

WAKE UP, O SLEEPING CHRISTIAN!

(Ephesians 5:11-14)

Spiritual slumber is such a serious danger to our soul. This sinful condition could be likened to a “satanic lullaby” which causes Christians to doze off spiritually. This why the Apostle Paul constantly exhorts churches to wake up (Romans 13:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:6). He summons the believers in Ephesus and all of us today with this wake-up call: “*Awake, O sleeper and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!*” (Ephesians 5:14). The main thrust of this divine call is this fundamental truth: **We must wake up from our spiritual slumber so that we may rise as dynamic lights in the Lord.** Ephesians 5:11-14 provides us with two essential principles on how we could wake up from our spiritual slumber.

1. *Reject and* _____.

When you are spiritually asleep, you are unaware and unresponsive to the spiritual dangers in your Christian life. The specific danger that Paul is referring here in Ephesians 5 is the danger of sin. You are a sleeping Christian if you continue to accommodate sin and if you do not deal seriously and radically with sin. Instead of entertaining sin, Paul exhorts believers to reject and expose sin (Ephesians 5:11). If you really desire to be spiritually awake and strong, you must make yourself a sworn enemy of sin in your life. Sins of darkness must be renounced because they are unfruitful, worthless, unsatisfying and destructive.

Sin must also be exposed, confronted and rebuked for it is shameful, disgraceful and repulsive to our holy and gracious God (Ephesians 5:12). Christians who are now light in the Lord must help their fellow believers deal with their dark and sinful deeds and show them through the light of God's Word that participation in those sins is inconsistent with their new identity in Christ (Ephesians 5:13-14; Luke 17:3; Hebrews 3:13; Proverbs 27:5; Psalm 141:5). Any wayward believer who repents after his or her sin has been exposed and reprimanded will be restored by God to be a dynamic light in the Lord, once again bearing the fruit of godliness and holiness. Our godly lives as children of light have a convicting and transforming impact on those around us.

2. *Repent of your* _____ *and plead for* _____.

Paul concludes his exhortation with a wake-up call to God's people to repent of their spiritual slumber and wake up to the dangers of sin (Ephesians 5:14; Isaiah 60:1). We must humbly repent of our spiritual mediocrity and all our accumulated sins that have caused us to neglect God's Word, doubt His love and faithfulness, disregard our call to a life of holiness and abandon our love for His church and our passion for the lost. When we plead with God from our sincere and repentant hearts and put away our sin, God assures us with His promise that Christ will shine the light of His empowering presence and reviving grace on us. Our Lord will surely bless us and empower us to be His radiant and dynamic lights in this world.
