

first responders

in crisis: the people of God



If you need peace, seek the Author of peace. If you are experiencing confusion, that is not God!

How can I be a first responder? To answer this, let's ask this question: how do we know people are first responders? In the natural, first responders are typically dressed a certain way that tells us of their skills and authority. How can people know that we, the body of Christ, are first responders?

Esther 4

Mordecai was a first responder. When the decree went out that the people of Israel were to be destroyed in some months time, the first response of the people of God was to go to God, putting on sackcloth and ashes, fasting, and calling out in prayer. When Mordecai told Esther to go to the king on behalf of the Jews, her first response was fear. She knew that she could be killed for going before the king without requested—it was against the law. But Mordecai reminded her who she was and what her call was.

God needs us to be Mordecai's to our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the time for the body of Christ to stand up and show out the grace of God, not hide in fear. Just as Mordecai encouraged Esther, we should engage one another to stand.

Matthew 5:13-16

The Lord wants us to live our lives in a way so that people will come to us. We should make a full commitment to live for the Lord, not only when it's convenient, but all the time. Maybe we are doing all we can to be a first responder, but what about our brother and our sister?

Matthew 24:36-25:13

We have to be ready all the time. All ten bridesmaids were called as first responders, but only five were ready. Some may say, "it doesn't take all that." But wouldn't you rather get to glory and find you did too much, than not get there and find you did too little? We get ready by spending time with God.

People can tell we are first responders by the oil, the anointing of God. It's the power and presence of God upon our lives and comes through obedience. We must keep oil in our lamps, staying ready. God has called and equipped us for such a time as this. As we live our lives for His glory, people will see that we can help and will come to us. Or we will become aware of the situation and can go to them.