Daily Devotion #211

**Be Alert**

**Be Alert** –**1 Peter 1:13 (NASB)** “*Keep sober in spirit.”*

I remember many years ago going home on a rainy, very cold Sunday morning after my dad had taken us to church. My mom wasn’t with us that morning for some reason. We were living in another state at the time because my dad was active duty military. I remember dad stopping the car because on the side of the street was a grown man laying on the grass by the road. I remember dad helping the man to his feet, but the man was not able to balance himself. As dad stood there with him for a moment, there were a couple of times when the man wobbled and started to fall to the ground again, but dad caught him before he did. Dad explained to my brother and me what was wrong - that the man had too much alcohol to drink and that was the effect on him. That was the first time in my life I witnessed a drunk person. Unfortunately, I have seen many people in that condition since then. It is a sad commentary on a person’s life because alcohol becomes the thing, the item, the commoditity, or the counselor that people turn to to fix their problems or to find some escape from the world.

 The world has many ways of pulling people in to its ideologies and fascination with things that are not good for the soul. Many, many people over the centuries have been drawn away from a life of health and beauty into a life of despair and misery because they didn’t protect themselves spiritually. How many times have we heard about children who grow up in Christian homes only to be captivated by the world and what it has to offer and ultimately abandon the faith altogether? I have personally known people who lost their children to the world’s influence - who left Jesus on the curb so to speak because what the world was offering seemed to be much better. They would rather leave a life of eternal peace and eternal love and joy for something that only lasts for a few hours.

God knows that the tendency of our flesh is to gravitate toward the ungodly things and people in this life, He repeats the same message for today over several times in the Bible. 1Thessalonians 5:6 — *“So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober*.” 1Thessalonians 5:8 — “*But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation*.” 2 Timothy 4:5 — “*But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry*.” 1Peter 4:7 — “*The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer*.” 1Peter 5:8 — “*Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour*.”

Peter gives the best reason why we should be sober spiritually - because the devil is like a roaring lion, prowling around, looking for people to devour. Satan knows the more drunk a person is with the influence of the flesh and world, the easier they are to deceive and manipulate so they become part of his domain. He robs them of eternal life and peace that only God can give, but God is clear that those who live that kind of drunken life, not only physically, but spiritually, will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB)** “*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor* ***drunkards****, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God*.”

Beloved, remember what God has done for you. Keep a sober spirit always. As much as a drunken physical body will cost, can you imagine how much a drunken soul costs? It is a high price to pay. One you would be best to stay clear of. No matter what you are doing in this life or who you are, live a life that does not become intoxicated with the world. Be in control of your moral faculties; be in control of your moral life. Don’t let your flesh determine for you what you should do or be. I supposed we could say it this way - be in charge of your mind and heart always so you don’t become drunk with the world’s pleasures and ungodly thinking.