Sermon Notes: Spiritual Vigilance (1Corinthians 16:13-14)

Introduction: (Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 3:3; Matthew 4:8-10)

Point One: The Call to Watchfulness (1Peter 5:8; Matthew 26:41)

Point Two: The Dangers of Spiritual Slumber

Point Three: Practical Steps for Spiritual Vigilance

Point Four: Rewards for Spiritual Vigilance (John 10:10)

The Messenger

Weekly Newsletter of Whiteland Church of Christ
Loving God / Loving People

The Lord's Day, December 7, 2025

Order of Worship

Greeting: Rick Lowe
Scripture Reading: Keith Huesman (1Cor 16:13-14)
Worship Leader: Lonnie Hewitt
Communion: Jacob Day
Sermon: Ronnie Hewitt
(Spiritual Vigilance)
Announcements / Prayer: Ed Tichenor

During Sermon

Nursery: Debbie Smith (Sub: Kayla Stanton)
Pre-K & K: Gina Sowder & Edie Short
1st-3rd Grade Bible Hour: Renie Nalley

Schedule of Services

Bible Studies: Sunday 9:30am & 5:00pm / Wednesday 7pm
Worship: Sunday 10:30am

Connect with Us

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	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC
	www.Instagram.com/WhitelandCOC_Youth
	www.X.com/@Whiteland_COC
Online Worship:	www.YouTube.com/@WhitelandCOC

Mail In Contributions

Whiteland Church of Christ / PO Box 85 / Whiteland, IN 46184

Leadership

Elders
Stan Davis (317) 507-1936 / Ed Tichenor (317) 412-2416
Minister
Ronnie Hewitt (317) 966-2029

Welcome

Thank you for being with us today. May you find your time here to be a source of renewal, hope, and belonging.

Recent Prayer Requests

Cindy Davis is scheduled for reconstructive surgery on Tuesday.
Karen DeFord has been dealing with a lot of pain in her hip and has been told she will need to have surgery possibly in February. She has also been dealing with cloud floaters in her eyes and is having surgery for that on her right eye tomorrow.
Eric & Lyndsay Trostle responded last Sunday seeking to be restored. Also, Lyndsay's grandfather (Bill Harmony) passed away Friday morning.
Della Turnbill had a procedure to place the watchman device. Everything went well.
Wanda Weaver had extensive dental work this past Thursday.
Heather Schmidt, cousin of Amy Wiwczaroski, recent scan showed cancer in right breast and a couple of lymph nodes. She begins chemo treatments Monday.
Mary Zarecor, Davis's niece, tests due to low blood count.

Long Term Concerns

Gavin Brooks (son of Keith Huesman's friend, heart issues), **Juanita Brunnemer** (shut-in), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Eddie Culin** (Wiwczaroski's friend, cancer), **Karen DeFord** (hip injections), **Tonya Dowell** (several health issues, undergoing tests), **Nancy Duncan** (Rodney Dowell's sister, needs kidney transplant), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's, & mourning the loss of her husband), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Gloria** (friend of Hagan's, kidney & heart issues), **Moe Handy** (shut-in), **Rex Hembree** (Della's brother, lung issues), **Angie Hewitt** (looking for employment), **Jamie Jones** (Hagan's nephew, coronary artery bypass & kidney transplant list), **Martin Julian** (shut-in), **Neil Kent** (David's brother, lung cancer), **Pam Lasiter** (Lougene's daughter, ongoing health issues), **Sharon Lasiter** (hospice), **Lynn** (aunt of Lonnie & Sonya's daughter-in-law, breast & spine cancer), **Clayton Marrott** (intestinal issues), **Pat Martin** (Amy Wiwczaroski's dad, Parkinson's, testing upcoming), **Leah Raker** (Kent's great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Tim Scott** (Cindy Strope's brother, palsy), **Gayle Stephens** (cancer), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, palliative care), **GayLee Sutton** (wet macular degeneration, clinical trial), **Blanche Taylor** (shut-in), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Mary Walton** (Regina Anderson's mom, shut-in), **Tiffany Waskom** (Crystal Miller's co-worker, immunotherapy for cancer), **John West** (Dawn Elliott's friend, cancer & recovering from pneumonia), **Wanda Weaver** (kidney disease & lupus), **Heather Wiwczaroski** (Eric's sister-in-law, recovering from spine surgery), **Jimmy Wooten** (Lougene's son, Parkinson's); **Kevin & Mary Wooten** (Lougene's son & daughter-in-law, Kevin - Cardiac Amyloidosis, chemo; Mary - Alzheimer's).

How do I become a Christian?

Hear the Word (Romans 10:17) / Believe the Word (John 20:31, Acts 16:31) / Repent of your sins (Luke 13:5, 15:7) / Confess Jesus to others (Matthew 10:32-33) / Be Baptized in the name of Jesus for salvation (1Peter 3:21, Romans 6:4-5, Acts 2:37-38)

Upcoming Events

Celebrations This Week

Birthday
12th Moe Handy
Anniversary
None to Report

Sisters' Holiday Pitch-in Brunch, Saturday (10am-12pm)

You are asked to bring a dish to share for brunch and 2 dozen cookies for an exchange. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the Involvement Board in the foyer. For more info, please see Cindy Strope.

Annual Whiteland Elephant Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party will be December 19th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be provided, and we need a head count. There is a sign-up sheet on the Involvement Board in the foyer. Each person wishing to partake in the gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift (up to a $10 value). This can be something recycled, funny, or serious.

Baptism Celebration

We celebrate with Landry Johnson who made the decision last Sunday to accept Christ in baptism. Let us join and encourage him in this new walk. We look forward to seeing what our Lord does through this young man.

Today is Encouragement Sunday

There are note cards that can be filled out to offer encouragement to someone today. You can place them in the brown container by the bulletin board in the foyer and they will be mailed for you.

Calendar Update

Please make note: There will be no Men's Prayer Breakfast this month. We will start it up again on Saturday, January 24th.

Cleaning Crew
December 8-13 (Team 2)

Finance Record

2025 Budget: $178,787.94 Weekly Budget: $3,438.23
Last Week's Offering: $3,825.00

Attendance

Sunday: AM Bible Study (26); Worship (76); PM Bible Study (10)

Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, December 7	Ephesians 1-3
Monday, December 8	Ephesians 4-6
Tuesday, December 9	Philippians 1-4
Wednesday, December 10	Colossians 1-4
Thursday, December 11	1Thessalonians 1-5
Friday, December 12	2Thessalonians 1-3
Saturday, December 13	1Timothy 1-4

Faith Applied: Where Scripture Meets Everyday Life

"Jesus Brings Life"

Life is full of interruptions – some joyous, some heartbreaking. In Luke 7:11-17, Jesus interrupts a funeral procession. What looked like the end became a new beginning. This passage reminds us that Jesus is not distant from our pain; but steps into it with compassion and power.

As He approaches the town of Nain with His disciples and a large crowd, another large crowd is leaving the city – a funeral procession. The deceased was the only son of a widow. This detail is crucial to our understanding of what is going on. This widow has lost her husband and now her only son. Her future, security, and joy are gone. So, here we are, two crowds meeting: one following death, the other following life Himself.

When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her and He approached her. Jesus doesn't just see the crowd; He sees her. He notices her grief. He shows us that compassion is not pity but love in action. Psalm 34:18 says, "*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit*." He tells her, "*Do not weep*." Not because her tears were wrong, but because He is about to change her situation. Compassion alone is not enough. Many may feel sorry, but only Jesus has the authority to change the situation.

He reaches out and touches the bier (the open coffin). This is somewhat shocking – as touching it would make a person unclean. However, Jesus is not defiled; instead, death is defeated. He speaks: "*Young man, I say to you, 'Arise*!'" The dead man sits up immediately and begins to speak. Life returns at the command of Christ. Compare this with Jn 11:43-44, where Jesus calls Lazarus from the tomb, and we see death must obey the voice of the Son of God (Jn 5:25).

The widow receives her son back – her hope, her joy, her future are restored. Just as creation began with God's word (*Let there be…*), new creation begins with Jesus' word: "*Arise*!"

This miracle doesn't end with the young man's resurrection – it leads to a powerful response from the people. Luke 7:16-17 tells us, "*Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us, and God has visited His people.' This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding region*."

What happened in Nain is not just history – it speak to us today. This miracle points forward to Jesus' own resurrection and the promise of eternal life for all who believe. What does this mean for us? It means Jesus meets us in our grief. Just as He saw the widow, He sees us. It means Jesus has authority over death. Whether it's sin, despair, or hopelessness, His word brings life – spiritual, emotional, and eternal. It means Jesus gives us a future. The widow received her son back; we receive eternal life through Christ (Jn 11:25-26). Where sin and death steal from us, Christ restores; therefore, our response should be worship and witness. Like the crowd, we glorify God and spread the news.

I want you to know today that Jesus sees you. Your pain, whatever it may be, is not invisible. His compassion is personal. And so, it is with us: "*Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (1Cor 15:57). When Jesus speaks, even the dead must listen. And when He calls, life begins anew.