

"TAKE A BREATH ... READY FOR ONE THING!"
AUGUST 11, 2019 - THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
GENESIS 15:1-6; HEBREWS 11:1-3; 8-16; LUKE 12:32-40
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

`Are you ready for anything?` This question comes our way all the time. With regard to family, home, finances, career, health, future - there are so many demands, questions, so many possible outcomes, it is easy for us to want to get ready for anything. What if we knew the outcome, what if we knew what to expect; would we get ready for the one thing we knew was going to happen? The Word of God today increases our faith and guides us into active mission, proclaiming once again the one thing that will happen: Christ will come, faith will be given, the call will go out. Take a deep breath in grace today, for God makes us ready for one thing: to believe! Jesus will make us ready. He will focus our hearts, let our lights shine, keep us ready for the unexpected hour. Trust Jesus is The One who gives the gift of faith, making you ready for one thing!

1. Take a breath, a deep breath in grace; get your heart ready for one thing!
 - A. Luke 12:34 - "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." What draws our hearts away from God? What draws the hearts of disciples, churches, God's people away from God?
 - B. Abraham and others got their hearts ready for one thing!
 - i. The heart of Abraham. Hebrews 11:11 "By faith he received the power of procreation, even though he was too old - and Sarah herself was barren - because he considered him faithful who had promised."
 - ii. Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." This is the people of Lord of Life!
 - C. Thanks be to God as you trust God gets your heart ready, drawing you and your heart back to your One Real Treasure!
2. Take a breath, a deep breath in grace; get ready for God to light your lamp, and for your light to shine for one thing!
 - A. Luke 12:35 - "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit."
 - B. A few powerful words for Jesus' disciples, for God's churches, for The Lord's good people:

- i. Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
 - ii. John 15:5 - "I am the vine and you are the branches."
"Branches of hope growing together"
 - iii. Philippians 1:6 - "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."
 - C. Trust Jesus gets you ready for one thing: Ready for what God is getting ready you for, and what God is getting ready for you!
- 3. Take a breath, a deep breath in grace; get ready for one thing, stay alert and on the lookout!
 - A. Luke 12:40 - "You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."
 - B. We are being called. Others are wondering,What are we getting ready for, what is so important, what matters most, what are we ready to share, to give witness to, to make known?
 - C. The simple invitation is one thing to be ready to share.
- 4. Luke 12:32 - "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Take a deep breath in grace; trust Jesus makes you, your hearts, your lights, your spirit, ready for one thing: To believe and to make God first, to treasure and expect and speak God first, to serve and thank, trust and praise God first!