



PREPARE FOR DAYBREAK...A NEW DAY

Dr Stephen Smith, 1 March 2015

NOW ON the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

John 20:1 (Amplified)

It is those who run through the darkness first who find the dawn first.

What does the Bible tell us?

Besides this you know what [a critical] hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality). For salvation (final deliverance) is nearer to us now than when we first believed (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on Christ, the Messiah).

The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then drop (fling away) the works and deeds of darkness and put on the [full] armour of light.

Romans 13:11-12 (Amplified)

¹¹ *But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God.*

¹² *The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed.*

¹³ *We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight.*

¹⁴ *Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!*

Romans 13:11-14 (Message)

We should sleep in order to look forward to the day. We should use our sleep to recharge our batteries – to renew our bodies, refresh our minds, and revitalize our souls – so we can charge into the new day ready to make our dreams come true.

We should look for opportunities to make ourselves better people, and the world a better place. We should go out energized and ready to do His will, to build a Kingdom Culture here, and to create heaven on Earth.

When You Run Through the Darkness, You Find the Dawn

For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].

Hebrews 11:6 (Amplified)

The opportunity lies in that great shift between the darkest moments and dawn. It's when you really, truly wake up and say, *this is my day. And I will make it.*

If I run through the darkness, and I don't give up and I don't ask God to change my circumstances but, instead, I ask Him to make me a better me so that I can go out and make my world a better place, I will find the dawn. I will not just be rewarded; I will be lavished with gifts.

The reward occurs even in the running itself!

You apply the Kingdom principles and adhere to them and you assimilate them and they become part of your DNA. And the reward will be **exceedingly, abundantly, above all we ever asked for. It will be exceedingly, abundantly, above all we could ever imagine (Eph. 3:20).**

While we were children, our parents did what seemed best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God's holy best.

At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off handsomely, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.

So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet!

Clear the path for long-distance runners so no one will trip and fall, so no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle. Help each other out. And run for it!

Hebrews 12:10-13 (Message)

It Is A Process

We live in a process universe and process world, and we live in a process spiritual reality.

It's a growth, a maturation of who and what we are. There also is a spiritual growth in what we experience in our lives, and it is in that process where darkness precedes dawn. It is ordained. There is a purpose. And it is a sign. The old saying is true: "it is darkest before the dawn."

The sense in my heart is that through Scripture and through our journey that what the Lord is telling us is to prepare for daybreak, particularly in those dark moments in our lives.

Life's Greatest Opportunities Arise In Our Darkest Hour

Mary Magdalene, Peter and John run in the darkest hour and discovered the miracle of the resurrection. They received something they never expected, something greater than they could have imagined, by running through the darkness of times.

Success Of Heart

Those measurable, material outcomes can play into it. But more important, finding success in your family, in your home, in your relationships, in your marriage, in your own person. Through your children. Through your children's children. That level of: "I've reached it!" Or, if you haven't reached it, knowing full well, "I'm on my way."

Because we've been set in motion, we are guaranteed a daybreak – a New Day!