

Wake Up!

Ron Wayne is usually just another gambler at the Nugget Hotel & Casino in Nevada. He goes in a couple of days a week to try his luck on the video poker machine. Wayne, 76, lives off his Social Security and does a modest trade in collectors' stamps and coins. The irony of being inside a casino is not lost on him. After all, if his short-lived career at Apple had gone differently, he would be holding a different kind of winnings: 10 percent of Apple's stock. Today, that stock would be worth \$22 billion. Wayne left Apple for only \$800.

"What can I say? You make a decision based on your understanding of the circumstances, and you live with it," he said. Wayne's tenure at Apple began on April 1, 1976. His name is signed on the legal document that established Apple -- next to those of Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, the Silicon Valley giants most people associate with the popular tech company, which makes the iPhone and iPad. Jobs and Wayne had become friends a few years earlier while both were working for the Atari Corporation. As Wayne tells it, Jobs asked for his help in drafting documents and mediating a dispute between Jobs and Wozniak. He also drafted the company's first logo and operating manual. For this work, Wayne was awarded a 10 percent stake in Apple. "What Jobs had in mind was that he and Woz [as Wozniak is sometimes called] should each have 45 percent and I would have 10 percent as mediator in any dispute that would come up," he said.

In Steve Wozniak's autobiography, "iWoZ," he described Wayne as "one of those people who seemed to have a quick answer for everything." "He seemed to know all the things we didn't," Wozniak wrote. "Ron ended up play a huge role in those very early days at Apple." But Wayne had early misgivings. He had been unsuccessful in starting a slot-machine manufacturing business. He racked up thousands of dollars in debt. With Apple, he was concerned history would repeat itself. "I could see myself getting into this situation again, and I was really getting too old for that kind of thing," Wayne said, noting that his partners at Apple were 20 years younger than he was. Eleven days after Apple was formed, Wayne removed himself from the company charter. He eventually was given \$800 for his stake in Apple, and he let go of that valuable Apple stock, which has exploded in value since.

"Obviously he [Wayne] didn't have the foresight to know what Apple would become. Like any company in the very early stages, there's a risk associated and you've got to be willing to take it, or you're not," said Ben Bajarin, a technology industry analyst for Creative Strategies. Wayne, whose net worth is mostly tied up in his extensive coin and stamp collection, said he's as "enamored with money as anybody else." "But when you're at a focal point of history, you don't realize you're at a focal point of history," he said.

Don't you just want to say, "Ron, were you asleep?! What a missed opportunity!" But do you realize that YOU are at a focal point of history?!

Sleep – it's wonderful and peaceful, it's relaxing and restful, but it also can be dangerous! The National Sleep Foundation (NSF) reports that 43 percent of adults say they are so sleepy during the day that it interferes with their daily activities at least a few days a month. This can be especially hazardous on the road. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that fatigued drivers contribute to 100,000 highway crashes, causing 71,000 injuries and 1,500 deaths each year. Like drugs and alcohol, sleepiness contributes to collisions because it slows reaction time, decreases awareness, and impairs judgment. One reason that driving drowsy is such a danger is that it's difficult to stop yourself from nodding off when you haven't slept enough. While you may feel that you can force yourself to stay awake, you can easily doze off without even realizing it. And, when you're driving, closing your eyes for even a second can be disastrous. At 55 miles an hour, you can travel more than 100 yards while you're taking a five-second nap.

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Although sleep is a natural physical process, Scripture also uses sleep as a spiritual symbol of **DEATH** and as a negative symbol of **LAZINESS**. In other words, spiritual sleep is even much more dangerous than dozing off in a moving vehicle because you endanger not just your body or your life, but your eternal soul.

Churches can also fall asleep at the wheel if they are not constantly vigilant. There are so many influences in our society that can contribute to spiritual drowsiness. The lullaby of hell is "It doesn't matter."

Luke 22:46 And said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

Proverbs 10:5 He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

Horrible consequences are incurred when we fall asleep on the job ...

Matthew 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

Matthew 24:43-44 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

One of the most unusual stories about falling asleep is in Acts 20 ...

Acts 20:7-12 [7] And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight. [8] And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together. [9] And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. [10] And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. [11] When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. [12] And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

- Eutychus means “fortunate”
- He was in a place where there was lots of light
- It was getting close to the midnight hour
- But he was sitting too close to the edge and he fell asleep
- Thank God the church was there to pray for him!

The disciples fell asleep just before the greatest manifestation of God’s glory on the Mount of Transfiguration – they almost missed it because they were weary from the long climb up the mountain!

Luke 9:32 But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

If we are not alert, we can climb for many years and then fall asleep just before the greatest manifestation of God’s glory the world has ever seen!

Not every individual will be involved in endtime revival!
Not every family will be involved in endtime revival!
Not every pastor will be involved in endtime revival!
Not every church will be involved in endtime revival!
Not every organization will be involved in endtime revival!

IT’S ENTIRELY UP TO US!

Sleeping saints! They’re dangerous behind the wheel! Drowsy pastors! They are the terror of the road! Dozing Christians! If they don’t snap out of it, they can do so much harm to the Kingdom of God.

In twenty years of ministry, not once have I ever had an emotionally-charged conversation with a Christian who was upset over an eternal issue! But I have had literally hundreds of conversations with someone who was upset over temporal, trivial, inconsequential issues!

That’s spiritual sleep!

Ephesians 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

What does a loving parent do when a child is sleeping but must wake up? That parent takes his child gently by the shoulders and shakes him. If the child doesn’t wake up immediately, the shaking then becomes a bit more firm and serious - because the parent knows the child will suffer if he doesn’t wake up. That’s just what God is doing right now to the church! At first, He shook us very tenderly. But now His shaking has become violent - because He has still not succeeded in waking us up!

WAKE UP!

ILLUSTRATION: Attending G.A. Mangun’s burial on my 48th birthday – I want to make the rest of my time on this earth count for God’s Kingdom!