

WAKE UP Ephesians 5:8-14

WAKE UP AND WATCH

Ephesians 4:11-14 In this Epistle Paul is trying to get the church to understand that we as believers must grow up and wake up to the fact that the spiritual battle we are in is real and Christians have been given a new nature to fight our old nature in order to be victorious against Satan and the world.

I Corinthians 15:33-34 Paul warns the church at Corinth that their friendships with the world and the carnal Christians in the church have kept them from growing in the Lord and are at Satan's bidding.

Matthew 25:1-5; I Thess. 5:5-6 Comparing these two scriptures it is clear that God wants his people to be *Awake* and *Watchful* in order to be ready for His return and get those that are lost saved in time.

WAKE THE NEW CREATURE

II Corinthians 5:17 At the moment of salvation God created someone new in each one of us and that new creature was the holy Spirit of God. He is what is brand new, He is by God, for God, and is God.

Ephesians 4:24 This new man in this verse is the same creature that was created in **II Cor. 5:17** and is that new person in every believer that is righteous and holy that was not there before salvation.

Galatians 6:15; Col. 3:8-10 The only way we as believers can wake up and start growing spiritually in faith and knowledge is to let this new creation in us, (*the new man*) rule our minds and hearts.

Colossians 3:5-10 These verses verify the fact that God did not destroy our old sin nature, (*the old man*), but created a new nature in us, (*the new man*). Some say God killed off the old nature and some say God remolded the old nature. It is clear in scripture that we continue to have the old nature also.

Romans 6:6-13 Some do not fully understand these verses. God has not eradicated the sin nature in us but as Christians He has accounted us saved and free from our sin and Christ broke those bonds between the old man and Satan. If we choose to serve sin and not serve God we can. However, God has given us the ability to choose rather to serve Him through the new man that is righteous and holy.

Ephesians 4:22-27 These verses teach us plainly that we as believers have a choice in every decision we make. We can choose to put on the lifestyle, (conversation) of the old man which is the sinful lifestyle of the world or we can put on the life style of the new man and serve the Lord, it is our choice.

GIVING PLACE TO THE DEVIL

Ephesians 4:27-31 Giving place to the devil means giving Him an opening in your life, giving him access to your mind and your desires. It means allowing him to control our old man, our sin nature.

Acts 5:1-11 The example of Ananias and Sapphires shows us that we give place to the devil when we want others to think more highly of us than they should. We give place to the devil when we pretend to do more than we really do, when we pretend to be more holy and righteous than we really are.

II Corinthians 2:9-11 We give place to the devil when we do not forgive one another for a wrong.

Job 1:6-11; Luke 22:31 The word "considered" in Job has the military meaning of – (a general studying a city in preparation for attack and developing a strategy for victory). Satan studies all of us and we give place to him when he finds out "the sin that so easily besets us", - (**Heb. 12:1**).

Ephesians 4:28 Paul tells us that we give place to the devil when we steal from others. We steal from God when we don't tithe. We steal from the church when we miss services for no reason. We steal from brethren when we don't use our spiritual gift. We steal from the lost when we don't give to missions.

Ephesians 4:29; Romans 3:13 Paul says we give place to the devil when we use our tongue to tear down rather than build up. Proverbs says we can use our tongue to build up and bless or tear down, life and death are in the power of the tongue, and a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold...