

# SIX THINGS YOU MUST DO IN THESE LAST DAYS

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he phrase “last days” has been spoken of and written about often. It is a term found in the Scripture to describe the prophetic time, prior to the return of Christ (2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:2; James 5:3; 2 Pet. 3:3). Certain signs, or indicators, are predicted to accompany the last days. In the New Testament, it is evident that there are two “last day” seasons. One was the generation that

witnessed the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, up to the destruction of Jerusalem which occurred in AD 70. This was an estimated period of about 38 years and fell within a Biblical generation (see Psa. 95:10). At the Pentecost outpouring, Peter quoted from Joel (2:28-29) indicating the outpouring of God’s Spirit that Jerusalem was experiencing was a sign of the “last days” (Acts 2:17). The phrase, “last days” in Acts 2:17 did not allude to the final days leading up to Christ’s return, but the *final generation* prior to the desolation of Jerusalem, the destruction of the temple and the Jews being removed from their land. The second time period marked as the “last days” is unfolding in this generation, as the prophetic signs rabbinically identified as, “The Birth pangs of the Messiah,” are evident nationally and globally.

I have recently observed that there are six distinct actions, including types of prayers, that the New Testament instructs us as followers of Christ to do, in these





last days. I wish to share these six important practical instructions and briefly expound on each one.

## 1. KEEP YOUR EYES OPENED

The first instruction is for all believers to “watch.” We read, “*Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come*” (Matt. 24:42). The idea of setting a specific watch was understood in Christ’s time, as

future. Staying alert is a requirement for all believers.

## 2. THAT FOUR-LETTER WORD

Mark noted that Christ not only said to “watch,” but to also combine watching with that four-letter word, “pray.” “*Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is*” (Mark 13:33). Often when Christ was praying, the disciples

it and flesh would always be in conflict. Christ said, “*Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*” (Matt. 26:41). The word “weak” here can also allude to *moral* and not just *physical* weakness. No truer statement could be made. The spirit man, or inner man (Eph. 3:16), desires to worship, pray, read the Word of God, and be in God’s presence, but the flesh “wars against the spirit” and would prefer to stay home, watch television, and fall asleep before prayer time. The implication here is that staying in prayer can assist you from falling into temptation, as it is impossible to walk in the spirit and walk in the flesh at the same time (Gal. 5:16), just as it is impossible to speak in English and speak in tongues at the same time. One must give way to the other.

I once heard a man of God say to young ministers, “If you are being tempted by a girl, just see Jesus hanging on the cross looking at you as it’s difficult to think carnally about her and

Jesus on the cross at the same time!” Even in the Lord’s prayer, Christ taught that we should pray, “*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil*” (Matt. 6:13). A prayerless person will be a defeated person, and all forms of temptation can overwhelm them. Praying for strength and praying for temptation roadblocks can serve as an anti-temptation piece of armor to strengthen your resolve.

## 4. GET SOME OIL – YOU NEED IT

In Christ’s time, clay lamps were used for light in homes. These small vessels that could fit in the palm of your hand, held olive oil, as without oil the small linen wick used for the flame would not burn properly. Thus, Christ said, “*Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning*” (Luke 12:35). In the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-12, five women had additional oil, and five did not. The five virgins lacking oil in their lamps were un-

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the Romans and the temple priests both set “night watches.” The Romans actually divided the evening (six to six) into a series of four periods called “watches,” marked as the first, second, third, and fourth watch. In Matthew 14:25, the writer revealed that Jesus came walking on the sea during the “fourth watch.” This would be between three to six in the morning, or at dawn, just before or near the sunrise. This was also the time the fishermen would be fishing or nearing the peak of their nightly duties of catching fish in nets on the Sea of Galilee.

To watch means, “*to be sober; to be awake and to be alert.*” The admonition here is to always remain alert to the fact that the Lord could come at any moment, especially in an hour a person least expects. We must believe Christ can return at any moment, including living as though he may come today but planning for the future as though his return may be in the

were found sleeping, such as the case in the Garden of Gethsemane. At one of the most crucial junctures in his life, when he needed support and prayer, they were not watching or praying with Christ but snoozing in silence. If we watch only without praying, we may see the enemy coming but not exercise the power to overcome him, as prayer is our weapon of war. Too many Christians are simply *maintaining* a relationship without *growing* their relationship. To some, prayer is a “fill in” activity if they have available time. Prayer should be as much a duty as eating a meal to sustain your physical survival, and when praying, stay mentally alert.

## 3. ANTI-TEMPTATION ARMOR

Christ made a very significant statement to his eleven disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. Christ forewarned Peter that he would fail, and this instruction was to warn Peter and all others that their spir-

able to immediately relight their lamps or have the light necessary to see and meet the bridegroom and were not permitted into the wedding. This is a “last day” parable indicating the need to maintain *expectancy and preparation* for the sudden return of the bridegroom (Christ).

From a metaphorical sense, *oil* in Scripture often represents the Holy Spirit and His anointing, as prophets, priests, and kings were all “anointed” with oil. When the oil was poured out, the Spirit of the Lord came upon them (1 Sam. 16:12-13). Our “lamp” is a metaphor for the spiritual light abiding within our human vessels, as we are called the “light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). If we do not express our faith, speak the word to others, or preach and teach the Gospel then that light is diminished and eventually will go out. It takes the unction of the Holy Spirit to inspire us to obedience. Keep the oil, the anointing, and the zeal for God burning in your heart. We should be as the two men on the road to Emmaus when Christ spoke to them. They said, “Did not our heart burn within us” (Luke 24:32).

## 5. YOU CAN TAKE IT TO THE BANK

Numerous New Testament parables conceal instruction from Christ, including how to be a wise steward, how to handle finances, and making proper choices in life. In a certain parable, Christ taught about what a person should do with their money. He said, “*Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury*” (Matt. 25:27). The storyline here, is wisely investing what you have in order to multiply it into having more. It is important that we understand that our financial blessings are not just for us to have, and to have more to spend on ourselves. Financial increase is to also be used for the work of the Kingdom of God.

Often people speak of the tithes (the tenth), as “belonging to the Lord” (Mal 3). In reality, it *all* belongs to the Lord! Everything I own in material goods, the car, the home, the clothes, I consider it as belonging to the Lord as the Lord has helped



us to have an income to purchase these items and without His favor, this would not be possible. We should never waste the Lord’s money but always use wisdom in every and any “investment.” Christ took a lad’s lunch, multiplied it, fed thousands and gave the little guy twelve baskets of fresh bread and fish when the dinner was concluded. The need was met yet the multiplication miracle continued! Investing for a return is not wrong but must be done in wisdom and portions of the increase used for the kingdom of God.

## 6. ESCAPING THE COMING TRIBULATION

The following verse was a statement made by Christ, after listing numerous signs of the end of the age. Christ also alluded to the coming days of *vengeance* (Luke 21:22) concluding with the “son of man coming in the clouds of glory” (Luke 21:27). In this context, Christ admonished, “*Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man*” (Luke 21:36). If the church goes through the entire tribulation as many teach, and then Christ returns to earth, then what is both the meaning and the purpose of this promise to “escape all these things?” How would we “escape” if we remain through it all? The Greek

word “escape,” means to “flee out.” Some teach that Christ was talking to the Jews and Christians to flee out of Jerusalem before it was destroyed. Not in the *context* of the preceding verse in Luke 21. Christ revealed that after we escape, we would be “standing before the son of man.” This escape refers to the future great tribulation. If we (the church) were the ones fleeing out into the mountains during the tribulation, then we need not pray to be accounted worthy, we would just get up and get out and hopefully survive. Being accounted worthy is *being counted as spiritually fit* to be caught up in the air and meet the Lord at his coming!

This prayer was a command of Christ of what his followers should pray to be accounted worthy to escape. Prior to the destruction of Jerusalem, many Christians in the city departed, traveling to Pella in Jordan where they set up a large Christian community that thrived long after the destruction of Jerusalem. There are actually eight examples in the Bible of the righteous escaping judgment or destruction.

We should take heed to follow these six important instructions. Christ knew, and presently knows the dangers and judgments coming on the earth and we must do as he taught us, to be watching, praying, investing, and always be ready for a sudden departure. 🕊