

WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T FALL ASLEEP NOW

February 1 2025 | Pastor Jerry Lewis

Sermon Summary:

This urgent message addresses the critical need for spiritual alertness and preparedness in light of Christ's imminent return. Pastor Jerry draws parallels between natural preparation for storms and the necessity of spiritual readiness, emphasizing that we are living in the prophetic hour Jesus warned about—days resembling Noah's time and Sodom and Gomorrah. We are challenged as believers to awaken from spiritual complacency, noting that while many prepared diligently for a natural polar vortex, the church has grown sleepy regarding eternal matters. The message calls for proactive spiritual planning, consistent readiness, and a return to passionate pursuit of God's presence, warning that Jesus will return unexpectedly like a thief in the night, separating the prepared from the unprepared.

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 24:42 - "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming"
- Ephesians 5:14 - "Wake up, sleeper. Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you"
- Matthew 24:37-39 - The days of Noah comparison
- Luke 17:28-30 - The days of Lot comparison
- 1 Peter 1:13 - Prepare your minds for action
- Proverbs 20:13 - Do not love sleep or you will grow poor
- Joel 3:9-10 - Wake up the mighty men
- Matthew 25:1-13 - Parable of the ten virgins
- 1 Kings 18 - Elijah hearing the sound of abundance of rain

Key Points:

- The church has fallen asleep during a critical prophetic hour when spiritual alertness is essential
- We must be proactive rather than reactive in our spiritual lives, creating and controlling situations instead of being controlled by them
- The current moral decay in society mirrors the days of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah that Jesus warned about
- Spiritual lethargy leads to slothfulness, lukewarmness, poverty, decay, vulnerability to the enemy, and being unprepared for Christ's return
- A spiritual state of emergency is declared—the data is in, the Bible is true, and Jesus is coming back
- People prepared extensively for a natural storm but often neglect preparation for the coming of the Lord
- The parable of the ten virgins reveals that half were foolish because they consciously decided not to be adequately prepared
- Midnight represents the unexpected final hour of Christ's return, catching many by surprise and revealing who is genuinely prepared
- The church must regain its fire, desire, urgency, and determination to walk in Book of Acts power
- Preparation is a prerequisite for a victorious conclusion—we must get ready in advance

Quotes:

“When you're proactive, it means you're creating or controlling the situation instead of the situation controlling you. And you see, we've got to be more proactive than reactive.”

“The problem is the church went to sleep and the devil didn't. The church stopped praying because now all they got to do is show up to church.”

“Why would a sinner be desperate if the church is not desperate? If the church could take it or leave it, if the church could go through the motion and say, I'm good.”

“Preparation is a prerequisite for a victorious conclusion. You gotta get ready in advance.”

“I still believe that God's remnant church is going to walk in the power of the book of Acts. I believe we're gonna see things we have never seen previously in our walk with God.”

5-Day Devotional: Awake and Ready

Day 1: The Call to Spiritual Alertness

Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

Devotional: Jesus warns us that no one knows the day or hour of His return—not even the angels. This uncertainty isn't meant to create anxiety but to cultivate constant readiness. Like a homeowner who stays vigilant against thieves, we must maintain spiritual alertness. In our daily routines—eating, drinking, working, planning—we can easily become spiritually drowsy. The question isn't whether Christ will return, but whether He will find us watching when He does. Today, examine your spiritual posture. Are you living with eternal perspective, or have mundane concerns lulled you into complacency? Spiritual preparedness isn't a one-time decision but a daily commitment to stay awake, engaged, and expectant.

Day 2: Wisdom in Preparation

Reading: Matthew 25:1-13 (Parable of the Ten Virgins)

Devotional: The difference between the wise and foolish virgins wasn't whether they had oil, but whether they had enough. Both groups expected the bridegroom, but only half prepared adequately for delay. Wisdom means planning not just for today but for tomorrow. Foolishness means ignoring warnings and living without margin. The midnight cry represents that unexpected moment when Christ returns, forcing an irreversible separation between the prepared and unprepared. You cannot borrow someone else's spiritual readiness. Your relationship with God, your prayer life, your time in His Word—these are personal investments no one else can make for you. Are you living with just enough oil to get by, or are you filled to overflowing?

Day 3: Discerning the Signs

Reading: Luke 17:26-30

Devotional: Jesus compared His return to the days of Noah and Lot—times when people were consumed with everyday life while ignoring clear warnings of coming judgment. They ate, drank, married, bought, sold, and built right up until destruction came. There's nothing wrong with normal life activities, but spiritual blindness to the times is deadly. Today, we see unprecedented moral decay, the normalization of what God calls sin, and a church often more asleep than awake. The signs are everywhere for those with eyes to see. God is not asking you to panic but to be proactive—to recognize the season and respond with urgency. What warnings have you been ignoring? What spiritual preparations have you postponed?

Day 4: The Cost of Complacency

Reading: Proverbs 20:13; Ephesians 5:14-17

Devotional: Spiritual sleep leads to poverty—not just materially but in power, purpose, and preparedness. When we love sleep more than seeking God, we miss divine opportunities and become vulnerable to enemy attacks. The call to "wake up, sleeper" is urgent because the days are evil and time is short. Complacency creeps in through excuses, distractions, and loss of first-love passion. Remember when you couldn't wait to get to church? When prayer was your priority, not your afterthought? That fire, that desire—it's still available. God hasn't changed; perhaps we've grown comfortable. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reignite what has grown cold. Reject excuses. Pursue God with the same intensity you prepare for natural storms.

Day 5: Filled and Overflowing

Reading: Joel 3:9-11; Acts 2:1-4, 17-21

Devotional: God is calling His warriors to wake up—not in fear but in anticipation of His return. The same power that fell at Pentecost is available today for those desperate enough to seek it. We're not waiting for revival; we're living in it for those willing to engage. But engagement requires more than church attendance; it demands a filled-to-overflowing relationship with the Holy Spirit. People stood in freezing cold to fill propane tanks for a natural storm. How much more should we press in for spiritual filling? The question isn't whether God is willing to pour out His Spirit—He is. The question is whether you're willing to stay as long as it takes to be filled. Today, don't settle for empty religion. Pursue His presence until your tank overflows.

CLOSING CHALLENGE:

Whatever you do, don't fall asleep now. The signs are clear, the warnings have been given, and the Bridegroom is coming. Make sure your spiritual house is in order. Be found watching, working, and ready when He appears.