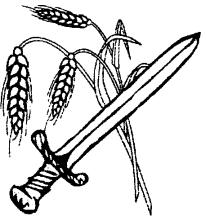




Harvest Warriors NEWSLETTER

www.harvestwarriors.com



warriors@artelco.com

Volume 4 Issues 1

Warring to Harvest

November 2004

SLAYING THE OLD MAN

In our August/September newsletter, we printed an account of a very sobering vision God gave to Daniel. Let me briefly recount a bit of it:

"As I, Daniel, was reading this passage in Matthew, when an angel lifted me once again above the earth. He said, 'come, I want to show you what satan is doing right now.' As I looked, the angel pointed down and said, 'Look what is coming out of the belly and mouth of satan.' As I looked I could see a cloud coming up out of his mouth covering the whole earth. Casting a shadow over the whole earth.

I asked the angel what this was. He said, 'Look closer.' As I did, I saw that the cloud was actually made up of what looked like tiny insects – too many to number. These insects were going down across America into the churches and into the Christian homes. I did not see any non-Christians being affected at this time. As the "insects" landed on the Christians, on what appeared to be at least two-thirds of them or more, the "insects" crawled up to their ears, and in most, even crawled right into them through their ears. 'What are those things and what are they doing?' I asked the angel.

'Each creature that you see that looks like an insect is actually a demon spirit,' he replied. 'they are demons of the desires of the flesh. They feed and grow on the fleshly desires of human beings. The desires that Paul wrote to the Galatians?'

"For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish . . . Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness,

lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murderers, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:17-21

I was shocked to see how many Christians these demons were entering into. 'How can this be?' I asked the angel. 'How can those demons be entering into so many Christians?'

He said, 'Because of their desires. . . .The Church has allowed every sin imaginable to exist comfortably within it. People don't even recognize what is sin anymore! People don't even recognize what is sin anymore! The pastor and leaders directly disobey God's command in Ezekiel 44:23:

"And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean."

The pastors don't mention sin, nor teach the people to recognize it. On top of that, the human heart is so deceitful, (Jeremiah 17:9) they think they are walking with God when they are walking in their flesh. They think they are hearing from God when they are really hearing from their own sinful desires.'

'O.K., so what are these demons going to do in their lives?' I asked.

"They want to destroy everything of God. They put the people under deception, making them think they are hearing from God when they are not. They are

preparing the way for the false prophets and teachers that satan has already placed within the church. They sow great discord amongst the Body of Christ. They are there to turn brother against brother and sister against sister. . . . They are here to destroy marriages and families, to tear the church apart, and to turn brother against brother and sister against sister. They make people mad at one another, cause them to be offended with one another and believe lies about one another. They give them false memories, false visions, and false discernment. They speak lies to them, making them think they are hearing these lies from God when they are not. They are here to fulfill 2 Timothy 3:1-7.

This was a frightening vision, was it not? But it brings up a whole area of teaching that we need to think about. How can we victoriously deal with our “flesh?” How can we be victorious over these demon spirits that feed on our sins and our sinful desires? By slaying the “old man,” that is, our sin nature. God does not want us to be vulnerable to these demons released by satan. Jesus died on the cross to provide the way so that we can resist them. It all comes down to the desires of our heart. *Our victory over satan and his kingdom directly depends upon the desires of our hearts.* Jesus set the example for us:

God’s word describes Jesus this way: **“You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness. Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” Hebrews 1:9**

It is God’s intention that we should love righteousness and hate lawlessness. It is only as we are filled with the desire to enter into a life of true holiness, desiring only the glory of God, that we can have absolute victory over satan and all his wiles. It is only then that we can continually advance in God.

Peter put it this way:

“Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus

our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue . . .” 2 Peter 1:3

Smith Wigglesworth has this to say about these verses:

“You will note as you read 2 Peter 1:1-2 that this grace and peace are multiplied through the knowledge of God, but that first our faith comes through the righteousness of God. Note that righteousness comes first and knowledge afterwards. It cannot be otherwise. If you expect any revelation of God apart from holiness, you will have only a mixture. **Holiness opens the door to all the treasures of God.** He must first bring us to the place where we, like our Lord, “love righteousness and hate lawlessness,” before He opens up to us these good treasures. When we “regard iniquity in our hearts, the Lord will not hear” us (Psalm 66:18) . . .” (*The Power of Faith*, by Smith Wigglesworth, p. 50)

So, as we see that reaching the place where the desires of our hearts is for righteousness, is essential to victory, how can we reach this point? How can we control the sin that dogs our every waking moment? This is an answer that I, Rebecca, sought the Lord for earnestly. A number of years ago, He finally gave me the answer. I want to share that with you here.

When Adam fell into sin, all of his offspring inherited that fallen nature from him.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” Romans 5:12

Exactly what is this “sin nature?” It is the almost continual desire to sin that saturates every part of us. Paul described it as follows:

“For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according

to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.” Romans 7:19-23

Clearly, the desire to sin is present even at the same time as the mind desires to obey God. Sin is an integral part of us. That is why I call it our “sin nature.” Scripture refers to this sin nature in different ways. Sometimes it is called our “old man.”

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him [Jesus]. That the body of sin might be destroyed, that hence forth we should not serve sin.” Romans 6:6

Sometimes scripture calls this sin nature our “flesh,” or our “carnal nature.” Sin is woven through our very being – body, soul and spirit. Here are some scriptures that clearly show us the extent to which sin has taken us over.

BODY

“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?” Romans 7:24

SOUL

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.” Jeremiah 17:9-10

“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Romans 8:7

SPIRIT

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” 2 Corinthians 7:1

These scriptures and others, such as 1 Thess 5:23, clearly show that all three areas of us, body, soul and spirit, are affected by sin. All three areas must be cleansed by our Lord Jesus Christ. But we deal with sin on a day-to-day basis, mostly within our conscious

mind. I don’t think we will ever have a full understanding of the terrible down-drag this sin nature has been on us until we receive our glorified bodies and are set free from sin forever!

Yes, demons tempt us to sin, but ultimately, the decision is ours. We choose to sin! Therefore, we are squarely responsible before God for everything we do. You may be sure the demons understand our sin nature through and through. That is why then can manipulate us so well. The whole Bible is full of verses strongly urging us to battle against our natural desire to do those things which are wrong.

“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, . . .” Hebrews 12:1

“For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.” Hebrews 12:3-4

Unfortunately, too many people fall into the trap of thinking that once we are saved, our sins are not so important. Paul addressed this issue very plainly:

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” Romans 6:1-2

The real reason why it is so important for us to put sin out of our lives is because sin separates us from God. *Do you want more abundance in your life? Then put sin out of your life!*

“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.” 1 Thessalonians 4:1

In fact, there is a very unpopular concept that we must think about very soberly. We must prove ourselves

to God. We must demonstrate obedience and faith. Jesus learned obedience through suffering Can we do any less?

“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which He suffered; And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.” Hebrews 5:8-9

You cannot have victory or grow in your life as long as you continue in active sin. God so intensely desired us to be cleansed from sin that He gave His very own life to provide for our purification. *We must also, so intensely desire to be free from sin that we are willing to lay down anything, no matter how painful it may be, to put sin out of our lives!*

O.K., so we know we must stop sinning. But we are still left with the terrible struggle Paul described (quoted earlier) in Romans chapter 7. How then can we have victory in this struggle against our sin nature? The answer is simple. We must have more power than our sin nature has, or we can never overcome it. Where do we get such power? I believe the answer is in the following scriptures:

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after flesh but after the spirit. [Holy Spirit] For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:1-2

Jesus set us free from the power of sin when He died on the cross. Once we receive Him as our Lord and Savior and Master, that Power is available to us. We have not yet received everything God has promised to give us. In the future, at the return of Christ, each one of us will receive the rest of what God promised us in our redemption. We will receive a new and glorified physical body exactly the same as the one Jesus now has, AND, best of all, our sin nature will be wiped away so we will never have to struggle with it again! (see Philippians 3:20-21)

This is our bright hope. One day, we will never again have the desire to sin, and we will continually be in the presence of the Lord. But, in the meantime, we must fight the battle against sin.

The way to victory over sin in our lives is really two fold. The first and most important way to victory is through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The second is given to us in Romans. I want to deal with the second part of the answer first.

“For those who live according to the flesh [sinful desires] set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.” Romans 8:5-6

Simply put, the more time we spend every day reading the Bible, thinking about God's word (the Bible), and thinking about God, the more victory we will have over our sin nature. King David learned this lesson even as did Joshua before him.

**“How can a young man cleanse his way?
By taking heed according to Your word.
With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:9-11**

God commanded Joshua:

“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 1:8

You know, there is one thing about the Bible that makes it different from every other book in the world. It is literally alive! It is alive because it is God speaking to us.

“for the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword . . .” Hebrews 4:12

No other book or printed page in the whole world has the unique power of the Bible. The more we saturate our entire lives and minds with the scripture, the more power we will have to live in obedi-

ence to it, thereby putting sin out of our lives. *However, we must study the Bible to obey it.*

"If you accustom yourself to study the bible without an earnest and very definite purpose to obey, you're getting hardened in disobedience. Never read God's word concerning you without honestly yielding yourself to obey it at once and asking grace to do so. God has given us His Word to tell us what He wants us to do, and to show the grace He has provided to enable us to do it. How sad to think it a pious thing just to read that word without any earnest effort to obey it! May God keep us from this terrible sin! Let us make it a sacred habit to say to God, 'Lord, whatever I know to be Your will, I will at once obey.' Always read with a heart yielded up in willing obedience." (*The Believer's Secret of Obedience*, by Andrew Murray, p. 46)

Have you ever noticed just how difficult it is to pick up the Bible and read it if you have let several days go by without reading it? Oh how quickly our sin nature gains strength if we do not keep it under control! The apostle Paul made a profound statement about this after many years in the ministry:

"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:27

I am so thankful the Holy Spirit had Paul write that statement. It has been very helpful to me to know that even the apostle Paul had a struggle against his sin nature all of his life.

Here's a little test for you. How many times a day do you think about God or think about scripture, or talk to God? How often do you stop to compare what is happening to you or what you are doing, to scripture? You should be doing this almost continually. If you will do this, you will find that your entire life will change.

There is such a purity in the scriptures. As we live in this world, we are daily exposed to such sin and perversion. We must be very careful to continually wash our minds with God's word. If we do not, we will be

quick to fall.

Taking control of your mind is a real "key" to having victory over sin. That's the meaning of that scripture in Romans 8:5. The more we have our mind on the things of God, the less we will sin.

"And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind . . ." Romans 12:2

"and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ . . ." 2 Corinthians 10:5

It should be normal that a Christian should live so that he sins very rarely. This is why the apostle John wrote as he did.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not . . ." 1 John 2:1

If you have not done so, may I recommend that you carefully read the chapter entitled "The Double Minded Man" in my second book *Prepare For War* on this subject of taking every thought captive. We cannot have victory over sin in our lives unless we discipline our minds and take every thought captive to make them obedient to Christ. Every temptation to sin is first presented to us in the form of a thought. As we allow those thoughts to dwell in our minds, we will fall and commit the sin.

However, saturating your life with God's word, helpful and necessary as this is, is not, in itself, the complete answer. We must also have power. That power comes to us from the Holy Spirit.

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send Him unto you." John 16:7

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Philippians 2:13

It is only with the help of the Holy Spirit that we can overcome our sin nature and stop sinning. Remember I just told you there were two parts to the answer of how to control our sin nature? *Controlling our*

thoughts and saturating our minds with God's word is the first part, and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit is the second part. We must have both equally. The longer I live in this walk with my Master, the more aware I become of my own utter helplessness to cope with or stop the sin in my life! But, praise God, the power of the Holy Spirit enables me to have the victory.

Look at John 16:7 quoted above. When Jesus was here on earth in bodily form, his disciples followed Him faithfully and Jesus ministered to each one of them every day. But they fell again and again. Why? Because no matter how faithful or diligent they were, they did not have **power inside of them** over their sin natures. Thus, even though they were in the very presence of God Himself, they fell into unbelief and sin, time and time again! That is why it was necessary for Jesus to leave earth. Once Jesus was no longer on earth in bodily form, He could send the Holy Spirit to work in His disciples from the inside. Jesus made this possible by paying the price for our sins on the cross. When we are washed clean from our sins, then God Himself in the form of the Holy spirit can enter into us and bring the power we need to overcome sin.

If you have never gotten down on your knees and asked Father to completely fill you with His Holy Spirit to give you power to stop sinning, you need to do so. BUT, it is a two-way street. The more you saturate your mind with God's word and put sin out of your life, the more freedom the Holy Spirit has to operate in your life with POWER. Please don't fall into the trap of thinking that all you need is the Holy Spirit, that you don't need to do anything yourself. This just isn't true. James sums it all up very simply:

"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty [the Bible] and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." James 1:21-25

We have, today, far too often fallen into the trap of looking only for signs and miracles. That is why there are so many books on Christian bookshelves on such things as "How to Heal," "How to Perform Miracles," etc. God is much more interested in our daily obedience and faithful walk that He is in performing miracles and signs and wonders! All too often Christians of today are falling into deception and accepting demonic counterfeits as being prophecies, signs and miracles from God. *You cannot have true signs and wonders from the Holy Spirit in your life without walking a walk of obedience and discipline, putting sin out of your life.*

The Holy Spirit is a wonderful help to us in fighting against sin. Ask the Lord to quicken to you those scripture verses that particularly apply to sins you commonly commit. Then memorize those verses and ask the Lord to flash them into your mind when you are about to commit a sin. The Holy Spirit knows everything we do before we do it. He monitors everything we do. He can help us to stop sinning.

Lastly, remember this:

**"The heart is deceitful above all things.
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?
I, the Lord, search the heart,
I test the mind,
Even to give every man according to his ways,
According to the fruit of his doings."** Jeremiah 17:9

Your heart can and does deceive you! You allow all kinds of sinful desires to rule your heart without even realizing it. That's what the angel meant when he said that the demons were feeding on the sinful desires of the Christians' hearts. *Only God can search and know your heart. You must make it a matter of sincere and earnest prayer to ask the Lord to reveal to you the sins of your heart, and then ask Him to deal with them. This will be painful indeed! But it is the only way to be cleansed. It is the only way to be able to stand against the deceptions of the devil in these last and difficult days.*

A.W. Tozer puts these truths better than I ever could

in his wonderful book the *Pursuit of God*:

"There is the presence of a veil in our hearts. A veil not taken away as the first veil was, but which remain there still shutting out the light and hiding the face of God from us. It is the veil of our fleshly, fallen nature living on, unjudged within us, uncrucified and unredeemed. It is the close-woven veil of the self-life which we have never truly acknowledged, or which we have been secretly ashamed, and which for these reasons we have never brought to the judgment of the cross. It is not too mysterious, this opaque veil, nor is it hard to identify. We have but to look into our own hearts and we shall see it there, sewn and patched and repaired it may be, but there nevertheless, an enemy to our lives and an effective block to our spiritual progress.

This veil is not a beautiful thing and it is not a thing about which we commonly care to talk. But I am addressing the thirsting souls who are determined to follow God, and I know they will not turn back because the way leads temporarily through the blackened hills. . . . So I am bold to name the threads out of which this inner veil is woven.

It is woven of the fine threads of the self-life, the hyphenated sins of the human spirit. They are not something we *do*, they are something we *are*, and therein lies both their subtlety and their power.

To be specific, the self-sins are self-righteousness, self-pity, self-confidence, self-sufficiency, self-admiration, self-love and a host of others like them. They dwell too deep within us and are too much a

part of our natures to come to our attention till the light of God is focused upon them. The grosser manifestation of these signs – egotism, exhibitionism, self-promotion – are strangely tolerated in Christian leaders, even in circles of impeccable orthodoxy. They are so much in evidence as actually, for many people, to become identified with the gospel. . . . Promoting self under the guise of promoting Christ is currently so common as to excite little notice. . . .

Self is the opaque veil that hides the face of God from us. It can be removed only in spiritual experience, never by mere instruction. There must be a work of God in destruction before we are free. We must invite the cross to do its deadly work within us. We must bring our self-sins to the cross for judgment. We must prepare ourselves for an ordeal of suffering in some measure like that through which our Savior passed when He suffered under Pontius Pilate. . . . Let us beware of tinkering with our inner life, hoping ourselves to rend the veil. God must do everything for us. Our part is to yield and trust. We then reckon it crucified. But we must be careful to distinguish lazy "acceptance" from the real work of God. We must insist upon the work being done. We dare not rest content with a neat doctrine of self-crucifixion. Insist that the work be done in very truth and it will be done. The cross is rough and it is deadly, but it is effective. It does not keep its victim hanging there forever. There comes a moment when its work is finished and the suffering victim dies. After that is resurrection glory and power, and the pain is forgotten for joy that the veil is taken away and we have entered in actual spiritual experience the presence of the living God. (*The Pursuit of God*, by A.W. Tozer, pp. 41-44)

Prayer Basket

Many people have responded and sent in prayer requests for the prayer basket. I want to answer one question. No, we do NOT read your prayer requests. These are strictly between you and God. Our only role is to join our faith with yours in lifting up all the prayer requests to the Lord on the 10th of each month, anointing them with oil. God has promised us that He will personally read every word written on your requests, and that He will re-

spond. Once again, He is not promising a "Yes" answer to everything. His answer may be "No," and it may be "Wait" but He will answer.

As you receive answers to your prayers, please send your testimonies to us so that we can share some of them through our newsletter with others. In this way, all of our faith will grow.

Copies

You are always welcome to copy any of our newsletters to give to other people. If you know of someone who would like to receive our newsletter, if they live inside the U.S., please send their name and address to us. We will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

Love Offerings

We are a faith-supported ministry. That means, we are directly dependant on your obedience to God to

meet our needs and keep the many facets of this ministry going. We ask you to pray to God and ask Him what He would have you do to support this work.

We deeply appreciate those of you who do support us. As we receive your gifts, we lay our hands on and pray over each one, asking the Lord to richly bless the sender in return. Please send your offering in the enclosed envelope.

© *Harvest Warriors, Inc., 2004*

We are warring to harvest!