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Godly Reflections by Kim

12/07/2010

Don't Sleep!

No matter how comfortable things may seem, now is not the time to let your guard down! When it comes to your relationship with God through Christ, your eyes must always be in tuned to what's going on around you. The enemy is as rampant as ever and his henchmen are always alert. They are ready to seize an opportunity to pounce on one of God's children in a moment's notice. This is not meant for the believer to live in fear or to live a life without peace of mind, no...but we must live in awareness!

Mark 13:33-37 (NIV) admonishes, *"Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back-whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36: If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37: What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!' "*

Listen, Jesus Christ makes it very plain to His disciples in this passage of scripture. In the beginning of Mark 13, he warns them of what is to come in the future. He was instructing them on what to look for and what to expect so that they could be prepared. He states with crystal clarity that we as children of God will face tribulation because we've chosen to follow his example. It will not always be a stress-free journey when you choose to live for God, and He wants us to understand that when the stress comes we can't panic. We must be even more diligent to stay the course.

1 Peter 5:8(NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 tells us that the devil looks for an opening to pounce on our circumstances. We can't afford to sleep on our surroundings, because he doesn't. He makes sure that his demons are roaming the earth to try to complicate, frustrate, and devastate. He'll do whatever he can to try to take God's people out. But you see here's the thing, you and I already have the victory. The enemy will use people and situations to cause you grief, but you can't let that stuff keep you out out of the game, no matter how tired you get.

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Isaiah 54:17 says that no weapon formed against us will prevail. There will be those who will manipulate, distort the truth, and plot against us. We can have no doubt of that, but if we're watchful, we'll see the tricks a mile away.

What since does it make to warn people of danger if they can't do anything to prevent it? God is telling you to watch out so that you don't fall for the tricks. The weapon will be formed, but you must understand that it is our righteousness that keeps it from prospering. Matthew 6:33 tells us to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first, and the blessings of heaven will be added to us. And likewise, if you seek anything else first, the blessings of heaven will be subtracted.

Don't fall asleep on the job. This is your life and you only have one opportunity to get it right. You must be as ferocious to stay on the Lord's side as the devil is to take you off of it. Being a Christian is a full time occupation, not just one day a week. You'll always have to work on it by nurturing and honoring your relationship with God. This is not grievous or hard. It's a privilege that yields peace of mind, abundance, and all the other good things that come with His love. So keep your walk in Christ energetic and lively, and here are a few reminders to help:

Pray often and ask God for wisdom and understanding. Switch gears, take your energy away from the stress of a situation and put it into prayer. Open your mouth to the Father in faith, not fear. Ask Him to lead, guide and direct your path and have confidence that He'll do just that. There is nothing He won't reveal to you if you'll ask earnestly. He will show you what you need to know.

Be careful of the people you associate with. You must be careful when forming relationships with people that are unbelievers. The adversary works through and in people, and he does it quite easily so you'll need to stay on point. One of the biggest mistakes we make is allowing the wrong person in our lives.

Pay your tithes faithfully. Tithing is a blessed opportunity to sow a seed. It is also a blessed opportunity to receive a supernatural harvest. We ought to thank the Father that He's provided such a loving way for us to give and be a blessing to the body of Christ financially. You and I demonstrate our truest level of faith and obedience through tithing, because no other act reflects our genuine attitude toward the Kingdom than giving. Most of us work for our money; therefore, the income we earn represents the trust we place in man's ability to reward our efforts. If we can't have that same faith when it comes to tithing, what does that say about our relationship with God? Tithing faithfully must be a spiritual habit pattern for the Christian.

God admonishes in Revelations 3:2 (KJV), "*Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain.*" Your alertness to the subtle tricks of the devil reflect your diligence to the Kingdom of God. This is why you must pay close attention and be consciously aware of what's at stake. The decisions we make have a huge impact upon our spiritual lives, and the choice to be spiritually

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on point is forever before us. So pray often, be careful who you spend your time with, and pay your tithes; do these and you're sure to be spiritually doze-free.

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