

# ATHENS *Prayer Network* USA

## The Watch

*O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls, they will pray day and night continually. Take no rest all you who pray to the LORD. Give the LORD no rest until He completes His work, until He makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth!*  
*Isaiah 62:6-7 (NLT)*

We live in the day when the Watch of the Lord is being restored. In Old Testament times the walls of a city were of vital importance. Without walls they were undefended against the attacks of raiders, enemies and animals. Gatekeepers would be posted at the entry places and watchmen would stand guard on these walls. Though our modern cities don't have physical walls, we need the spiritual watchmen to take their places around our cities to stay vigilant. Pastors are considered the gatekeepers of the city, and intercessors are referred to as the watchmen. These spiritual walls are being restored through the unity God is re-establishing among pastors (the gatekeepers) and churches. Our walls need watchmen, so intercessors are being called to take their places!

### **The Watchman**

Watchmen are intercessors who take on a specific role of watching. As watchmen of old, they have eyes to see out into the distance what the enemy is doing, but more importantly, what the King is doing. They also keep an eye out for what is happening in the city. They sound the alarm (a shofar) to alert the town of an impending emergency as well as the coming or activity of their King. These intercessors today are connected to one another, staying alert, praying for God's purposes to be established, sounding the alarm when threats arise and announcing what they see God doing.

### **The Watch**

To watch means, "to be vigilant, to be alert, to be watchful." The Watch is a continuous, twenty-four seven prayer vigil. And since it is spiritual it does not need to be held in any specific physical location. Though some groups gather together to do it, it does not need to be centralized. In fact, watchmen watch from their own home, or school, or business or dorm, or wherever they are. The watch consists of individuals and groups committing to a slot of time. That slot, whether it is day or night, becomes their assigned watch. This watch is to provide a continual crying out to God, day and night, until He establishes His kingdom in that city!

Prior to each watch the watchmen check the log (website) for what other watchmen have been praying (sensing), and ask God to help them via His Holy Spirit to intercede for the city. Each watchman is part of a larger community of intercessors, but the individual watch is their responsibility. An assignment missed is an open door for the enemy. Ezekiel gives us a glimpse of the seriousness of each watch, or slot. If an assigned watchman neglected to give warning of approaching danger, either by not being at their post or being silent, they were considered traitors, and punished by death (Ezekiel 33:6). Not that we are going to chase down missing watchmen, but by their not being in their post, lives could be in jeopardy.

We are sensing that God wants to establish a watch of the Lord here. Psalm 127 warns us that unless the Lord builds the house or watches over the city, we labor and watch in vain. Taking part in The Watch is both a tremendous blessing and gigantic responsibility. You get to be with God in a very strategic and intimate place and you are held accountable for it! Please pray about taking your place on the wall in Athens, Georgia!

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