

Heeding The Warning (pt. 2): Get Back On The Wall

Pastor Jerry Lewis [Sunday, Sep. 20, 2026]

Sermon Summary: Continuing to draw from Ezekiel 33:7-11, part 2 of 'Heeding The Warning' calls believers to embrace their identity as spiritual watchmen and to rise to the occasion in a critical hour. God takes no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked, but instead issues an urgent, merciful plea for people to turn from destructive paths and return to Him. Pastor Jerry challenges believers who have grown spiritually complacent, distracted, or discouraged to return to their God-assigned posts on the wall. Using the imagery of a watchman on a city wall, we are given the responsibilities of spiritual watchmen, including remaining alert and discerning, boldly warning others of danger, maintaining a consistent prayer and intercession life, and maintaining direct accountability to God. Pastor Jerry concludes with a call to action rooted in the story of Nehemiah, urging the church to recover a burden for the lost, resist the enemy's attempts to draw them away from their post, and keep building the Kingdom of God with both the sword of the Word and the trowel of faithful work.

Scripture Reference:

Ezekiel 33:7-11 -- The primary text of the sermon, concerning God's appointment of Ezekiel as a watchman over Israel, the responsibility to warn the wicked, and God's urgent plea for the people to turn from their evil ways.

Psalms 127:1 -- The declaration that unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps watch in vain.

Isaiah 56:10 -- God's rebuke of negligent spiritual leaders, calling them blind watchmen and mute dogs who fail to warn of approaching danger.

Isaiah 62:6-7 -- God's description of watchmen set on the walls of Jerusalem who pray and intercede without ceasing, day and night.

Deuteronomy 28 (alluded to, chapter not specified) -- The promise that God's blessings would overtake and pursue his obedient people.

Joel 2:1 -- The command to blow the trumpet in Zion as a warning of approaching judgment.

Nehemiah 1 -- The account of Nehemiah learning of Jerusalem's devastation and becoming burdened to rebuild.

Nehemiah 4 (alluded to) -- The account of enemies opposing the rebuilding of the wall, workers holding a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other, and the use of the trumpet to rally the people.

Nehemiah 6 (alluded to) -- Enemies attempting to lure Nehemiah down from the wall to the plain of Ono, and his refusal to stop the work.

Nehemiah 6:15 (alluded to) -- The wall being completed in 52 days because the people had a mind to work.

Jonah 1 (alluded to) -- The account of Jonah sleeping in the bottom of the ship during a raging storm, and the captain's rebuke asking how he could sleep at such a time.

Key Points:

- God issues an urgent and merciful call for people to turn from their evil ways and return to Him, as stated in Ezekiel 33:11, where the word "turn" appears twice to emphasize the urgency of repentance
- All believers are called to be spiritual watchmen, not just those with ministerial titles, and each person carries unique gifts and anointings that are needed on the wall
- Spiritual watchmen must remain alert and discerning, seeing beyond surface-level circumstances to identify approaching danger and the hidden traps of the enemy
- Watchmen have a mandate to blow the trumpet and sound the alarm, speaking uncomfortable truths, calling out sin, and urging people to repent without filtering the message for cultural comfort
- Continuous prayer and intercession are essential functions of a watchman, as those who stand on the wall speak to God on behalf of the people and remind Him of His promises
- Watchmen are directly accountable to God and must report what they see and hear without shaping the message to be more popular or comfortable
- The church must resist the temptation to come down off the wall, whether through distraction, discouragement, personal compromise, or the enemy's enticements
- Having a genuine burden for the lost is essential to effective Kingdom work, because without a burden, gifts and resources remain unused
- The people of God must hold the sword of the Word in one hand and the trowel of faithful labor in the other, fighting and building simultaneously
- Depression and isolation are tools the enemy uses to pull believers away from the strength, community, and purpose found in God, and only Jesus is the true answer to these struggles

Watchman, get back to your abandoned post. Watchman, don't fail God now.

Where God's taken us, shallow Christianity can't go.

What good is going to church if you're not the church? What good is going to church and having gifts that you never use?

You have talents I don't have. You have gifts I don't possess. And if you're not on the wall, those gifts are not being used and utilized for the kingdom of God.

There's only one thing that can fix it. That is the Lord Jesus. And you and I know the answer. We have to come to the answer.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Themes from "Heeding the Warning"

Day 1: The Call to Watch

Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Devotional: God does not leave his people without warning. He appoints watchmen, not merely as observers, but as voices of urgent and faithful accountability. The passage in Ezekiel makes clear that silence in the face of danger is not neutrality — it is negligence. God's heart is not bent toward judgment but toward redemption. He pleads with his people to turn. Before you can warn others, you must first examine your own position. Are you alert? Are you listening? Ask God today to sharpen your spiritual senses and restore in you a holy burden for those around you who are drifting.

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life have you grown spiritually dull or inattentive?

Practical Application: Set aside ten minutes today in silence before God. Ask him to reveal anything in your life that requires a turn in a new direction.

Day 2: The Urgency of the Turn

Reading: Acts 3:19, Joel 2:12-13

Devotional: The word "turn" appearing twice in Ezekiel 33:11 was not accidental. God was pressing his point with deliberate urgency. Repentance is not a passive feeling of regret — it is an active, decisive change of direction. Acts 3:19 describes a refreshing that follows genuine repentance, indicating that turning toward God is not a moment of loss but a moment of liberation. God does not call you to turn because he is disappointed in you. He calls you to turn because he sees where your current path leads, and he loves you far too much to remain silent about it.

Reflection Question: Is there a direction in your life that God has been urging you to change but you have delayed responding to?

Practical Application: Write down one specific area where you sense God calling you to turn. Commit that area to him in prayer today and take one concrete step toward realignment.

Day 3: The Watchman's Responsibility

Reading: Isaiah 56:10, Isaiah 62:6-7, Habakkuk 2:1

Devotional: Isaiah 56:10 delivers a sobering portrait of what happens when those appointed to watch become indifferent — describing negligent leaders as blind and silent, unable to sound any alarm. A watchman who refuses to speak is not a watchman at all. Isaiah 62:6-7 reframes the watchman's role as one deeply rooted in intercession, reminding us that prayer is not a passive spiritual exercise but an active form of guarding. You do not need a title or a platform to be a watchman. Every believer is called to pray, discern, and speak truth. Your post matters more than you realize.

Reflection Question: Who in your life needs you to stand in the gap for them in prayer right now?

Practical Application: Identify one person or situation that needs intercession. Commit to praying specifically and consistently for that person or situation for the remainder of this week.

Day 4: The Burden That Builds

Reading: Nehemiah 1:1-11, Nehemiah 2:17-18

Devotional: Nehemiah lived in comfort. He had access to the palace, royal food, and the king's ear. Yet when he heard of Jerusalem's devastation, his comfort did not insulate him from burden. That burden became the very fuel that drove one of the most remarkable rebuilding efforts in Scripture. Nehemiah 1 records him weeping, mourning, fasting, and praying before he ever picked up a single stone. The burden came before the building. God does not ask you to manufacture passion for his purposes. He asks you to remain open enough to receive it. A burden from God is never a weight meant to crush you — it is a calling meant to compel you.

Reflection Question: What has God placed on your heart that you have been too comfortable to act upon?

Practical Application: Identify one area of need in your church, family, or community. Ask God to give you a burden for it and take one small step of action today, no matter how modest.

Day 5: Stay on the Wall

Reading: Nehemiah 6:1-4, Ephesians 6:13-14, 1 Corinthians 15:58

Devotional: When Nehemiah's enemies invited him to come down from the wall and meet them in the plain, his response was unwavering. He recognized that the invitation to negotiate was, in reality, an invitation to abandon his assignment. The enemy rarely announces himself as an enemy. He often arrives disguised as a reasonable alternative, a convenient distraction, or a well-timed discouragement. First Corinthians 15:58 urges believers to be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Your position on the wall was not assigned to you by accident. God placed you there deliberately, anointed you for it specifically, and is sustaining you through it faithfully. Do not come down.

Reflection Question: What distraction or discouragement has the enemy used recently to pull you away from your spiritual post?

Practical Application: Declare aloud today that you will not abandon your post. Write down three specific commitments — in prayer, in faithfulness, and in service — that will keep you firmly on the wall this week and beyond.