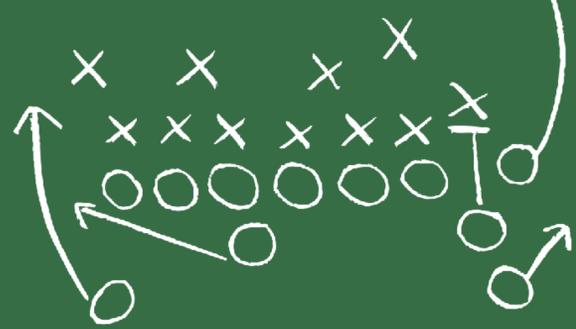


BE READY



Like the Olympic sprinter who prepares four years for a ten-second race, or the student who prepares the entire semester to pass her final exam, if you want to be ready for a moment, you have to prepare for it. As believers, we all encounter these moments—tests of our faith that God uses to bring glory to His name. We saw last week that Peter was trying to prepare the church to be ready for those “clutch moments” (check out last week’s sermon notes for a review of the historical context of 1&2 Peter). Continuing our brief study in the general epistles, God is also challenging us to prepare ourselves to shine His light in every situation.

1 Peter 1:13-2:12, NLT

v13 - Peter exhorts the church to prepare their minds to be ready for action, and to exhibit self control. Self control typically is telling our bodies not to do something. An athlete can’t put junk food in his body and expect to compete at the highest level; similarly, we as believers can’t fill ourselves with spiritual junk and expect to shine brightly in those clutch moments.

v14 - At one point in our lives, it made sense that we lived impurely, for we didn’t know any better. Now that we have tasted and experienced God’s goodness, however, we have no excuse not to be ready.

v17 - We are further motivated to prepare ourselves for action by our reverent fear of God, acknowledging His holiness, power, and sovereignty, and conducting ourselves accordingly. This helps us to keep our focus on our eternal destination, remembering that this life is only temporary.

2:1-2 - Let us get rid of all unclean behavior. How do we do so? Verse 2 tells us to long for God like babies crying out for milk. When we seek God in that manner, we will find Him, and He will prepare us for those clutch moments.

God is our coach. We not only have to hear from Him to execute “the play” properly, but we must also relay that information with confidence to our team. Then, when the devil blitzes us, we will be ready. We must also know “the playbook”—the Word of God. Let us continue to study the Word that we may be prepared in every situation!