

FOURTH STREAM BE READY! FINDING HOPE

No matter your view of the events of the end of days, the concept of being **ready** and **alert** is woven throughout the words of Jesus and His disciples. Check out each passage and what each context reveals about being prepared. *The word for alert means to be spiritually awake and to have our heads and our hearts ready for what is ahead. What do you see?*

Matthew 24:42-43 *"Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into."*

Matthew 25:13 *"Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."*

Mark 13:33-37 *"Pay attention, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert - for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"*

Luke 12:37 *"Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them."*

Luke 21:36 *"But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

Acts 20:31 *"Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears."*

1 Corinthians 16:13 *"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."*

Ephesians 6:18 *"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints..."*

Colossians 4:2 *"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving..."*

1 Thessalonians 5:6 *"... so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober."*

1 Peter 5:8 *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*

Ephesians 5:14-16 *For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead (corpses), and Christ will shine on you." Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."*

What contributes to an alert heart and mind?