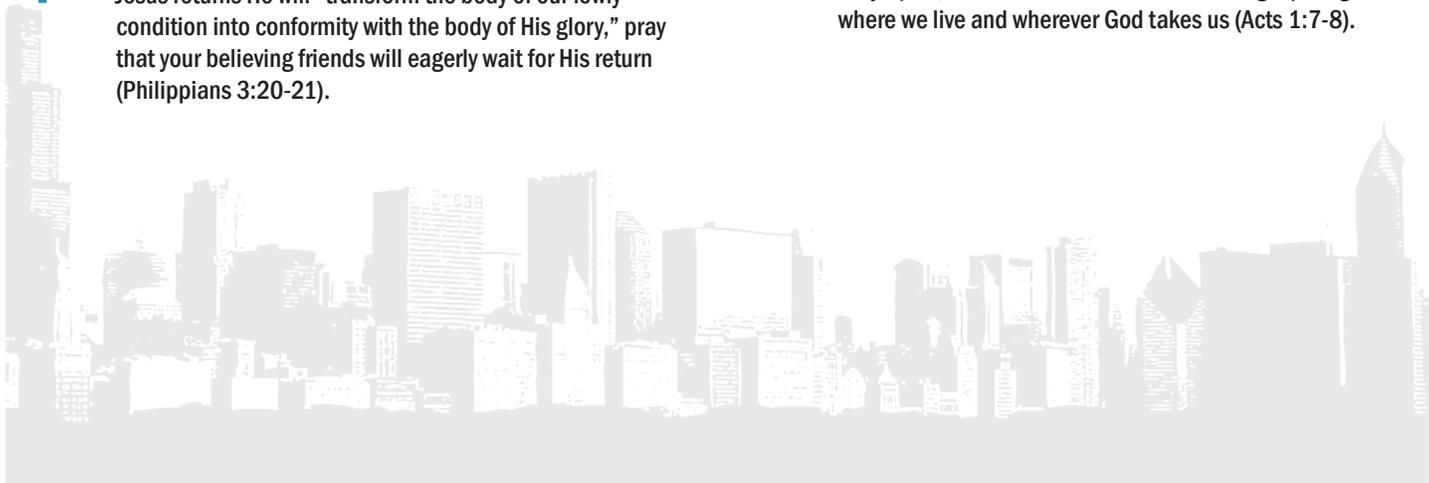


PREPARING FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST

“Be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, **he would have been on the alert** and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason **you must be ready as well;** for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will” (Matthew 24:42-44 NASB).

- 1 Since no one knows when Jesus will return, pray that Christians in our nation will experience personal revival and will live with a constant readiness for His return (Matthew 24:44).
- 2 Jesus said His faithful servants would truly be blessed when He returns. Pray that the members of your church family will be faithful and sensible in carrying out their God-given responsibilities (Matthew 24:45-46).
- 3 Pray that genuine repentance will come to those Jesus described as “evil slaves,” individuals who during the end times identify themselves as Christians but mistreat real believers and engage in frivolous living (Matthew 24:49-51).
- 4 Jesus told the parable of the ten virgins to warn people that they must be spiritually ready when He returns for His bride, the church (Matthew 25:1-13). Pray that those in your community who do not know Christ will have their hearts opened to the truth of the gospel.
- 5 In the parable of the talents, Jesus said, “To everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away” (Matthew 25:29). Pray that your church family will faithfully handle what God has entrusted to them.
- 6 When Jesus comes in His glory, all nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32-34, 40). Pray that genuine followers of Jesus will live committed to loving Him by caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of fellow believers.
- 7 Knowing that our citizenship is in heaven and that when Jesus returns He will “transform the body of our lowly condition into conformity with the body of His glory,” pray that your believing friends will eagerly wait for His return (Philippians 3:20-21).
- 8 Pray that in the midst of persecution and spiritual struggle, Christians around the world will be courageous and will walk by faith, not by sight. Pray that we will find hope as we remember that to be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6-8).
- 9 Knowing that we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, pray that being pleasing to Him will be our ambition, whether at home or absent (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).
- 10 We know that when Jesus returns, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. Because of this, pray that everyone who has this hope fixed on Jesus will purify himself, just as He is pure (1 John 3:2-3).
- 11 Just as Paul encouraged the Corinthian believers to learn from the example of the Hebrews under Moses’ leadership, pray that Christians today will learn well the lessons of faith illustrated by those who have gone before us (1 Corinthians 10:1-11).
- 12 Pray that the spiritual eyes of your church family will be enlightened so that they will know the hope of His calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Ephesians 1:18).
- 13 Jesus warned of stricter judgment for cities that had experienced Him at work but had failed to repent (Matthew 11:21-22). Pray that your city will experience the miraculous power of God and be quick to turn back to Him in repentance.
- 14 Not knowing the appointed times which the Father has fixed by His own authority, pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be bold witnesses of the gospel right where we live and wherever God takes us (Acts 1:7-8).



- 15** Knowing that this world and its lusts are passing away, pray that Christians in your community will be committed to doing the will of God (1 John 2:17).
- 16** One sign that it is the last hour is the presence of antichrists. As many today are denying the fact that Jesus is Lord, pray that today's church will not be led astray by their false teachings and evil ways (1 John 2:18).
- 17** Pray that Christians in your neighborhood will be bold and stand firm when someone approaches them with doctrines not found in the teachings of Christ. Pray that they will not receive these individuals into their houses or even give them a greeting (2 John 1:9-10).
- 18** Paul warned the Thessalonian believers to not be quickly shaken from their composure should they hear that the day of the Lord had come (2 Thessalonians 2:2). Pray that the church today will have great wisdom in rejecting false teachings regarding the end times.
- 19** Pray that Christians will faithfully share the gospel with their lost neighbors, helping them not to be deceived by the coming man of lawlessness who will display himself as being God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).
- 20** Pray that more and more people will receive the love of the truth and be genuinely saved through faith in Christ. Pray that those seeking Christ in the last days will not be deceived by the signs and false wonders Satan will use to draw people away from the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).
- 21** Peter warned that "the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat." Pray that in light of such destruction, Christians today will purpose to walk with holy conduct and godliness (2 Peter 3:10-11).
- 22** As Christians look for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells, pray that they will be diligent to be found spotless and blameless by God (2 Peter 3:13-14).
- 23** Seeing where our nation is headed spiritually and politically, pray that the church will be on guard so as not to be carried away by error and lose our own firm commitment (2 Peter 3:17).
- 24** Pray that now and in the days to come, the church will prepare for the return of Christ by growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
- 25** Jesus said, "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire" (Matthew 13:41-42). Pray that as the Holy Spirit uses warnings like this, the lost will be prompted to seek Christ for salvation, and the saved will seek to walk in greater fellowship and intimacy with Him.
- 26** As a bold witness to the lost during these last days, pray that the righteous will shine forth as the sun as they seek their Father's kingdom first (Matthew 13:43).
- 27** Knowing that we are moving closer to the return of Jesus, pray that any individuals claiming to be the Christ will be recognized for who they truly are and will not be able to mislead the people of your community (Matthew 24:4-5).
- 28** Because we are hearing more reports today about wars, earthquakes, and famines, pray that God's children will not be frightened, but will press on even more enthusiastically in obeying the commands of Christ (Matthew 24:6-8).
- 29** Jesus said that in the last days, many believers will be delivered into tribulation and will even be killed because of His name. Pray that during these days of harsh treatment, His children will not stumble in their loyalty to Him and to each other (Matthew 24:9-10).
- 30** Jesus taught that before He returns, lawlessness will increase, and most people's love will grow cold. Pray that the people of your church family will remain faithful to Christ and will be able to endure to the end (Matthew 24:12-13).
- 31** Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). Pray that today's church will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus to our neighbors and to the whole world.