

AWAKEN (3) 11th Sep – 18th Sep

ALERT: When the New Testament commands us to ‘watch’ it is usually the translation of one of two Greek words *gregoreuo* and *agrupneo*, both of which have similar meanings to ‘stay awake’ and to ‘be sleepless.’ They are usually meant in the metaphorical and spiritual sense to be vigilant and on guard, fully awake, aware, alert and intently focused.

We are seeing change taking place worldwide on a scale that previous generations have never witnessed before, we are literally seeing history unfolding before our eyes. Many countries are unstable, futures are uncertain and fear and anxiety drive the decision making process.

As students of Jesus however, we are told to be alert and discerning with an understanding of the times and the season that we are in. In 1 Chronicles 12:32, it speaks of the men of Issachar who because they spiritually discerned the time and season, knew what to do.

We need to be alert and discerning so that we will know what to do and as the people of God be the city on a hill, light to the nations and bringers of justice, righteousness and hope. **#AwakenSep**

Key Bible Verses

Matthew 24:42-44 Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Mark 13:33-37 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows or in the morning lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.

Ephesians 6:18 Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Prayer Points

- Our nation following the referendum decision to leave the E.U. Pray for reconciliation and unity in our political parties as they seek to work out a way forward that is best for Britain.
- Pray for the church globally to wake up to their true identity and the authority that they have in Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to take a stand against the principalities and powers of evil.
- Pray as a movement we remain 'expectant' of the soon return of Christ and live out our lives accordingly.
- Pray for government officials, researchers and the media to recognise the new extremist movements on deeper levels and have the wisdom to address them with truth, in unity.
- For military intelligence and security agencies to share cross-border information through Europe to detect and prevent offences against national security and to counter terrorism.
- Pray for fresh revelation to know how to engage and challenge in appropriate ways, those things that present themselves as being against God.
- Pray against the accelerating trend towards a more biased curriculum against Christianity. The grossly generalised and stereotypical portrayals of Christianity signal that Christians are untrustworthy, religiously inferior, homophobic and intolerant.
- Pray for Christians who are persecuted across the world as persecution continues to rise. Persecution levels have risen rapidly; every year over 100 million Christians are persecuted because of their beliefs. The most notable increases are in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Eritrea.

Creative Ideas

- Find the highest 'natural' landmark in your town or city and take a group of people up there to pray over the population.
- Identify six key areas for focussed prayer and set an alarm clock (preferably traditional bell alarm) for 10 minutes. When the alarm goes off move the focus onto the next area. This links in with Jesus asking His disciples, if they could not stay awake and pray for even just an hour.