

Fathers' Studies: Personal Growth

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 5 OF 52

SPIRITUAL WATCHFULNESS

LESSON AIM: To encourage fathers to watch (be alert) for spiritual dangers.

KEY VERSE:

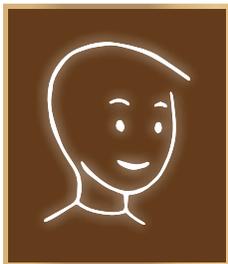
- 1. EPHESIANS 6:18** Believers are encouraged to _____ in the Spirit.
Keep alert and make supplications and prayers for _____ .
- 2. 1 PETER 4:7** One of the reasons to be watchful is so that you can _____ .
- 3. 1 PETER 5:8** Whom does Peter say that you should watch out for? _____

- 4. DEUTERONOMY 4:9** The Bible warns you to be watchful so that you do not _____

- 5. 1 CORINTHIANS 10:12** You are warned to watch carefully so that you do not _____ .

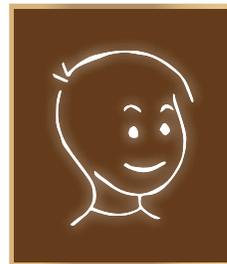
PERSONAL NOTES:

For You To Do



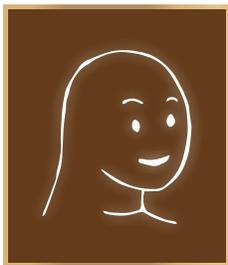
By Yourself

Plan a regular time for Bible reading and prayer. Study and read from Psalms and Proverbs each day. This will help you to stay awake spiritually.



With Your Children

Ask them about their fears. Some of these might be spiritual, some not. The fears may be in their school work, reading, music, TV, or friends. Talk with them about what you can do to protect them from these dangers.



With Your Wife

Ask her if there is anything that makes her afraid. Her fears might show you some spiritual dangers. Then you can pray with her for God's protection.

SPIRITUAL WATCHFULNESS

LESSON 5 OF 52

A Christian must always be watching because Satan is always trying to destroy Christians in any way he can.

THE FATHER MUST WATCH THREE AREAS.

HIMSELF

He must watch for anything that can weaken his love for God or keep him from doing God's will. To see spiritual danger, the father must first of all know how God expects him to live. He learns this through Bible reading and study, prayer, talking to other Christians, and reading good books. Then he can tell when someone's teaching does not agree with God's Word.

Another way to become more watchful is to go without eating and spend that time praying. You can also memorize Bible verses so that you can say them when you need them. Jesus did both of these when Satan was tempting Him in the desert. As you pray, go without food, study the Bible, and memorize it, the Holy Spirit will help you be watchful and see danger. He will remind you of things that you should or should not do.

HIS WIFE

Some areas in which a husband should watch for danger in his wife's life are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Neglect of Bible reading | Clothing fashions |
| Television | Magazines and books |
| Wrong friends | Hurt feelings |

HIS CHILDREN

Some areas in which a father should watch for danger in his children's lives are:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ungodly education | Pornography |
| Television | Worldly friends |
| Bad habits | Ungodly music |

PSALM 39:1; ACTS 20:29-31; COLOSSIANS 4:2; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:6-8

KEEP AWAKE! DO NOT SLEEP LIKE OTHERS. WATCH AND KEEP YOUR MINDS AWAKE TO WHAT IS HAPPENING. (1 THESSALONIANS 5:6)

WINDOW TO LIFE

Al was very busy working at a sawmill and thought that his wife should take care of training their fifteen-year-old daughter. Then one day their daughter ran away from home. When they found her, she was living with a man.

Al saw that he had not been very watchful as a father. He had not prayed for his daughter and spent time with her as he should have. So he took some time off work, went and talked to his daughter and persuaded her to come back home. Over the next few years he took extra time off work to be with her. He took his family to Christian conferences and visited other Christian families. He made special efforts to get his daughter to places where she could meet other Christian young people.

One day a Christian young man took an interest in Al's daughter and asked if he could marry her. Al and his wife were happy to say yes.

Know God's Word so that you will recognize spiritual dangers.

Memorizing Bible verses and going without eating can increase spiritual alertness.

Watch out for things that influence your wife and children.

