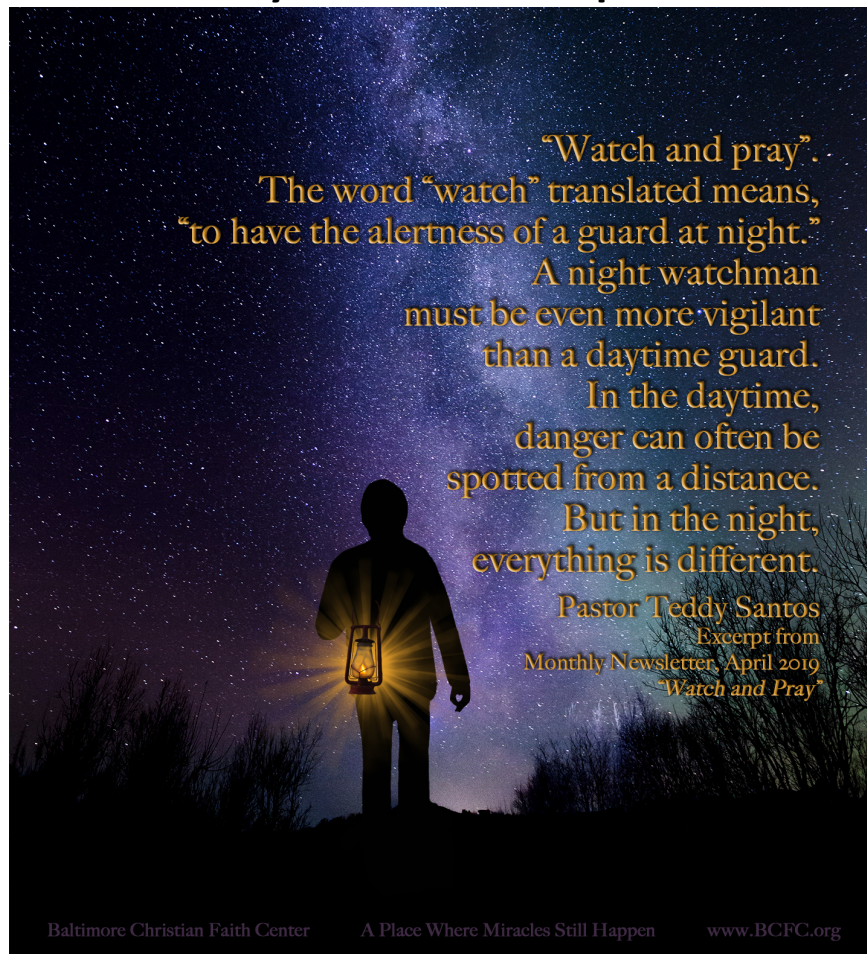


Watch and Pray

Monthly Newsletter – April 2019



Have you or someone you know ever wondered why certain circumstances occur in the life of the Believer? Or have you ever wondered "why didn't I see that coming?"

We read the words of our Lord Jesus in Matthew 26:41: Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

"Watch and pray". The word translated "watch" means, "to have the alertness of a guard at night." A night watchman must be even more vigilant than a daytime guard. In the daytime, danger can often be spotted from a distance. But in the night, everything is different. A night watchman must use senses other than sight to detect a threat. He is often alone in the darkness, and without the defenses, he would otherwise employ. There may be no indications of an enemy attack until it happens. So, he must be hyper-vigilant, suspecting it at any moment. That is the type of watching the Lord Jesus spoke about.

Returning to the disciples, He found them sleeping. Their spirits were willing; their flesh was weak. We dare not condemn them when we think of our own prayer lives; we sleep better than we pray, and our minds wander when they should be watching. How often the Lord has to say to us as He said to Peter, "Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." Matt 26:40

Jesus warned us that we are too easily distracted by the physical and will be caught unaware if we do not continually discipline ourselves. We can only remain faithful when we are devoted to prayer. In prayer, we continually allow God to forgive us, cleanse us, teach us, and strengthen us to obey Him. To keep watch, we must pray for endurance and freedom from distractions (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18). We must pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). When we live with the eager expectation of the Lord's return and expect persecution until then (2 Timothy 3:12), we are more likely to keep our lives pure and our hearts ready to meet Him.

May your fellowship and desire to be closer to the Lord be strengthened as the days go on. And may you not be easily distracted and derailed from the plan and purpose the Lord has for your life. May you be active in the Lord - always abiding in His perfect will!

In Him,
Pr. Teddy F. Santos