

Spiritual Reflection on the Virtue of Alertness

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Alertness: Being aware of what is taking place around me so I can have the right responses.

STOP! It's the sign that tells us we have to respond to a situation that is occurring. How often do we sometimes slip past that stop sign without being aware that it was even there, perhaps it was hidden behind a tree or we were distracted by a song on the radio or the kids arguing in the back seat. Further down the road we realize we may have slipped past that sign – and regret it.

We all have moments where we zone out of reality and aren't aware of our surroundings, depending on where we are at that moment, it could be good or bad. It's always good to be alert to our surroundings whether at home, work, church or simply just alone.

Ephesians 5: 15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Have you ever wondered how Jesus was able to sidestep the booby traps that were set for Him? What kept Him wise and not lured into Satan's snares? Religious leaders frequently ambushed Jesus with an onslaught of hostile questions, yet He skillfully dodged each one, making the most of each of those opportunities to teach God's will. At one point, Jesus made the crowd so angry the people led Him to the edge of a cliff with every intention of throwing Him over. But there at the cliff's edge, Jesus just turned around, walked through the midst of the crowd, and went on His way (Luke 4:28-30). He was in complete control of the situation because He knew the will of God's. Jesus knew full well He was in a spiritual battle against spiritual opponents. He recognized the evil author and the dark kingdom that was behind each and every attack. Aware of this unseen conflict with the powers of darkness, Jesus never retaliated when people attacked or insulted Him. He was alert and understood that the Enemy often used people as bait to ensnare Him (as he does with us!). This knowledge equipped Jesus to sidestep every trap the enemy set for Him.

How can we stay alert and not fall into the traps of the enemy ourselves? By staying in God's Word and following the instructions given to do the will of God. We need to trust God and not react to the tricks of the enemy, Alertness is being aware of your surrounding, including situations that pop up suddenly, and reacting wisely to them – with God's help.