I Am A Watchwoman

I am a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend.

I believe that what The Word says is true: about the past and the future. As a Watcher, I prepare for that future as a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend.

The Bible states that no one will know when Jesus is coming again. Mark 13:32 reads, "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in <u>heaven</u>, nor the Son, but only the Father." Yet we can be vigilant and make the decision to be prepared – whether Jesus comes in our lifetime, our children's lifetime, or their children's lifetime.

So, what can we do to prepare ourselves and the ones we love?

Don't be Afraid

Facing the possibility that our time on earth could be winding down can be simultaneously joyful and challenging. What about our homes? Our coworkers and friends? Our spouses who don't know the Lord? Wherever you are in life, it's hard to think about leaving it all behind. Even with all the glories that <u>Heaven</u> promises – it is still the unknown, and thinking about leaving the places and people we love is daunting.

Yes, facing these thoughts can be overwhelming. But Jesus said, "Don't be afraid" more than any other statement in His lifetime. In fact, variations of 'fear not' appear more than 365 times in the Bible. The Word emphasizes that fear should not hold us back from living and loving as Jesus did. If Jesus worked so hard to get this message across, I want to listen.

"I am leaving you with a gift – peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

We can find hope and joy in knowing that the Lord walks beside us and will never leave us, no matter what comes. So let us choose to not live in fear, but to seize the opportunities that come every single day.

Examine your Life

When you're on an airplane, the flight attendant always warns you that in case of an emergency, you should secure your own oxygen mask before helping your neighbor with theirs. It's easy to see the wisdom: how can you help someone else breathe when you have no air? The same model is true within the Word. We must get our own hearts right with the Lord before we can effectively reach out to other people. This does not mean we must be perfect before we have permission to act. No! This simply means that we should be actively pursuing God before we can ask the same of others.

Speak in Love

There was a time when I didn't often think about my family and friends facing judgment without the peace of <u>heaven</u> on the other side. Those thoughts were painful. It was easier to not think about it at all.

Yet we must. We must keep our eyes fixed on <u>heaven</u> and the future, and speak what we know to the ones around us.

The prophet Ezekiel had a warning from the Lord, "When I say to the wicked, 'You wicked person, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved." (Ezekiel 33:8-9)

Ultimately, another's decision to believe in and accept Jesus or not will be a personal choice they make. This is outside our control. Yet our willingness to speak the truth in love is in our control – and it is our responsibility as believers, as watchmen and watchwomen. We were given a blueprint for the days that are coming, and whether it comes to fruition within our lifetimes or not, we will be held accountable for sharing the knowledge we have been entrusted with.

Be Watchful

If we saw a car hurtling toward an unsuspecting person, we wouldn't hesitate to shout out a warning to save their life. Let us use our voices for life! Use your eyes to watch and your voice to bring hope to those around you. We don't know what tomorrow may bring, so we must live for today and with renewed purpose, hope and courage. Watch for opportunities to connect with those around you and be brave when the time comes to share your faith.

I am a Watchwoman

I am a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend.

I will not simply wait for the Lord to return; I will be active in my faith and live well in the days that I am given. We know what comes next. Let us choose not to be afraid, to live in hope and take advantage of the days we are given.