



Harvest Warriors

NEWSLETTER



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Warring to Harvest

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Trials Of A Warrior

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:10-12

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 . . .” 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

“You therefore must endure hardship as good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:3-4

God’s Word makes it crystal clear that we are all of us involved in war! Whether you want to be or not, as soon as you make the decision to serve Jesus Christ as your God, you immediately become involved in warfare. I, Rebecca, have been involved in intense spiritual warfare for more than 30 years now. I don’t know why it is, but somehow people have the idea that if you are an experienced warrior, and if you have been involved in warfare for some time, and if you are an experienced and mature Christian, the trials involved in warfare should somehow stop hurting. That simply is not the case! Nothing in this war against Satan and his kingdom is easy or painless! Also, a major problem is that so many times the trials we experience as a result of this warfare are such that they don’t seem to be trials at all. These trials don’t come with a label on them that says, “this is suffering for Jesus.” They would be much easier to bear if they did.

The key in this battle is *obedience*. Above all else, it is our duty to obey Jesus, our commanding officer,

and then He fights the battles for us

**“So he answered and said to me:
‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:
Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,
Says the Lord of hosts’” Zechariah 4:6.**

As long as we walk in obedience to God, the Lord’s Spirit will fight and win all our battles. So, it is Satan’s intention to do everything he can to make us disobey the Lord. As soon as we do, we will be defeated. Remember, Satan always works through deception, and God is always testing us to see if we will obey. We will never reach a place in our walk with the Lord where He won’t test us in the area of obedience. It will be a continual thing. It is our prayer that as you read this newsletter, the Holy Spirit will bring to your mind your own experiences that involved testing in the area of obedience. Perhaps you are currently in a situation where God is testing you. Be of good courage, if you stand strong and obey, God WILL win the battle for you.

Daniel and I have been married for 16 years now. On our wedding day, and on several occasions immediately after we were married, the Lord spoke to me and said, “I will use this man to save your life many times.” And, so it has been. I cannot count the times God has spoken to Daniel, warning him that I was in trouble, or telling him in advance of some difficulty to come.

Never once has Daniel been wrong in all these years. These facts played a very large factor in my mind in this most recent battle and trial.

As you know from our last newsletter, we were scheduled to go to Cameroon, Africa the last week of November and the first two weeks of December. Initially, I was scheduled to go alone. I was being brought to Africa through the ministry of Joseph and Elizabeth Olyange. They are solid servants of Jesus Christ, and very experienced in spiritual warfare. They and their people worked very hard to put on the meetings in two different cities in Cameroon. I was to fly first into Douala, which is the largest city in the nation, then on to Yaounde, which is the capital of the country. I was swamped with preparations for the trip! It seemed as if everything that could possibly go wrong went wrong both on my end, and in the Olyange's preparations! Finally, I was packed and ready to go. Then, suddenly, just two nights before I was to leave, Daniel had a terrible and very vivid vision. He awoke completely upset, and later that day announced to me that I couldn't go to Africa! Needless to say, I was upset and refused to simply accept his pronouncement. "Not go to Africa?! You are crazy! They have

worked so hard and so long to put together these meetings, and they are expecting 30,000 people! I have made a commitment to go and have given my word. How can I possibly back out on that?" Was my response. All day that day we were both so upset. Daniel had not yet told me about the vision, he was so upset that he couldn't seem to express it. I was so upset I became literally physically ill. How could I go back on my word? How could I break such a commitment? And yet, Daniel is my husband. All day I prayed and prayed and asked the Lord for an answer. The only thing the Lord told me was, "Do not leave without making peace with your husband."

Finally, late that evening, on the day before I was to go, I sat down, prayed and commanded all demons to be bound, and asked Daniel to tell me exactly what had happened to lead him to the point where he felt so strongly that I should not go to Africa. God worked in the situation, and Daniel was able to calm down enough to talk to me. He told me that the night before he had had a terrible vision. He saw me landing in Douala. Then he saw a group of men meet me at the airplane claiming to be from the ministry. These men kidnapped me, whisked me away from the airport, and killed me

a couple of days later. At the end of the vision, the Lord told Daniel very firmly, "Tell the traveler not to go!"

Wow! Now what! Questions went flying through my head. "Why had the Lord waited until so late to tell me not to go? Was this really a vision, or simply a dream as a result of Daniel's worries over the trip? How could I cancel the trip? I would be breaking my word, my commitment, it would ruin my reputation. How could I bring this sort of trouble onto the Olyanges?"

I went to the Lord in prayer. My question was, "Lord, now that I have been warned, would you send Your angels and keep me safe?" SILENCE! I received no answer from God. You see, once God speaks, He does not repeat Himself. Daniel told me in tears, "I won't stop you from going, but I am telling you that once you walk out that door I will never see you alive again!"

As I sat there, in my mind, I searched through the scriptures to see if there were any examples of people being warned by

God and then disobeying, or, being prevented from going somewhere to minister. Two scriptures came to my mind:

"And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, 'O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you and men's bones shall be burned on you.'"

"And he gave a sign the same day, saying, 'This is the sign which the Lord has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out.'"

"So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, 'Arrest him!' Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord. Then the king answered and said to the man of God,

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“Please entreat the favor of the Lord your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me.” So the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king’s hand was restored to him, and became as before. Then the king said to the man of God, “Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward.”

“But the man of God said to the king, ‘If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread, nor drink water in this place. For so it was commanded me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.’” So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.”

“Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king. And their father said to them, ‘Which way did he go?’ For his sons had seen which way the man of God went who came from Judah. Then he said to his sons, ‘Saddle the donkey for me.’ So they saddled the donkey for him; and he rode on it, and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, ‘Are you the man of God who came from Judah?’ And he said, ‘I am.’”

“Then he said to him, ‘come home with me and eat bread.’ And he said, ‘I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place. For I have been told by the word of the Lord, ‘You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.’”

“He said to him, ‘I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the Lord, saying, ‘Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.’ (He was lying to him.)”

So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water. Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the Lord came to the prophet who had brought him back: and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, “Thus says the Lord; ‘Because you have disobeyed the word of the Lord, and have not kept the commandment which the Lord your God commanded you, but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which the Lord said to you, eat no bread and drink no water, your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.’”

“So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back. When he was gone, a lion

met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.” 1 Kings 13:1-24

“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, *they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.* So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.” Acts 16:6-7

Here are two clear examples. The first is a rather startling example of a servant of God who disobeyed God’s commandment, and as a result was killed. Interestingly, this man of God was able to resist the temptation to go to the king’s palace, but he fell to the temptation to disobey, when another servant of the Lord

When the Lord commands us to do something we really don’t want to do, we all too often seek a word from the Lord from someone else, hoping that God will change His mind.

told him that he had heard something different from the Lord. By the time this prophet came to him, the man of God was tired, probably hungry and thirsty, and very uncomfortable. To have someone tell him that God had O.K.’d a change in plans was just what he wanted to hear. However, God did not tell this man that the plans had changed. This is a great danger for us Christians.

When the Lord commands us to do something we really don’t want to do, we all too often seek a word from the Lord from someone else, hoping that God will change His mind. This servant of the Lord lost his life as a result of his disobedience. The lion was sent by God. The proof of that is the fact that although the lion killed the man, he did not touch or hurt the donkey, or attempt to eat either the donkey or the man.

We are not told what would have happened if the Apostle Paul had disobeyed the Lord and gone into Asia to minister. Paul obeyed the Lord, and as a result God opened up a wonderful door for ministry in Macedonia.

The second thing we want to do in such situations

is argue with the Lord. We don't want to accept His word a being final. We want to present our side in the hopes that God will change His mind. But, hear this: *God will NEVER argue with us!* We have an example of this in scripture as well.

There was in the Old Testament a prophet of God called Balaam. He must have been a remarkable prophet because his fame spread far and wide. So far, in fact, that even the King of Moab heard of him. His reputation was that whatever he spoke from the Lord always came to pass. Now the Lord was going before the nation of Israel and winning all their battles for them. The king of Moab, King Balak was afraid that Israel would destroy his own kingdom. So his elders counseled him to call Balaam and get Balaam to curse the Children of Israel so that they would not be able to harm Moab. So King Balak send his representatives, important and wealthy men to Balaam. King Balak's message was:

"Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." Numbers 22:6

Balaam should have known better! He was a prophet of God, and he KNEW that Israel was being blessed by the Lord and under His hand of protection. He had no need ask the Lord what to do! But, Balaam wanted the money he was being offered. He wanted a comfortable life. He wanted to take the easy way. Just like we do so many times!

"And he [Balaam] said to them, 'Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the Lord speaks to me.'" Numbers 22:8

Amazingly, the Lord did speak to Balaam that night:

"And God said to Balaam, 'You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.'"

Numbers 22:12

Balaam did NOT like God's answer! But at this point he obeyed, although it wasn't from his heart. He sent the men back to King Balak with his refusal to come. That didn't stop Balak. He was used to buying anything he wanted, and he reasoned that if the price was high enough he could buy Balaam as well. King Balak send more men back to Balak with more money. Did Balaam stand on God's clear command to him? No! He wanted the money, so he tried to get God to change his mind. We are always on very dangerous ground when we try to get God to change His mind! You see, sometimes God gives us what we continually demand, even though it is not within God's will, or the best thing for us. So, that night Balaam sought God again:

"Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me.' And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, 'If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you – that you shall do. So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab. Then God's anger was aroused because he went . . .'" Numbers 22:19-22

It is a very serious thing to be a servant of God and have God's anger aroused against you! Why was God angry with Balaam. Because Balaam

knew good and well that he shouldn't go to curse the Children of Israel. But Balaam argued with God, and God finally said, O.K. go is that's what you want to do, but Balaam would pay very heavily for his decision. James puts it this way:

"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." James 1:14-15

Balaam was drawn and enticed by his own desire for fame and fortune. He wanted money! It's that simple. He wanted the easy way. Please listen to me! DON'T give in to your fleshly desires

God will NEVER argue with us!

He wanted a comfortable life. He wanted to take the easy way. Just like we do so many times!

and fall into the trap of arguing with God! I could easily have done that. I was afraid that if I canceled those meetings that my reputation would be ruined and no one would want me to come minister for them. Then our income would cease. But, my reputation is in God's hands!

WHAT was I to do? WHY didn't God give ME the warning instead of Daniel? Well, probably because I wouldn't have been capable of hearing Him. I was completely set on going to Africa. Also, Daniel is my protector and spiritual covering. It is completely reasonable that God should give the warning to him. Because I have a 16 year history with Daniel, I could not disregard the vision or the command not to go. God's word is clear:

**“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams,
For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” 1 Samuel
15:22-23**

Who was I to ignore such a warning and command from the Lord? I simply did not dare disobey, no matter what the consequences. *Always, the trial of a warrior comes down to an issue of obedience!* God never makes it easy. I made no attempt to argue with God. There was only one decision I could make – to obey my Master's command!

So, the next day, I made the terribly difficult telephone call to Africa. Unfortunately, I had to speak through an interpreter who was not very good at interpreting, and who simply could not accept what I was saying. It was a most difficult conversation. However, I know the Olyanges, and I know that they are mature servants of the Lord who understand the necessity of obedience. They were simply stunned! They could not believe their ears! How could this be? They told me that they had a very large group of intercessors praying for the meetings, and who had been praying regularly for the past two months. They said, “God has never

given any indication of danger or difficulty to any of our intercessors. Why wouldn't God warn them also? Are you SURE this is from the Lord?” A reasonable question.

However, I kept thinking about the scripture I just quoted in 1 Kings. I am sure these intercessors were NOT lying, but I don't think they would have been able to hear from the Lord that I was not supposed to come. They were so looking forward to the meetings, and were so excited about my coming that they could not think about anything else. I could not take their lack of receiving a warning from the Lord as evidence that God had somehow changed His mind, or that the warning wasn't from God. It was one of the most difficult things I have ever had to do, but I had to stand firm and told them that I simply would not be coming. To their credit, the Olyanges were true servants of the Lord through it all. They did not become angry with me, or turn against me. They agreed that no matter how difficult it would be for them, I must obey the Lord first.

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I cannot tell you the pressure and stress I felt about all of this. I did not sleep and was physically ill over it all for more than three days. But once I had placed the first phone call canceling the meetings, I felt a strange peace that I had done the right thing. I took the whole matter

into God's courtroom, asking Him to judge whether Satan had the right to stop me from going to Cameroon, Africa. If He judged that Satan did not have this right, then I asked God to somehow work it out.

The following week, what would have been the second week of the meetings, I received a call from the Olyanges. They said that they had just received a call from the President of Cameroon wanting to know why I was not coming. (He had been planning to attend the meetings in Yaounde.) When they told him about the vision, and the warning, he offered to provide me with his own bodyguards and security. Also, they asked if Daniel could

come with me, and we would fly into Yaounde instead of Douala. Daniel and I both had a peace with this plan, although it would take a couple of miracles from the Lord to work out, not the least of which was obtaining airline tickets just two days in advance during the Christmas season. God worked in a mighty way, supernaturally removing every difficulty, and before the end of the second week, Daniel and I arrived in Yaounde.

A sister flew with us from Paris to Yaounde. It didn't take long for her to challenge me with the question I knew would be in the minds of so many. She asked, "Rebecca, I don't understand. You are THE Rebecca Brown, THE experienced warrior in God's kingdom. Why then could you not overcome such an attack by Satan as was threatened in Daniel's vision? Why couldn't you take a stand and trust the Lord to keep you safe? Why bring about so much trouble for so many people?"

Perhaps some of you have been wondering the same thing. The answer is simple. I do NOT have any strength in myself. I do NOT do the fighting in this war. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord." It is God who does the fighting. It is MY responsibility to be obedient. For reasons I may never know, my Captain, Jesus, commanded me not to go. Could God have sent angels and kept me safe no matter what the plans of the enemy? Of course He could! But the point is, He didn't choose to do so! Instead, He demanded my obedience and put me through one of the biggest trials of my life. If I had disobeyed and flown into Douala as originally planned, I have no doubt at all that I would be dead today.

There were many lessons to be learned by many people through all of this. But the biggest two are these: *First, God demands absolute unquestioning obedience from His warriors, and secondly, we do NOT fight this spiritual warfare in our own intelligence or strength. Jesus does the fighting*

for us. We simply obey the things our Captain tells us to do — Jesus does the rest.

As a warrior for the Lord, not only are you continually tested in the area of obedience, you have to be flexible. You cannot expect to have a set schedule, or even much of anything to your own convenience. We had to fly through Paris where we spent the night. We were told that we could sleep in because our flight for Yaounde didn't leave until 6:00 pm the next evening. We were thankful as we were utterly exhausted! Then, bright and early at 7:30 the next morning we were awakened by pounding on our room door. "Quick, quick," they said, "you must come, your flight leaves right now!" We had to fly out of bed, throw on our clothes and rush to the airport, only to have our flight delayed by six hours! After a very long day, we finally arrived in Yaounde at 11:00 pm that night. We were rushed to our hotel to change clothes, and arrived at the convention center a little after midnight. Thousands of people were still

there waiting for me to minister to them! We were beyond exhaustion by then, but when the flesh is weak, the Holy Spirit provides what is needed.

We ministered in both Yaounde and Douala. God blessed mightily in both places. I had been praying much for the meetings, asking the Lord for souls. I wanted

souls saved and brought in to God's kingdom. Many of you joined with me in praying for this, I know. God answered wonderfully. At most of the meetings, I gave an altar call asking anyone who had never made the decision to serve Jesus Christ to come forward to make that decision. I had no time to count accurately, but over 500 people came forward each time. The wonderful thing was that at least 150 to 200 of them were children between the ages of 6 and 10. You see, in Africa there is no such thing as children's church. The children sit quietly with their par-

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ents and listen to what is being taught. Their response to the messages was incredible! They prayed with such enthusiasm to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, it was pure joy to see. So many people were delivered and set free, and lives were changed.

We traveled to Douala by bus, about a 6 hour drive. Our bodyguards told us that Douala is a rebellious city, and the government of Cameroon has essentially withdrawn from the city and refuses to do anything for it. They won't fix the roads or maintain utilities or anything else. There is no law enforcement in Douala except what people can hire themselves. I could see how easily Satan could use people in that city to kill me – there simply isn't any control or law enforcement. However, God is moving in that place and thousands came to the meetings. Once again, the response by the people to accept Jesus was huge, and once again hundreds of children came forward.

Our homeward trip was a total trial. By the time we left I had full-blown pneumonia and was very ill. Satan was so angry about the meetings that he tried to hold us in Douala, no doubt to try to arrange for his people to kidnap and kill us as he had originally planned. The sister delegated to

handle purchasing our tickets from Douala to Paris was so hindered by Satan that she simply could not do anything she was supposed to do. As a result we did not get a flight out on the day we were supposed to leave and had to wait an extra day. Satan also brought so much confusion into the situation that our tickets from Paris to home got canceled so that when we finally arrived in Paris, we found we were stranded with no tickets home! After hours of struggle, we finally had to end up re-purchasing our tickets from Paris home, plus spend another night in a hotel in Paris! Once again, inconvenience IS a frequent trial of a warrior! Satan will do everything he can to make our lives difficult. God allows this because patience is something He values greatly in our lives. As we become flexible and patient, we become molded more and more into Christ's image.

We thank you for your prayers for our trip to Africa. As a result, God overcame all difficulties, and a rich harvest was reaped for His kingdom.

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