

Good News for Families

Stay Awake

It was a normal, uneventful day. I was unloading my dishwasher and looking out my kitchen window. Two of my children were right there with me, and my husband was upstairs. Suddenly, there was a bright flash in the sky. I saw Jesus descending from heaven! In a high-pitched voice, I shouted, "My Lord!" Suddenly, I whirled up into the air, just a few feet above the place I'd been standing. I looked down at my children, who were standing there looking up at me while my dishwasher stood open. I yelled my daughter's name, and before I could call for my husband to tell him what was happening, I woke up.

Needless to say, it was a very vivid dream. Even though it was a couple of years ago, it was so vivid that I often still think about it. I wonder, like many of us do, if Jesus will return during my lifetime—not just in my dreams, but while I'm yet awake.

And that is what we are called to do: Stay awake.

But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the

Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake. (Mark 13:32–37)

You see, what happened in my dream will one day happen in real life. This is the promise that we wait to see fulfilled. Jesus is certainly coming back, and since we don't know when He'll come, we are told to stay alert for His coming and to be ready when He arrives.

It sounds like a tall order. Be ever watchful? As parents, we're already

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not getting enough sleep. Now we need to be ready at any moment? Take heart. Rest easy.

Our Lord is so good that He provides a way for you and your children to always be ready and awake for His coming. He has given you His Word, and He never stops talking. He keeps us endlessly reassured of His forgiveness and love for us, and has even set people in our lives—our pastors—to proclaim His Word to us regularly. He gives us the sustenance we need to keep our energy up. In His Holy Supper, we are nourished in body and soul, so that we will have the strength to depart in peace.

Author: Drs. Jennifer L. Miller

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This, too, is why it is so important to care for our children's spiritual well-being with gusto. We know that it is more profitable for our children to lose some sleep on a Sunday morning to receive God's gifts, which will help keep them awake to be watchful for Him.

Thankfully, we don't do these things alone. We are set in families, including church families, nudging each other to stay awake. And thanks be to God that it isn't all just a dream. Our salvation in Christ is very, very real, and soon, we will see it with our own eyes. 

Recommended Reading

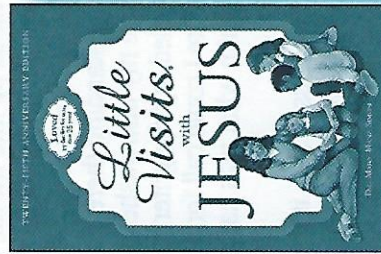
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