



## Sunday November 08, 2020 Watchful in Prayer

1 Peter 4:7-11

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### **BE SERIOUS AND WATCHFUL IN YOUR PRAYERS**

1 Peter 4:7

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

#### ***Be serious***

Be serious, be of sound mind, keep your mind clear

Beware of disinformation, conspiracy theories, alarmists, etc.

#### ***Watchful***

Watchful, alert, Greek word literally means "abstain from wine" and used to mean moral alertness, be sober, be self-controlled. Do not get intoxicated. Do not be influenced and controlled by something else.

be serious (i.e. sound-minded, clear minded) and be watchful (i.e. be sober, be self-controlled) for the purpose of prayer

Prayer connects us with God.

We draw strength from God.

We listen to God.

Prayers – plural. All kinds of prayer. All manner of prayer and all forms (private and collective) prayer.

### **WE ARE TO BE WATCHFUL IN PRAYER**

This instruction to be watchful in prayer is given to us in several other places in Scripture as well.



Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Colossians 4:2

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

Ephesians 6:18

praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

## **WATCH**

Watch (5 different Greek words for the verb translated 'watch' in English).

These words essentially mean:

- being on guard, to keep, as those who kept guard for security.
- being awake, sleepless, and used to be spiritually awake, spiritually alert, being vigilant. Not just mere wakefulness, but careful watchfulness (2 Greek words both mean sleepless).
- being intent, focused upon someone or something.
- being sober (to abstain from wine, do not get intoxicated) used metaphorically, of moral alertness, being calm, collected, circumspect.

## **THREE THINGS TO BE WATCHFUL FOR IN PRAYER**

In prayer be:

### **A, WATCHFUL TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND YOU**

Watch what people are doing. Watch what circumstances and situations are building up. Watch how things are changing.

Habakkuk 1:5 Watch what God is doing among the nations

2 Timothy 4:5 Be watchful over all things as a man of God

Revelation 3:2-3 Be watchful as a local church over yourselves, your ways, and your works.

Pray about things that matter to you.

Deal with things in the spirit – using your spiritual authority and spiritual weapons of warfare.

### **B, WATCHFUL TO SEE WHAT GOD IS REVEALING TO YOU**



Often in prayer God speaks and God reveals. So listen to what God is saying.

Habakkuk 2:1 Watch to see what God will say

Daniel, watching in a vision or dream what God was revealing (Daniel 7:4,9,11,12,21)

## **C, WATCHFUL TO RESPOND TO GOD'S MOVING WITHIN YOU**

In prayer God will prompt you, lead you, stir you to do certain things. Respond to the gently prompting, moving, leading, stirring inside you and follow through on what God's directions.

### **FOUR AREAS TO BE WATCHFUL OVER IN PRAYER**

#### **1, WATCHFUL OVER YOURSELF**

##### ***Watch in order to overcome temptation***

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

##### ***Watch in order to stand firm in the faith***

1 Corinthians 16:13

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

Avoid things that will draw you away from your faith in the Lord Jesus.

Ensure you are not giving room to the devil (Ephesians 4:27).

Ensure you are not falling into sins that destroy your destiny (1 Corinthians 10:5-13).

*"But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."  
(1 Peter 4:7) Be watchful over yourself.*

#### **2, WATCHFUL FOR THE MANEUVERS OF THE DEVIL**

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.



The Greek word translated 'be sober' in 1 Peter 5:8 is the same word translated 'watchful' in 1 Peter 4:7. 'Be vigilant' in 1 Peter 5:8 is also translated 'be watchful' in other places.

Part of what we are taught to pray in the Lord's prayer is:

Matthew 6:13

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Luke 22:31-32 Jesus saw what satan intended to do against Peter and prayed for Peter to be restored.

Nehemiah 4:9 a great example how God's people set a watch against the enemy, so they could continue the work of rebuilding the city walls, while staying vigilant.

Learn to think strategically. *'If I were the devil, what would I do to knock me off?'*

Learn to think pre-emptively. *'What can I do to protect myself, my family, the things God has entrusted to me from any inroad the enemy might try to make, now or in the future?'*

*"But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."  
(1 Peter 4:7) Be watchful for the maneuvers of the devil.*

### **3, WATCHFUL OVER GOD'S PEOPLE**

Acts 20:28-31

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Those of us serving spiritually, we are to watch over God's people.

Hebrews 13:17 As spiritual leaders we are to watch over God's people to give an account of how we cared for them. Part of this watching is done through prayer.

All of us can also watch out for each other.



Isaiah 62:6 God has set watchmen on the wall of Jerusalem, to watch and to pray to the Lord.

Jeremiah 6:17 Watchmen for the city, need to listen to the alarm (the sound of the trumpet) coming from any other place and alert people.

Ezekiel 3:17; Ezekiel 33:2,6-7 God appointed Ezekiel as a watchman for Israel to hear from God and to warn them.

Matthew 26:38-41 Jesus invited His disciples to watch and pray with Him during His time of testing.

Ephesians 6:18-19 Pray with all kinds of prayer being watchful, for all believers and for those preaching the Word.

Colossians 4:2-4 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; while also praying for those preaching the Word.

*“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”  
(1 Peter 4:7) Be watchful over God’s people. Be watchful for one another.*

#### **4, WATCHFUL FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD**

Matthew 25:13

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Several other texts in the New Testament that instruct us to watch and be ready for the coming of the Lord: Matthew 24:42-43; Mark 13:9; Mark 13:33-37; Luke 12:37-39; Luke 21:36; 1 Thessalonians 5:6-8; Revelation 16:15)

Be alert for the signs of the times.

Be prayerful, asking God for what He wants you to be doing, given the times in which we live.

Live in a state of readiness to meet the Lord.

*“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”  
(1 Peter 4:7) Be watchful for the coming of the Lord.*



## **SUMMARY**

### THREE THINGS TO BE WATCHFUL FOR IN PRAYER

- A, Watchful to see what is happening around you
- B, Watchful to see what God is revealing to you (hear what God is saying)
- C, Watchful to respond to God's moving within you

### FOUR AREAS TO BE WATCHFUL OVER IN PRAYER

- 1, Watchful over yourself
- 2, Watchful for the maneuvers of the devil
- 3, Watchful over God's people
- 4, Watchful for the coming of the Lord

### **MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL**



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday November 08, 2020**  
**Watchful in Prayer**

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

### **Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons) . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### **Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

### **LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 Peter 4:7-11; Matthew 26:41; Colossians 4:2-3; Ephesians 6:18-19*

### **INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

*1, Review the various implications of being watchful: being on guard, being alert, being intent, being sober; and how these apply to our Christian walk and prayer life.*

*2, Discuss the application of the three things we are to be watchful about in prayer. How would you apply this in your own life?*

*A, Watchful to see what is happening around you*

*B, Watchful to see what God is revealing to you (hear what God is saying)*

*C, Watchful to respond to God's moving within you*



*3, Discuss the application of the four areas to be watchful over in prayer. How would you apply this in your own life?*

- 1, Watchful over yourself*
- 2, Watchful for the maneuvers of the devil*
- 3, Watchful over God's people*
- 4, Watchful for the coming of the Lord*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

#### **FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

#### **ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.





**USEFUL RESOURCES**



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>