

FROM THE

S P R I N G 2 0 1 9

# BATTLEFIELD

## MAGAZINE

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS TO

# FIGHT

THE GOOD  
FIGHT  
OF FAITH

DESIGNED  
TO STRENGTHEN  
YOUR FAITH

INSIDE:

**CHRIST** THE  
**CAPTAIN**  
OF OUR SALVATION PG.18

**TESTIMONIES**  
FROM THE BRETHREN

**EDIFYING**  
ARTICLES OF FAITH

ISSUE #14



U.S. \$0.00

COMFORTING  
PRAYERS

INSIGHTFUL  
LETTERS

PRECIOUS  
POEMS

irc19'



# FROM THE BATTLEFIELD MAGAZINE

*The Lord, He calls you higher!  
Raise the anchor, all aboard!  
Because the devil is a liar  
You need your armor and your sword!*

*The Lord is calling you higher!  
Be renewed now in your mind  
Don't let these thoughts expire  
We're moving forward, not behind!*

*The Lord, He calls you higher!  
To a rich eternal blessing  
But it can only be aquired  
If you're seeking and you're pressing*

*The Lord, He calls you higher!  
From the distractions of the day!  
May you have your heart's desire  
And on Christ your mind to stay.*

*The Lord is calling you higher!  
Where there's rest for weary saints  
Where theres safety from the fire  
You can run and not go faint*



# SPRING 2019

*There is an enemy seeking to overthrow your Faith in God  
The forces of darkness rest neither day nor night to this end*

*May you find refuge in the Son of God  
May the Lord Bless you and keep you  
And cause His face to shine upon you.*

*Fight the good fight of Faith  
Lay hold on Eternal Life, Dear Saint.*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**Thoughts on Faith 6**  
Brother Matthew Cobb

**With a Sling and a Stone 7**  
Brother Given Blakely

**I Will Give You Rest 8**  
Brother James Arnold

**Facebook Brethren 10**  
Various Brethren

**The Nature of Exhortation 12**  
Brother Al Stoner

**Praying with All Prayer 15**  
Sister Adah Hutchcraft

**Christ Died for the Ungodly 16**  
Brother Matthew Cobb

**The Captain of Our Salvation 18**  
Brother Justin Cobb

**Follow Christ 21**  
Brother Derek McDermott

**What is Transformation? 22**  
Brother Boyce Mouton

**Knowing the Time 23**  
Brother Robert Cobb

# Our Purpose

The purpose of this publication is to strengthen the faith of those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and to provide an outlet of expression to all those who have a love of the truth, and a desire to comfort the brethren.

The reality is, that we are in the middle of a fierce spiritual war, with our eternal souls at stake. Much like Israel had to engage in warfare to move into the land promised them, we also must fight the good fight of faith, and press forward that we may obtain the prize which has been promised only to those who overcome!

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## We gladly welcome new Submissions

We are always open to share the good things that the Lord has given the brethren to see. This opportunity is open to any and all who are interested. Our only guideline for publication is that the material you present be edifying to the reader, and according to the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. Please send your submissions to the address listed above!

## Our Regular Commentators

Listed here are some of our regular commentators, that have been faithful to provide a consistent source of edification, exhortation, and comfort to our brethren



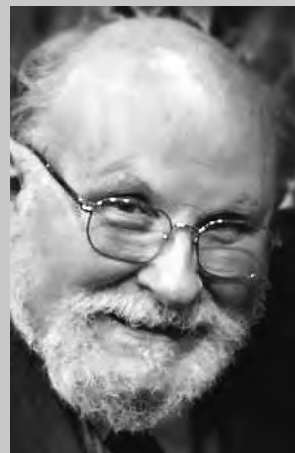
### Sister Adah Hutchcraft

An acting Chaplain at Via Christi Hospital in Pittsburg, KS, Adah has experience ministering to people in need of spiritual encouragement in their final days. The Lord has blessed her with a peculiar ability for intercession. She is the author of "Praying with all Prayer". We are thankful for Sister Adah's consistent contribution.



### Brother Matthew Cobb

Original editor of the Battlefield magazine, Brother Matthew still makes regular contributions to the ministry, strengthening the Saints of God to continue believing God, pressing them forward to fight the good fight of faith, and to lay hold on Eternal life and the promises of God. We are thankful for this steadfast saint and his godly influence!



### Brother Given Blakely

Has been a minister of the Word of Truth Fellowship since 1954. He has preached to thousands spanning all denominational backgrounds. He is a prodigious writer, having been the author and editor of the Word of Truth magazine from 1960-1992. He has authored several books, and an on-going scripture commentary from which he teaches every week. His thorough commentaries now include over 23 books of the bible. He has an extensive online ministry as well, which includes wotruth.com, daily email devotions, as well as facebook, twitter and myspace blogs. This magazine is a fruit of his ministry over the years. His published books are available in both print, online .pdf and ebook. (see resources section).

## Brother Robert Cobb

Bro Robert has an extensive video ministry, through which he records and posts hundreds of gospel messages online yearly. He maintains resource websites on Livestream, Vimeo, YouTube, Facebook, Soundcloud, From The Battlefield's website, and Word of Truth.com's ministry website. Many of these resources links are available on this page under the "resources" section. He also delivers regular sermons and bible lessons at the Word of Truth Fellowship in Joplin, Missouri. He has been a faithful steward of the work that the Lord has given him! Brother Robert also handles the printing and distribution of this publication, as well as the bookkeeping for all charitable



## Brother Justin Cobb

Current editor, graphic designer of the Battlefield magazine, he also ministers full time at the Word of Truth Fellowship in Joplin, Missouri, and maintains a weekly Facebook ministry. Determined to use the talents given to him by the Lord for the work of the ministry, to strengthen the faith of God's elect all over the earth!



## Brother Albert Stoner

Has been a faithful minister of the word of God for over 50 years, teaching admonishing all who have a love of the truth. He has been the editor of the Banner of Truth publication since 1992. He is fluent in many different languages, including German and Russian, and has taught in several schools until his retirement in 2015. He has done extensive work for the Lord in translating various publications from the saints in to other languages. He also has authored several books, the most recent being the "Prophecies of Christ in Isaiah". His contributions are always thought-provoking and deeply motivating to those who are living by Faith in the Son of God!



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# Additional Resources

**“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom 10:17)**

Although faith involves trusting, being persuaded and convinced, it is not the same as merely accepting something as factual.

Believing is surely something with which the individual is intimately involved, but the origin, the seed, the source of it, comes not only from the persons consideration and reasoning of a series of facts and evidences which convince them of the truth. As our text phrases it, faith “cometh”.

It was once not there, but a time came in every believers life when they were given to hear the truth, to understand and perceive the weight and urgency of it, and having heard the provision GOD has granted in redemption for their salvation, they believed it! From this time forward, the purposed intent behind the granting of this faith is that the believer would live and walk in it.

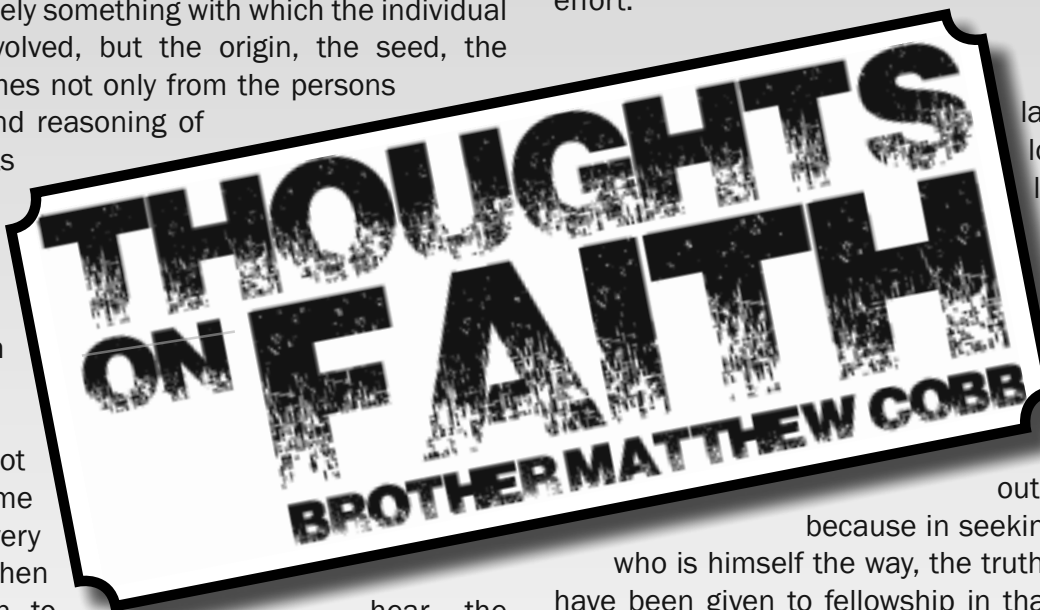
It requires not merely an investment of time and thought, work and labor, but an investment of the heart, mind and affection. Learning comes through fellowship, and that is where knowledge is acquired, that is where there is a joining and transformation. In the school of faith and hope, your life is the classroom, the scriptures are the material, and your tutors are Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In this class, you do not learn about Christ, rather you learn Christ.

When you give yourself to following Christ, hearing his voice, and meditating on the testimony God has given us of him in the scripture, it yields a return which cannot be measured by any earthly standard.

Pursuing truth is unlike any other quest for knowledge in the earth. Study in any earthly subject does not necessarily involve personal submission to it. It is possible to become an expert in something that is theoretical, or philosophical. In the world, you can actually become proficient in something for which you

have no love or affection.

Kingdom “study” so to speak, however is not conducted in this manner. The knowledge of God is not obtained by those who have little to no interest and spend no effort seeking after and considering it. However, That being said It is also not given merely on the basis of ones own effort.



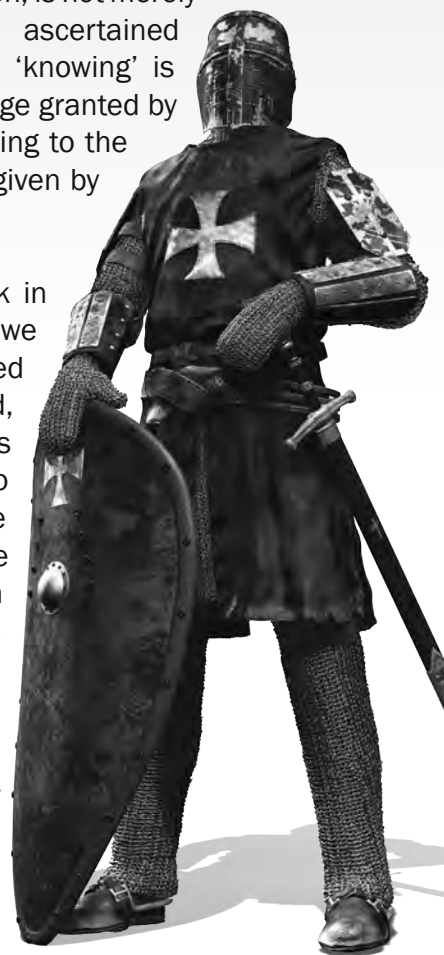
The fruit of this labor, seeking, looking and laboring comes not because you have in your intelligence, and diligence thought it out, or because you have found it out for yourself, but

because in seeking after the Savior who is himself the way, the truth, and the life, you have been given to fellowship in that same direction, illumination, and regeneration which is resident within his person. according to the measure of your faith.

Spiritual understanding then, is not merely theological information ascertained by the trained mind. This ‘knowing’ is experience based knowledge granted by the one who walks according to the faith that they have been given by GOD.

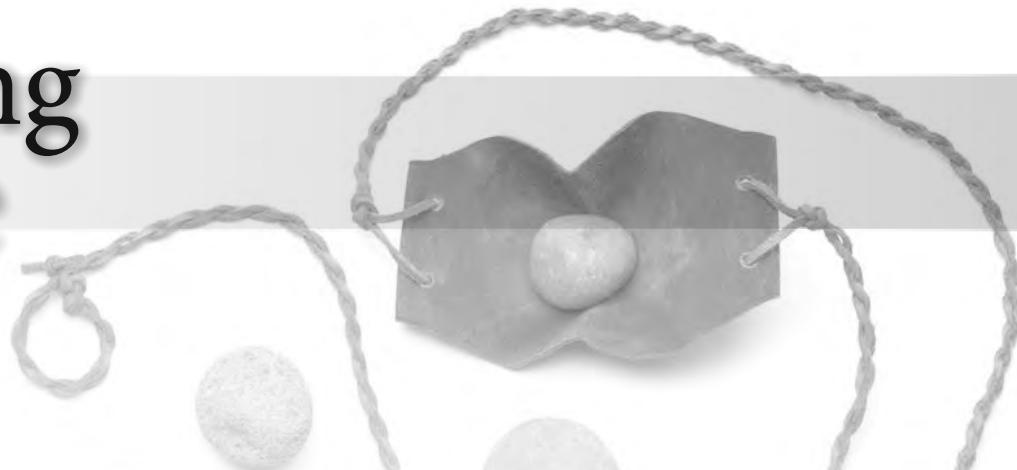
We can learn how to walk in love towards others as we understand that he first loved us. We are able to be kind, and forgiving even towards our enemies and those who hate and would persecute us, when we consider the one who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself. We can be merciful seeing we have received from him who had showed us such abundant mercy.

-Brother Matthew Cobb



# With a Sling and a Stone

Brother  
Given O. Blakely



*“So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.” (1 Sam 17:50)*

This brief skirmish took place between two mountains, in “the valley of Elah.” This was in Shochoh, a part of the land of promise that was given to Judah (Josh 15:35; 1 Sam 17:1) – not exactly a well known place. And yet, the entire world has heard of this confrontation between David and Goliath. There is no place where but a modicum of Bible knowledge is possessed that has not heard of this account. The Divine commentary on the event is brief and to the point. “David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone.”

Goliath came to the battle with an impressive array of armor. Goliath himself was about 9’ 6” tall – six cubits (18” each) and a span (a spread of the fingers between the thumb and index finger). He had a brass helmet, a coat of scale armor that weighed about 125 pounds, his legs were covered with bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. His spear had a head that weighed 15 pounds, and a shield-bearer walked before him, probably pushing the massive shield along the ground (17:4-7). David was small by comparison, a youth, and of a fair complexion (1 Sam 17:42). His weaponry consisted of a sling and a stone. He had no armor, no helmet, no shield, no sword or spear, and no coat of armor or coverings for his legs. No shield bearer moved before him. It was a total mismatch – at least as men see things. However, notwithstanding the seeming advantage of Goliath, the conclusion of the battle will tell the real story.

What opponents do before the battle, and how they appear as the battle commences is not the whole story. Just a few moments after the confrontation began, Goliath was laying face down on the ground with a stone stuck in his forehead, and David had Goliath’s

sword in his hands, bringing it down to behead the fierce Philistine warrior. Goliath had boasted that he would throw David’s carcass to the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field (17:44). Instead, David pulled Goliath’s massive sword from its sheath, and beheaded him before the eyes of the startled Philistines (17:51). David then came before king Saul with the head of Goliath in his hand, confirming the triumph (17:57). However, the Lord is very precise on this matter. Goliath was not overcome with a sword, but with the unlikely arsenal of a sling and a stone.

Today God’s people also face giants – spiritual giants that appear to have the total advantage. Faith in God makes people look weak and foolish to the world. They are like youth holding, what appears to be, inferior slings and stones. But there is another factor to consider. The Lord is with them that are with Him (2 Chron 15:2). That shifts the balance of power to the saints. The weapons of our warfare are “mighty through God” (2 Cor 10:4) – even when they are but a sling and a stone. So be valiant, child of God, and fight the good fight of faith with a bold confidence!

Fight to believe! “Fight the good fight of faith!” (1 Tim 6:12). Fight against discouragement! Fight against doubt! Fight against slothfulness and delay! Wrestle against principalities and powers (Eph 6:12). Resist the devil (James 4:4). Do whatever is necessary to keep believing, keep trusting, keep depending upon the Lord. As you fight, heaven will aid you. The High Priest will intercede for you (Heb 7:25). The Holy Spirit will strengthen your inner man (Eph 3:16). But you must fight. Fight when you are weak! Lift up your sword! You are “more than a conqueror through Him that loved you (Rom 8:37)!”

**Reporting from the Battlefield**  
– Brother Given O. Blakely



# I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

BROTHER JAMES ARNOLD

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. -Matthew 11:28-30*

My aim today is to encourage you, by speaking to you about this time of refreshing, that only comes from Jesus, as He has said “I will give you rest”

In our text we are presented with the Good News of Jesus. The Good News is that if you are laboring under a heavy load, yoke, burden, Jesus is inviting you to come to Him, and He will give you rest. Restlessness is found everywhere on the earth. You can trace restlessness all the way back to the Garden of Eden. From the day they sin entered into the world, restlessness has been present in the heart of man. Adam and Eve once were innocent before God, and after they sinned they hid themselves from Him, because they were afraid (Gen 3:8-10). Man since then has been dominated by sin, death, and restlessness. Jesus is the One and Only who can give rest to those who labor and are heavy-laden. Jesus offers rest that surpasses any sort of rest man can provide. He doesn't offer us a four-fold path to peace-giving enlightenment, nor does He give us the “Top 10 ways to revive your weariness” Jesus offers Himself! He said “Come unto ME” and “I will give you rest”. Jesus wasn't just calling people to where He was, to His location. He is calling all to come to Him trusting and believing that He will give them rest. Many today are not taking this call seriously. May this call, this invitation not be rejected, or taken lightly.

Jesus told us about what happened to those who rejected the invitation of the King, they were destroyed (Matt 22:2-8)

Those who were invited rejected the invitation, they made light of it and went their ways. Brethren may we be quick to hear and quick to come to Jesus! Consider

what has taken place on our behalf so that we could come to Him!

- Jesus has taken away sin, the sin of the whole world (Isa 59:2, Jn 1:29, 1 Jn 3:5)
- He has reconciled us to God (2Co 5:18-19)
- Through Christ we can draw near (Heb 10:19-22)

The more that we see of Jesus and what He has done, the more we are drawn to come to him. Jesus said in Matt 11:27 [Mat 11:27 KJV] 27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and [he] to whomsoever the Son will reveal [him].

When Jesus says come to me and I will give you rest.

It is because without Jesus you cannot know God, You have no hope without God, No one can dwell with God unless they come through Jesus. Jesus is calling out to “All ye that labor, and are heavy-laden. These are those who are burdened with the guilt of sin upon their conscience.

They are under the heavy yoke of sin and death. All who tremble at the thought of judgment, long for heaven, and dread not getting to it, no assurance. They are being pressed down with the load of traditions, and labor till they are weary. Trying to find peace and rest for their souls. Does this describe you?

This was the state of mind in which the Jews were to whom Peter preached on the day of Pentecost. Their consciences were awakened; and they were cut to the heart; and when he had finished, we are told they said, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”



This was the state of mind in which we see the jailer at Philippi. He was roused from sleep by an earthquake. His fear brought his sin to his remembrance, and he came and fell down before Paul and Silas, and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Jesus is calling all to come to Him, Look to Him, lay hold by faith in who He is. In the world there are all kinds of promises. Even the devil makes promises (Gen 3:4), but his promises are full of deceit. The world makes all kinds of promises: "if you do this, if you buy that, if you go here, if you have this, etc." for health, wealth, and happiness

Many have found out and are finding out that these are just empty words. But He who has made this promise in our text is One who can be depended on. He is able to do what He has promised. He has all power in heaven and earth He is faithful to do what He has promised What he speaks, that is what He will do. Heaven and earth will pass away, buy His words shall not pass away.

What kind of rest will He give?"

He will give you rest from guilt of sin. The sins of the man who comes to Christ are completely taken away; they are forgiven, pardoned, removed, blotted out. They can no longer appear in condemnation against him!. Ah! brethren, that is rest. He will give you rest from fear of law. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of law. "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect in the day of judgment?" that is rest. He will give you rest from fear of hell. Hell cannot touch the man who has come to Christ. And that, too, is rest. He will give you rest from fear of the devil. The devil has power—but he cannot touch those who have come to Christ. Our Redeemer is mighty to save. He will set a hedge around them that Satan cannot overthrow. And that, too, is rest. He will give you rest from fear of death. The sting of death is taken away when a man comes to Christ. Jesus has overcome death, and it is a conquered enemy. This also is rest. He will give you rest in the time of affliction. He will comfort you with comfort the world knows nothing of. He will cheer your heart, and sustain you. Oh! this is rest indeed.

Brethern, Jesus has said Come unto me, and I will give you rest, we have come to Him! And now by faith await and anticipate His coming again! Know we can say Come Lord Jesus Come

-James T. Arnold

@preach**eternal**

FROM THE TWITTER MINISTRY OF BROTHER JUSTIN COBB

*"Christians follow Jesus Christ"*

*"There is **no such thing**,  
as an **unlawful** expression of Faith."*

*"If 'Let go, Let God' isn't working, it's  
time to **trust God and get going.**"*

*"Quit killing the time and  
start **redeeming** the time!"*

*"The merchandise of Babylon is  
**no substitute** for the Armor of God."*

*"Power does not come by focusing on the  
**doing** but on the **Christ behind the doing.**"*

*"The triumphant return of Christ shall be  
your **greatest joy** or **greatest terror**"*

*"I would count my blessings, but I was never  
any good at **advanced calculus.**"*

*"The only thing **worse** than a man not serving  
Christ, is a man who **pretends to.**"*

*"If you **do not** want Jesus **more** than  
anything else, **you are not free.**"*

*"Effective resistance is the  
**byproduct** of a proper focus."*

# facebook brethren



**Bill Dinwiddie**  
East Kingsport, TN

## **Singing hymns that speak of a battle:**

It has become popular to say that we need to stop singing hymns about warfare and being an army and things of that nature. It is thought by some that hymns were written with this emphasis because we were a nation at war and people thought about physical warfare. This conclusion is to miss the point all together. When you enter into Christ, the battle begins for you. There is a literal battle for your soul. There are very real armies that are waging war. This is seen in the writings of the Epistles and the Revelation. If you are currently not involved in warfare, then you ARE DEAD! You are either dead in your trespasses and sins and you are dead to God or you are physically dead. If you are born again, you are involved in spiritual warfare. Keep singing the songs that encourage us to FIGHT ON!



**Mike Knapp**  
Antwerp, OH

You cannot truly see God's glory until you truly see His Christ

If we remember only one thing of our father Abraham, it's name'y this: That he was not weak in Faith (Rom 4:19)

The Glory that is to be revealed is more than sufficient to salve all the pains of this life

It is always good to bring into remembrance, or be reminded of, the promises of God.

Sin removes all the rationality of God

The word "hate" must be reserved for the things that offend God.



**Stephen Queen**  
Columbus, OH

Be a warrior! Not a whiner!

It's not how dark and evil this world is, it's all about how great the Light of Jesus Christ is

The Light of Christ dispels all darkness !!!

Is the Master coming today ? This is the heart attitude of obedience God wants from us !

Let your life honor God, even if you have to do it alone.

"The storm" will not overpower the purposes of God. Trust Jesus !

Reckon yourselves dead indeed to sin... Romans 6:11



**Jeff Hostetter**  
Kumasi, Ghana

The closer I get to God through Christ, the more intense becomes the inner warfare inside of me. You too? Keep pressing in! (Hos.6:3)

The old carnal guy's a rather rude fellow who will intrusively interrupt your spiritual tranquility with the most clamorous of demands

Thankfully, God looks at us Cross-eyed, and sees no sinner, but a new creation, in Christ!

Until Christians feel as solicitous toward their souls as their bodies, they won't be good stewards of their lives. Souls are real & eternal!

Absolutely nothing done from a guilty conscience is going to turn out well, brothers. Stand in God's love & grace! (Rm.5:1-3)

There is no way to over-exaggerate, overstate or too boldly declare the excellencies, the vastness, the magnificence of JESUS!





**Marive Catignas**  
Patimbao, Philippines

One of the indescribable blessings of being saved by the grace of God, is knowing that the Eternity that awaits us after death is no longer something that we need to fear. The Life promised is one of perfection, glory, and forever being in the presence of our wonderful Savior

Comfort-seeking never finds contentment, even when your life is comfortable

The first step to walking in faith in God is to renounce your unbelief... When this is done, when we have been afflicted to the extent that we mourn and weep... then we will be inspired to believe the promises of God, and count Him faithful who promised.



**Anthony Nguyen**  
Huntington Beach, CA

Some people are going to reject you, simply because you shine too bright for them. That's ok. Keep on shining.

The price of acceptance is too high if it costs you who you are in Christ!

Some people may have spoken negative things over you, but the good news is: people don't determine your future, God does!

Praise God, I am slowly becoming the person I should have been a long time ago!

When times get tough, the beloved sons and daughters of the living God don't quit: they pray, praise, submit to, and rest in Him.



**Taveon Dumas**  
Cleveland, OH

We should always pray for eyes to see, ears to listen, and a heart to believe what God has said will come to pass.

[When you die] There will be no "Rest in Peace" without Christ.

The Bible isn't a software license. You actually have to read it, not just scroll to the bottom and click "I agree"

Worship isn't just singing a song... it's laying down your life!

Let's pray that people will come back to Jesus before Jesus comes back!



**Steven Dutes**  
New York, NY

Don't let the devil take you back to the sin that God has delivered you from. Fight the good fight of faith!

Those who are filled with the holy spirit receive fresh manna from heaven, and those who are not will receive stale bread.

Jesus and his apostles were driven out of the house of worship by religious leaders. So don't think that the same thing can not happen to you.

The more you obey the Holy Spirit, the more you will be in conflict with religious people  
Be careful what consumes your thoughts, because an idle mind is the devil's playground



**Tyler-James Boyd**  
Cambridge, MD

Ignorance is an enemy! Slay it with the "Sword of the Spirit!"

It is right that we do not think more highly of ourselves than we ought (Rom. 12:3) but it is a specially bad/wrong to have a low view of God Almighty.

You know you are in close fellowship with God when you are comforted by the scripture in the heat of affliction.

I believe it is far more effective to go to God in Jesus' name than it is rebuke Satan in His name

Confidence is hoping to the end for the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

# *Some thoughts on* **The Nature of**

**E**xhortation is something that is more commonly found in the New Covenant era than in the old. Nevertheless, the Psalmist, and other of the holy Prophets, both knew about, and employed, exhortation, and, many times, felt a godly compulsion within themselves to exhort. In Psalm 100, for example, the Psalmist exhorted the surrounding Gentile nations to be joyful in the Lord and to serve the Lord with gladness. In Psalm 113 he, among other things, exhorted the chosen people of Israel to “*praise the Name of the Lord.*” And in Psalms 103 and 104 David even exhorted his own soul to bless the Lord so that all that was within him would bless God’s holy Name.

In the New Covenant, however, exhortation is addressed to “*the new man*” (Eph. 4:24; Col. 2:10), and to those who are new creatures in Christ (II Cor. 5:17). It has to do with stirring up, in those who are born of the Spirit, that which they have from God, urging them to live in harmony with the great realities that have been made known about the purpose of God in Christ Jesus, and of which they, by virtue of their union with Christ, have been made partakers. It is essential that those who are in the Savior comprehend by their faith the wondrous works which God has done in Christ Jesus in their behalf, and therefore are enabled to walk consistently and worthily of them. We are speaking now particularly of the Divine workings which pertain to redemption from sin, from the curse, and from the wrath to come, as well as unto preparedness for Christ’s appearing and for the consummation of all things. Exhortation is the appointed means for urging men unto, as well as maintaining, that kingdom consistency, to the end that believing men and women may walk worthy of the calling, wherewith they have been called in Christ Jesus.

Technically, exhortations are not legal demands imposed upon men: such as, thou shalt do this, and thou shalt not to that, etc. The commandments of God were, and are, the Divinely-ordained restrainers for sinful flesh. The commandments contained in the Law, though holy, and just, and good, are addressed to men who are fundamentally averse to doing the will of God. They were given to stop self-justifying mouths (see Rom. 3:19), to make men acutely aware of their need for Jesus (see Gal. 3:23-27). As Paul instructed

Timothy: “*the Law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane*” (I Tim. 1:9).

Quite the contrast, exhortations are addressed to those in whom a fundamental change has occurred by virtue of the new birth. They are directed to those who, because of this fundamental change, do indeed desire to do the will of God with the whole heart. To such ones exhortations are an enlivening summons to give expression to the new creature (which is now an essential part of them), and thus to walk worthily of the great salvation, wrought in their behalf, namely the salvation in Christ which has been revealed and declared throughout the Scriptures. “*The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*” (Rev. 19:10).

## **The Essential Role of Exhortation in the Warfare of Faith.**

Those who are in Christ, having obeyed the gospel, have been summoned into a most fierce and deadly warfare. In the Revelation this conflict is set forth very graphically in the following apocalyptic language: “*And the dragon (Satan) was wroth with the woman (the church), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*” (Rev 12:17). Though this conflict of all conflicts is—not entirely, but for the most part—unperceived by the natural man, nevertheless those who are living by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ have been made very much aware that their new found identity with Christ has inducted them into an arena of unrelenting conflict. Oftentimes they are afflicted and brought very low. Often they are mocked and scorned, frequently they are tested and tried. Over and again they find themselves to be the targets of Satan’s fiery darts. Often they unexpectedly fall into diverse temptations. (Ps 34:19, Rev 14:12)

In this arena of incessant warfare, where the battle rages on with varying degrees of fierceness, exhortation has a key role in making the saints equal to the conflict that is at hand. Though Christ’s brethren are unsympathetically opposed and targeted by the Devil and his wicked hosts of darkness, nevertheless they, by virtue of their union by faith with the glorified Savior, have been invested and equipped



# Exhortation

*Bro. Albert G. Stoner*

with *"the whole armor of God"* (Eph. 6:10-18), elsewhere called *"the armor of light"* (Rom. 13:12). Exhortation, coupled together with edification and comfort, is absolutely essential in continually apprising the saints of God of this all essential provision of God in Christ, and of regularly urging them to put the armor on. What then shall be the comparative assessment of this equipping of the saints by Christ against the Devil and those aligned with him? *"For Thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us"* (Rom. 8:36-37).

In this connection, think of the many exhortations addressed to the saints that pertain directly to this warfare of faith. Each of them are summoning the people of God to engagement in this [largely unseen but nevertheless very real] conflict. Each underscores the militant stance that the believer in Christ is to have. We have not been called to observe, but rather to fight with the armor that has been provided by God. As the flesh, lusting against the spirit, continually summons to ease, and drawing back from the conflict, it must be kept in its harness by walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16), and abiding in Christ (Jn. 15:1-5; I Jn. 2:28).

## **Some Exhortations Pertaining to the Warfare of Faith:**

*"...cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light."* (Rom. 13:12).

*"...Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth. And having on the*

*breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace; above all, taking the shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of Salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always, with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all Saints."* (Eph. 6:10-18). This armor is held in place by continually nurturing a love of the truth, by abiding in Christ, and by having a firm grasp of the truth. *"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies (words stored in one's memory, that have been preached) which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare."* (I Tim. 1:18).

The Instance of Romans Twelve and Following. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* (Rom. 12:1-2).

Paul, in this introduction to a host of exhortations in the remainder of chapter 12 and in the chapters which follow, is here not commanding, but rather earnestly beseeching (that is, begging) the brothers

and sisters at Rome (and us as well) to consider the mercies of God that have been abundantly shown to us-ward in Christ Jesus, and, in the consideration of them, to present our bodies a living sacrifice to God. This, by the way, is the only reasonable thing for men to do. Anything less than this would be unreasonable. We present our bodies to God by suffering (giving heed to) *"the word of exhortation"* (Heb. 13:22). Nonconformity to the world's thinking and manner, as well as being spiritually transformed and renewed in mind, are absolute essentials for submitting to exhortation. Apart from this spiritual transformation and the daily renewal of the inward man (II Cor. 4:16), exhortations will appear to men to be nothing more

**"EXHORTATIONS are not legal demands imposed upon men, such as thou shalt do this, thou shalt do that... Quite the contrast, they are addressed to those in whom a fundamental change has occurred by virtue of the new birth."**

than statutes and laws that must be obeyed in order to somehow find acceptance with God. Exhortations, on the other hand, are directed to those who are accepted of God in Christ Jesus, even to those who know that they have been made accepted in the Beloved.

Almost all of Romans 12 through 15 is devoted to exhortations of various sorts: “*Recompense to no man evil for evil*”, “*Provide things honest in the sight of all men*”, “*Submit yourselves unto the higher powers*”, etc. Novices in Christ might view these words as being nothing more than a list of commandments to be obeyed. (And perhaps, that is a good starting point.) But it is both needful and essential to consider what the Apostle has said before in the previous chapters of this epistle. Chapters one through eight are unfolding to our understanding some of the involvements and blessedness of men being justified by faith. The latter part of chapter eight, through chapter eleven, unfolds to our consideration some of the marvelous depths of God’s wisdom in the outworking of His eternal purpose in Christ Jesus. If you can see the heart of the Apostle Paul here in chapters 12 through 15, he is simply urging the brethren, by means of these exhortations, to walk consistently with, and in awareness by faith of, the redemption in Christ Jesus (along with its great cost to the Savior), and God’s eternal purpose in Christ. Exhortation summons men and women to this consistent walking and constant awareness to the great things which God has done through Christ Jesus our Lord. And in the context of the new covenant, the consideration of what God has done should, for the people of God, become both the substantive engine and catalyst for submitting to exhortation.

The Lord Jesus Christ declared, “*My yoke is easy, and My burden is light*” (Mt. 11:30; see vv. 28-30). Exhortations are addressed to those who are yoked up with Jesus. They are indeed part and parcel of His yoke. Christ gives to all who would follow Him a yoke and a burden, and those who spurn, or refuse to bear, His yoke and burden have no part nor lot with Him. Those who are accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection of the dead (Lk. 20:35) shall be those who were not ashamed of His yoke and burden while they sojourned here in this world. Therefore, if exhortations seem too burdensome or arduous to men, they must consider whether they have actually “obeyed the gospel” (Rom. 10:16), which obedience consummates in their being made new creatures in Christ. “*But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*” (Jn. 1:12-13). This word of the Scripture is not merely a “theological point” to be given assent to by men, it is rather, a declaration of substantive reality. Wherever men “receive” the Lord Jesus Christ, having obeyed the gospel, a fundamental change is divinely wrought in them, to the end that they “*no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God*” (1 Pet. 4:2). Such transformed individuals have found that exhortations are both very relevant and absolutely essential unto their continuance “in the Son, and the Father” (1 Jn. 2:24).     -Albert G. Stoner



## Strength in Christ

*I was once stuck in a pit of clay  
Lost in the world, wrought in dismay  
I searched high and low for something to fill my heart  
Until I was told about a greater start*

*One who could renew my tattered soul.  
I had to find the God who could change me from the old  
They told me Jesus, he’s the Savior! He’s the one!  
He died for our sins! He will renew your unclean flesh!*

*Be baptized in His Holy name, the one called the Son.  
He gives us peace and He gives us rest  
Don’t be blown away by waves of trial  
He gives us strength to walk that mile.*

*The flesh is weak, some days we are tired.  
Christ gives us the grace that is required.  
When all of this world has let you down  
Focus on that robe and crown.*

-Sister Tanya Cobb-



# PRAYING WITH ALL PRAYER

WITH SISTER ADAH HUTCHCRAFT

**F**ather in Heaven, Troubles are as ripples upon the waters of life and can obscure our vision and confidence. Yet the solid reality of Your Truth is not destroyed by the world's disturbances. Life's disappointments, failures, and pain cannot undo the strength and security of God, our refuge. When the reflection in the waters of circumstance shakes and unsettles us, and we cannot comprehend what we see, we will look up to You. You still stand strong in unchanging beauty and grace. We will lift up our hearts and take courage. As present becomes past, Christ's peace prevails in those who trust in the One Who never changes. In His name we pray, Amen.

**F**ather In Heaven, When my mind cannot grasp or obtain all the facts, by faith You still ground me and guide me to a sound conclusion. My heart is Yours. In the Name of Christ, Amen

**O**ur Gracious God, You are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You. As followers of Christ, may we refuse to repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling. On the contrary let us bless, for to this You called us, that we may obtain a blessing. And blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the one against whom You do not count iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. May we be found so by Your grace. In the Name of Christ our Savior, Amen. (Psalm 86:5; Romans 12:17; 1 Peter 3:9; Psalm 32:1-2)

**Y**ou have said that to obey is better than sacrifice. So let us always remember the words of Christ, "if you love me, you will keep my commandments." You have called us to freedom. May we not use our freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but rather serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." And this is love, that we walk according to Your commandments. No limit is placed on what You can accomplish through us as we walk in the obedience of faith. You are doing greater things than we can perceive at any given moment or in an entire lifetime. So may we dedicate everything to You, because with You nothing is wasted or ordinary. In the Name of Christ, Amen. (1 Samuel 15:22; John 15:14; Galatians 5:13-14; 2 John 1:6)

**O**ur Gracious God, Thank You that Your presence is not limited to time and space. By faith You make Your dwelling place in our hearts. You know all that is in within us, and as we sincerely entrust ourselves to You, You enlighten and purify us. Whenever we feel alone, may Your Spirit testify to ours that You are near. In the Name of Christ, Amen.

**O**ur Gracious God, Our Gracious God, Thank You that the greatest of Your blessings have no end date, and the deepest joys need not be interrupted, though mixed with grief for this brief time. In the Name of our eternal Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

# CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGODLY

*Brother Matthew Cobb*



*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (Rom 5:7-9)*

This is a summary statement of mankind without GOD: the entire human race, "without strength", "he hath concluded all under sin". All of mankind are born without moral fortitude, without an ability to live by a hope or desire beyond what is contained in this world.

However, it was not GOD's desire for his creation to remain this way perpetually, but that GOD appointed a time for this to be addressed. Jesus came into the world in due time, at the time appointed before the foundation of the world, at the time when it was the most appropriate. A body was prepared for him - this speaks to intention, purpose, preparation.

*"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God." (Heb 10:5-7)*

## **Christ died for the ungodly**

This statement alone speaks volumes to the nature of our GOD - surely he is not like unto a man in any aspect.

This is an uncommon thing in the world - for men to give their own lives, even for men who are honorable, but the death of Christ was not on this wise. If there was a man who was sitting on death row who was a mass murderer, a cannibal, or a thief. And the state declared that if someone could die in their place to earn their freedom how many people do you think would step up to volunteer for that?

**But this is exactly what Christ did.**

**He died for the ungodly.**

This is the greatness of the great love wherewith he loved us; it is revealed in that when we were in every sense by our very nature wretched, filthy, unloveable, by our conduct rebellious and contrary, when we were enemies, according to his abundant mercy, according to the goodness and great love of his own nature, God made provision for not only for our transgressions to be paid for, our sin to be forgiven, for us to be delivered from his wrath against all ungodliness, but for also a way for our enmity to be removed. A way for our will to be brought into subjection with his own, a way for us to be reconciled - not only by forgiving our transgressions but by sanctifying us in our hearts and minds, transforming us in our very nature.

*"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." (Rom 5:10)*

If GOD so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, when we were yet sinners, when we were yet rebels and enemies in the death of Christ, how great then is our experience of that Love as we come unto him in humility, reverence and awe? How great of an experience of love exists now that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us at the right hand of God?

This text then, is not only beneficial in aiding us to remember and be thankful for what has been provided for us, and the benefits we experience because of it, but it calls us to remember the one through which these things came to us, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

-Brother Matthew Cobb



# TESTIMONY<sup>OF</sup> THE WORK OF GOD

IN A BELOVED SISTER:

*"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."*

*-Proverbs 3:5-7*

I am rejoicing! This week our Lord has brought my first born daughter back, from Iowa, to visit me here in Southern MO. 350 miles separate my eldest and I most of the year. Those with faith know time and distance do not limit our God. I pray when it appears she is crossing into dangerous territory, out of reach, and without me! Praying, in faith however is powerful enough to move mountains! She is a gift from God, a gift that belongs to Him: the creator of the heavens, and the earth, and all that dwell there in. I am rejoicing because she knows truth now too! She knows our Lord, and she has given her life to follow Him. She is not only my daughter, but my sister In Christ and an encourager of my faith as a part of the body of Christ.

I have come to love Proverbs 3:5-7. I have learned, through trial, He is faithful to lead, merciful to answer our prayers, kind and Long-suffering. I have learned to trust our Lord with all my heart. I see more clearly Gods own sacrificial love for us. He gave His only Son, to be made sin for us. Christ died so we could live, and I am so thankful! My testimony is of overcoming my own understanding, and trusting our Lord that this is all according to His plan. It is all for the good of those who love His Son and are called according to His purpose. My trials have given my faith a work out, and I am stronger for it too! Praise God for He is Faithful to keep His promises!

His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. All glory and honor are His, now and forever. It is in this truth, I find peace. It is in Christ I can testify my daughter and I are closer than we have ever been, even when miles apart. It is with His unending grace, I acknowledge Him. It is with His wisdom, I see: I am not wise in my own eyes, and it is what is born of God that is able to depart from evil. My new man can because God is able!



-Sister Heather Hunter

## TROUBLES

*Brother Lawrence Baldridge*

*If something keeps you troubled  
And gives you little rest,  
Give that something to Jesus-  
He's there at your behest.*

*He's listening for your prayer,  
And wants to hear from you,  
Desiring to help all His Sheep  
To see their troubles through.*

*And some He will not take away,  
But give you strength to bear;  
And some He wants you to resolve  
With humbleness and prayer.*

*Some burdens make you stronger,  
But He can take away  
That burden that's so hard to bear:  
Give it to Him today!*

*Just be like Brother Bunyan  
And put it in a sack.  
Then bury it beneath The Cross!  
And please don't take it back!*

## HEAVEN

*Brother Lawrence Baldridge*

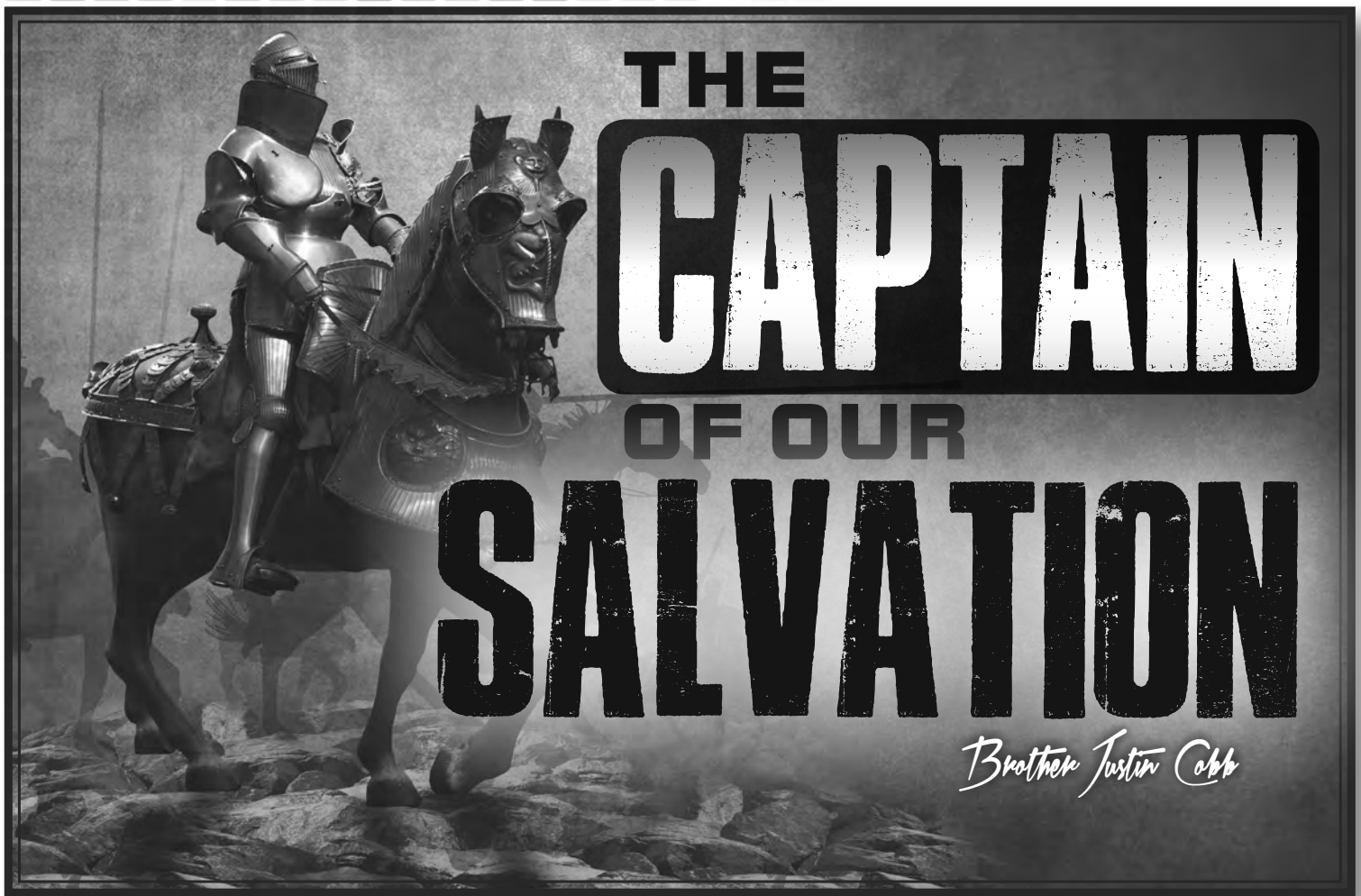
*"He lives!" They cried. And we repeat  
The message angels told.  
And we shall see, and walk with Them  
Upon the Streets of Gold.*

*Not now but then, completed Selves,  
Like angels we shall shine,  
And everything we truly sought  
Will then be yours and mine.*

*Not gaudy things, material,  
That only last a day,  
But spiritual reality  
That cannot pass away.*

*And we shall know the names of all  
Who gather round His Throne,  
And be one happy family  
And never be alone.*

*He Lives! And therefore we shall Live,  
And shine with Heaven's Light,  
But in the Presence of Our King,  
No one shall shine so Bright*



***“..For*** *it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Heb 2:10).*

The Holy Spirit never uses a word in vain. It says this word “captain” here for a reason. Just what exactly is a captain?

**CAPTAIN, noun**

1. Literally, a head or chief officer; appropriately, the military officer who commands a company, whether of infantry, cavalry, artillery or matrosses.
2. The commander of a ship of war, or of a merchantman. But the latter is often called a master.
3. A man skilled in war or military affairs; as, Lord Wellington is a great captain
4. The commander of a military band, a sense that occurs in the scriptures; as a captain of fifty. (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

We can see, that Captain has military, leadership, and headship applications. It also involves a great deal of skill, experience, and aptitude with the one who is appointed as a captain. Novicehood and captain do not go together. A captain is no tenderfoot or rookie.

Captains have been tried, tested, proven in battle, and charged with leading others through the same, because they can be entrusted to do so. They are known for their ability to lead, for their wisdom and expertise.

A captain has to be very knowledgeable, but he must also effectually act upon that knowledge. A captain of a ship, for example, must know his ship. He must be knowledgeable of its makeup, boundaries, strengths and weaknesses. He must know his instrumentation, how to discern its proper orientation and direction of travel. He must know how to properly navigate in treacherous environments. Even then, it's not enough just to know where you are going, but also how to deal with external dangers along the way. He also must know how to deal with internal dangers, so he must know how to effectively command his crew to work together for the good of the voyage. A good captain does not just lead his men with harsh commandments, but with encouraging words, leading by example, and by doing so in the forefront of the battle.

We can see examples of this all throughout the scripture: The Lord never sent an army into battle without a captain. All of the tribes of Israel had captains set over them (Num 2:3,10,12,18,20,22,25,29, Deut 1:15) Whenever Israel fought, there were captains present (Josh 10:24). The people of Israel knew, that

when the enemy rose up against them, a captain was necessary to wage an effective war (Judges 11:6).

Joshua had the “captains” come forth and put their feet on the necks of the Kings they captured in battle (Josh 10:24). Captains were responsible for representing the people who were under them, and for carrying out the charge of the King or Leader. As a result, if the people failed to follow instruction, the captains had to answer for it, (like Moses who was wroth with the captains when the people saved the Midianite women alive) (Num 31:14).

It wasn't just men who were referred to as captains in the scripture. The angel that appeared to Joshua with a sword in his hand identified himself as “the captain of the host of the Lord” (Josh 5:14). Whenever you hear the term “the Lord of Hosts” applied to God it's drawing your attention to the fact that God commands an in-numerously large mighty army! Captain is tied to the word “host” frequently in the scripture. It's used as in “captain of his host”. In fact, out of the 237 occurrences of the word captain in the King James bible, the phrases “captain of the hosts”, “captain of his army”, “captain of the guard”, “captain of war”, “captains of the forces” or “captain of his chariots” occur 105 times.

Anyone commanding a proper army, has a captain. Even the enemy. Phicol was the chief captain of Abimelech's host. (Gen 21:32, Gen 26:26). In Egypt, Potiphar was Pharaoh's “captain of the guard”. Sisera was the captain of the host of Jabin, (He was the one whom had his head nailed to the earth with a tent stake by Jael). When the children of Israel left Egypt, Pharaoh went after them it says, “with chariots and captains over the chariots” (Ex 14:7). On the night of Christ's betrayal, a captain was there with the band of men and officers of the temple (John 18:12, Lk 22:52). The chief captains were principal men who had charge over others. The Roman captain in Acts Ch.22 had the authority to bind Paul. Jesus spoke to a centurion who had a servant who was sick of the palsy. He knew, being a man of authority, all he has to do is say a word and his servants listen to him.

**Captain is also associated with saving life.** In 1 Samuel 9:16 we have our first reference to a captain being anointed by God, not merely to drive out the enemy or to conquer them, but to save his people from them.

*“I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.” (1 Sam 9:16)*

It's always best to have the scriptures frame our thinking about a particular word usage. The Hebrew writer does not use this word “captain” without reason. Jesus truly is the captain of our salvation in every sense of the statement! When it comes to the Salvation of

mankind, there is only one person given the charge of carrying it out, and only one who has the ability to carry it out. There is only one “anointed of the Lord” to be a Captain to save his people.

From one aspect if we are in Christ, we are saved. But from another aspect we are being saved. Remember, Jesus said “but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall BE saved.” (Matt 24:13). Jesus is a Captain to ensure that you will get through this present evil world, and not be overtaken by opposition. He is sitting at the right hand of the majesty on high, in a state of constant activity. John wrote about this activity in the book of the Revelation as “lightnings, and thunderings, and voices” coming out of the throne. Jesus does not rest day or night. He is leading us through a hostile environment, and it's not just a defensive stance that makes this possible, but an offensive stance as well. We don't only just need the whole armor of God, we are instructed to take the sword of the spirit as well (Eph 6:17). We are told to “earnestly contend for the Faith once delivered to all the saints” (Jude 3). We are exhorted to *“Fight the good fight of Faith.” (1 Tim 6:12)*. Captains of hosts lead the armies in battle. Jesus Christ is no different in this commission. He is teaching our hands to war. The psalmist cried out to God, *“Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers for warfare.” (Psa 144:1)*. This phrase is brought to its culmination in Christ Jesus, the Captain of our salvation.

Jesus has been handed the charge of leading His saints to Glory. He shoulders the responsibility to bring us to God Himself, and is at this very moment *“bringing many Sons to Glory” (Heb 2:10)*. He has already done the work! He has already defeated the devil, and spoiled principalities and powers (Col 2:15). He has emerged victorious in battle, the heavenly hosts proclaimed his entrance into heaven “Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.” (Psa 24:8). John saw him in a vision as the one who sat upon *“a white horse”*; who *“was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.” (Rev 19:11)*.

As long as we are in this world, there is a tremendous liability. We have to contend with principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph 6:12). Captains of the unseen realm! Having an adversary, the devil (who does not sleep). We have to contend with living in a fallen world and living in a body in which is written the law of sin and death (Rom 7:23). All these things are competitive influences, that seek to overthrow your Faith. Salvation appropriates power from God to strengthen the individual to overcome temptation, and to be transformed from Glory to Glory into the very likeness of God. The trying of our Faith works to perfect us, for a purpose. We are divine trophies of the grace of God, on display for an assembled universe to see, with Jesus at the right hand of God, working in His Saints as a dispenser of the manifold grace of God.

Dear Believer, Jesus is a perfect captain! He knows our make



up. He is our creator! He not only made us, but the world and everything in it (Col 1:16). And He knows the environment perfectly, having descended from Heaven! He actually knows us better than we know ourselves.(Psa 139:16) Jesus is the only man who lived out a perfect life as a man, and the only man who was always properly oriented towards God. Who always trusted in God. Who always did the things that pleased the Father (Jn 8:29). He did not hurry through his life on Earth. It wasn't a sprint or a quick pass through. He had to live here. He had to grow. He had to learn obedience by the things he suffered! (Heb 5:8).He spent more than 30 years here. He did not see mankind at a distance, but dwelt among them. He saw firsthand the unbelief and sin of mankind, He endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself. He suffered being tempted, He was afflicted, and despised. He was a man of sorrow, acquainted with grief, alone, hungry, thirsty, tired, weak, and poor. He was mocked, reviled, questioned, rejected and misunderstood. He not only knows the way, being our fore-runner and having walked it before us (Heb 6:20), He is the way! (Jn 14:6). He is bringing us to God (1 Pet 3:18).. He knows how to deal with external threats perfectly, He knows how to deliver the godly from trouble (2 Pet 2:9). He is able to command His body to work together in charity and unity for the edification and sanctification of His people (Eph 4:16) He is able to speak peace into the hearts of men with words of comfort and encouragement. (Col 3:15). He is orchestrating all circumstances, even bad ones, to work out for our ultimate good.(Rom 8:18). And He can do all these things for us because He is a man, and has been made perfect through sufferings! This is a joyous thought, that He is a PERFECT SAVIOR! He can be touched with the feeling of your infirmity. He knew what was in man when He was here in the flesh, and He knows and understands what is in man still today (Jn 2:25). The man, Christ Jesus was the only one fit to be the Captain of man's Salvation. An angel could not do this work, no heavenly personality could do this work. Salvation is of the Lord.

Captains are to be followed! This captain is a not only adept and able at the work of Salvation, but he is not a ruthless captain. In fact, His argument for following after Him is a very convincing one. He says, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt 11:29). Jesus is our captain but He is also approachable, He wants us to follow Him, He desires to lead us to the promised land. He desires to provide the best training to His soldiers in the heat of the battle, it is not a burden for Him to orient you for glory, but rather a joy and a blessing. And His character is so attractive, that when Christ is properly seen, we have a great love for Him, to follow His leading and direction.

If you follow the lamb wherever He goes, I promise you, He will bring you to God. He will orient you properly, He will lead you through external difficulties and direct you in the very midst of calamity. He will lead you to work together with other members of

His body. He will work to help correct inner deficiencies by leading you out of them and into our inherited spiritual blessings. He is in charge of all of the circumstances in our lives, working them together for our ultimate good. He is our captain! We do not focus on unity, we focus on Christ. Because he is leading we are united in Him! He's doing this now, and He shall not fail! Here is the ultimate plan of Salvation concerning us: Trust Christ, look to Him, and He will save you!

He's coming back in the clouds! Jesus is the same, yesterday today and forever. And this Captain of our Salvation is coming with the armies of heaven in flaming fire, taking vengeance on those that know not God and believe not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THESE THINGS I HAVE  
SPOKEN UNTO YOU THAT  
IN ME YE MIGHT HAVE  
**PEACE.** IN THE WORLD YE  
SHALL HAVE TRIBULATION  
BUT **BE OF GOOD CHEER**  
I HAVE OVERCOME THE  
WORLD.

JOHN 16:33



EVEN HEREUNTO WERE YE CALLED  
BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO  
**SUFFERED** FOR US LEAVING  
US AN **EXAMPLE** THAT  
YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS  
STEPS.

2 PETER 2:21

# Follow Christ

BY BROTHER  
DEREK McDERMOTT

Jesus died for our sins! Not just ours but for the sins of the whole world. (1 Jn 2:2). Gods Love for the world is not to be taken lightly! There must come a time of deeper reflection [on this]! By grace, [through] faith we are free from the penalty of our transgressions. What more could we ask for?

*“For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.”*  
(Matthew 18:11 NKJV) What was lost? Intimacy with God and Innocence were lost through disobedience. The way to the tree of Life was guarded. Many people think of eternal life as only “living on forever”. While its true Jesus did conquer death and through him we do have victory over death, the Word of God tells us that Eternal Life is: *“That they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”* (John 17:3 NKJV)

How could we ever know the only true God without ever spending time with Jesus? Remember, Jesus said, *“No man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* (Jn 14:6). He is the only way to the Father, so we should follow Him! He tells us in the Gospels if we want to, we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow him.

**Deny yourself.** Accept that you were not created for you, your image, your glory or even your own name. Do away with the self-centered and self-serving perspective. Leave the past behind, and do all you do unto the glory of God.

**Pick up your cross.** Like any other cross yours resembles death. So love not your own life even to the point of death for Christs’ sake. Remember that you were baptized into his death and raised up to new life. **A life that is no longer your own.** We are not alive for ourselves.

**Follow Him.** Learn all you can about Him! Do as he does! Get to know Him! Obey Him! Live for Him! Learn and do his will rather than chasing after temporal fulfillment. (In fact we will never find fulfillment through anything other than Christ!)

Do you remember when you first believed? All of us came to believe the gospel because of what [only] Jesus could do for us. The weight of guilt and shame become too much to bear. Not only were we desperately in need of saving from ourselves, we needed to be saved from the eternal penalty for our sins. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, [and what Christ did] was enough to set us free from the power and act of sin!

One of the biggest issues within the church is many [professing] believers seem to be so fixated on themselves. They’re [in a] state of depravity in which their own perspective keeps them in a fallen state of perpetual sin. Our bible does not teach that we will always sin, its very clear that sin is a choice.

*“For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are **not** under law but under grace.”***  
(Romans 6:10-14 NKJV)

The gospel [is] about much more then getting us to a safe place when our physical bodies die. If being saved is not [only] about this, what exactly are we saved from? We are really saved from the works of the devil towards us, in us and through us! We [are] free indeed!

*“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”* (1 John 3:8 NKJV)

I’m speaking against sin which is the work of the evil one and the reason our LORD was crucified.

Jesus is the propitiation for our sins! We are under grace and not the Law. We are forgiven. Is this a means to carry on in living in sin? Of course not! The Fathers Love for us, our Love for God and his Holy Spirit within us is enough to overcome the act of sin.

Be encouraged to stand firm in the Faith, accepted in the beloved! We are Holy, blameless and above reproach in his sight if we continue in the Faith. We were not created to live in the guilt, shame, and the condemnation of yesterday. We are worth so much more than that. [If we are in Christ] God does not see us for where we’ve been or all the wrongs we’ve done but He knows us for who He created us to be— Sons and daughters! He knows our worth and value! [And Christ’s blood] cleanses us from all sin and unrighteousness. Even on our worst day Jesus still died for us. Gods mercy triumphs over judgement. [In Christ] He does not hold our trespasses against us. He keeps no record of our wrongs and remembers our sins no more. These truths are revelatory and are very humbling. His goodness is what leads [men] to repentance. We will continually be shaped and molded to be just as He is.

Blessing to you and To God be all the Glory,

-Brother Derek McDermott

# HIGH TIME TO AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP

BROTHER ROBERT COBB

Awake To Righteousness and sin not! "it is high time to awake out of sleep" The word "sleep" is sometimes used in the scriptures to represent death!

*"These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead." (John 11:11-14) "Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;" (Psa 13:3)*

Those who God has given to Jesus, those whom he has washed away their sins, those who have "tasted of the powers" of the world to come must always be on their guard lest they "fall into a sleep" a sleep that will require divine intervention to rectify. Those who are awake must "shout the battle cry" lest they also fall prey to the "times and seasons" that surround us all! Mothers sing lullabies to their children to cause them to enter into a condition of sleep and so does our enemy! When a person is asleep they are at their most vulnerable condition, anything can happen because the person who is asleep is not aware of what is going on around them! It is deadly for someone who has made a profession of faith to be indifferent to the environments they encounter in this "present evil world".

Walking around in this world without the armor of God on is like walking around in a nuclear reactor without the proper protective suit! You might actually make it back to your house alive, but something unseen has invaded your body and unless it is eradicated, it will be the source of your demise.

The example of what happens when "nuclear reaction" takes place is actually a very good example of what happens to anyone who attempts to live with "one foot in the church and the other in the world". "Nuclear reaction" is a change in the identity or characteristics of an atomic nucleus that results when it is bombarded with an energetic particle, as in fission, fusion, or radioactive decay. Spiritual corruption occurs when a person is bombarded with "sinful desires" that are embraced or entertained, resulting in the reversal (change) of identities, from life to death. (new man back to the old man) Unless this situation is corrected, there is a hardening of the heart that will occur, resulting in a total abandonment of all awareness of heaven, God, Christ and the working of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual death is real and can be successfully avoided by "walking in the Spirit and not having any confidence in the flesh"

Grace and Peace, Bro. Robert Cobb

## KNOWING THE TIME OF HIS APPEARING

BROTHER ROBERT COBB

*"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:9-12)*

Peter "knows the time" and he also knows what to minister "at this time" He reminds them that they have been "chosen by God" to be a special people! And that God expects more from them than any other people! The Saints have been given "the armor of light" because their warfare is "not carnal. but it a spiritual warfare" They have been equipped to stand because God has given them mercy! More appeals need to be made to the "strangers and pilgrims" that are presently living in this world!

*"For our conversation (manner of life) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:" (Philippians 3:20)* Knowing the time involves being able to perceive the futility of setting down roots in the earth! Eventually, this whole world, the galaxy, the

stars, they all will be "folded up" like a garment and rolled up like a scroll When salvations work is complete this world will not remain a second longer!

*"And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." (Isaiah 34:4)*

*"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail." (Hebrews 1:10-12)*

*"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Peter 3:11-13)*

Brethren "now is our salvation nearer than when we believed"

Grace and Peace, Bro. Robert Cobb



# WHAT IS TRANSFORMATION?

BROTHER BOYCE MOUTON

*“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing, and perfect will.” (Romans 12:2).*

As you know there are 4 stages to the life cycle of a butterfly. (1) Egg. (2) Caterpillar. (3) Cocoon. (4) Butterfly. For the sake of this brief article, we will concentrate on only two, the caterpillar, and the butterfly.

Caterpillars are a very destructive insect pest. They can devastate a food crop overnight. All they do is eat! They start by consuming the leaf on which they were hatched, and then proceed to destroy everything they touch. During this stage of their life, they can eat over 30,000 times their own weight. They move by arching their bodies and inching forward. Obviously, they cannot move very fast.

Butterflies, by contrast, move fast by comparison and will not destroy your garden. These brightly colored creatures can be a welcome addition to your garden. Not only are they beautiful, but they are also useful in pollinating flowers. As you know, they come out of their cocoon with the amazing ability to fly and also to navigate. With reference to the monarch butterfly, they typically start their northward journey somewhere in Mexico or the Southern United States. Several generations later, in less than a year, they wind up in Canada. As winter approaches this new generation of monarch butterfly defies the life span of its parents and lives long enough to fly 3,000 miles back home to Mexico.

This transformation from caterpillar to butterfly is called “metamorphosis”. This is a compound of two different greek words “meta” (change) and “morphe” (form). This is precisely the word used in Romans 12:2 to describe conversion. Christians are not to be “conformed” but “transformed”. The word “transformed” is the greek word for “metamorphosis”. It is used 4 times in the New Testament scriptures. Twice it refers to what happened to Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt 17:2; Mk 9:2). Twice it refers to what happens to the Christian in conversion (Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18).

The metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly is an eloquent illustration of conversion. No matter how hard you try, you can never teach an unconverted sinner to produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Both the butterfly and the Christian need to go through a metamorphosis.

The contrast between a caterpillar and a butterfly is so obvious that even the casual observer cannot help but notice. The same kind of transformation also takes place when someone is converted to Christ. Take, for example, the dramatic difference between the way Saul of Tarsus was before his life was transformed by Christ. Saul was destructive just like a caterpillar. Listen to his own words:

“On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord’s people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities.” (Acts 26:10,11)

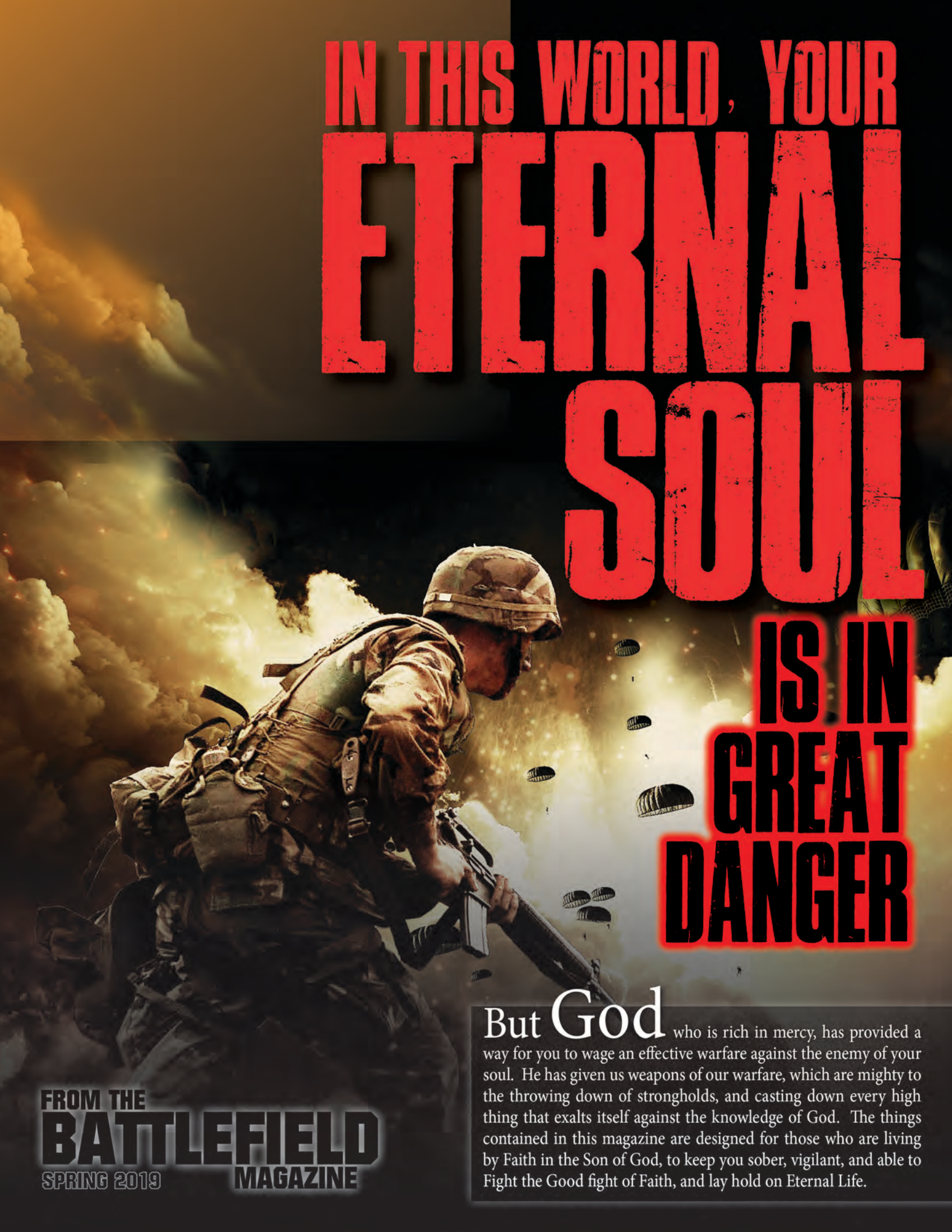
After his “transformation”, however, he harmed nobody! He even went so far as to wish himself accursed if only the people who persecuted him might be saved! (Rom 9:1-5)

Peter also experienced a “transformation”. He was once a headstrong and vacillating fisherman named Simon. After his “transformation” he was known as “Peter” which means “Rock” (Jn 1:42). This rock solid nature earned him the privilege of being listed first in every listing of the 12 apostles.

As an old man, Peter recalled the transformation of Christ on the sacred mountain. He considered this as the primary proof that he was not following cleverly invented stories (2 Pet 1:16-21). Just as Peter was an eyewitness of the transformation of Jesus, each one of us can also be an eyewitness of a similar transformation for it takes place every time someone is converted to Christ. When the works of the flesh are miraculously replaced by the fruit of the Spirit, it is like a light shining from a hill that cannot be hidden (Gal 5:19-23). That’s what it means to be “transformed!”

-Brother Boyce Mouton





# IN THIS WORLD, YOUR ETERNAL SOUL IS IN GREAT DANGER

FROM THE  
**BATTLEFIELD**  
SPRING 2019 **MAGAZINE**

But God who is rich in mercy, has provided a way for you to wage an effective warfare against the enemy of your soul. He has given us weapons of our warfare, which are mighty to the throwing down of strongholds, and casting down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. The things contained in this magazine are designed for those who are living by Faith in the Son of God, to keep you sober, vigilant, and able to Fight the Good fight of Faith, and lay hold on Eternal Life.