

Weekly Discussion Guide – 9-15-2024

“Why We Need Awakening, Part 1” Ephesians 5:8-14

1. a) Describe what it’s like when you wake up pleasantly. Be as specific and descriptive as possible. b) Describe a time when you were unpleasantly awakened.
2. According to J.D. Walt, “Awakening is the outcome of personally encountering Jesus Christ, through whom the love of God the Father is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Awakening both results from and leads to deep wholeness in people, renewal of the church, evangelization of a generation, and transformation of society.” What *thoughts* do you have about this definition? What do you *feel* as you read this definition?
3. Read Ephesians 5:8-14. How do these verses help us identify Paul’s audience? What are the relationships between spiritual awakening, faith, and behavior?
4. According to these verses, is it possible for believing Christians to still need awakening? Why or why not?
5. Read Revelation 2:1-7 and 3:1-6. How can the letters to these two historical churches challenge us in the church today?
6. After reading these passages from Ephesians and Revelation, how would you describe someone who has encountered the Good News of Jesus but is still “asleep”?
7. How easy is it for you to compartmentalize your faith and “fall back asleep,” going about your life only to “wake back up again” at some point? What lures you back to sleep? Or do you feel continually “awake” to God? What helps you stay awake?