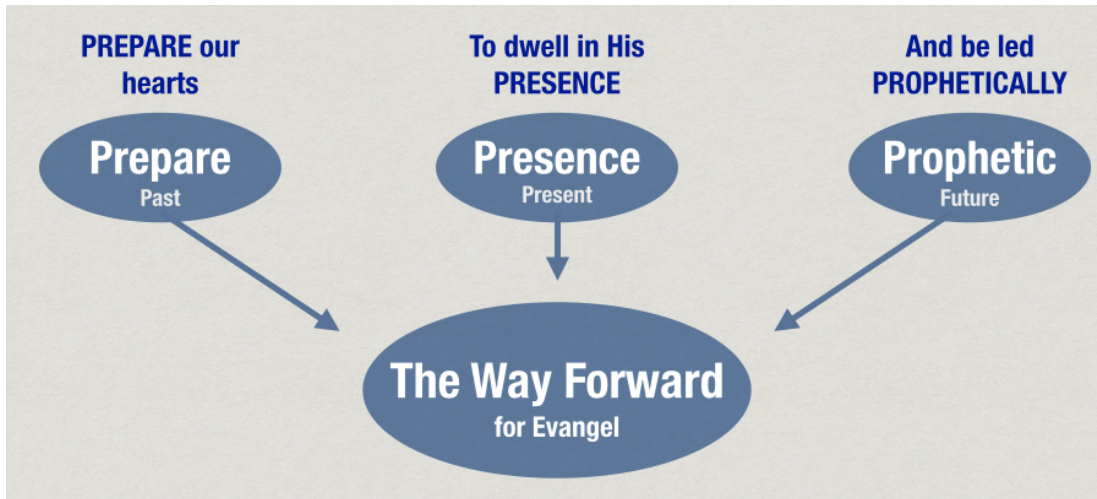


The Way Forward for Evangel

“Prepare our hearts to dwell in His Presence and be led prophetically.”



- **GOD IS PREPARING OUR HEARTS, NOT FOR AN ASSIGNMENT, BUT FOR HIMSELF...**No amount of physical preparation will make us ready for what is coming. The preparation that needs to happen is in our hearts! ***The evidence of a prepared heart is confidence in God!***
 - **JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS A TRUE FORERUNNER...**He (John the baptist) will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. ***He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord.*** He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.” (Luke 1:17 NLT-SE)
 - **QUESTION: WHAT ARE WE PREPARING OURSELVES FOR?...**³ Who may climb the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? ⁴ Only ***those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies.*** ⁵ They will receive the LORD’s blessing and have a ***right relationship with God their savior.*** ⁶ Such people may seek you and worship in your presence, O God of Jacob. (Psa 24:3–6 NLT-SE)
 - **JESUS IS THOROUGHLY COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHING A SIGNIFICANT RELATIONSHIP WITH US...**³⁵ It is the LORD who provides the sun to light the day and the moon and stars to light the night, and who stirs the sea into roaring waves. His name is the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, and this is what he says: ³⁸ They will be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ And ***I will give them one heart and one purpose: to worship me forever,*** for their own good and for the good of all their descendants. ⁴⁰ And I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good for them. I will put a desire in their hearts to worship me, and they will never leave me. (Jer 31:35; 32:38–40 NLT-SE)
 - **A KEY INDICATOR THAT WE ARE TRULY FOLLOWERS OF JESUS IS THE CONVICTION THAT COMES FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT...**¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ ***They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts,*** for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. (Rom 2:14–15 NLT-SE)

- **JOB’S FRIENDS WANTED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT HIS WORKS GAVE HIM HOPE AND CONFIDENCE...**³ “In the past you have encouraged many people; you have strengthened those who were weak. ⁴ Your words have supported those who were falling; you encouraged those with shaky knees. ⁵ But now when trouble strikes, you lose heart. You are terrified when it touches you. ⁶ ***Doesn’t your reverence for God give you confidence?*** Doesn’t your life of integrity give you hope? (Job 4:3–6 NLT-SE)
 - “***True faith depends*** not at all upon itself, nor upon its own system of piety, but rather ***upon the Lord alone and His faithfulness***. It knows that our faith in God is only a reflection of God's faith in us. For our Father does believe in us; He faithed us into existence in the first place, and He continues day by day "sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Heb. 1:3). ***To have faith is to have trust in the faithfulness of our God***, knowing that faithfulness is first and foremost not a human but a divine attribute.” (Mike Mason. ***The Gospel According to Job: An Honest Look at Pain and Doubt from the Life of One Who Lost Everything***)

- TRUST IN...

- **The word “Trust” literally means to lie helpless, face down.** It’s actually a picture of a servant who is waiting for his master’s command so that he can respond in full obedience. In other words, the focus of trust is submission. Another way to put it is that we are to live lives that are “expendable,” that we are to spend ourselves completely. That’s true submission.
- **THIS WAS DAVID’S VERY PERSONAL DECREE...**¹ O LORD, I give my life to you. ² ***I trust in you***, my God! (Psa 25:1–2 NLT-SE)
- **OUR HOPE COMES FROM OUR TRUST IN WHO HE IS...**²⁰ We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield. ²¹ In him our hearts rejoice, for ***we trust in his holy name***. ²² Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for ***our hope is in you alone***. (Psa 33:20–22 NLT-SE)
- **IT’S IMPORTANT THAT WE LET OTHERS SEE AND KNOW ABOUT WHAT THE LORD IS DOING IN OUR LIVES...**² He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. ³ He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. ***They will put their trust in the LORD***. ⁴ Oh, the joys of those who ***trust*** the LORD, who have no ***confidence*** in the proud or in those who ***worship idols***. (Psa 40:2–4 NLT-SE)
 - **Common Idols**: “Idolatry isn’t just one of many sins; rather it’s the one great sin that all others come from. So if you start scratching at whatever struggle you’re dealing with, eventually you’ll find that underneath it is a false god. Until that god is dethroned, and the Lord God takes his rightful place, you will not have victory...The problem is that the instant something takes the place of God, the moment it becomes an end in itself rather than something to lay at God’s throne, it becomes an idol.” (***Gods At War: Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart***, by Kyle Idleman)
 - **Pleasure**: Food, sex, entertainment
 - **Power**: Success, money, achievement
 - **Love**: Romance, family, me

- **TRUSTING GOD IS AT THE CORE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM, NOT EXTERNAL TO IT...**⁷ My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. ⁸ O my people, ***trust in him at all times. Pour out your heart to him***, for God is our refuge. (Psa 62:7–8 NLT-SE)
- **WE ARE MUCH MORE DEPENDENT UPON THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD THAN ANY OF US REALIZE...**⁴¹ LORD, give me your unfailing love, the salvation that you promised me. ⁴² Then I can answer those who taunt me, for ***I trust in your word***. ⁴³ ***Do not snatch your word of truth from me, for your regulations are my only hope***. (Psa 119:41–43 NLT-SE)
- **BEING PART OF A LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT TO OTHERS, NOT JUST OURSELVES...**⁷ “Look what happens to mighty warriors who do not trust in God. They trust their wealth instead and grow more and more bold in their wickedness.” ⁸ But I am like an olive tree, thriving in the house of God. ***I will always trust in God’s unfailing love***. ⁹ I will praise you forever, O God, for what you have done. I will trust in your good name ***in the presence of your faithful people***. (Psa 52:7–9 NLT-SE)
 - “The Church is a messy place by nature. That’s what happens when a bunch of sinners come together anywhere. But it is a messy place designed by God to be His face to the World, and all those sinners reflect Him in unique ways. Nothing reflects God to the world like the Church does. No, we don’t “do” church 100 percent correctly, and we never will...***But to leave the Church is to hurt yourself and to hurt others***. I don’t mean hurt like a slap in the face (though in some cases it’s a bit like that). I mean hurt like ***malnourishment***.” (*Why You Shouldn’t Give Up On The Church*, by Barnabas Piper)
- **IT ALL COMES DOWN TO 3 THINGS: LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION...**⁷ “But ***blessed are those who trust in the LORD*** and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. ⁸ They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit. (Jer 17:7–8 NLT-SE)
- **WE CAN EITHER TRUST IN GOD OR TRUST IN OURSELVES. THE CHOICE IS CLEAR...**⁵ ***Trust in the LORD with all your heart***, do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (Prov 3:5–6 NLT-SE)
- **GOD WILL MAKE HIS HOME IN OUR HEARTS AS WE TRUST HIM, NOT WHEN WE TRUST HIM...**¹⁶ 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. (Eph 3:16–18 NLT-SE)
- **SOMETIMES THE LORD WILL DISTANCE HIMSELF A BIT TO SEE WHETHER WE REALLY TRUST HIM...** ³⁵ Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going. ³⁶ ***Put your trust in the light*** while there is still time; then you will become children of the light.” After saying these things, Jesus went away and was hidden from them. ³⁷ But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him. (John 12:35–37 NLT-SE)
- **THIS IS THE “TAPROOT” OF TRUSTING GOD, HIS LOVE...**¹⁵ All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. ¹⁶ We know how much God loves us, and ***we have put our trust in his love***. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. ¹⁷ And as we

live in God, our love grows more perfect. So ***we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.*** (1 John 4:15–17 NLT-SE)

- **THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CAUSES AN OVERFLOW OF “CONFIDENT HOPE”...*I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him.*** Then you will overflow with ***confident hope*** through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13 NLT-SE)

- CONFIDENCE IN...

- **Trusting brings confidence.** It permits us to see God in his true character. It causes us to realize the greatness and tenderness of his love. It gives us a consciousness of his might, and through it we are sheltered under his wings. By it our enemies lose their power; our dangers, their terrors. We have a consciousness of safety, and that brings rest.
- **WE RISK EVERYTHING, EVEN FAILURE, WHEN WE FIND OUR CONFIDENCE IN GOD...**⁹ In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. ***We have placed our confidence in him,*** and he will continue to rescue us. (2 Cor 1:9–10 NLT-SE)
- **WE ARE “EXPENDABLES.” WE ARE BEING CALLED TO SPEND OURSELVES COMPLETELY ON GOD...**² Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. ³ For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. ***We put no confidence in human effort, ⁴ though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!*** (Phil 3:2–4 NLT-SE)
- **Terry Bennett Video:** “A people made ready! The bride is being made ready.”
- **QUESTION: WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF US?** ¹⁸ Yes, the old requirement about the priesthood was set aside because it was weak and useless. ¹⁹ For the law never made anything perfect. But now ***we have confidence in a better hope, through which we draw near to God.*** (Heb 7:18–19 NLT-SE)
- **THERE ARE ETERNAL REWARDS FOR THOSE WHO REFUSE TO QUIT...**³⁴ You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. ³⁵ So ***do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you!***³⁶ Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. (Heb 10:34–36 NLT-SE)
- **That leads us back to DWELLING IN HIS PRESENCE, which is where we’ll pick it again up in a couple weeks!**