

Watching from the Wall



1 Corinthians 16:13

13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

13 Be watchful,

Be on the alert (1127)(**gregoreuo** from **egeiro** = to arise, arouse)

Puritan Thomas Brooks. Brooks says, “Watchfulness includes a waking, a rousing up of the soul. It is a continual, careful observing of our hearts and ways, in all the turnings of our lives, that we still keep close to God and his word.”

Secular Greek used **gregoreuo** to describe people carefully crossing a river while stepping on slippery stones.

(Story of ice and printing press)

But the watchfulness here is spiritual: it goes deeper than the physical realm and without it, it is impossible to live a victorious life in the Spiritual realm; one will be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.

Ephesians 6:12

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

So What was Paul's initial and primary concern for the Watchfulness of the Corinthians?

Rest

They were abandoning the hard earned rest of Christ. It is a continuing danger up to the present day:

I Cor. 1: 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Paul has to remind them:

23 *But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles*

*Corinthians lived in a world where every corner was filled with belief systems that appear wise to the perishing but are utterly foolish to God. These systems are enduring and deceptive, Yet they remain dangerously attractive in certain recesses of the human heart. The most dangerous of which is **spiritual pride and self-righteousness**.*

So,

Message of the Cross was being diluted (by personality divisions)

and corrupted (false doctrines denying the deity of Christ and His death on the cross)

obscured (misplaced priorities - emphasizing worldly values and ego status)

And even rejected (denying the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ)

All resulting in a return to the world system of self-righteousness based on good works. Too many had abandoned their rest.

Jesus says this:

Matthew 11:28-30 **28** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Go to the Book of Hebrews: Chapters 3 and 4; in Moses there was no rest due to disobedience and they wandered in the desert; in Joshua there was the physical land rest from Israel's enemies if the people lived in obedience, but they did not and were physically overcome, living in fear; then comes the promised spiritual rest in the person of Jesus Christ, but his rest too is a covenantal promise...

Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. **2** For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed.^[a] **3** Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

"So I declared on oath in my anger,
'They shall never enter my rest.'"

So How is this Rest assured?

(Story of Habakkuk) Surrounded by enemies: HITTITES - GIRGASHITES - AMORITES - CANAANITES - Idol worship constant turmoil and troubles, producing fear, disorder and a relentless need for self-defense. Habakkuk is troubled and calls out to God "Why is there no peace?" The people had sinned but their enemies were horrific. Yet there was no peace.

[Habakkuk 2:2-4](#), "Then the LORD answered me and said: 'Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; **But the just shall live by his faith**'"

(personal testimony: *Stop striving and know that I am God*)

28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This invitation of being yoked with Jesus in Matthew 11:28 offers two promises:

1. Peace with God:

- a. Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2. Peace of God:

- a. Philippians 4: 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Paul Wiersbe:

"It is by believing that we enter into rest ([He 4:3](#)); it is by obeying God by faith and surrendering to His will **that His rest enters into us.**"

How do we watch and discern to guard our rest in Christ in a broken world?

1. First of all, [Proverbs 4:23](#). Many of you will know this passage. It says, “Watch over your **heart** with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

a. The Puritan John Flavel wrote a book called *Keeping the Heart*, and the whole book is on this verse, [Proverbs 4:23](#). This is what Flavel says: “*The greatest difficulty in conversion is to win the heart to God, and the greatest difficulty after conversion is to keep the heart with God. The keeping and right managing of the heart in every condition is the great business of a Christian’s life.*”

2. We guard our **minds**

a. [Philippians 4:8](#) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about** these things.

(story: lawyers lament) (God’s Word bathes us)

b. **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. **13** Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

c. Beware of false teachers.

i. What passes for spiritual “guidance” in the internet world, should be tested.

ii. “No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:3). However, false teachers will often claim to speak for God, using the phrase “Jesus is Lord.”

1. 1 John 2: many anti-christs have gone out into the world.

iii. Not just what is taught but How they live:

- d. “by their *deeds* they deny Him” (Titus 1:16). James writes, “Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his *deeds*” (Jas. 3:13). When questioning the leadership of Diotrephes, John wrote, “If I come, I will call attention to his *deeds* which he does” (3 Jn. 10). Therefore, to spot a false teacher, we need to consider *both* doctrine and deeds.

...stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

*None of these are possible unless you're watching
(Buglar of Krakow)*