

A Time of preparation  
By Minister Ann Watson

*Then he answered and said this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6)*

When reading this scripture, I can identify with Zerubbabel. I can put my name in there too, because I have a tendency to move according to my own mind and in my own strength at times. The bible tells us in Galatians 5:25, “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” This tells me I need to be led by the Spirit of Elohim (The Living God). I need to live in His presence and according to His will at all times. If I live by this, I will not be ruled by my flesh or my way of doing things.

When led by the Holy Spirit, our character and conduct will reflect that of our heavenly Father. You see, we need to realize we belong to God. His ways are far better than our ways, and without Him we don't know how to be holy and righteous. We need the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in order to live our lives in the Spirit. This direction will help us to live out true sanctification. The scripture declares in Romans 8:14, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God.”

When we're being led by the Holy Spirit of God, we know who we are and to whom we belong. We must listen to Him, follow His lead, and be obedient to His Word. Our agenda becomes His agenda for our lives. The bible reminds us in the Gospel of Luke 9:23 that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Him. Our heavenly Father is charging us and admonishing us to follow Him as He leads us, so that we can walk in excellence. We will not be tossed to and fro with all the distractions of the world and the things around us; but remain focused on Him. When we allow Him to lead us, we can be prepared for the things to come. We allow Him to lead by laying down our lives and surrendering to

His will. It's been a hard reality for me, but a necessary one, so that I don't get off track and caught up in unnecessary things that are not needful for me. These things come to abort my life and relationship with my heavenly Father.

I realize there is a dependency and a reliance on Jesus that I need in this last hour in order to be prepared for the times and season I'm living in and the things that are coming ahead.

I pray that we all take heed to this wake-up call and move forward and become that Glorious Church He has called us to be. We must be ready for the return of Jesus because none of us know the day or the hour of His coming.

Preparation requires us to watch, pray, and occupy, with our hands to the plough and our lamps full of oil like the wise virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. We need to be doing what we have been given to do in Matthew 28:18-20 and fulfilling the cause as witnesses and ambassadors by carrying the whole Word to the whole world.

Let this preparation time be our opportunity to be taught, trained, equipped, and released by the spirit of God.

Let our minds be as Christ's and our hearts be ready to move forward in a more excellent way in all we do.

Let's take a back seat to the leading of Holy Spirit and let's move with the anticipation and expectancy of God as He prepares us even more by His Spirit.

Let us keep Jesus on our minds, our affections on things above, and our hearts and lives in a position to be that glorious Church He's coming back for — one without spot or wrinkle but blameless and Holy. Amen.