

## Focus & Clarity

By E. Giorgio

*“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (1 Peter 5:8, 9).*

Be sober! Be vigilant! What kind of words are these? Sober means not drunk with wine, drugs or other intoxicating things. A sober person sees clearly and keeps his balance. A person under the influence cannot see clearly nor walk steadily. His vision, his balance and his speech are all adversely affected. He or she is not sober.

Vigilant means watchful. A guard in charge of criminals must be watchful at all times. If he is negligent, the criminals will conceal something and use it against the guard. When people walk in very crowded areas they must be watchful. Sometimes, pick-pockets work relentlessly in crowded places. They deliberately bump into people. While they profusely apologize, their partner snatches a wallet or purse while the attention is focused on the apologies.

Sober in Greek is *nepho*; it means to be discreet, to abstain from wine. Vigilant in Greek is *gregoreo*; to keep awake, to be alert. Both words are active and convey a strong meaning to have Focus & Clarity.

### Examples

Focus & Clarity are required for success. The other day, we went to Big Bear. We saw the rugged mountains and winding narrow roads. We saw houses and buildings here and there. We saw almost everything, but our focus was on one place. We had the address and location of a house that belonged to our friends Dave & Laura. We followed the directions they provided until we made it all the way to their front yard.

We saw a famous football player on the television. His focus and clarity in the game of football must be superior. You can say that he is extremely sober and vigilant when it comes to playing football. He knows he has adversaries that want to defeat him. He watches their moves and analyzes their strategies. Then, he carefully prepares his game plan to counter them and gain victory.

The other day, we went up to the mountain to spend time with our friends. And they showed us around. They told us about the property. They bought it after seeing the place. But when they showed it to us, they told us about their plans to improve, transform and expand the property. They already had a vision of what it would look like. They showed us where they will build and transform the rooms, patios, waterfalls, new plants and landscapes. It was a great pleasure to see their Focus & Clarity.

God called Moses to go up to the mountain. God showed him what Israel needed. Moses received instructions in the commandments, ceremonies and the building of the tabernacle. Moses had to be sober and vigilant to receive all the instructions. He also had to be ready for the opposition when he was challenged by the people in the desert.

God gave Moses the details of His instructions. And then God said to him, *“And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain”* (Exodus 25:40). In other words, God had

specific things in mind. Moses needed to follow those instructions with extreme Focus & Clarity. He paid attention to what God required. He did not need to be creative on his own to improve upon what God commanded. He stayed strictly with the plan of God.

## Conclusion

*“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:6 – 8).*

Three powerful concepts are embedded in this lesson.

**One**, be sober and vigilant. This requires Focus & Clarity. If you go shopping you see a lot of things, but in reality you see nothing. You just saw many things without focus or clarity. Some people live their lives without focus. They meander on the winding roads of life. Those twists and turns up in the mountains lead to a destination. If you don’t have a destination, you are just a traveler in life.

You have been-there-done-that. But nothing significant is accomplished. Why? Lack of Focus & Clarity made everything a blur. That’s a clouded and empty life. I hope nobody wants that!

**Two**, we have an adversary out there, who wants to stop us. He is roaming about seeking whom he may devour. The adversary knows he cannot devour everyone. He devours the weak and non-suspecting ones. The ones who are not sober are easy prey. They are not watchful, so he can pick their pockets and leave them empty.

The game of football is just a game. It’s for fun. But when you have two competitive teams, it becomes more than just a simple game. It becomes a championship event where many pay big bucks to watch and participate. The fun game becomes the center of sharp Focus & Clarity. News reporters and TV cameras carry the details to millions of people with great fervor and excitement. The whole country almost comes to a standstill for that special moment.

Focus & Clarity will carry the day. Celebrations and congratulations pour profusely to the winners.

**Three**, resistance is required. Both Peter and Paul mention the need for resistance. Faith in God sharpens our Focus and Clarity. Strong faith produces strong dependence on the plans and purposes of God in our lives. We are not just floating through life, like window shoppers. God has put us here for a purpose. And we do our best to have Focus & Clarity on that aspect. We don’t just treat it lightly. We look at it very soberly.

Paul mentions about sleeping and getting drunk at night. But then, he says that we are to resist that. Others might sleep and get drunk. But we will be vigilant and watchful at all times.

*Your life has meaning if you have Focus & Clarity.* It can be a great blessing to you, your loved ones and the whole world. But it takes these simple but very powerful tools to make the difference needed. It is not difficult. It is not a mystery. But it is hidden in the secret place of Focus & Clarity. God bless you as you discover and faithfully become extremely diligent and adept in it all the days of your life.