

Prayer Focus – Be Watchful and Pray!

October, 2021

As we continue to move closer towards the end of the Age of Grace (Church Age), the world is becoming darker, but those who are overcomers are becoming brighter! As overwhelming victors in this world, we are to watch and pray in this crucial time to restrain the evil which is attempting to usurp the church’s authority *(Ephesians 1:22 NKJV)*! Paul warned the church at Thessalonica that in the last of the last days that there would be a great falling away or a global rebellion against the GOOD NEWS and then the antichrist would be revealed. Paul stated as the great restrainer *(2 Thessalonians 2: 6-8 NASB1995)* we need to **hold fast to the truth**, as stated in verse 15; *So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.* EvenJesus, had to remind His disciples to hold fast, to watch and pray right before a critical time in history, His crucifixion! ***Matthew 26:40-46 NKJV*** reads,

*Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What!* ***Could you not watch with me*** *one hour?* ***Watch and pray****, lest you* *enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.” And He came and found them* ***asleep again****, for their eyes were heavy. So, He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then He came to them,* ***“Are you still sleeping and resting?*** *Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand.”*

 In Chapters 2-3 of the Book of Revelation, **Jesus after encouraging**, **exhorting** and **correcting** eachof the seven churches finished with, *“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”* Are we HEARING WHAT THE SPIRIT IS SAYING?! We are the Body of Christ now on this earth! The Spirit is asking the church to **WATCH** and **PRAY** this same selfless petition; “*if this cup cannot pass away from us unless we drink* it, **YOUR WILL BE DONE**!! Are we willing to **give our strict attention, pray,** **mortify our flesh** **daily** and **walk by the Spirit**? Jesus was watching and praying in the Garden of Gethsemane for the **strength to accomplish the will of His Father** so He could **finish** the **WAY to salvation** and **shine as the Light of the world**! The only way to do that was *NOT to enter into temptation.* Lucifer is always trying to hide the light (in us) under a bushel basket by means of temptation when our mission is to be a lamp set on a lampstand (*Mark 4:21-23 NKJV, Isaiah 60:1-3 NKJV).* Jesus states in ***Mark 4:13 NKJV***; *And He said to them,* *“Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?* It’s obvious that we need to understand this parable! Jesus describes five devices Satan uses to tempt us to retreat from the Word: **affliction, persecution, cares of this** **world,** **deceitfulness of riches, and lust of other things.** These five attacks can and will come countless, different ways. The enemy of our soul has used these tools for centuries to prevent us from producing 30, 60, and 100-fold!Paul reminds the church of Corinth that if the Jews when facing temptations had **trusted and obeyed,** God would’ve had a WAY of escape! *(1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV).*What is the way? HIS WORD! ***John 14:6 NKJV;*** *Jesus said to him, “I am the* ***WAY*** *[The Word], the* ***TRUTH*** *[The Word], and the* ***LIFE*** *[The Word]. No one comes to the Father except through ME.* We must find our way of escape in the Word of God. It’s an OPEN BOOK test! Our Father longs for us to know His Word and His Ways and they are found as we pray, trust and obey Him. Besides these five attacks, in Mark 4 there are two self-inflicted wounds that correspond with “***watch and pray****, lest you enter into temptation.”* The first self-inflicted wound is the WAYSIDE seed. This is a person who HEARS the WORD and rejects it instantly instead of RECEIVING the incorruptible seed. The Word provides a WAY of escape in ***James 1:21 NKJV****;**Therefore,* ***lay aside*** *all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and* ***RECEIVE******with meekness*** *the* ***implanted WORD****, which is able to save your SOULS.* The second self-inflicted wound is STONY GROUND. Jesus describes stony ground as one not being rooted in the Word when it is received, so when the attacks come the Word is choked and that one *enters into temptation!* Again, Jesus provides a WAY of escape. How do we develop deep roots in the WORD of GOD? Meditation, prayer and continuous study of God’s Word will cause ***Joshua 1:8 NASB1995***to take place in our lives. *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it****; FOR THEN*** *you will make your* ***WAY PROSPEROUS****, and* ***THEN*** *you will have* ***SUCCESS****.*

Are we willing to give our all to be GOOD GROUND and accomplish what Jesus, the head of the Church is asking of His body? Will we ***watch and pray****?* Will we say YOUR WILL BE DONE?!

Keep Watch and Pray,

*Scott and Jackie*

**SCRIPTURES as references and those TO PRAY**: Ephesians 1:15-23 NKJV; 2 Thessalonians 2:2-17 NASB1995; Matthew 26:40-46 NKJV; Revelation 1,2,3 NKJV; Ephesians 5:8-21 NKJV; Galatians 2:20 AMPC; Galatians 5:16-26 NKJV; Isaiah 60:1-3 NKJV; Mark 4:3-20 NKJV; 1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV; John 14:6 NKJV; James 1:12-24 NKJV/ AMPC; Joshua 1:8 NASB1995; Jeremiah 17:7-8 NKJV; Matthew 13:16-17 NKJV; Ephesians 2:1-10 NKJV; Ephesians 3:14-21 NKJV; Colossians 3:1-17 NKJV

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