

## Watchman Part 29

*(The Watchman Watches in Suffering While Waiting Upon God)*

***“4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; 6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, 7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left.” (2Corinthians 6:4-7 KJV)***

***“4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left.” (2Corinthians 6:4-7 NIV)***

The life of Apostle Paul is a good example for us today Christian of how to endure suffering in living to God and in serving Him. Christian who want to live for God and to serve Him, he/she would be exposed to opposition, trials and the work of devil trying to stop him from achieving the purpose and the plan of God. The same will be happening to you and it could be the very thing that you are passing through right now. You should not surprised; these are not strange matters but they are the very normal thing that what you are experiencing right now.

Paul one of the words that he described what he was passing through is ‘Watching,’ or ‘Sleepless nights.’ In Greek word of it is Agrupnia, and in English is sleeplessness. And it is repeated again on *2Corinthians 11:27*

***“24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods , once was I stoned , thrice I suffered shipwreck , a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness..” (2 Corinthians 11:24-27 KJV)***

***“24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.” (2 Corinthians 11:24-27 NIV)***

What Paul described here is ‘Watchings,’ ‘Sleepless nights,’ so not only on one occasion but that was a repeated event or a norm in Paul’s life. Watching or sleepless nights, can imply one or more of the following:

***1- Continuous travel and movement and even in the night:*** It implies to live away from the warm bed and spending time in doing certain task or travelling in fulfilling a mission. How Paul would sleep in all the following, ***“a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;” (2Corinthians 11:25d-26)***

***2- Being in imprisonment or in other painful physical and life events that hinder you from sleeping:*** Pain and chains may caused you sleepless night. ***“27 In weariness and painfulness,” (2Corinthians 11:27a)*** Ministry can cause you physical ailments that causing you pain.

***3- Burden and the heaviness of certain concerns in the life of the church and ministry that hinder you from sleeping:*** Pau said the following, ***“28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak ? who is offended , and I burn not?” (2Corinthians 11:28-29 KJV)*** A real watchman is a man who has concern and who feel the pain. A careless and irresponsible worker and minister do not care about what is going on in the life of the church and ministry as long as his food and bed are prepared. But the person who is compassionate is careful and alert and he feel the pain in the heart of God and in the body of Christ, His church.

***4- Watchfulness spending the night in prayer:*** Travailing in prayer over the night and praying for certain concerns and decisions. ***Colossians 4:2 “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”*** To watch here is the Greek word Gregoreuo, and it means give strict attention to, be cautious, active to take heed lest through remission and indolence some destructive calamity suddenly overtake one. The Lord wants us to be watchful servants and ministers. Gregoreuo, repeated in the New Testament for 23 times. The following are some of the examples that can be link to the current message:

***“Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching : verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself , and make them to sit down to meat , and will come forth and serve them.” (Luke 12:37 KJV)***

***“2 Be watchful , and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die : for I have not found thy works perfect before God. 3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard , and hold fast , and repent . If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.” (Revelation 3:2-3 KJV)***

***“15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.” (Revelation 16:15 KJV)***

***My Dear and Beloved:*** The watchman watches in suffering while waiting upon God to act, to answer prayers, to deliver and to save. ***“Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.” (1Thessalonians 5:6)*** as you agree to pray.

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that revive me and encouraged me to continue to watch and persevere in the mid of the trials that I am passing through in serving you and the ministry that you entrusted to me. Lord give me strength, good health and steadfastness to continue to persevere in achieving the ministry that you entrusted to me. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.