

Shalom.

Throughout the Bible, we are constantly warned to remain ready. Many Christians assume that salvation is automatic—thinking, “I will be saved someday,” or “Since I am already saved, there is no need to deal with my remaining weaknesses.”

But we must understand: salvation is a process. It is a continuous work of grace in a believer’s life. It involves preparation. Before the rapture (the catching away of the saints), one must meet the spiritual qualifications of being a complete Bride of Christ—not merely a companion without readiness.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25)

We see this clearly in the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. This parable gives a prophetic picture of what will happen shortly before Jesus returns.

Five were wise, and five were foolish. All of them claimed to be waiting for the Bridegroom. This reflects the church today—mixed groups of Christians. Everyone claims to be waiting for the Lord,

even those living in sin still make that claim.

The difference was preparation.

Matthew 25:6-12 (NKJV)

“And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’

Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’

But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’”

The Meaning of the Oil

The oil represents the Holy Spirit and a life continually filled and led by Him.

Ephesians 5:18 (NIV) says:

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”

Notice: it is a command to continually be filled.

The foolish virgins had lamps (a form of faith), but no extra oil (no sustained spiritual life). They assumed that arriving at the waiting place was enough. But Christian life is not about location—it is about preparation and transformation.

Romans 8:9 (ESV):

“Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not

belong to him.”

The Holy Spirit cannot be borrowed from another believer. Each person must personally walk with God.

The Midnight Cry

Before the door was shut, there was first a cry.

This signifies a final warning—a short season of grace before Christ’s appearing. The cry awakens everyone. But it is not time to go buy oil; it is time to light lamps.

Spiritually, this suggests that before the rapture there will be intensified preaching, conviction, and global awakening messages calling believers to readiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJV):

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout,

with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

There will be a shout. There will be a trumpet. But only those ready will go in.

Salvation Requires Preparation

Salvation is not randomness. It is preparation.

You wrote an important principle: with God, it is not enough to arrive “at the time”—we must arrive *within the time*.

This aligns with Hebrews 12:14 (NIV):

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

Holiness is not optional. It is preparation for seeing the Lord.

Just as a flight has a reporting time and a departure time, heaven has preparation before entry. If you arrive exactly at departure time, you are already late.

Spiritually speaking:

- A lukewarm life is dangerous.
- A compromised life is risky.
- A “one foot in, one foot out” Christianity will not stand.

Revelation 3:16 (NKJV):

“So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

Two Groups of Christians

The Bible reveals that in the last days there will be two groups waiting for Christ—the wise and the foolish. Not pagans and

believers—but two types of believers.

This is sobering.

Not every lifestyle you see among Christians is worth imitating. Not every sermon is safe to follow. Not every inner voice is from God.

1 John 4:1 (NIV):

“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.”

Self-Examination

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV):

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is

in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”

This is a personal responsibility.

This is the hour to prepare your lamp personally. To live in daily repentance. To walk in obedience. To pursue holiness. To cultivate intimacy with the Holy Spirit.

A Final Warning

If someone treats salvation casually—living carelessly, without transformation—the rapture may occur before their eyes.

Jesus Himself warned in Luke 21:36 (NKJV):

“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

We must be counted worthy—not by works alone, but by genuine faith evidenced in obedience and perseverance.

Conclusion

May we all live as wise virgins—spiritually alert, filled with oil, and ready at any moment.

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV):

*“Surely I am coming quickly.”
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

Maranatha — Our Lord is coming.

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