

## Prepare your minds for Action based on 1 Peter 1.

1 Peter 1:13-16, *“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”*

**The life of a believer is a life of action,** advance, progress and growth.

In this passage of Scripture God is telling us to be self-controlled, obedient and live holy lives. We must reject and deny the evil desires

1 Peter 1: 17-21, *“Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.”*

**The life of a believer is a life of fearing God.** Fearing God means loving Him, respecting Him, honoring Him. Worshipping Him and obeying Him.

1 Peter 1:22-25, *“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For,*

*“All men are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of the Lord stands forever.”*

*And this is the word that was preached to you. ‘*

**The life of a believer is a life of loving others.**

How do you love others? Is it not enough to say “I love you brother” or “I love you sister” or “May God bless you”.

The Christian live is a life of action and not being passive.

We love others by giving.

- Giving our time,
- Giving our attention to peoples needs,
- Giving our knowledge and information,
- Giving our friendship and companionship
- Giving our money.

Many people want to change but most do not know how.

Many alcoholics want deliverance from their drinking addiction

Many smokers desire to quit but don't know how to break the habit

Many drug addicts long for deliverance.

Many prostitutes want to stop their profession but don't see a way out.

Many people are lonely and long for friendship

Many people are in some sort of trouble and need counsel and advice

Some people are unemployed and need some help for the time being

Many people need to improve their skills and abilities

Some people are thirsty and need a drink

Others are hungry and need a meal

Some old person needs help crossing the street

Some soccer player needs help in passing or scoring.

Many wives have problems with husbands and need comfort and help.

Some husbands have problems and don't understand their wives.

Many children are confused and think their parents are not fair and are too busy.

Many parents think their children are ungrateful and are rebellious.

Many people are sad and downhearted and need encouragement.

Many people are disappointed and need hope.

Many people are worried and frustrated about their next house payments.

Some are not sure what they will eat next.

Many people are worried about the future.

Many people are sick and long for healing.

Many people have weaknesses and desire deliverance.

Some are single but long to be married.

Others are married but wish they were single again.

Some are lost and need to be found.

Some are persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ.

Some do not get promoted because they are Christians.

Others denied their faith in Christ to get a job.

Many people would like to go to heaven when they die, but don't know how.

Perhaps you think well, that may be true but it is not my concern. I have enough problems of mine own. Or you may think, "I am too busy", "I am too tired", "I am too old" or "I am too young", and so we give all sorts of excuses.

Galatians 6:7-10, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

So as believers we are exhorted by our Lord to love one another deeply from the heart and do good to all men. You may not be qualified or able to help every person in trouble but God has equipped you with some ability, gift or talent to help somebody!

According to God's Word in Romans chapter 12, **all of us have some gift or talent...**

***"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."***

Stop and think. What is your greatest gift? What are you good at doing? What ability has God given to you? Are you a good speaker? There so many people who need counsel and advise.

Are you a good listener? So many people have no one they can really trust and who has time to listen to their problems and who is willing to pray with them.

Do you like to **serve** and help? So many people all around us need help.

Do you like to **teach**? Everywhere there is opportunity to teach children, young people and adults.

There are some who like to **encourage**. So many opportunities to encourage people who are discouraged, disappointed and down-hearted. I love to be encouraged and so does every one else. No one like to scolded, offended and criticized.

Others like to **give**. God says let him give generously. Still others have the ability to lead. So many people are waiting for some one to lead and show the way. We can lead by word and deed. By being an example and by actually being in front and showing the way.

Showing **mercy** and compassion is another great blessing to those in difficulty. Just sitting next to a person in the hospital is a great comfort. We have one African brother in our congregation who was visited by another family who brought some food and showed mercy. He has been talking about this act of mercy for months. It made a lasting impression on him.

Do you have the gift to **lead**? God wants to use you to lead some one or several, dozens, hundreds or maybe thousands to the truth. Some one has been waiting for you to speak and lead.

Joseph has the ability to interpret dreams. He put his ability into action and he saved his family and the entire world from starvation and became the prime-minister of Egypt, the most powerful nation in the world at that time.

Ruth simply took care of her mother-in-law. She had the gift of helps and helped one person. Helping Naomi opened the way and she married a rich land-lord named Boaz. Please note that Ruth was faithful in serving Naomi before God gave her an important man for husband.

David was faithful in leading sheep before God gave him the responsibility to lead the nation of Israel.

You are special and God has given you a special ability and a special assignment. All we need to do is open our eyes and the opportunities are right before our eyes. Your gift may not be needed by everybody but it is definitely needed by somebody. So you must prepare your minds for action and be faithful. The Lord will reward you according to your faithfulness in the small things and will then promote you to greater responsibilities. As Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 25 :13, "***His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'***"