

WATCHFUL

Colossians 4:2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

Towards the end of his letter to the Colossian church, Paul makes a subtle statement that should catch our attention. As he urges them to press on in their walk with Christ, he challenges them to be watchful. It is a common theme among Paul's exhortations to the churches he writes to.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

1 Timothy 4:16

Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

But, what does it mean to be watchful? First, it means to be awake and aware. G. G. Findlay said, "To be awake is to be alive in the fullest sense, to have all the powers of perception and action in readiness. The activity of the soul in prayer is to be both energetic and incessant." Second, watchfulness is related to vigilance. This means keeping an eye out for threats and danger.

We know the disciples struggled during their time praying with Jesus in Gethsemane. However, Jesus wanted them to understand that it was about more than just pulling an all-nighter.

Matthew 26:41

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Earlier in his ministry, Jesus also emphasized this point, leading into his brief parable about a master who goes away and leaves the servants in charge until his return. In it he challenges his hearers' spiritual readiness.

Mark 13:32-33

32 "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

Likewise, Peter emphasizes this point regarding a Christian's spiritual security.

1 Peter 5:8

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

The question we have to ask ourselves is: "Am I awake, watching, and ready?"

Keep Studying,

Ryan