

Vigilance

“She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.”—Proverbs 31:25-31

Proverbs 31 describes a woman of wisdom and vigilance. She has no fear of the winter months because she has prepared in advance, and her family is properly clothed. It says that “she watches over the affairs of her household”. Vigilance is the watchfulness and readiness of the spirit, and it is something that we must continually nourish and tend to just like we do the affairs of our household. Ephesians 6:10-18 describes it as putting on the full armor of God—the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Vigilance also means living a life of thoughtful reflection, being willing for God to examine our hearts and bring correction where needed. Thankfully, “we are not left alone to accomplish the task of being vigilant over our own souls. Just as we have an unseen enemy, so we have in the Holy Spirit a present friend and protector who provides us with the insight we need” (*Gary Thomas*). Spending time daily in God’s word and listening for that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit is the best way to remain vigilant.

“It is not your diligence, it is not your examination of yourself that will enlighten you concerning your sin. Instead, it is God who does all the revealing...If you try to be the one who does the examining, there is a very good chance that you will deceive yourself”. –Jeanne Guyon

Ask God for divine insight into your own heart today. As you go through the day, be listening for His voice of correction, instruction, and encouragement.