



33 | ACTS 20:1-12

FALLING ASLEEP IN CHURCH

The sign of the Spirit's life in your soul is your alertness and sensitivity to spiritual light in the word of God.

Outline

1. **STAY AWAKE (20:1-2)**
Be Awake to God's Plan
Be Awake to God's Power
2. **STAY ALERT (20:3-6)**
The Plot
The Pressure
The People
3. **STAY ALIVE (20:7-12)**
The Midnight Message
The Mishap
The Miracle

Call to Worship

Give to the Lord the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. ⁹Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. —Psalm 96:8-9

Songs

Your Great Name

In Christ Alone

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Higher Ground

Announcements

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet if you are visiting with us.

GIVING: You can give over Zelle through your bank with no fees (use secretary@livinghopechurch.net). We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center. Malachi 3, "Test me in this" Proverbs: "**Give of your firstfruits.**" We believe blessing comes by putting God first.

PACIFIC GARDEN MISSION: Pastor Matt is preaching at Pacific Garden Mission on Sunday, May 1, at 6:15pm. Service begins at 7pm and ends at 8pm.

Introduction

The passage before us introduces us to a young man named Eutychus whose name means “fortunate” or “lucky.” He is known throughout history as the young man who fell asleep in church and fell from a window while Paul was preaching. Paul had to perform a resurrection.

We all have trouble staying awake at times. For me **a movie is a \$12 nap session.** I still haven’t seen the end of Frozen II! For those of you in school or college, after lunch is a terrible time to have a class because you are likely to travel to “La La” land.

Race car driver Dale Earnhardt was known for being so calm before races that occasionally he would take a catnap just before the start. While other drivers would have a pulse rate of 100 to 120 before a race, his would be less than 60.

But on August 31, 1997, at the Southern 500 race, Earnhardt unintentionally took catnapping to a dangerous new level. At the start of the race, Earnhardt fell asleep at the wheel—he went into a semiconscious state but kept on driving. When he reached the first turn, he hit the wall but kept on going. At the second turn he again hit the wall, harder this time. He continued slowly around the track for two laps, looking for his pit but unable to find it. Finally, he pulled off the track. Later he would say he remembered nothing of this.

Sixteen doctors examined Earnhardt to find out what had happened. They found nothing definite. The doctors didn’t think the problem would recur, and they cleared Earnhardt to continue racing.¹

Frightening but true, it is possible, for a while, to drive over one hundred miles an hour and yet be asleep. In the same way, we can be busily racing through life—our eyes seemingly open, our hands on the wheel, our foot to the floor—yet spiritually asleep. Sooner or later, though, the trouble begins.

When someone in the congregation falls asleep during the sermon, the preacher may see it, though most often I hardly notice. It is understandable when the ill or the elderly fall asleep during the service. However, if you are healthy and young, there are two things you should know. First, if you fall off your chair and break your neck and die, the best the preacher can do for you is call the undertaker. Preachers today do not have the apostolic powers that Paul had.

Second, and more serious, is the danger of nodding off when God’s word is being proclaimed. Why does the mind begin to engage in day dreaming? That rarely happens when we attend football games or other events attended with great excitement.² I once nodded off during the exposition of Daniel and Revelation when I was in college. The professor was very kind, and he knew I had a 3 a.m. paper route. There is real physical exhaustion that we all deal with, especially mothers of young children.

¹ Associated Press, “Earnhardt Blacked out in '97 Southern 500.” ESPN Internet Ventures, June 2, 2005. <https://www.espn.com/racing/news/story?series=wc&id=2074527>.

² R. C. Sproul, *Acts*, St. Andrew’s Expository Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 339–340.

What is most concerning is the spiritual sleepiness that leaves love for one another behind and hardens the heart. It's dangerous. Paul told the Corinthians that some of them were spiritually sleepy.

Ephesians 5:14 | Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Wake up Christian! Don't be lulled to sleep by the spiritual opioids of anger and bitterness. Don't be paralyzed by worldly fear. Flee from worldly carnality, drunkenness, and foolishness that numbs you. Be done with lust and pornography. Wake up!

It may be that you have allowed the busyness of life and the cares of this world to harden your heart. Perhaps it's been a long time since you've really enjoyed the presence of Jesus. Oh, how dangerous is the state of your soul. All who know Christ will be chastened when they become spiritually sleepy. If chastening doesn't come, it means there's no life of the Spirit in you. **Some may not be merely asleep, but dead in your trespasses and sins.**

Key thought: The sign of the Spirit's life in your soul is your alertness and sensitivity to spiritual light in the word of God. We must be extremely careful to keep our hearts tender to the Spirit's work.

Paul's ministry was so effective because he stayed awake and alert. He was always on guard, always fitted with the full armor of God. What can we do to remain spiritually sensitive and tender to the Spirit?

1. STAY AWAKE (20:1-2)

To stay tender to the Spirit, we must stay awake. Paul wanted all the churches to remain awake and alert, so he was **constantly doing follow up**. This was a sort of farewell tour for Paul before he takes his last trip to Jerusalem. He'll eventually make his way to Rome, not as a missionary, but as a prisoner. But it was vital that he keep his heart, and the hearts of his hearers tender to the Spirit.

BE AWAKE TO GOD'S PLAN

After the potential riot was quelled at Ephesus, Paul concludes his three-year ministry.

Acts 20:1 | After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia.

Wherever Paul was ministering, God had to give the increase. If God didn't do the work, the world would never be transformed. Paul knew he was expendable. He could go from one place to another trusting in the almighty God to save the souls of those Paul loved and ministered to.

A Plan of Expansion

Why did Paul spend **three years in Ephesus** but sometimes only a **few months in other places**? Paul was awake and alert to the spiritual progress and expansion in each church. Paul may have spent a bit more time in Ephesus and Corinth because **they were leading cities** where he could set up **training centers for pastors and**

missionaries. He was always alert to God's plans. God's plan is one of constant expansion, yet the timetable is God's.

Expansion for the kingdom for Paul meant relatively short stints in each city. For most pastors it means 20 to 40 or 50 years in one place. Charles Spurgeon preached for 39 years in London all at the same church. I would love to follow in those steps. Others are meant to minister for shorter periods. Adoniram Judson and William Carrey were often on the move. After three years, Paul was ready to depart to Jerusalem, but first he must go through the poor, but generous churches of Macedonia.

A Plan of Generosity

Paul encouraged the Ephesian believers, and knowing they were established with officers and well shepherded, he departed for Macedonia, i.e., Philippi and Thessalonica where he had **received such generous gifts for the saints in Jerusalem before**. He knew the Lord would build his church. Alert, and awake, Paul was able to leave the church at Ephesus in the Lord's hands as he made his way to the churches of Macedonia.

A Plan of Expendability

How hard it must have been to say goodbye. Paul loved this sweetheart church. Yet God's plan is much bigger than one minister or even an apostle. Paul was clear about his own expendability.

1 Corinthians 3:5-7 | What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

Paul could leave because he was expendable. This was the final leg of his missionary journeys before being incarcerated in Rome. Paul wouldn't live forever on this broken planet, and neither will you. Your life will be cut short by death or the second coming. **If the Lord tarries his coming, who are you investing the gospel in?**

BE AWAKE TO GOD'S POWER

The **power to stay awake** is found precisely in the exposition and application of **God's word** through the ministry of his Spirit. Now Paul gives "encouragement" or literally, "exhortation" to the saints in Macedonia. He wanted them to be awake to the word of God.

Acts 20:2 | When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.

From Macedonia Paul went on to Greece, and especially, to **Corinth**. While there he wrote his theological masterpiece, his **epistle to the Romans**. Paul, who had long planned to go to Rome, now seemed to be sensing the Holy Spirit's approval for that move.³ Paul speaks of this discouragement in 2 Corinthians, that he has a thorn in his side.

³ John Phillips, *Exploring Acts: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ac 20:2-3.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 | So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

We know Paul was no great preacher or articulate philosopher, but he **understood the power of the word of God**. The messages he gave wouldn't have impressed any homiletician, but he was filled with the Spirit and the power of God. He taught the brothers and sisters in the churches to receive his word as he preached as the Spirit-led message for their life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer ran a seminary in Nazi Germany that was not approved by the state. He was a critical and intelligent man, but in his homiletics class he always laid down his paper and pencil, opened his Bible, and listened to the students' sermons, no matter how poor or unskilled they were. He felt that **the preaching of God's word ought to be received as if he were listening to God himself**. That is how we should listen too.⁴ Having a humble heart when it comes to God's work will keep you awake!

2. STAY ALERT (20:3-6)

We must be **alert for satanic attack**. There is always a serious onslaught that is against us. But we must remember that the battle is the Lord's. We put on the whole armor of God and walk in the Spirit, giving no stronghold or occasion for the flesh. Paul had to be on constant alert. **Don't be distracted by the plots and pressures and pain of the enemy. Stay alert!**

1 Peter 5:8 | Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

There is a spiritual sleepiness that comes from the weariness of satanic attack. It may come from your workplace or your own family. It may even come from someone in the body of Christ. Satan wants to catch us off guard and introduce bitterness and hopelessness into our lives. Of all people on earth, we should reject bitterness. **We should be the most optimistic people in the world**. The only way to not allow ourselves to become battle worn, weary, jaded, and cynical, is to stay alert with a tender heart to the Lord. **We need to develop thick skin and a big heart**.

THE PLOT

A plot for Paul's life could derail his ministry and discourage him greatly. But Paul is alert and doesn't allow this awful trial to overtake him.

Being alert includes realizing the enemy is always on the prowl. So it was for Paul. Paul was there in Greece for three months, likely in Corinth a **plot for his life** came to his attention.

⁴ Hughes, *Acts*, 273.

Acts 20:3a | There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria.

Sometimes we read about these plots against Paul and other Christian leaders **as if the great men of God are emotionless and made of Teflon**. Not so. We learn from 2 Corinthians, a letter he wrote at this time from Philippi (2 Cor 1:8; 2:13; 7:5), certainly the most autobiographical of all his epistles, that Paul arrived in Macedonia in a state of spiritual depression. He remained in Macedonia for some time, for it would seem that it was at this time he evangelized the seagirt province of Illyricum on the Adriatic Sea, across from Italy (Rom 15:19). Depression did not keep Paul from the great task of winning souls to Christ. So often depression is Satan's tool to keep our mind on ourselves and off the need of a perishing world. That device of Satan did not work with Paul.⁵

It was necessary for Paul to go south to Corinth in *Greece* (20:2c), perhaps taking Titus with him, to finalize the offering for the saints in Jerusalem. Altogether this consumes another three months before he and the church representatives can start out on the trip to Jerusalem (20:3a).

Paul foils the plans of his enemies and goes back the way he came through Macedonia.⁶ It seems churches were planted during this time, specifically in Illyricum (Rom 15:29). The **plots of God's enemies resulted in church plants** and powerful church growth. Don't be afraid of the plots of the enemy. **God will use what Satan means for evil for your good.**

THE PRESSURE

Because of the pressure of the death threats, Paul's plans to go to Jerusalem were put on hold, but God's plans continued. Pressure can be very good. **Pressure can make us alert to new plans God** has for us that we were not previously aware of.

Acts 20:3b | He decided to return through Macedonia.

What occurs as a result of the plot and the pressure, is that more funds are raised for the church at Jerusalem. We must not be upset when our plans are diverted.

Proverbs 16:9 | The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.

Paul entrusted the pressure of his life to the Lord who directed his steps. We need to do the same.

THE PEOPLE

Paul knew that with all the pressure of persecution and plots for his life, he needed **a strong support system to help him keep alert** in the Christian life. God has designed in **the local church**. Because of the plot against Paul, his plans to bless the Jerusalem church were placed on hold. He gathers a diverse team and returns through Macedonia (20:3b). His group of travel companions are **seven representatives of the various congregations** mentioned with their names, entrusted with the relief money

⁵ John Phillips, *Exploring Acts: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ac 20:2-3.

⁶ William H. Baker, "Acts," in *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, vol. 3, Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995), 914.

for the saints in Jerusalem (24:17; cf 11:29–30).⁷ What a special team is mentioned in the following verses! Seven men from all the major areas Paul had evangelized.

Acts 20:4-6 | Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.⁵ These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas,⁶ but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

Luke's reference to this group of men (20:4) represents almost all the areas where the gospel had gone as accompanying Paul.⁸ They are together gathering the funds for Jerusalem.

After this journey through Macedonia the plan was to pass through Troas where an interesting meeting takes place in which a young man falls asleep and dies and then Paul raises him from the dead.

Be alert! **Don't be afraid of the plots of the enemy.** Don't be distracted by fear or bitterness because of the evil of the enemy. The Lord is your shelter and your Shepherd.

Paul didn't have time for a lot of discouragement. What a team of supporters God had given him. What kind of support do you have in your life? Do you have someone you trust in your life to talk to about deep and difficult things in your life? **Don't bottle up your pressure** and struggles. **Find a gospel support system in the local church.**

3. STAY ALIVE (20:7-12)

Now we get to the part of the story where the miracle of raising Eutychus from the dead occurs. **His name is quite humorous to me, since Eutychus means "Lucky" and he surely did not live up to his name!** He has trouble staying alive. I suppose we could say **he was blessed and fortunate to have an apostle** nearby who could raise this very lucky boy from the dead!

I love this passage of Scripture because it teaches us that there is a vitality in the Christian life. The life of the Spirit comes from the Scriptures and fellowship and the joy of worship. Paul makes a stop in Troas on his way to Jerusalem, and it's the first day of the week, and he teaches into the evening and eventually through the night.

We see the life of the church meeting here in Troas. We see how **the means of grace, as primitive as they may be, actually keep us alive** and healthy spiritually. So it's important to stay awake in church, though Eutychus didn't think that was so important.

THE MIDNIGHT MESSAGE

Paul preaches until midnight. His stop in Troas included worship on the Lord's day, the Lord's supper, and a very long sermon.

⁷ Chalmer Ernest Faw, *Acts*, Believers Church Bible Commentary (Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press, 1993), 231.

⁸ William H. Baker, "Acts," in *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, vol. 3, Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995), 914.

The Lord's Day

Acts 20:7a | On the first day of the week.

The Christians of Paul's day took their day of rest on the Lord's Day (*cf* 1 Cor 16:1–2). The first day came to be called “the Lord's Day” because on that day the Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead (Rev 1:10). We should also remember that the church was born on the first day of the week when the Spirit came at Pentecost.

The church **met in the evening** because Sunday was not a holiday during which people were free from daily employment. Some of the believers would no doubt **be slaves**, unable to come to the assembly until their work was done. The believers met in an **upper room** because they had no church buildings in which to gather. This room may have been in the **private home** of one of the believers. The assembly would have been a very diverse group, but their social and national distinctions made no difference: they were “all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28).⁹

If we are going to “stay alive” in the power of the Spirit, we have to make sure we make the Lord's Day priority, just as the early church did. When I worked in the world, I made sure my employer knew I was not available on Sunday mornings. The law of Illinois and most states is on our side since by law you have the right to have one time a week when you can worship, and they have to accommodate you unless you are in some kind of emergency work. **If you want to “stay alive” spiritually, you've got to be continually meeting with the saints.**

Hebrews 10:24-25 | Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Fellowship is a kind of spiritual food. If you starve yourself of fellowship, you will begin to die spiritually.

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's supper was a way to **remember the death of Christ**, because **we are so prone to forget it**. A key reason for meeting together is celebrating this family meal for all Christians everywhere.

Acts 20:7b | On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread.

The Lord's supper meal is designed to bring us back to our first love, when we first came to know the efficacy of the blood of Jesus. We renew our first love and look forward to the time when we will celebrate this feast with Jesus at the marriage supper of the Lamb. I can't wait for that, what about you?!

The early church would share a “potluck” meal called the “agape feast” after which they would observe the Lord's supper (2:42; 1 Cor 11:17–34). The “breaking of bread” in Acts 20:7, 11 refers to the agape feast with the Lord's supper. By sharing and eating with one another, the church enjoyed fellowship and also gave witness of their oneness in Christ. Slaves would actually eat at the same table with their masters, something unheard of in that day.

⁹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 484.

It is likely that the church observed the Lord's supper each Lord's Day when they met for fellowship and worship. While Scripture does not give us specific instructions in the matter ("as often," 1 Cor 11:26), the example of the early church would encourage us to meet at the Lord's table often. However, the communion must not become routine, causing us to fail to receive the blessings involved.¹⁰

An important reason for the Lord's table is to rid ourselves of self-righteousness. Our flesh often pushes us toward the performance mindset, but we have to confess that our only glory is in the cross of Jesus! Let's have this meal often and celebrate what our Lord has done for us!

A Long Sermon

Acts 20:7c | Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

Paul's common practice was **to exposit the word of God**, but since he didn't have much time on his way to Jerusalem, he availed himself in the word even **until midnight**.

The word of God was always preached and taught in the Christian gatherings, and this included the public reading of the Old Testament Scriptures (1 Tim 4:13) as well as whatever apostolic letters had been received (Col 4:16). It **is sad to see how the word is neglected in church services today**. Knowing that this would probably be his last meeting with the saints at Troas, Paul preached a long sermon, after which he **ate and conversed with the people until morning**. It's doubtful that anybody complained. How we today wish we could have been there to hear the Apostle Paul preach!

The word of God is important to the people of God, and the ministry of the word is vital to our Christian growth. Watching videos or listening to audio is good, but only gathering in person has that human touch with real life-on-life discipleship. If God's people are going to have the life giving power of the Spirit, we must attend to the public ministry of the word of God.

THE MISHAP

Now we come to the young man Eutychus who just **couldn't stay awake during the preaching**. There were torches lighting up the room, but the fire was stealing the oxygen. Perhaps Eutychus had a condition where he felt lightheaded and sat by the window where he could get some fresh air. Ultimately this window seat was a bad choice.

As Paul's preaching approaches midnight, this young man in attendance named Eutychus ("Lucky") accidentally falls to his death from an upper window. Mr. Lucky wasn't so lucky! Some people die in their sleep. Others through disease. Eutychus' death was unique. His obituary could have read: *death by sermon!* The incident is so unusual.

Acts 20:8-9 | There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

The tenses of the Greek verbs portray poor Eutychus as being gradually overcome despite his struggle to remain awake.¹¹ The word translated "sleep" is the word from which

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Thomas Walker, *The Acts of the Apostles* (Chicago: Moody, 1965), 438.

we derive the English word **hypnosis**. **The lamps in the room were torches**, and the lack of oxygen and hypnotic flickering of the flames did their work. Eutychus' eyes shut, he relaxed, and out he went—headlong to the pavement three floors below. The congregation must have given a horrified gasp and immediately rushed down the outside stairs to the broken form. Some of them began to shriek a Middle Eastern death wail.¹²

Let's not be too hard on Eutychus. At least **he was there for the service, and he did try to keep awake**. He sat near ventilation, and he must have tried to fight off the sleep that finally conquered him. The tense of the Greek verb indicates that he was gradually overcome, not suddenly. Also, **let's not be too hard on Paul**. After all, he was preaching his farewell sermon to this assembly, and he had a great deal to tell them for their own good.

Perhaps each of us should ask ourselves, "What really keeps me awake?" Christians who slumber during one hour in church somehow manage to stay awake during **early-morning fishing trips, lengthy sporting events and concerts, late-night TV specials**, or **dinner** with a special someone. We need to prepare ourselves physically for public worship to make sure we are at our best. More than that, we need to have live awakened in the Spirit. "Remember," said Spurgeon, "**if we go to sleep during the sermon and die**, there are no apostles to restore us!"¹³

THE MIRACLE

Paul raises him from the dead.

Acts 20:10 | But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him."

Paul prostrated himself across the boy's lifeless form much as did the prophets Elijah and Elisha—and the young man was revived! It was a miracle!¹⁴ What occurs when Paul says, "He's alive!" is a bona fide resurrection, one of a few of its kind in the New Testament. No one was sleepy now. Back up to church they went.

Acts 20:11-12 | And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.¹² And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

Perhaps equally significant is the spiritual appetite of these believers which keeps them listening to Paul all night long (20:11), another reason for not criticizing Paul for long-windedness.¹⁵

I feel sorry for Eutychus, first, because he fell asleep on the Apostle Paul, second, because his sleepiness had such unhappy results, and third, because Luke was there to record the whole thing! This is the **first record ever of someone falling asleep in church**. There have been **thousands of successors**, but Eutychus is the one everyone remembers.

¹² R. Kent Hughes, *Acts: The Church Afire*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1996), 270.

¹³ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 485.

¹⁴ Hughes, *Acts*, 271.

¹⁵ William H. Baker, "Acts," in *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*, vol. 3, Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995), 914.

Conclusion

How vital it is that we stay awake spiritually, but I am afraid some are asleep in the Body of Christ. I've never been a sleepwalker, but the **Mayo Clinic** describes how people can act when sleepwalking. They may **get out of bed and walk around**. I heard of one guy who had the vacuum in hand, **vacuuming the floor** with no power. People have eaten **whole meals while sleepwalking**. I've even heard of **sleep driving**—people waking up and they sleepwalked to the car. Some **sleepwalkers may even have their eyes open** and appear to be awake. They may not remember later what they've done while asleep. How much **more dangerous** is it to **sleep in the Christian life**.

Martin Luther had a parable or a dream about how on one occasion the devil sat upon his throne listening to his agents report on the progress they had made in opposing the truth of Christ and destroying the souls of men. One spirit said there was a company of Christians crossing the desert. "I **loosed the lions** upon them, and soon the sands of the desert were strewn with their mangled corpses."

"**What of that?**" answered Satan. "**The lions destroyed their bodies**, but their souls were saved. It is their souls that I am after."

Another reported, "There was a company of Christian pilgrims sailing through the sea on a vessel. I sent a great wind against the ship that drove the ship on the rocks, and every Christian aboard the ship was **drowned**."

"**What of that?**" said Satan. "Their bodies were drowned in the sea, but their souls were saved. It is their souls that I am after."

The third came forward to give his report, and he said, "For ten years I have been trying to **cast a Christian into a deep sleep**, and at last **I have succeeded**." And with that the corridors of Hell rang with **shouts of malignant triumph**. If we are asleep, let us hear God's call today!¹⁶

How dangerous is it to sleepwalk in the Christian life! Let us live life awake and intentionally **surrendered to the Spirit**. Satan rejoices that you are asleep. Are you not afraid of the living God? Let the light and love of Christ awaken you.

¹⁶ Clarence E. Macartney, *Chariots of Fire* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1951), 50-51.