



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: **1 Thessalonians 5** Title: **Stay alert!**

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Summary of Chapter Chapter 5 continues the discussion of the coming of the Lord. After clarifying the fate of the Christians who have died, Paul turns to the responsibility of the living. Paul admonishes the living to remain alert and prepare for that day when Christ returns, for they, unlike the unbelievers, are fully aware that the day of the Lord is coming.

Key Verse(s) NIV

How does it speak to me?

⁶“So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.”

As we wait for our Savior from heaven, let us be alert and live a holy life in view of the day of the Lord. We must live in the light and behave as children of the light, for ‘we do not belong to the night or to the darkness’. We want to do what is right before the Lord, to be calm and steady in our faith and actions, faithfully serving the Lord as we look forward to that day.

Choosing to do what is right before the Lord is sometimes difficult, because it involves risks –the risk of conflicts, the risk of humiliation, the risk of physical harm or even the risk of death. There was once I had a misunderstanding with a person. He got very upset with me but he did not talk to me about it. One day, when I met him, he suddenly raised his voice and started berating me. I was very shocked and angry at his behavior. Later, I sat down with him to talk but he continued to scold me and rained accusations at me. I was very hurt by his words and behavior. I wanted to resolve the conflict but I was afraid of another emotional outburst from him. Or even worse, he might resort to physical violence. I prayed for wisdom and the Lord prompted me to seek advice from my supervisor. My supervisor advised me to seek reconciliation with this person and together, we met up with the person to clarify the misunderstanding. I thank God that we reconciled after apologizing to each other.

When we serve the Lord, we will face opposition. There are times we might want to avoid confronting an issue and hoping that it would go away on its own. Or we might want to react or even be tempted to take revenge for the hurt done to us. In moments like these, we certainly need to remain clear-headed, choose to listen to the Holy Spirit, respond in His wisdom and walk in His light. Take heart and be courageous. In 1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT), the apostle Paul wrote, “These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

So let us be on our guard and live holy lives, as we see the day of the Lord coming. Be encouraged! He is returning soon.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult: As you see the day of the Lord approaching, what is one area in your life that you need to be watchful over?

Youth: As you see the day of the Lord approaching, what is one area of your life that you want to develop discipline in?

Child: Write a note to encourage a friend that Jesus loves him/her and that you would like to see him/her in heaven one day.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture: Lord Jesus, it is such a privilege to know You and to serve You! Help us to live as children of light for we know You are returning soon. Help us to watch and pray, to be alert and clearheaded, seeking to obey You and to please You with our lives. Lead us to encourage someone of Your soon return. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Thanksgiving Prayer: I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer: I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer: I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus’ Name I/we pray. Amen.