

# PURIFYING *the* WATCHMAN

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During a corporate gathering, I was hearing from the Holy Spirit that there is a fresh movement and calling forth of watchmen. The Holy Spirit is bringing awareness of this calling to individuals.

With this calling forth of watchmen, there is a unique purifying work that is also coming forth. In this article, I want to share what I see concerning this uniqueness and bring some understanding of what I believe the Holy Spirit is emphasizing in this hour.

## The Calling to Be a Watchman

In the book of Isaiah we read,

***6. On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; All day and night they will never keep silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves;***

***7. And give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.***

***Isaiah 62:6-7***

An important first point is that God Himself is the one who calls and appoints individuals to be watchmen. This ministry activity comes from the heart of God and not from the heart of man.

The word for “**watchmen**” in this verse comes from the Hebrew word ‘*shamar*’. This word carries the meaning, “*to keep, preserve, guard and watch carefully*”. With this word we get the idea of protecting. God calls individuals as spiritual “*watchmen*” to function in the role of “*watching*” on behalf of the Kingdom of God to help ensure that the affairs of mankind move forward according to God’s desired direction.

The calling to be a watchman didn’t originate here in the context of Isaiah’s day. It has its origin back in the Garden of Eden.

## The Origin of the Calling

In Genesis God gave a specific command to Adam and Eve. We read,

***Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.***

***Genesis 2:15***

The word “**keep**” in this verse is the same Hebrew word ‘*shamar*’ as in our Isaiah passage. God instructed Adam and Eve to “*keep, preserve, guard, watch carefully*” and ultimately protect it from enemy intrusion. Man didn’t need protection from himself. But God knew there was an enemy who would attempt to penetrate and take over the garden He had given and assigned to man.

We see this word again after the fall of man. Adam and Eve were driven from the garden and God posted an angelic being to guard the garden and prevent anyone from entering. Most importantly, the tree of life was not to be eaten by man who was now in a sinful state. We read,

***So He drove the man out; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the Cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.***

***Genesis 3:24***



The word “**guard**” in this verse is the same Hebrew word ‘*shamar*’. In this context, God gave the Cherubim (angelic being) the responsibility of militarily guarding the entrance to the garden to ensure that no one ate from the tree of life.

When we study closely the Genesis account of the Garden of Eden and God’s instructions, we get the picture that mankind was given the responsibility to watch over and protect (*shamar*) the garden. God would not do this for man but this responsibility was given directly to man by God.

This brings us back to the Isaiah passage. As we have just seen, the calling to *shamar*, militarily speaking, to “*watch*” or “*protect*” the earth is a function that has been given to mankind. This calling and instruction voiced through the prophet Isaiah isn’t just given to a special or select individual. It was intended to be the responsibility of mankind as a whole. In the garden account, man failed, sin entered, death entered and Lucifer, now called Satan was given access to rule on the earth.

## The Consequence of Not Watching

It is important to clearly understand that God was not the reason that sin, death and the enemy gained earthly access. The command to protect was given to man, and the responsibility to protect the earth stayed with man. I will bring two passages to light to reinforce this point.

***Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.***

***Romans 5:12***

It can’t get any clearer than this. Man is responsible for sin and death entering the earth. The end result is that “***all sinned***”. We can all say that this isn’t fair

since none of us made the original decision to rebel against God’s Word. But this shows us how much responsibility God placed into the hands of mankind in the Garden.

Not only did sin and death enter the earth, but through deception, Satan also gained the right to rule upon the earth. During the temptations in the wilderness, we see Satan saying to Jesus:

***5. And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.***

***6. And the devil said to Him, ‘I will give you all this domain (authority) and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.***

***Luke 4:5-6***

This “***handing over***” that Satan was talking about is a reference to the Garden when he deceived (tricked) mankind to turn against God’s Word. This not only opened the door for sin and death to enter, but also opened the door for Satan to have legal access to exercise rulership on the earth. I have included a variety of Scripture references that emphasize this point: John 14:30; Acts 10:38; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 6:12; 1 John 5:19.

While the call of the watchman hasn’t left, the context where the watching role functions is now different. In the Garden of Eden, the watching or protecting role given to man was to keep Satan out of the earth realm and prevent him from exercising authority on the earth. In Isaiah’s day, as in our day, sin and all of its damage is here as well as Satan’s right to rule through sinful man. Now, the watchman has sin to deal with in the midst. This makes the role of the watchman even more challenging than what Adam and Eve had to deal with in the Garden of Eden.





So, with sin present, what is the agenda that is given to us as watchmen? To answer this question, we have to first see how God responds to sin upon the earth.

### Called to Fix the Problem

God had every right to walk away from His creation. As the saying goes, “you made your bed so now you have to lie in it”. If God had taken this attitude, every one of us would be doomed and the earth would be in even worse condition than it is right now.

Despite the presence of sin and the brokenness of humanity, God is not looking for the opportunity to destroy man, rather He is looking for the opportunity to redeem man (see Ezekiel 22:29-31; 33:11). The sin problem was so great that no human could ever become the solution to rescue mankind. As the Father was preparing to send His Son Jesus, notice the prophetic words in the book of Isaiah. We read,

***And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no one to intercede; then His own arm brought salvation to Him; and His righteousness upheld Him.***

***Isaiah 59:16***

This is a prophetic word concerning the dilemma that sin created and God’s readiness to become the answer. This is a profound fact that needs to affect us all. Instead of reaching out to strike and destroy us because of our sin, God was becoming the answer to deal with our sin. This was pointing ahead to Jesus and He became the greatest **intercessor** that has or ever will enter this earth.

This point is strongly revealed in the book of Romans. It says,

***31. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?***

***32. He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?***

***33. Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the One who justifies;***

***34. Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.***

***Romans 8:31-34***

This is the declaration of the fulfilment of Isaiah’s prophecy. Jesus did not come from the Throne of Heaven to accuse mankind of their sin. Instead, He came as an intercessor to set free and redeem mankind from their sin. We often quote John 3:16 and declare the fact that because God so loved us, He sent His Son. If we read on, there is an amazing revelation. The next verse says,

***For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him.***

***John 3:17***

This revelation is often missed. The amazing point is that Jesus, as the “Ultimate Watchman”, came right into the midst of sin with His eyes fully open to its consequences and yet He did not come to judge those who were ensnared by it. He came to save, heal, deliver and set free those who were contaminated by it.



Look again at our Romans passage. This Scripture in Romans begins with the question, “**If God is for us, who is against us?**” That is a profound statement. It is very easy to live a life and preach a message that consciously and subconsciously declares, “God is against us”. We say things like, “Beware, that sin in your life is about to be struck by God” or, “You better clean yourself up or God can’t work through



your life". It is easy to live in this mindset that, at the core of its belief, holds to the fact that God is looking for the opportunity to strike down people. This affects us individually in our walk with God. It also affects how we relate to others, especially when some kind of sin is exposed. Here is a simple fact. Any condemnation that still remains in me will flow from me to others. It may be true that sin is present and is destroying one or even many lives. We also know from the Word that the **"wage of sin is death"** (Romans 6:23). But, we have to settle a very important issue.

Do we go about cleaning up our life so that God can use us? If so, then this puts works back on our shoulders. Or, is the door fully open for us to move into God, His presence and His Word and have living encounters with Him? The end result of these living encounters is that, "He deals with our sin". Jesus paid the price so that you and I can approach God with whatever sin is present and God says, **"I am for you and not against you"**. As this truth penetrates our spirit and renews our mind, it drives condemnation out and radically affects how we speak to and relate to others.

Are there any remains of sin's effects in my life? Yes! Are there any remains of sin's effects in your life? Again, the answer is yes! As crazy as it seems, **"God is not against us"** even while that sin remains in our life. This is all because of Jesus and His intercessory work. When we charge each other with getting rid of sin, we actually push people away from God instead of towards Him. Sin is destroying marriages, families, communities and our entire world. So this point in no way says that sin reigning in our lives or on the earth doesn't matter. It matters big time. It simply states that the door is fully open for us to approach the Father that He may work in our lives to remove the effects of sin. The church so often charges itself with cleaning up our sin and this prevents us from

having the God-intended encounters with Him that truly free us from the influences of sin.

This sets the foundation of all aspects of intercession and the calling to be a watchman. If God's perspective is not to attack man for their sin, then this must become our perspective as well. As I have already said, the reality of sin is that its consequence produces death. It leads us away from what God intends. Definitely, some consequences are greater than others. But sin's consequence, which is called death, is working to destroy us all. For every great thing that God has done in our own lives, there is still the effect of sin working to rob us from the original design.

I lived for too many years struggling with this issue. It entered my pastoral and teaching ministry and hindered me and others who connected to my ministry. While with my head I could easily talk about the fact that God loved me, yet that truth didn't affect my ongoing struggle with sin in my life. One day I had a profound encounter with the Father. Not only did I realize that I had Him as my Father (that was big), but I also realized that my current condition didn't need to affect in any way my ability to have a relationship with Him. Our removal of sin doesn't determine whether we can walk and talk with God, Jesus has taken care of that.

If your religious mind is struggling at this point, think about this crazy thought. Right now, do you think that there are areas of sin in your life that you don't even know exist? The answer should be a simple yes. In fact, if God opened the heavens and His Holiness was revealed in a tangible fullness, we all would be struck with the knowledge of things about ourselves that we had no clue were even present. So here is the question. Why is the sin you can't see or don't know about, not robbing you of your ability to enjoy God? It is simple. Because you



don't know about it so your mind is free and clear to enjoy God continuously. So this means that the effect of sin in some manner is present in all of our lives, yet when we are ignorant of it, we still enjoy God.

This is where Jesus enters the picture. He is the Intercessor that has fully satisfied the Father and has given us full access despite sin's presence. It is God who deals with our sin. If we had a living encounter with His presence, lots of stuff would



be changed. So we can choose to live a roller coaster type of relationship with God because of the sin we see within ourselves. We are on and off and up and down in our walk with Him. One day we feel close to Him and another day we feel distant from Him. Or, we can look intently into what Jesus has done and realize that, regardless of what sin is present, we have constant access to the Father.

The Father is satisfied because of Jesus. Period!

## The Father is Satisfied

Notice this amazing verse in the book of first John. We read,

***and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.***

**1 John 2:2**

The word “**propitiation**” is a word that carries the meaning “*to appease the anger, reconcile and to satisfy*”. Jesus has become our “**propitiation**”. This means that Jesus has “*appeased*” or “*satisfied*” the Father on our behalf. Nothing can be added to that. So, regardless of our struggle with sin, the Father is satisfied with us now. This doesn't mean that He likes the consequences of sin present in our lives and which are also hurting the lives of others. But, He is

satisfied with us and the door is open to enjoy Him continuously.

This is so radical. From here on in, this needs to settle a simple point. God's work of removing sin's effects from our lives is not for His sake, rather for ours. When we look at our sin, immediately, the struggle wants to emerge that says, “Oh, I better hide or stay away from God”. This is because we have been trained to be “sin conscious”. But if Jesus is our “**propitiation**” and has “*satisfied*” the Father, I don't need to hide, rather, with all my junk I can approach Him freely. Our minds need to be trained to become “righteous conscious”.

The finished work of Jesus has resulted in making us “righteous” before the Father. Look at this Scripture in second Corinthians. It says,

***He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

Did you notice the exchange? Jesus became our “sin” so that we might “**become righteous**” before the Father. We see this in Romans as well. We read,

***For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.***

**Romans 5:18**

Did you notice what has been given to us? We have been given the “**gift of righteousness**”. This gift cannot be earned or paid for. It is a gift that we must receive. Jesus became sin that we might “**become the righteousness of God**”. This act is so complete that it is offered as a gift to those who will receive it.



This means that, regardless of what we may currently be struggling with, we can enjoy God now. He is for us and not against us. He is not here to bring a charge against us rather He is here to declare us as being righteous.

When we take the hand of Jesus and approach the Father, we invite Him to deal with our sin. Not so we can have relationship with Him.



No, rather that we can see sin's effect lifted off our lives and its impact removed. In turn, this will affect many around us.

Right now, in your walk with God, are you "*sin conscious*" or are you "*righteous conscious*"? One day when I was deeply aware of a specific struggle in my life, I heard the Holy Spirit declare something radical into my heart. He named the sin and said, "You believe that this sin can keep you away from Me"! As I pondered the thought, the reality of what I heard hit me hard. I was so focussed on how dirty I felt because of my sin that in that very moment, it was impossible for my mind to enjoy God. It was true, "I believed that my sin could keep me away from God" and because I believed this, it did keep me away from God. This was so radical and it set me free. If sin can keep me away from God, then Jesus is not enough. This hit me very deeply. Now, regardless of how I feel, what I see or what yuck is present, one thing is settled. Jesus is the door to the Father, therefore those things now have zero ability to rob me of my enjoyment and pursuit of God.

This freedom is amazing. Now, I can pursue God because, in His sight, I am righteous all the time. I can allow His presence to invade my life and wonderfully change me right where I need to be changed. Through this doorway we can access the presence of God. As His presence is released into our lives, He begins to deal with those areas that He desires to change within us.

I want to now bring this truth into the calling on our lives to be watchmen.

## What Kind of Watchmen are We?

Why have I gone down this path when the subject I introduced in this article was on being a watchman? The reason is simple. If I don't have the "**propitiation**" foundation internally laid in my life, then my watching, engaging and interceding for others will be greatly affected negatively. As we press into the face of God and pray and war over our regions, our churches, and our families, we are going to see sin's effect exposed before our eyes. That is the point of watching or interceding. We are being positioned by God to be used to guard or even invade areas where sin has had the opportunity to rule in order to help see it removed.

When we, as watchmen, see sin in others (both the big stuff and small stuff), what is our internal response? Does it stir up accusation that, subtly or even overtly, thinks, speaks or prays, "God you need to get them"? If Jesus is the propitiation for our sin, He is also the propitiation for everyone else's sin (1 John 2:2). This means that the heart of God is not looking to strike people, but rather to liberate them.



As a watchman, I am called to bring the mercy of God to people and the answer that is found only in Jesus and His completed "propitiatory" work on the cross. I am called to bring answers to sin's condition that heals or changes it. I am not called to attack or speak against it.

This radically affects my function as a watchman. As I said earlier, the degree of self-condemnation that exists within us will determine what flows from us. In my personal journey, the belief that my sin could keep me from God affected how I looked at others. When I saw sin or personal failure in others, I was

driven to answer that by pointing it out. Sadly, I even prided myself with the belief that I was called to expose junk in the lives of others. This was present because I was personally standing on a faulty foundation in my own walk with God. My teaching, my ministry engagements and my praying had a river of condemnation that flowed from me to those around me.

With my current understanding of what Jesus has done for me, I have an entirely new understanding of my role and calling. I am no longer afraid of sin,



whether it is mine or others. I no longer need to point out to others the sin in their life. Instead, my job, and yours as well, is to take people by the hand and help them have living encounters with God. This

involves His Word and His Presence. It is that simple.

When we see sin in others, and we do and will, our prayer focus is to see the release of the manifested presence and Glory of God. Our prayer focus is that individuals will enter into a living revelation of Jesus, understanding what He has done for them. That is it. God is not afraid of our sin, so why should we be.

The greater we move into the engagement of God in our lives, the greater the reality will be to see sin. As we get closer and more engaged with God, sin will be seen more and more. As wonderful as this is, it could be a watchman's demise. If our foundation has not been healthily formed and centered on the revelation of what Jesus has done, we can actually push people away from God by our ministry. Focusing and going at sin can flow out of us in prayer, in our proclaiming God's Word and affect our relationships with people.

If you are anything like me, then you may need a 180 degree turn in your walk with God. I needed a shift from being "sin conscious" to being "righteous

conscious". This has radically affected my ministry and suddenly, I am seeing more of God's tangible fruit flowing through my life.

At the beginning of this article, I shared that I have been hearing that a fresh move of the Holy Spirit is happening and there is a calling forth of watchmen. I also shared that I am hearing that a purifying is coming with this move.

Here is the good news. If you need purifying in your heart, then you need to realize that Jesus has done everything to cover this need. Simply approach the Father freely, confidently and invite Him to enter into this purifying process. That is God's work and He delights in cleaning up our lives.

Here is the bad news. While we have full access to the Father now, our own broken foundations have and will continue to negatively affect other people. This is the point of removing sin. Sin's removal is not to suddenly have access to God. No, sin's removal is to eliminate the cause of more death in our life and the lives of others. Also, sin's removal is so we won't hinder the freeing work that God wants to do through us in the lives of people.

## Let's Settle It

So here is the conclusion. We are all called to be watchmen. Even though we are all gifted differently, we are all called to watch over, guard and protect people on the earth. We help people move from the destructive influence of sin into the wonderful hands of a living God. As God's watchmen, we are going to see things that are broken, wrong and far away from God's Kingdom intent. Our role is to bring the Kingdom into manifestation and see sin's presence removed.



So first, settle the fact that whatever you do by trade or vocation, you are one of God's watchmen on assignment. You have this amazing high calling from God.

Second, settle the fact that, as God's watchman, you are going to see sin and its influence in others. That is the point of watching, that is to see something that is wrong with the intent of seeing it become right.

Third, settle the fact that our job is not to attack sin and be the agent that tries to change it. Through prayer, we intercede for a revelation of truth that will expose what is wrong and therefore be removed. Through engaging relationships, we help people take the hand of the Jesus and approach our amazing and loving Father. He is the one that deals with people's sin.

Our job is to extend the propitiatory work of Jesus in the lives of others. The message is simple, "Get your eyes off your sin and discover what Jesus has done for you". Our watchman ministry is simple: Let me help you meet the One and only One that can free you from sin.



What a glorious calling we all have.

Turn your mind from looking at sin to looking at the "reality of our righteousness" before God.

Dr. Steve McEvoy has his doctorate in Leadership and Organizational Development.

- Through his apostolic teaching ministry, Steve assists leaders in the church in *"helping activate their people in fulfilling the calling of God on their lives"*.
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To learn more about what Dr. Steve offers visit his websites at:

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