

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUNG PEOPLE

SPRING PURSUIT

BEING WATCHFUL IN LIFE AND FAITHFUL IN SERVICE

Session Three —Ministry Reading

Being Watchful for His Return

Verses for Pray-Reading:

1 Pet. 1:8 Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing *Him* at present, yet believing, you exult with joy *that is* unspeakable and full of glory.

Matt. 24:42 Watch therefore...

Ministry Reading

[Matt. 25] Verse 13: "Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour." The lesson here is still to be watchful. The Lord told them to watch, showing that all the virgins had life. The Lord did not say to the virgins that they needed to be born again to obtain salvation. In verse 10 those who were ready went in with Him to the feast. To be ready is to be watchful; hence, the two are together. To be ready is to have no unfinished business. Every day a ready person is prepared to hand over his business. A watchful person is one who sees His coming and is therefore always ready. We believers should be those who can hand over everything every day. For us, the Lord can come any day.

The five foolish virgins were ready and watchful in the beginning, but they did not persevere. Readiness is related to the unfinished business in our lives. Watchfulness is related to the imminent coming of the Lord. To be ready, to be watchful, and to wait requires the strength that comes from the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the second kind of oil. One cannot trust in his self. The self quickly becomes weak and confused. In order for our watchfulness to last, we must depend on the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit will automatically issue forth in good works, the fruits that glorify God.

Those who are truly watchful always feel that they are not fully ready; they do not trust in themselves and are willing to follow humbly. Brothers and sisters, it is of no benefit to equip ourselves with prophecy if we are not watchful and ready. Would it not be a great loss if we have the knowledge of prophecy today yet suffer loss in the future? Get ready! The Lord wants to see our lamps and our light. Watch! No one knows the day or the hour. If the day and the hour were known, there would be no need to watch. In chapters twenty-four and twenty-five there are five instances where it is said that no one knows the day of the Lord's coming. This repetition is to stress its importance. Do not rely on being caught up after the tribulation. The Lord does not reveal the day of His coming because He wants us to be watchful. (*Collected Works of Watchman Nee, The (Set 1) Vol. 15: Study on Matthew*, pp. 336-337).