

1 Pet 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The Greek word for vigilant is *gregoreuo*, which means to be vigilant, on guard, watchful and to keep awake. It is translated as watch or watchful some 21 times in the New Testament. When our Lord was in the garden of Gethsemane He urged and admonished the sleepy disciples to be watchful and awake. We read in Mark 14:32-38, *And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.* It is an extremely serious offense when a sentry who is on guard or watch succumbs to sleepiness and is simply no longer watching. The ramifications can jeopardize the very welfare of all those whom are trusting in his watchfulness and vigilance. Our nation has been free from a terrorist attack since 9/11 and many have become complacent. The recent warnings on the news are that an attack is most likely imminent, which will hopefully cause our nation to once again become vigilant and watchful. The apostle Peter warns us to be sober (not drunk) and to be vigilant (watchful and awake) because our very real enemy is seeking to harm us. It is easy to live our Christian lives and grow into a spiritual sleepiness, just like those disciples did in the Garden. We are to be watchful, vigilant, and spiritually awake ALL the time. Are your spiritual eyes getting heavy? Are you watching for the Lord's return.? His coming again is also imminent. *Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch (Mark 13:33-37).*