**On Guard**

**Scripture**

1 Pe 1:13-16 So prepare your minds for action, be completely sober [in spirit—steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert], fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 [Live] as obedient children [of God]; do not be conformed to the evil desires which governed you in your ignorance [before you knew the requirements and transforming power of the good news regarding salvation]. 15 But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct [be set apart from the world by your godly character and moral courage]; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy (set apart), for I am holy.”

**Introduction**

* *Devil does not rejoice when I set my face to seek God.*
* *If he says “count me in” be suspicious*
* *Da 10:12 Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. 13 But the [e]prince of the kingdom of Persia was standing in opposition to me for twenty-one days.*
* *2 Cor 11:14 Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.*
* *(light in insect zapper – “it’s so beautiful”)*
* *Matt 24:24 24 For false Christs and false prophets will appear and they will provide great signs and wonders, so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect (God’s chosen ones).*
* *Like a roaring lion – great imitator - He is not the lion of the tribe of Judah.*
* *Devil fights dirty (nerve gas, shooting from building, jumping from van and stabbing)*
* *We can be so busy chasing the devil we do not seek God*
* *First the natural and then the spiritual.*
* *Sport – Rugby League – Study video’s of the opposition and find weaknesses.*
* *We tend to see the Armour of God as totality of spiritual warfare.*

**Requirements**

**Prepare**

* *Available people prepare*
* *1 Pe 3:15 15 But in your hearts set Christ apart [as holy—acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives] as Lord. Always be ready to give a [logical] defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope and confident assurance [elicited by faith] that is within you, yet [do it] with gentleness and respect.*

**Minds for action**

* *In Pentecost the mind can be despised.*
* *God does not despise it Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].*
* *It is why the Helmet of salvation is so important – it protects the mind*
* *Battles won or lost in the mind first.*

**Sober in spirit**

* *1 Pe 5:8 Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around* ***like a roaring lion*** *[fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour.*

**Steadfast (resolute, unwavering),**

* *Single minded – opposite Jms 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*

**Self-Disciplined**

* *General – discipline more important than courage.*
* *Deu 31:7 Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all [the people of] Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you will give it to them as an inheritance.*
* *The bigger we make him the smaller our God becomes.*
* *God wants us to be people who when we wake up in the morning the devil says “oh no he’s up!!”*

**Alert - Spiritually and morally**

* *Matt 24:43 43 But understand this: If the head of the house had known 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.*
* *2 Cor 2:10b-11 if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of [and with the approval of] Christ, 11 to keep Satan from taking advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his schemes*
* *He fights dirty Mtt 10:16 16 “Listen carefully: I am sending you out like sheep among wolves; so be wise as serpents, and innocent as doves [have no self-serving agenda].*

fix your hope completely on the grace [of God]

**Single Minded – Fix, completely**

* *Fix = attached. To something solid. Ps 71:3 Be to me a rock of refuge and a sheltering stronghold to which I may continually come; You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress.*
* *Mat 7:24 24 “So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, will be like a wise man [a far-sighted, practical, and sensible man] who built his house on the rock.*
* *Completely = totally. 1 Cor 13:8 as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for the gift of special knowledge, it will pass away.*

**Dependant - Grace of God**

* *1 Jn 5:20 0 And we [have seen and] know [by personal experience] that the Son of God has [actually] come [to this world], and has given us understanding and insight so that we may [progressively and personally] know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true—in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*
* *Grace is God’s ability to fulfill His plan through us.*
* *God does not take us so far and then say you are on your own buster 2 Pe 1:3 3 For His divine power has bestowed on us [absolutely] everything necessary for [a dynamic spiritual] life and godliness, through [a]true and personal knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*

**Hands and feet**

* *Christ being revealed is not just end time*
* *Gal 1:15-16 15 But when God, who had chosen me and set me apart before I was born, and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to* ***reveal His Son in me*** *so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles [as the good news—the way of salvation], I did not immediately consult with [e]anyone [for guidance regarding God’s call and His revelation to me].*

**Obedience**

* *1 Sam 15:22 “…to obey is better than sacrifice…”*
* *Obedience will not save you from trouble but it will keep you in trouble.*
* *1 Pe 4:12 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which is taking place to test you [that is, to test the quality of your faith], as though something strange or unusual were happening to you.*
* *Was Job out of the will of God? He was in the middle of it.*
* *Job 5:7 “For man is born for trouble, [As naturally] as sparks fly upward.*
* *A sea change or tree change will not change you.*
* *I need to be willing to be made willing (9 verses say willing in KJV)*

**Separated (do not be conformed** to the evil desires which governed you in your ignorance [before you knew the requirements and transforming power of the good news regarding salvation]).

* *Heb 11:15 And if they had been thinking of that country from which they departed [as their true home], they would have had [a continuing] opportunity to return. 16 But the truth is that they were longing for a better country*
* *2 Pe 2:22 The thing spoken of in the true proverb has happened to them, “The dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “A sow is washed only to wallow [again] in the mire.”*

**Holy**

* *15 But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct [be set apart from the world by your godly character and moral courage]; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy (set apart), for I am holy.”*
* *Is a 4 letter word.*
* *Unattainable without Him*
* *2 Pe 3:18 18 but grow [spiritually mature] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory (honour, majesty, splendour), both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*
* *Positionally there, experience work in progress.*

**Conclusion**

* *Prepared, Use Minds, Sober, Steadfast, Self-Disciplined, Alert, Single minded, Dependant, Hands and feet, Obedient, Separated, Holy*
* *What I look at becomes bigger*
* *God’s callings are God’s enabling*