

## Stay Awake!

Do you sometimes feel a little sleepy?

It's so tempting to put our spiritual lives on autopilot -- little prayer, sporadic Bible study, casual about our relationship with God.

Knowing human nature, God warns repeatedly about spiritual complacency in our lives.

### Realize the devil is waiting!

In any military, soldiers are warned of enemy's tactics.

Same as soldiers of God - We need to be aware that we're in a fight. - **Ephesians 6:12**

Knowing this we need to be aware that these forces use dangerous tactics we need to be aware of! - **Ephesians 6:11; 2Corinthians 2:11**

Some of those schemes involve waiting for us to get "lazy" about our faith. - **1Peter 5:8**

Lions wait patiently for their prey to get lethargic and then they pounce!

When the devil sees us getting lazy about our faith, he knows that's the time to jump on us.

### Follow the example of others who are following Jesus.

Employers know the value of hard workers as examples.

They put these folks in visible positions to influence the rest of the staff.

Same with God: He uses busy people.

One of the most busy for his boss was Paul!

Was busy persecuting the Christians, got saved, then got busy preaching Christ no matter what the cost. - **1Corinthians 4:9-16**

Again & again Paul pleads to follow his example. - **1Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 1Thessalonians 1:6**

We can also follow one another's example: - **Hebrews 6:9-12**

Sometimes it's hard to follow written directions.

Seeing an example is much more powerful! It should spur us into action!

WE must strive to be the example that others will want to follow.

"It's impossible to influence others to rise to a higher level than the one you are on yourself!"

"The worst danger facing the younger generation is the example of the older generation!"

We can't expect our kids to be faithful Christians if we aren't.

People, especially kids, can see through hypocrisy: Practice what you preach!

To do this we must STAY AWAKE!

Much of the NT refers to being diligent, vigilant, and alert! - **Romans 13:11-14; 1Thessalonians 5:1-11**

### How to get busy & STAY busy:

**1Thessalonians 5:12-22**

Just as waking up early & staying awake takes getting used to, so do these things.

Practice, practice, practice.

How do you get to Carnegie Hall? (Practice, Practice, Practice)

How do you get to heaven? (Practice, Practice, Practice)

It is the ONLY way to reap the blessings of - **1Thessalonians 5:23**

### Stay Awake!

Let us resolve to not get sluggish, sleepy or lazy about our walk with God.

Let's remember that we have an enemy who waits for our eyelids to droop so he can sneak in & trip us up!

Let's be the example to each other, to help each other to stay strong, alert, and awake 'til Jesus comes back!

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