

Session 6: Open Wide, Stay Watchful

Living with Lamps Lit and Eyes Open
Part of the Gate and Door Series • By Ellen Fox

The Gate May Still Be Open... But Are You Awake?

As believers, we often talk about being ready, but what does that actually look like?

In this final session, we explore the biblical call to spiritual alertness, living prepared not just for the return of Christ, but for daily obedience, discernment, and devotion in a distracted world.

Jesus repeatedly tells His followers to watch, stay awake, and keep oil in their lamps. Not in fear, but in faith. Not with paranoia, but with purposeful expectancy.

1. Lamps Lit, Clothes Ready

Luke 12:35–40 (ESV)

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning... You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The faithful servants are awake at night, dressed and alert, ready for their master to return. Being ready isn’t something we do on occasion, it’s a lifestyle.

Reflection: What would “being dressed and ready” look like in your daily walk?

(For me, it is my daily Bible study, prayer time, it is reciting the Word throughout the day and obeying what I learn from the Word (this keeps my mind renewed), keeping an ear tuned to hear the Spirit (sheep know the voice), surrendering my will to line up with His will, singing spiritual songs, and so much more. It is a lifestyle for me.)

2. Mental Watchfulness

1 Peter 1:13 (ESV)

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

This means clearing distractions, resisting spiritual laziness, and fixing our hope on Jesus.

Reflection: What are the “sleepy” areas of my spiritual life?

3. Don’t Get Comfortable in Delay

Matthew 24 & Revelation 3 both warn us: the longer He waits, the more tempted we are to drift. The world lulls us to spiritual sleep, but Jesus says: stay awake.

Matthew 24:42–44 (ESV)

“Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”

Reflection: What delays or distractions tempt me to lower my guard?

4. Daily Obedience is Watchfulness

Being watchful isn't just waiting, it's working. Staying close to the Word, full of the Spirit, and responsive to conviction is what it means to be ready. Watchful people love well, live boldly, and burn bright.

Revelation 3:2–3 (ESV)

“Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die... If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief...”

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean to “stay dressed for action” spiritually?
- In what ways has comfort or distraction made you spiritually drowsy?
- Are there rhythms or disciplines God is calling you to return to?

Closing Prayer

Lord, awaken me.

Light my lamp again.

Help me to live alert, not in fear, but in faith.

Let me not waste time, drift, or grow drowsy.

I want to be found faithful, with oil in my lamp and my heart on fire.

Come, Lord Jesus. I am watching.

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