

By Robert Waters

Reality shows that feature efforts to win huge prizes for surviving in remote places with limited equipment, are all the rage. While the episodes may be fun to watch, reality is lacking. First, the players are picked for their ability to interact with others and to talk for the camera, not for their ability as a survivalist. Second, the situation is not real because the players or actors can call it quits at any time and go back to their way of life. This is not the case in a real life-threatening situation. Therefore, who the ultimate survivalist is (or will be) obviously will not be determined by some reality show. What has one really accomplished if he is judged to be victorious over others in a competition for a sum of money? What has one truly achieved if he survives on this earth a few years longer than others because of his skills as a survivalist? When you think about it and compare earthly life to eternal life, anyone who is not looking to survive ETERNALLY isn't even in the running for the ultimate survivalist.

Since this material caught your eye, and you have read with some degree of interest to this point, it stands to reason that you are interested in the survivalist concept. Maybe you even take me seriously when I say YOU can be the ultimate survivalist. I'm serious. People sometimes say you can be anything you want to be, but that is not true. There is no chance for some people to ever become president of the United States or an astronaut. But when I say YOU can be the ultimate survivalist I'm telling you the truth and it will not cost you a cent.

Everyone wants to be a survivor when some incident or disaster occurs that threatens life. Unfortunately, not everyone is properly prepared for challenges that confront them, and some die as a

result. For example, a man who is fishing falls off a rock into deep water and drowns because he never learned how to swim. Another man goes hunting alone in the wilderness (and tells no one where he is going), but does not take a compass, matches, map, or sufficient clothing and therefore gets lost and dies from hypothermia during the cold night. Thoughtful survivalists do not make these kinds of mistakes. Instead, they take thought and prepare for whatever might happen.

If you are in a situation that endangers your life, stay positive and have confidence that you will get through it. Keep your wits, endeavor to remain calm, pause to think, observe, pray and plan. Don't EVER give up. The key to being a survivor (whatever the incident or disaster) is **preparation**. This word means:

- 1) *the action or process of making something ready for use or service or of getting ready for some occasion, test, or duty;*
- 2) *a state of being [prepared](#). (Miriam Webster)*

Prepare for the worst while you hope for the best. The meaning of "hope" is "desire plus expectation." Always expect the best outcome after you have done all that is within your power. If we have God on our side, we can have confidence and self-assurance no matter the obstacle before us. *"If God be for us, who can be against us"* (Rom. 8:31)?

Survivalism is a movement of individuals or groups (called **survivalists** or **preppers**) who are actively preparing for emergencies, including possible disruptions in social or political order, on scales from local to international. Survivalists often acquire emergency medical and self-defense training, stockpile food and water, prepare to become self-sufficient and build structures (e.g., a survival retreat) that may help them survive a catastrophe. (Wikipedia)

Survivalism is almost a religion to some. This may be the reason others sometimes think of them as fanatical and mock or ridicule them. If you think the government approves of “fanatical survivalists,” look into what happened to Randy Weaver and his family and friend at [Ruby Ridge](#). Also research the [Branch Davidian compound](#) that was burned to the ground in 1993, along with most of its occupants. Regardless of what others think, being fully prepared may actually prove to be worthwhile and wise, even if nothing ever happens to justify the effort. The strength of a fully prepared person may serve as a deterrent and make for confidence and peace. The wisest man that ever lived (having received his wisdom from God) said:

A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. (Proverbs 27:12)

We are all going to die, whether tomorrow or decades from now, and the cause for virtually all of us is, at this point, unknown. Therefore, the ultimate survivalist looks to be prepared for more than events and circumstances involving life on earth—he prepares for what lies beyond. He prepares the SOUL that he might live on eternally in a safer and much better place. Jesus said:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. (1 Pet. 1:3)

If you could have only one survival tool, what would it be? This is a question that often comes up, and the answer varies. Some say a 22 rim-fire compact rifle. Others say a stout knife with a sharp point. But before answering, should we not want to know

exactly what it is that we are seeking to survive? Are we concerned about surviving earthly experiences or the judgment, and subsequent punishment, of God? If the latter is the case and your goal is to be the “ultimate survivalist,” the Bible is the answer.

While you might be able to use your resources and skills to avoid death from men who want to kill you, only God can destroy the soul. [*“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”* (Matt. 10:28).] This means you must look to him for protection in this realm.

The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate. (Psalm 34:22)

Look for redemption with confidence like the Psalmist who wrote:

But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. (Psalm 49:15)

Indeed, but if you want God to receive you, you MUST prepare. The Scriptures abound with passages exhorting hearers of the word of God to PREPARE.

God told Noah to build an ark to get ready for a great flood intended to destroy the wicked world. One hundred and twenty years later, Noah was prepared and his efforts paid off (Gen. 6; 1 Pet. 3). Not only did he build the ark but he also provided the provisions for his family and all the animals as instructed. What great faith Noah exhibited and what a survivalist he was! He survived the greatest catastrophic event of all time.

When Joseph was in captivity in Egypt, God used the concept of preparation to make him a powerful man. Joseph therefore made a way for his people to escape (Gen. 41:1-32).

When speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman army coming in judgment on that city, Jesus said:

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (Luke 21:36)

History tells us the Roman army (that God used in judgment against Israel), which had compassed the city, withdrew for a short period of time; and those who listened to God, and were prepared, escaped into the mountains (Mark 13:14).

Flavius Josephus (A.D. 75) (Opportunity Arises to Flee) "It then happened that Cestius was not conscious either how the besieged despaired of success, nor how courageous the people were for him; and so he recalled his soldiers from the place, and by despairing of any expectation of taking it, without having received any disgrace, he retired from the city, without any reason in the world." (Wars, [II, XIX, 6.7](#))

Eusebius (325)

"But the people of the church in Jerusalem had been commanded by a revelation, vouchsafed to approved men there before the war, to leave the city and to dwell in a certain town of Perea called Pella." (History of the Church 3:5:3)

"The whole body, however, of the church at Jerusalem, having been commanded by a divine revelation, given to men of approved piety there before the war, removed from the city, and dwelt at a certain town beyond the Jordan, called Pella. Here those that believed in Christ, having removed from Jerusalem, as if holy men had entirely abandoned the royal city itself, and the whole land of Judea; the divine justice, for their crimes against Christ and his apostles finally overtook

them, totally destroying the whole generation of these evildoers from the earth.” (Eusebius, 3:5)

Those familiar with the Bible and who wish to survive the judgment (John 12:48; Heb. 9:27) recognize their duty to make a personal effort to secure salvation, or to work out their salvation. The apostle Paul wrote, **“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”** (Phi. 2:12b). While there are many who would remove this signpost or “trail marker” that is designed to help direct us on our path, we must acknowledge that what the Bible (God’s means of speaking to us) says is true. To the Christians at Rome Paul wrote, **“Let God be true, but every man a liar.”** (Rom. 3:4). This requires that we be like the church in Berea spoken of as **“noble...because they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so”**; i.e., the things the apostles taught (Acts 17:11). Religious teachers that limit preparation for eternity to “trust in Jesus as your personal Savior” abound; therefore it is important to heed the apostle John’s warning:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

The “spirits” that have helped me to prepare my soul for the final journey into eternity have proved themselves by teaching the need to use good hermeneutics in studying the Bible. I’m talking about friends in the church who have a healthy understanding of the Scriptures. Paul, addressing a young man named Timothy, wrote:

Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15 ASV)

The apostle James wrote about the need for **action**. He said:

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? (James 2:14)

He then said:

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:19, 20)

When talking about the justification of Abraham due to his own efforts or works as a result of his faith in blindly following God's command to take his family and go to a new land, James said, "*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only*" (James 2:24). Thus, anyone who wants to survive this earth and live eternally with God must "prepare for the worst and hope for the best."

Jesus, the Son of God, is the Great Survivalist Teacher. He informs us how we can live FOREVER.

I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. (John 6:47-50)

Who is this Jesus that offers eternal life and why should we believe him? It was foretold hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus (Isaiah 40:3) that John the Baptist would introduce Him to the Jewish people in the land still known today as Israel.

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. (Matt. 3:1-7)

This Jesus whom John introduced as someone greater than he [according to Jesus (Matt. 11:11) John was the greatest of his time] spoke his first words about survival to Satan who tempted him:

It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matt 4:4)

In the New Testament we can read the accounts of the many miracles Jesus performed that **confirm** Him to be the Son of God, as He and his apostles claimed. The apostle John wrote:

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. (John 20:30-31)

Some put their own self-interest above all else. One might have an opportunity to save himself by betraying his friends or country, but he would have to live with it. Another might see an opportunity to get a lot of money through government welfare and exploit a system that takes money from those who work and gives it to those who do not. While such programs may have been well-intentioned at the beginning, and have helped many who through no fault of their own became unable to work, it is wrong to promote a program that supports those who **refuse** to work. The apostle Paul wrote:

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. (2 Thes. 3:10)

Considering what God thinks about the “slothful” man, those who survive by taking advantage of a faulty system hurt their efforts if they are in the running for the “ultimate survivalist” title. To put your own personal survival on this earth above all else is a notion that is contrary to what the Great Survivalist Teacher, Jesus, teaches. We currently have freedoms that many in the world do not have. This is because brave men willingly sacrificed their own lives. Why would a man exercise such gallantry? Unselfishness and love for the lives and souls of others, as well as love for his country, is the reason. Jesus echoed the Old Testament teachings *“thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”* (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 19:19) when he said, *“Love your neighbor as thyself.”* This is something not taught in the Koran, nor is it practiced by its adherents known as Muslims. Husbands are exhorted to:

“...Love your wives, and be not bitter against them.” (Col. 3:19), *“...Even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.”* (Eph. 5:25)

It may be that you have faith that God exists, and that Jesus is the only Savior. You may know that you need what he offers but don't really know what God asks you to do before he gives pardon for sins and adds you to the saved (Acts 2:47). Saul (later called Paul), who was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians, was struck blind by Christ personally to make him aware of his error. He was told to go on into the city and there it would be told him what he MUST do (Acts 9:6). Paul later recounted the incident and stated what he had been told to do (Acts 22:16). There are actually a number of actions we must take to be saved, and they are in logical order:

1. The Scriptures teach that you must realize that you have sinned and that because of it your soul needs God, who is by nature eternal, that you may have the life (also eternal) that he offers.

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.
(Ezek. 18:4)

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.
Believest thou this? (John 11:26)

2. One must believe in the Lord Jesus as the divine Savior. He told the Jews:

Ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. (John 8:24; Acts 8:37)

3. Repentance, which means to turn to God and follow Him, is essential. Jesus told the rebellious Jews:

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38)

4. Confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, is part of the conversion process.

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (Acts 8:36, 37)

5. One must be baptized “for the remission of sins” to get “into Christ.” Baptism to have sins forgiven was commanded of the Jews who heard the first gospel sermon after the cross. They became sorrowful for their sins and then asked, “men and brethren, what shall we do?” The preaching they had heard was from Peter, who also answered their question:

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:36-38)

Those in the church at Galatia were told how they had “put on Christ”—it was when they were baptized.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal. 3:27)

The Scriptures make clear the exact point at which one becomes a Christian. Paul wrote:

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. (Rom. 6:3-4)

In verses 17-18 of this same chapter, Paul talks about this very doctrine (baptism) and says those who “obeyed from the heart” were “then made free from sin.”

Paul further clarified this process when he wrote:

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses. (Col. 2:12-13)

There is an Old Testament story, found in 2 Kings 5:1-5, that fully illustrates the need to do exactly what God says to do to be saved, even if one thinks it makes no sense or that God should have done it differently.

6. Remain faithful to the Lord, knowing that if we do not continue what we started we will be cut off.

Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off. (Rom. 11:22)

After becoming a Christian, our “walk” (manner of life) must be in “light” as opposed to in “darkness.” John wrote:

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:6-7)

Paul illustrated what is meant by the word “walk”:

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. (Rom. 8:1-6)

People who contemplate becoming a Christian want to know what is expected of them that they might REMAIN in God’s graces after baptism. Peter addressed this matter:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience

godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
(2 Pet. 1:4-11)

Peter explained that a newborn Christian (John 3:5) is not expected to immediately attain the qualities noted above. *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”* (1 Pet. 2:2).

The important thing is that we not give up. Jesus said, *“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”* (Matt. 24:13). The Hebrews writer warned:

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. (Heb. 10:38)

As we “endure” temptations, with which God helps us (1 Cor. 10:13), we must keep ourselves **ready**. Jesus said:

(Matt. 24:44)

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. (Matt. 24:42)

Conclusion:

Do you now see that I was telling the truth when I said YOU can be the Ultimate Survivalist? By obeying the gospel to obtain

eternal life and become **victorious** over this world, you will be the Ultimate Survivalist. John wrote:

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4)

The Spirit (God) and the bride (the church) invite “whosoever will” (you) to come to God.

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. (Rev. 22:17)

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. (1 Pet. 3:18)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Eph. 6:10-11)

The bodies we now have are weak and can die. But they will be changed into bodies that are eternal. Then the Scriptures will come true, “Death has lost the battle! Where is its victory? Where is its sting?” Sin is what gives death its sting, and the Law is the power behind sin. But thank God for letting our Lord Jesus Christ give us the victory! (1 Cor. 15:54, 55, 57 CEV)

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matt. 16:26)

The idea of being a survivalist is not something to be mocked or ridiculed. The concept of preparing for the future is practical. It is even reasonable to make preparations in order to survive a bit longer on this earth and to be able to stand against evil people or the elements. But do we not all know for certain that one day death will overtake us? Therefore, if you are preparing to survive

a disaster or some kind of attack that may or may not happen, shouldn't you have a plan to deal with death, since you KNOW that death is certain? The steps to salvation that we have seen from the Scriptures are also often referred to as "the plan of salvation." God's plan was designed for men to use to deal with death.

"The Lord is...waiting in mercy for you, not desiring the destruction of any, but that all may be turned from their evil ways." (2 Pet. 3:9 BBE)

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31-32).

Never ever give up, whether you are seeking to survive some misfortune here on earth or to keep the faith of God to the end. Jesus said, *"...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."* (Rev. 2:10b).

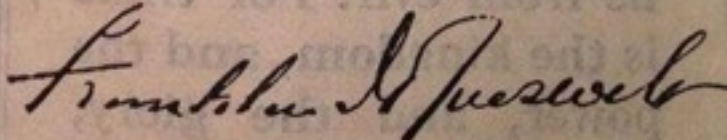
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1941

To the Armed Forces:

As Commander-in-Chief I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul.

Very sincerely yours,



Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Contact information for this booklet, along with many other resources, may be found at:
www.TotalHealth.bz RobertWaters@Yahoo.com

Armour of God

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (Ephesians 6:13 KJV).



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Guide

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