

Getting Ready for the Future

"Strength and dignity are her clothing and her position is strong and secure. She rejoices over the future—the latter day, or time to come [knowing that she and her family are in readiness for it]." Proverbs 31:25 Amplified



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This lady had no fear or worry about the future for herself or her family. She rejoiced over it. Why? The reason is clear in scripture: 1) her strong relationship with God, and 2) she had spent time getting herself and her family ready for it. Do you see the order in scripture? It says, "...*she and her family are in readiness for [the future]*." She started with herself.

I meet so many men who want a submissive, godly wife and obedient, disciplined children, while their own lives are full of rebellion, undiscipline, and addiction. I meet so many women who want a loving, godly husband and obedient, respectful children, while their own lives are undisciplined, full of addictions, and they themselves are very disrespectful and unsubmitive to their husbands. Beloved, it starts at the top. It starts with each of us. It's easy to blameshift and make excuses. However, God's Word holds each of us responsible to obey Him, no matter what other people are doing.

This lady got herself ready first. In 2 Thessalonians 3:7 (NAS), Paul said, *"For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you."* Our natural and spiritual children, new believers and nonbelievers are watching us. Do we honestly want them to follow our example? 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NAS) reads, *"Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ."* Again our children, new believers and nonbelievers are watching and listening to us. Are they following our godly

or ungodly example? Are they imitating out Christ character or our undisciplined and selfish lives?

Tests, trials, sickness, pain and sorrow come into every life. How do we handle stress? Do we run to Jesus and the Bible? Do we cry out to the Holy Spirit, or do we: overeat; go on shopping sprees; watch TV; play sports; sleep too much; immerse in your computer; etc., etc.? What example are we setting for others to follow?

In Genesis Chapter 6 God forewarned Noah of the coming flood. Then God gave Noah clear, minute instructions on how to build the ark. Because Noah listened to God and obediently did exactly all that God had instructed him to do, he and his entire family were saved. Noah didn't wait until the flood came to start trying to build the ark in the midst of fear and emotional turmoil. Just like this lady in Proverbs 31, he could rejoice in the future because he had prepared his life and his family ahead of time.

Daily time reading and obeying the Bible, time in prayer and talking to and listening to God will prepare all of us for the future so that we and our families will survive life's floods and rejoice in God.

— Janice McBride

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