

WATCHMEN ON THE WALL - Master PDF

2 Lessons

Your Instructor: Dave Butts

Course Synopsis:

A consistent symbol of serious prayer in the Old Testament is the watchman. God is calling His people today to a biblical level of praying that revolves around the image of a watchman on a wall. It is a call to significant, intense prayer that works in cooperation with God's purposes. This short course examines the biblical principles of watchful intercession and provides clear, practical instruction for modern watchmen of prayer. Individuals, groups of intercessors, and entire churches wanting to better inform corporate expressions of prayer, will profit from this course.

Pastor/Small Group/Study Leaders:

Here are a few helpful guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of this course for your group/church:

- **Customize:** Please feel free to customize this study for the unique needs of your small group, Bible study or church. We recommend that you go through each lesson prior to sharing it with the group to determine which questions, activities and supplemental materials you wish to utilize. Adapt as you wish!
- **PDFs:** So that all course content is easily accessible to everyone, we are making the following available as PDFs:
 1. A master pdf is available on this page containing all lesson materials with the exception of **Supplemental Materials** and videos.
 2. Each lesson page will have a pdf of the content of the lesson with the exception of **Supplemental Materials** and videos.

3. There is also a pdf available of just the **Discussion Questions** on each lesson page.

- **Reading:** This short course does not have a suggested textbook; however, there will be a variety of articles, blogs, etc. as well as passages of Scripture that will be part of the reading assignments. Participants should be encouraged to do the reading ahead of each lesson so that they are prepared for discussion.
- **Remote Teaching:** If, for example, this course will be taught via a platform such as Zoom, utilize the tutorial link below to be sure everyone is instructed about how to take part. As the leader, you need to know your platform well in order to help others.

Have your people do the reading and go through the introductory material prior to the lesson time. With everyone together on Zoom, watch the video, go through the discussion questions, spend time in prayer and introduce the next steps.

Here are some helpful tutorials if you would like to use Zoom as a tool to present any of the information in this course.

[Click for Zoom Tutorials](#)

Course Tools:

To enhance your experience, we suggest you have a Bible and a journal, or something to take notes with. You will also want to write down how God is speaking or teaching you throughout these lessons.

Reading:

- Watchmen on the Wall utilizes articles and videos only. There is no required text book.

- Additional reading from the Bible and other sources will be suggested for both lessons.

Supplemental Materials:

Articles, videos and/or audio files are listed at the end of each lesson for further study, or to interject into this course as the leader or individual desires.

Go Deeper:

This section will have a variety of resources to help those who wish to study the course topic more thoroughly. It will also have a section of prayer resources offered by Harvest Prayer Ministries and Church Prayer Leaders Network.

Lesson 1: Watch and Pray

Watchmen on the wall is a biblical concept that helps us understand our role as intercessors. We will look at watchmen in the Old Testament and see how the call to watch and pray has also been extended to followers of Jesus in the New Testament and even today. Whether we are praying about the things going on around us or are looking ahead to the Lord's return, the watchman mentality helps us move into a deeper devotion to prayer that brings about God's Kingdom purposes.

This lesson also helps us understand the place of day and night prayer in the Lord's plan and looks at the Moravian prayer movement of the 1700's.

In this lesson you will:

- gain a well-rounded understanding of what it means to be a watchman on the walls of your life, family, home, church, city, state, nation and world.
- understand more deeply the connection between watching and praying and how it is tied to God's work on earth.

- see how watchful praying is often connected to the Lord's return.
- learn about the Moravian prayer movement of the 1700's that was called The Lord's Watch.
- gain some practical ways to become more devoted to God through your prayer life.

Reading:

- **The Role of a Spiritual Watchman** by Henry Blackaby
- **The Task of a Watchman** by Dave Butts
<https://www.harvestprayer.com/resources/personal-2/task-of-watchman/>
- **The Watch of the Lord** by Dave Butts

Watch Video for Lesson 1

Discussion Questions:

- On a scale of 1-10, how devoted are you to your prayer life? How does this number make you feel about the present reality of your life of prayer with God? What do you hope for the future in light of this course on Watchmen?
- Henry Blackaby stated that "...a watchman has to be equipped by God to see what others do not see and he has a unique capacity to see when the enemy is invading." Spend time discussing what this means. Have you or someone you know ever experienced "seeing" in this way? Explain.
- Do you believe, as Blackaby does, that fulfilling or not fulfilling your role to watch and pray can have eternal significance? Perhaps you have experienced this in your own life. Give some examples such as the one he described about evil influences infiltrating a youth group. Be sure to

also consider times when you felt led to cry out but didn't...what were the consequences?

- How did you feel about Blackaby's story of forgetting to pray for a missionary as reflected in this statement: "If you've made a covenant with a missionary family to be a spiritual watchman on the walls of their mission or mission field, keep covenant with them because a watchman carries life and death in his or her hands."? Have you forged such covenants with anyone on the mission field? How is that assignment going? Do you have any stories as to how your prayers, or lack of praying may have affected the people you have agreed to intercede for?
- Dave mentioned the story of the disciples not keeping their commitment to watch and pray – even for an hour...how does this story make you feel? Does it let you off the hook, because "Hey, even the disciples struggled to pray?" Or, does it make you feel more determined not to let Jesus down when He gives you a prayer assignment?
- Dave stated that the biblical implication of watching and praying, being ready, being alert, are all terms that have to do with the Second Coming of Jesus. Do you think God is calling His people today to watch and pray more intensely because His return is imminent? Why or why not?
- Acts 2:42 and Colossians 4:2 both talk about being devoted to prayer. On a scale of 1-10, how devoted would you say you are to prayer? Do you see prayer as a duty or a delight? Explain your answer. Why do you think prayer is so difficult for so many Christians to see as an intimate and vital part of their relationship with God?
- Explain your thoughts about the differences between Old Testament watchmen on the walls and New Testament watchmen. Do you sense that God is calling His people to

stand on the walls of our cities and our nation to watch and pray in this hour? Why or why not?

- Have you ever considered the importance of having your prayers line up with the plans and purposes of God and His Kingdom rather than focusing only on your own personal wants and needs? What needs to happen so that you can learn to align your prayers with the Kingdom of God here on earth as it is in heaven?
- What do you think your church would look like if it was completely devoted to prayer – a “house of prayer for all nations”?
- Had you heard of the Moravian prayer movement from the 1700’s prior to this lesson? Do you believe such a movement of prayer is possible or even desirable today? Have you seen or experienced a season of day and night prayer, even if just for 24 hours? If so, what was that like? Do you think God is restoring the Lord’s Watch in our day? Why or why not?
Note: Consider watching the videos: **Awaken the Watchmen**, and **What Is 24-7 Prayer?**, which can be found in the **Supplemental Materials** section for this lesson to learn more about the 24-7 prayer movement.
- In “The Task of the Watchman” Dave says, “...it is God who posts the watchmen. This is a divine assignment, not just the latest prayer fad. To stand on the wall as a watchman, stationed there by the Lord Himself, is a great privilege. We need to receive and obey such a call with gratitude and humility.” What do you think about this and do you feel you have been called as a watchman? Do you feel equipped to stand on the wall where God has called you? Explain.

Final thoughts from Dave Video

Spend Time in Prayer:

Leaders Note: Make sure each person has a copy of the **Scripture References for Lesson 1**, as it will be very helpful for the group section of this season of prayer. Break this prayer time into two sections, depending on time:

- **Personal:** Perhaps the most important prayer today is a personal one. Take a few minutes to ask the Lord to make you a watchman in prayer. Asking God to make you a man or woman of prayer is aligned with the disciples coming to Jesus and asking Him to “teach us to pray.” Focusing on being a watchman is another step of intensity in our devotion to prayer.
- **Group:** During this prayer time, use the **Scripture References for Lesson 1** page to inform your prayers as you ask God to help you to be a watchman on the walls of your home, family, job, ministry, school, city, state, nation or world. God has an assignment for you to watch and pray. Pray for a “watch and pray” spirit to be poured out in your life and for those in your group.

As you pray together, write down anything you hear from the Lord if you are not already sure of the wall(s) God wants you to stand on as a watchman. If you wish to share following the prayer time, perhaps what you hear will encourage others to climb up on the wall.

Leaders Note: Feel free to utilize this time of prayer however you wish; however, here is one way:

- Have one person read each Scripture and allow the prayer points to guide your prayers as you pray corporately. You may wish to break into smaller groups of 2-4 if your group is large. Be sure to give people permission not to pray out loud if they are uncomfortable but encourage them to pray “in agreement” with others rather than just listen. It is

good to stretch them and challenge them to try praying even short sentence prayers if they can.

- Close each prayer time after a few minutes by saying, "Let's bring our prayers to a close." Then, go on to the next Scripture.
- Choose in advance which Scriptures you want to focus on if you don't have time to pray through them all.

Next Steps:

This week, spend time considering God's call to the wall of prayer. This article will be helpful:

What Does It Mean to be Devoted to Prayer?

<https://churchword.org/2017/06/28/mean-devoted-prayer/>

Read this article and follow the practical steps toward growing in your devotion to your prayer life this week.

Lesson 2: Three Tasks of a Watchman

Watchmen of prayer have some very clear tasks to focus on in the Lord's Kingdom. This lesson provides a clear understanding of those tasks and gives the biblical foundation toward becoming the people of prayer that God is looking for. Partnering with the Father in prayer will take your prayer life to a new level of power and effectiveness as you learn what it truly means to "watch and pray."

In the lesson you will:

- learn three key spiritual elements of what it means to be a watchman.
- understand how prayer is a love relationship with God that involves partnership for the sake of the Kingdom.
- discover practical, biblical ways to pray as a watchman.

- understand what it means to pray from God's perspective.

Reading:

- **Watchful Praying** by Dave Butts
- Waiting Upon God by Word of Life

Watch Video for Lesson 2

Discussion Questions:

- In the article, "Watchful Praying," Dave Butts makes this comment: "Watching and praying is a lifestyle focusing on seeing the kingdom of Christ advance and knowing that our prayers are a vital part of what God is doing on planet earth." What do you think about this statement? Have you ever considered that your prayers can be involved in the work of His Kingdom? Why or why not?
- What did you think about Dave's father showing him how to watch the nations by giving him an opportunity to see prophecy fulfilled in Israel? Have you ever had such an experience through watching what God is doing in the nations...and even in our own nation? If so, share your experience.
- In the video Dave said, "In worship we are learning to turn our focus on the Lord and to keep our eyes fixed on Him." What does that look like for you currently? Does worship currently interact with your prayer life? Explain.
- You have been presented with two different ways to watch God. What do you see as the difference between watching God to see what He will do and watching God in worship?

- In the article "Waiting Upon God" the author states that it is very important to note what we do *after* we pray about an issue or problem that we bring before God. Do you find yourself still anxious, still holding on to the problem...or do you go "watch God" to see what He will do as Habakkuk did? How could this change the way you approach prayer?
- What do you think about the author's comments about God's timing versus our own when it comes to prayer? How did you feel when presented with the reminder that God brought about His promise to send a redeemer for sin thousands of years after he spoke to Satan in the presence of Adam and Eve? ("And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel." - Genesis 3:15).
- What would you need to adjust in your prayer life in order to trust God even when you recognize He might answer your prayer differently than you desire or expect? How do you handle the fact that you might not see or know the answer to some of your prayers until heaven?
- Describe some practical ways you can watch what is happening around you and bring what you see into your prayer life.
- What do you think about being invited by God to stand with Him in prayer and how can this way of looking at prayer affect how you pray?
- How might you utilize your spiritual eyes and ears along with your physical eyes and ears to more effectively pray as you pay attention to what God is doing in the nations?
- What do you think about God's role as "a watcher"? How does it make you feel to know that He watches everything...even you?

- How will you process the insights from Dave's video and the reading you have done for this lesson to inform your prayer life beginning now. Explain any new understanding you have about prayer, or ask any questions that have emerged.

Final thoughts from Dave

Spend Time in Prayer:

Leaders Note: Make sure each person has a copy of the **Scripture References for Lesson 2.**

As a group, during this specific time of prayer, choose one place to stand together as watchmen on the wall in prayer as you close out this course. For example: your families, your church, your community, nation, world, missions, youth group, etc. Use the pdf: **Scripture References for Lesson 2** to inform your prayers using the three tasks of watchmen.

Next Steps:

This week, continue focusing on these three tasks of a watchman:

- **Watch God – see Him for who He is, and worship Him in all His glory!**
- Watch the World – pay attention to what God is doing all around you.
- Watch With God – join God as He watches...even as He watches you!

Here are two ways you can practice these steps:

Pray the News:

Take some time to watch the news and make it a prayer meeting with God. Invite your spouse, family or another friend or two to watch with you. Here is a good way to structure your time:

- **Watching God** – take a few minutes prior to the start of the news to worship! Ask God to show you how to see Him for all that He is. Sing, put on a worship song or proclaim Scripture that tells about God’s glory. Here are a few to use:

“Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen” (Psalm 72:19).

“For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen” (Romans 11:36).

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).

As you watch the news, find ways to worship God even in the midst of news that is less than good. Take everything you watch, as you are watching, back to the Lord in worship-filled prayer while acknowledging that ultimately, He is in charge. Notice how your attitude is different as you pray this way.

- **World Watching** – watch God work in the nations, your nation, and even in your local area. Thank Him for allowing you to see what He is doing.
- **Watching With God** – ask God to show you what He sees as you watch the news With Him. Thank the Lord for his invitation to you to join him in watchful praying. Ask Him to teach you to see matters from His perspective and pray as His Spirit gives you direction.
- Ask the Father to show you how to be the answer to at least one of the prayers you have prayed during this time. Pay attention to what God does in and through you this week.

Take a Prayerwalk:

If you are unfamiliar with prayerwalking, here is a good how-to:
<https://waymakers.org/pray/prayerwalking/how-to/>

Here are some examples of places to prayerwalk:

- the churches in your community, praying for unity in the Body of Christ
- the schools in your community, praying for students, teachers, staff, administrators, curriculum choices, etc.
- the government buildings in your community, praying for local, state and national officials
- neighborhoods – your own or those around your church