

## But Why?

### Preparation for Easter

April 2nd, 2023

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

*(2 Chronicles 7:14, New International Version)*

*Then Joshua told the people, Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do great wonders among you.” (Joshua 3:5, New Living Translation)*

*If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.*

*(2 Timothy 2:21, NLT)*

## What will stop God from using us this Easter?

### 1. Don't let discouragement defeat you!

*Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.*

*(Galatians 6:9, NLT)*

- **Guard against discouragement by taking time to rest and recharge.**

### 2. Don't let bitterness poison you!

*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.*

*(Ephesians 4:2-3, NLT)*

- **Ask yourself two questions:**

1.) Can I just let this go?

2.) Am I willing to forgive them?

*Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.*

*(Hebrews 12:15, NLT)*

- **Guard against bitterness by choosing to forgive.**

*If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.*

*(1 Corinthians 10:12, NLT)*

- **Be careful when you're too...**

**H - ungary**

**A - ngry**

**L - onely**

**T - ired**

- **Guard against destructive habits by staying**

**connected to accountability.**

*Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.*

*(2 Timothy 2:22, NLT)*

*When all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings who lived along the Mediterranean coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan River so the people of Israel could cross, they lost heart and were paralyzed with fear because of them.*

*(Joshua 5:1, NLT)*

*If you eat the bread or drink the cup without honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself. That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died. But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way.*

*(1 Corinthians 11:29-31, NLT)*

*On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it.*

*1 Corinthians 11:23-25, NLT)*

**Final thought:**

**Is anything in my life preventing God from doing great wonders among us?**

