

The Watchman Anointing

Advocates in Prayer: <http://www.prayerlinksministries.com/GeneralSession.htm>

Introduction

A. We are all called to be watchmen.

- 1. Spiritual application of watchman in the Bible: prophet, intercessor**
- 2. All believers are called to be watchmen: *"What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"* (Mark 13:37)**
- 3. Focus of watching: guard our own hearts; be our brother's keeper.**

B. A watchman is one who sees spiritually.

- 1. We're endowed at birth to see physically.**
- 2. Spiritual sight requires a spiritual endowment or anointing.**
- 3. The watchman anointing is defined as:**

"The divine enablement to see the things that God wants us to see in order to partner with Him in His work."

C. We receive our spiritual sight when we are born of the Spirit.

- 1. *"No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."* (John 3:3)**
- 2. *"No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."* (John 3:5)**
- 3. You must be born from above to see, enter, and function in the realm in which God reigns.**

D. By virtue of our new birth, we can see into a fourth dimension.

- 1. We see beyond the physical realm into the spiritual realm of reality.**
- 2. The realm where God reigns and where demonic forces resist God's reign.**

3. We see God's purposes for people and Satan's devices against people.

E. A Personal Experience: Analogy of how to position ourselves as watchmen.

1. The story of my first encounter with envision graphics.

a. From curiosity to communication to encounter.

b. *"I see Jesus!" . . . "Yeah man, but you cheatin'! You prayin'!"*

2. Lessons for positioning ourselves as spiritual watchmen.

a. Acknowledging our nearsightedness.

1) The Fall affects our spiritual vision.

2) The natural mind rejects spiritual truths.

3) We need the Holy Spirit to anoint our eyes with eye salve.

b. We must draw near to God to see spiritual truths.

1) True prophets/seers must be in God's council/confidence.

2) Spiritual truths hidden from wise and revealed to babes.

c. We must focus beyond the surface of things.

1) Things aren't as they seem to be on the surface.

2) We must see beyond natural fields to the spiritual harvest of souls.

d. We must receive the full picture that God is showing us.

1) I saw the whole picture at once.

2) We must see God's purposes and the Enemy's devices.

F. Theme Sentence: *"A prayer watchman is anointed to see God's hand at work and to partner in His handiwork."*

G. Purpose Statement: *"To help us develop a spiritual focus by which to perceive God's plan, participate in His work, and protect His people."*

H. Preview of main points:

- 1. The Role of the Watchman**
- 2. The Ministry of the Spiritual Watchman in the Bible**
- 3. My Personal Pilgrimage in Spiritual Watchfulness**
- 4. Contemporary Applications and Illustrations of Spiritual Watchfulness**

Body of Teaching

I. The Role of the Watchman

A. Dictionary definitions: Watching is more than casual perception.

1. We use the word casually: watching television, watching the sun go down.

2. Primary definitions denote more than casual observation.

a. Watch is defined as *"to keep vigil as a devotional exercise."* Another definition is *"to be awake during the night."*

b. Archaic definition of "watch": *"A watchman or body of watchmen formerly assigned to patrol the streets of a town at night, announce the hours, and act as police."*

c. Watchman: *"A person who keeps watch: GUARD."*

3. NOTE: Watching in its primary sense implies responsible involvement.

B. Biblical watchmen: A secular vocation with spiritual implications

1. Watchmen in biblical times were caretakers and guardians.

a. Some were assigned to protect crops from predators and thieves.

b. Some were assigned to protect cities from military invasion.

2. Watchmen were to be proactive in their role as guardians.

a. They were vigilant. There were "*watches*" around the clock

b. They were vocal: They warned of danger with shouts or trumpets.

3. The words for "*watchman*" have implications for spiritual watchfulness.

a. (*tsaphah*): "*To lean forward, i.e. to peer into the distance*" (perception)

b. (*shamar*): "*to hedge about*" (as with thorns) (defense)

c. (*Natsar*): "*Conceal*" (as in besieging a city) (advance)

II. The Ministry of the Spiritual Watchman in the Old Testament

A. Adam was assigned to guard or "*keep*" the Garden of Eden.

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." (Genesis 2:15)

1. The word translated keep is (*shamar*) -- "*keep the serpent out!*"

2. Because he didn't, the Cherubim were to "*keep*" (*shamar*) him out.

3. Lesson: First mention of watching relates to spiritual vigilance.

B. Ezekiel was called to be God's watchmen over Israel.

1. He was anointed to be a seer before He was called to be a watchman.

a. He sees the windstorm, the cherubim, the expanse, the Lord upon His throne, and the scroll he is commanded to eat. (1:4-3:3)

b. He is called to be a spiritual watchman who warns people of the dangers of sin and unrepentant hearts. *"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me."* (Ezekiel 3:16)

2. He was anointed to see the big picture before embarking on His task.

a. He received revelation of God's omniscience. This is pictured in the Cherubim with four faces and full of eyes. (1:17-18;10:12)

b. He received revelation of the people's idolatry: idol of jealousy, worship of creeping things and animals; worship of the sun. (ch. 8)

c. He received revelation of the people's spiritual blindness & oppression.

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS:

"He said to me, 'Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol? They say, 'The LORD does not see us; the LORD has forsaken the land.'" (Ezekiel 8:12)

SPIRITUAL OPPRESSION:

"Son of man, say to the house of Israel, 'This is what you are saying: 'Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?''" (Ezekiel 33:10)

3. He was called to the multifaceted ministry of the watchman.

a. Seeing what God sees and feeling what God feels.

"The Spirit then lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness and in the anger of my spirit, with the strong hand of the LORD upon me." (3:14)

"Then the LORD called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side and said to him, 'Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it.'" (9:3-4)

b. Speaking to dissuade from sin and inspire with hope.

"Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?'" (33:11)

"I have been a sanctuary for them in the countries where they have gone I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them They will be my people, and I will be their God." (11: 16b, 17b, 19a, 20b)

4. God still uses the watchman to expose sin and call people to repentance.

-- John Wimber, Power Evangelism (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1986), pp. 32-34.

- a. John Wimber's flight from Chicago to New York.**
- b. Sees middle-aged business man and "adultery" across face.**
- c. Woman's name comes to his mind when the man addressed him.**
- d. Revelation of repentance of death on the way to cocktail lounge.**
- e. Repentance, confession to wife, and wife's salvation.**

C. Isaiah was a seer who foresaw the ministry of spiritual watchmen/intercessors.

1. Isaiah was enabled to foresee future events of Israel's history:

- a. The exile of the Jews to Babylon**
- b. The destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple**
- c. The edict of Cyrus allowing the Jews to return to their homeland**
- d. The future reconstruction of Jerusalem and the Temple**

2. Isaiah heard God speak of the calling/positioning of watchmen/intercessors:

"I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth." (62:6-7)

3. These watchmen/intercessors were seers and participants in the vision:

- a. They saw beyond the exile, the fall of Jerusalem, and the edict to return.**
- b. They saw the rebuilding of the city with large walls to fortify it.**
- c. They saw themselves on the wall interceding from vision to reality.**

4. This depiction imparts three important lessons about watchmen/intercessors:

- a. They see the vision of God's purposes.**
- b. They own the vision and position themselves in it.**
- c. They battle through prayer to the fulfillment of that vision.**

5. God uses watchman today to place themselves in the vision and pray through to the answer.