

The Power of Readiness, Part 4

"One Body, One Life?"

Slide Notations

Recap 1: To release the powers of readiness we must have the Words of God in us!

We are decidedly fundamental! We live/build/die on the Bible (*Logos*)

We are thankfully Charismatic! Filled, overflowed, gifted, operating and directed by the Holy Spirit (*Rhema*)

Recap 2: Forewarned that bad things will come at us, we are prepared to not bite the hand of the only One who can help us!

Snapping at God... It's unappreciated by God! It's unworthy of *God's* children! It's unwarranted, ignorant and disrespectful!

Recap 3: The for-warnings of the Word ready our response for bouts of sickness, so that when they get in the ring we can say, "Oh, it's just you. Now go away!"

We believe Jesus came to heal! We believe He wants to heal thru us! And we believe it when it is us who needs it! Regardless of where it comes from or how it manifests!

If it's from the devil, *Jesus came to destroy his works!* If it's from sinfulness, *He is faithful to forgive and cleanse us.* If it's from the brokenness/world, *Thank God He has overcome the world!*

People fear sickness and give it a power all it's own! The mantra becomes: "You don't have anything if you don't have your health!" And it's not true. We always have God. And that truth mixed with faith will always give us the victory.

There will be times when my victory will be hard fought! (warfare)

There are times I won't win until I "turn around!" (repentance)

But most times I will get the victory just by being steadfast! (immov'ble)

If we can just keep from fearfully reacting to "one body, one life!" If we can just trust God in the trials of this body we have for one life... then we can position ourselves to receive a miracle, or a reward!

"We know that if our earthly bodies *'halt for a night'* we have another body built by God, eternal in the heavens... and we groan, craving its possession... *not that we morbidly want to divest ourselves of life but that we joyfully want to be fully vested in the life of God...* (Born Again Picture)

For-warning! (If the dead don't rise to another life then Jesus is not alive! If He is not, our faith is empty, and we are still dead in sin and all the dead are destroyed. *If this is the only life we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But He is alive and the first of many who live after death!*) 1Cor 15.16-22

"and He gave us His Spirit as the token of that life! Therefore we are *courageous* at all times knowing that as long as we're in this body we are absent from Him, and we are *courageous* to emigrate from this body to be home with Him – so we spend ourselves in faith to please Him. **2C5.1-9**

And we left off right there, on the brink of death! Need to jump into the topic because it's one of the hardest human issues... and if we live long enough you are going to experience death!

Death, that entered the world thru one man's sin... *Death*, defeated by the sacrifice of another man... Jesus... *Death*, the last enemy of God... *Death*, that still ravages the lives of believers!

Someone died who was our anchor... Someone prayed and someone died... Someone died "too soon..." Someone died "too horribly..."

Very important at this point to... Have the Words of God in you! Not bite the hand of the One who can help us through, with blessing! Respond to the normality/reality/singularity/ necessity... of death...!

"It is reserved for men once to die...!" **Hebrews 9.27**

"By one man sin entered the world and death passed to all men **Ro 5.12**

"Since death came by man, another man brought us resurrection from the dead. As those of Adam all die even so those in Christ will all live again!" **1Cor 15.21,22**

"Some will ask, 'how is it possible that we live after death? What do we look like?' You know this! You sow a seed and get a plant that looks quite different! The result comes from God's own design! Our resurrection is the same... the body that dies rises eternal, what was disgraced rises in glory, what was feeble rises in power, what was natural rises spiritual... as we have borne the image of the dust we will wear the celestial... flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God... What can decay cannot enter into eternity... so the corruptible must put on what is incorruptible and the mortal has to put on immortality... then the saying is finished, "Death is swallowed up in victory!" **1Cor 15.35-58**

"We know that He who raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us up *by Jesus...*" **2Cor 4.14** Though our outward man perishes our inward man is renewed day by day **v16**

When this body is dissolved, we have another one..." **2Cor 5.1**

The Word is plain concerning the normality/reality/singularity/ necessity... of death...!

So why so many "2nd wave" stalls and casualties among followers of Christ?

Coming close to mortality and not *knowing* what we're living for!

Not *believing* what we say about God, His justice, our "terminus!"

Loving *people/things* more than we love Jesus!

Bucket lists, not knowing the time!

On the issues of followership thru the loves of this life... Thru life's sorrowful circumstances, it's joyful experiences... In the face of imminent departure... Jesus leaves us a vivid "life" picture accompanied by strong words...

"Let the dead bury the dead." –Jesus, Luke 9.60

For-warning! Not inuncting us from familial duty. Not telling us not to grieve. Not telling us not to comfort. Not telling us not to settle accounts. *But telling us not to let anything divert us from our duty to God...*

Forewarned is forearmed! We know death is a part of life... coming somewhere near to us! Life does not end at a grave! For every one we say goodbye to for the moment, lets invite a hundred into eternity with us!

"When His time came to die *He set His face steadfast...* To His distracted disciples He said, 'you don't know what spirit you are of! I have come to save men's lives... get focused, no distractions, just preach the kingdom of God w/o looking back... **L9.51-62**

We are here to save men's lives... w/o perks or glory... we'll not be distracted from our mission, we'll proclaim the kingdom of God and never look back!