

I want to live with my eyes wide open! I want to awake to all that God has for me! I want to open my eyes! How about you?

Acts 20:7-9a On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight.

8 There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. 9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep...

There are a lot of people in the bible that fell asleep at crucial times.

- **Sampson** fell asleep in Delilah's lap.
- **Jonah** ran from God and was found sleeping in the bottom of a boat.
- The **shameful sons** in Proverbs were sleeping through the harvest.
- **Peter, James, and John** were sleeping when they were supposed to be praying with Jesus!
- And then there is **Eutychus**, the first person reported in scripture to fall asleep in church!

Sleep is a funny thing. We all need it, we must have it, and we spend about a third of our lives doing it. But the funny thing about sleep is that you don't realize you are asleep until you wake up.

ILL. Suddenly your alarm clock goes off and all you remember is lying awake in bed the night before. Or you wake up and all your friends are laughing at you because you fell asleep in school. Or you suddenly wake up on the couch and realize that late night talk shows are on.

Snoring is the same way. How many of you snore? How do you know you snore?

It's only when we wake up from sleep that we realize we had been asleep in the first place.

It's true physically; it's also true spiritually.

Here in Acts 20, we have the greatest teacher that ever walked the face of the earth, besides Christ Jesus, speaking to a group and Eutychus fell asleep as Paul was speaking!

Let's give Eutychus a little grace here, because the conditions were certainly right.

- Paul was speaking at Troas with a lot to teach in a short time, so he spoke long into the night.
- I'm sure the third story of this house was packed with people keeping the room warm and humid.
- When the sun went down the room was filled with the soft glow of many lamps.
- Eutychus found a nice cozy place in a window opening, catching a nice warm breeze.

But even in those conditions, Eutychus was given the chance of a lifetime. The privilege to hear the great Apostle Paul himself teach on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ!

Eutychus could see Paul's scars and hear the urgency in his voice- yet fell into a deep sleep.

Acts 20:9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead.

Do you know why this young man is named Eutychus? *You'd cussed* too if you had fallen three stories to the ground. (It actually means "fortunate"). Fortunate? He is dead! But here is the fortunate part...

Acts 20:10-12 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!"

11 Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.

12 The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

He went from awake, to deep sleep, to dead, and then to life! Where are you in that cycle today?

A lot of us are sleeping in church, not physically, but spiritually, or morally.

- You're asleep to the opportunities that God has for you.
- You're asleep to this amazing plan and purpose that God has for your life.

The Sleeping Giant

For many years I have felt that the church is a sleeping giant. Full of great power and potential, commissioned by Christ and given the authority to harvest. But we have become complacent, lethargic, and we are sleeping. Picture, if you will, a giant sleeping soundly, as in Gulliver's Travels, and all the small village people decide to bind the giant while sleeps. But when the giant wakes up, he snaps every rope and chain that binds him!

This is a picture of the sleeping church. Every defeat that the church is suffering right now is like the ropes and chains on the sleeping giant. But...if the giant wakes up, if the church awakes, it will snap every chain and rope that binds! Nothing will stand in the way of the church and even the gates of hell shall not prevail! (Matthew 16:18-19) We must wake up! We must stop sleeping through great opportunities and awake to God's plan for us!

The 5:14 Alarm!

Ephesians 5:11-14 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Next Step: I will take the 5:14 Challenge. I will set my clock for 5:14 a.m. and/or 5:14 p.m. , wake up and pray, “Lord Jesus I love you. Wake me up to live with my spiritual eyes wide open, and Christ Jesus shine on me.”

Stages of Sleep

There are various forms of spiritual sleep that a Christian can find himself caught up in. You might be more awake in one aspect of your spiritual life than in other areas.

<u>Laziness</u>	I'll do that later, I'm too tired to get involved.
<u>Daydreaming</u>	A lack of interest. Aware of what God wants them to do but taking no action.
<u>Napping</u>	In and out for Jesus. Up and down like they are on a spiritual roller coaster.
<u>Light Sleeping</u>	Easily awakens. There is still hope.
<u>Sound Sleep</u>	Unaware of what's going on around them, not soberly watching.
<u>Spiritual Coma</u>	Mindlessly going through the rituals of religion and life in general.
<u>Spiritually Dead</u>	Having a form of Godliness but denying its' power. (2 Timothy 3:5)

Sound the 5:14 Alarm! **“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”**

Paul goes on to say that we are to wake up and allow Jesus to shine on us so that we can live as wise people, taking advantage of the opportunities coming our way.

Ephesians 5:15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live —not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

How many times have you talked to someone who used to be an active part of Believers Church and then you find out they are living in the cesspool of sin and immorality? Whoa, what happened to them?

How could that happen? **They went to sleep. They went to sleep in church.**

Worse than that, they went to sleep in **full light**- not in darkness.

Ephesians 5:8-10 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord.

Are You Asleep? Asleep to Knowing Christ Jesus?

Maybe you have been raised in the Bible belt and you have a lot of head knowledge about who Jesus is, but you don't really know Him. You don't have a relationship with Him.

- You think religion is about what you can do for God rather than what God has done for you.
- You have a works mentality. You are feeling good about yourself! But you are sleep walking!
- The wage of sin is death, and you are going to hit the ground harder than Eutychus!

Sound the 5:14 Alarm! **“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”**

Are You Asleep? Asleep to Knowing God's Plan for You?

Maybe you have already made that decision to ask Jesus to be your Savior. But now, are you walking in Christ Jesus? Awake and hearing His voice lead you? Awake to the realities of His purpose for you?

Satan loves to sing lullabies to us. Right after you become a believer Satan likes to sing:

*“Rock a bye believer in the treetop, Snoozing will cause your growth to stop.
Ignore the alarm and stay in bed, You'll never fulfill your purpose sleepy head.”*

And then Satan whispers, “Shhh, don't wake up. Don't wake them up. Yes, they're a believer, but that's about it. They need to sleep, to sleep.”

Are you asleep to knowing God's plan for you?

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

God has an amazing plan for every person's life! We would be shocked if we knew all that God has in store for us! So, the devil's favorite ploy is to get us to sleep because he wants us to be comfortable, he wants us to be relaxed.

“We're comforted by Christ. But we need to be uncomfortable for Him.” Ed Young

Sound the 5:14 Alarm! **“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”**

Next Step: I will ask the Lord to wake me up to His purpose and plan for my life!

Are You Asleep? Asleep to Sowing?

Your life is a seed for sowing. The bible talks about the law of harvest and the law of sowing and reaping. Whatever you sow you are going to reap! If I'm sleeping a lot, I won't do much reaping!

Notice here in **Acts 20** that the disciples met together, the church met together on the first day of the week. Sunday. Why Sunday? That's the resurrection, but it is also the first day of the week. They understood the law of the First Fruits.

- I give God the **first day of the week**; that first element of time and that first day of the week in corporate worship as I obey Hebrews 10:25, then God is going to bless the rest.
- I give God the **first time of each day** in my quiet time through scripture reading and prayer each day. God is going to bless the rest.
- I give my **talents and abilities** to the Lord. I leverage them within the church. Guess what? God is going to take my talent and my ability and multiply it exponentially.
- I give **my resources**, the first fruit of what I made to the local church. I bring the first ten percent to his house. Guess what? God is going to bless the rest.

Are you asleep to sowing?

Sound the 5:14 Alarm! **“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”**

Next Step: I will awake to sowing my firsts: my time, energy, talents, and resources and allow God to bless the rest!

Ephesians 5:16 ...making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

We are at a crucial point in history. Jesus' return is closer every day and as Paul said, "The days are evil." It's time church to wake up and live with eyes wide open!

Wake up to sowing!

It's the 5:14 alarm!

Wake up to knowing God's plan for you!

It's the 5:14 alarm!

Wake up to knowing Christ Jesus!

It's the 5:14 alarm!

Romans 10:9-10 says, **that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."** (NAS)

When we believe in our heart and confess with our mouth we will **"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."**