

AWAKEN

Introduction: Are we asleep at the wheel of faith?



more

- **What is prayer and fasting?**
 - **Fasting is not just a health kick, but to free up time to spend in God's presence.**
 - **Discipline:**
 - **Around food**
 - **About time**
 - **About pleasure.**
- **On Wednesday night we meet for our encounter night.**
 - **Worship,**
 - **video clip snapshot of Asbury revival**
 - **Prayer**
- **Why do we need to awaken?**
 - Our world scene:
 - **Ukraine / Russia**
 - **Israel / Hamas**
 - **Bondi massacre**
 - **Venezuela**
 - **Iran**
 - All these things are reflections of what happens in our own lives.
 - Reports out of Iran about visions / dreams and spectacular growth of the Christian church
 - **Who remembers Cambodia in 1970s?**

Ephesians 5:14-16 *This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

1. Wake Up

Ephesians 5:14 ...: *"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

- Some Christians have used Jesus:
 - As a life insurance policy
 - As a ticket to health and wealth
 - As a social or ethical creed stripped of the supernatural
 - For forgiveness, but absolving themselves of the glorious yet costly call of discipleship.

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*

- The Gospel is the only solution to the brokenness in the world and in our lives.

2. Be Careful

Ephesians 5:15 *Be very careful, then, how you live...*

- Do I make up a list of rules?
 - Why were the early Christians called “people of the Way?”
 - They observed, they followed One who said “I AM the Way, the truth and the life...”

Hebrews 12:1-2 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

- Throw off everything that hinders
 - Sin that entangles
- Fix our eyes on Jesus.

3. Seize the Opportunity

Ephesians 5:16 *... not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

Awakening – the transformational process and outcome of following Jesus Christ
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- Awakening looks like this:
 - Darkness to light
 - Death to life
 - Chaos to order
 - Despair to joy
 - Anxiety to peace
 - Poverty to flourishing
 - Brokenness to wholeness
- The Church cannot manufacture awakening
 - Sow for awakening – what is the good seed I can sow?
 - Remove impediments
 - Position ourselves to receive it.

¹ “the awakening Library”