

The Christian faith is one of active and ongoing 'preparation'; what does our 'preparation' look like, and how do we go about that assignment?

We emulate Jesus (the visible image of God)

- He is preparing an eternal place for us (John 14:2)
- He has prepared good works for us to participate in (Eph 2:10)
- He has prepared unimaginably good things for us (1 Cor 2:9)

By living lives of 'preparation'

- Preparing the way for his arrival (Mark 1:3/ Malachi 3:1)
- Participating in the good works that He has planned for us (Eph 2:10)
- By having a ready defense/explanation for the hope we have (2 Peter 3:15)
- Living with an eye to his return (Luke 12:37)
- Making room for Jesus in our hearts (Eph 3:17)

How?

- Ephesians 3:16-19 (NLT) - I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Study Guide

1. By nature, are you a 'preparer' or a 'procrastinator' ? Do you pack for vacation days before you depart, or at the last minute?
2. What comes to mind when, in reference to your faith-walk, you hear the words "be prepared"? Is it a list of things to do or inner attitudes of the heart? Why?

3. Practically speaking, how would you encourage another believer to 'be prepared'? How do you go about that yourself? Have you ever given it much consideration?
4. Ponder for a few moments the idea of being 'full of the Spirit '? What is your experience with that? Can you point to a time in your life when you felt 'fuller' than other times'? What were the practical dynamics of that experience?
5. Take some time to create some quiet space to invite the Lord; fullness into your life. Linger for a while – be in a hurry. Rest in Him. Ask Him to fill you.