

BATTLEFIELD

**FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL,
BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONGHOLDS**



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Please pray for this work. We have recognized a need for this vital perspective of our Salvation in Christ Jesus to be proclaimed : that we are indeed at war. This is not an appropriate time for leisure or half heartedness. It is with this in mind that we are seeking to edifying the saints of God as they engage the enemy in the good fight of faith. It is our hope that all who read this publication would walk away from it more prepared, more zealous, and more filled with anticipation for the day when we will beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks, and we will learn war no longer.

THE NECESSITY OF GOOD INTEL

by: Matthew Cobb



No one who is serious about winning a battle goes into it without knowing anything of the nature and

strategy of their enemy. What are their numbers? What weapons do they have? Where are they encamped? What tactics do they employ? Likewise, this fight of faith that we are engaged in is one that requires that we walk with a certain spiritual intelligence. (2 Corinthians 2:11). If we are to gain the victory then it is necessary for us to know the nature of our

opposition.

In the case of man, the opposition to those who are warring consists mainly of this - our adversary, the wicked one, as well as his force of evil principalities and powers. Also there is our own members, the principle of sin within us - ammunition as it were for the devil in the time of temptation. And also, the territory in which we are dwelling is such that it aids the assault of the one who would ambush and destroy us.

When you look at the things that are against you in this fight, if you were to think of them outside of the context of divine help, it would be enough to make a man fail for fear. However, we are not defenseless against this evil host that is set up against us in dread array. Our defenses are formidable, and if

used the way they are intended are more than able to deflect the fiery darts which are hurled at us, intended for our destruction.

In respect to our defenses, we have been given a very adequate armor against the assault of our enemy, (Ephesians 6:14-18). We have been set free by the truth, and as we live in it, as we are surrounded by it, we are protected from the entrance of deception. We also have been imputed the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. As we live in that awareness, as we understand that those of us who have received and are continuing in Christ have indeed received the atonement, we have the confidence that we need to traverse any and all obstacles, knowing that he that is for us is greater than he that is against us. We also have as it were a mighty shield against enemy artillery, the shield of Faith. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world, and as we believe in God, as we have faith in the keeping power of God, and keep in mind the wonderful things that he has promised to those who overcome, we are able to not only avoid injury, but to advance forward in our fight. With advancement in mind, we also must consider that our fight is just that, a fight - and not all of our resources are purely defensive - we also have a formidable weapon of offense, a sword. The sword of the Spirit, the word of God, with which we can parry the jab and thrust of the enemy. Knowing the formidable nature of our opposition, we do not handle this sword in attack with our own undisciplined fury, As zealous as one may desire to be in using this weapon - It is the sword of the spirit - he is the one that makes it effective in its employment. By the grace of God, as we are sensitive to his purpose we are able to be workers together with him, and to use it decisively so that we can make strategic and devastating blows. When this is done, territories which were once enemy strongholds may be liberated and the enemy put to flight.

And if this were not enough, we have also a protection against warfare in our minds.

We have as a helmet salvation - the knowledge of who it is that liberated us from the enemy stronghold, and who is willing and able to lead us all the way to victory. We are protected as well from the temptations of the enemy to be discouraged in thinking that God is far from us. In knowing that we are at peace with him, we draw near.

Our peace with God and involvement in his purpose gives us confidence that our prayers are not hindered, that we have a good signal as it were, a good line of communication with home base from the front lines. We are able to call back and give report of the status of the battle, as well as request supplies, reinforcements, or perhaps an air strike against the enemy encampment. And lastly, because our environment aids the enemy in his assault, we have been granted a safe house in heaven. We have been given a place of respite, a place where we can resort to where the enemy cannot touch us. (Ephesians 2:6) An embassy, as it were, of the country to which we are going.

With all of this being said, the purpose of looking more closely into the nature of both our opposition as well as the adequacy of our protection against it - is to be able to fight a better fight. If we keep in mind what is against us, and what we have been given to face it, we are less likely to be caught unawares and fall into a snare. It is with this desire that I write these things unto you, that you might be built up in the most holy faith, fortified against the erosion of assault, and strengthened to keep marching toward the end of our campaign. *From the battlefield, your fellow soldier in Christ,*

We must never presume that we are strong enough for the battle, the victory over sin is not found in those who are overcoming, but in the God who gives them to overcome! - Overcoming is not an end in itself, but it is a means to clear the path in order for fellowship!

FAST FOOD

C-Rations are not the most appealing of meals, unless of course you have not eaten for a week! Then you will be surprised what people are willing to eat! - it is the same for those who are enduring trials, sometimes finding edification can be like finding water in the desert, but when you find it, nobody has to beg you to drink! - Here are some "Quick Meals" to eat on the go!

- Jesus took away my sin!
- God is for me, Satan is Not!
- Faith Is The Victory!
- Heaven is Real, So is Hell
- Only Seekers Obtain Eternal Life!
- Grace Is Available To You!
- Jesus Is seated with God on His Throne.
- God Is Worthy Of Worship and Praise!
- Keep the Faith and The Faith Will Keep You!!
- Walking in the Spirit Pleases God!
- Jesus is Bringing Many Sons To Glory.
- Glory and Honor is Waiting!
- All Those In Christ Get More Grace!

The Day of Victory

Everyone in a war is looking for that time when they will obtain the victory, the time when all the struggle and hardship will be over and those in Christ are no exception!

Our great commander has told us to be "faithful unto death" and we shall receive a crown of life! Those who have taken the Lord serious have "sold all that they have" and are following their leader. It would be a lie to say that the road is not hard, there have been many times when the missions have failed, but there has never been a time when the commander has failed to "give more grace" to those who have layed down their lives for their companions.

We are called into a fellowship of suffering, a fellowship that cannot be ignored by those who are serious. The glory that is to be revealed in those who walk by faith and rely on thier God to empower them for the fight.

Let this consideration move you to a greater appreciation for the grace that our commander has given, let us never be found sleeping on duty, and let us always be about



Day 1 - 2330 Hours

It's almost midnight, and we have been told that the enemy could attack at any moment. This is no time for sleeping. Many of us have banded together to form a watch group; we take turns going from foxhole to foxhole making sure we are all awake, giving exhortations to keep that which was committed unto us and to endure hardships, like a good soldier of the cross. About a week ago some of our company fell asleep right before an attack and the damage was pretty bad, fortunately our

commander sent grace to help in the time of need and they were not overcome. They have been taken off the line because they are not fit for the battle. Our commander has issued special standing orders which read "Stand fast in the liberty wherein I have made you free and be ready to give an account for the hope that is in you" He also has given us great consolation in that he said "I will never leave you, nor forsake you" If it had not been for our commanders great skill in battle we would have all perished. Enough for now, I

think I hear something in the bushes and I must check my perimeter.

0300 Hours

It is about three in the morning now, the enemy came in at our weakest point, we should have fortified that area with more prayer and fasting, but the flesh was weak. Our commander had seen this coming and sent Mercy to assist us, He is working with Diligence to repair the breach. We fought for what seemed like days, but it was just a few hours. The constant barrage of vain imaginations made it almost impossible to distinguish between friend and foe. But our commanders Father sent us special weapons for our warfare. We were more than conquerors through the use of these resources, casting down these wicked imaginations and every high thought against the knowledge of our God. The commander has called a special meeting, he is sending us deeper into enemy territory and has send Captain Jesus on before us to clear the way. He has insured us that the victory will be soon and sure. We are to take heart and trust his every command. – Wait, got to go for now – enemy is coming in like a flood...

0600 Hours

It is about six in the morning now, that last battle was fierce. It took us all by surprise. We had a traitor living among us, you would have never guessed who it was. I knew him, or at least I thought I did. The commander was clear, we had to put him out of the camp. The mail came today – ahhh - letters from the homeland. It brought tears to the eyes of many as they sat and read of the reason we are fighting so hard. To see a glimpse of the homeland will put confidence in your step!

...Lay Hold on Eternal Life...

The chaplain stood in the midst of the camp today and gave the news of the recent departed. We have seen so much heartache and sorry but we are not without hope! Our commander has promised to come and deliver us. He had told us to "Hold the line" to "Keep the faith" and to lay hold on eternal life. He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. After the meeting was over we gathered around the commander and renewed our

vows to "give all diligence in this good fight of faith" it was an amazing display when the commander instructed the company comforter to give more grace to his soldiers.

I have got to go for now, we are on the move again, we are invading the enemies stronghold today, we are all hoping that the war will end soon, but if not, we are looking for our great commanders help in every battle we fight.

A Fellow Soldier

Robert Cobb



Giving All Diligence!

What does it mean to "give" diligence? isn't God "working in us" both to will and to do of His good pleasure? then why would we have to "do" anything? Well, the answer lies in the fact that God is "bringing us" to glory, in other words, we have not arrived yet! We are on our way to the day when we shall be "glorified together with Christ" that is, if we are found to be a faithful steward of the "manifold grace" which God has made available in Christ Jesus! All the resources are in Christ and it really makes sense when you think about it, the grocery store has everything that you need to live in the body, but you have to get up out of your chair and get to the store, purchase what you need and then get them back home, then, if you actually want to gain the benefit from all that food, you have to eat it!



By Jason Hutchcraft

Facing opposition is a normal and necessary part of living by faith while in this present, evil world. The child of God should always expect struggle, opposition, and conflict as long as his or her life in

the body endures. Only when we are forever with the Lord will the end of our warfare be a reality. Until that time we must fight the good fight of faith. To fail to fight and to struggle against our opposition is to be defeated already and disqualified from the prize that is eternal glory with Christ. Coming into the Kingdom of God is the beginning and not the end of struggle. Those who preach that God's children can expect nothing but health and wealth while in the world are liars and false teachers who try to disarm the people of God. Those who look for a religious faith that will solve all their earthly troubles and give them some kind of carnal advantage in this life need to understand that faith will actually create new problems! God's plan of salvation is much bigger than just making us successful in a worldly sense because all of those things associated with life in this world are passing away.

The believer becomes aware of a great, cosmic struggle that everyone is actually a part of even though often unaware of the truth. Contrary to some human philosophies, the outcome of this cosmic conflict has never really been in doubt. It is not possible to overcome God. If it were possible then God would not be God at all! So the question of God's sover-

ign rule is not the real issue of life. The real issue for human beings in the world is which side of this conflict we are going to join. Now is the time to choose sides and everyone must choose between good and evil, between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Darkness. The choice not to choose but to attempt to remain neutral is actually itself a choice! All those who are outside of Christ are subject to the Powers of Darkness that rule this world and await their ultimate destruction and judgment.

The believer in Christ faces three great sources of opposition while still in this world: 1. The World, 2. The Flesh, and 3. The Devil. The Word of God speaks explicitly and plainly about all of these forces that come will against the child of God. There is no way to escape a confrontation with these enemies and God's people must be strong and courageous and not shrink back in fear and intimidation from the fight.

First, there is opposition from the World. The World is a Biblical term that refers to a certain system or realm. This system or realm is an organized force and source of opposition. The World is not the visible, natural world of creation but is an invisible, spiritual system that has a certain quality, purpose, and spirit. The World is in opposition to God and in a state of rebellion against Him. This enemy will mostly appeal to our senses and seeks to awaken our sensual desires, or lusts of the flesh, that will lead us away from our love and devotion to God. The World operates according to the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2.15-17). We are not to love the things of the World because it is impossible to love God will being entangled in

the pursuits of the World. These things are opposed to God and His will and we must choose which Master we will serve.

Secondly, we face opposition from the Flesh. This is the enemy within! The World is the enemy that besieges us from outside the gates, if you will, seeking to gain entry to our lives through the senses. But we also have an enemy that is inside us. The Flesh is actually our fallen, human nature that we inherited from our father Adam. This nature is sinful even from birth and has rebellious, selfish propensities that begin to surface even when we are still very young. Even as children we wanted things our own way, and while this seems innocent and even sometimes endearing in little children, this selfishness is the seed of a larger and more wicked harvest. The Flesh also includes those perverted desires that arise from our earthly bodies as we crave our own comfort and satisfaction. The body cries out for certain things that it wants, some of these for its own survival, but often in excess of what it actually needs. These carnal desires lead us away from God when they are pursued for their own sake. The Flesh cannot be reformed but must be denied and kept in subjection. We are tempted to sin through the desires of the Flesh. The believer will always have to fight the Flesh until we receive our new bodies. The only path to victory over the Flesh is through following the holy desires of the Spirit who indwells all true believers.

Finally, there is opposition from the Devil. The Devil, or Satan, is an evil, spiritual personality in rebellion against God. He opposes the Saints of God because he is ultimately in opposition to God. Satan cannot directly oppose God or Christ, so he pursues those who belong to God and are still in the world where he has access to them. Satan rules over a dark kingdom in this world and is called the god of

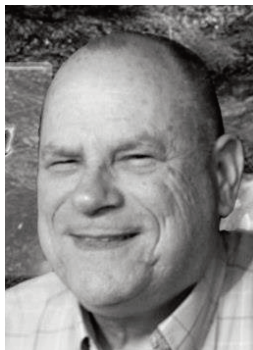
this world and the Prince of the Power of the Air. Satan also controls other spiritual personalities that we call demons, principalities, and powers which are all opposed to God and His people while exercising dominion in this world. Ultimately we struggle against these dark, spiritual powers and not against other men in the flesh. For combating this high, spiritual enemy we require special weaponry, which are supplied to those in Christ. While Christ has defeated Satan and spoiled his kingdom, we are still vulnerable to Satan and his temptations while still in this world and in these fleshly bodies and must therefore resist the Devil or be overcome by him.

Ultimately we struggle against these dark, spiritual powers and not against other men in the flesh.

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil are enemies too great and powerful for us to defeat on our own. We need help or we will fail. We greatly error when we think we are stronger than we really are, thinking more highly of our ability than we ought to think. Christ had to come into the world as a man in order to

defeat Satan and the Holy Spirit must indwell and empower us in order to give us the victory. But we must fight! This fight calls for readiness and alertness. We cannot fall asleep or be lazy because our Enemy is on the prowl like roaring lion seeking those whom he can devour! We should never think that we are immune to his attacks and schemes. Instead we are to put on the full Armor of God, which is a deliberate process of spiritual readiness. Failure to do this will inevitably result in our defeat and downfall. But we do not have to be weak and defenseless. The best defense is simply learning to say "No!" This is how Jesus resisted the Devil, along with the affirmation of the Word of God. We do not have to fall into temptation, but if we do, we must get up immediately and go to our Father confessing our sins. Having obtained mercy and grace to help in our time of need, we go back out into the fight refusing to surrender even an inch of ground to the Enemy.

“The Dividing of the Spoil”



By Al Stoner

“Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the trans-

gressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Isa. 53:12).

The concept of spoiling and the dividing of the spoils has been well established in Moses and the Prophets. By many graphic expressions men have been made ready for the consideration of the most significant ever occurrence of this matter. Unlike all the other similar events recorded in sacred history this particular spoiling of enemies would have eternal consequence, and it would have a decisive bearing on the destinies of all men. Jesus Christ is “is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe” (I Tim. 4:10).

The specific occurrence of reference, of course, was when, at His weakest point, the Lord Jesus Christ spoiled wicked principalities and powers, leading captivity captive, and giving gifts unto men. He plundered all oppositions, and seized from them all things that stood in the way of God righteously imparting the glorious benefits of salvation to men that Christ had purchased and secured for them by His death and resurrection.

By His own death and resurrection from the dead Christ “abolished death” (II Tim. 2:10), and also “destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil” (Heb. 2:14). The Lord Jesus Christ has “put away sin by

the sacrifice of Himself” (Heb. 9:26), and as a result, “the accuser of” the “brethren”, Satan, which accused them day and night, was cast down out of heaven (cf. Rev. 12:10). Christ, “the Second Man” (I Cor. 15:47), was raised from the dead, and exalted to the right hand of God, and as a direct consequence, life and immortality has been brought to light by the gospel (II Tim. 2:10). The Savior has abolished death, thus robbing it of its once dreaded sting (I Cor. 15:55-56) and the enslaving thralldom that it formerly imposed upon men.

Some Uses of the Word “Spoil”. The word “spoil”, as it is used in Scripture, means to plunder, or to take by force, and does not have the significance that men commonly attach to it today, such as “spoiled milk”, or a “spoiled child”. The many instances of this expression in Scripture will serve to illustrate graphically the sense of this word.

The following expressions are representation of the way this word is used in Scripture. Each of them lends a vital significance to the application made by the Apostle with regard to Christ spoiling principalities and powers (see Col. 2:15). In many instances a form of the word “spoil” is coupled together with other words which also serve to clarify its meaning. In the next paragraph we have put some of them in ALL CAPS to illustrate this point.

“And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such things as they required. AND THEY SPOILED THE EGYPTIANS” (Exod. 12:36). “Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them” (Jdgs. 2:16). “The land shall be **UTTERLY EMPTIED, AND UTTERLY SPOILED:** for the LORD hath spoken this word” (Isa. 24:3). “But this is a people **ROBBED AND SPOILED;** they are all of them **SNARED IN HOLES,** and they are **HID IN PRISON HOUSES: THEY ARE FOR A PREY,** and **NONE DELIVERETH; FOR A SPOIL,** and **NONE SAITH, RESTORE” (Isa. 42:22).** “**WOE**

UNTO US! FOR WE ARE SPOILED” (Jer. 4:13). “AND WHEN THOU ART SPOILED, WHAT WILT THOU DO?” (Jer. 4:30). “BECAUSE THE LORD HATH SPOILED BABYLON, and DESTROYED OUT OF HER THE GREAT VOICE . . .” (Jer. 51:55). “For thus saith the Lord GOD; I will bring up a company upon them, and will give them to be REMOVED AND SPOILED” (Ezek. 23:46).

“And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it (His Cross)” (Col. 2:15). “And having disarmed principalities and powers, He mocked them in public, triumphing over them in it” (EMTV). “He defeated the rulers and powers of the spiritual world. With the cross he won the victory over them and led them away, as defeated and powerless prisoners for the whole world to see” (ERV). “And the hostile princes and rulers He shook off from Himself, and boldly displayed them as His conquests, when by the Cross He triumphed over them” (Weymouth).

The Word of the Psalmist. Several wondrous declarations are made here pertaining to our redemption in Christ. “The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place. Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive: Thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death. But God shall wound the head of his enemies, and the hairy scalp of such an one as goeth on still in his trespasses” (Ps. 68:17-21).

Psalm 68 begins as a summary overview of the triumphs of the LORD Jehovah as His chosen nation Israel embarked on its journey through the wilderness to the land of Canaan, from Mt. Sinai to Mt. Zion. “The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel” (Ps. 68:8), declares the Psalmist. Such was the greatness of the conquests that it is recorded that: “kings of armies did flee apace: and she that tarried at home divided the spoil” (Ps. 68:12). Afterward it is affirmed that: “The hill of God is as the hill of Bashan; A high hill as the hill of Bashan. Why leap ye, ye high hills? This

is the hill which God desireth to dwell in; Yea, the LORD will dwell in it for ever” (Ps. 68:15-16; See also Ps. 76:1-2; Ps. 78:68-69; Isa. 14:32; Heb.12:22; Ps. 48:1-3; Ps. 68:16; Ps. 87:2 for similar references to Mt. Zion, the favored locality where God chose to dwell. In all of these things God was laying

the foundation for Himself to be able to speak about a great “salvation” that He was preparing “before the face of all people” (Lk. 2:30-31).

When one comes to verses 17 and 18 especially of this Psalm, it becomes difficult to limit one’s thinking to the significant events which preceded the possession of the Zion where David, the son of Jesse, dwelt. The words, while they no doubt have application to that original conquest and taking possession of the Mount Zion situated in “the Jerusalem which now is” (Gal. 4:25), they now transport our minds and hearts to an even greater conquest, even one that has eternal consequences, benefits, and outworkings. After putting away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead and made His victorious ascent to the Mount Zion



The Diving of the Spoil - Continued...

that is in the heavens, with “angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him” (I Pet. 3:22). “When He had by Himself purged our sins,” He “sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb. 1:3). Neither the passing of time nor the induction into the eternal state is able to wash away or diminish the effects of this never-to-be-forgotten conquest. Indeed, “who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can show forth all His praise?” (Ps. 106:2).

The Association Made by Paul of the Psalm 68 Text. “But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph. 4:7-14).

Unto Everyone of Us Are Given Grace. From the ascension of Christ have flowed, and are

yet flowing, benefits unto all of the children of God, without exception. [Wherever men are not receiving from Jesus they are none of His.] Grace to believe the Word of God, grace to hear and receive the truth, grace to understand the truth, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift of new creatureship itself, grace to hope in God, grace to labor for Jesus’ sake, grace to minister in Jesus’ Name, grace to skilfully teach the Word of God, grace to powerfully preach the gospel, grace to rightly divide the Word of truth, grace to show mercy, grace to edify the body of Christ are but some of the rich benefits proceeding forth from the risen and glorified Savior.

***Only Jesus knows
through and
through the vessels
upon which and in
which He is be-
stowing the gifts.***

“And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.” We are indebted to Christ for each of the Apostles. Apart from Jesus there would be none of the men who have become so dear to us. Paul, John, Peter,

James, and the rest of the Apostles uniquely became who and what they were by the grace of God, and because Christ was dwelling in them. And they were enabled to do and get done what they did for the same reason.

Wherever the fervent desire, the sincere burden, and the unquestionable ability with regard to gifts that are more public in nature, such as preaching and teaching, are perceived and manifested, even in their early stages, there is evidence that the Lord Jesus Christ has been at work instilling and perfecting these gifts in the individual. But a word of caution must be added here. James admonishes us: “Be not many of you teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment” (Jas. 3:1, ASV). “Not many of

you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness" (ESV).

According to the Measure of the Gift of Christ. Both the gifts and the measure of each of the gifts are determined by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. What He gives is in perfect accord with divine wisdom and knowledge. Only Jesus knows through and through the vessels upon which and in which He is bestowing the gifts. Only He knows the capacities, temperaments, and capabilities of each of the vessels. He knows them not from the perspective of what each of them has to offer, but rather from that of what He Himself is purposing to work and accomplish in each of them. Because of the moral devastations caused by the entrance of sin into the world we all had as our doleful beginning the apt description "desolate heritages" (Isa. 49:8) which the Lord Jesus Christ would graciously take possession of "to take out of them a people for His name" (Acts 15:14).

That the LORD God Might Dwell Among Them. The purpose for which these gifts were given unto men was and is to ready redeemed personalities to be the dwelling place for the Most High in the ages to come. That is the grand end toward which the redemption in Christ Jesus is moving, all the way up unto its consummation. "As God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people" (II Cor. 6:16; see also Exod. 29:45; Lev. 26:12; Ps. 90:1; Ezek. 43:9; Zech. 2:10-11; Jn. 6:56; I Jn. 4:15; Rev. 21:3, etc.). All of the gifts that Jesus bestows upon His church are essential unto this end, even those which may seem to be less important. Every one of Christ's brethren have a vital part to contribute unto the completion of this dwelling place, whether they be Apostles, teachers, those who exhort, those who give, those who are kindly affectioned, or those who show mercy (see Rom. 12).

Do Not Forsake The Assembly



By: Eva Blakely

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,

as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

The LORD has provided for us abundantly in giving us The Brethren of like precious Faith. For these are our fellow soldiers in The Good Fight. These are they who are our encouragers, our exhorters, our teachers, comforters, companions. The bond we have with The Brethren goes beyond this present evil world and into our Eternal Home with our LORD. Yet, seeing as this is the truth, the manner of some is to 'forsake the assembling of ourselves together' (Heb. 10:25). When this is done, it weakens our ability to fight. Any soldier has physical training, which is necessary for them to perform to the best of their ability. Believers, who do not fight against flesh and blood (Eph. 6:12), have what might be seen as 'spiritual training'.

The meeting together of The Saints is a necessity to the Body of Christ. It is when we partake of the various ministries that each member has. We are encouraged and comforted. Our minds are sharpened, our understanding is made deeper. We are made more alert. All of these things are great advantages in the Good Fight of Faith.

The armed forces do not think fondly of a soldier who forsakes his company. Nor does The LORD think well of Brethren forsaking Brethren. The assembling of The Saints is a provision HE has given to HIS people. A provision to be taken advantage of.

Surely I Will Go With Thee



the duty which has been given to us.

And the Lord said, "Surely I will go with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man." Judges 6:16

What a marvelous promise Gideon received from the Lord in a time when it had seemed that the Lord had surely forsaken his people and delivered them into the hands of the Midianites. It was because of the disobedience of God's people that they had been delivered into the hands of the Midianites. However, this time of chastening was still being governed by the Lord of Glory, and he was on the threshold of delivering His people out of the hands of the enemy. He was calling His servant, who, by his own estimation came from a stalk of poor people and he was the least in his father's house. Nonetheless, God looks on the heart of man, and when He finds faith, He is pleased. You may be, by the world's standards, or even your own standards, poor and the least in your father's house, but do you have faith in God? This is, indeed the question we all must ask ourselves. Examine yourself, do you find faith?

When the Lord speaks, it is with great power and supreme authority. When the word of the Lord goes out, whatever He has spoken is sure to come to pass. He has spoken the creation into existence by His word. By His word, He revealed that there would be the coming Messiah who would be the Saviour of the entire world. Again, He spoke to Noah concerning the destruction of the world and commissioned him to save a remnant. Abraham believed God because the Lord had promised, by His word, to bless many nations through the seed of Abraham. Down through the ages the Lord has spoken His word, never

once failing to fulfill it. While there are still

some of His promises yet to be fulfilled, those who walk by faith in the Son of God, can hearken back to times of old, and even in our own walk, and see that when the Lord speaks, it is with great power attended by the means to bring it to pass.

In our particular passage the Lord spoke directly to Gideon through an angel. Have you heard the Lord speak to you? I don't mean in an audible way, but to your heart. When the Lord speaks to his saints what he commissions us to do is doable, and only because he assures us, as he did Gideon, "Surely I will go with thee." If we look at Gideon's commission from a man's viewpoint, it would seem quite strange. In fact, I would venture to say that if you asked any military expert if he thought you could win a battle with an exceedingly small army, with your weapons being a vessel, a lamp and a trumpet, you may be relegated to the insane asylum. No man in his right mind would seek to win a battle of this magnitude with these unconventional provisions. However, if the Lord is the one calling into battle, whom do you have to fear? In the case of Gideon, the Lord wanted to make sure that there was no room for the flesh to take the glory of the deliverance from the Midianites. In fact, he wanted to make sure that all those who would be delivered that night would come to the conclusion that the battle belonged to the Lord as did the victory. It is the same with the people of God today. We are not saved by our own strength, nor are we kept by our own means. For it is by grace that we are saved through faith, and this not of ourselves, but it is the gift of God. It is God that keeps us from falling in order that He might present us spotless and blameless, with exceeding joy. He is the one, who raised us up and set our feet on a firm foundation, and He is the one, who supplies all of our needs in Christ Jesus, and He

is the one, who will be with us, even unto the

end of the world. You may be called to enter a fierce battle that seems to be too big and too brutal for you to endure. You may even see casualties around you and those whose hearts fail them for fear. You also may witness the enemy grow in number and behold things going on around you that make no sense at all. But be encouraged, if the Lord of Glory has enlisted you in this battle, you will hear Him say to you as well, "Surely I will go with thee."

The Lord did not say to Gideon surely I will go with thee and will do everything for you. No, He told Gideon that he would be the one to smite the Midianites. In Christ, we have been made co laborers together with God. We are working in His kingdom on His behalf. Any battle that we fight by faith is the Lord's. And while the Lord supplies all that we need, we take up the weapons, and we put on the armor and we fight. The saints have not been called to recluse into a corner upon coming into the kingdom and wait there timidly until the Lord Jesus returns. We must fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life. Jesus said "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Are we greater than our Master? Did not our Lord fight and prevail? We are told that He learned obedience through the things that He suffered. Do we think that we should sail to heaven on flowery beds of ease while others sail through bloody seas? God forbid. Jesus has told us no man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of heaven. As the hymn writer put it so well, so you must fight, be brave, against all evil, never run, nor even lag behind. If you would win for God and the right, just keep on the firing line.



Thoughts from Sister Tegen Davidge

How does my faith benefit my life? Thinking in a purely earthly sense, it doesn't. In fact, in many ways it makes life harder. Earth is a spiritual war zone, and deciding to truly live by faith is like throwing oneself into the middle of it.

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. - Ephesians 6:12

But be not discouraged. This world is only temporary, and God gives us His Holy Spirit as a comforter and guide. I used to get down on myself when I felt weak, but I have been learning that that is when I can rejoice the most. Just when I think that I have nothing left to give, just when I am feeling overwhelmed by my own weakness, God overwhelms me with His strength.

My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. -2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

How wonderful it is that we serve a God that is willing to meet us where we are and run with us a little farther each day! And how ironic it is that we have nothing to give Him that He did not give us. We can only give it all back.



I'm Fighting For My Life Here!

By: Sister Julie Miller

When you meet an opponent in their home town...they seem to have the advantage... after all, you are in their territory and you will be surrounded by their followers. You arrive & everyone is cheering...but not for you...you see all kinds of signs being held up by the crowd, but it's not for you...you are in a strange and unfamiliar place and it's nothing like your home. When you size things up...you just want to get the fight over with and leave asap.

You see your opponent look at you, sizing you up. He may seem intimidating as he lurks about seeking to steal, kill and destroy you. You may be tempted to think...is he stronger than you? Is he going pound you into dust? Is he going to torment and toy with you...scoff at you...take you down with the weight and cares of this world? You may begin to question yourself. Are you ready for this fight? Did you prepare for it? Did you receive the right instructions from ones who have experienced this kind of fight? Did the one who set this fight up know what you were capable of taking on? Is this a losing battle? Can I do this?

I'M FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE HERE! This world is full of distractions, the opponent, powers and principalities in high places, even my own flesh. The flesh is only stronger if I don't carry my cross. You see, the cross I carry is heavy, and in carrying it daily I have built up spiritual muscle. So yes. I see how flesh looks at me, but I have been to the well of refreshing water today

and I have been strengthened and built up. The manna was fresh and I have been given precious promises, instructions, and guidance on how to conduct myself in this fight. I have shined up my armor and put it on. I may appear to be small, but I have a great weapon that cannot be seen by the world...the Holy Spirit and Christ sitting on the Throne, dispensing grace and strength as I need, right when I need it. I know there is this great cloud of witnesses watching me from the homeland and cheering me on!

Oh this evil one is out for blood...my blood...but I'm not playing around here... I'm fighting for my life! I am going to fight with all I have because, only one of us is going to survive this! One of us is not going to get back up when the fight is over and even though the evil one is determined that I will be the one not getting back up...I am even more determined to get up and stand strong... For I have set my face as a flint and I shall not be stopped. I CAN fight because truly, truly, truly...greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. I have won another battle & I will not be discouraged because I am on the Lord's side & I am determined to finish this with my faith strong. So let's do this...are you with me... let's continue to stand & build one another up...let's continue to fight with the sword in one hand while the other is building.

WE ARE ABLE WITH CHRIST!



Thoughts from Sister Baylie Sims

While still in this world we have a battle to fight in and that is the battle for Christ. We are soldiers of Christ so we must arise and fight. This battle is not of flesh and blood. (Ephesians 6:12) Why do we fight? Hasn't Christ already defeated Satan? Satan has been defeated yes, but we fight because Satan is still trying to take the life out of as many men as he can. What would you do if someone were trying to take your life? Would you sit there and let them take your life or would you fight back aggressively? You would fight back. I am not willing to sit back and let Satan take the Eternal Life that has been given to me away. God has given me Eternal Life but Satan doesn't want you to have that so he will try and take it. We must lay hold on the life we have been given. (1 Timothy 6:12) You cannot fight or survive without the armor that God has provided. (Ephesians 6:13-17) This armor is given so that when we fight we do so we are victorious. This battle is not easy but we have a mighty and wonderful Captain, Jesus Christ. I always get a picture of a soldier who is getting tired and is fighting hard and just as he turns around he sees his captain and the captain is gaining victory so that moves the soldier to press on. That is the way it is with the soldiers of Christ. As we are fighting we must look to our Captain has battled before and overcome the enemy. God will strengthen us in the battle. (Isaiah 40:29) You must continue to press on and fight. There will be those around you who will fall but you must continue on and be sure that you have fellow soldiers who are in the battle still pressing on too. Also continue to wait upon the Lord and you will have strength. (Isaiah 40:30-31) We must fight as soldiers of Christ not as those who "beateth the air". (1 Corinthians 9:26) But be encouraged that this battle will end and we want to be faithful so that we may be counted worthy to enter the Kingdom, for those who do not fight are not worthy. For it would be pleasing to God if we could say this at the end of our battle, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:" (2 Timothy 4:7)



Although it is the desire of all those pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus to be continually making forward progress, we all admit there are times when we are faced with a situation in which it takes all that we have merely to stand, and not lose ground. However, this being said - there is a liability in remaining in this state for longer than is necessary. Anyone who is acquainted with trench warfare knows that when there is a long period of standoff in battle there is a stagnation that occurs which introduces many complications. There is a condition known as "trench foot" where a persons foot literally rots off from being constantly wet from living in the dank trenches. This is also possible in the spirit for those who are content to live at a standstill. So then, keep on the firing line, let it be said of you, that you are not one who turns back unto perdition, but believes to the saving of the soul !

Quench The Fiery Darts



By Sister Melissa Parker

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 6:13-18)

I want to focus on quenching all the fiery darts of the wicked. This is something all saints are interested in doing. If you are in Christ you will and have had fiery darts. If you are new in the faith, you may not easily recognize them for what they are. It is Satan's aim to steal your joy. He only wants to steal kill and destroy. Young ones, Satan does not want you to make it to heaven. He would that the whole assembly be distracted with fiery darts. But we have good news! We learn from these verses in Ephesians that the shield of faith is able to quench ALL of these darts not just some. This is not a surprise to most, if not all who are reading this. We believe this is the truth.

We must first be able to identify fiery darts. With use, your senses are exercised to discern both good and evil. (Heb 5:14) You learn to choose the good, refuse the evil. In order for this quenching to work you must be involved. This is an important principle in the kingdom of God : he involves His people in His work.

You have to take up the shield of faith while having on the full armor of God. My experience has led me to think in this way: First identify the thought. If it is against God, against the Spirit, or against the brethren it is a fiery dart. If it is about me it is a fiery dart. If it is full of strife or envy...fiery dart. If it does not promote peace, fiery dart!

Darts can be little foxes. They can be your weakness in the flesh. This is where God is your strength; thru your weakness he is made strong. You can overcome the weakness of your fleshly mind. Fiery darts may not appear to be what they really are. They may even be legitimate thoughts in the flesh. These thoughts may even have to do with something you yourself are not satisfied with in yourself or even an area that a fellow believer has not matured in yet. Does it not seem reasonable to think Satan would disguise these so as to deceive you? After all He is the father of lies.

You must gird up the loins of your mind, Let patience do its perfect work, and put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. (Col 3:14) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (Col 3:15) Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (Heb 12:14) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; (Heb 12:15)

Our shield of faith is comprised of an abundant supply from God. Prayer is a way to use our shield. Prayer can be used for yourself and for the whole body of Christ. We can pray for each other at any time! What a glorious provision from our Lord. Prayer is a mighty weapon

and is a way you use your shield of faith. This taking up the shield of faith denotes using it. Trust is part of faith. You trust God and the darts are quenched. You trust he is in control of all things and your mind is at peace. It settles your mind.

Quench ALL the fiery darts. If all are not quenched there will be fire. So as a thought when a fiery dart comes your way you must immediately quench it. Recognize it and extinguish it. Only those born of God are able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one. Remember, these darts are of the unseen realm. We must see them for what they are. If you will notice, fiery darts always seem to try to get your focus on yourself! Fiery darts can consume you. They can occupy your mind.

We can actually quench some fiery darts before they get shot by not speaking about one another's weaknesses in the flesh. Know no man after the flesh. This is important not only in the assembly but at home as well. Do not be misled into thinking differently.

All of our flesh is a liability. This knowing no man after the flesh is part of our battle. It is part of crucifying our flesh. To do these things we have to live in the spirit.

We do not take time off from the kingdom. Christ is our life. Being able to quench darts bears a direct correlation to endurance; to finishing the race; to growing up in Christ.

Satan would steal your joy especially if he can do it while you are gathered with the saints. He would have you be in constant turmoil in your mind. However, we can use what Satan intends for evil to our advantage. We can use the fire of the darts to burn off dross. Use your faith to quench all the darts. Exercise your faith. The shield of faith covers the whole body and is able to quench all of the fiery darts. No matter where they come from, who they come

from, or how many there are. Whether they be from the outside or the inside the shield is able to protect you. Use your faith to analyze thoughts and determine what they are. Your faith can help you to think clearly, after all isn't this part of quenching; girding up the loins of your mind; doing battle in your mind. Using your mind can be one of the most fatiguing activities. This is why you have to have a strong mind. You will not be ready for this if you are not exercising your faith. You have to use your shield. The more you use your shield the stronger you become and are able to "hold up" the shield, so to speak. You are able to recognize a dart instantaneously. If you are lazy at this Satan will gain control of your mind. Your shield has to be protecting you at all times.

There is not a time that you can put it down. We are now living in dangerous times. You are at war, brethren. You have to be ON GUARD! Quenching these darts can and will give you peace. However, you will not be completely free of the battle until you drop this robe of flesh. We have been called to peace so let the

peace of God rule in your hearts. It only takes a spark to start a flame, especially if you have dry ground. So, build up your faith with the word of God. This is the water needed to sustain your faith. Darts are meant to take your confidence away, however they can actually work to cause you to grow up in Christ. If you quench them you will be exercising faith. You will become a skillful soldier and therefore glorify God. Quenching causes your time to be fruitful. It is advantageous having done all to stand.

So, I call you today to take up your shield of faith. May we as a body be excellent at quenching all the fiery darts that we may remain fruitful and multiply as we sojourn here together on our way to glory

You will not be ready for this if you are not exercising your faith

HOLD THE LINE!

It is the persuasion of many in our day that it is much more noble to have a recovery ministry than it is to minister to the saints. In fact, there are a great many programs in place in the current religious institutions whose very existence depends upon people sinning. If people in the professed church at large were to ever become established in the faith, mature, and able to withstand the assaults of the wicked one, as the scripture promises those in Christ Jesus can be - there really wouldn't be a whole lot going on in their assemblies. Especially when we consider our Salvation from this perspective of being at war, it is apparent that It is neither wise nor expedient for believers to deal with sin only once it has reached the level of being practiced. This is most foolish Indeed. Once the line has been breached it is much more difficult to seal up than it is to fortify in the first place. This would be akin to only taking action against the enemy once they have crossed into your borders. It would be like waiting until your foe breaks down the wall of your fortress before you fight against them. This is not the manner of the New Covenant that we are partakers of in Christ Jesus. It is not our lot to be constantly failing, living in a state of continual recovery from falling. There is grace and provision to be continually increasing - going on to perfection, from glory to glory. It is for this reason We emphasize edification. We give priority to those things that foster spiritual maturity in ourselves and our fellow believers, fortifying against the day of attack rather than recovering from our failure to do so. Although we agree that it is good to know that there is grace to come back from a fall - that there is forgiveness, it is better to know that he is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, (Jude 1:24 KJV)





SET Your Affection

by Sister Nicole Cobb

Regardless of what some in our generation may say, we can in fact, if we are not careful let things slip. We can neglect salvation, and there are consequences from doing so. We must always be staying within hearing distance to Jesus. This world is full of distractions and it is Satan/s goal to distract us from heavenly things by diverting our attention to matters that do not require intimate involvement with Christ Jesus. He wants to get our mind focused on the world for just one second and then, drag us in and away from our focus on Christ. It is impossible if we lose our focus and sensitivity to stay close to him. When you are not close to him, you are in a dangerous position.

This assumption that we cannot lose the things that we have also ignores the fact that we have an enemy who is seeking to steal from us the things that we have in Christ Jesus.

Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour (1Peter 5:8)

We have to keep these things because there is an adversary, there are wicked powers outside of us that are seeking our harm. We have to fight against the environment of this “present evil world”, and we even have to fight against our own bodies that have not been redeemed. We also have to struggle to keep because there is such a thing as the “evil day” Our brother Job could testify of this, that there are itmes when the leash of your enemies is lengthened, so to speak, and the wicked one is allowed to cause calamity. Keeping is not something that happens it is something that requires great effort.

Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth (Colossians 3:2)

You have to SET your affection, you have to place it there, you have to keep it there. This word that the apostle Paul delivered to the Colossians assumes that your affections, if they are not purposely directed in the appropriate place, tend downward. The fact that we must be exhorted to do so implies that if we are not diligent to do so it will not happen. We must walk in the Spirit that we have been given, we must put on the new man and put off the old. Because of the stagnation that is all around us in the world, the enemies that we have against us, and the body which we must fight against, our desires have to be cultured, so to speak. And to be sure, we do not have a great desire for the things of God by rarely considering them. We have to often taste of the good things to come so that we develop a craving for the things which we are now partaking of the firstfruits of.

However, this being said we must not assume that the powers that are against us have the upper hand. The flesh lusts against the spirit, but the spirit lusts against the flesh as well! He who is in us really is greater than he who is in the world. This means that when you do resist, when you do make the effort to press forward, to set your affection on things above, to hold fast, to keep, you can do it! Paul also wrote to the Galatians:

If we walk in the Spirit we shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh - (Galatians 5:25)

This is not only a statement of fact, it is a promise. If we walk in the way in which we have been set, if we avail ourselves of the advantages which we have been given, if we put on the armor that has been supplied to us, we will overcome!



By; Mattie Blakely

My Dearest Bridegroom,
Your most recent message gave me great joy at its arrival!

The whole household is in a flurry of preparation for our upcoming nuptials, but as soon as I heard of the arrival of

your faithful messenger I dropped everything and came to hear the news and to read your dear letter. Imagine with what joy I received the news that you are even now making preparations to return and take me, your faithful bride, to be your wife! What a thrill it gave me to know that our time of waiting is finally coming to an end!

These past years of war have been long and difficult to endure, but your servants have been faithful and true to you. Our enemy has not ceased in his attempts to overcome us and has sent daily messengers of his own. He would tell us lies about the battles, trying to convince us that all had been lost and that we had better surrender to him. His arguments were convincing, he has had much practice in the craft of lying, and there were times when we were almost fooled. He would fabricate evidence to try and make his lies seem more plausible, but in the end we saw through his story for the lie it was and did not believe him and stood fast in our faith and did not give in to his demands. Sure enough, after a little while your faithful messenger would arrive and deliver the true account to us, that the enemy had been thoroughly defeated!

Oh, how we rejoiced each time we heard of another victory over our enemy! Our enemy used such compelling language and tried very much to convince us to believe him but our faith in our Great Commander was stronger than any argument the enemy could make. So, here we are, awaiting the sound of the trumpet that will signal that you have crossed over into the borders of the realms of the kingdom.

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It is so encouraging to know that any day now you will arrive and the wedding ceremony can commence! In the meantime, while we are waiting, no one is idle in the house. Every member is laboring in their preparations so that all will be ready at your arrival.

We all greatly look forward to your quick return and eagerly are listening for the signal that will announce your arrival. Know this my love, I will be waiting and watching for your arrival and the moment you are within sight I will not take my eyes off of you until I see you face to face.

From that time on, my dearly beloved, we will be together for all eternity, never again to part from one another.

Your Dearest One, and most humble Servant,
The Bride

More To Life.

There is more to life than meets the eye,
Yet you can see it if you try,
To seek, to search, to really know,
The one who made your seed to grow.

Filled with splendor, and with grace,
We learn what humbleness can make,
He came down from His throne on high,
Learning to live, learning to die.

Partakers of that heavenly gift,
Called to follow, called to give,
Of that same life, that they've received,
Yet, nothing in their hand they see.

Oh what a cost, that would be paid
When making Word, his Son, He gave
Looking on, through faith we see,
The one who bled and died for me.

How does one settle, an account so lost
So huge that none can count the cost,
The wage of millions, men may not pay,
The price of the blood, shed on that day.

Yes, there is more to life, than meets the eye,
And we can know it, because He died,
We come because, He bids us rise,
To seize that everlasting prize!

To see His face, yet live to tell,
No mortal price, on that can fell,
To hear the words, well done my child,
Will satisfy forever.

Brother Robert

More Letters
From The Fox Hole

Thanksgiving for Provisions

I am glad that you wrote to me about the common salvation in your last letter, we needed to hear that, as I read it aloud to the whole company they were very quiet and sober minded, it still amazes me how combat changes people, those who would otherwise mock the truth are silent here in this place where their life could be taken at any minute by a sniper! The saying is true that there are no atheists in the foxhole. After I was through reading your letter it was calm in a place that had just hours earlier been filled with the sounds of war, we lost many good people in the fight last night, it is about six in the morning now and I can't remember the last time that I slept. Even though this place is the worst place in the world I am glad for what the commander has been able to show me while I have been here. I have seen men brought to the brink of despair in the fight of faith and then in just a moment of time they have been rescued by a company of men seemingly out of nowhere, coming to bring the

good news that the war will be over soon.

We have been sent deep into the enemy lines this week to bring the good news to a few villages that have been "taken captive" by the enemy, we are praying that our commander will send provisions and help ahead to get them ready for our arrival. On our way we have encountered "a great fight of affliction" from both without and within, yet even in this we have found more grace to continue in our march towards the goal. We know that through much tribulation we shall inherit the kingdom of God and we are leaning on the good and merciful captain of our souls.

Please keep the letters coming; we need to be comforted together with you in this push toward our final objective. We know that our great commander is leading you to write these encouraging words for us to read and we are greatly in His debt. We have found Him to be a faithful leader, one that is ever with us in the fight and one who is able to keep those who trust in His judgment. We do not always understand why He wants us to "take that hill" but we know that He is with us and we know that what He tells us to do is the best decision in this war. Your letters help to keep us encouraged in this and praise be unto God for your faithfulness to fulfill your ministry to a few weary soldiers of the cross, enabling our hands to make war with any and all who oppose the truth.

God bless you until next time,

A Fellow Soldier of the Cross-

LETTERS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

...Hurry up Pilgrim; pick up your step, the enemy is almost on top of us. "Wham" - another mortar shell hits the ground not twenty feet from us, it nearly knocks us off our feet and the shock from it seems to loosen..."wham" - I awoke sometime later in the medic's tent - the next mortar was a bit too close for comfort.

I would have die for sure, but one of my comrades had pulled me to the ground at the last minute. It seems like we haven't stopped for more than five minutes since we began this mission.

We have been sent into enemy territory to rescue some of our company that had been taken captive. We had just received information from our Commander that they were being held just over that hill. That's when all the mortars started falling, it seems that the enemy knows that we are hear. We have called a prayer meeting and asked for confidence and protection from the advancing enemy



I could not believe my eyes, all the enemy soldiers that were guarding our friends had fled and there were no bars on the holding cells - our friends were cuddled together, in one of the corners of the cage. We send Sergeant Gospelman in to give them the

good news. He stood outside and proclaimed the liberty wherein Christ, Our Great Commander, had set them free! Some came out immediately, but some did not believe that the enemy was really gone, as though they would come back at

any moment and punish them for not obeying them. Sergeant Gospelman exhorted them with many more words to save themselves from this untoward situation. Eventually they all came out and we started back to our camp. This victory could only be the work of our great Commander! He has turned our captivity into freedom, and soon we will make it to the homeland.

The supply trucks arrived sometime in the night, we were too busy casting off the works of darkness and adding to our faith to notice, but as soon as we were able, we all gathered around the trucks and received the grace that was sent unto us. We were greatly comforted together with the peace that passed understanding. We are being called to a great battle tonight where our faith will surely be tested and tried to prove it is genuine. More later, we are loading up for the final push over this hill.

We made it back to base camp about 3 AM and it became evident where the enemy had been. Many of our comrades lay dead and others were wounded beyond remedy. The cries of those wounded will forever be embedded into my heart and mind, our enemy is not our friend and he will kill us if we let our guard down, even for a second. We questioned one man before he died and it seems that one of the posted security details had fallen asleep - Oh, how are the mighty fallen, Our Commander walked through the camp this morning and told us that through much tribulation we shall enter into his kingdom. He told us to be

diligent, because our adversary, The Devil, is walking about, seeking who he may devourer. But be of good courage, I have prayed for you all. We worked till noon burying the dead and we look unto the last day to see them alive again.

This perhaps may be my last transmission to you, it seems as though the battle rages hotter and hotter - we that remain have gathered more grace and mercy from the last of the supplies. We are going on to complete our main mission of advancing the kingdom of our great Commander. We are pleased to suffer for his name sake; because he has given us eternal life, he has given us to know his Father and to see him as he is. This alone is a treasure past finding out in this evil world. We will advance and seek out the enemy wherever they are and we will drive their vain imaginations to the ground. We will, by the grace and mercy of our great Commander, prove that faith is the victory that overcomes this present evil world.

Until He Comes, We shall fight the good fight of faith! We shall never surrender!

Amen. - Robert Cobb

COMMENTS

--FROM THE FOXHOLE--



Living the truth daily by carrying your cross daily is anything but fun. In the real world of the heavenly realm; it is a constant battle to keep one's mind on Christ and to abide in HIS LOVE. IT is a continual fight and IF GOD has not taught you how to war; it is planned, so be patient as HE gives you your favored ARMOUR for the journey of faith. - Sister Carol Maguire Mattice

we are like those in Jehoshaphat's day. The Lord won the battle and the people spent the next three days gathering the spoils of the victory -Brother Pat Woods

When men insist on disobeying their commander, they make themselves a prey to the enemy - Brother Robert Cobb

Our defenses are formidable, and if used the way they are intended, are more than able to deflect the fiery darts which are hurled at us, intended for our destruction. - Brother Matthew Cobb

Some say that they are "struggling" with sin, but those who are sinning are not struggling with it, they are doing it! - Brother Jason Hutchcraft

Our enemy used such compelling language and tried very much to convince us to believe him but our faith in our Great Commander was stronger than any argument the enemy could make. - Sister Mattie Blakely

You are but a poor soldier of Christ if you think you can overcome without fighting, and suppose you can have the crown without the conflict. Saint John Chrysostom (c. 347-407)