



Living With The Clock Ticking

1 PETER 4:7-11

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. **8** Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Be hospitable to one another without complaining. **10** Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. **11** If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Big Idea: The less time we have, the more intentionally we must live for Jesus.

4 Essentials for Faithful Living in Urgent Times:

① THINK SOUNDLY (v. 7b) Cultivate clarity and self-control so you can live wisely in urgent times.

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded....

A disciplined mind is essential for faithful living.

Sober-minded means:

- Keep your thinking clear (serious, sound, lucid)

Satan's lies will cloud your thinking.

Arm yourself with the mind of Jesus by renewing your mind in Scripture; nothing clarifies like God's Word.

*What most clouds my thinking right now (noise, narratives, negativity)?
What truth from Scripture will I use to cut through the fog this week?*

- Keep your thinking calm (under control)

Storms may churn inside, but Christ steadies us.

*What reliably triggers my panic?
What will my "instrument check" be when it hits?*

- Keep your thinking cautious (watchful)

Stay mentally on guard; the battleground is in your mind and for your mind.

*Where am I most vulnerable?
What guardrail or accountability will I put in place?*

② PRAY STEADILY (v. 7c) Depend on God continually through prayer as the end draws near.

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer.

Prayer is how we anchor our clear thinking to God's power.

- Why pray steadily?

The enemy is prowling. (5:8) "Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour."

We don't outwit Satan with our strength or cleverness. Prayer is the weapon.

Philippians 4:6–7, Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

- How to pray steadily?

Pray early - begin each day in prayer (Psalm 63:1)

Pray energetically - the prayer of the righteous is "very powerful in its effect" (Jms 5:16)

Pray exactly - be specific (Matt 20:29-34)

Pray entirely - about everything (Jms 4:2)

Pray endlessly - constantly (1 Thess 5:17)

"The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer." – F.B. Meyer

What distractions in my life keep me from being watchful in prayer?

Where am I expending more energy—worrying or praying?

Do I have a prayer list that reflects specific, ongoing requests?

③ LOVE SINCERELY (vv. 8-9) Demonstrate deep love and generous hospitality when time is short.

8 Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

Peter calls us to a love that stretches to the limit—vulnerable, forgiving, and generous.

- Keep loving when you're wronged ("love covers a multitude of sins")

Love expects to be hurt, yet chooses forgiveness over bitterness.

- Keep loving With your welcome ("be hospitable")

Your home is your single best tool for ministry.

- Keep loving with your words ("without complaining")

When someone wrongs me, do I forgive quickly or hold grudges?

Do my words reflect sincere love, or do I grumble and criticize?

④ SERVE SELFLESSLY (vv. 10-11) Invest your gifts now—for other's good and God's glory.

10 As each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides,

- Serve with God-given gifts ("As each one has received a gift")

Every believer has at least one spiritual gift—no one is exempt.

- Serve by God's grace ("as good stewards of the varied grace of God")

Trust God has given you a spiritual gift and that He can/will enable you to use it.

- Serve for God's glory ("so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything")

Every act of service, whether visible or unseen, should point to Christ.

What spiritual gifts has God given me? Am I using them?

Am I serving in my own strength or relying on God's power?

How could I step out of my comfort zone this week to serve someone in need?

NEXT STEPS

#1: I will guard my mind with God's truth and not let distractions or fear control me.

#2 : I will commit to daily prayer, depending on God's strength and wisdom.

#3 : I will choose to forgive quickly, welcome others into my life, and show Christlike love in action.

#4 : I will use the gifts God has given me to meet needs in the church and bless others.