

TOTALLY UNPREPARED

1Thessalonians 4:1-12

V. 2: “For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.”

Ephesians 4:30

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

1Peter 3:13-16

V. 15: “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

Is it possible that God is troubled by the way we often ignore His clear instructions?

Yep...Duh!

Does God take it out on us when we lead lives that are separate from Him?

No, but that does open up opportunities for Him to teach us truths. Getting our attention through hardship intends on leading us back to God. Hardships often grow our faith, and maturity molds us into Christ-likeness.

Knowing God’s Word and understanding what we believe are essential for growing in Christ. How often do we merely “get through” reading our devotions, and

Sunday's sermons instead of taking God's Word literally to heart—by living what we're taught?

Would you have an answer if someone were to ask you why you're so optimistic (op-tim-IS-tik means hopeful, positive, cheerful)? Believers should be ready to give account of their motives and reasons about purposeful living for Christ. Are you prepared to defend your answer?

Let's take a moment to think through our views and beliefs. Never be unprepared to site why hope is alive in your heart. Never be anxious about sharing Christ's Gospel with whomever may ask. Always speak calmly, with gentleness and respect; speaking softly opens ears and hearts.

That leads to our being called to live lives of integrity (in-TEG-ri-ty, meaning truthful, honest, honorable). Hypocrisy (hi-POK-ra-see, means insincere, double standard) labels our lives as *worthless*. This leads to mockery instead of winning souls to the Lord. Instead of being totally **unprepared**, let's make a point to know God, and live by His Word.

The Bible was not written for scholars, but for ordinary people, like you and me. Understanding God isn't a mystery, so let's be prepared with ready answers for our hope whenever asked.

The Bible offers God's kids every excuse for always being **totally prepared**.

Take Home Nugget

Remember last year's resolution about Following Jesus every day? How has your year progressed into forming an intimate relationship with your Savior? Do you have any regrets? Are you hopeful and optimistic?

J.D. Griffith

God's Word was given for our good

And we are to obey,

Not choose the parts that we like best,

Then live in our own way.

Hess