



URGENCY – 1 Peter 4:7-11

1 Peter 4:7-11 → ⁷The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. ⁸Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. ¹⁰God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. ¹¹Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

THE BOMBSHELL (v7a)

- * This WORLD is FINITE and Jesus could COME BACK ANY MINUTE.
 - * If the 'end of the world' really is coming soon, surely that CHANGES EVERYTHING..
 - * Our state of READINESS, PURPOSEFULNESS, FAITHFULNESS, FRUITFULNESS matters.
- *When do you think Jesus is coming back? Is it 'soon?' Why do you think He hasn't come back already?*
- *Do you love aware of the fact that He could return any minute? How does it affect your life / lifestyle / priorities? How should it? What traps might we fall into?*

'THEREFORE' ... 7 Practical Directives

1. Live in a POSTURE of URGENCY

- * Don't confuse URGENCY with ACTIVITY.
 - * BUSY-NESS might impress PEOPLE, but it doesn't impress GOD. (Remember Jesus with Mary & Martha)
 - * The question becomes, What MATTERS? What PLEASES your Father? What SEED? What PRIORITIES?
 - * Bible teaches that there are real _____ we should take seriously _____ that He's coming back soon.
- *In the light of 'urgency,' how do we juggle the important (but not urgent) with the urgent (but not so important)?*
- *What really counts to you, and why?*

2. Live PRAYERFULLY

- * Be EARNEST and DISCIPLINED in your prayers.
 - * Prayer is RELATIONSHIP not RELIGION ... It's DEVOTION, not DUTY, GRACE, not WORKS, should be OVERFLOWING, not OVERWHELMING.
 - * Live prayerfully as though He were WALKING RIGHT BESIDE YOU, always.
- *If you knew Jesus was coming back next week, would your prayer-life change? What else might change sharpish?*
- *What do 'earnest' and 'disciplined' mean in relation to your prayers? How do we keep those relational rather than programmatic?*
- *Is it true that all seven on our list should be relational rather than 'religion?' What does that mean? From what do they all flow?*

3. Live LOVINGLY

- * Our love should be DEEP and should be FORGIVING, GENEROUS, HOSPITABLE, PRACTICAL & CHEERFUL.
- *DEEP love is the hallmark of one IMPRINTED by JESUS. Discuss!*
- *Why is deep love so important and how do we get there? What does 'deep' love look like according to 1 Peter 4:7-11?*

4. Live GENEROUSLY

- * WARM, TENDER, OPEN-HEARTED ... just like Jesus.
 - * For God loves a person who gives CHEERFULLY.
 - * You can't TAKE IT WITH YOU when you GO, so why HOARD like crazy when He could come back TOMORROW?
- *Generous with what? How? When? Why?*

5. Live EXCELLENTLY

- * Because He's coming back SOON, what God has PLACED in your hands MATTERS.
 - * So, use it SKILFULLY, WISELY, GENEROUSLY.
- *What is an 'excellent spirit?' What do we learn from the Parable of the Talents?*
- *What has God placed in your hands? Remember there are no exceptions? How do (or could) your gifts benefit the body?*

6. Live in HIS STRENGTH and ENERGY

- * YOUR strength or HIS?
 - * The WORLD tries to make you SELF-reliant; The HOLY SPIRIT is trying to make you GOD-reliant.
- *When you're squeezed, do you lean into God's strength or fall back on your own? If He's coming back soon, and there's no time to waste, why are His strength and energy so significant?*

7. Live for HIS GLORY

- * Whose GLORY are you living for? Who are you trying to move to the CENTRE of ATTENTION? Whose PRAISE are you after?
 - * Live such that everything POINTS at Him, REFLECTS on Him and EXALTS Him.
- *Why is it tempting to do things for one's own glory? What does that look like? Why is it bad for you?*

→ *How neat a summary is this of the Christian life? What would it look like to the world if we lived like that? Anything particularly grab you? Anything you'd add to the 7?*

IN A NUTSHELL: Live as if Jesus died YESTERDAY, rose TODAY and is coming back TOMORROW.

RESPONSE QUESTIONS

1. What does Lord require of me? If He's coming soon
2. Have I got balance / priorities right?
3. Am I investing in right places?