

Prayer that Gets Results (Part 5)

God is calling a band of overcomers to co-operate with Him to a degree that He is not calling others who believe in His Son and love Him. He is calling a few to whom He wants to reveal, in a special way, His final plan for the battle against Satan and His hosts. When He finds such people and reveals His purpose to them, they will make importunate “knocking” their one business and so co-operate with God to bring His Kingdom. Such people will pay a very high price – loneliness, intensity in prayer, ever increasing wrestling, increased attacks from hell – but they are people who will neither rest night or day nor give God a second’s rest, but pray until the Lord appears in the clouds to establish the Kingdom. Will you pay the price? Will you enrol? Finally, remember, God wants to know how serious we are. He will not deal with people who are not serious. There are many things that God has for you and for the Church that you will not experience until you trouble and weary Him with your prayers over a sustained period of time. A man or woman who wants God’s will to be done at any cost will pray night and day. Such praying is not just simple phrases being thrown at God. It is a matter of life and death, requiring tears, agony, heartache and wrestling.

- (ZT Fomum, The Way of Victorious Praying)

11. Embrace your watchman role

Tsaphah – to look out expectantly. To look about. To look eagerly. To spy. Agreuo + Hupnos = sleepless and wakeful

Shamar = To guard or keep. It emphasizes the preserving and guarding aspect of the prophet’s ministry needed for each church. It identifies the prophet’s spiritual authority which acts as a fence or garrison around an assigned congregation to shield it from harm, attack, or demonic trespass. This includes protection from the spoilage, destruction, invasion, and threats that result from spiritual and human trespasses in the church. (adapted from John Eckhardt)

How awake are you to spiritual things? How awake are you to God’s agenda? Every watchman has a post. Imagine if all the security guards guarded the same place and left other places unguarded. Are you praying for the nations whilst someone is robbing your backyard?

Mark 13:33-37

Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

1 Thess 5:6 – 8

Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

If we are not truly watching, we will pray wonderful prayers but in the wrong direction. We will give people comfort as they know that we are watching but we won’t get the necessary results in the day of trouble.

We are called to watch different things

- We are called to watch what the Lord is doing and about to do in the church, in our lives and in the world (Let’s not leave any domains out).
- We are called to watch out for the enemy’s strategy against us.
- We are called to watch ourselves (character).

It’s one thing to intercede, it’s another thing to intercede from a watchman mindset and mentality.

Failing to watch has consequences

Mt 26:40 – 41

Then Jesus returned to the disciples and found them sleeping. "Were you not able to keep watch with Me for one hour?" He asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

When we pray saying "lead us not into temptation" this is a form of watching.

Matthew 24:42-44

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Revelation 3:2-3

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Open my eyes Lord to see ahead into the future and know things to come, over my family, church etc. Are you a watchman over your business, or the institution of marriage in the nation? What are the implications of this?

There are different types of watchmen

Isaiah 56:10

His watchmen are blind, All of them know nothing. All of them are mute dogs unable to bark, Dreamers lying down, who love to slumber;

- 1. Slumbering watchmen** (some watchmen sleep on duty because they didn't get rest before).
- 2. Distracted watchmen** - It is possible to be spiritually unfit because we are putting too much energy into worldly things.
- 3. Disoriented watchmen** - Looking in the wrong direction. We all look but not necessarily in the right direction. Disorientation also speaks of not knowing where you are. Sometimes people like it. They like feeling dizzy. It's like when you lose your bearings.
- 4. Ill equipped watchmen** – they are looking but do not have the correct weapons;
- 5. Fearful watchmen** - looking and seeing but runs away fearful,
- 6. Isolated watchmen** - looking and seeing but is outnumbered;
- 7. Conceited watchmen** - watching and seeing but minimizing and rationalising the danger away.
- 8. The faithful watchmen** – active and alert on duty

So if you are a prophet to the nations like Jeremiah then you are also a watchman for those nations. When did you last pray with passion for those nations, based on what God was showing you?

12 Characteristics of a watchman and watching

- 1. A watchman sees first then informs or warns.**

2 Kings 9:17

Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel and he saw the company of Jehu as he came, and said, "I see a company." And Joram said, "Take a horseman and send him to meet them and let him say, 'Is it peace?'"

Can you see things to come? Are you articulating what you need to say in order to inform?

2. A watchman belongs to someone or something

1 Samuel 14:16

Now Saul's watchmen in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the multitude melted away; and they went here and there.

Whose watchman are you? Your church? Family? Business? Watchmen operate in different contexts. Essentially a watchman is a servant. Paul described himself as a servant of Christ but also a servant of the church.

3. We must be dependent on the Lord and not on our ability to watch

Psalm 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house, They labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain. God helps us to keep awake.

4. A watchman is active in spiritual warfare.

Watching and warfare go hand in hand

Jer 51:12

Lift up a signal against the walls of Babylon; Post a strong guard, Station sentries, Place men in ambush! For the LORD has both purposed and performed What He spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

5. True watchmen are spiritually perceptive

They can interpret patterns and trends. They apply their knowledge and intelligence. We should have some understanding of current affairs.

2 Sam 18: 24-27

Now David was sitting between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and raised his eyes and looked, and behold, a man running by himself. The watchman called and told the king. And the king said, "If he is by himself there is good news in his mouth." And he came nearer and nearer. Then the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, "Behold, another man running by himself." And the king said, "This one also is bringing good news." The watchman said, "I think the running of the first one is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok " And the king said, "This is a good man and comes with good news."

6. Watchmen know how to report what they see and hear

Isaiah 21:6

For thus the Lord says to me, "Go, station the lookout, let him report what he sees. You don't have to make it happen. Your job is just to warn and report.

7. God is also a watchman over us

Is 27:3

"I, the LORD, am its keeper; I water it every moment So that no one will damage it, I guard it night and day.

The word keeper means – to watch, guard or keep. Are you guarding what God is guarding? This is important for leaders and parents. All leaders have a watchmen role.

Heb 13:17

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

Watch with a shepherd's heart. Be a church for the city not against the city or in the city or like the city but for the city.

8. True watchmen are called and appointed to a post

Jeremiah 6:17

"And I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.'

Ezekiel 3:17

"Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.

Are you watching at YOUR post not someone else's?

9. Watching is a function of prophetic ministry**Hos 9:8**

The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God.

There are spiritual attacks and snares that watchmen face just like prophets.

10. Watching involves an act of the will**Hab 2:1**

I will stand on my guard post and station myself on the rampart; And I will keep watch to see what He will speak to me, And how I may reply when I am reproved.

Watching is something you resolve to do because of the sacrifice involved.

11. Watching can take place individually and corporately**Mt 26:38**

Then He said to them, "My soul is consumed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me."

12. There are blessings associated with watching**Rev 16:15**

"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."