

# “TAKE YE HEED, WATCH AND PRAY”

By Keith Greer

*“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.” {Mark 13:33}* Jesus was giving excellent advice to His disciples. Yes, all of us need to give careful consideration to this same advice. We need to take heed to watch:

**Lest we yield to temptation.** *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” {1 Corinthians 10:12,13}* Temptation is not the sin but yielding is! God tells us that we will be tempted. Satan has many ways to tempt us to do his will. Placing the trap before us doesn't mean we have to step into it! How do we watch not to enter temptation? Don't place yourself in a place where you know that you will be tempted! Example: Every young person should know it's sinful to drink so why would they attend some social function where you know everyone will be drinking alcohol? God did not say to get as close “to the line of sin” testing our strength! He uses other words like “flee,” “avoid,” and “abstain.” **TAKE HEED!**

**Against the assaults of Satan.** *“Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” {2 Corinthians 2:11}* Do not underestimate your adversary the devil! He is cunning, crafty, a liar and has designs to destroy your soul. He will go to any means necessary to destroy us. *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” {2 Corinthians 11:13-15}* He is always seeking to find a way to get us to yield to his methods. *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” {1 Peter 5:8}* He is always waiting for us to let our guard down so he can “pounce” on us!

**Look for opportunities to do good.** *“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” {Galatians 6:9,10}* Christians need to be “watching” when doors of opportunities open to do good unto others. Words of encouragement, comfort, hope and a reassuring smile can really lift up one's spirit knocked down by life.

**Encourage the weak.** *“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” {Galatians 6:1,2}* God places upon the stronger Christians to help the “weaker ones” along until they can grow strong on their own, this demonstrates love.

**To guard the faith.** *“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith*

*which was once for all delivered to the saints.” {Jude 3} Christians are to be “guardians” of the faith. We must stand ready to defend and fight for her when it’s being attacked by the ungodly. Paul encouraged the elders of Ephesus at Miletus to be ready to do the same, Acts 20:28-31.*

Dear readers, how watchful are you in your life? Do you **“watch and pray”** continually? Never forget we’re in a spiritual battle and the only way we can win – fight the good fight!

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