

Watch And Pray

INTRODUCTION: ISAIAH 21

1. The Lord commanded Isaiah, “Go, set a watchman” (21:5-6).
2. The watchman remained on guard a saw the fall of Babylon and triumph of God (21:9).
3. In Edom, they asked, “Watchman, what of the night?” (21:11).
4. The watchman replied that the night of Babylon’s reign would soon end, but, for the sinful Edomites, only more darkness would follow (21:12).
5. In both cases, the watchman was faithful to his duty – he watched (21:8).
6. This principle of vigilance is required of all the children of God, including the Christian.
7. The faithful disciple is to connect his watching with prayer.

I. WATCH AND PRAY IN TROUBLE (LUKE 21:34-36)

- A. Jesus warned His disciples about the coming destruction of Jerusalem.
- B. He declares that it would be a time of persecution (vs. 12), betrayal (vs. 16-17), and woe (vs. 23-24).
- C. Knowing that these days were approaching, they were to maintain vigilance and readiness to act (vs. 20-21).
- D. Yet, they were also to be on guard against attachment to this world (vs. 34-35).
- E. As they watched, they also were to pray (vs. 36).
 1. This was to take place continuously – at all seasons or times.
 2. They were to pray for strength to escape these troubles.
 3. They were to pray to be counted worthy of escape from these troubles.
 4. They were to pray to be able to stand before the Son of Man when he comes in judgment (cf. Psalm 1:5; Malachi 3:2; 1 John 2:28).
- F. All Christians should watch and pray in times of trouble.

II. WATCH AND PRAY IN TEMPTATION (MATTHEW 26:40-41; MARK 14:38)

- A. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, he instructed His disciples to watch and pray.
- B. In this passage, the meaning of the word “watch” is demonstrated clearly – “to keep awake.”
- C. The need for watchfulness was due to the weakness of the flesh.
 1. The hearts of Jesus’ disciples were in the right place.
 2. They wanted to do good and obey His will.
 3. However, they were also vulnerable to temptation.
- D. Thus, as they guarded themselves from temptation, they also were to pray.
 1. They were to pray to avoid temptation (Luke 22:40; Acts 20:31, 36).
 2. They were to pray in humility for resistance (1 Peter 5:6-9).
 3. They were to pray for strength to stand (Ephesians 6:18; 1 Cor. 16:13).
- E. All Christians should watch and pray in times of temptation.

III. WATCH AND PRAY IN TRUST (MARK 13:32-37)

- A. It is a truth of Scripture that Jesus will return.
 1. About 300 passages in the Old Testament allude to the coming of Jesus.
 2. Likewise, about 300 passages in the New Testament allude to the second coming of Jesus.
 3. 1 out of every 25 verses in the New Testament refers to Jesus’ return!
- B. However, the Bible does not reveal (and no one knows) when He will return.
- C. Thus, the Christian is commanded to watch and pray, trusting in the Word of God.

Practical Prayer

1. Christians are to worship (Acts 2:42; John 4:24; Hebrews 10:25).
 2. Christians are to work (1 Corinthians 15:58; Ephesians 2:10).
 3. Christians are to watch.
 4. Christians are to wait (Luke 12:35-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:10).
- D. All Christians should watch and pray with trust in the promises of God.

CONCLUSION:

*THE CLOCK OF LIFE IS WOUND BUT ONCE,
AND MAN HAS NOT THE POWER,
TO TELL JUST WHEN THE HANDS WILL STOP,
AT LATE OR EARLY HOUR.*

*NOW IS THE ONLY TIME YOU OWN,
LIVE, LOVE, WORK WITH A WILL,
PLACE NO FAITH IN TOMORROW,
FOR THEN THE HANDS MAY BE STILL.*