



PREPARING TO STAND

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“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” SW 3-21-05

The Church's Great Need

by Mrs. E. G. White

(Quoted from *The Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887.)

A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow his blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our Heavenly Father is more willing to give his Holy Spirit to them that ask him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us his blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. While the people are so destitute of God's Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the word; but when the Spirit's power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect. Guided by the teachings of God's word, with the manifestation of his Spirit, in the exercise of sound discretion, those who attend our meetings will gain a precious experience, and returning home will be prepared to exert a healthful influence.

The old standard-bearers knew what it was to wrestle with God in prayer, and to enjoy the out-pouring of his Spirit. But these are passing off from the stage of action; and who are coming up to fill their places? How is it with the rising generation? Are they converted to God? Are we awake to the work that is going on in the heavenly Sanctuary, or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come.

There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less. Iniquity abounds, and the people must be taught not to be satisfied with a form of godliness without the spirit and power. If we are intent upon searching our own hearts, putting away our sins, and correcting our evil tendencies, our souls will not be lifted up unto vanity; we shall be distrustful of ourselves, having an abiding sense that our sufficiency is of God.

We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world.

Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices.

The adversary of souls is not permitted to read the thoughts of men; but he is a keen observer, and he marks the words; he takes account of actions, and skillfully adapts his temptations to meet the cases of those who place themselves in his power. If we would labor to repress sinful thoughts and feelings, giving them no expression in words or actions, Satan would be defeated; for he could not prepare his specious temptations to meet the case. But how often do professed Christians, by their lack of self-control, open the door to the adversary of souls! Divisions, and even bitter dissensions which would disgrace any worldly community, are common in the churches, because there is so little effort to control wrong feelings, and to repress every word that Satan can take advantage of. As soon as an alienation of feeling arises, the matter is spread before Satan for his inspection, and the opportunity given for him to use his serpent-like wisdom and skill in dividing and destroying the church. There is great loss in every dissension. Personal friends of both parties take sides with their respective favorites, and thus the breach is widened. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Criminations and recriminations are engendered and multiplied. Satan and his angels are actively at work to secure a harvest from seed thus sown. Worldlings look on, and jeeringly exclaim, "Behold how these Christians hate one another! If this is religion, we do not want it." And they look upon themselves and their irreligious characters with great satisfaction. Thus they are confirmed in their impenitence, and Satan exults at his success.

The great deceiver has prepared his wiles for every soul that is not braced for trial and guarded by constant prayer and living faith. As ministers, as Christians, we must work to take the stumbling-blocks out of the way. We must remove every obstacle. Let us confess and forsake every sin, that the way of the Lord may be prepared, that he may come into our assemblies and impart his rich grace. The world, the flesh, and the Devil must be overcome. We cannot prepare the way by gaining the friendship of the world, which is enmity with God; but by his help we can break its seductive influence upon ourselves and upon others. We cannot individually or as a body secure ourselves from the constant temptations of a relentless and determined foe; but in the strength of Jesus we can resist them. From every member of the church a steady light may shine forth before the world, so that they shall not be led to inquire, What do these people more than others? There can be and must be a withdrawal from conformity to the world, a shunning of all appearance of evil, so that no occasion shall be given for gainsayers. We cannot escape reproach; it will come; but we should be very careful that we are not reproached for our own sins or follies, but for Christ's sake.

There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hinderance, so that the Lord can pour out his Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant

of his devices. It is possible to resist his power. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God, or shut out his presence from the assemblies of his people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim his promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

We are in the great day of atonement, when our sins are, by confession and repentance, to go beforehand to Judgment. God does not now accept a tame, spiritless testimony from his ministers. Such a testimony would not be present truth. The message for this time must be meat in due season to feed the church of God. But Satan has been seeking gradually to rob this message of its power, that the people may not be prepared to stand in the day of the Lord.

In 1844 our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly Sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative Judgment. The cases of the righteous dead have been passing in review before God. When that work shall be completed, judgment is to be pronounced upon the living. How precious, how important are these solemn moments! Each of us has a case pending in the court of heaven. We are individually to be judged according to the deeds done in the body. In the typical service, when the work of atonement was performed by the high priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary, the people were required to afflict their souls before God, and confess their sins, that they might be atoned for and blotted out. Will any less be required of us in this antitypical day of atonement, when Christ in the Sanctuary above is pleading in behalf of his people, and the final, irrevocable decision is to be pronounced upon every case?

What is our condition in this fearful and solemn time? Alas, what pride is prevailing in the church, what hypocrisy, what deception, what love of dress, frivolity, and amusement, what desire for the supremacy! All these sins have clouded the mind, so that eternal things have not been discerned. Shall we not search the Scripture, that we may know where we are in this world's history? Shall we not become intelligent in regard to the work that is being accomplished for us at this time, and the position that we as sinners should occupy while this work of atonement is going forward? If we have any regard for our souls' salvation, we must make a decided change. We must seek the Lord with true penitence; we must with deep contrition of soul confess our sins, that they may be blotted out.

We must no longer remain upon the enchanted ground. We are fast approaching the close of our probation. Let every soul inquire, How do I stand before God? We know not how soon our names may be taken into the lips of Christ, and our cases be finally decided. What, oh, what will these decisions be! Shall we be counted with the righteous, or shall we be numbered with the wicked?

Let the church arise, and repent of her back-slidings before God. Let the watchmen awake, and give the trumpet a certain sound. It is a definite warning that we have to proclaim. God commands his servants, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." The attention of the people must be gained; unless this can be done, all effort is

useless; though an angel from heaven should come down and speak to them, his words would do no more good than if he were speaking into the cold ear of death. The church must arouse to action. The Spirit of God can never come in until she prepares the way. There should be earnest searching of heart. There should be united, persevering prayer, and through faith a claiming of the promises of God. There should be, not a clothing of the body with sackcloth, as in ancient times, but a deep humiliation of soul. We have not the first reason for self-congratulation and self exaltation. We should humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. He will appear to comfort and bless the true seekers.

The work is before us; will we engage in it? We must work fast, we must go steadily forward. We must be preparing for the great day of the Lord. We have no time to lose, no time to be engaged in selfish purposes. The world is to be warned. What are we doing as individuals to bring the light before others? God has left to every man his work; every one has a part to act, and we cannot neglect this work except at the peril of our souls.

O my brethren, will you grieve the Holy Spirit, and cause it to depart? Will you shut out the blessed Saviour, because you are unprepared for his presence? Will you leave souls to perish without the knowledge of the truth, because you love your ease too well to bear the burden that Jesus bore for you? Let us awake out of sleep. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

What We Need to Stay Alive — the “Survival Priorities” and Equipment by Jim Buller

In a survival situation it is important to put first things first. Otherwise, we could easily waste time with non-essentials. This is especially important at the beginning of a survival situation, because there is so much to do. It is difficult to do many things after it gets dark, so we need to make good use of the remaining daylight. Therefore, it is important to know what we really need to do to stay alive, and concentrate our efforts on doing these things first. Below is a chart listing in order of importance, the “Survival Priorities.” This is what we need to stay alive, [besides air]. Memorize these priorities.

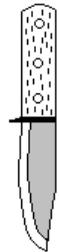
Survival Priorities	Survival Priority Equipment	Survival Kit Items
1. Shelter	• <u>Clothing and Footwear</u>	• Sock Cap
	• <u>Bedding</u>	• Blanket
	• <u>Roof and Walls</u>	• Trash Bag, Poncho, or 6'x8' Tarp
2. Water	• <u>Water Container & Purifier</u>	• Water Bottle
3. Health Concerns	• <u>Personal Hygiene Items</u>	• First-Aid, Toilet Paper, Bandanna
4. Fire	• <u>Fire-Starters</u>	• Fire-Starters
5. Food	• <u>Food</u>	• Food
	• <u>Cook Pot and Utensils</u>	• Cook Pot
Tools	• <u>Cutting and Chopping Tools</u>	• Knife & Machete/Saw/Tomahawk
	• <u>Digging Tool</u>	• Digging Stick
	• <u>Cordage</u>	• Twine Bundle
	• <u>Containers</u>	• Pack & Organizer Bags

Shelter is the first priority, because within a few hours it will most likely get colder as night sets in. You may also need more immediate shelter from rain, snow, the sun, or wind. Water is the second priority, because under most conditions we *could* make it into the next day without water. Food is last, because we *could* survive for a couple weeks without food —though we may not feel very good about it! Health Concerns, such as safety, sanitation, good hygiene, adequate rest, etc. and Fire are in the middle, because you always want to stay safe and healthy, and fire may be needed for warmth and light in connection with the shelter, to purify water, and for cooking.

Next on the chart, is a list of the equipment item categories we need to provide ourselves with the Survival Priorities. For lack of a better term, we will call these categories “Survival Priority Equipment.” Regardless of where people are living around the world, this is the “equipment” humans need to stay alive and well. Different cultures have come up with different solutions to each of these, based on their particular situation and the available resources. In putting together a Survival Kit, we need to consider each of these equipment categories —but first, let’s note a few things.

We *can* get *everything* we need from what nature provides. For thousands of years, God has provided for many of His children from only the things of nature. It is still possible to do this as all these things are still out there. But, it takes a lot of time to find, gather, and then make *everything* you need —much more than a couple hours before dark on the first afternoon of a survival situation. Therefore, we would be wise to put together a survival kit and carry it with us.

Although some of these categories, such as a digging tool and cordage, are usually fairly easy to get from nature, others, such as items made from cloth and metal, are not. In addition, there are some things that, although they may be easy to make in nature, what we could bring from civilization would be notably superior. A steel knife is a good example of this. It *is* fairly easy to make a stone knife, but for most cutting jobs a steel knife would work better and be easier to use. A good steel knife is relatively inexpensive, easy to carry, and if taken care of, will last indefinitely. In an actual survival situation, our “most valuable possessions” would be any of the Survival Priority Equipment items which we had brought with us that ① would be superior to what we could make, or ② would be difficult to make in the wilderness. We should *definitely* include these items in our survival kits. These “most valuable possessions” have been underlined on the chart.



There is one more group of equipment item categories that is also worth noting. These are things that get used up as we use them. They are: water, hygiene items, fire-starting materials, fuel, and food. In a survival situation that may last indefinitely, no matter how much we may have brought with us, eventually everything we brought would get used up. So, even though we may have an initial supply of these items in our survival kit, we should be sure to learn how to get more from nature.

Fortunately, we are in a unique position when it comes to choosing equipment for our survival kits. At no other time in history have there been so many options available. Most of the people who have lived on this earth have only had what their culture and immediate area had to offer them. But we can draw ideas from many parts of the world, and also from many periods of history as well. With a little research, we should be able to find items for each of these categories that are durable, light weight, versatile, and overall best for our particular situation.

In putting a Survival Kit together, remember that any of the Priority Equipment items which we did not have with us, we would somehow need to obtain from nature. But keep in mind that the kit must be light-weight and not bulky. Otherwise we will be reluctant to carry it, and run the risk of not having it with us when we really need it.

If they are not planning to spend the night, most people don't bring *anything*. On the other hand, if they know they *are* going to spend the night, they want to bring *everything*! It might be helpful to ask the question, "What am I willing to carry on a "day hike" where I am *not* planning to spend the night, so I would have it with me if I *did* have to spend the night?"

Based on the Survival Priority Equipment, the final column on the chart lists some suggestions of basic items to include in a Survival Kit. Keep your kit packed and ready to go, both for emergencies and for those unexpected opportunities when you get to go hiking. Below are additional comments on these items.

Put your equipment together as though your life depended on it —because it just might!

- Sock Cap —since we lose about 3/4 of our body heat from our neck up, a simple sock cap can go a long way to keep us warm
- Blanket —A blanket can be used as a jacket, with the additional benefit of being able to cover your whole body if you have to sleep with it. (I carry a light-weight wool blanket/poncho that fits into the bottom of my pack for day-hikes. When going on an overnight survival trip, I swap this for a heavier wool blanket.)
- Large Plastic Trash Bag, Rain Poncho, or 6'x8' "Poly" or Nylon Tarp —for rain covering and shelter building
- Water Bottle and Water Purification —the water bottle should hold at least 1 quart or 1 liter; water can be purified by boiling it in your cook-pot
- First-Aid, Toilet Paper, Bandanna —about 1/3 roll of toilet paper in a zip-lock bag; a bandanna is useful for many things: as a towel, washcloth, table cloth, bandaging ...
- Fire-Starter —a lighter or some other water-proof method of fire-starting
- Food —things that won't spoil or get crushed like: nuts, dried fruit, granola bars, etc. Carry one generous meal in your day hike pack, 3 days rations in your "grab and go" pack, (see *Patriarchs and Prophets* page 483)
- Cook Pot —a cook-pot can be made by attaching a wire "bail" to a can that holds about a 1 quart or 1 liter; for utensils make chop sticks or a flattened stick spatula
- Knife & Machete/Saw/Tomahawk —a knife for carving, and a 10 inch machete or folding camp saw; also include some way to sharpen them, (see Ecclesiastes 10:10)
- Digging Stick —you may choose to carry a digging stick, or use a walking stick, or make one when you need it, (also see Deut 23:12-14)
- Twine Bundle —about 50 ft. of natural fiber twine
- Pack & Organizer Bags —to put all this in & carry it easily

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