

BE PRE-PRAYERED

Lk. 18:1

The universal Boy Scout's motto "be prepared". It means, no matter what happens be ready for it.

Verse 1 says we should "always" pray. This tells me that we should pray not just when trouble comes but BEFORE the trouble invades our lives.

We should pray BEFORE the need is obvious.

Prayer will provide strength / courage / discernment / compassion / patience that we would not have on our own.

Since that is true it is obvious that if we don't pray we will lack these things.

Jesus' own life shows us that we should pray before something happens.

He spent time in prayer before he started his ministry.

Luke 3:21 Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

He spent time in prayer before He called His disciples, before He was attacked by satan and before He went to cross.

If we would pray BEFORE a crisis came, the Lord MIGHT just keep it from coming. How much have we had to go through that we would not have had to face if we had only prayed before hand?

1. **PRAY BEFORE THE TROUBLES COME**

Psalm 5:3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.

Isaiah 43:22 But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob

If we don't pray before the troubles comes we will give up when it hits.

How many times has someone been destroyed by circumstances because they failed to pray before the trouble came? Since they had not prayed they were not prepared for that which they had to face.

2. **PRAY BEFORE THE TEMPTATION COMES**

Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak

Watch, wake, give strict attention to, be cautious, take heed lest through neglect some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

If we don't pray before the temptation hits, we will fall when it comes.

How many times have we failed the Lord not just because we gave in to temptation when it came but because we had not been praying before it came?

3. **PRAY BEFORE THE TRAGEDY COMES**

Before the phone call comes.

Before the fire / hurricane / daughter gets pregnant / son goes to prison for robbing a bank.

Before your heart is ripped apart.

If we don't, it will destroy us when it hits.

It may not stop it from happening but it will help you to be prepared for it.

4. **PRAY BEFORE THE TRIAL COMES**

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

Romans 14:11,12 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

All true Christians will one day stand before the Lord at the "bema seat". We will give an account of how we lived for God while on earth.

We must pray now, while we can, to make sure that we live as we should. If we neglect prayer now, we will regret it then.

Mark 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is>>

If we don't pray before he comes it will be too late after he has come.

It will be too late to pray / serve / go / give / witness / weep then.

How is your prayer life? Do you wait until trouble hits before you pray?