**Things you need – Alertness**

1 Cor. 16:13

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong*

Focal Truth: Every believer needs to live in alertness in this world

Observations:

1. **Alertness is essential for spiritual victory over the flesh, world and the devil – “be on the alert”**
2. Alert = to keep awake
3. Alert = to give careful attention
4. Alert = to be cautious
5. Spiritual sleepiness – 1 Thess. 5:6 – so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober
6. Rom. 13:11 – do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep, for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed
7. Eph. 5:14 – for this reason, it says, awake sleeper, and arise from the dead and Christ will shine on you
8. Rev. 3:2 – wake up and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die, for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God

**Characteristics of spiritual sleepiness**

1. Unable to hear spiritual truth
2. Unable to overcome sinful actions
3. Unable to focus on spiritual practices
4. Unaware of the times and conditions of the world
5. Unaware of their own spiritual condition
6. Unaware of what God is doing in the world, the church and their life
7. Unconcerned about their spiritual condition
8. Unconcerned about the spiritual condition of the world
9. **Alertness leads to resistance over the flesh, world and devil – “stand firm in the faith”**
10. Standing firm is spiritual resistance
11. Standing firm by the Lord Jesus Christ – Rom. 5:2 – through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we exult in hope of the glory of god
12. Standing firm against the devil’s schemes – Eph. 6:11 – put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil
13. Standing firm in evil days – Eph. 6:13 – therefore, taking up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
14. Stand firm in maturity and assurance of the will of God – Col. 4:12 that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God
15. **Alertness leads to bravery against the world and the devil – “act like men”**
16. Bravery to face our afflictions
17. Bravery to accept the circumstances we are in
18. Bravery to resist the devil
19. Bravery to say no to the world & the flesh
20. **Alertness leads to strength against the world and the devil – “be strong”**
21. Rom. 4:20 – yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God
22. 2 Cor. 12:10 – when I am weak, then I am strong
23. Eph. 6:10 – be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might
24. 2 Tim. 2:1 – be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus

**Things to Remember**

1. Alertness is readiness for whatever we face as believers in the world
2. Careful self – examination keeps the heart awake
3. The world can put you to sleep spiritually
4. Resistance to the world, flesh & devil is essential to victory in Christ
5. Alertness leads to cautiousness
6. When I am alert I am strong!

**Daily Use**

1. Watch the condition of your heart – Matt. 16:6 – Watch out beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees
2. Watch for the activity & attacks of the devil – 1 Pet. 5:8 – be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour
3. Watch for sources of temptation – Matt. 26:41 – Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak
4. Watch when you are praying – Col. 4:2 – devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving
5. Watch the way you live – Eph. 5:15 – therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise
6. Watch for the Lord’s return! – Matt. 24:42 – therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming

Mark 13:33 – Take heed, keep on the alert, for you do not know when the appointed time will come.