

No. 71 “Stay Awake”—Why and How?

PLEASE NOTE: Help listeners recognize the symptoms and the dangers of figurative sleep, and motivate them to stay spiritually awake. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “STAY AWAKE”? (5 min.)

Without a doubt, we are living in “the last days” of this system of things (2Ti 3:1-5; Mt 24:3, 7, 8)

As in Noah’s day, most people today do not take note (Mt 24:37-39)

Some ridicule the idea that this system will end (2Pe 3:3, 4)

We need to “stay awake” in a figurative sense [Read 1 Thessalonians 5:6] (w12 3/15 10-11 ¶1-5)

We must remain alert to the urgency of the times and stay focused on doing Jehovah’s will

WHY IS IT CHALLENGING TO “STAY AWAKE”? (6 min.)

Satan uses the world under his control to distract people, putting them figuratively to sleep (1Jo 2:15-17; 5:19)

Jesus warned of things that could distract us from our worship [Read Luke 21:34, 35 and footnote in *Study Bible*] [Image 1]

“Worries of daily life” may include financial troubles, family problems, or health concerns

We could become distracted by secular work, higher education, material possessions, or entertainment (Lu 8:14; w03 12/15 23 ¶16-17)

Jesus also warned about “overeating and heavy drinking” (w08 9/15 22 ¶12-14)

HOW TO “KEEP AWAKE” (14 min.)

Jesus urged his followers to “keep awake” [Read Luke 21:36] (w10 7/15 11 ¶16)

Strengthen your personal relationship with Jehovah

Do not let anything crowd out prayer, Bible reading, personal study, family worship, or meeting attendance (Php 1:10; 2Pe 3:11-14)

Avoid getting distracted or ensnared by the present system of things

Do not use this world “to the full” (1Co 7:31; w15 10/15 20 ¶7-8)

Do not let this world erode your moral standards (Ro 13:11-14)

Remain alert to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy (Mr 13:32-37; w03 1/1 18-19 ¶5-6)

[Highlight a Bible prophecy that is being fulfilled now or that will soon be fulfilled]

Help others awake from sleep

Proclaiming the good news and teaching Bible truths help us stay alert (Ro 10:13-15; 1Ti 4:16; w12 3/15 11 ¶8-9)

REMAIN AWAKE AS “JEHOVAH’S DAY” NEARS (5 min.)

“Jehovah’s day” will catch many by surprise [Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3] (w19.10 8-9 ¶3-6) [Image 2]

Many will be fooled into believing that man has achieved “peace and security”

The destruction of false religion will mark the start of the “great tribulation” (Mt 24:21; kr 222-223 ¶3-5)

Once the great tribulation begins, it will be too late to wake up and turn to Jehovah (Mt 25:31-33, 46)

Now is the time to “stay awake” and to respond to Jehovah’s loving reminders

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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