



PREPARING TO STAND

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“In this age, just prior to the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, God calls for men who will prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord.” SW 3-21-1905

“Our greatest need is faith in God.” *Testimonies for the Church Vol. 7*, pages 211.

WHAT IS THE “WORK” OF FAITH?

by Jim Buller

“The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried.” *The Great Controversy*, pages 621. After reading statements like this, many of us realize our need for more faith—the type of faith that can get us through the end-times. Like the disciples, our prayer is, “Lord, ‘Increase our faith’” Luke 17:5.

But exactly what is this type of faith? James 2:18. says, “Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” But, what does a faith that works *look* like? And, how can we tell if what we are doing is being done in faith?

To illustrate this question, let’s suppose back in Noah’s time, there was a somewhat eccentric person who heard him preach. As he thought about what Noah said, he decided that building a boat was actually a really good idea—if there *was* a flood he would have it covered, and whether or not there was a flood, he could make lots of money doing commerce on the high seas. So he starts building a boat. At a casual glance, he and Noah look like just a couple of “crazies” out building their boats. Yet one is acting in faith, and the other isn’t. How can we tell the difference?

The answer is in the Bible’s stories about faith. The story of the Centurion with a sick servant in Luke chapter 7 verses 1-10 is a good example—remember, Jesus said he had “great faith.” Analyzing this story, we find four main points, or steps, that outline his “great faith.” (For a complete study of these principles please see “Preparing to Stand” #14.)

The first thing we find out about the Centurion is that he *recognizes his need*, he has a sick servant. This is significant, because Laodicea, descriptive of the church in our time, thinks it has “need of nothing.” Revelation 3:17. So the first step toward great faith is to Recognize Our Need.

What the Centurion does about his need is the second step. He *takes his need to Jesus*. But we need to note his attitude as he comes to Jesus, especially when we contrast it with the attitude of the Jewish leaders. Notice that he says he is not worthy.

Notice also his statement about his relationship to authority in verse 8. As we Bring Our Need to Jesus it is important to have an attitude of humble and submissive trust.

The third step is what he asks Jesus for. “Just say the Word.” As a gentile, the Centurion may not have known much about Jesus, but he recognized the creative power in His Word. When Jesus said something, it happened! (See also Ps 33:6, 9.) So the third step is to Obtain the Word of God regarding our situation.

Once the Centurion obtained Jesus’ word, what did he do? —he went home, and found his servant healed. The story of Captain Naaman in 2 Kings chapter 5 follows this same pattern, and actually illustrates the fourth step better. So, let’s review a bit. Did Captain Naaman recognize his need? —yes, he had leprosy! Did he take his need to Jesus? —yes, by way of the prophet Elisha. Did he obtain the Word of God regarding his situation? —yes, he was told, “Go wash in the Jordan seven times, ... and you shall be clean.” 2 Kings 5:10. However, at first he didn’t want to go wash in the Jordan. But as he listened to the wise counsel of his servants, he washed in the river and was healed. So, the fourth step is to Act on the Word.

Four Steps to Great Faith:

1. Recognize Our Need
2. Take Our Need to Jesus —with an attitude of humble, submissive trust
3. Obtain the Word of God Regarding Our Situation
4. Act on the Word

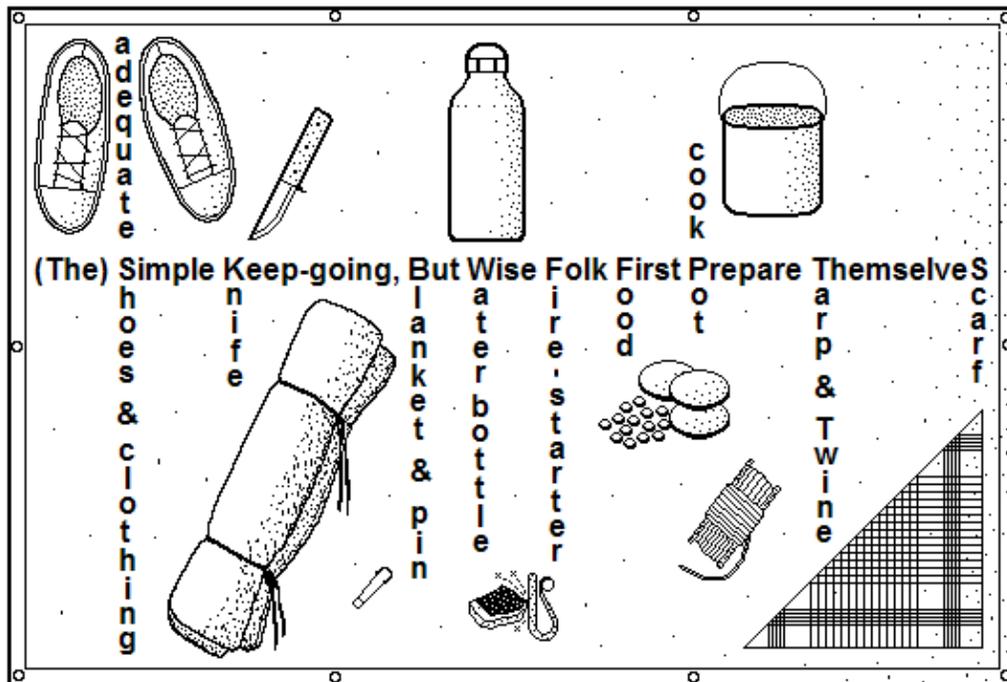
Like the other Bible stories, Noah’s experience also follows this same pattern. As he was walking with God one day, (see Genesis 6:9), God told him of His plans to send a flood and destroy the earth because of its totally wicked inhabitants. Noah no doubt recognized his need to be saved from the coming destruction —step #1. He was already talking with God about this need —step #2. As God told him, “Make yourself an ark,” (Genesis 6:14), he obtained the Word —step #3. So, acting on the Word, he went to work and built the ark —step #4. And the record states, “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household.” Hebrews 11:7 Noah was acting on the Word. This is how we can tell the difference between Noah and any other boat builders of his time.

Nowadays, there are many different people preparing for some version of a time of trouble that will mean the end of life as we know it. But probably most of them are not acting in faith. There are also many people with a lot of different angles on wilderness survival. But they are not all acting in faith either. I could go on, but I think you get the picture. We may be able to learn valuable skills and even some worthwhile concepts from some of these people, but we need to be careful to “filter” what we learn from them. Although they may recognize their need, they are not necessarily humbly and submissively taking this need to Jesus, or searching for what the Word of God has to say on the subject. Neither are they acting according to the Word.

None of the other boat builders made it through the flood. In the same way, only those who are truly acting in faith will be able to “endure to the end” and “be saved.” (Matthew 24:13). May we be humbly and submissively searching out the Word, and faithfully acting on it.

THE PROVERBS 22:3 / MATTHEW 25:4 WILDERNESS SURVIVAL KIT

This idea started out with the question “If you could only take 5 things with you, what would you take?” But 5 is really an arbitrary number. Why not 6 or 8? —or if clothing is included, even 10 or 12? So, after a lot of prayer and thought about how to make things more memorable ...



This kit is based on:

- the prophecies about our end-time wilderness experience (see “Preparing to Stand” #26)
- the survival priorities and priority equipment (see box →)
- Kaywaykla’s story (see attachment)
- lots of experience

- Shoes —the most important item of clothing
- Knife —*the* most basic tool
- Blanket —may seem bulky, but see “Kaywaykla’s Story”
- Blanket Pin —increases the usefulness of the blanket
- Water Bottle —one quart capacity (stainless steel best)
- Fire-Starter —some way to start a fire
- Food —ideally enough for three-days
- Cook Pot —for cooking, and for purifying water
- Tarp —for shelter covering
- Twine —to tie up the tarp, but also has many other uses, (learn some useful knots!)
- Scarf —for: towel, washcloth, first-aid, head covering, clean work area, carrying bag

Survival Priorities	Survival Priority Equipment
1. Shelter	Clothing & Footwear Bedding Roof / Walls
2. Water	Water Bottle
3. Health Concerns	Hygiene Items
4. Fire	Fire-Starter & Fuel
5. Food	Food Cook Pot & Utensils Cutting & Chopping
Tools:	Digging Cordage Containers

✘ Other useful items: warm cap, rain poncho, an initial supply of toilet paper, first-aid kit, spoon, sewing kit, map & compass, whistle, pocket Bible

* It is highly recommended that all this be kept together as a “Grab & Go” pack.

THE VOICE OF GOD EVENT

Based on the prophecies, the Millerite Adventists thought Jesus was going to come in 1844. In their view, *all* of the end-time prophecies would have been fulfilled by that date. Thus, they looked for a fulfillment of these prophecies in either what had already taken place, or what was currently happening at their time.

It is clear from the context, that Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24 is a parallel that applies *both* to the destruction of Jerusalem in the first century *and* to the end-times. (See also the Desire of Ages page 628.) In this prophecy He also refers us to the prophecies in the book of Daniel, (see verse 15). As the Millerites studied the prophecies of Daniel and discovered the great prophetic time periods, they realized Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24 paralleled the 1260 days/years prophecy which ended in 1798 —just before the early 1800's. Therefore, they saw a fulfillment of these end-time prophecies in the events of the 1260 days/years, and the early 1800's, such as the signs in the sun, moon and stars. All this added to their convictions that they were indeed living just before the second coming.

We *now* know that for the most part, their interpretation of the prophecies were correct. They merely had the wrong *event* connected with the 1844 date. Instead of Jesus coming to earth, He moved into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly temple to begin the final judgement. We now understand that there is still a *future* application to many of these end-time prophecies. For example, the Millerites had an interpretation of the Seven Seals, and the Seven Trumpets in the book of Revelation that fit within the context of the 1260 days/years prophecy. But, there are also obvious references to the *final* end-times in these prophecies. Therefore, from our perspective, we must conclude that whereas there *has been* a historical application of these prophecies, there *is yet* a future application as well. Accordingly, we understand that Jesus' end-time prophecy in Matthew 24 actually has three parallels —the events connected with the destruction of Jerusalem in the first century, the events connected with the 1260 days/years prophecy, and the final end-times.

One of the last final events is known as the "Voice of God." There are many things that happen at this event, and there are several scriptures which refer to these different happenings. On the next page is a chart that compares several passages describing the Voice of God event. By graphing these verses this way, it is easy to see that there is a sufficient amount of overlap to safely conclude that they are all referring to the same event. This chart has not been "filled out" so it can be copied and used as a work sheet for your own study(s).

Chapter 40 of *The Great Controversy*, entitled "God's People Delivered," pages 635-652, is also very helpful on the subject. The first part of this chapter talks about the "Voice of God" event, and the last part of the chapter is about Jesus' Second Coming. It is worth noting that although there are some similarities between the Voice of God and the Second Coming, they *are* two separate events.

