

Awake!

Message Notes

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Part 1 Awake to Truth

NOTE: Words in blue are on the outline

This series is about developing a spiritual awareness of what God wants to do in and through your life. God is interested in your relationships – your marriage, your family, your friends, your neighbors, and anyone that you have connection with. God’s plan includes your business, your ministry, your church, your community, your country, and whatever else concerns you. God’s thoughts toward you include your part in the kingdom of God. To live our lives to the fullest, we must have a spiritual awareness of what God wants for us and how He wants us to live in it. Becoming aware to what God is doing and what God wants to do means that we must have awareness, or a awakening, in our own hearts.

AWAKENING (dictionary.com):

1. Rousing, quickening
2. A revival of interest or attention
3. The act of awakening from sleep
4. A recognition, realization, or coming into awareness of something
5. A renewal of interest in religion, a revival.

When you awake, it’s a new day, the start of something new. You’ve left yesterday behind you. You’ve turned away from your past, you’ve come out of darkness, and you want a future that is bright.

Isaiah 50:4

“ The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.

God wants to wake us up. God wants to open our eyes to understand what is true about His Word and what is real about the spiritual world around us. He wants to give us an awakening to what is true about Him and the world we are living in.

1. Spiritual matters are understood by the human spirit

I Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

God is a spirit. We are spirits. The way we know Him and understand Him is through our spirit.

Awake!

Our spirit is recreated with a new nature when we receive salvation. Our head is not changed. Our bodies are not changed. Our minds can be renewed to think like God thinks. Our bodies can be disciplined. But the only part of us that is changed when we are saved is our spirit.

Our heart is of the spirit. The body and the soul are called the flesh, referring to what is natural and carnal. As we grow spiritually, we can discern between what is from our heart and what is from our head.

To truly understand spiritual things, we have to go from the head to the heart. Spiritual matters don't always make sense to the natural mind, but to the spirit, it seems right.

Here's good news – we can develop spiritually. We can mature, grow, - increase in our understanding of spiritual matters. We can be strengthened in our faith so that nothing moves us, we can hear the voice of God more distinctly, we can overcome emotion, we can walk above our circumstances, we can experience effectiveness in our prayers and ministry.

2. [The Holy Spirit is the revealer](#)

Reveal: To uncover.

We don't understand spiritual matters because we're so smart that we figure God out with our intellect.

Revelation Knowledge has been uncovered or shown to you by the Holy Spirit. It has been given to you to see.

[1 Corinthians 2:10-12](#) “(10) But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (11) For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

Illus: Remove a veil over something. Da-da!

God reveals Himself to the humble. Arrogance will keep us from growing in God. Sometimes we start out humble, but then when we start to understand some things, we get into pride. It's rare and wonderful when you meet an older saint who walks in humility and wisdom.

Spiritual wisdom has been freely given, or imparted. Who are we to think that we've attained it on our own or to think that God would not uncover the same revelation to someone else? He is our teacher.

Awake!

When the Bible talks about secrets or mysteries, it refers to spiritual truth that has not been uncovered or understood yet. But God wants us to know the things of the spirit for the time that we are living in.

We do not know everything. We don't understand why someone dies of sickness when we pray for healing. We don't know everything about demons and angels. We can't explain everything in the Bible. But in our hearts we know that God knows all, and we are trusting Him and leaning on the One who knows everything.

Deuteronomy 2:22; 2:28, 2:29

Peter didn't figure it out that Jesus was the Messiah. God showed it to Peter by the Spirit. Jesus called Peter blessed for receiving that revelation. Matthew 16:17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not **revealed** this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Ephesians 3:5, Colossians 1:26

What Does the Holy Spirit Reveal?

- [Truth about the Word](#)

He will reveal the Word of God, showing us what is true and what is error.

- [Truth about your circumstances](#)

True love, true friendship, true investment, true direction, true leaders

He will reveal if someone really loves you and will be loyal to you. You need to know these things if someone wants to marry you, be your friend, or be your business partner. We have to trust God, who knows the things that are said and done in secret.

God will not mislead you to partner with the wrong person or take you down the wrong road.

Sometimes people miss it. They say, "God told me to..." We just pray that they grow in their faith and realize that they're missing it.

- [Truth about error](#)

Part of the job of the Holy Spirit is to convict us when we step into sin.

John 16:8 When He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

Awake!

Sin is deceptive. Getting into error is deceptive. When someone is deceived, they are misled by a false statement or false appearance.

When people are deceived, they don't know that they are deceived, because they are deceived.

Sometimes we don't recognize that we are being misled.

- Sometimes we are accepting of someone based on charisma, overlooking error because we see their following.
- Sometimes we are accepting of someone based on relationship, overlooking error because we love the person.
- Sometimes we are accepting of someone based on association, overlooking error because we're part of the group.

3. [The Spirit and the Word always agree](#)

The Holy Spirit will never say anything that contradicts the Word of God. The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own. He speaks only what He hears the Father speak. When reading the Bible and trying to interpret what it means, the Holy Spirit will lead you but will also give you not only a peace, but also an agreement with the revelation that you embrace. He gives us the yes and the amen.

[John 16:13](#) "...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

APPLICATION

[How to AWAKE and walk in the light.](#)

1. [Humble yourself before God](#)

[Matthew 11:25](#) "At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes."

Pride is a revelation blocker. You don't see clearly. You don't hear clearly.

Stay humble, yielded to God. Be continually looking to Him, not just in theory, but in the reality of your heart. Guard yourself from focusing on yourself. Guard yourself from being critical of someone else.

Trust in the Lord. Put our eyes on God, not on ourselves or the people around us or the circumstances surrounding us.

Awake!

2. [Ask God for understanding](#)

[Ephesians 1:17-19a](#)

Pray for yourself.

Pray for others.

If someone in sin, pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal and convict them.

If someone is in error, pray that the Holy Spirit will uncover the deception.

Come against the devil who blinds or veils people's minds. In the name of Jesus I come against the enemy that this keeping my brother or sister from seeing things clearly. Remove your deception in Jesus' name. II Cor. 4:4

3. [Read the Word of God](#)

[Psalm 119:105](#) The Bible is a lamp to our feet.

Get into the Bible. It's like putting water into a well. The Holy Spirit can draw from it when it comes time to teach you or show you the love of your Father God.

4. [Follow the Spirit of God](#)

[Proverbs 20:27](#)

Always endeavor to follow after the Holy Spirit in your spirit. Look inside when making a decision.

Part 2 Awake to Righteousness

When we talk about waking up to what God wants for our lives, we need to awaken to doing things God's way. The Bible refers to sleeping and waking up to turning from the darkness of sin and waking up to righteousness.

WHAT SIN DOES

1. Sin causes blindness

Galatians 6:7,8 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

There is a darkness to sin that causes people to be deceived, not realizing that their actions are wrong or not recognizing the weight of their wrong. Christ's message is not one of condemnation, but one of compassion, pleading with people to turn from sin that leads to death and destruction.

Sin, like darkness, keeps people from seeing the truth about God, about life, about their eternal destiny. It blinds their ability to see clearly. They stumble in the darkness, groping to know the significance of life.

2. Sin brings bondage

Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

People think they can control their behavior, but sin will dominate and control a person. You don't control sin; sin controls you. Not only do you lose control, but sin's consequences will hold you in its grip. Relationships, health, finances are just a few of the areas that sin can destroy in your life. Sin will block a person from receiving from God.

3. Sin leads to death

John 10:10a

Imagine someone who has been told they have broken the law, whether they knew it or not, arrested, and put in jail. They go to trial, are found guilty, and then sentenced. The sentence is severe – it's a punishment that will last through eternity. The punishment is a fiery torture so severe that it will cause you to scream out in pain and gnash your teeth, without ending. Sin leads to death.

WHAT RIGHTEOUSNESS DOES

We are made righteous by the blood of Christ. It is a free gift, a position that we have before God because of what Jesus has done for us. Once we are positioned in right-standing with God, we must also choose to live God's way in obedience – we call that right-walking. If we make a choice to sin, there is grace for forgiveness, but grace is not to be used as a license to sin. Sin can still bring destruction to the Christian. God saved us, not just to keep us out of hell, but to have a close relationship with Him and to live in His blessings.

1. Righteousness brings light

[Ephesians 5:8-14](#)

Sin blinds a person from seeing the reality of God and not see their need. Jesus called Himself the light of the world. He came to help people see the way to know God and to be saved from eternal damnation.

2. Righteousness gives freedom

[John 8:31,32](#)

Sin holds a person in bondage, but the righteousness that God gives frees us from the grip of sin. A person should not try to overcome sin in their own strength. God's grace sets us free from bondage. All we need to do is submit ourselves to God and ask for the Holy Spirit's power to help us.

3. Righteousness leads to life

[John 10:b](#)

Jesus came to bring us life, not just eternal life, but abundant life here on earth. When we are born again, we have that life available to us. We also experience His life as we walk in obedience to His Word, a life of righteousness that the Holy Spirit helps us to walk.

HOW TO LIVE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. Don't delay

[Romans 13:11-14](#)

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. (12) The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the workds of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. (13) Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. (14) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

Awake!

When I wake up I usually try to start realizing what day it is. If I'm traveling I start thinking of where I am. I start thinking about what I need to do that day. When I wake up, I get up. I know what I need to do and I stand. If I realize that I have a little more time, I might hit the snooze button. In Romans 13 God is telling us that the time to get up is NOW. We don't have time to sleep in. We don't want to hit the snooze button on the alarm clock. We need to stand and take our position.

God wants us to know who we are, what we have, and what we are to do.

- We have to know who we are – blood bought Christians.
- We have to know what we have – the anointing and authority of God.
- We have to know what we are to do – live this life for HIM.

Be aware of the day you are living in. Be aware of the position you are in as God's child.

Jesus said to the sick rise up, get up! He didn't pick them up, pull them up, He said, "You, get up." Healing is yours, take it, go after it, do something about it. Don't wait for God to just come and do the miraculous in your life. Wake up. Rise up. Walk in what He has already provided for you!

Think about the fairytale "Sleeping Beauty." She was the princess, but tragically, she couldn't do anything with her position because she was under a sleeping spell. The prince, her true love, expressed his love for her with a kiss, and she woke up. Together they reigned in the kingdom.

Jesus is our prince, our king. When we know His love, He wants us not just to wake up and realize our place, but to stand up and take our place.

2. [Get into the light](#)

Some people have to get a cup of coffee to get themselves going. Caffeine gets them moving. God wants to get us moving. He doesn't want us to be sitting on the couch all day – there are things we need to do.

Read Ephesians 5:8-14

[John 3:21 "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."](#)

God compares sin to darkness, to the night. Sin is deceptive and dark. God compares his life, holiness, to light, or the day.

Sin is something that keeps you in the dark – deceived, blinded. Sin is something that makes you stumble. Sin is something that will end up bringing you pain and suffering. Sin doesn't bring you any good. Sin is something that is shameful and needs to be hidden. Guilt and fear are associated with it.

Holiness brings you closer to the Lord. Holiness opens your eyes so you can see things clearly. Holiness brings you joy and peace. Holiness brings you good things. Holiness carries no shame, guilt or fear. It brings confidence and faith.

Awake!

King David

II Samuel 12:1-14 David's realization of what he had done. Not only had he wronged Bathsheba and Uriah, he wronged the nation as a leader and he wronged the name of the Lord.

We represent Christ. When we sin, not only do we hurt ourselves and others, we hurt GOD. Psalm 51:10-12 This psalm was written by David when he awoke and saw his sin and saw how he had grieved His God. "Don't take me away from your presence." Sin becomes a wall between us and God. It separates us from knowing Him and from receiving from Him. You want to receive something from God? Check your heart for sin. What is sin?

- Doing something that displeases God, not in God.
- Not doing what God said to do – a dream, a ministry, to witness, etc.
- Bad attitude in your heart. Not just bitterness or rebellion, but even attitudes of self-pity and offense.
- Wrong thoughts. You aren't thinking in line with God or truth, you come up with your own ideas and those ideas are wrong.
- It could just be a laid back and slothful compromise.

Repentance brings a new day, a fresh start. Sobering up. It's a day where Jesus is Lord of your life. When the sun rises, it reigns over us. It gives us light. Jesus wants to reign in our lives.

3. Spend time with people who obey God

Have you ever been around somebody who is yawning? I don't know why, but something in our brains makes us want to yawn when we see someone else yawning. It's contagious. Sometimes when we're around sleepy people, we start getting sleepy.

We don't want to send the message that we shouldn't interact with people who are not born again. Our main purpose is to share the love of Christ with other people. However, if a person befriends a person who is rebellious in their relationship with God, the Bible does tell us that it can corrupt our morals.

[I Cor. 15:33-34](#)

["Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.' \(34\) Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame."](#)

If someone is doing something that is an outright sin, and you know it's wrong, then don't join in and do it with them. If someone is going out and getting drunk, don't do it with them. If someone wants to cheat on their spouse, don't do it with them. If we're relating a lifestyle of righteousness to being awake, then someone who is in sin is not awake, or not aware. They don't know what we know about living life God's way. We need to share it with them without compromising our convictions.

Awake!

If someone has a bad attitude, don't join in with them. If someone is criticizing the boss, don't agree with them. If someone is continually talking about how hurt and disappointed they are, don't listen to that! We have to guard our hearts so that we don't compromise an obedient lifestyle to God.

There can be extremes on both side of this issue. Sometimes people overemphasize grace and live a carnal lifestyle in order to accept others. However, when you love someone, you tell them the truth about sin and it's harmful effects rather than to reinforce sinful behavior. The other extreme is to become religious about keeping the rules, being judgmental and critical of others. Jesus is a good example for us – He didn't compromise His obedience to the Father, but He also reached out to the lost with love and acceptance. We should be encouraging one another to love God and to love people.

Conclusion:

Psalm 17:15

As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake [in Your likeness](#).

Part 3 Awake to Action

REVIEW

In the Awake! series, God is calling us to go higher in Him.

- You may feel like you are awake already, but I believe there is always room to become more aware of God and the truth in His Word. I don't think any of us know it all yet or are so close to God that we're seeing Him face to face. There is room to grow.
- You may feel frustrated because you want to know more and experience more of God, but you aren't growing fast enough or feel like you're catching on like others do. Be patient. Growth is a process.

AWAKENING (dictionary.com):

- Rousing, quickening
- A revival of interest or attention
- The act of awakening from sleep
- A recognition, realization, or coming into awareness of something
- A renewal of interest in religion, a revival.

AWAKE: A CALL TO ACTION

One use of the word awake in the Hebrew language was to illustrate going into action. Which makes sense, because when you're sleeping, your body isn't usually active. You're resting. Your eyes are closed, you're snoring, you're drooling....things can be going on around you and you just keep on sleeping. You're inactive. When we wake up, that's when we start moving around, some are quicker than others to get going, but we're awake and going into action.

Several scriptures in the Psalms call God to wake up, or to go into action.

[Psalm 35:23](#)

[Stir up Yourself, and **awake** to my vindication, to my cause, my God and my Lord.](#)

[Psalm 44:23](#) "Why do you sleep O Lord, Arise! Do not cast us off forever.

[Psalm 78:65](#) "Then He awoke from sleep..."

Does David think that God is sleeping? No, David is using a Hebrew term to call God to action. David is praying, crying out to God to accomplish the thing he needs from Him. When we understand this Hebrew term, we can see a richer revelation of other scriptures in the Old Testament.

[Psalm 121:3,4](#) He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. (4) Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

Awake!

God is working on your behalf. He's not taking a nap. He's not taking a break. He's actively working to keep His Word for you.

[Jeremiah 1:12](#) "... I am ready to perform My Word." Another translation is "watching over my word to perform it."

Ready: shaqad (8245) "Watching, waking, hastening, anticipating, to be sleepless, alert, vigilant, on the lookout, to care for watchfully."

God doesn't get tired. He's not slacking off. He is not lazy concerning His promises to you. You may have prayers that you may wonder why you're not seeing results. Call God to action. He will never intrude into your life. He has given you authority over your life. He wants us to come to Him in dependency and invite Him to have access to move. We aren't commanding God to do something when we cry out for action; rather we cry out of our need for Him, requesting His help.

YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE

1. [God is calling us to action.](#)

God is calling the church to action. If you are awake, you don't want to compromise, you don't want to relax or lay back. You want to stand up and do something. You have a zeal, a passion, an excitement.

God has chosen to work together with us. We're partners. He expects us to do our part. When we do, nothing is impossible. A ministry, a business, a family, children, relationships, a project, an invention, etc. Go to action.

2. [Apathy has consequences.](#)

[Proverbs 20:13](#) "Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty. Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread."

[Proverbs 6:9-11](#) "(9) How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? (10) A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep – (11) So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man."

[Proverbs 19:15](#) "Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger."

The meaning of these proverbs are literal. Laziness is a natural principle, but it is also a spiritual principle. Some people are spiritually lazy. They know what to do, but they're slow at getting to it. But spiritual sluggards will have a spiritual poverty that comes on them. You'll lose what God wants you to have because you've been spiritually inactive. Do you want God's blessing? Do you want to fulfill your destiny? We have to be spiritually active and pursue after God.

3. Recognize the schemes of the devil

One of the devil's schemes is to lull people to sleep spiritually. Part of his agenda is to get Christians to be inactive so that the kingdom of God will not be advanced. He's like the sandman.

- **Don't be distracted**

Our dog had her eyes on another dog. I called for her and she wouldn't come. She heard me, but she wouldn't budge until that other dog was out of sight. When her mission was accomplished, then she came running.

We have to stay focused and not be moved by distractions. Stay with it until the mission is accomplished.

- **Don't be discouraged**

What do you do when people criticize you or even just give you their opinion? What do you do when someone tries to tear you down by talking bad about you to friends, family or supporters? What if someone decides that they don't want to be a part of what you are doing anymore?

Sometimes when people feel the need to share their opinion, they just don't know any better. However, sometimes, I am convinced that the enemy plants negative thoughts in people's minds to tear down something that God wants to accomplish.

This is where we have to die to ourselves. Go to God, and ask Him about if there is something that you need to learn from this person's opinion. If not, throw it out. Recognize that people struggle with their own carnality, pride and ignorance. You go to God. If we allow ourselves to become discouraged enough to quit, then the enemy has won.

- **Don't be deceived**

The devil can make sense. He can appeal to your intellect and your emotions. He can talk you out of pursuing your destiny by reasoning that you should do something else based on "you can't pursue God's plan, you need to spend more time with your family, you need to focus on making more money, this just isn't working- you need to admit that you don't have what it takes, this isn't good enough for you – you can do better, etc."

We need to be led by the Spirit of God. We need discernment from the Holy Spirit.

Fight the enemy, not people, but the enemy. Kick him off your promised land and then go in and take what belongs to you.

SIX THINGS TO PUT ACTION TO:

Spiritually speaking, there are things that we need to wake up to and go to action with.

- **Faith**

James 2:20b "...Faith without works is dead."

Act on what God has said to do. Hold fast to it. Work for it. Serve and keep on serving. Set your face like flint.

- **Prayer**

I Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

- **Study**

II Timothy 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Diligence is the opposite of laziness.

Diligence (spoudazo #4704): "To exert oneself, make every effort, give diligence, make haste, be zealous, strain every nerve, and further the cause assiduously. The word combines thinking and acting, planting and producing. It includes inception, action and follow-through.

- **Confession**

Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

- **Fellowship**

Hebrews 10:24-25 "stir up love and good works..."

- **Witnessing**

Proverbs 10:5 "He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame."

Again, a natural principle, but it can also be applied spiritually.

Awake! Always seek to be aware of what God wants to do in and through you. Keep your spirit, your heart, open to God and you'll see great things take place in your life!