

VIGILANCE





“Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty” - Thomas Jefferson

VIGILANCE

Thayer Definition: grēgoreuō

- 1. to watch**
- 2. metaphorically give strict attention to, be cautious, active**
 - 2a) to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one**

VIGILANCE

To be vigilant is to be "**staying watchful and alert to danger or trouble.**" (Webster's New World Dictionary, 1978)

The vigilant Christian is the one who is on the lookout for the enemies of his **spiritual**, **emotional**, and **physical** wellbeing. He is like:

- The soldier at the battle front
- The spy in enemy territory
- The lifeguard at the pool
- The police officer arriving at the crime scene
- The deer and her fawn at the edge of a clearing
- The father with his family in a bad neighborhood

Vigilance is an essential quality for the Christian.

VIGILANCE IN THE NT

The Greek word is translated “vigilant” twice in KJV – BOTH TIMES WITH “SOBER”

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; (1Ti 3:2 KJV)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1Pe 5:8 KJV)

It is translated “watch” sometimes with the word “sober” or “pray”

TWO WORDS FOR SOBER

Thayer Definition: sōphrōn

- 1. of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses**
- 2. curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate**

Thayer Definition: nēphō

- 1. to be sober, to be calm and collected in spirit**
- 2. to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect**

SOBER

To be sober is to be "temperate, moderate, serious, solemn, grave or sedate; characterized by reason, sanity or self-control; showing mental and emotional balance; not extreme or extravagant".
(Webster's New World Dictionary, 1978)

The opposite of sobriety: would be carelessness, silliness or recklessness.

Lack of sobriety is a real danger for those who, in their joy for the things of God, give themselves over to emotionalism with reckless abandon.

SOBER IN THE NT

*For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be **sober**, it is for your cause. (2Co 5:13 KJV)*

*Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be **sober**. (1Th 5:6 KJV)*

*But let us, who are of the day, be **sober**, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (1Th 5:8 KJV)*

A bishop then must ... vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; (1Ti 3:2 KJV)

*But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, **sober**, just, holy, **temperate**; (Tit 1:8 KJV)*

*Even so must their wives be **sober** ... (1Ti 3:11 KJV)*

SOBER IN THE NT

*That the aged men be **sober** ... (Tit 2:2 KJV)*

*That they may teach the young women to be **sober**, to love their husbands, to love their children, (Tit 2:4 KJV)*

*Young men likewise exhort to be **sober minded**. (Tit 2:6)*

*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be **sober**, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1Pe 1:13 KJV)*

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. (1Pe 4:7 KJV)

***Be sober, be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1Pe 5:8 KJV)*

THREE AREAS OF VIGILANCE

- **In Leadership**
- **In The Family**
- **In Personal Life**

VIGILANCE IN LEADERSHIP

- **Elders are to be vigilant**
 - A qualification **(1 Tim 3:2)**
 - Their work **(Heb 13:17; Acts 20:31; Rev 2:1-7)**
- **Preachers are to be vigilant**
(2 Tim 4:2,5)

**HOW GOD FEELS ABOUT LACK
OF VIGILANCE IN LEADERSHIP**

(Isa 56:10; Ezek 33:6)

VIGILANCE IN THE FAMILY

The little foxes (Song 2:15)

sensual

adultery
fornication
uncleanness
lewdness

religious

idolatry
sorcery

Interpersonal

hatred
contentions
Jealousies
outbursts of wrath
selfish ambitions
dissensions
heresies
envy

social

murders
drunkenness
revelries

Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

VIGILANCE IN THE FAMILY

Cultivate

- love
- joy
- peace
- longsuffering
- kindness
- goodness
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self-control

Against such there is no law. And those *who are Christ's* have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Galatians 5:19-24 (NKJV)

VIGILANCE IN THE FAMILY

➤ Personal responsibility

*That they may teach the young women to be **sober**, to love their husbands, to love their children, **Titus 2:4***

*Young men likewise exhort to be **sober minded**. **Titus 2:6***

*Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live **soberly**, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Titus 2:12***

*But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. **1 Corinthians 9:27***

VIGILANCE IN THE FAMILY

TROUBLE IN YOUR FAMILY:

- **Personal**
- **Possible**
- **Probable**

VIGILANCE IN PERSONAL LIFE

- **1 Pet 1:13; 4:7; 5:8**
- **Job 1-2**
- **Zech 3:1**
- **Lk 22:31**
- **Matt 4**
- **Matt 13:39**
- **Eph 4:27; 6:11**
- **James 4:7**
- **1 John 3:8-10**



**The roaring lion,
our enemy**

VIGILANCE IN PERSONAL LIFE

➤ Jesus' warnings

- Parable of 10 virgins (**Matt 25:1-12**)
- **Lk 12:35-48**
- **Mk 13:33-37**

➤ Paul's warnings

- **Rom 13:11-13**
- **1 Thess 5:6-8**
- **1 Cor 16:13**
- **Col 4:2**