



# Harvest Warriors NEWSLETTER



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Warring to Harvest

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## WALKING IN THE DESERT

Deserts are hot and dry with very little rainfall and because there is very little moisture in the air, nights tend to be very cold. With such extreme changes in temperatures and lack of water, the desert can be a very harsh place to live. I don't know about you but a couple of days in the desert and I'd be screaming for a way out! I'm amazed that the Israelites made it 40 years! Now God gave them a promise that he would bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey,

"Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and *seen* what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'" *Exodus 3:16-17*

God is giving them a promise and asking them to take a leap of faith but I imagine if they had any idea what they would go through they might have changed their minds, in fact there were several times they wanted to turn back. Sometimes God takes us into our own desert experience. He gives us a promise but before we enter into that prom-

ise God takes us on a journey through desert times. The conditions are rough and many times you wonder how you are going to get through it and when will God deliver you into the land flowing with milk and honey. The one thing that is absolutely essential, is that you stand firm in your faith because a desert experience will absolutely test your faith and not just once but over and over again. Faith is what determines whether your journey through the desert is an 11 day journey or a 40 year journey.

"And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*." Hebrews 3:18 - 4:2

The Israelites got to the edge of the Promised Land, they could see their promise within reach and they lost their faith in God. What makes matters worse for them is that before God sends them to scout out the Promised Land He tells Moses that He is giving them this land.



"And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.'" Numbers 13:1-2

You've got to know that God already knew what lay ahead for them but this was the mother of all faith tests. Before He allowed them to enter into their promise they had to prove their faith in God when the obstacles in front of them seemed insurmountable. Twelve of them who were leaders among them spent forty days scouting out the land and realized that it was a land that was inhabited with giants and fortified cities. I imagine they thought it would be easy and the land would be theirs for the taking but instead fear entered into 10 of them and they had forgotten all the times the Lord had delivered and provided for them and they just couldn't see how they would get through this one. I'm sure they had grown weary from living in the desert and when they saw the battle that was in front of them they got discouraged and decided it was better to just give up. Because of their lack of faith in God the Israelites spent the next forty years wandering through the desert. God had proven Himself to them over and over again. Time after time He provided for all their needs and delivered them from the hands of their enemies and they let fear and doubt overcome them and they forgot all that God had done.

I have no doubt that one of the major reasons why these leaders lost their faith is because of anger.

This is one of the most common causes of a desert experience in our lives. We go through trials and suffering, just as the children of Israel did. We come just to the edge of receiving our promise from God, and bang, we realize that we won't receive it without another big fight and more trials and suffering. You see, once we have suffered, we think it is enough and that things should be easy from that point on. I have no doubt that the children of Israel felt that because they had suffered and gone through trials that they should simply walk into the promised land and settle down in beautiful homes. They did not think they should have to fight and suffer any more to take it. Once they saw just how much work and suffering was going to be involved in taking the promised land, I have no doubt that they became angry with God and felt that He was being unfair with them.

I urge you to carefully examine your own heart. Are you, or have you, been angry with God and allowed the thoughts to come into your mind that God is being unfair with you? If so, you are probably walking straight into a desert! Nothing destroys our faith or our relationship with God faster than becoming angry with Him, or allowing the thoughts in our minds that He is being unfair with us. As long as we are alive on this earth we will be in a battle. There will be very little rest for us.

***Faith is confidence  
or trust in a person  
or thing; belief  
that is not based  
on proof.***

Evil never takes a day off! But God is willing and able to give us the grace to continue on in spite of our difficulties.

"Then the LORD said to Moses: 'How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among

them?'" Numbers 14:11

As Christians this is a story that is important to remember because the author of Hebrews is warning us here that the Israelites heard the same gospel that we hear and that we need to be careful not to fall short of the promises that God has given us.

You see it is impossible to please God without faith.

"But without faith *it is* impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6

And let us remind ourselves what faith is. Faith is confidence or trust in a person or thing; belief that is not based on proof. Biblically, faith is *the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:1*

Faith is like jumping out into the pool and letting your mother or father catch you. It usually takes several attempts at gaining your confidence before you realize that your parents will not let you drown. God is the same way, He is asking you to trust that He will catch you and not let you down.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

So it is important that we stand firm in our faith and equally important that we continue to increase our faith in God by staying in the word of God and growing in our relationship with Christ.

"So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

If you implant the word of God in your heart, you will be able to draw on it when you are running low in the faith department. It is also vitally important that you grow in your relationship with Christ! When you spend time with God on a daily basis there are several things that happen. First God begins to reveal Himself to you just like any other friend that you spend time with. You begin to know God on a more personal basis. He also begins to reveal His plans for you and guides your path on a daily basis. It is important to remember that God lead the Israelites through the desert

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar

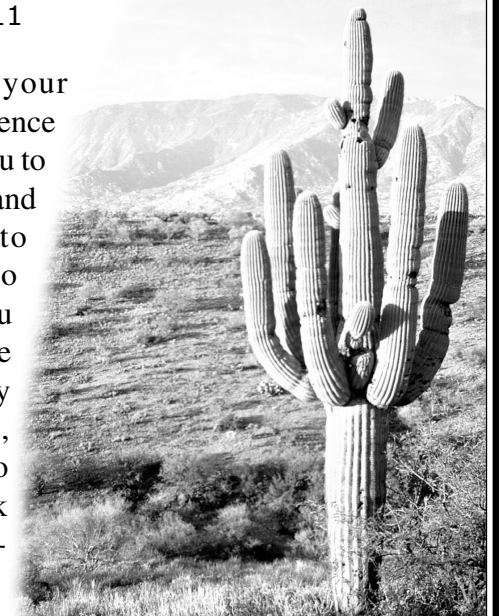
of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night *from* before the people." Exodus 13:21-22

It is not easy to see your way through the desert, you need a guide. My day usually doesn't go well if I don't give God the first part of my day. I need God to guide my path on a daily basis. When I meet with God in the morning, it is like having a cup of coffee or breakfast with a friend or loved one and discussing my plans for the day and any problems or concerns that I need help dealing with.

When you start walking in this kind of relationship you have confidence in what God has told you and in difficult times you are able to "... *cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*" 1Peter 5:7. True friends don't abandon you in your most desperate time of need and that is where time spent with someone builds your trust that they will back you up when you need it. God has given you this promise!

For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*" Romans 10:11

Whatever your desert experience is, I exhort you to trust in God and continue to draw near to Him. If you are, or have been, angry with God, confess it to Him and ask Him to for-



give you. Remember, He has the total right to do anything He chooses in your life! I pray that you will stand firm in your faith and in God's perfect will and timing that He will deliver you out of your desert experience and bring you into the promise of a land flowing with milk and honey. I also pray that He will guide you through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. I ask all these things In Jesus Name! Amen. Glory be to God!

### *Resource Offer*

The resource offer this month is a combination of a CD by Rebecca titled "Becoming An Instrument of Change," plus a wonderful book by Paul Bilheimer titled *Destined For The Throne*. We will send both to you for a gift of \$20 or more.

### *CD Series*

Rebecca has walked in a close relationship with the Lord for more than 34 years now. She is starting to put together a series of CDs titled 'Walking With God.' These will contain practical lessons on how to maintain a close relationship with the Lord through the many trials that come to all of us. They will sell for \$5.00 each plus \$2.50 S & H. We will be announcing them on our web site as soon as they are ready, and also in the next newsletter.

### *News Report*

We have finally come to the end of our legal battle! We praise God for His gracious victory. Our last court hearing was two weeks ago. The judge dismissed the case and threw the whole thing out of court! Our attorney does not think the folks coming against us will pursue the matter any further. If they do so, it will be at great expense to them. So far we have had to bear

the burden of the legal expenses. This ends nearly a yearlong battle in which the neighbors tried to shut down the drag strip. We are floundering in attorney's fees and ask you to pray about helping us. This whole thing has cost over \$30,000. We thank each one of you who has helped us financially and through prayer. Thank you so very much!

### *An Urgent Need*

This recent battle over the souls of the young people in our area has thrown Daniel and I into a time of financial need such as we have not experienced in years! It is NOT the responsibility of the unsaved to support evangelism. It is the responsibility of those of us in the Body of Christ. As you sow into evangelism, God will send people with the gospel to your own lost loved ones.

We have willingly sowed into your lives as the Lord has given to us, through the newsletters these past years. We are happy to do this. However, we have now come to a place where we cannot continue without the help of the Body of Christ. As those of you who read my newsletters know, I am not a person to ask for money. But now I need to share a few facts with you. Our mailing list is over 4,200 households. (It costs close to \$5000 in paper, printing and postage to put out a newsletter each month.) Out of those 4,200, each month less than 100 support this ministry with monthly donations. We deeply appreciate those of you who do! The majority of the rest of you have never sowed a monetary seed into this ministry. Now we are in urgent need. The Lord has put it on my heart to ask each one of you to send us a one-time donation of \$10, and then I am asking you to pray about sending us a monthly donation of a minimum of \$5 to help out with the expense of the newsletters. This is not something I like to do, but God's word says, "Ye have not because ye ask not." (James 4:2) Well, I am asking in obedience to God's command to me. We pray continually that God will pour His blessings into your lives, and thank you for taking the time to read and consider my request. — Rebecca