

WATCHING AND WAITING (I Corinthians 16:13)

In the New Testament the word '*watch*' means – stay awake. Usually the word is used in a spiritual sense, or to be vigilant and on guard, alert and intently focused.

Watch And Be Spiritual

Matthew 26:37-40 Jesus has asked His disciples to be on watch while he entered into deep prayer with the Father. In this sense Jesus was talking about the disciples being physically watchful.

Matthew 26:41 When Jesus spoke next to the disciples about watching He had an entirely different meaning for them and for us. He said that spiritual watching and prayer will allow us the strength to survive the temptations and trials of our life. Good intentions are good but the flesh is very weak.

I Corinthians 15:34 Paul is warning believers that to be spiritually sleeping leads to the tempter gaining a foothold in our life. He is exhorting us to 'snap out of it' and wake up or we will fall.

Romans 13:11 Paul is warning believers once again that we are getting closer every day to Christ's return. The devil is deceiving millions and believers that are 'asleep' are being fooled into apostasy.

Watch And Be Ready

Luke 12:35-40 The Lord is warning believers to be alert, to be watching, to be waiting and anticipating His return. He tells us that those who are watching will not allow the thief to steal anything away from our house. Those servants who are watching and ready will be blessed!

Hebrews 5:11-12; Matthew 24:3, 42 The bible is very clear in that many writers repeatedly warn believers of the imminent return of the Lord but few believers are looking and watching for Him.

Revelation 3:1-5; 16:15 For believers to be watchful and ready means that our walk and testimony will not be soiled when the Lord 'suddenly' takes us home. White raiment is the sign of righteousness.

Matthew 25:1-13 This parable by Jesus emphasizes the need for believers to 'keep our lamps full of oil', meaning we are to obey the scripture that tells us to 'be filled with the Spirit' (**Ephesians 5:18**).

Watch And Work

Mark 13:33-37 We find that Jesus gives believers four important things to stay focused on as we wait for His return: 1. We are to take heed (pay close attention) to what He says. 2. Watch for the signs that He has outlined. 3. Pray earnestly and regularly so we stay close to God. 4. Keep working for God.

Luke 19:12-13 Jesus left little doubt that while He is in heaven He expects believers to stay busy doing the work of God here on earth. Jesus said "I will build my church" but He uses people to build.

Matthew 28:19-20 The last thing He told us before leaving is to go in the highways and byways, into the cities, the countries and all the world preaching and teaching the gospel message.

II Timothy 2:15 We are to occupy with the word of God so we know the answers when people need our help. It is God's word that changes lives and so Satan has blinded our eyes to the word of God.

Galatians 6:9-10 Believers are not to sit around waiting for someone to ask them to do something in the church. We are to seek out what needs to be done, who needs our assistance and utilize the spiritual gifts that God has given us for the edification of others.