



TimeWatch - For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

THE LEARNING FORUM: This business of readiness – p1

Cameron A. Bowen

1 Thessalonians 5:2 for yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Today, the concept of readiness is not as clear as it ought to be. We constantly invoke the word without a thorough understanding of what it really means. In school, in our professional lives, in our relationships we confidently assume readiness when soon after we have started along our way, we discover that our readiness is suspect, the necessary skills we need are undeveloped, our determination is insufficient and our function woefully lacking. Sadly, our understanding of Spiritual readiness is equally suspect. Today we will attempt to widen our understanding of readiness, so that we might begin the task at hand. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 8, 2010.*

First let us look at unpreparedness

When men are at ease, full of amusement, absorbed in buying and selling, then the thief approaches with stealthy tread. So it will be at the coming of the Son of man.--*Letter 21, 1897. {LDE 233.2}*

When Lot warned the members of his family of the destruction of Sodom, they would not heed his words, but looked upon him as a fanatical enthusiast. The destruction that came found them unprepared. Thus it will be when Christ comes--**farmers, merchants, lawyers, tradesmen**, will be wholly engrossed in business, and upon them the day of the Lord will come as a snare.--*RH March 10, 1904.*

A quick warning concerning Lot

Luke 17:28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

Lot chose Sodom for his home because he saw that there were advantages to be gained there from a worldly point of view. But after he had established himself, and grown rich in earthly



treasure, he was convinced that he had made a mistake in not taking into consideration the moral standing of the community in which he was to make his home. **{4T 110.1}**

We must carefully consider what will happen to the children!

Leaving Abraham's altar and its daily sacrifice to the living God, he had permitted his children to mingle with a corrupt and idolatrous people; yet he had retained in his heart the fear of God, for he is declared in the Scriptures to have been a "just" man; his righteous soul was vexed with the vile conversation that greeted his ears daily and the violence and crime he was powerless to prevent. **{PP 168.1}**

The sinful conduct of his daughters after leaving Sodom was the result of wicked associations while there. The sense of right and wrong was confused in their minds, and sin did not appear as sin to them. **{4T 111.3}**

The case of Lot should be a warning to all those who wish to live godly lives, to separate themselves from all influences calculated to lead them away from God. Lot remained so long among the wicked that he was only able to save himself and two daughters, and even they were corrupted in morals by their sojourn in Sodom. **{4T 112.1}**

The importance of watching

Luke 12:37 Blessed [are] those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Luke 12:38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find [them] so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

Luke 12:40 **Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.**

This condition of unpreparedness will not be caused by the absence of signs regarding Christ's coming. The blindness that possesses those who are caught unawares is self imposed; the result of reason, and not faith. **Logic has no place within the bounds of faith**. The logic of the deceiver is beyond the ability of man to rebut. For carefully hidden within the folds of satan's every argument, is sufficient error to derail faith and shipwreck salvation. It is only through a thorough understanding of and faith in God's promises, that victory is the final result. **Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 8, 2010.**

Trusting the senses always leads to deception

Sugar is still sweet to the diabetic, regardless of the proven elevated levels of blood sugar. Pornography is still erotic to the indulgent, even after the clinically assessed addictive dangers are established. Wealth is still compelling to the greedy, regardless of the admitted illegal means used to achieve it. Wine is yet deceptive to the alcoholic even while in therapy. The trusting of the senses always leads to deception. The approval of the appetite will always lead to



perversion. There needs to be a higher element that restrains and controls. That power is attained through the transforming power of The Holy Spirit. *Cameron A. Bowen, "Thoughts on His Coming," June 8, 2010.*

It is therefore time to take stock of our personal condition.

When the professed people of God are uniting with the world, living as they live, and joining with them in forbidden pleasure; when the luxury of the world becomes the luxury of the church; when the marriage bells are chiming, and all are looking forward to many years of worldly prosperity--then, suddenly as the lightning flashes from the heavens, will come the end of their bright visions and delusive hopes.--*GC 338, 339 (1911). {LDE 232.3}*

For too long the people of God have been shown signs of Christ's soon return, often as an **incentive** to cease our procrastination and get busy in preparation for that great day. The idea that God's people should need an incentive to prepare for that day is an issue of great concern. For if we are to be **citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven**, then our characters must reflect the Character of Christ while we are here on earth, regardless of when He returns. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

1 Thessalonians 5:4 says: But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

1 Thessalonians 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

The people of God--the true Israel--though scattered throughout all nations, are on earth but sojourners, whose **citizenship is in heaven**. *{God's Amazing Grace 57.2}*

The picture is therefore clear. As **citizens of heaven**, we must speak the language, eat the food, wear the clothing, practice the customs, and because we are in a strange land, be easily recognized as strangers. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

The condition of being received into the Lord's family is coming out from the world, separating from all its contaminating influences. The people of God are to have no connection with idolatry in any of its forms. They are to reach a higher standard. We are to be distinguished from the world, and then God says, "I will receive you as members of My royal family, children of the heavenly King." As believers in the truth we are to be distinct in practice from sin and sinners. Our citizenship is in heaven. *{God's Amazing Grace 57.3}*

We should realize more clearly the value of the promises God has made to us, and appreciate more deeply the honor He has given us. **God can bestow no higher honor upon mortals than to adopt them into His family, giving them the privilege of calling Him Father.** There is no degradation in becoming children of God. *{God's Amazing Grace 57.4}*

Citizens of heaven will make the best citizens of earth. A correct view of our duty to God leads to clear perceptions of our duty to our fellow men. *{God's Amazing Grace 57.7}*



Ephesians 2:19. Says: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but **fellow-citizens with the saints**, and of the household of God.

Our **citizenship is with the saints**. We are foreigners here. This means that whether Christ is on his way or not, our citizenship is sealed by the reflected **Character of Christ in us**. Those saints, who await his coming in their grave, await his coming at rest. We who are alive must also await His coming at rest, at one with Him. When we understand this, our daily existence will be marked with the calm of the "**patience of the saints**" referred to in Revelation 14:12 *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

We have only glimmering light in regard to the exceeding breadth of the law of God. The law spoken from Sinai is a transcript of God's character. *{RH, February 4, 1890 par. 1}*

We have for so long spiritualized the concept of "**the patience of the saints**", that we have often lost its other almost simplistic application. The concept of waiting on God. The patience referred to in Revelation 14: 12, along with its spiritual application, must also include an immovable imprint of that character upon our lives, and a settled willingness, to literally wait upon God for everything. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

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2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.

This business of readiness therefore involves more than perhaps many have anticipated. There are specific requirements laid out that constitute the sort of readiness that allows for entry into the citizenship of heaven. The condition of readiness is accomplished here on earth. Acceptance into citizenship takes place while we are here, on earth. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Citizens of heaven will make the best citizens of earth. A correct view of our duty to God leads to clear perceptions of our duty to our fellow men. *{God's Amazing Grace 57.7}*

Enoch's walk with God was based upon this simple principle. He walked with God. His Godly life was not a crisis response to the circumstances that surrounded him. A measured calm consumed him as he walked with God. Longing wistfully to see his Heavenly Father, yet



patiently awaiting each word of instruction, knowing that his whole heart and soul was sealed with God. This is the calm that we must attain: The calm of knowing that we are at one with the Savior. This is the kind of readiness that God seeks: The sort of readiness that patiently waits: The sort of readiness that trusts implicitly: The readiness of faith. That is what God means when he refers to 'faith as being substance.' *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

God's heroes of faith are heirs to an inheritance of greater value than any earthly riches,--an inheritance that will satisfy the longings of the soul. By the world they may be unknown and unacknowledged, **but in the record books above they are enrolled** as **citizens of heaven**, and an exalted greatness, an eternal weight of glory, will be theirs. *{GW 18.2}*

Here faith is indeed **substance**. Gospel Workers page 18 says: **"In the record books above they are enrolled as citizens of heaven."** This is real, **this is substance**. While you are here, on this earth, because you are settled into the truth, and walk with God, your name is enrolled as **a citizen of heaven**. The evidence of your faith is revealed in your lifestyle; thus it becomes **the evidence of things not seen**. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Children of God are citizens of heaven. They are the purchase of the Son of God, His blood-bought family. Every soul is precious in His sight, more precious than fine gold, even the golden wedge of Ophir. *{In Heavenly Places 293.6}*

So what is this readiness that we are constantly told that we need?

We must get ready **to be citizens**. **A temporary correction** of our sinful habits **will not suffice**. The idea that we should clean our selves in preparation for the return of Christ is an insufficient concept. We must be prepared to live eternally, with **renewed characters** that must be demonstrated here on this earth. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Every means of grace should be diligently improved that the love of God may abound in the soul more and more. Your Christian life must take on vigorous and stalwart forms. You can attain to the high standard set before you in the Scriptures, **and you must if you would be children of God**. You must have **spiritual knowledge**, that you "may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ," that you may "be filled with all the fulness of God." . . . *{God's Amazing Grace 312.3}*

Let me read that entire text for you:

Ephesians 3:17 That Christ may **dwelt in your hearts** by faith; that ye, being **rooted and grounded in love**,

Ephesians 3:18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the **breadth**, and **length**, and **depth**, and **height**;

Ephesians 3:19 And to **know the love of Christ**, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be **filled** with all the **fulness of God**.



Let me assure you that this is not just some useless **hyperbole** That is: A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect. Christ really wants to **dwelt in your hearts** The Holy Spirit **desires nothing more** than to make you **rooted and grounded in love**. So that you might **comprehend**, that is **that you might understand completely**, along with all the saints, the word used is **ALL the saints**, that would include those who have gone to sleep in Jesus awaiting the resurrection. What does God desire you to understand? The **breath, length, depth** and **height**. **To understand completely what? To know the love of Christ**, that ye might be **filled** with all the **fulness of God**. So readiness includes a thorough understanding of and an oneness with, the Character of God. It also includes an absolute surrender and commitment to the work of drawing others to Christ, not by mere words but by the power of our living example. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Philippians 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Philippians 1:11 Being filled with **the fruits of righteousness**; which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

So we must be careful less our growth is incomplete:

Will you have a stunted Christian growth, or will you make healthy progress in the divine life?

Where there is spiritual health there is growth. The child of God grows up to the full stature of a man or woman in Christ. **There is no limit to his improvement**. . . . {*Mar 75.3*}

The danger is that we continue to overlook the serious requirements and awesome privileges available to us. We ignore the tremendous possibilities presented by God, to achieve the sort of growth that truly represents the restoration of the moral character of Christ in us. Instead we stumble along, satisfied with the crumbs of insufficiency that can only provide a limited subsistence, while all the while the rich nourishment that can bring us to that place where God intends for us to be; remains unclaimed. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Some who ought to be strong and established in Christ **are as babes in understanding**, and have no experimental knowledge of, the workings of the Spirit of God. **After years of experience** they are able to comprehend **only the first principles** of that grand system of faith and doctrine that constitutes the Christian religion. They do not comprehend that **perfection of character** which will receive the commendation: **"Well done."** . . . {*Mar 75.4*}

Our possibilities are endless. Our growth is limitless. Satan has lost the power to overcome, for we are the sons and daughters of the one who overcame. The death of Christ upon the cross, redeemed man from certain death and assured us of eternal life. That assurance of eternal life, implicitly assured us of the possibility of overcoming every single besetting sin. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Readiness begins with the word.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with **all readiness** of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things



were so.

The minds of the Bereans were not narrowed by prejudice. They were willing to investigate the truthfulness of the doctrines preached by the apostles. They studied the Bible, not from curiosity, but in order that they might learn what had been written concerning the promised Messiah. Daily they searched the inspired records, and as they compared scripture with scripture, heavenly angels were beside them, enlightening their minds and impressing their hearts. {AA 231.2}

This quotation is full of important detail:

1. Willing to investigate
2. Searched the inspired records daily – as a result
3. Heavenly Angels were beside them
4. Enlightening their minds
5. Impressing their hearts.

What have we been doing?

Some who ought to be strong and established in Christ are as babes in understanding, and have no experimental knowledge of, the workings of the Spirit of God. After years of experience they are able to comprehend only the first principles of that grand system of faith and doctrine that constitutes the Christian religion. They do not comprehend that perfection of character which will receive the commendation: "Well done." . . . {Mar 75.4}

We have great victories to gain, and a heaven to lose if we do not gain them. The carnal heart must be crucified; for its tendency is to moral corruption, and the end thereof is death. Nothing but the life-giving influences of the gospel can help the soul. Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, with all their quickenings, recuperative, and transforming power, may fall like an electric shock on the palsy-stricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly, sensual state to spiritual soundness. You will thus become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; and in your souls will be reflected the image of Him by whose stripes you are healed. {5T 267.2}

That text is found in 2 Peter 1: 4. It reads as follows:

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

God expects us to shine forth with the reflected Glory of His Character. That reflection is brilliant, not because of what we are, but because of Who He Is. He specifically describes the image as a "mirror image." The detail revealed by a mirror, often surpasses the human eye. Quite often we see only that which we expect to see, overlooking pertinent detail. But with the mirror the perfect reproduction of the Character of Christ is seen in us. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Permit me once again to quote **2 Corinthians 3:18**:



2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Not only does the reflected image shine out from us upon those who know not Christ, but **first** it **changes us into that same image**, from **glory to glory**. This change continues, from **glory to glory**, until we become “**partakers of the divine nature**” spoken of in **1Peter 1: 4**

The very next few verses of 1 Peter 1, beginning at verse 5, lays out how this **glory to glory** is accomplished. So often we have read this text, some of us have memorized it however we have paid little attention to the invaluable instruction here given. Today we will not overlook it, but rather look in some detail at the process described. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, **giving all diligence**, add to your **faith virtue**; and to virtue **knowledge**;

2 Peter 1:6 And to knowledge **temperance**; and to temperance **patience**; and to patience **godliness**;

2 Peter 1:7 And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness **charity**.

2 Peter 1:8 For if these things **be in you, and abound**, they make [you, that ye shall] neither [be] **barren** nor **unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Giving all diligence means keeping your Eye on the Goal.

Satan is at work to deceive the very elect, and now is our time to work with **vigilance**. Our books and papers are to be brought before the notice of the people. Without delay the gospel of present truth is to be given to our cities. *{Manual for Canvassers 75.1}*

Permit me to suggest that before we can bring our books and papers before the notice of the people, **we** must become acquainted with our books and papers. Forgive me for such boldness, but there are those of us who have **abandoned our books and our papers**, and some have never even paid close attention. First therefore, we should give all diligence. Diligence in study, and vigilance in guarding our hearts and our minds against the wiles of the devil. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts on His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Note this compelling quote found in AA 530.

The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill. **Faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity are the rounds of the ladder**. We are saved by climbing round after round, mounting step after step, to the height of Christ's ideal for us. Thus He is made unto us **wisdom**, and **righteousness**, and **sanctification**, and **redemption**. *{AA 530.1}*

The ladder of readiness



Faith: The first round of the ladder.

Romans 10:17 So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith is the first round in the ladder of advancement. Without faith it is impossible to please God. But many stop on this round and never ascend higher. They seem to think that when they have professed Christ, when their names are on the church record, their work is completed. Faith is essential; *{RH, February 21, 1888 par. 3}*

The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means; they are gained in the audience chamber with God, when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power. *{GW 259.1 - 1915 }*

True faith and true prayer -- are as two arms by which the human suppliant lays hold upon the power of Infinite Love. Faith is trusting in God,--believing that He loves us, and knows what is for our best good. Thus, instead of our own way, it leads us to choose His way. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness. Our lives, ourselves, are already His; faith acknowledges His ownership, and accepts its blessings. **Truth, uprightness, purity,** are pointed out as secrets of life's success. **It is faith that puts us in possession of these.** Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency. *{GW 259.2}*

2 Peter 1:5 - add to your **faith virtue;**

Virtue: The second round of the ladder.

The Inspired Word says, "Add to your faith, virtue." **Those who are seeking for eternal life and a home in the kingdom of God must lay for their character building the foundation of virtue.** Jesus must be the chief cornerstone. The things that defile the soul must be banished from the mind and life. When temptations are presented, they must be resisted in the strength of Christ. **The virtue of the spotless Lamb of God must be woven into the character till the soul can stand in its integrity.** . . . Joseph is an example of how the youth may stand unspotted, amid the evil of the world, and add to their faith, virtue. . . . *{ML 96.4}*

The word virtue is not used as much today, so perhaps I should explain what it means

VIRTUE (noun)

The noun **VIRTUE** has 4 senses:

1. The quality of doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong
2. Any admirable quality or attribute
3. Morality with respect to sexual relations
4. A particular moral excellence

2 Peter 1:5 and to virtue **knowledge;**

Knowledge: The third round of the ladder.

Every moment of our lives is intensely real, and charged with solemn responsibilities. **Ignorance**



will be no excuse for lack of spiritual understanding and attainment; for we are exhorted to add to virtue, knowledge. . . . The uncultured fishermen became men of refinement and ability; and the lessons that they were privileged to learn are written for our admonition and instruction. We are invited to become learners in the school of Christ. We need to acquire all the knowledge possible. {*ML 96.5*}

2 Peter 1:6 And to knowledge **temperance**;

Temperance: The fourth round of the ladder.

This is the fourth step in the path toward perfection of character. On every side there is indulgence and dissipation, and the result is degeneration and corruption. The inhabitants of our earth are depreciating in mental, moral, and physical power, because of the intemperate habits of society. Appetite, passion, and love of display are carrying the multitudes into the greatest excesses and extravagance. . . . The people of God must take an opposite course from the world. They must take up the warfare against these sinful practices, deny appetite, and keep the lower nature in subjection. . . . It is for us to "search the Scriptures," and bring our habits into harmony with the instruction of the Bible. . . . {*ML 97.2*}

2 Peter 1:6 and to temperance **patience**;

Patience: The fifth round of the ladder.

The need of becoming temperate is made manifest as we try to take this step. It is next to an impossibility for an intemperate person to be patient. {*ML 97.3*}

Some of us have a nervous temperament, and are naturally as quick as a flash to think and to act; but let no one think that he cannot learn to become patient. **Patience is a plant that will make rapid growth if carefully cultivated.** By becoming thoroughly acquainted with ourselves, and then combining with the grace of God a firm determination on our part, we may be conquerors, and become perfect in all things, wanting in nothing.

Patience pours the balm of peace and love into the experiences of the home life. . . . **Patience will seek for unity in the church, in the family, and in the community.** This grace must be woven into our lives. {*ML 97.4*}

2 Peter 1:6 and to patience **godliness**;

Godliness: the sixth round of the ladder

We must have a close and intimate connection with heaven, if we bear the grace of godliness.

Jesus must be a guest in our homes, a member of our households, if we reflect His image and show that we are sons and daughters of the Most High. Religion is a beautiful thing in the home.

If the Lord abides with us, we shall feel that we are members of Christ's family in heaven.

We shall realize that angels are watching us, and our manners will be gentle and forbearing. We shall be fitting up for an entrance into the courts of heaven by cultivating courtesy and godliness. . . . {*ML 98.2*}

2 Peter 1:7 And to godliness **brotherly kindness**;

Brotherly kindness: the seventh round of the ladder.

The strengthening of our love for our brethren and sisters strengthens our love for Christ.



This principle of love for God and for those for whom Christ died, needs to be quickened by the Holy Spirit and cemented with brotherly kindness; it needs to be strengthened by acts which testify that God is love. This union, which joins heart with heart, is not the result of sentimentalism, but the working of a healthful principle. Faith works by love, and purifies the soul from all selfishness. Thus the soul is perfected in love. And having found grace and mercy through Christ's precious blood, how can we fail to be tender and merciful? . . . {HP 110.2}

2 Peter 1:7 and to brotherly kindness charity.

Charity: The eighth round of the ladder.

Charity "doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil." **Christ-like love places the most favorable construction on the motives and acts of others. It does not needlessly expose their faults; it does not listen eagerly to unfavorable reports, but seeks rather to bring to mind the good qualities of others.** {AA 319.2}

Now a Word of warning.

All these successive steps are not to be kept before the mind's eye and counted as you start; **but fixing the eye upon Jesus, with an eye single to the glory of God, you will make advancement. You cannot reach the full measure of the stature of Christ in a day,** and **you would sink in despair could you behold all the difficulties that must be met and overcome.** You have Satan to contend with, and he will seek by every possible device to attract your mind from Christ.--*YI, Jan 5, 1893.*

Formation of character

Characters formed by circumstance are changeable and discordant--a mass of contraries. Their possessors have no high aim or purpose in life. They have no ennobling influence upon the characters of others. They are purposeless and powerless.--*4T 657 (1881)*

Controlling the will

You cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, but **you can control the will,** and you can make an entire change in your life. By **yielding up your will to Christ,** your life will be hid with Christ in God and allied to the power which is above all principalities and powers. You will have **strength from God** that will **hold you fast to His strength;** and a new light, even the light of living faith, will be possible to you. . . . There will be in you a power, an earnestness, and a simplicity that will make you a polished instrument in the hands of God.-- *5T 514, 515 (1889).*

A new look

So now you have had a new look at the concept of readiness. Perhaps for the first time you have seen the pathway that God has mapped out. If this is the first time you have heard this then it is time to begin your preparation. If it is not, then it may be time to restart your journey. *Cameron A. Bowen, Thoughts On His Coming, June 8, 2010.*

Conclusion

God has called His people to glory and virtue, and these will be manifest in the lives of all who



are truly connected with Him. Having become partakers of the heavenly gift, they are to go unto perfection, being "kept by the power of God through faith." 1 Peter 1:5. *{AA 530.2}*

