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READY

"God has
already
given you
exactly what
you need."



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Ready. Dictionary.com <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/ready>

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Introduction

READY

You already have what you think you need.

Since I was a young teenager, I have had countless ideas that I now know were from God. *Countless!* I have memorials that still testify of the book ideas, poetry, skits, plays, even business ideas that I would brainstorm about for sometimes weeks on end. 95% of all of these wonderful, God-given ideas were birthed and met their demise right there in my stacks of journals, in those file folders on old computers, in the Notes app on my phone, in my **cough** current Google drive.

The problem was (is?) I didn't feel *ready*. I didn't have the time. The idea needed to be flushed out more. I didn't have the money to produce the project. I didn't know the right people. I was only so young. I was a little too old. I was taking care of a family. I was working full-time. Any excuse, I had it.

And, you know what? Every idea, every project, every dream is along the lines of what I know I want to do with my life. Every entry strums the strings of my heart and makes my imagination smile and spirit light up. If I really followed-through on all those ideas of mine - I would be *living the dream*. I would be fully fulfilled.

But I didn't feel ready.

Do you have something similar going on? Maybe it's not poems, but recipes. Maybe it's not business ideas but art sketches. Maybe it's not book plots, but it's a different job description. Maybe you don't have journals stacked in the corner, but you have songs recorded on a thumb drive.

Whatever it is, why aren't you living your dream? What's keeping you from embracing what you know God has placed in your heart?

God has been dealing with me and my perceived lack of readiness. He's been showing me that *even before I was born* He put everything I needed to be Ready inside of me. Everything I need, I already have. It's up to me to accept that and throw away all my excuses. It's up to me to embrace that and move in faith according to what God has placed in my heart.

I want to share what He gave me with you in this book. I pray that what He showed me will spur you to action like it did me.

***Note: With each of these entries I share a short biblical passage. I want to encourage you to go to those texts in the Bible and read out the full context of what they share, and allow God to give you some further revelation while you read.*

READY

completely prepared or in fit condition for immediate action or use

The Lord gave me this message:

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb.

***Before you were born I set you apart
and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."***

Jeremiah 1:4, 5

There is a you that God knew before you got here. A you that He created, a you that He gave a specific purpose, a you that is appointed to fulfill His plan here on earth. Too often, the one God knew before we were born doesn't fully show up once we get on this side of heaven.

Just like many of our biblical examples, we have our excuses. Moses couldn't talk. Gideon was from the wrong family. Jeremiah was too young.

With each of these men, God gently led them to see themselves as He saw them.

Moses was the one anointed to lead the children of Israel out of slavery. Despite his negative self-view, Moses was the one who transcribed and delivered God's law to His people in ways that are being followed *still* these thousands of years later.

God called Gideon as He saw him, as God's man of valor. And, despite Gideon's feelings of being the least in his family and community, Gideon went on to lead his nation in an epic victorious battle against their enemies.

Jeremiah's excuse of being too young wasn't even accepted by God. God got Jeremiah straight immediately. *The LORD replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you.* (Jeremiah 1:7) Jeremiah went on to prophesy God's words that impacted lives generations after he was gone.

What was your reply when God was showing you who you really are? What was your excuse?

Some of us will allow our excuse to keep us from being all that God has envisioned for us. But, think about it, *GOD* created you to be that! He's the one that ordained that life for you to live! He's the one that gave you all the gifts, talents, abilities, and creativities to be that person! You have what you need to do it!

Do you believe it?

Moses, Gideon, and Jeremiah may not have fully believed initially. Gideon clearly needed some reassurance. But God met them at their obedience.

You may not fully believe it yourself right now. But God will meet you at your obedience. Just take the first step. Move toward the greatness God created you to embody.

Reflection & Direction

Have you ever allowed the Lord to show you how He sees you? If not, take some time to ask Him to show you *you*. The *you* that He knew before you were even born, the one He set apart, the one He appointed.

If God has revealed *you* to you, spend some time thinking about who that person is and who you are right now. What do you need to change to get closer to who God ordained you to be? What steps can you take to more fully embody His plan for your life? Are you willing to make these changes and take these steps? Why or why not?

READY

*duly equipped, completed, adjusted, or arranged
as for an occasion or purpose*

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, "Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together."

"Where do you want us to prepare it?" they asked him.

He replied, "As soon as you enter Jerusalem, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him.

*At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' **He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up.***

***That is where you should prepare our meal.**" They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.*

Luke 22:7-13

There is a man in this passage who simply owned a house with a large room. A man who, when Jesus' message reached him, already had that large room prepared for what Jesus needed. A man who, when Jesus' message reached him, had a heart open and willing to let Jesus use that room.

The man did not know that it would be the most important meal Jesus ate with His disciples. The man did not know that this meal would birth the Communion supper that would be one of the most sacred rites of the Christian faith. The man did not know the significance of all that would take place in his room.

But he was Ready. His room was Ready. His heart was Ready.

Sometimes what God has for us to do does not seem like a big deal. It doesn't require a stage or a microphone. It won't be reposted or go viral. Sometimes you're the only person that will know what happens.

Those seemingly little requests from God are easy to shrug off at times. Yeah, you felt the Holy Spirit nudge you to say hello to that stranger. But you were in the middle of your commute and really didn't feel like talking. Yeah, you knew you should have followed up with a genuine offer to pray for your friend when they shared their story. But you were going to add them to your prayer list anyway, so what did it matter?

What does it matter?

There are some things that God has put in you that only *you* can do. There are words that only *you* can give. There are prayers that only *you* can speak. There are even atmospheres that only *you* can set up.

He lined up everything *just* so to get you on the train with that stranger. He gave you and your friend that quality time together for them to share their story with you. God does nothing by accident. It all aligns with His ultimate Master Plan.

Who knows what part of God's plan your obedience will help to facilitate? Even in something so seemingly simple.

All you have to be is Ready.

Reflection & Direction

How can you prepare your heart to be sensitive to God's nudges throughout your day?

Is there something that God already asked of you that you shrugged off recently? If so, how can you make things right? Take some time to ask the Lord for forgiveness, and go and be obedient to what He asked of you.

READY willing

...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.

And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God...

For nothing is impossible with God."

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true..."

Luke 1:26-35, 37, 38

It's easy to say, "I'm going to follow God." It's easy to say, "Lord, whatever you want me to do I'll do it." (It's even easier to sing it in many of the beautiful worship songs that fill our playlists.) And then God shows up, shares His plan, and all the excuses, reasons why we can't do it, fears and insecurities show up.

But, ya'll... *GOD* is the one showing up, calling us who we really are, and pointing us to our destiny and purpose! *Why are we fighting Him?*

Mary had the right spirit. She heard what God was saying, and saw where He wanted to take her. Yeah, she was a bit confused about the *how*, but she didn't let that stop her from accepting what God was placing on the table. Her response was a resounding YES. No excuses. No backing away. Just YES.

And God was able to work a miracle in her that benefitted the entire *world*.

All God is looking for is a ready, willing vessel.

It's in our willingness that we acknowledge the God that we serve. Our willingness is our faith in action believing that our God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and fully able to cause everything in His plan to work together for our good. It's our willingness that puts our pride on the altar, puts our wants second to our Lord's desire, and causes us to surrender full control to Him.

It's hard to let go of control. As a person who likes to know full details about everything I'm doing before, during, and after I do it - I *understand* the struggle that can come in letting go of control of your life! I *understand* wanting God to show every phase of the plan from the beginning - and the fallouts within each step of said plan - and all the details of the who, what, when, where, and whys.

But our God rarely works that way.

Often all we get is the first step and His outstretched hand. All we get is *the God of this universe* asking us to trust Him.

Are you willing?

Reflection & Direction

What has God asked of you that you are still unwilling to do? Where is He asking you to go that you are unwilling to follow?

Take some time and think about what exactly is keeping you from being God's willing vessel. Ask God to help you come into full agreement with Him. Ask Him to give you what you need to comply with His will. - What I love about our Lord is that He already knows everything in our hearts already - we don't have to be afraid of being honest with Him. He can handle it all.

READY

prompt or quick in perceiving, comprehending, speaking, writing, etc.

*From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. **All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.***

1 Chronicles 12:32

I have constant tunnel vision. Usually I am moving from point A to point B and miss out on surrounding people, contexts, or situations unless those are one of the points I'm moving to. Often I leave places and slowly piece the full picture together and get an "a-ha" moment, or, regretfully, realize I missed an opportunity that was waiting for me to take it.

We are living in times where I feel like the prophecies of Revelation are right around the corner - if not already in progress. It is so important that we as believers are alert to what is happening around us, not just with what we see physically, but spiritually as well. It's getting darker and darker in our world. We need to be able to locate God's heart in the midst of it all.

My prayers lately have me asking the Lord for recognition in the moment for those times when He wants me to be alert, speak, pray, give, or do whatever the situation requires. These are perfect opportunities to shine His light in the darkness to help others know His love and to ensure I'm helping to build the Kingdom wherever I go.

The Bible tells us that if we need wisdom, all we have to do is ask and He'll liberally give us what we need. (James 1:5) Being ready means that you recognize when you don't know what to do and go to the One who does.

Too many times we reach for other sources when we don't know what to do. We call someone, we search online, we read books... not to say that these things can't help us. But, shouldn't God be our first stop? Shouldn't the Holy Spirit be our initial Counsel?

Being Ready means that we have to consistently go to the Lord for wisdom. We have to be quick to know that we don't know it all. We have to understand that only He fully knows all the components and can give the right answer to the questions being asked. And we have to acknowledge Him in all our ways in order for us to take the right steps.

Reflection & Direction

Do you experience the same kind of tunnel vision like I do?

What are some steps that you can take to make sure that you are Ready in whatever situation you find yourself?

READY

proceeding from or showing such quickness

*About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. **She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months.***

Exodus 2:1,2

When Jochebed birthed Moses, she realized that there was something special about her child. With this knowledge, she did what she had to do to keep him safe from the Egyptian soldiers who had instructions to kill Israeli babies at that time.

This woman hid a *newborn baby* for three months! There's no telling the level of alertness, the strategy, the quickness, the fortitude that she and her household had to take to keep the secret. They had to learn Moses' wants before he could cry aloud. They had to keep him fed, clean, and content to avoid any fussing that could be overheard by someone passing by. The family had to watch who was around her home and who they interacted with to avoid any suspicion or discovery of the child by the wrong person.

For 90 days they kept it up until they couldn't hide Moses anymore. And, by then, Jochabed had a plan. The Lord took care of the rest.

How dedicated are you to sticking with God's plan to ensure its success? Are you willing to be uncomfortable for as long as He needs you to be to make sure His plan is fulfilled in your life?

Far too often, we aren't ready to follow the plan the way we're supposed to. God may be asking us to hold His plan close, but we reveal it too soon out of excitement. The Lord may want us to strategize with a selected group, but we want to choose our own planning crew. We may simply need to be quiet in prayer and listen for God's voice, but we want to go full steam ahead and start doing things without His further input.

Or, maybe you're like me. I start off sticking to all the objectives, but then I fall off because of laziness, fear, procrastination... whatever excuse life hands me that I embrace. Too many times I've diverted to the wayside, when all I needed to do was stay consistent.

Don't let your "special" gift from God be prematurely lost to the enemy! Keep your ears to His voice and your eyes on the Lord for each and every step you need to take. Don't lean to your own understanding. He knows the full plan and how everything will unfold. Stay diligent to the process God has shown you no matter how long it takes. Something amazing is in store for you!

Reflection & Direction

What ways are you taking to ensure that you are following every step of God's plan for you?

How are you safeguarding God's plan to ensure its success?

READY

Prompt or quick in action, performance, manifestation

Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water.

When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified.

In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!"

But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."

"Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:24-29

Once Peter knew it was Jesus calling for him to come, Peter went right over the side of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus. All he had was Jesus' presence and permission, and Peter walked immediately into miracle territory.

Some of us have far more than Peter did, and we are *still* sitting in the boat afraid to step out at the Lord's word.

Yet we want to live in the miraculous. We pray to see signs, wonders, and miracles following us wherever we go. We long to experience the power of God for ourselves!

Well, God has been calling to us, almost *screaming* His permission for us to step out in faith toward His voice.

What are we waiting for?

These signs shall follow those that *believe*. (Mark 16:17) Do you really *believe* in the One who is doing the calling?

We like to say that we do, but our actions are proving our speech incorrect.

Many of us are like the rest of the disciples who stayed in the boat. We are looking at all the factors - storm, wind, rain, darkness, waves, deep waters all around - and we are calculating all the ways that it *can't* be done, how it *shouldn't* be done.

Yet Jesus is still calling.

Jesus would not lead us into failure. He wouldn't call us if we couldn't do what He is asking. He knows more about us than we do about ourselves. He knows when we're Ready.

Stop hesitating and get out of your boat! Go ahead and believe in GOD who is calling your name! You can do it! Keep your focus on Him, and start walking out what He is calling you to do.

Reflection & Direction

What is Jesus calling you to do that you are hesitating with?

Do you really believe that God is calling you in this area? If so, what is something that you can do today to 'get out of the boat' in obedience to His call?

What are some ways you can keep your eyes fixed on Jesus to ensure your success?

READY

Inclined; disposed; apt

*When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,
“Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”
“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing.
But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.”*

Luke 5:4, 5

There’s a reason Jesus told Simon Peter that he was the foundation the church would be built upon. The man stayed Ready!

Here we have Peter, who - despite the lack of fish from his work the night before - after hearing the preached word of Jesus, was ready to go back into the water at Jesus’ word. That’s how much faith Jesus awoke in Peter. Peter was ready to obey because of Who was asking.

How often are you rehearsing the Word of the Lord in your ear? How often do you study the scriptures for yourself? How often do you sit still before God and allow Him to speak to you?

Allowing our spirits to be saturated with the word of God will allow us to be more inclined to obedience when He calls on us to act. It keeps us encouraged even when our work seems to be lacking in results.

Too many times we are rehearsing the words of everything but God in our ears and hearts. It’s so easy for the cares of this world to overwhelm our spirits. Social media, the news, our friend circles, and just life in general can quickly take the forefront of our thoughts. It’s easy to get caught up in the cares of this world.

We have to intentionally set apart time to get before God one-on-one. We have to purposefully take the initiative to have quality time with God for ourselves. We have to make it a priority.

When we do this, we are fine tuning our spirits to not just hear God’s heart, but to be Ready for whatever it is God is calling us to do - even if it’s the second, third, or fourth time around.

God’s Word reiterates His holiness, His power, the fact that He is GOD. It shows us He is with us. It fortifies and strengthens us for our purpose in Him. God’s Word underscores His love for us and reminds us that He will not allow us to fail. It keeps us trusting Him.

Reflection & Direction

How often do you spend time studying God’s Word for yourself?

What can you do to prioritize quiet time in the Word in your personal life?

READY

In such a condition as to be imminent; likely at any moment

“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.

Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming,

he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into.

You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.”

Matthew 24:42-44

As a body of believers, we really aren’t talking about the return of Christ much anymore. Instead of us being ready for Christ’s return, many of us are getting ready for our next blessing, breakthrough, answered prayer, and the like.

When did our priorities shift from Him to us?

If you knew for certain, without a doubt, that Jesus was coming back one month from now - how would your behavior change today? What would you do differently? Who would you seek out? Where would you go?

Jesus Himself told us to “be ready all the time” for His return. I, for one, would not want Christ to return and catch me lying down on the job. I wouldn’t want Him to return and I had placed His plans on the bottom of the list of my priorities. I would want Him to find me working in what He’s called me to do.

How about you?

The Word says Jesus is coming when we least expect it. Yet, we have to be ready like we’ve been expecting it. The only way to do this is to live every day like we believe Jesus is about to crack the sky. We have to seize every moment to lift up His name. We have to take every opportunity to live out our created purpose and calling.

We have to watch our behavior. We have to take care with our words. We have to stay connected to His Spirit to be aware of each day’s agenda.

We have to shift our priorities from us to Him.

God knows how to bless us. God wants us to breakthrough whatever challenges we’re facing. He hears our prayers and knows the desires of our hearts.

However, the Bible tells us to seek out the Kingdom of God first, and He will add all the other things to us. (Mark 6:33) We just have to make ourselves Ready for Him, and He’ll heap on the benefits.

Reflection and Direction

How would your life change if you lived expecting Christ's imminent return?

Are you seeking after God's Kingdom or your own benefits?

How can you shift to a Kingdom seeking lifestyle?

READY

Immediately available for use

One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!"

"Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did.

Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!"

Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

"I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed."

Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

1 Samuel 3:2-10

Even in the middle of the night, Samuel was Ready. He immediately moved each time he heard his name called. And when Samuel was made aware that it was *God* who was calling his name, Samuel was obedient to the instructions given for him to follow.

If you continue reading 1 Samuel chapter 3, you'll find that God had some difficult words for Samuel that affected his mentor, Eli. Yet, when Samuel received the Word of the Lord, he relayed the message just as it had been given. Samuel went on to become a great prophet, priest, and judge in Israel. He not only declared the Words of God to the people, but he also anointed Israel's first two kings.

God could trust Samuel. Samuel was ready to listen, ready to speak, and ready to act. His readiness allowed God to entrust Samuel with more.

For some of us - yes, I'm saying *US* because I know I'm in the boat too - for some of us, God has been calling, and calling, and *calling* our names. And we haven't moved. And we *know* it's God who is calling us. We have been slow to answer if we've answered at all.

And some of us have answered the Lord's calling, but we don't like what He had to say. So we've stopped being obedient. We've paused with the next step God has shown us.

Our God is a God of precision, timing, and order. He doesn't just do things to be doing them. There is always a reason. There is always a purpose. There is always a connection with His Kingdom plan.

What could we be holding up because we are not immediately answering when God is calling out to us? Who is missing out on something from heaven because we don't like what God is entrusting to our hands? What additional things is God holding back from us because we haven't done what He's already asked?

We may not like the timing. We may not like the message. We may feel ill-equipped for the task. All of those excuses mean nothing before the God of Heaven. If He is truly our Lord, we have to submit to His will and answer His call.

Who knows what greater things He has in store for us with our willingness to fully answer His voice?

Reflection and Direction

Where have you left God hanging? What message from the Lord have you yet to respond to? God is waiting on you!

READY

Present or convenient

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them.

For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you.

He will neither fail you nor abandon you.

Deuteronomy 31:6

So, this whole book I've been talking to you about you being Ready for God. But, let me remind you that God is Ready for you!

Our God loves us. *He Loves Us!* Despite our times of indecision, procrastination, laziness, and straight up disobedience...He loves us still. Every day He offers us new mercies and grace because of that love. God sent His Son Jesus to die because of that love. He sent the Holy Spirit to remain because of that love. He's including us in His Kingdom plan because of that love.

Whatever the Lord is asking of you, He is Ready to back you up and help you to succeed. He is not calling on you to have you fail. He is not calling on you to leave you all alone when things get hard. God wants to partner with you to get His heavenly plans accomplished here on earth.

God set you up with everything you need. He mapped out a plan for your life before you breathed your first breath. He formulated ways for you to be His Kingdom helper here on earth. He set you apart to do great things in His Name.

Why would He set all of that up just to abandon you?

Jesus said He will never leave us or forsake us. Our God is not like man. He doesn't lie. Whatever He says, He will do. You can trust Him to be Ready for you. You don't have to fear anything or anyone. You are not alone.

How precious is this gift we have! We have God Himself as an ever present help. We have the Maker of All as our Ready advocate.

Let's make ourselves Ready to do all that He has planned for us to do!

Reflection & Direction

Take a moment to think about the fact that God loves you. Remember all the ways He's shown you His love. Take some time to read some verses that talk about the love of God (The book of Psalms is a good start.)

Now, think about yourself. Think about how you've shown your love for the Lord. What needs to change or improve in how you show your love for God?

What can you do today to make yourself Ready to follow God's plan? Take a step of faith today and do something to be obedient to the plans God has shown you that He has for your life.