

# AWAKE ARISE & ADVANCE

### A CALL TO PERSONAL SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

NTIA I. NTIA

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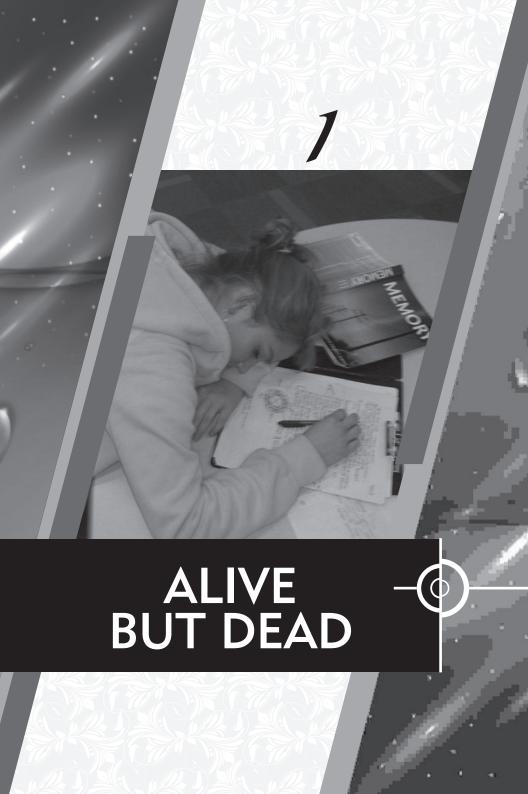
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## ALIVE BUT DEAD

soul salvation signals a glorious beginning of a new life in Christ. But after getting born again, the question to continually ask is "WHAT IS THE QUALITY OF MY CHRISTIAN LIFE AND WALK WITH GOD?"

This is a call to spiritual revival and renewal; a wake up call to every child of God who is not growing in a quality spiritual walk with Christ as they should. In Revelation 3:1, the bible says:

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write ... I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

It is possible to have been saved, made alive by salvation, but not be living the new life of salvation as you ought to. This was Jesus' message to the church, a group of believers, born again Christians: alive but spiritually dead.

Other versions of the bible say ...

**BBE**: ... you seem to be living but are dead ...

**CEV**: ... Everyone may think you are alive, but you are dead.

**ERV**: ... People say that you are alive, but really you are dead.

**GW**: ... You are known for being alive, but you are dead.

**TLV**: ... You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead.



### REPUTATION OR TRUTH:

Beloved, reputation can be so different from truth and reality. Jesus first said, "I know thy works ..." So He was speaking based on certain spiritual practices that ought to follow and flow out of their spiritual life, which was lacking. He was also referring to certain dead works of the former life of sin, which ought not to be found in their lives, but was still dominating and controlling them.

Jesus speaks further to explain what it means to be alive yet dead.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God

### Revelation 3:2

What Jesus was saying here is that, some additional spiritual practices and works that ought to grow and flow out of their new life of salvation were about to die too. Some other things had already died; and the ones remaining were fast dying out. Beloved, what is the true state of your Christian life?

Child of God, it is time to be revived in your spirit. It is time to recover every aspect of your spirituality that had died or is about dying. This is the voice of the Holy Spirit to every child of God who is down in his Christian life:

Wake up! You have only a little strength left, and it is almost gone. So try to become stronger. I have found that you are not completely obeying God (CEV).

Be on the watch, and make strong the rest of the things which are almost dead; because AS JUDGED BY ME your works have not come up to God's measure (BBE).

There is a standard and measure of spirituality God expects of you. Are you spiritually alive in prayer, study of the word, fellowship, evangelism, godly character and holy living? Are you living up to God's expectation? Where do you measure in Christ's standard? Another version says, "I find that what you do is not good enough for my God".

After salvation, no believer should live and settle in dead works. Do not be satisfied with incomplete spiritual growth. Wake up; be alert! Receive revival fire into your spirit now in Jesus name.

Come out of dead works and serve the living God in spirit and in truth. Jesus saved us and washed us with His blood that we might be purged of all dead and sinful works. "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (Hebrews 9:14).



It is time to get back to God's word. Seek, receive and respond to the truth from God's word.

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent

Revelation 3:3a

Only the sound teaching of the word of truth can bring revival and spiritual growth to a soul. It will be terrible to be in a church where the word being preached and taught is not the balanced truth of God's word.

Keep in mind, then, the teaching which was given to you, and be ruled by it and have a change of heart (vs 3 BBE)

The truth of God's word will confront, convict, correct and change you. Do not argue and defend evil works in your life. Allow the

truth of God's word to purge and purify you.

Remember the teaching that you were given and that you heard. Hold firmly to it AND TURN FROM YOUR SINS (v. 3 CEV).

The truth of God's word ought to change your life, not cover, pamper or excuse sins and carnality. Flee from any message that does not help you repent, change and become more spiritual. Do not be comfortable in sin, compromise, coldness and lukewarmness.

We are living in a time where some of the preaching and teaching does not confront, correct, change or challenge the believer to grow into deeper purity and higher spirituality. Depart from such preaching and teaching. Sound truth from God's word will challenge and change your life, and cause you to grow spiritually.

So don't forget what you have received and heard. Obey it.

# Change your hearts and lives! Revelation 3:3a (ERV)

It is spiritual death to be in church, hearing the preaching of God's word, but your life is not changing. God's word has to change your thoughts, words, actions, choices, attractions and relationships.

So remember what you received and heard. OBEY, AND CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK AND ACT ... (GW).

So, examine your heart and life with this question: HOW MUCH HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED, AND HOW MUCH HAVE YOU GROWN SPIRITUALLY SINCE YOU RECEIVED SALVATION?

### IT IS TIME TO AWAKE

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for NOW IS OUR SAL-

# VATION NEARER THAN WHENWEBELIEVED.

### **Romans 13:11**

What is the time now? It is high time to awake. The Bible here is talking to believers; people who have already believed unto salvation, and are expecting the soon return of Jesus our Saviour. They are alive in God, by reason of having received eternal life, but they are not awake and alert to a serious Christian walk with God.

This is a divine call to all believers who are not living right.

You know what sort of times we live in, and so you should live properly (CEV).

To awake means to live properly, to live a life that pleases God and glorifies Christ. That means, start living righteously and properly. It is God's word that will show us how to live the Christian life properly.



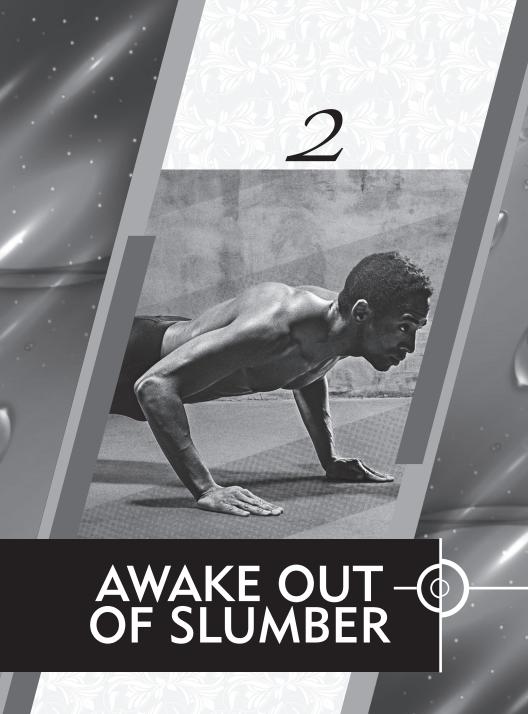
It is possible that you have gone so far from God, and down in spirit, that you need the refreshing of rededication unto salvation. Pray this prayer with me and rededicate your life to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

#### SALVATION PRAYER

Father, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to come in the flesh and die for my sins. I am sorry for any and every sin I have committed against You. I repent and ask for Your mercy, cleansing and forgiveness.

I receive and believe the price Jesus paid for me on the cross. I receive by faith the forgiveness of my sins and the free gift of salvation. I receive eternal life into my spirit now.

I confess Jesus Christ as the Lord and Saviour of my life. I am born again. I am saved. I am a child of God now. Thank You Lord for saving me, in Jesus name. Amen.





### AWAKE OUT OF SLUMBER

HE word of God calls all believers to awake out of spiritual sleep and slumber.

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep ...

Romans 13:11a

It is possible to be born again and yet be spiritually asleep. The NIV says, "...

understanding the present time: The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber ..."

In Ephesians 5:14 the Bible says, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead". So, there are believers that are in a state of spiritual sleep and slumber. Continuing in spiritual sleep and slumber can lead to spiritual death. To remain spiritually alive you must awake out of spiritual slumber.

The dictionary defines sleep and slumber as:

- i) To cease to be awake and alert.
- ii) Partial or complete suspension of consciousness.

The state of spiritual sleep and slumber is dangerous and has deadly consequences.

Consider the case of Samson.

- Samson's deadly sleep (Judges 16:19-21). Delilah used sleep to subdue and ruin Samson's spirituality, ministry and destiny.
- She made him sleep upon her knees ... (v 19)

Sleep gave access and advantage to the enemy. Sleep made the enemy's plan succeed, and Samson suffered terrible consequences. They include:

### i) Lack of awareness and sensitivity.

Sleep *dullens* both physical and spiritual senses and drowns sensitivity. So much was going on negatively around Samson but he was completely unaware and insensitive.

### ii) Exposure to manipulations and attacks

In that state of sleep and slumber, Samson became exposed. He became a victim of things he once easily dominated.

- she called for a man ... (v.19)
- she said, the philistine be upon thee Samson ... (v.20).

Spiritual sleep and slumber exposes a person to avoidable demonic invasion and manipulation. You need to wake up now!

But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the

### wheat and went his way.

### Matthew 13:25

# iii) Contamination and corruption of destiny potentials and opportunities.

Delilah caused the hair of Samson to be shaved off (Judges 16:19). Jesus told us that when the enemy comes, he sows tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:25). Do not continue in spiritual slumber child of God.

### iv) Decrease and Loss of Spiritual Strength.

Spiritual sleep and slumber leads to spiritual weakness. Spiritual sleep drains strength. Even in the physical, a person that is asleep is relaxed and weak.

... she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. (v.19).

Samson lost strength, power and authority due to slumber. Those who remain in spiritual slumber lose spiritual strength and authority. Isaiah 56:10 confirms this:

... His watchmen ... are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving slumber.

Spiritual watchmen are believers that God has given authority in destiny. They ought to be awake and alert to rebuke and counter all enemy incursions. Beware, slumber leads to loss of strength. These watchmen lost their force, bark and bite because of sleep.

# v) **Loss of vision, revelation and direction**Sleep and slumber led to a total loss of vision and revelation in Samson's life.

... The Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza ...

### Judges 16:21a

In the state of sleep the eyes are mostly closed. Sleep and drowsiness blurs vision. Spiritual slumber takes away spiritual sight. It is an attack against capacity for vision and revelation.

I command your spirit to become uncomfortable in that state of slumber. Isaiah 56:10 says,

His watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant ...

Visions and revelations are for those who are spiritually awake, alert and sensitive to the spirit of God. Awake out of slumber

### vi) Destiny frustration and stagnation

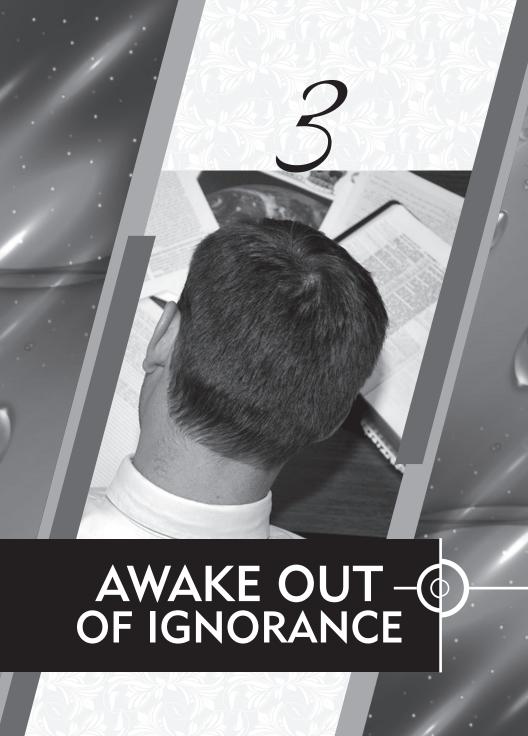
Sleep and slumber finally led Samson to a state of oppression, frustration, limitation and stagnation. He lost his freedom, liberty and progress.

The Philistines ... brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

Judges 16:21b

Child of God, don't just stop at being born again. Awake, arise and build up your

Christian life fervently. Awake out of spiritual slumber. The devil must not have his way in your destiny. Sleep comes upon people gradually. Do not live in past spiritual glory, examine your life and awake out of spiritual slumber.





### AWAKE OUT OF IGNORANCE

O be awake means to be in a state of awareness and alertness. A person that is not awake is ignorant and unaware of activities and happenings in the environment. Those who lack spiritual knowledge are asleep spiritually.

Awake ... for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:34

Awake by pressing after spiritual knowledge. Refuse to stay in ignorance. In the physical, the more awake and alert a person is the more his senses can discern and pick up information signals. A person who is sleepy or asleep is totally unalert and unaware. The senses are dull, and ultimately shut down. A person that is asleep can hardly see, hear or feel. You have to be awake to see, hear and feel things thoroughly and properly.

Talking to a sleeping man is an unfruitful exercise. God can only speak and show things to a person who is awake and alert.

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest ... and Christ shall give thee light.

### Ephesians 5:14

Those who are in a state of sleep and slumber lack light and knowledge. They are ignorant. They do not have the light of revelation and truth. They "… have not the knowledge of God" (1 Corinthians 15:34).

It is sad and shameful to be born again, but you have not increased in spiritual knowledge. The state of sleep and slumber, in the physical, closes the mind from receiving any external information. Also, spiritual slumber closes the spirit and mind from receiving spiritual information and knowledge. Spiritual sleep and slumber cuts a person off from fresh light -Christ cannot give him light.

Consider some of the knowledge lost through spiritual slumber:



### □ 1. THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TIMES:

A person that truly has knowledge and understanding of the times will not settle in spiritual slumber.

> And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

#### **Romans 13:11**

A sound understanding of spiritual times

and seasons will stir and quicken your spirit to high alertness. Note the following truths:

### i) **It is high time** (Romans 13:11a)

That means there is very little time left. The times are tight, pressing and urgent. God is fast wrapping up His work in this age. Even Satan knows that the time left is short.

The time left for us to become serious with God, grow spiritually, discover and fulfill our God given purpose, call and assignment is very short. The time left to grow in the faith and impact your world for God is very short. It is high time ... God's agenda for you will soon be closed and rounded off ... THEREFORE AWAKE! Wake up in the spirit, learn and grow. There is no more time to waste.

### ii) **The night is far ...** (Romans 13:12a).

God is saying that anyone who has been cold, lukewarm and unserious in spiritual things has given enough time to such vain existence. The night of idleness and slumber is far spent. Wake up and recover what little time

you have left. Therefore wake up to spiritual seriousness and fervency.

### iii) Now is our salvation nearer.

Our time here in this world will soon be Jesus our Lord, Saviour, King and rewarder is soon coming ... The day is at hand ...

The day to meet our Lord, King and Master is at hand. The day to give account of our kingdom service and stewardship is at hand. The day to be received and rewarded by the king of glory is at hand. Therefore awake out of slumber. Arise and get busy for the Lord. Do not give up or be discouraged into slumber and lukewarmness.



### 2. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

Another area of knowledge lost by those who are in spiritual slumber is the knowledge of God.

> Awake ... for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to

### your shame 1 Corinthians 15:34.

Those in spiritual slumber do not have the knowledge of God, and those who have the knowledge of God will not remain comfortably in spiritual slumber. The knowledge of God challenges and changes us to become more like God.

The Amplified bible puts it this way:

Be sober-minded (be sensible, wake up from your spiritual stupor ... for some of you have no knowledge of God (you are disgracefully ignorant of Him, and ignore His truths) I say this to your shame.

Therefore it is possible to have soul salvation and yet lack the knowledge of God. That means a person is born again, yet lack the knowledge of:

- Deeper depths of intimacy with God.

- Demands necessary for closeness to God.
- The principles of God's word.
- The truths of God that change character.
- Growing deeper into the fullness of God.
- The call of God upon His people.
- The instructions of God for life.
- The truth of what the Bible says.

It is also lack of the knowledge of God, to know these truths and principles, but ignore them and continue in ungodly living. Salvation must bring about a change of conduct, behaviour, lifestyle and character.



### ⇒ 3. THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD

Anyone who does not know God's word is in spiritual slumber. Those who are spiritually awake will receive light from God, and that light comes from the word of God.

Awake ... and Christ shall give thee light. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 5:14, 17

The word of God is the will of God. The word of God is also the light of God. Those who are spiritually awake access the light of God's word.

The light of God's word is divine instruction, revelation, direction and inspiration. The word of God builds and fuels our spirituality. The word of God is light and fire that keeps us awake, quickened and alert.

His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones ... **Jeremiah 20:9** 

Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD

Jeremiah 23:29

When the light and fire from God's word saturates you, it keeps you revived, awake and alert in the spirit. Spiritual slumber is a sign of lack of God's word in you. It is wrong to be born again and be empty of God's quickening and reviving word.

... Quicken thou me according to thy word.

### Psalm 119:25

After the resurrection, Jesus Christ took time to expound the scriptures to the disciples, to quicken and revive them. Anyone in spiritual sleep and slumber needs the word of God.

Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:25, 27

If any of these describes your state of mind, life and attitude towards God's word, you (or such a person) are in spiritual slumber, and need to awake out of ignorance.

- No desire to hear or study God's word.
- Finds God's word dull and uninteresting.

- Does not give time to hear and study the word of God.
- Does not understand the word of God.
- Does not derive joy and inspiration from the word.
- Considers personal word study a waste of time.
- Is not hungry to know more of the word.
- Is not dedicated to attending fellowship.
- Is not consistent in reading God's word.
- Hears but does not obey God's word.

All these and more are signs of spiritual slumber, and you need to awake and come out of ignorance. Turn to God's word and begin to hear, listen, read and study God's word. The fire of God's word will quicken you, revive you, and give you light.

And they said one to another, did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?

Luke 24:32

Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written.

#### Luke 24:45-46a

As you read this word now, I pray that your heart be ignited with a fresh fire and hunger for God's word. It is spiritual slumber to lack desire and hunger to hear, read and study God's word.

Awake now, Arise and begin to read God's word. Begin to attend church fellowship consistently to hear God's word. The night of slumber is far spent, wake up to spirituality, so Christ can give you light. Get back to reading, studying and obeying God's word.

- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... (Colossians 3:16a)
- Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine ... (1 Timothy 4:13)

- Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15).



# AWAKE OUT – O



# AWAKE OUT OF SIN

HE believer in Christ who is living in compromise with sin is in spiritual slumber, and is commanded by Christ to awake.

Awake to righteousness, and sin not ...

1 Corinthians 15:34

The previous verse (33) pointed out the fact that evil communication will corrupt good manners. So 'sin not' means, stop committing sin.

Come back to your senses as ye ought, and stop sinning (NIV)

Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning (ESV)

It is possible to be born again, but keep on sinning. That is a terrible and dangerous state of spiritual slumber and God is calling you to awake and stop sinning. Do not go on sinning.

The word righteousness there is from the Greek word 'dikaios', it is an adverb that describes a verb, an action word. "Awake to righteousness" is a call to acting and living rightly and righteously. God is saying to the believer, "now that you have received the righteousness of Christ and have been made righteous, AWAKE TO LIVING AND ACTING RIGHTLY AND RIGHTEOUSLY.

The word sin, there, is from the Greek word hamartano. It means to err, offend, miss the mark (and so not share in the prize). It means to be morally wrong and at fault.

So, the verse (34) is further rendered:

Be awake to righteousness, and keep yourselves from sin ... (BBE)

Be sensible and stop sinning ... (CEV)

Come back to your right way of thinking and stop sinning ... (ERV)

Come back to the right point of view, and stop sinning ... (GW)

Come back to your senses as you should, and stop sinning ... (ISV)

Sober up correctly and stop sinning...(LEB)

God is instructing all believers in Christ, who have received salvation and the free gift of righteousness to stop sinning.

Any preaching or teaching that says that it is okay for the believer to keep on sinning, or that the believer cannot commit sin, or that the believer is not sinning when he does wrong and offends God, is a wrong way of thinking. That is a wrong point of view.

The believer should not bury himself in guilt and self-condemnation. No. But the believer should not continue sinning and say that his sins are not really sins. It is error to say that sins committed by a born again Christian does not count against him. It is wrong, evil, senseless and ignorant for a believer to condone, cover and overlook sin in his life.

Confess that sin to God and receive the cleansing of the blood of Jesus; Then come out

of it and stop sinning. Trust God for His help to stop sinning.



## NO LONGER A SLAVE TO SIN

... Henceforth we should not serve sin ...

Romans 6:6

... We should no longer be slaves to sin

Romans 6:6 (NIV)

The believer in Christ is not helpless; bound to the continuous life of sinning; NO! Jesus Christ in the believer has set him free from slavery to sin. The life of Christ and nature of righteousness empowers the believer to stop sinning and live above helpless, habitual bondage to sin.

Child of God you have the God given right, power and ability to say no to sin and stop sinning.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it ...

Romans 6:12

Do not let sin rule your body (CEV)

Don't let sin control your life here on earth. You must not be ruled by the things your sinful self makes you want to do (ERV).

The believer in Christ must awake and arise out of the life of sin. All unrighteousness is sin (1 John 5:17a). Do not excuse, condone, ignore, pamper and overlook sin in your life. Confess to Jesus, repent sincerely, and come out of sin in Jesus name. Jesus is not our accuser, and the Holy Spirit does not condemn us. He is our helper sent from God, to enable and empower us rise in faith and live above sin.

What shall we say then? Shall we

continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid ... What then? Shall we sin, because we are ... under grace? God forbid.

Romans 6:1, 15



## CAST OFF THE WORK OF SIN

After God's word tells us to awake, the next instruction that follows deals with putting away the works of sin. This is new testament truth child of God. Cast off the works of sin. We can do it through Christ who enables and strengthens us. Let us consider some scriptures that tells the believer to awake and cast off the works of sin: all of them are from the new testament.

In Romans 13:11, the Bible says, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep ..."

Romans 13:11 tells us to awake out of sleep. The Living bible translation says, *Another reason for RIGHT LIVING is this: you know how* 

late it is; time is running out.

Child of God the call to awake is a call to right living. Don't just believe right, start living right. Time is running out ... for the coming of the LORD is nearer now than when we first believed.

#### Romans 13:12 then tells us this:

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light.

After the word of God tells us (believers) to awake (i.e. live right); it then tells us to cast off the works of darkness. What are these works of darkness? Other translations of the bible say:

So quit the evil deeds of darkness and put on the armour of right living ... (Living Bible (LB))

Stop behaving as people in the

dark ... behave properly ... (CEV)

Get rid of the things that belong to the dark ... live decently ... (GW)

To awake implies to cast off the works of sin, evil and darkness. To cast off means to put away, lay aside, lay down, get rid of, quit, stop. Romans 13:13 even mentions different sins, works of evil, works of darkness that the child of God should cast off.

Another scripture is 1 Corinthians 15:34:

Awake to righteousness, and sin not ...

Other translations say:

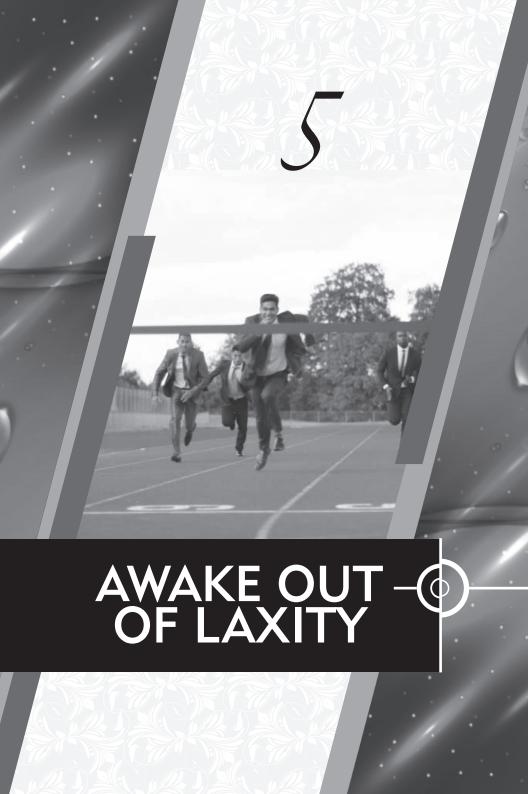
Awake ... and keep yourselves from sin ... (BBE)

Sober up as you should, and stop

### sinning! (NET)

As we grow in the life of righteousness we are to keep away from sin. We have received grace and power through Christ to stop sinning. May every binding habit of sin be broken off you now in Jesus name.

#### AWAKE, ARISE & ADVANCE





# AWAKE OUT OF LAXITY

AXITY is from the word lax, which means to be careless, negligent, slack, loose, casual, reckless, unmindful, purposeless and unserious.

Wherefore He saith, Awake .. see then that ye walk circumspectly ... Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:14, 15, 16

God calls all believers to awake out of laxity, slackness and unseriousness. The Amplified Bible puts it this way:

Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately ... Making the very most of the time (buying up each opportunity) ...

**Ephesians 5:15, 16** 



## BE CAREFUL NOT CARELESS

To be awake in the spirit means to show care, concern and interest about the things of God. It means to pay attention and be mindful of spiritual things.

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the spirit (mind) the things of the spirit.

Romans 8:5

What you set your mind on can be seen

clearly by what you are interested in, and by what you are passionate about. Lack of interest and care for the things of God is proof that a person is not awake spiritually. A person that is asleep is unaware, carefree and careless about other things happening around him. But a person who is awake is aware, conscious and shows interest in the things happening around him.

... Those who live following the spirit are thinking about what the spirit wants them to do (Easy to Read Version (ERV))

Awake out of laxity and show fervent passion and interest in prayer, fellowship, study of the word, fasting and soul winning. Anyone that says he is a believer in Christ, but is not interested in spiritual things is asleep not awake.

In Luke 10:39-42, we see two sisters Mary and Martha, each one was interested in different things.

Mary, ... sat at Jesus feet and heard His word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving ...

Luke 10:39-40

Mary was spiritually awake, careful and mindful about spiritual things, but Martha was careless, negligent, unmindful and unserious about the things of God. Her interest and care was in the carnal things of life and the world. Are you like Mary or Martha?

Those who give all their time to the pursuit of career, job, business and making money, and have no time for God, are spiritually asleep and need to be awake.

Those who have time for friends and endless socialization, but have no time for prayer, study of God's word and fellowship are spiritually asleep and need to be awake.

Those who give more time to sport, entertainment and leisure, than they give to worship, prayers and evangelism are spiritually asleep.

See what Jesus said to Martha:

And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part ...

Luke 10:41-42

Child of God, awake out of spiritual laxity and seek first spiritual things.



## BE PURPOSEFUL AND PASSIONATE

Beloved, you were created by God to know Him, serve Him, represent Him and live to reflect His glory on earth.

This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise

Isaiah 43:21

To fulfil the purpose of God for our lives in this wicked world, the Bible tells us to be circumspect. Ephesians 5:15 says:

> See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.

To be circumspect means to be watchful, cautious, discreet and prudent. It means to be careful, observant, guarded and vigilant. To escape the things that make people fall into spiritual laxity and carelessness, we must be circumspect. Carelessness makes life end in uselessness. Carelessness will make a person fall prey to wickedness.

To walk circumspectly also means to live purposefully as expected. God has made His purpose clear to us, now we are to pursue that calling with a high sense of purpose and passion. Acts 11:23 says:

... Exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they word cleave into the Lord.

You were created to know and follow God; do it with purpose and passion. You were created to love, serve and represent God, do so with purpose of heart. Be purposeful, passionate and determined to be all God created you to be, and to do all that God has called you to do.

Awake and serve God with passion and fervency. Do not be cold, casual, unserious, or laid back. Awake and become fervent in spirit. Come out of laxity.

> Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.

#### **Romans 12:11**

Be circumspect means be alert, aware, keen, sensitive, attentive, observant, perceptive and sharp. It also means be wise, wide-awake and watchful.



#### Why should we be watchful?

i) So we are not further deceived, and are ultimately devoured by the devil.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeketh whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith

. . .

#### 1 Peter 5:8-9

ii) So we can wisely make changes to recover and properly engage the time we have left. Those who are careless, continually tell themselves that there is much time left, till they completely run out of time. There is a time allocated, allotted and proper for everything.

Say not ye, There are yet four months and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already

. . .

#### John 4:35

It is possible to be living with a false sense of timing; thinking you have so much time, but you are almost out of time; "... knowing the time, that NOW IT IS HIGH TIME TO AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP .... THE NIGHT IS FAR SPENT ..." Receive wisdom now and make the necessary changes in your life.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom ...

#### Psalm 90:12

iii) So we increase and intensify effort to fulfill and finish our destiny calling. All men on earth are, on a divine mission. You were created by God for a purpose. You have an assignment to discover, pursue and fulfill. The purpose and mission of ever product has already been determined and settled by its manufacturer. In Jeremiah 1:5, God said to Jeremiah:

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou

camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a...

The same truth applies to all men. Fill in your own calling, purpose and assignment in the dotted space. Stop being lazy, laid-back and casual about your life, destiny and spirituality. You do not have all the time to find and fulfill your destiny assignment. Be alert, awake and watchful to increase and intensify effort, to pursue and fulfill your calling and purpose. Jesus lived life with such sense of urgency.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Everyone alive on earth still has some unfinished work to do, wake up and intensify effort to fully finish and fulfill your destiny assignment.

iv) So we avoid careless errors and mistakes.

The bible warns us to take heed. Over-confidence often leads to carelessness, and carelessness leads to costly and destructive mistakes. The ten virgins in the parable of Jesus in Matthew 25:1-11 did not know when they all slept off

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom ... go ye out to meet him.

vs 5-6

That was not the time to trim their lamps and look for where to borrow or buy extra oil. Their lamps had gone out and they were not awake to notice and attend to their light and fire. We must be awake and alert to keep our love, passion and drive for the things of God burning hot to the end.

v) So we are not a source of hindrance to others. Take heed so you do not become a stumbling block to others, and cause them

to backslide and fall by your carelessness. Also take heed so that another person's carnality, carelessness and errors does not cause you to stumble. There is a lot of falsehood and error going round in these last days.

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak

#### 1 Corinthians 8:9

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall

#### 1 Corinthians 10:12

Take heed so you pursue the call of God faithfully to the end, and finish it.

And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry, which thou hast received in the Lord that thou fulfill it.

#### Colossians 4:17

vi) So we maintain passion and fervency to the end. To be fervent means to be burning and glowing with zeal. We are to serve and work for God with burning zeal. Be eager, energetic and enthusiastic in serving God. That is how to be awake spiritually.

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord:

#### **Romans 12:11**

 $\dots$  Serve the Lord enthusiastically  $\dots$  (LB)

... Serve the Lord with all your heart ... (NCV)

The passion translation of the bible says.

Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward him boiling hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let

Him fill you with excitement as you serve Him.

#### **Romans 12:11**

#### BETIME CONSCIOUS AND URGENT

In Ephesians 5:14 & 16 after we are told to awake, the bible then tells us to redeem the time.

Wherefore He saith awake ... Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Time here refers to an allotted, limited, definite period, which is the right season or opportunity for a thing.

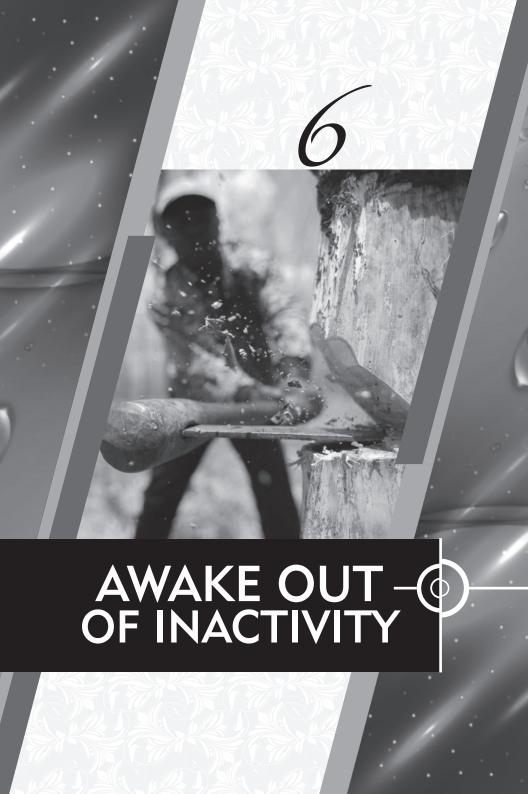
We are to awake in the spirit because too much time has been lost already to sleep, slumber, ignorance, sin and laxity. We have lost too much time in the past and have little time left before Jesus returns.

And that, knowing the time, that

now it is high time to awake out of sleep ... The night is far spent, the day is at hand ...

Romans 13:11, 12

Awake out of laxity and careless and carelessness. Be time conscious. Be circumspect. Be urgent about destiny.





## AWAKE OUT OF INACTIVITY

NOTHER sign of spiritual slumber is inactivity. It is only those who are awake that are active. Sleep slowly and gradually brings all activity and work to an end. It is disastrous and dangerous to sleep on duty. Imagine a driver, pilot, medical doctor or soldier asleep on duty. Cars have accident and crash because the driver dozed off on the steering. Proverbs 6:10 tells us that sleep and slumber makes work men fold their hands in relaxation.

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.

Any believer that is not actively serving God in worship, word study, prayer, fasting, soul winning, reaching out to the poor and helpless – IS ASLEEP NOT AWAKE. Anything that makes a believer to withdraw from active ministry and kingdom service is an attack of the spirit of sleep and slumber. Awake and come out of inactivity.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Revelation 3:2

Wake up and revive every area of kingdom call and service that you had abandoned. The scripture is talking about our works and service unto God. Awake and revive your prayer life; return to the choir, prayer band and evangelism ministry. You claim to still be

serving God, but there is offence, bitterness and unforgiveness in your heart. God says that your works are not perfect and acceptable before God. Cain had anger and bitterness in his heart against Abel his brother, and his sacrifice was rejected by God.



## FIRST LOVE AND FIRST WORKS

Our first love for God made us zealous and fervent in kingdom service. There are things you were called by God to do in His kingdom, when you were burning with your first love for God. There are other things you knew by wisdom to do, out of love for God.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

#### Revelation 2:4

But after awhile you slacked because people hurt, offended, disappointed and did not appreciate you. Broken and hurt by what people did to you in the house of God, you left your first love. You abandoned and walked away from the works you did for God out of your first love. God is calling you now to awake, repent and return to your first love and first works.

Remember therefore from where thou art fallen, and repent AND DO THE FIRST WORKS Revelation 5:5a

Remember how you were active and faithful in the church, youth group, men's group, women's group etc. God says you should recall and remember how active, humble and joyful you used to be before the temptation, offence, hurt, betrayal and disappointment came. That was where you fell. You are still serving in some other areas, but God says repent and do again the works of your first love, which you had abandoned out of discouragement, offence, hurt or anger.

Stop defending and justifying the pride, hurt and anger that made you abandon the works of your first love. God says REMEMBER ... REPENT AND DO.



## BURIED TALENTS AND POTENTIALS

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus told us the parable of the master who called all his servants and gave them talents. These talents represented their several abilities.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to every man according to his several ability... (vs 15)

They were to use, engage, trade and multiply their talents. They were on the master's assignment to bring gain to the master not themselves. But one of the servants went and hid his one talent. He went and buried it for a long time.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and

#### hid his lord's money. (vs 18)

What has God given to you for use in His church and kingdom, that you have hidden and buried away? Is there a gift, skill, talent or ability that you have set aside, ignored and failed to put to use?

Awake, the night is far spent. It is time to put to active use all idle and inactive abilities and potentials. There is no excuse that can stand before God. God is right and all our arguments are wrong. Moses told God that he is a stammerer and cannot speak. Abraham and Sarah tried to tell God that they were too old to have a child. Gideon and Saul presented their poor family background. None of these excuses and arguments stood before God. YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY EXCUSE.

Why did that servant go and bury his one talent? There are lots of vain reasons one could deduce, such as:

- i) Disrespect and disregard for the master.
- ii) Disobedience to the master's will and

word.

- iii) Discouragement over a little beginning.
- iv) Fear of failure and mockery.
- v) Self pride, and exaltation.
- vi) Fault finding with the master's decision.
- vii) Attitude of comparison and competition.
- viii) Inferiority complex
- ix) Ingratitude and unthankfulness.
- x) Stubbornness and self will
- xi) Wickedness and lack of concern.
- xii) Laziness and slothfulness
- xiii) Self righteousness.
- xiv) No love for the master.
- xv) Selfishness and self-centered living.

Beloved the servant that hid his master's talent had a terrible and disastrous end. That shall not be your portion.

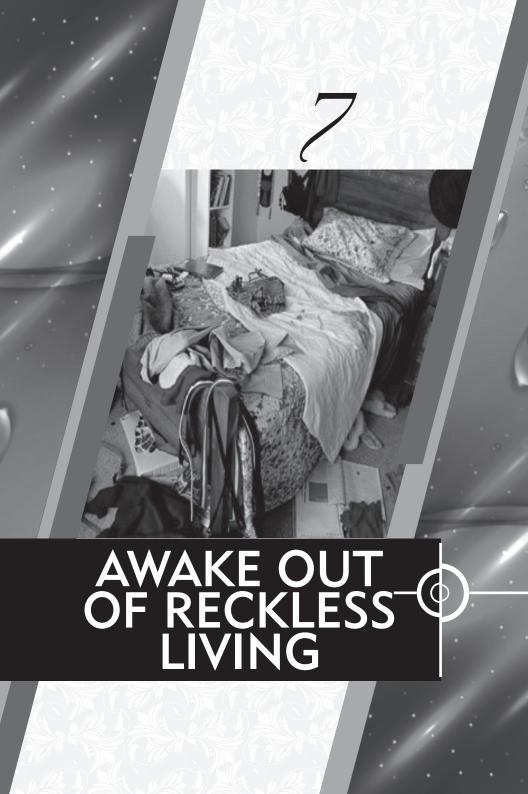
Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents (vs 28)

Those who hide, bury and fail to use what God gives them, to build, bless and advance God's kingdom and humanity suffer lots of loses, both here in life and in eternity. Beloved, awake out of idleness and inactivity.

And cast out the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (vs 30)

That servant became a castaway. He lost his favour, stewardship, place and destiny. He was rejected and his calling was lost forever. All the prophecies on his life were lost. All the glory reserved for him by God in his future was forfeited and lost. He lost all his rewards of past years of faithful service. Beloved do not harden your heart against this revival word from God.

Reconcile with those you offended, and forgive those who offended you. Remember where you fell, and do again the first works you had abandoned. Pick up every divine potential and calling you had abandoned. Wake up now!





## AWAKE OUT OF RECKLESS LIVING

O be reckless means to be careless and carefree about life. Spiritual recklessness makes a believer a casualty of satanic wickedness. Reckless lawless living gives the enemy undue and unnecessary advantage over a person. Do not be reckless in these last days.

Ephesians 5:14-15 says:

Awake ... see then that ye walk



circumspectly, not as fools but as wise.

To be circumspect also means to be watchful, discrete, cautious and prudent. It means to be attentive, calculating, guarded, judicious, meticulous, observant, watchful and vigilant.

The opposite is to be rash, reckless, lawless, carefree, irresponsible and foolish. We are to see to it that we walk circumspectly and not recklessly. It is our spiritual responsibility to be attentive observant and cautious.

Other versions of the bible read:

- Take care then how you are living ...
- So be very careful how you live ...
- Therefore consider carefully how you live
- So pay close attention to how you walk.



## RECKLESSNESS IS FOOLISHNESS

Those who do not walk circumspectly, watchfully, discretely, attentively and

cautiously are being foolish. Beloved ... walk circumspectly, not as fools ...

To be reckless means to act without concern for the consequences of ones actions. Beloved today's choices will attract tomorrow's consequences. Actions have after effects. Think of the consequences of your words, thoughts, decisions and actions before you do them. Not spending time to think of the consequences of ones decisions and actions is not boldness but foolishness.

To be reckless means to be rash and desperate, doing things in blind haste without considering the future harvest of one's choices. Do not allow yourself to be blinded by desperation to marry, have money, power, position or connection. Think of the future consequences of today's choices.

To be reckless also means to be mindless and thoughtless; giving or sparing no thought about the outcome of one's behavior and activities. If you wouldn't like the outcome tomorrow, avoid the action today. Those who do not give time to think far will not last long in the race of life. It takes foresight and far-sight to go far and have a future in life.

Finally, to be reckless means to be hotheaded, wild and inconsiderate. Such people do what they have decided to do regardless of how it might affect them or others. They follow their passions, feelings, desire or temper without consideration or caution.



## RECOVER THE TIME YOU HAVE LEFT

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil

#### Ephesians 5:16

Awake and redeem the time you have left. Our life time was given to us by God, to be invested in the service of God; in the pursuit of God's plan and purpose. Every day, week, month and year spent in sin, ignorance, disobedience and worldliness is wasted, lost forever. Years spent in sin are wasted years;

lost years. Years spent in compromise and carnality are wasted, lost and gone. Wake up and recover what little time you have left. This is the end time; there is no more time to waste.

To redeem the time means:

- Recover the time from loss
- Make good use of the time
- Make every minute count
- Use every opportunity you have for good.
- Make the most use of your time.

Beloved, everyday you had lived in sin, disobedience, prayerlessness, doubt, compromise, unbelief (of the little time you had left) was being wasted, lost forever. Therefore wakeup now and invest every second of the time you have left in seeking and serving God. Recover the time you have left from loss. Satan will steal your life and eternity by stealing your time. Awake and recover the time you have left.



## DISCOVER AND DO THE WILL OF GOD

God gave us life so that we use it to discover

and do His will and pleasure.

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is

#### Ephesians 5:17

After surrendering and rededicating your life to Jesus, spend every second of your life to find, follow and fulfill the will of God in all things and at all times.

Doing the will of God involves obedience to the word of God. It is living daily in the fear of God. It means living daily to serve God. It is to seek the advancement and the establishment of God's kingdom. It is to live a life that is holy and pleasing unto God. The will of God is that we know God and spread that knowledge to others. The will of God is that we win souls back to Christ and disciple them to live for God. The will of God is that we live a life of love, power and impact, affecting society positively for God. The will of God is that we carry and spread God's glory throughout the world.

It is time to find and follow the will of God in all things. It is time to discover and do the will of God.

Understanding what the will of the Lord is means:

- Find out what the Lord wants you to do.
- Be conscious of the Lord's pleasure.
- Learn what the Lord wants you to do.
- Understand what the Lord wants from you.
- Understand what God requires of you.



## DON'T IGNORE THE WILL OF GOD

It is wrong to ignore and disregard the will of God. Disobeying and rebelling against the will of God has consequence

For this reason, then, do not be foolish, but be conscious of the Lord's pleasure

Ephesians 5:17 (BBE)

Don't be stupid. Instead find out what the Lord wants you to

#### do. (CV)

Those who ignore, disregard, despise and disobey God's will with impunity, end up suffering terrible loses and regrets.



## DON'T IGNORE THE WARNINGS OF GOD

God is constantly speaking to warn people of the future consequences of continuing in sin, wickedness, disobedience, etc. Beloved, do not ignore the warnings of God in His word and by His Spirit.

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot harken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

Jeremiah 6:10

We need preaching that both teaches and warns people to turn away from sin unto righteousness and spiritual maturity in Christ.

Whom we preach, warning every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:28



## WARNING AGAINST RECKLESS LIVING

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly ...

1 Thessalonians 5:14

God is warning us in this end times against being reckless and insubordinate. To be unruly means to be rebellious against rule, ungovernable, lawless. It means to be stubborn, headstrong, rash, reckless, out of line, out of control, wayward and uncontrollable.

Other versions say:

- Admonish the disorderly ...
- Warn anyone who isn't living right ...
- Rebuke those whose lives are not well ordered...
- Warn the disobedient ones ...
- Correct the unruly ...

Awake and live a disciplined, well ordered life. Be sober, temperate and self-controlled not reckless. God help us in Jesus name.



AWAKE AND — TAKE HEED



## AWAKE AND TAKE HEED

ake heed and don't take risks with your soul. When it comes to securing and maintaining your salvation, spirituality, sanctification, holiness, purity and victory, DO NOT TAKE RISKS, TAKE HEED.

To take heed generally means to take care, beware, and watch closely. It means to be on guard and be careful. Consider some specific areas God is calling us to take heed.



## TAKE HEED TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given ...

Luke 8:18

Take great care and attention to listen to God's voice, word and spirit, so you can hear God well, and escape the deception of these last days. In these last days, there are lots of false teachings and preachings going round that can damn your soul.



## TAKE HEED AGAINST GREED

And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 12:15

Watch out and be on guard against all forms of greed. We do not serve God for the

things we can get, but out of devotion and love. Greed is not faith. Be patient and contented with where God places you per time. Be happy with what you have per time, and trust God to lift you higher with time. Real bible faith is not greedy, and does not make haste.



## TAKE HEED TO FORGIVE OTHERS

Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repents forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent, thou shalt forgive him.

Luke 17:3-4

Forgive those who offend you, and do not be hardened, hateful or resentful against them.



## TAKE HEED AGAINST WORLDLY CARES

And take heed to yourselves, lest

at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and the cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Luke 21:34

The things of this world must not be allowed to capture our hearts. Nothing in this world should be as important as God or your soul salvation. The positions and possessions of this world will pass away; don't let them blind your mind and heart.



# TAKE HEED NOT TO BE A STUMBLING BLOCK

But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to them that are weak.

#### 1 Corinthians 8:9

Do not use your spiritual growth, knowledge or strength as a source of offence or

attack against others. Our difference is no reason for prideful condemnation of others. Be careful to walk in the spirit of love.



## TAKE HEED TO ENDURE TRIALS

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 10:12

Do not faint, give up or fall because of the trials and tests of your faith. Trust God to intervene in His own way and at His own time. Trust God for grace to endure to the end.



#### TAKE HEED TO FAITHFULLY FULFILL YOUR CALL

And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it.

Colossians 4:17

Every child of God has a service and ministry to fulfill in God's house and kingdom. Make sure you remain faithful and focused to fulfill it. Do not be distracted by people, problems, church politics or persecution. Be sure to fulfill the call of God on your life.



## TAKE HEED UNTO SOUND DOCTRINE

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee

#### 1 Timothy 4:16

Just as we are to be careful about the way we live, we are also to be careful about what we hear and teach others. Be balanced, consistent and sound with the totality of scripture. Avoid unbalanced distortions and extremes.



#### TAKE HEED NEVER TO DOUBT GOD.

Take heed, brethren, lest there be

in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

#### Hebrews 3:12

As you walk with God, do not lose the faith and conviction you first had in God. Do not go back on your faith in God. Do not backslide from God.

My friends, watch out! Don't let evil thoughts or doubts make any of you turn from the living God. (BBE)

So, brothers and sisters, be careful that none of you has the evil thoughts that cause so much doubt that you stop following God. (ERV)



## TAKE HEED AGAINST EYE SERVICE

Take heed that ye do not your

alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

#### Matthew 6:1

As you serve God and bless your fellow men, do not seek to be seen, applauded and celebrated by people. Do all things as unto the Lord. Do not be discouraged when people ignore, overlook and do not praise your effort. Look to God for your reward and satisfaction; He is a faithful rewarder.

# TAKE HEED AND DO NOT DESPISE OTHERS

Take heed that ye despise not one of the these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 18:10

This is a two-fold warming not to think too

highly of yourself above others; and not to think lowly of others. Do not look on others as being of little or no value. Do not slight or put down others.



#### TAKE HEED TO ENDURE PERSECUTION

But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

Mark 13:9

We are to be on guard to endure and stand firm in the face of persecutions, criticisms, false accusations, mockery and abuse. Do not be shaken or stopped by the mockery and hatred of the world. Let your commitment and dedication to God and right be a testimony against their evil speaking. STAND AND ENDURE



For false christs and false prophets shall rise, and shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

Mark 13:22-23

Be watchful and on the guard against, false christs, false prophets, false pastors, false teachers, false believers, false miracles, signs and wonders. Hold on to God's written word as your standard. Flee from anyone and anything that violates, contradicts, changes, bends, or breaks the truths and principles of God's word (both old and new testaments). Any doctrine that is not balanced is not in order. It is the spirit of error. Do not take risks, take heed!

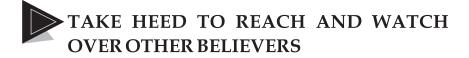
# TAKE HEED AND BE HEAVEN CONSCIOUS

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is **Mark 13:33** 

This world is not the final home of the believer in Christ. Jesus is coming back to rapture and receive the church unto Himself. Therefore be prayerful, watchful and conscious of heaven. Live daily like a citizen of heaven. Live the life that will ensure you are ready for the rapture.

Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all, watch.

Mark 13:36-37



Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock,

over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.

Acts 20:28

Keep watch to teach, instruct, encourage and defend God's children and church against those who want to tear down, mock, defame and scatter the church. Do not be silent when people rise up to speak against, condemn and talk down ministers of gospel and believers. Stand with God's church against critics and evil accusers. Do not let satan and his agents succeed in pulling down any believer or minister. Be an encourager to other believers, never an accuser.



## TAKE HEED HOW YOU DO GOD'S WORK

According to the grace of God which is given to unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another

buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon

#### 1 Corinthians 3:10

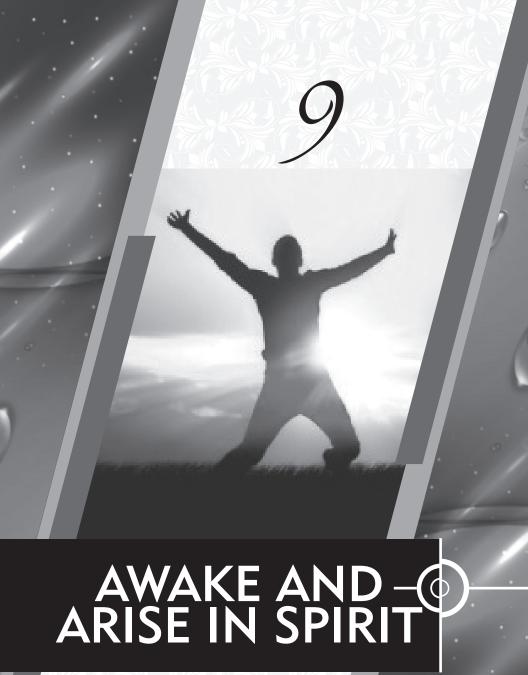
Other people served God before us and others are coming after us. We must be careful how we do the work of God. Do not condemn or make a mockery of those who labored for God before you. Also serve with caution, care, balance, and humility knowing others must continue after you.

# TAKE HEED AND HOLD ON TO GOD'S WORD

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that sinneth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.

2 Peters 1:19

Hold on to God's word. Pay attention to it above all other things. God's word is the light that will keep and guide us in these last days. Observe and follow God's word closely in all things. Situations and people may change, but God's word will never change or fail. Have regard and reverence for God's word, adhere to and apply yourself to it. Never let go of God's word.





## AWAKE AND ARISE IN SPIRIT

fter you awake from sleep, it's time to arise and advance.

Wherefore he saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Ephesians 5:14

To arise means to lift up oneself, to get up, to



stand upright, to move upward, and to go into action. There are action steps to maintain in order to keep awake and alert in the spirit.



# ARISE AND GO AFTER GOD

To remain awake and alert in spirit, you must go after God; seek God with passion. Pursue after more of God. God wants us to seek and know Him passionately and intimately. The prodigal son said:

I will arise and go to my father ...

Luke 15:18

Give yourself to seeking God and the things of God continually. Seek God in fellowship, prayers, study of the word, worship and kingdom service.

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word

Acts 6:4

Give no room for slackness. Spiritual

slackness leads to spiritual slumber. Be fervent in seeking and serving God. Seeking God zealously is proof of being awake in spirit. We seek God by minding and involving ourselves passionately in the things of God.

> ... they that are after the spirit do mind the things of the spirit ... to be spiritually minded is life and peace

#### **Romans 8:5-6**

Do not slow down or take things easy in your pursuit after God and the things of God. Go after God with full attention, passion and focus. To mind the things of the spirit means to engage and involve your self with full interest, passion, affection and excitement in the things of God.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth.

#### Colossians 3:1-2

Arise and pursue after God. Seek those things which are above. Invest your life and time in prayer, fellowship, godliness, worship, kingdom service, study of the word, soul winning etc.

Centre your passion and attention on spiritual and heavenly things, not earthly and worldly things. That means:

- Give your attention to heaven things ...
- Set your heart on what is in heaven ...
- Live for what is in heaven ...
- Focus on the things that are above ...
- Keep focusing on the things that are above

Give and set your love and affection on spiritual things above. That also means:

- keep your mind on spiritual things ...
- think only about what is up there ...
- Set your sight on things above ...
- Focus your mind on things above ...

Beloved, its time to pursue after God with all zeal, passion and fervency.



# ARISE AND GROW

After you awake in spirit, you need to pursue aggressive spiritual growth.

... Grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

## Ephesians 4:15

To stay awake in spirit, you have to pursue aggressive spiritual growth. Grow up spiritually in all aspects and in every way. Spiritual stagnancy leads to spiritual slumber, therefore pursue aggressive spiritual growth.

"Grow into Christ in all things" means:

- Come to full growth in Christ ...
- Grow in every way and be more like Christ ...
- Grow up completely in your relationship with Christ ...
- Grow up completely and become one with

Christ the head ...

- Increase to be like Christ in all things ...

Do not settle or be satisfied with where you are in Christ. Keep on growing in all areas of spiritual life till you are completely like Christ. Grow up into Him in all things.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

Another important area of growth is in the knowledge, character and power of Christ. Let the presence of Christ be felt around you, and let His nature and character be seen reflected in your behaviour.

Those who belong to Christ must live like Christ and represent Christ. Any behavior, character and attitude in you that is not like Christ is an attack against your spiritual health and soundness. Study the new testament deeply to know more of who Jesus Christ is to you, and what He has done for you. Grow your faith in Jesus and his finished work.



# ARISE AND GENERATE IMPACT

After you awake, you are to arise and make impact. The life and light of Christ at work in you must affect others.

Awake ... arise ... and Christ shall give thee light.

Ephesians 5:14

The end product of arising is to receive and radiate the light of Christ to your world. Christ gives you light to make you a light to your world.

Ye are the light of the word ... Give light to all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify

your father which is in heaven.

### Matthew 5:14-16

To shine as light means to generate impact and do exploits for Christ. Here are some ways you can make impact and affect your world as light.



### 1. Service in God's house

Awake, arise and serve in the house and kingdom of God. Idleness will lead to spiritual slumber. Those who have nothing to do soon fall asleep.

After Paul's salvation, the next instruction was about kingdom service.

Lord what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Acts 9:6

There is a service you must render in God's house. "Go ... and it shall be told thee what thou must do". Do not be idle in God's house, get involved and generate impact through service.

In Acts 22:10, Paul spoke again about the call to service.

> And I said, what shall I do. Lord? And the Lord said unto me. *Arise, and go into Damascus; ...* there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

Service in God's house is a divine call and appointment, set by God, for all believers in Christ. Do not stay idle in church, rise up and render service.



## **2.** Soul Winning and Evangelism.

Another way we are to make impact as believers is through evangelism and soul

winning.

And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the son of God.

Acts 9:20

After salvation, give yourself to preaching and soul winning. The gospel is light, and preaching the gospel spreads the light to others. That is why Satan fights to distract believers from preaching the gospel, and to keep sinners from hearing the gospel.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ ... should shine unto them

#### 2 Corinthians 4:4

Soul winning sustains spiritual alertness and impact. Preaching the gospel to others renews your spiritual fire.



# **≥** 3. **Supplication in prayers**

A third way to make sustained spiritual impact is by prayers and supplication. Time spent in prayer will keep you awake, alert and anointed.

To avoid falling into spiritual slumber, make sure you pray fervently.

> What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise, call upon thy God ... Jonah 1:6

Arise and pray! That is how to generate spiritual impact. Jesus also said this severally to His disciples.

> Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation ... Matthew 26:41a

Pray and you will not fall into slumber or temptation. Pray and you will stay spiritually hot, strong and impactful. Fervent prayers will

keep you from fainting spiritually. Pray for yourself; pray for the church; and pray for souls to be saved.

> ... Men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

Luke 18:1



## **♦** 4. Doing Good to others

Doing good works of generosity and charity will impact your world with light.

> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works...

#### Matthew 5:16

Giving your resources, time, talent and effort to help and assist others shines the light of God's love to humanity. Therefore be a kind and generous giver. Promote charitable courses. Give to God's work, to your family and to the less privileged.

As you give yourself to service, soul winning, prayers and good works, you shall grow fervent and strong in spirit.

AWAKE, ARISE AND ADVANCE!

Remain blessed!