

The Danger of a Critical Spirit for Watchmen

“...Many of you are called as prophets. The foundation of prophetic ministry is being a watchman,” I said...

One of the girls seemed very unenthusiastic, so I asked her what she was thinking.

“My parents said that those who claim to be watchmen are almost all bitter, critical people who just sow division and discord in others,” she said. “I was in a lot of rebellion to my parents, so I started listening to some of those who called themselves watchmen, and I even read some of their material. I have to admit that my parents were right. They seemed negative toward everyone and everything. I don’t remember ever hearing any of them say anything good or positive about anyone. If we become like that, I do not think it will lead us to the mountain of the Lord,” she said.

“That is an interesting and important insight,” I responded, “That is just the kind of discernment we need. She is right about the critical spirit that is in many self-proclaimed watchmen. There are a number of reasons for this, but the main one could be that the people who have the gifts and callings have not taken their place, so others who are not called to do it fill the void...”

“Alexis, you are obviously one who is committed to truth and depth if you were willing to search out what your parents said about this group. What else did you learn?”

“There is a bitterness and critical spirit in so many of them that it is a spiritual poison. It destroys and does not build up. I think it is rooted in unforgiveness, or having disappointments and wounds that never healed.”

“Alexis, these are important insights,” I continued. “There are unique traps set for every one of us here. To become overly critical and negative is a trap set especially for those who are called to be watchmen and prophets. Those who fall into that trap end up sowing fear and division instead of faith and love for God and one another. This poison can be much more deadly than all of the false teachers and false shepherds combined...”

“Not forgetting this warning that Alexis has brought to our attention, let me share some of the good things about this calling. We are called to walk by faith, not fear. We must be wise and discerning enough to see the traps, but our basic purpose is to look for the right path, not just the wrong ones. For this reason, the watchmen are usually the first to see the wonders and the glory.

“We are changed into the image of what we behold, and if we’re just looking at and studying the enemy all of the time we can start to take on his nature. Biblical watchmen were also to be on the lookout for the coming of the King or His messengers, to warn the people of their approach so that they could have a proper reception prepared.

“It’s true that critical people rarely build anything, but just tear down. Such may be stumbling blocks, but there would not be so many of those if the true called ones would rise up and take their place as watchmen for the body. We need those of you who are called to this to take your place and learn to do it the right way.”¹

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