



Praying With God Video Course

Session Nine: Different Kinds of Prayers-Watching

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'After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly' Acts 4: 31

Session Nine: Different Kinds of Prayers- Watching



*Ephesians 6:18-19: 'Pray at all times on every occasion in the Spirit with all manner of prayer and entreaty. To that end **keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance**, interceding in behalf of all the saints God's consecrated people. And pray also for me that freedom of utterance is given me that I may open my mouth to boldly proclaiming the mystery of the Good News the Gospel.'*



In the Old Testament only a few were given the critically important job of watching. The 'watchers' stood at the city gates and their job was to cry out if they saw anything unusual. They looked for the advance of enemy or an approaching storm or physical threat. They would cry out if they saw the returning victorious army bringing spoils of war. Some watchmen were appointed to safeguard fields and vineyards in harvest time – Isaiah 5:1-2; Matthew 21: 23. In other situations sentinels were appointed to announce the start of a new day –Isaiah 21: 11, 12. In addition, the Old Testament prophets were appointed by God to watch over the souls of the people – Ezekiel 33: 7.

Watching in the New Testament

When we get to the New Testament we don't read about actual 'watchmen' anymore, but the frequency of the command to 'watch' is increased. Leaders in particular are instructed to 'watch' their flock –Acts 20: 28, but all believers are commanded to 'watch' by Jesus and Paul. There are specific instructions about WHAT to watch.

What to watch

- ‡ Watch God: Jesus watched the Father and did only what He saw Him doing, John 11:41.
- ‡ Watch Jesus by 'fixing our eyes' on Him Hebrews 12: 2.
- ‡ Watch ourselves: Jesus told us to watch ourselves as when we stand before the Lord, we will give an account for ourselves. So we need to watch that we don't fall into temptation. Mat 26:37-40; Luke 21:36; The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.
- ‡ Watch each other. Paul watched the people in the churches he oversaw – he noticed the sin of the man and his mother in law. He observed how the Colossian church was so orderly, Colossians 2: 5.
- ‡ Watch the Fig Tree: (Israel) In Luke 21: 29-31 in the parable of the fig tree we are instructed to watch what happens to the nation of Israel.
- ‡ Watch the Enemy: if we are alert and watchful we will be aware of the schemes of the enemy. '*Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*' 2 Corinthians 2: 11.

- ⌘ Watch the times of the signs: if we are alert we will be able to discern the signs of the times as described in Matthew 24 and Luke 21.



Watching ‘in the Spirit’

So there is a strong scriptural foundation in the Bible for watching. But the verses in Ephesians 6:18-19 we are told to *‘keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance’*. How do we apply this to praying in the Spirit?

Just as in the Old Testament the watchmen stood at their posts to ‘watch’, we are to position ourselves to ‘watch’ what is happening in the spirit realm. Once we ‘see’ what is happening, we can pray appropriately. The prophet Habakkuk gives us a model for this in *Habakkuk 2.1: ‘I will [in my thinking] stand upon my post of observation and station myself on the tower or fortress, and will watch to see what He will say within me and what answer I will make [as His mouthpiece] to the perplexities of my complaint against Him.’* (Amplified)

We make a conscious decision at the beginning of our prayer to ‘look to see’ what the Holy Spirit might show us. We position ourselves to ‘look’ by an attitude of faith that He will show us what He is doing. The Holy Spirit WILL help us and WILL show us what He wants to do or pray. We are assured of this in John 16: 13-14. *‘But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].’* (Amplified)

So in practice, we start by praying in tongues, with a confidence that as we look, we will see. We wait for revelation and wait for His leading.

‘Watching is the very first step to Spirit-led prayer. It is praying to pray. It is tuning in to God and purposely searching out the promptings of His Spirit. It is looking for His leadings so you can follow them and pray about things of which you have no natural knowledge’. Lynne Hammond (1)

What might the Holy Spirit show us?

He might show us He wants to release a fresh move into our church. We may see pictures and visions of fire or waves of glory pouring over the church. This will indicate to us what His intention is.

Or He may show us that the enemy is trying to get a hold of a situation, a person or in the church. We may see images of warfare, chains, and struggles and so on. Or He may show us to watch over the preaching so that it is pure and full of life.

In another instance He may lead us to watch over the Word that is being preached. In Ephesians 6:10 Paul asks the saints to pray that he would be given freedom and boldness to preach the Word. Bible preachers and teachers often testify that when they delivered a certain message, the content

was inspired with a supernatural flow that they realise comes from God not themselves. This is the result of prior intercession for the message and delivery.

Once we have discerned what it is He wants to do, it is up to us to co-labour with Him until the job is done. This involves yielding to His leading and praying until we sense a release, or a peace. Then we know the job is done.

We cannot do this without 'watching' in the beginning and so this is an integral part of prayer in the spirit. We are to 'watch' in the spirit.



Key Points

1. 'Watching' is an important type of prayer in the Spirit.
2. There are differences between watching in the Old and New Testaments.
3. The Bible shows us what to watch.
4. The Bible shows us how to watch.

Activities



Reflective Questions

1. How are watchmen different in the Old and New Testaments?
2. How do we 'watch' in the spirit? See the principles in Habakkuk 2: 1-2.
3. What might we be shown by the Holy Spirit?



Bible Study

1. What does the Greek word watch mean? Look up the Strong's concordance meaning Strong's G1127 – grēgoreō γρηγορέω

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G1127&t=KJV>

2. What/who are we to watch?

Hebrews 12: 2: _____

Matthew 25: 13: _____

Matthew 26: 41: _____

Luke 21: 29-31: _____

Revelation 1: 7,8 and 2 Timothy 4:8 _____



Activation



Watching and Seeing

Habakkuk 2: 1-2: I will stand upon my post of observation and station myself on the tower and watch to see what He will say within me and what answer I will make as His mouthpiece to the perplexities of my complain against Him.

And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may be able to read it easily and quickly as he passes by.

- a. Find a quiet place and meditate on the above passage. Ask God to help you 'watch'. Look to see what God might show you for this next season. Write it down.

- b. Think of someone who is going through a season of difficulty because of some kind of opposition. See them bathed in the love of God. See them through the eyes of the good Father, loving them and desiring them to walk in the fullness of all He has for them. He will not condemn, judge or harshly criticise them. 'Watch' to see what Jesus might say to them. Write down what you see and ask someone you trust and who is a mature Christian to read your words and comment on the tone.