

## **Stay Awake**

**Awake:**     *To emerge or rouse from sleep  
To become or cause to become alert*

**Sleep:**     *A periodic state of physiological rest during which  
consciousness is suspended and metabolic rate is decreased.*

*Being in a dormant or inactive state.*

***“And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him.”*** [St. Matthew 25:6]

Right now we are approaching the midnight hour. It is a time where people are tired and exhausted after a day's activity. The natural tendency is to go to sleep, but if we go to sleep now we may sleep the sleep of death and never awake.

People have various ways of staying awake. One is to stay active and keep busy.

***Relate story of brother who would pray lying down comfortably and then be surprised when he fall asleep***

We need to be busy doing the Master's work or we will fall asleep. Some people drink coffee or other refreshments to stay awake. We need to be praying and reading our bibles to keep awake otherwise we will fall asleep.

Have you ever fallen asleep and been bitten by some insect like a mosquito. Sometimes we only recognise that we have been bitten when we see and feel the effect sometime later.

There are some parasites that bite their victims and deposit their eggs within them. These eggs germinate and then begin to eat the victim from within.

The bible encourages us in a number of places to stay awake.

***“Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead,”*** [Ephesians 5:14]

***“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep, sleep in the night, and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.”*** [1 Thessalonians 5:6,7]

There is danger in sleeping because you don't know what is happening.

I recently wrote the message ***“The Enemy Within”*** and can't seem to get away from this theme. Some of our people have been bitten and impregnated with the seed of the enemy lying dormant within them. They know when they fell and they know where they fell. After a while they forget the bite and feel that they are ok but the seed has been planted, just awaiting the right time and conditions.

When I was younger I remember watching films about Dracula. Once he bit a victim they were no longer the same again, even though they looked the same.

One of the most dangerous enemies to a Christian is a fallen brother or sister. Because you do not think they will harm you, you are not on your guard. What we need to understand is that they have a new master. Be especially careful of backslidden family members.

When people fail God they often cover up what has happened to them and go on as normal because of embarrassment.

As a child growing up in Jamaica I managed to get a Star Apple seed stuck in my nose. Because I did not tell anyone about it straight away, after some time I became embarrassed and afraid to talk about it. Luckily my Aunt found out and managed to get it out. Had she not spotted that something was wrong that seed could have been detrimental to my physical health.

They say that people who are terminally ill and dying sometimes revive before they actually die. The inexperienced person will become overly optimistic thinking that the person has made a change for the better and may survive after all, but the experienced person will know differently. They can almost see death written on the person.

Once bitten you soon won't believe the behaviour of your nice brethren. Their nature changed after falling asleep.

***“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blades was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in the field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather u the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.”*** [St. Matthew 13:24 – 30]

They say birds of a feather flock together, and since they are all in the same condition there is none to reprimand or encourage the other. Those

impregnated will gang together and attack those who reprimand or oppose them. They make it look like you are the one who is at fault and they are ok. ***They don't have any problem; it's you that have a problem!*** Sometimes you have to question yourself and your actions to see if you are the one that's wrong but God will vindicate you if you stand up for Him.

When you are standing up for the truth be prepared to be attacked by foes from without and within. Don't be surprised when civil war breaks out in your church or in your family because one party takes a stance for the truth. David wrote in:

***“Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have compassed me; strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.”*** [Psalms 22:11 – 16]

Have you ever seen dogs hunt or attack. They are normally in a pack. They are ok by themselves but when they get together in a group they get strength from one another.

Until we can acknowledge where we fell or are at fault we can't be helped. Sins un-confessed are sins un-forgiven. If we refuse to get right God Himself will fight against us as His enemy.

***“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”*** [Psalms 1: 5,6]

God is going to have a perfect church with or without me.

***“Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that dispiseth the gain of oppression, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.”*** [Isaiah 33:13 – 16]

Just as Jesus drove the hypocrites out of the temple, the Holy Ghost is going to drive the sinners out of the Church.

***“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we***

***turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. [Hebrews 12:25 –29]***

Don't be surprised at who gets shaken out.

God is going to bring every one of us to a moment of decision. Every member will have to experience God for themselves. Young people, you can't go to heaven on your parent's salvation.

***“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision; for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.” [Joel 3:14]***

*Message preached by National Overseer Philip Bennett during the 2009 National Convention in England.*