

Being Alert

When we become Christians, we are born into light so we must live in the light - 1 Thess 5:5-11 - 5 You are **all sons of the light** and **sons of the day**. **WE DO NOT BELONG TO THE NIGHT OR TO THE DARKNESS**. 6 So then, **let us NOT BE** like others, who are asleep, but let us **BE alert and self-controlled**. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, **let us be self-controlled**, putting on *faith and love as a breastplate*, and the *hope of salvation as a helmet*. 9 For **God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ**. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore **encourage one another and build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing.

A major part of God's protection for us is us being alert –

Phil 3:2-3- 2 **Watch out** for those **dogs**, those **men who do evil**, those **mutilators of the flesh**. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, **we who worship by the Spirit of God**, who glory in Christ Jesus, and **who put no confidence in the flesh—**

Acts 20:29-31 - 29 I know that after I leave, **savage wolves will come in among you** and **will not spare the flock**. 30 Even **from your own number men will arise** and **distort the truth** in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 **So be on your guard!** Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

Alertness is a major part of our defense against the enemy - 1 Peter 5:8-9 - 8 **BE self-controlled and alert**. Your **enemy the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion looking for **someone to devour**. 9 **Resist him, standing FIRM in the faith**, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

We need to watch how we are with one another or we will be a danger to one another - Gal 5:14-15 - 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 **If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.**

If we are not alert the biggest enemy to us is us - Mark 14:38 **Watch and pray** so that you will not fall into temptation. **The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."**

Checking ourselves to make sure we are not the problem - Luke 11:34-36-34 **Your eye is the lamp of your body**. When your **eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light**. But **when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness**. 35 **SEE TO IT**, then, that the light within you **IS NOT DARKNESS**. 36 Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and **no part of it dark**, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you."

Effective alertness in light is making sure how you live and the Word you live by is SOUND- 1 Tim 4:16 **Watch your life and doctrine** closely. **Persevere in them**, because **IF YOU DO, you will save** both yourself and your hearers.

HOW CHRISTIAN ALERTNESS IS APPLIED

- **We must be SPIRITUALLY ALERT** - Eph 6:12 For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood**, but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers of this dark world** and against the **spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**.
- **We must also be alert of False teachers and groups** - Rom 16:17-18 - 17 **I urge you**, brothers, to **watch out** for those who **cause divisions** and **put obstacles in your way THAT ARE CONTRARY to the teaching you have learned**. Keep away from them. 18 For **such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites**. By smooth talk and flattery they **deceive the minds of naive people**.
- **Alert of Greed** - Luke 12:15 Then he said to them, "**Watch out! Be on your guard** against **ALL KINDS OF GREED**; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."
- **Alert that we stay on the right path NO MATTER WHAT** - Gal 6:9 Let us **not become weary in doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest **if we do not give up**.
- **Alert that we don't allow "self" to get in the way** - James 1:13-15 - 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but **each one is tempted when, by HIS OWN EVIL DESIRE**, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.
- **Alert of HOW we live** - Eph 5:15-18 - 15 **Be very careful**, then, HOW YOU LIVE — **not as unwise but as wise**, 16 making the **most of every opportunity, because the days are evil**. 17 Therefore **do not be foolish**, but **understand what the Lord's will is**.
- **Most importantly, Alert to see what our life purpose truly is** - Gal 6:7-8 - 7 **Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked**. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who **SOWS TO PLEASE HIS SINFUL NATURE**, from that nature **will reap destruction**; the one who **SOWS TO PLEASE THE SPIRIT**, from the Spirit **will reap eternal life**.