

Ready and In Position

September 1, 2013

First, Let's Talk about Readiness

The Spiritual Equation for Readiness

$$GW + BL = RFAAE$$

Girded Waist

+ Burning Lamp

Ready for Anything and Everything

Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning . . .

Luke 12:35

Let your waist be girded and your lamps **burning**; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come

in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so,
blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:35-38

Girt

1. To make tight and strong by binding; to put on. To clothe; to dress; to habit. To furnish; to equip. To surround; to encircle; to enclose; to encompass.
2. To be made ready for instant, immediate action.

Stand therefore, having **your loins girt about with truth**, and having on the breastplate of righteousness . . .

Ephesians 6:14

Gird, Girt, Girded

That which must be done to ready a man for extreme exertion

The Three Girtings of Scripture

First, Christ was Girt for the Cross

The LORD reigns, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.

Psalms 93:1

Second, we must be Girt with Christ

I clothed thee also with broidered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk.

Ezekiel 16:10

He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

John 13:4-5

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Isaiah 11:5

Third, our loins must be Girt with Readiness

And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

1 Kings 18:46

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness . . .

Ephesians 6:14

What are We Being Girt For?

- To be ready to Run
- To be ready to Climb
- To be ready to Leap
- To be ready to Lunge
- To be ready to Wrestle
- To be ready to Fight
- To be ready for Whatever Trial May Come

Yes, But, What are we Really Being Girt For?

- To be ready to Share the Gospel
- To be ready to Give Answer for the Hope we have Within
- To be ready to Defend the Truth
- To be ready to Rescue the Weak
- To be ready to Give Everything for the sake of Christ
- To be ready to Suffer for the Glory of our King
- To be ready to Bear a Cross
- To be ready to be Stripped
- To be ready to be Scourged
- To be ready to be Crucified
- To be ready to Die that the testimony of Christ's Love might be proclaimed

And Even More Specifically, What are we Being Girt For?

- To be ready, if our God asks, to wake up at 3:00am and pray, like we've never prayed before
- To be ready, if our God asks, to give up food for the day and fast
- To be ready, if our God asks, to testify of Jesus Christ to a stranger at the local coffee shop
- To be ready, if our God asks, to give away our entire savings account to someone He shows us
- To be ready, to expect God to ask, to ask God to ask, and to diligently listen for God to ask us to do something that is not easy

Ready, Always Ready

Examining the Equation for Readiness

$$GW + BL = RFAAE$$

Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning . . .

Luke 12:35

What's Needed for a Burning Lamp?

Oil. And an Endless Supply of it.

The Power of Oil in the Lamp

Eric, wake up. Would you join me in prayer?

Eric, open your wallet. Would you give that money away?

Eric, stop what you are doing. Would you go wrestle with Kipling?

Eric, open your mouth. Would you give the Gospel to that man over there?

Eric, open your heart. Would you offer your home to that child?

Eric, stop talking. Would you listen to what Harper is saying?

What are You Being Made Ready For?

To be strong and positioned in Faith even in the most dire, difficult, and darkest hour

Ready and In Position

Now, Let's Talk about Position

Gaining The Position of Faith

A Peek Inside the Prayer Closet of Elijah

A Study in the Position of Faith

There is a sound of abundance of rain

1 Kings 18:41

Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees . . .

1 Kings 18:42

And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, there is nothing.

1 Kings 18:43

And he said, "Go again," seven times

1 Kings 18:43

And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there arose a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

1 Kings 18:44

and there was a great rain.

1 Kings 18:45

When Do You Kneel in Faith and When Do you Rise in Faith?

2 Key Misfires in the Labor of Faith

1. Assuming Prayer is Unnecessary to Bring the Purchase of the Cross to this Earth
2. Assuming Prayer is Still Needful when the Position of Faith is gained

Breaking Down the Labor of Faith into its Parts

The Hearing

Discerning God's agenda

There is a sound of abundance of rain

1 Kings 18:41

The Bending

Knowing that God's agenda can only be accomplished via prayer

Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees . . .

1 Kings 18:42

The Watching

Seeking the breakthrough in the natural realm

And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, there is nothing.

1 Kings 18:43

The Persistence

Wrestling until the breaking of day

And he said, "Go again," seven times

1 Kings 18:43

The Witness

The initial evidence that the prayer work is finished

Behold, there arose a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand.

1 Kings 18:44

The Position of Faith

Utter confidence that the rain is back in Israel

And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

1 Kings 18:44

The Rain

The inevitable outcome of real working faith

and there was a great rain.

1 Kings 18:45

The Position of Faith is always After the Test of Faith

That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, **though it be tried with fire**, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:7

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, **after he had patiently endured**, he obtained the promise.

Hebrews 6:13-15

Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith works patience**.

James 1:3

Patience

Hypomonē - Who-paw-maw-nay

The Brave Calm and Steadfast Courage of the Christian Soul

Unbreakable and Immovable. To remain unmoved, to not recede or flee, to stand fast amidst the most severe misfortunes and trials and to hold fast one's faith in Christ to the end.

Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith works patience.**

James 1:3

The ~~Position~~ Patience of Faith

And Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. But David said to Saul, Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God. Moreover David said, The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the LORD be with you! So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go; **for he had not proved it.** And David said unto Saul, I cannot

go with these; **for I have not proved them.** And David put them off him. Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

1 Samuel 17:33-40

Ready and in Position

David in the Valley of Elah

The Girding of God

I have chosen a better man, I will establish his throne

The Girding of David

The Ram's horn of Oil poured out

The Testing of David's Faith

The lion and the bear

The Position of David's Faith

This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them.

Ready and in Position

Girt Waistline - check. Oil in the Lamp - check. Faith tested and proven - check. Lock-jawed and immovable in the Position of Faith - check. Goliath is going down - check.

The Passover Lamb

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover.

Exodus 12:11

The Checklist for Facing the Impossible

- Blood of the Spotless Lamb on the outside Doorpost - check
- Girt Waistline, running shoes on, staff in hand - check
- Spotless Lamb in the Digestive Track - check
- Proof of God's Power and Faithfulness, seeing Him sustain us and protect us throughout 10 horrible plagues - check
- Indomitable, immovable confidence that though the mighty Egyptian calvary may follow, seeking to destroy us. And though a great red sea seem to blockade us from forward progress. And though we be hemmed in by formidable mountains on either side without possibility of escape - we have in our backpacks a lock-jawed resolute faith that our God will make a way - check.

Pray God to send a few men with what the Americans call "grit" in them; men, who: when they know a thing to be right, will not turn away or aside, or stop; men who will persevere all the more because there are difficulties to meet or foes to encounter; who stand all the more true to their Master because they are opposed; who, the more they are thrust into the fire, the hotter they become; who, just like the bow, the further the string is drawn the more powerfully it sends forth its arrows, and so the more they are trodden upon, the more mighty will they become in the cause of truth against error.

Charles Spurgeon

Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:35-38