWMENT.** We seem to think that is the priesthood's responsibility, nothing we need to worry about. **Don't you believe it! If you want to be in on the great endowment you must prepare for it. How? Ask God how he wants you personally to prepare for it. Then read the Scriptures looking for what he wants you personally to do.** Bro. Curry ended the paper with a wonderful prayer, indicating that he saw that women were more spiritually minded than men:

Our marvelous Father in heaven, Thou who has created us, lead all these Thy very

precious daughters into ever more fruitful lives for an empowered Restoration, and dynamic outreach to all mankind, in these days and years preceding the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. *In your wise providence you have placed more of a tendency toward spiritual mindedness in womanhood than seems to be generally true of men.*

May these thy daughters treasure this Thy providence as a jewel of immense worth! Help them! Inspire them! May they always reach up toward the fulfillment of their exalted potential and destiny! In the name of Him who gave himself for all mankind!

Believe what Bro. Curry says about us is true, and begin to WORK AND PREPARE to be ENDOWED YOURSELF, don't just sit back and wait for it to HAPPEN to the priesthood.

We women need to be at the forefront of spiritual growth BECAUSE WE ARE THE NURTURERS OF OUR FUTURE PRIESTHOOD and of the WIVES OF THE CURRENT PRIESTHOOD MEMBERS who need support as they strive to prepare for the Great Endowment. UNDERSTAND: You are either a strong or weak spiritual companions to your priesthood husband right now. I can tell you which women in every branch I've attended who were the weak links for their priesthood husband and how his priesthood suffered because of it.

UNDERSTAND: If these 6 things come very, very soon, will you and your family be prepared to be a part of it? There may not be time to rise up another generation to do the work? BE PREPARED NOW TO HAVE AN **ACTIVE PART IN THESE 6 THINGS, and help, guide and/or direct your spouse, children and your friends**, because the spiritual capacity is within you. We can be a guiding force in teaching others to prepare for the Great Endowment.

Unfortunately we have been taught at some point in time, **ready or not**, the priesthood will some day be **ZAPPED** with the great endowment of the Holy Ghost, and if we [non priesthood] are some where near, we to will **FEEL THE SPIRIT TOO**.

UNDERSTAND the power of the Holy Ghost isn't JUST A FEELING; it is STRENGTH GIVEN TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE SERVING THE LORD. I made a list of the functions of the Holy Ghost and found roughly 116 of them, all related to working for the Lord. So **UNDERSTAND** the Holy Ghost is not a FEELING but a FUNCTION.

Corrie Ten Boom said it well when she said,

"the holy ghost is not for our enjoyment, but for our employment."

Read the Book of Mormon looking for miracles etc. Notice that they happen to men who were busily engaged in the Lord's work. For example, arrows and stones could not hit Samuel the Lamanite while he preached on the wall. The 4 sons of Mosiah could not be killed while on their missionary trip to the Lamanites. Some of the ministers were imprisoned and protected by a circle of fire etc. Specifically notice that **they were not afraid to be boldly valiant in testimony of Jesus Christ, and preached in great power converting whole towns, or thousands of heathens**. This didn't happen just to make a group of people feel good, but to bring about God's work:

"... this is my work and my glory to bring about the immortality and eternal life of man." DC 22:23b

Which goes along with our work:

10:10a Behold, **THIS IS YOUR WORK** [Hyrum Smith and to all who have good desires. DC 10:11a,c],

1. **TO KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS**; yea, with all your might, mind, and strength; seek **NOT** to declare my word, but
2. **FIRST SEEK TO OBTAIN MY WORD, AND**
3. **THEN SHALL YOUR TONGUE BE LOOSED**;

10:10b then, **if you desire**, you shall have **my Spirit, and my word; yea, the power of God** unto the convincing of men

DC 10:10

First of all we are to keep His commandments. Keeping the commandments is part of the requirement for almost every promise given in the Scriptures. DC 6:4b suggests that the definition of repentance is to keep the commandments.

Second we are to study His word which goes along with Nephi's admonishment to Feast upon the words of Christ which will tell you all things to do. Third, **IF** you desire to witness, you are promised to have His Spirit and His Word and **THE POWER OF GOD** to convince men. **WOW what a promised blessing.** Notice this promise isn't just to priesthood but to "ALL WHO HAVE GOOD DESIRES," that can include you and me **IF YOU DO WHAT DC 10:10a,b** tells you to do

WHAT DID MINISTERS DO TO BE SPIRITUAL ENDOWED?

As I studied the Scriptures I looked to see what the most spiritually endowed ministers did to receive the power of the Holy Ghost. I found that they **ALL** seemed to

- ℞• **Prayed and fasted MIGHTILY** and
- ℞• **DILIGENTLY studying the Scriptures**, looking and asked the Lord what He wanted them to do.
- ℞• They **ASKED** to receive the power of the Holy Ghost.

That's what I've been preaching, teaching, exhorting, expounding, proclaiming etc. for years now!!!! It's called the " **WHAT'S YOUR HEART'S DESIRE?** plan and exactly what the 4 sons of Mosiah did to prepare to witness to the murderous, heathen Lamanites. [Alma 12:3-5] They were able to convert thousands of Lamanites. Other ministers talk about doing these things too: Nephi, Jacob, King Benjamin, Alma Sr. and Jr., Helaman and his 2060 sons who I dearly loved, and **WAS THRILLED THAT THEY Credited THEIR GREAT FAITH TO THEIR MOTHERS TEACHING. They said their mothers KNOW.**

WHEN AND WHY DID I START MY STUDYING OF BEING

ENDOWED?

I really started this study eleven years ago when I was asked to give a talk on "**The Power Within Us**" I was led to talk about the Holy Ghost, so I asked God to give me the Scriptures He wanted me to use. For 2 months He made certain Scriptures stand out, I printed them onto the computer. Those Scriptures became a **SIGNIFICANT SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE**, which totally changed the direction of my teaching. What I was shown was **many things we can do to receive the power of the Holy Ghost**, that is the great endowment.

I asked why I had never seen this before and was told, "**Now is the time for us to prepare for the great endowment, or I will raise up a people who will.**" I have been teaching our women these understandings ever since. So I was thrilled when I saw what Bro. Curry said about us **DOING THINGS THAT will cause us to be spiritually endowed**. People seem to have trouble believing that we can do things that will increase the amount of the Holy Ghost within us.

It has caused me to look for women in the Scriptures who had the Spirit within them. For example,

- ℞• Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist and
- ℞• Mary, mother of Jesus and
- ℞• the mothers of the 2060 sons of Helaman.
- ℞• But one of my favorites is the wife of King Lamoni, who was a heathen with a tender spirit. Ammon, an endowed minister, said of her,

"Blessed art thou because of thy exceeding faith; I say unto thee woman, there has not been such great faith among ALL THE PEOPLE of the Nephites." NOTICE that includes the men and the women.

Alma 12:140]

NOTICE: Ammon saw what Bro Curry saw in that woman..

I became discouraged because so few people seem to see or be interested in the things we could do to increase the amount of the Holy Ghost within us. Then I remembered what my patriarchal blessing said:

...remember that sometimes men and women move slowly, so very slowly in their growth in spiritual affairs. Do not expect too much in too short a time, for God in His patience waits through the centuries. [My continual answer in frustration is, "But Lord, we don't have centuries!"]]

Be courageous as you speak out for the work of God, but avoid the aggressiveness which might enable others to lose sight of your inter desires to help them, which are in your heart.

You need to be admonished with the same understanding. When you begin to grow spiritually you become excited, but frustrated because others don't see and understand why you are so excited.

Also understand that **you will be frustrated with your own slow improvement**. I've been working on and studying this for 11 years, and I'm frustrated that I have grown so slowly spiritually, I figured I should be FILLED TO BURSTING WITH THE Holy

Ghost BY NOW. It took me a long time to realize that **God is making it slow and hard for me so I can better understand other people's slow progress.** If it were easy for me, I wouldn't have one ounce of sympathy for you who were slow to grow.

BUT don't underestimate your potential for influencing those around you as you grow spiritually by **DOING WHAT THE LORD IS ASKING YOU TO DO. UNDERSTAND " ... unto whom much is given, much is required."** [DC 81:1c, Luke 12:57] The Lord will require you to set the example before our children and our husbands **and before each other.**

I was thrilled when I moved to Independence. I would again be among people who would challenge me to greater spirituality. I came as a widow. Max always challenged me to become more spiritual, to give up bad habits, to stop using crude language, etc. etc. He died and I no longer had my companion as a constant reminder to come up to higher ground spiritually. I expected my women friends down here to take his place. Some have, but many have not.

WE need to challenge our friends and family members to be among the more righteous... calling them to higher grounds by what we say and what we do. Why? Because only the **MORE RIGHTEOUS** will have an active part in the 6 wonderful things that are to come

WHAT SORT OF HELP ARE YOU TO YOUR HUSBAND AND CHILDREN

When I quote work, I **SELFISHLY** spent all my time studying because I was working to write lessons on **EXERCISES IN GROWING SPIRITUAL.** I was building a card catalogue on the best Scriptures on every subject imaginable. I daily told Max about the neat Scriptures I found and we grew together spiritually.

DO YOU HOME SCHOOLING MOTHERS DO THIS FOR YOUR HUSBANDS?

We discussed each concept and he soon learned that when he was to preach he could take cards from **MY** file to use in his sermons. He called me **"his research assistant."**

Are you your husband and kids "research assistant"? When your children come home with appalling modern value systems do you guide them to scriptures that indicate those values are not **GOD'S VALUES?**

Do your lives reflect some of those appalling modern values? We are told that the Christian value system is the same as the world's; it just takes them 20 years longer to accept it.

Look at your life now verses 20, 30, 40 years earlier. How has your value system changed? Are you now accepting movies that came out 20,30,40 years ago and you wouldn't have thought of going to see them at that time, but you watch them now on TV or video because they are among the **MORE RIGHTEOUS** movies available? That is just a small indication of what they are talking about. Listen to the language in the movies now, that you put up with, but wouldn't have put up with 20, 30, 40 years ago.

The list goes on and one

I see a few mothers in Zion teaching their sons [in home schooling] to prepare to be in the priesthood, trying to teach them to develop their spirituality. I see them teaching their daughters to be mothers in Zion.

BUT I ALSO SEE AND HEAR OF CHILDREN WHO ARE NOT BEING

TAUGHT. Sunday school teachers have told me how heart sick they are because the children don't even know their father is in the priesthood; let alone what office, or what he does in that office. Some don't even know the principles of the gospel; the name of the first prophet, or the location of the church headquarters

THE PARENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT THE LORD AND HIS PRINCIPLES.

Doctrine and Covenants 68:4 tells exactly what PARENTS are to have taught their children by the time they are 8 years old, **OR THE SINS WILL BE UPON THE HEADS OF THE PARENTS.**

Ray Treat has pounded in to our heads the Parable of the Sower. He has continually told us that the next to highest level are those who

℞• **Because of cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word and he becometh unfruitful.** [Mat 13:20] and

℞• **Are choked with cares, and riches, and pleasures of life and bring **NO fruit to perfection**** [Luke 8:15]

Our children are our most precious fruits. We give them all the materialistic things we can afford by 2 parents working, but we fail to **TEACH THEM THE WORD OF GOD AND THEREFORE THEY ARE NOT DOING IT.** Unfortunately we loss a large percentage of our natural increase to the world. How many of your children are grown and working in the church?

HOW TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN TO BE DOERS OF THE WORD

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Pro 22:6

That scripture always bothered me because I couldn't see that it was true. I was raised in the church and we kids were PROGRAMMED to be there every time the doors opened and to be on time. But my brother is now an atheist or agnostic, so Proverbs 22:6 has to be wrong. I thought that until I recently heard the Hebrew [and English] definition of Training:

"to teach a principle and then PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE until it becomes an ingrained habit."

My brother was TRAINED to attend regularly. He still attends regularly with his good Methodist wife. He even goes to help with the building of their new church while she is at work. These things he was TRAINED to do, but he doesn't believe, doesn't have faith, for some reason he obviously was never TRAINED in the gospel or doctrine of Jesus Christ.

I also have been frustrated by the scripture that says Elizabeth, "... **WALKING IN ALL THE COMMANDMENTS AND ORDINANCES OF THE LORD BLAMELESS.**" [Luke 1:6] I always scream in my heart in frustration.... "Lord, **How did she do that!!!!!!?**" When I

learned the definition of TRAINING, it was like a 400-watt bulb going on the next time I read above Elizabeth I understood. Her mother taught her the commandments and they daily in their home PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE until the commandments were ingrown habits. Parents do that with all sorts of things. Mom says, "Brush your teeth," day after day, after day, and she shows them how to brush and then expects them to PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE morning and evening, and we are still doing it 70 or 80 years later.

QUESTION: how many commandments were you TRAINED to do in your childhood? Here is our problem in these latter days. We have not been trained to keep the commandments, nor are we training our children to keep the commandments. Did you notice that Luke 1:6 [above] gave the **DEFINITION of RIGHTEOUS as: "... walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless."** So we need to begin to TRAIN ourselves and our families in the commandments of God if we desire to be DOERS OF THE WORD.

I pray that you don't think I am asking more of you than you can bear. Laman and Lemuel complained that Nephi said hard things that were more than they could bear. Nephi told them, "... **the guilty taketh the truth to be hard, for it cutteth them to the very center.**" [1 Ne 5:2] When that which is taught OFFENDS YOU and YOU CAN'T BEAR IT understand that the Lord is pricking your conscience and you'd better look carefully at what is offending you. Is it true of you? Then mend your ways. Nephi went on and told his brother that if they were:

1. righteous
2. HEARKENED [hear and do] to the truth, and
3. gave heed to it

that they would walk upright before God, and they would not murmur because of the truth. Then Nephi EXHORTED his brothers to DILIGENTLY KEEP [DO] the commandments of God.

Keeping the commandments is one of the main parts of

"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, DECEIVING YOUR OWN SELVES." Jam 1:22

I think, James 1:22 is probably one of the most important Scriptures ever written. Until just recently, I sort of ignored the last third of this scripture. While working on this talk the Lord opened my eyes to the understanding that what James was telling us is we are deceiving ourselves if we think just KNOWING what the Scriptures say will get us into heaven. We have to be **DOERS OF THAT WHICH WE HAVE LEARNED.** There are many Scriptures that support this understanding, but the best on the subject is found in King Benjamin's famous sermon [Mosiah 1 and 2]. It leaves no doubt as to where you stand if you don't do what you have been taught:

1:79 And now, I say unto you, my brethren, that after ye have KNOWN and HAVE BEEN TAUGHT all these things, IF ye should TRANSGRESS [definition: to break or violate a civil or moral law. That is to NOT DO IT.], and go contrary to that which has been spoken, [don't do what you have been taught] that YE do withdraw yourselves

from the Spirit of the Lord, that it may have no place in you to guide you in wisdom's path, that ye may be blessed, prospered, and preserved.

1:80 I say unto you, that the man that doeth this, **the same cometh out in open rebellion against God;**

1:81 **Therefore he listeth to obey the evil spirit, and becometh an enemy to all righteousness;**

1:82 Therefore, **the Lord has no place in him, for he dwelleth not in unholy temples.**

1:83 Therefore, if that man repenteth NOT, and remaineth and DIETH AN ENEMY TO GOD, the demands of divine justice doth awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt,

1:84 **Which doth cause him to shrink from the presence of the Lord**, and doth fill his breast with guilt, and pain, and anguish, which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flames ascendeth up for ever and ever.

Mosiah 1:79-84

James and King Benjamin both make it clear that you are deceiving yourself if you think you are going to live with God eternally IF you are NOT DOING THAT WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT.

One of my favorite teachings came from Delbert Smith, Mildred's husband. He taught me to look for principles with a promise. They are Scriptures that say IF YOU WILL DO THIS, you will receive this blessing, or in contrast there are PRINCIPLES WITH A CURSE. If you find a principle with a promise that you want, DO IT and watch for the promise. ASK God to show you principles with promises that He wants you to do. Then testify of the promised blessings you received because you did what He said.

....**the Lord esteemeth all flesh in one; He that is righteous is FAVORED of God;**

1 Ne 5:121, 122

Are we, His people, sufficiently righteous so that we are FAVORED of the Lord? I fear we are like Laman and Lemuel who couldn't even see the unrighteousness of the people in Jerusalem. [1 Ne 5:98] If we were righteous we would see many more prophecies, revelations, visions, miracles and healings. We would see the Lord's hand leading us in our daily life.

We tend to blame this lack on the priesthood because of the problems and contentions in our branches, when in reality we are a part of the problem, because of OUR lack of faith and obedience. If we are not seeing the blessings in this day and time, understand that we are not prepared for that which is to come. Don't procrastinate the day of your repentance and miss having an active part in the wonderful events that are to come. No

longer be content with our degree of righteousness. Today ASK God to show you what He wants you to do and **BEGIN DOING IT. These 6 blessed events are coming, the question is: will you be prepared to have a part in them?**
