



Harvest Warriors

Newsletter



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Conquering In The Midst of War! Part I

No matter how terrible our physical circumstances may be, the largest part of any battle is fought in our minds. Military survival courses teach that survival depends more on the strength of a person's mind than it does their physical skills or circumstances. Scripture teaches us the exact same thing.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing [thought] that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

This scripture shows us clearly that our battle is not in the physical realm, but in the invisible spiritual realm. Satan's kingdom can greatly harm us through our physical circumstances by using other people, but their direct attacks on us come through our mind. All of us have experienced this at some time or other. Spiritual oppression comes in the form of fear, depression, worry, anguish, sorrow and stress. These attacks can become extremely severe. How many times have you jerked awake at night overwhelmed with fear and anxiety, flooded with worry and despair? Think about Peter's situation:

“Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chain fell off his hands . . .”
Acts 12: 5-7

Here was Peter, chained in prison between two guards. He knew Herod was most likely going to kill him the next morning, and his death would not be quick or pleasant! He knew very well that Herod could crucify him just like Jesus had been crucified. I don't know about you, but apart from a miracle of the Lord, I certainly would not be able to sleep under those circumstances! A normal person would be full of fear and anguish! Clearly, Peter had won this battle.

Even Jesus had to fight this battle in His mind.

“[Jesus speaking] But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!”
Luke 12:50

“And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. . . And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from

Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.”
Mark 14:33-36

Jesus had to fight a terrible mental battle. The stress of this conflict was so great that the scripture says His sweat became as great drops of blood! Jesus knew clearly the terrible suffering He was going to have to endure. But, once the mental battle had been won, Jesus had complete peace and faced the torture and indescribable suffering of the cross with great calm. Jesus promises this same peace to us:

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

This sounds wonderful, but when we are in the midst of the battle, and our circumstances promise great suffering, it is not so easy to obtain. I am sure every one of you reading this has experienced anguish of one kind or another as you face seemingly impossible circumstances. The battlefield is in our minds. We are commanded to “take every thought captive.” But HOW is this possible. HOW can we obtain this supernatural peace in the middle of the war?

Psalm 91 was written for just such times as these.

**“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my
fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust.**

**Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the
fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.
He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.
You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,
Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.**

A thousand may fall at your side,

**And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you . . .” Psalm 91:1-8**

This sounds wonderful, BUT God is not physical! How can we “take shelter under His wings” when there are no physical wings? I’ve certainly never seen any feathers! How can we conquer the fear and anguish that comes flooding into our minds at such times?

The answer is, by immersion in God’s word, by controlling your thoughts.

When you are awakened in the middle of the night filled with fear, depression, despair, hopelessness and anguish, get up! Get your Bible, and immerse yourself in it. Read it, pray about it, and meditate on it. As you do this, you will find that peace from Jesus that surpasses all understanding. Speak and sing to the Lord in praise and worship, even as Paul and Silas did in jail. (Acts 16:22-25) The demons flee from praise and worship and God’s word. It is demons spirits who are putting the anguish into you. Rebuke them in the name of Jesus. Command them to flee, then fix your mind on God’s word, and fill it with praise to the Lord.

We must fix our minds on God’s word and the promise of things to come in eternity.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Jesus was able to endure the incredible torture of the cross because He set His mind on the joy that was to come afterwards. He is our example that we must follow.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of

good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.”
Philippians 4:6-8

Over and over again in God’s word, we are told to control our minds, to “meditate” on God’s word and the things of God. We can spend our time thinking about and anguishing over what might happen, or we can spend that time thinking about God and His word. God told Joshua to meditate on His word night and day. This was God’s solution to Joshua’s fear.

“Be strong and of good courage . . . Only be strong and very courageous . . . This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”
Joshua 1:6-8

Joshua faced incredible odds against him as he led the people of Israel into the land of Canaan. The Canaanites were much bigger than the Israelites, and much stronger and better armed. Joshua alone was the leader and was directly responsible to God for all that happened. If ever anyone had a lot to worry about, Joshua did! But, he was successful in all he did, and fulfilled all of God’s commands. Joshua defeated 31 kings and their kingdoms over a 7 year period of perpetual fighting. Scripture states:

“As the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.” Joshua 11:15

This is a remarkable statement. Joshua was not a young man. He was over 80 years old when he first crossed the Jordan into Canaan. We here in America have been at war for 7 years against the terrorists, and most of the nation is ready to give up and end the war at any cost. Joshua fought for more than 7 years non-stop, and kept all the people going as well. How did he do this? *By continually meditating in God’s word.* This was the secret to Joshua’s success.

David also had to battle superior odds and fear for years. He lived in the wilderness without a stable home, and without knowing where his next meal was coming from. Saul and the whole army of Israel continually hunted David

to kill him and those who were with him. How did David manage to walk through these years of hard times successfully? He writes about the secret to his success in Psalm 119:

**“Remember the word to Your servant,
Upon which You have caused me to hope.
This is my comfort in my affliction.
For Your word has given me life.
The proud have me in great derision,
Yet I do not turn aside from Your law.
I remembered Your judgments of old, O Lord,
And have comforted myself.
Indignation has taken hold of me
Because of the wicked, who forsake Your law.
Your statutes have been my songs
In the house of my pilgrimage.
I remember Your name in the night, O Lord,
And I keep Your Law.
This has become mine,
Because I kept Your precepts.”** Psalm 119:49-56

Here is the key to David’s success. He comforted himself with God’s word. In fact David even says that “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.” (Psalm 119:71) David recognizes the fact that it was the afflictions that he suffered that drove him to saturate his life with God’s word. Perhaps that is why the Lord is allowing difficult times to come into your life and mine, to drive us to an ever deeper understanding of His word. In this Psalm David goes on to declare:

**“Unless Your law had been my delight,
I would then have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget Your precepts,
For by them You have given me life.”**
Psalm 119:92-93

In the most difficult of times, I have always found comfort in the words of David. Here David declares that it was his delight in God’s word that kept him from being destroyed. *It is God’s word that gives us the victory in battle.* Hebrews tells us that “The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword . . .” (Hebrews 4:12) Do you want power to have victory over grief and anguish and terrible circumstances in your life? Then go to God’s word. R.A. Torrey wrote:

“The power that belongs to God is stored in the great reservoir of His own Word, the Bible. ‘Power belongeth unto God’ (Psalm 62:11). If we wish to make it ours, we must go to the Bible. Yet people who pray for power but neglect the Bible abound in the church.” (*God’s Power in Your Life*, by R.A. Torrey, p. 9)

Finally, Paul wrote:

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 3:13-14

Through all of Paul’s sufferings, he was able to endure and keep going because he continually fixed his mind on his goal – the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. What is this prize? I will write about this in the next newsletter. This prize is so wonderful that scripture says:

“**But it is written:**

**Eye had not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has
prepared for those who love Him.”**
1Corinthians 2:9

The Apostle Paul tells us to fix our minds, our attention, our thoughts and meditation, on the wonderful prize that God has prepared for us in eternity. Our life here on earth is brief. Everything we experience here on earth is for one purpose only, to prepare us for the future, our glorious future in heaven with the Lord. We don’t think about this nearly enough. It is my earnest prayer that in writing about these things I can encourage you to endure and walk faithfully in the Lord through the difficult times to come.

Part II of this newsletter will be about The Prize Of The Upward Call In Christ Jesus.

New CDs Available

This month I am adding two new CDs in the *Walking With God* series. They are titled *Lord Test My Works*, and *Conquering In The Midst Of War*.

The CD titled *Lord Test My Works* was recorded live at a conference I taught at in New York City in August. It will deeply challenge you to examine the motives behind everything you do in God’s kingdom. This is something we almost never think about, but God’s word addresses very clearly. In the teaching I make reference to a book by Howard Pitman titled *Placebo*. That book is available on the order form at the end of this newsletter.

The second CD, titled *Conquering In The Midst Of War* was also taught in New York, but we were unable to obtain a live recording so I have re-recorded it. This newsletter and the next are a summary of what is in the CD. This is a really important topic as we are facing some very difficult times in the near future. These two new CDs along with the others in the series are also on the order form.

Love Offerings

We are a faith supported ministry. That means, that the Lord has put us into a position where we must depend on your help to continue this ministry. It is only as you give to us that we are able to continue on and expand the work God has given us to do. We deeply appreciate those of you who do support us. As your letters and checks come in, we lay hands on each one and pray fervently that our Lord will bless you in return. Please send your offering in the enclosed envelope.

Prayer Basket

Do you have a need or prayer request? We have a prayer basket here in the office for your prayer requests. Please send them to us and we will be glad to join with you in prayer. We put all the prayer requests we receive into our prayer basket to be lifted up before the Lord.

Order Form

Walking With God CD Series

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___ CD #2 – *How to Know Your Call & How To Get Started*

___ CD #3 – *Slaying The Old Man*

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All CDs are \$5.00 each plus \$2.50 shipping & handling. We can send up to 3 CDs for \$2.50, but we will need \$4.00 for all 4 CDs.

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