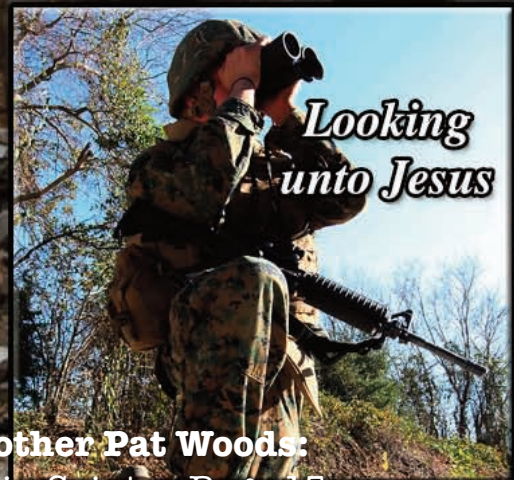


FROM THE BATTLEFIELD

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



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FROM THE BATTLEFIELD QUARTERLY



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EAT IT ANYWAY!

By: Brother Matthew Cobb

Our current fight is one which requires any and all resources that we can be afforded. There is no aspect of the truth which is non-essential - it must be taken as it is in whole if we are to gain the maximum benefit. Any and all times of respite that we are granted are to be taken advantage of fully - with the reality in mind that they exist to ready us for the next wave of opposition which is sure to come upon us. In the text before us, the children of Israel are in a time of fierce conflict - yet their leader has issued a peculiar command which has hindered their progress in the battle.

(1 Samuel 14:24 -30)

And when the people were come into the wood, behold, the honey dropped; but no man put his hand to his mouth: for the people feared the oath. But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened. Then answered one of the people and said:

Thy father straitly charged the people with an oath, saying, Cursed be the man that eateth any food this day. And the people were faint. Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey?

As sad as it is to say, there are a great many men in our day who are doing the same thing to the people of God that Saul did to Israel on this day.

They do not allow the people to partake of the things which would most energize and renew them for the battle, simply because of their own selfish ambition and lust for power. Notice in the first verse of our text, there is no concern for the well being of the people - no provision made for their benefit and safety - the reason for the oath itself was this - "that I may be avenged of MINE enemies" The provision of the people in this time was of no concern to Saul because it brought him no

perceived benefit and advantage. Likewise, The revealed purpose of God in Christ Jesus, as it concerns men - the building of the church, their formation into a habitation of God in the Spirit, is one which cannot be capitalized by men for profit.



It is for this reason that they steer clear of mentioning texts which may be considered "controversial" - As if there were sections of it which should be avoided. However, in reality, they do so because they are motivated by the same spirit as Saul, as well as the religious elite in the time of Christ. Anything which seemingly gets in the way of the agenda of these men, and their own glorification in the eyes of fellow men is to be opposed.

This condition of man both in the past and present is a product of the working of our adversary, and ought to be a reminder to us all of the nature of our opposition - that it is both fierce and cunning. I find it no coincidence that the most neglected section of scripture in our day also happens to be the one which affords the most revelation and spiritual benefit.

There are certain passages of scripture that are like this wood that Israel came to in our text. They are "dropping", so to speak, with the "honey" of the gospel. Just as Jonathan was enlightened when he tasted of it, those who take advantage of the abundance of revelation we have been granted in the writings of the apostles, are renewed in the spirit of their mind. In our generation, there has been a call forbidding believers to eat of these good things. This call has gone out because, for those wishing to make merchandise of men, the gospel is an inconvenient truth. It is one that would put their workshops out of business. It is one that would remove any and all need for their counseling programs. Their books would not sell, and their buildings would be empty. The religious machine relies on people being infantile spiritually. This is the reason why there are many who, just like the Israelites on that day were "faint", because they have heeded this call.

So, being aware of the circumstances in which we find ourselves, I would like to exhort my fellow believers concerning this call. If someone tells you not to eat it, eat it anyway! If God has given you something, use it! If it has been re-

vealed in scripture, believe it! If God has promised it, then hope in it! Don't allow the "yeah but" and "well what he really meant was" of men neuter the truth in your understanding. Having said these things, here are a few things which are "food" for thought.

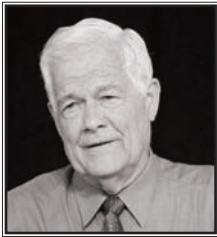
God has set forth his son to be a propitiation (Rom 3:25) There is a remedy for sin and alienation, and it is Jesus! We have been granted a "way" to God. The "truth" has been made known. The "life" of God is available to all those who would have it. All of these things are available in the Lord Christ Jesus, the son of God, (John 14:6)

You are in Christ primarily because God chose you in him before the foundation of the world. (2 Thess 2:13) Although we recognize the very real need for men to "call upon the name of the Lord" (Romans 10:13). It must be seen that it is the Lord "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (2 Timothy 1:9) This is where our confidence lies - that we are not merely partaking in a venture of our own ambition, but we have become participants in the purpose of God.

He who began this good work in you is willing and able to finish it. (Philippians 1:6) God has called us, chosen us, brought us out of darkness into light, redeemed, reconciled, and raised us up in Christ Jesus. Seeing how much was invested in bringing us in, we are able to reason that God is not done with us yet! the scripture confirms this. He has given Jesus to be the head over all things to the church, so that:

"he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph 5:27)

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT



Brother
Boyce Mouton

The Bible is not an ordinary book. Please consider these passages of Scripture:

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."(Matt 24:35),

"The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.", (John 6:63)

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Heb 4:12).

The Bible is not just a "sword", it is "the sword of the Spirit". The Word of God is not only inspired by the Spirit, it is especially designed to conquer the spirit. There are at least two different Greek words for "sword" used in the Bible. The first is "machaira" which refers to a short double edged sword about 20 inches long. The second is "rhomphaia" which refers to a longer weapon. The Latin word for "sword" is "gladius" from which we get the word "gladiator".

The word translated as "sword" in our text is "machaira". As we have said, this is the short sword. All Roman soldiers wore this sword in a scabbard on their right side. Thus soldiers marching side by side could all draw their weapons without accidentally cutting a companion. Longer swords had to be wielded with two hands, but the "machaira" could be easily used with the right hand while the shield was supported by the left. Roman

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" (Eph 6:17)



soldiers were trained to fight with this deadly weapon in such close proximity that the long swords of their enemies were rendered useless. Roman soldiers used this sword to conquer the world and continued to use it for around 600 years. It is significant that God chose this very word to describe the Bible. It is the "Sword of the Spirit". Man is unique in creation. He is created in the "image" and "likeness" of God. "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. " (Gen 1:26-27)

Animals are two dimensional. They have a physical body and physical life. Consequently animals can be trained by the simple use of pleasure and pain. Man, however, like God is "three dimensional". Changing his conduct is not so simple. Man is "spirit", "soul", and "body"(I Thess 5:23). Because man has a "spirit" the simplistic methods of training animals do not work with him. Moses, for example, promised blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience (Deut. 27: - 28:) The punishment for disobedience was severe. He that despised Moses' Law died without mercy (Heb. 10:28). Remarkably, however, it didn't work! The Law was "powerless" and "weak" (Rom. 8:3). As irrational as it seems, the people chose to be disobedient. What the Law could not do, however, because it was weak through the flesh, God accomplished by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:2). You guessed it! The victory over sin was ac-

accomplished by the “Sword of the Spirit”. “Carnal” weapons have no power over “spiritual enemies” (2 Cor. 10:3 - 6). That’s why the “Sword of the Spirit” is essential in evangelism. Praise God! When we “walk in the Spirit” we do not fulfill the “lusts of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16). Let us, therefore, boldly pursue eyeball to eyeball contact with those whom we expect to conquer for Christ. The “Sword of the Spirit” is especially effective in close combat!

A WORD CONCERNING PERSUASION

By Brother Robert Cobb.

These are some things of which I am fully persuaded. They have to do with what God has promised to us in his son Christ Jesus.

I am fully persuaded that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matt 16:16)

I am fully persuaded that Jesus will never leave those who are walking in the Spirit, living by faith and trusting the God of their salvation. (Heb 13:5)

I am fully persuaded that God imputes “His own righteousness” to all those who put their trust in His dear Son. (Romans 3:22), (2 Cor 5:21)

I am fully persuaded that God presently “indwells the hearts of all those who are in Christ Jesus through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit” (Eph 1:13)

I am fully persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:39)

I am fully persuaded that He that has begun a good work in me will also perform it until the Day of Judgment. (Phil 1:6)

I am fully persuaded that Christ is presently reigning at the right hand of God. (1 Pet 3:22)

I am fully persuaded that God is going to soon dispatch Jesus to “come again” in power and great glory to “bring the children home” – forever to be with the Lord. (Matt 24:30)

I am fully persuaded that God is the primary chooser in salvation, that ultimately all who are saved will be so because God gave them to His Son, and His Son has taken away their sin, worked in them, perfected them and ultimately delivered them back to His Father, in order that God’s “eternal purpose” would be realized. (1 Pet 1:2)

I am fully persuaded that God is good, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

It is good to be fully persuaded of the things that God has promised. Let all who are godly glorify God and speak “often one to another” of these blessed provisions that are in Christ Jesus.

Our Current

CONFLICT



By: Brother Gene
Hutchcraft

*“And God said unto Noah,
The end of all flesh is come
before me; for the earth is
filled with violence through
them; and, behold, I will de-
stroy them with the earth.”* (Genesis 6:13)

This was God’s indictment of the human race, ten generations from Adam. God made the earth and everything in it good. Yet, man sinned and became corrupt. Each generation on every level : spirit, soul, and body degenerated from what God made them. However, those times remained under God’s watchful eye and powerful hand. He granted men their way, for a time, and revealed the wickedness to which they would sink if left to invent ways to fulfill their corrupt desires. Even to this generation certain places and people demonstrate measures of such behavior until God extends His hand to impose His will, to judge and to save. So, all things remain under the power and wisdom of God, as well as His Son, to Whom the Father commits all judgment of salvation and condemnation. That is Jesus, *“In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”* (Colossians 2:3)

The Mighty God made the earth and allows it to remain as an arena of conflict, contention, and opposition against the knowledge of Him Who is Most High. He does so to show His wisdom, truth, righteousness, and goodness by this contrasting environment. And to reveal various aspects of His nature that must have an arena of disagreement to display their everlasting wisdom, truth, and righteousness. It also reveals those opposed to these things! Scripture is a record of God’s working in this hostile environment and the open experience

of men making choices in the light of His revelation. He allows them to choose with - knowledge, however incomplete, of His will. They are then held accountable according to their measure of revelation. It will be much for those with much, little for those with little knowledge. Yet, all will give account for their deeds in the body. For God’s wisdom and understanding are complete. He does not experiment or search for insight or answers. The Almighty God leaves a record of His judgments contrasted with judgments of men in this earthly arena which He manages. It is one of conflict, trouble, disagreement or divergence which God directs to His appointed conclusion while revealing truth and allowing deception. Such is one way to describe the earth which we now inhabit and into which Jesus came from God on a mission of the greatest consequence for us, the salvation or condemnation of the human soul. God is not willing for any to perish. He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. Yet, as king of all the earth, He will act in righteousness which He has revealed in His dear Son Christ Jesus.

This is how the apostle Paul addressed an aspect of God’s purpose to the believers in the city of Corinth who were caught in a web of delusion and had lost their bearings as to ‘the word of the truth of the gospel.’ *“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of*

God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:1-6) This strong language was to inform them of the reality of the circumstances which the Most High has imposed upon the earth, in every generation, without regard to human culture, language, or custom. He reveals truth from on high for men to know and cast their lot for or against that revelation of God!

Paul spent eighteen months in the city of Corinth and wrote them three letters previous to his next visit. This quote is from the third, we do not possess a copy of the first letter and what we call the first is the second letter. The apostle referred them to a previous letter in 1 Corinthians 5:9 where he speaks to their lack of spiritual strength and understanding to deal with a man among them who claimed faith but was engaged in fornication. These Corinthian believers first heard the gospel with zeal. Paul addressed them in this manner, remembering the first of their faith. “I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 1:4-8) Yet, many of them did not mature and so stumbled in regard to faith in Christ. So, the apostle admonished them by letters of correction and instruction in God’s righteousness. Our main text, 2 Corinthians 10:1-6, is part of that rebuke from the apostle to reorient them in the gospel, and they responded somewhat to that point. Still, it is good for us to note that their initial good start in faith did not insulate them from the spiritual warfare with their own flesh, the world, and the ‘enemy of our soul.’ Nor does it remove the “...other law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and

bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.” (Romans 7:23) These words reveal that faith in Christ calls one into conflict that did not exist before faith. Paul’s words to the Corinthians affirm the following spiritual reality. A good beginning of faith in Christ does not make one forever stable or give unending endurance in the truth with unassailable protection against deception. Believers must “...continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel.” (Colossians 1:23) This is a kingdom truth unchanged

to this generation, despite stark even shocking differences in human culture.

So, believer’s have this current conflict in our vessels as we traverse from the earth to the presence of the living God. We seek faithfulness to God’s promise while the enemy of our soul seeks to lure us from the Father

and drive a wedge of offense between us and our Savior. The apostle’s letters, which expound the gospel of God’s grace, is to enlarge the faith and hope of believers as they make the transition from this present darkness with our faith intact and increasing even as does the hope of God’s promise in the believing heart. Scripture equips us for the journey that will end as God intends and according to what He has spoken as to His intent for a people of His possession among whom He can and will abide forevermore. So, it is our job to know His revelation and let that knowledge work in us what the living and active word of God does to build us up and give us the inheritance among those who believe, even in our present conflicted experience. For, as the apostle writes, God calculates His “...power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

..Faith in Christ
calls one into a
conflict that did
not exist before
Faith...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7....

OUR CURRENT CONFLICT... continued

But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.” (Romans 16:25-26)

So, our current experience is part of God’s working in the earth and specifically in His people, for His glory and their benefit in the ages to come. Let us then turn our eyes and ears toward our Savior and these things provided for our strength and stability while we dwell here below where the conflict of the spiritual and natural rage. Those with strong and growing faith are able to endure this earthly hostility by the faith once for all delivered to the saints. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4-5)

Scripture is full of the language of conflict, struggle, and opposition. And it is a fight to the end God chooses for He is the Mighty One, so described in the context of this warfare which He initiated in the earth. It may appear to men that Satan started it but he was only reacting to God’s purpose in creating and habitating the earth. And the scripture record clearly shows that none effectively oppose God though they continue to try at every level and through various means. Many in the earth do so though they do not know the One against Whom they rage. If they did they would run for the cover of darkness.

So, God does not directly fight against His enemies. It would not be a struggle, they would melt at His presence as did the demons in Jesus’ presence even when He was in human form. They never attacked Him and always did just as He commanded. Some even begged

Him for a crumb of goodness only to be dispatched. And now, from God’s throne, having triumphed even in weakness over His enemies, Jesus works through His people having destroyed the works of the devil. Heaven gets even more glory and pleasure by working through and in fellowship with those made in God’s image, believers in the glory of His truth and wisdom. Paul urges his readers with these words. Remember that they are believers in the gospel. These words do not apply and have no appeal to those who know not God and obey not the gospel of the Lord Jesus. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour 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.” (Ephesians 6:10-12) This exhorts the believers to action in this spiritual warfare of thought and knowledge. It equips them with confidence that they are not alone and the battle does not depend upon them.

Israel once heard these words of a prophet when strong enemies gathered to attack them and they appealed for help from the Most High. “And he said, ‘Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God’s. To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.’” (2 Chronicles 20:15-17) They believed and went out of their walled city as God commanded and it came to pass just as the prophet declared to them. In another instance God strengthened Israel’s

hands and they fought. Yet, it was His strength that supported or undergird them to fight. This is the sense of Paul's words to the Ephesians. God, through His Son Jesus, achieved the victory. Now we, so to speak, live in that triumph though we continue to have skirmishes here and there. These are internal primarily, enemy snipers try to pick us off using desires to lure us from faith in the truth of Christ Jesus. So, in light of this Paul continues speaking about our warfare. Paul directs believers in their offensive stance. "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 there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." (Ephesians 6:13-18)

God supplies us with His armor that we might fellowship in the conflict and learn to stand in the evil day, our current conflict. The battlefield is vast and wide though it is primarily within ourselves. God provides what we need "...to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:4-5) So, brethren, Press into the fray with this further assurance of God's help. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

The key tactic for victory is to 'fix your eyes on Jesus the apostle and high priest of our con-

fession' (Hebrews 3:1); and "...look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18) The strategy is to overcome in the power and strength of the Lord through the various means of His word of Scripture, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and the interaction of gifts from our Savior through fellow believers of His Body which He gives for the mutual benefit of every member. Personal victory, so to speak, is the by-product of walking in the Spirit and the faith of Christ Jesus. So, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 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." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Finally, the words of Paul encourage us to continue and not give up or become weary. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12-13) The fight will not be long and our Savior assures us to partake of His victory. Ours is only a 'mop up' operation, so to speak. The enemy of our soul attempts to wear us out making us think we cannot last or make it to the end. "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." (1 Peter 4:7) and aware of our foe, "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:17-18) Brethren, patiently endure! Eternity comes quickly, as does our Lord Who brings His reward with Him to those who eagerly await Him!

Following the Voice of Our Commander in This Perilous Time



By: Brother Justin Cobb

Attention soldier! A letter just arrived from the outpost! It was sent by a private first class from the King's regiment, on the en-

velope in bold writing it reads:

FOLLOW THE COMMANDER'S ORDERS!

So the envelope is opened and the letter read as following:

To the regiments that we are interconnected with, to all the saints that fight this good fight of faith. This is Brother Steadfast, PFC from the King's Regiment. I write to bring you news of the battlefield, to express the importance and necessity of watching and obeying our commander at all times while engaged in battle, and to warn you of spies among us who seek to distract us from fighting the good fight. Yesterday at 1800 hours, just as the sun was setting, the battle had already become exceedingly perilous, but the peril was not as great as what I was about to witness. Our great commander gave the order "D...sh.....tow...ds...the east!!"

But the battle was fierce, and loud. We could barely hear our commander over all the noise in this moment. It was necessary to look intently at his mouth, and see his lips moving. Matching his mouth movements with the speech that we faintly heard, only then it became clear. He was saying, "Don't shoot towards the east!" I noticed among us a man who did not have a rank patch on his uniform. He also kept aiming his weapon, but never fired one round. Other than these discrepancies, he looked exactly like everyone else in the company. I thought it strange that everyone was fighting, but this man was not fighting alongside or assisting anyone as I was, yet he was still among us, pacing, talking with the others in the company. The fighting was fierce now,

and because of the fierceness, no one noticed the mannerisms of this unknown man amongst us, except for our commander, who kept saying "Watch".

So I watched him approach the corporal. He whispered something into his ear and pointed. The corporal then, stopped giving orders to his platoon, and directed his attention to the place the other man was pointing to ---a trench in the ravine, directly east from us. This trench was filled with a multitude of enemies from over the hill, both great and small. They could not see our corporal, and he happened to be standing in a great tactical position for a pre-emptive strike. "Look" He says to the private "It is now our time to attack while they do not notice us up here, or else they will turn and destroy what is left of us, for we are few and they are many! Lets make our attack now so that some of them may surrender in fear and join our ranks!" I looked around for the stranger, but he was nowhere to be found. A private, having just joined rank, and having not yet discerned the voice of the commander, was convinced by this resolve of the corporal, and seeing that he was a man of rank, decided to support him in this action. However, a few other privates overheard the conversation, and reminded the corporal, "Didn't you hear the commander? He said, do not shoot towards the east!, but that trench you seek to attack lies directly east from this position!" But it was overcast on that day, due to the smoke from the battle, and the private and the corporal had lost direction due to this, but mostly because they were anxious of the trench they were resolved to take, and had lost their wits. "I think you're wrong", said the corporal, "for when the enemy sees that we are firing on them from this great vantage point, they will surely surrender and become our brothers in arms, wouldn't our commander approve of that? Come on men, Lets take this matter into our own hands, in the name of our commander, before we are destroyed" and the other members of the platoon, quickly followed this man's logic, leaving only 2 out of a dozen

...Lay Hold on Eternal Life...

left at their posts, including me.

Having been witness of this and having knowledge of my commander's command, I decided to speak up, and I addressed the corporal "sir, the commander clearly said that we are not to shoot towards the east. I am certain that disobeying this order, will not only produce the opposite of what you seek, but you certainly will be court marshalled for disobedience to our commander"

The corporal snapped back at this, with a tone of authority, "Who are you to judge me!? I hold rank higher than you, private! Certainly our commander will hold YOU guilty of the same for not obeying my command"

At this word I suddenly saw a fellow soldier being overcome by enemy firepower, and I ran to assist him, leaving the corporal and his men to themselves. It wasn't long, before I heard the sound of gunfire heading east. So sad to see, that as soon as they fired the first shot, it was too late. The enemy sniper on the high mountain to the east saw the muzzle flash, and killed the corporal and all of the men who followed after him before the enemies in the trench ever knew they were being attacked. Not a man was added to their ranks that day, but many were lost. Oh how the mighty have fallen!

I am on my way to Glory soon, my commander has since promoted me in the ranks, I pray that you would ask the Lord to provide for those of us on the front lines!

Sincerely, Stedfast PFC Kings Regiment

The briefing today reflects on the state of the world, and how the carnal man has no place in the regiment of Christ's army. Many individuals are sneaking amongst the company, spies sent by the enemy to sidetrack the soldiers of the Living God, many men of rank have been deceived by these spies.

This deceit is not obvious. Evil men made it into the church without anyone aware of it, in a time that society contained a higher form of godliness and morality than in society today

(Jude 1:4). We must be living already then, in a time when some will not endure sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3) I have noticed It is a tendency of some to acknowledge that they receive their direction from men, and not from God directly, Paul noticed this as well.(1 Cor 3:4). We live in a dangerous time of "celebrity preachers" who have many people looking to them for direction and guidance. In these circumstances, as long as the person they are following is following Christ, they too will follow Christ (1 Cor 4:16). However, what if the person they follow steps outside of the realm of the truth, and they continue in following their lead? This is something to consider, if the person leading a congregation does not imitate Paul in all of his ways, they are not ready to lead the masses to Christ. (1 Cor 4:16). Those who lead have a great responsibility to examine the words proceeding from their mouths, and to examine their motives behind what they say, to make certain that whatever they say is the truth! (2 Cor 5:10, Romans 14:12, John 21:17) We also must be ready to identify the voice of the Spirit of God (John 10:27) , and to follow it as it is the Spirit who leads us into all truth, and not follow after human reasoning. (John 16:13). Sometimes it is not obvious, it comes in a whisper (1 Kings 19:12-13).

Therefore it is a NECESSITY and a vital part of our salvation that we be able to discern the difference between the truth and the lie. (Heb 5:14) Therefore it is a NECESSITY that we only speak the true words that God has said in His word, and not guess what God might do or might say. The truth is based on FACTS not ideas, conjecture, hypothesizing, personal opinions, private interpretation or human reasoning (2 Peter 1:20), no matter how intelligent or appealing or "LIKE Jesus" it might sound. Satan has no difficulty appearing righteous to man outside of the light of Christ (2 Cor 11:14)

FOLLOW THE COMMANDERS ORDERS!

Continued on page 11.

...Fight The Good Fight Of Faith...

FOLLOWING THE VOICE OF OUR COMMANDER.... continued

So We must always consider the behaviors of ourselves (1 Peter 1:15 , 1 Cor 11:28-34 , Titus 2:12) and the behaviors of those around us who call themselves by the name of Christ. (1 Cor 5:12). If one among us is not behaving correctly, we are even told to rebuke that person in front of all (1 Tim 5:20). We must ensure the reasoning behind our behaviors is the Lord's reasoning, and not our own, so that we are being led by the spirit, and not by human logistics.

Many churches have removed the Cross from their building signs, names, and even sanctuaries, claiming it might "push away those who have been hurt by religious institutions." I have actually heard this said by pastors. If Christ was able to turn the cross, a symbol of death before the crucifixion of Christ, into a symbol of holiness, does his precious blood shed upon it ever lose that power? Really the thing that is offended is the ungodly who are perishing (1 Cor 1:18). The world loves darkness rather than light, so if this is case how do we maximize our attendance in the Church?

What these churches have really done is embraced darkness to some extent to draw in numbers. Even if it's just an appearance of darkness (things that appear worldly), it is unacceptable in the eyes of God (1 Thess 5:27) compromising with the world is not of God (2 Cor 6:14, Eph 5:7), compromise with the world compromises the truth (Gal 5:9) We must avoid and reprove this at all costs (Eph 5:11) If the truth is then compromised to draw a crowd for reasons of numbers, more people, equals more ears to hear the word of God, equals more converts, no matter the what the means taken to get them there? This is human understanding, and it should be avoided at all costs! While it is true that Faith comes by HEARING (Rom 10:17) this does not mean

that everyone who simply listens to the words of God being spoken will receive faith. (Isaiah 6:9, Mark 4:12, Matt 13:14). If this were true in the sense it is commonly interpreted, as many as heard the word spoken, even up to the quantity of everyone on the planet would end up having faith. What then? Does this make God a liar when He said Faith comes by hearing? Obviously it has to be given to someone by God to HEAR. (John 6:44, Matt 13:11, Mark 4:11, Luke 8:10) Hearing the scriptures is not enough, one must understand what He is saying. (Luke 24:45). If there are people coming to the church who are "by the wayside", "on stony ground" or "among the thorns" they can not do anything with the word that they are given. Because then, that you have relied on bribery to draw the crowd in the first place, and in a manner that the Lord does not operate in. Relying of bribery to present the Gospel with prove ineffectual, because it is found nowhere in scripture.

FOLLOW THE COMMANDER'S ORDERS!

Paul never dangled anything in front of people to get them to come to Christ, and even did not care to know ANYTHING about the hobbies, dreams, and worldly situations of anyone in the Church except to know their relationship with Christ. (1 Cor 2:2). What he did use to draw people was to preach the message of Christ crucified. In fact, Paul did not have a very attractive outward appearance and did not have excellence of speech at times (1 Cor 2:1) , yet we are told to imitate him (1 Cor 11:1) This means, that stage presence is not beneficial nor required for salvation or for the Holy Spirit to work. Paul also did not joke in the pulpit or tell stories, but forbid it (Eph 5:4). There are many that claim that cracking a joke here or there eases the tension of the crowd, or gets people to pay attention. All it claims is a lack of faith in God to hold peoples attention. (2 Cor 10:5) The scriptures, that is the power of salvation, the grace and word of God.

Where all these things exist, I have noticed that there is a great spiritual deficiency. Blessings are referred to more and more in financial terms and less and less in blessings that pertain to the Spirit. There's nothing wrong with needing money to sustain your life, but if Jesus said it's harder for a rich man to enter heaven, then for a camel to go through the eye of a needle (Matt 19:16-24) Then why are churches laboring to ensure people are "blessed financially", especially when you rarely hear of anyone starving or going a day without food in the United States, compared to many parts of the world, where entire villages are withering away daily.

It is my prayer that the whole world can hear the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! But the sad truth is, the majority of America is not ready to receive it. But God is able, and He will call His remnant from this wicked and perverse generation.

So, these gimmicks, opinions, reasonings, ideas, and imaginations propagated by those in the church must be "cast down" (2 Cor 10:3-5), we are told not to lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6), to be carnally minded is death, but spiritually minded is life and peace (Rom 8:6) although they may draw in more numbers they are drawn by the things of the world, and are staying because of the comfort they feel rather than the conviction. They may want to socialize, hear a good song, vent their problems to others, or have a free lunch. This is once again bribery and should be avoided (Exodus 23:8, Proverbs 15:27).

Therefore, in the manner in which they first approach the things that are holy is an abomination to the Lord (Ezekiel 22:26), and we have many examples in scripture of those who approached the Lord inappropriately and paid the price of death. Nadab and Abihu were killed when they offered profane fire to the Lord, relying on their own reasoning. (Lev 1:10). The

young man who slew King Saul was convinced that he had done the right thing, and eagerly told David what he had done, presenting David with his crown and bracelet, reasoning that Saul was going to die anyway. He was immediately killed for lifting his hand against the "Lord's anointed" If there are non-believers who will come and truly repent it will be due to the ministering of the Holy Spirit by the Gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Guaranteed, it will not be because of the fanciest lights, the best sounding band, the freshest coffee and beverages, the tastiest food in the world, or the smiles and friendliness of the greeters, but that they were called by the Holy One! (John 6:44) The Lord God will take the

base and simple things and work with that, and it will seem like foolishness to those who would object. (1 Cor 1:28, 1 Cor 2:14). Once we know this, we need to take into consideration how much time we spend on unproductive things (1 Cor 10:23, John 15:6-7), and concentrate on what is productive : the edification of the

body of Christ.(1 Cor 14:26, Rom 14:19, Eph 4:29, Eph 4: 11-12, 2 Cor 12:19, 1 Thess 5:11, 2 Tim 3:15-17)

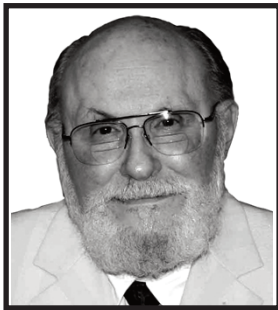
Does that mean that we shouldn't make use of Internet, radio, newsletter publications, pamphlets, books, magazines and other methods of broadcast? If they serve any other agenda except to preach Christ crucified or for the edification of the saints, this should not be utilized by the saints.

We need to watch for these things (Luke 21:36). In the process of watching, if we see the enemy coming, it is our duty to sound the alarm or the blood of our brethren lies on our hands (Ezekiel 33:6).

So sound the alarm brethren, watch out for a corporal amongst you who doubts, Encourage and exhort others. The Lord will give you the grace to do this as long as we remain focused on our battle commander.

..Concentrate on what is productive.. the edification of the body of Christ!

THE ENEMY WITHIN



By: Bro Given Blakely

In warfare, the presence of an enemy within the ranks is always a matter of deep concern. Such a foe can do damage without detection, and neutralize the effectiveness of the ranks where he is neatly nestled.

In spiritual warfare, there is a very real enemy within the believer himself. It is a shouting, suggesting, interrupting enemy that subtly draws our attention from the battle. Paul referred to this foe as "another law in my members," and states that is "warring against the law of my mind" (Rom 7:23). It assaults the way a person thinks, and seeks to turn thoughts toward the inconsequential, temporary, and even sinful things. This enemy is also called "the law of sin, that is served by "the flesh," or the natural part of us that came from Adam (Rom 7:25). It is also referred to as "the law of sin and death" (Rom 8:2). While we have been made "free" from its power, we have not yet been freed from its hounding presence.

This law erupts in all manner of things. Some of them are "fleshly lusts that war against the soul" (1 Pet 2:11). Paul mentioned "ungodliness and worldly lusts," which the grace of God teaches us to reject (Tit 2:11-12). Elsewhere he refers to "imagination, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God" (2 Cor 10:5).

At any time, often startling times, this inward enemy will exert its influence, and provoke us to speak, react, think, etc. in an improper way. Only a vigilant spirit, the whole armor of God,

fighting the good fight of faith, and an affection set on thing above can neutralize its power. Recently I saw this matter in regard to some of my own experience. Owing to some bodily weaknesses brought on by a stroke, I found myself dropping things, inadvertently bumping into things, and host of other matters relating to bodily control. Irritated by these circumstances, I would often lose my temper, shout out some response of discontent, or even bang something on the table. Oh, it all seemed innocent enough. The language was lawful, and I did not hurt anyone. It was really something personal, not public – for, strangely enough, I found myself unconsciously able to subdue my discontent when in public.

But then, in a flash of insight granted by the grace of God, I saw that this was "the law of sin and death" seeking to express itself. It was an initial effort of the wicked one to get me into his territory, where he could much more than merely make suggestions. I find a great relief when I can say "No!" to these temptations. In light of some weightier issues, they may seem to be light, even childish. But that is really an improper assessment of the entire situation. Anytime "the law of sin" is allowed to express itself, it gains strength, and I increase in weakness.

Fighting the good fight of faith has much to do with this inward battle – recognizing the hostile law that remains in our natural being. As long as we are "in the body," it will make an effort to express itself, and it will not back off until it is cast down, resisted, and hated. The child of God who wins this battle is far more apt to win those that are of a more public nature.

*Reporting from the battlefield,
Brother Given O. Blakely, King incognito*

WE NEED JESUS!

-Brother Matthew Cobb.

There is a work which is being done in the salvation of men that requires a reigning savior. Because of the existence of devil, the principalities and powers which he commands, your body that cleaves to the dust, and the environment of this present evil world where these powers work freely, the prison of sin cannot be escaped from by the one who is encapsulated in it.

There are also two other things which complicate this situation further- Firstly, those who are locked away in this prison do not know they are in bondage. They actually have to be made aware that there is a prison to be escaped from. Secondly, this is true because the cell in which they find themselves is locked tight. There is no means of escape - and furthermore, there is actually a guard posted at the entrance of the cell.

In order for an escape to take place, there has to be a rescue. It required one who was more powerful than the one who made you blind to make you see. It required one who was able to overpower the guard posted, and able to unlock your cell to make you free. The good news is that there is one who is capable of undertaking this rescue! Jesus has dominion, and that is why we can make this transition - from "dead in trespasses and sins" to "alive unto God". That is why we were able to go from being "without hope and without God in the world" , to being "fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" This applies to not only our entrance, but also in the working out of your salvation. Jesus has to be exalted if he is to lead many sons to

glory. If he is going to keep us, if he is going to transform us by the renewing of our mind, he has to be exalted. We need a high priest, we need an intercessor, and we need a reigning saviour. To be more precise - we need a king in heaven who is both man and god.

We need a high priest because we ourselves are not sufficient to commend ourselves to God. We cannot approach God on our own merit - we could not offer a sacrifice great enough to atone for our iniquity. If at any time we were to be exposed to the presence of God without the cover of the propitiation of our Lord Jesus Christ - the result would not be favorable for us in any sense of the word.

We need an intercessor because we are men, and God is God. Even more than this, however, we need one who is able to understand our frame. We need one who can be touched with the feeling of being a frail mortal vessel, exposed to temptation. Praise God that we have been given this very thing in Christ Jesus!

We need a king in heaven, because of the nature of our opposition. We face enemies who are stronger than we are. We have enemies who have no need for sleep, who do not suffer from weariness and hunger. Enemies who never overlook an opportunity to assault and offend. Praise God that we have been given a reigning savior! We have one inside us who is greater than he who is in the world. One who is able to strengthen and establish us, able to rebuke the devourer, and enable us to withstand temptation.

So, the sum of these things is this: what we need is JESUS!

SLAIN SAINTS



By Brother Pat Woods

"And when He had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held" (Revelation 6:9)

Persecution is a Sure Thing for Believers.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3:12). As Jesus said, "If they persecuted Me they will persecute you" (Jn 15:20). But the persecution of believers is not a new thing. Even the prophet Isaiah testified of a time when the "truth faileth and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey" (Isa 59:15). The waywardness and depravity of the world is clearly seen in that it speaks evil of those who turn from evil and harms those who cry out for justice.

Be not deceived, this warfare and hardship for the children of God is normal and this common participation among saints is encouraging. While the particulars may vary, the experience does not. Desiring godliness means suffering evil. Believers are thus exhorted, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Pet 5:8-9). The saints of God have had a target placed on their back after the devil and his cohorts were plundered in the

cross. The devil has been cast down "to make war with the remnant" of the children of God "which keep the commandments of God, and he have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 12:17). It is because of this relationship to Jesus that Christians are subject to persecution. "If ye were of the world," Jesus said, "the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (Jn 15:19)...and "all these things they do unto you for My name's sake, because they know not Him that sent Me" (Jn 15:21).

The souls under the altar are a vision of them that are slain for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus but there are more to be added to their number (Rev 6:11). There are more to be "counted worthy to suffer shame for His name" (Acts 5:41). There are more to "fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ" (Col 1:24). There are more precious souls that must "continue in the faith" for "we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22). And as they continue in the faith they demonstrate that though they are being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, the life also of Jesus is manifest in their mortal flesh (2 Cor 4:11). What a fellowship! (Php 3:10).

Temporary Sufferings, Eternal Glory.

Persecution is only "here and now." Glory is "there and then." Knowing that the ages to come and the exceeding riches of grace are for eternity equips the believer to endure suffering with faith and patience. For, "if we suffer, we shall also reign with Him" (2 Tim 2:12). It is our suffering with Him that qualifies us for our being "glorified together" with Him (Rom 8:17).

Paul's desire to know the fellowship of Christ's sufferings and to be made conformable unto His death was in view of attaining unto the resurrection of the dead (Php 3:9-11) where he would obtain his incorruptible reward.

Seeing the souls under the altar is confirmation of their acceptance in heaven. Furthermore, as we continue in the revelation we will see that their cries are heard and that vengeance is the Lord's - He will repay. John's diligence in recording what he saw and heard provokes great courage in those who hold the testimony of Jesus firm until the end. They know that others have gone on before them and that they will have fellowship with the great cloud of witnesses who with Moses chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb 11:25).

Will you be among the number of them who through faith "had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment?" Will you be among the souls that "were stoned...sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword...wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented...wandered in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth?" These are they "of whom the world was not worthy" and "all these" have "obtained a good report through faith" (Heb 11:36-39). Faith enables men to stand against opposition. Faith looks past the persecution to the glory to be revealed. Faith considers the acceptance of God and not the rejection of men. By faith men suffer for righteousness and inherit the promises.

Strangers of This World.

The world opposed the word of God and those who preach it. The souls under the altar confirm this. The world and heaven are in direct conflict. Foolishness is demonstrated by all attempts to feel "at home" here or to be friends with the world. "We are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1 Jn 5:19). "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity

with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (Jas 4:4). God will not be one of two masters. He will not remain where He has to compete for prominence. "The Spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy" (Jas 4:5) and will not allow a man to love God and love the world at the same time. No one can be friend of the world and a friend of God.

Those of faith have always considered themselves to be strangers and pilgrims here. They are in search of a better country, that is an heavenly. They readily refuse the things which would hinder them from obtaining that country and all things contradictory to it. For this cause the world has always persecuted them. For, "they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot" and therefore "[speak] evil of you" (1 Pet 4:4). Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael nearly lost their lives because they refused to do what everyone else was doing - and bow to an idol (Dan 3:12-13,15,17-20). Like Jesus (Jn 7:7), Zechariah testified of the works of the people and was killed for it (2 Chr 24:20-21). Stephen called the Jews to account and was promptly stoned (Acts 7:54,57-58). John the Baptist, the greatest among men born of a woman, was killed lesser men born of women (Mt 14:1-12). Just as the world hated these brethren because they testified against it's works, so all preachers of righteousness will be hated by the world when they testify of it. However, it is these slain saints that have the last word. Justice will be served and they will be rewarded according to the promise of their King.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecuted you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Matthew 5:10-12)

The God Who Supplies All Our Need



**Sister
Adah Hutchcraft**

Confidence in God as Provider fortifies one's faith in the face of Satanic assault and menacing threats. Insight into this intrinsic aspect of God's Person empowers the believer for spiritual warfare by provoking prayerful perseverance and securing stability of faith through continual mindfulness of Christ's power, sovereignty and faithfulness. From the beginning of human history, Satan has undermined the goodness and provision of God by deceiving people into self-trust, believing they can obtain better than what God offers, or that they can procure provision through an other source. This is an ancient lie which Lucifer himself believed, and he continues now to perpetuate it.

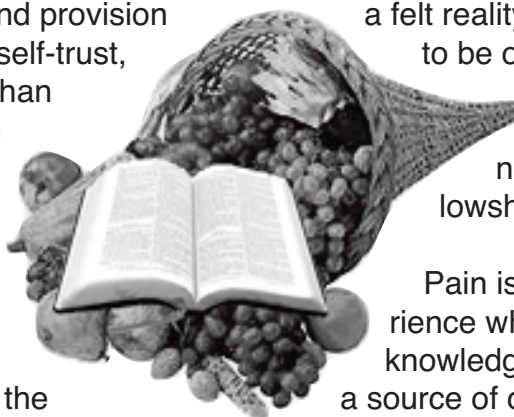
In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. As He created, He called it good. All things were made by Him, and all things were, and are sustained by Him. The stars, the earth, the waters, the creatures filling the world, botanical life and humankind were all made by and sustained by God. God watered the earth, gave the man productive labor, and Adam and Eve had plentiful food. God manifested Himself to them, telling them of all He freely provided. He also warned them of the one tree they were to abstain from. The presence of "The Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil" was itself was an indicator that not everything in Eden was good. The serpent, like the pleasant herbage, was among all that which was good but was by no means good

himself. This was painfully learned when Adam and Eve heeded the serpent and ate the forbidden fruit. Thus from the beginning God substantiated that humanity was created to trust Him in all things, creating us wholly reliant upon Him.

Sin was introduced when the man and the woman made an attempt to obtain something from a source other than God. They believed the lie that there was a personal need God was not meeting. In eating the forbidden fruit, they rejected the God Who created them and Who met all their need. Hence, need became a felt reality, and something labored to be obtained. Ever since that time, humanity suffers need due to our deepest need to have peace and fellowship with God.

Pain is most frequently the experience which causes people to acknowledge need (though it is often a source of confusion when one is not walking with God). Our acute need for God's wisdom, grace, mercy and fellowship is evidenced by discouragements, sorrows, injustice, and the hopelessness which exists apart from eternal life. Pain is one indicator of humanity's need for God.

Since humanity's departure from God, it retains its quest to rid itself of need. People take pride in personal strength, income, health, intellect, and other personal resources while reasoning that they do not need God. Yet, all these things are also provisions of God. In the face of illness, unemployment, injury, or aging years one must confront the reality that they are not self-reliant. A crumbling economy or



business, natural failure of crops, and the distress of natural disasters all alert people that our constitution is frail and we are in a perpetual state of need. We require a Provider for our need.

God not only knows our need, He created it. The Lord has designated Himself the Sole Provider for need. From health, to food, to solace, sanctification and spiritual fortitude, God is our Provider. Satan tempts people to think that God does not care about their needs, or that our needs are too great for Him, or that God is incapable of meeting our needs. However, faith presses in to obtain what God has promised, not relenting to despair and not looking to another source. The need is there for God to meet it.

Jesus is recorded as teaching in the synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of diseases among the people: meeting all their need. All material and health related needs parallel our most inward needs. Need for bodily nourishment parallels need for spiritual aliment in Jesus, the bread of life. We have need to drink from the wells of Salvation, from Christ the living water. We need to be clothed with righteousness and works in keeping with it. As we require shelter, more so do we need the propitiation of Christ Who has places us within the will of God. As we thrive in good health and with useful work, so we require spiritual vitality and are called to labor with God.

Jesus healed the blind, deaf, lame, crippled, mute, leprous, the hemorrhaging, raised the dead and cast out demons. As He healed the blind, so opens the eyes of the heart to see God. As He gave hearing to the deaf, so we are given ears to hear and understand the Truth. Jesus healed the lame and so causes us to walk in the light. As He restored the cripple, so mobilizes the spirit God-ward enables us to labor with Him. Just as Jesus gave voice

to the mute, even so we now may testify of Him and bring edification. Jesus cleansed the Lepers, so He cleanses us and brings us into close fellowship with Himself and His people. As He healed the hemorrhaging woman, so He grants strength and liberty to those who believe on Him. And just as He raised the dead, so He gives newness of life, resurrecting our spirit to live God-ward. Jesus has bound up the "strong man," spoiled Satan's house, and is taking back what rightfully belongs to Him. In doing so He is also supplying all our need.

Now in the light of the superior necessity for spiritual vitality, we must reason that if God is able to supply our greater, inward need, He most assuredly will meet all other need. So we can obey and be set at peace when Christ speaks to us, "Take no thought saying, what shall we eat? Or "what shall we drink" or wither shall we be clothed? For your heavenly father knoweth that ye have need of these things."

Pain and suffering come to all in this life; none are exempt. Yet consider how suffering takes on new meaning and purpose when one is seeking the face of God and committed to His service. As we mature in Christ, we recognize to what depth Christ satisfies our need. In this knowledge we are empowered to remain steadfast while suffering for His Name's sake. Persecution matures one's understanding of need. One learns how to 'go without,' certain things and to "suffer need" in order to obtain greater comfort. This comfort is knowing Christ, and in Him our needs are fully met. God fed Elijah by ravens during a famine, and Paul suffering hunger, stoning, and prison for Christ's sake. In both cases their needs were met according to God's promise while they learned contentment with godliness. One's understanding of need matures while beholding the Glory of God our Creator, our Provider, our Father.

THE GOD WHO SUPPLIES ALL OUR NEEDContinued

Our need is to make it through this cursed and hostile world, sanctified with our eyes continually set on our Lord, just as Jesus did. It is He, the Man of sorrows, who speaks to us: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt 6:33).

Whatever you need in spirit, soul and body, bring these as petitions to our Holy and gracious God and Father. He has fashioned us with need so that He may supply it. It is His good will and pleasure to do this. Do not let your hearts fail when you come upon the threshold of need. Do not cower when Satan threatens. God is faithful and He has promised to supply all our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Until we reach Heaven, we live in vibrant hope and expectation of Glory. Heaven is commonly thought to be the eradication of need. More accurately, Heaven is where need is perpetually met with the absence of testing, struggle, and inner warfare: "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the Throne shall feed them, and shall lead them until living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe all tears from their eyes" (Rev 7:16-17). Our state of need will never cease, however we are and will be increasingly satisfied by God Himself. Let us turn our gaze upward with expectation that He will supply all our need as we press in and rely upon Christ's power at work in us.

A CALL TO SOBRIETY

-Brother Robert Cobb

It would do little good to try to persuade someone who is in the heat of the battle that there really is no danger! - Only those who are blind to the dangers associated with living in this present evil world are careless enough to ignore the "putting on" of the armor of light!

Imagine a careless person, strolling along the open field, picking the flowers and smelling the fresh air, while all around the snipers and enemy forces are aiming their "weapons of destruction" in their direction. We would call that man crazy, and rightly so!

Solomon had a word that takes on new meaning for those who are in the good fight of faith... I exhort you today with these words..

(Proverbs 4:23-27) *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*

We will win if we will fight! All who seek, find. All who put their hand to the plow advance in the faith! The only losers in salvation are those who do not follow after their supreme commander! All who stay with Jesus will eventually hear these sweet words of welcome, "well done, good and faithful servant"! You are closer today than you ever have been to reigning with Christ forevermore!

WE HAVE AN

ADVERSARY

Bro Tony Parker



Jesus has made an end of sins, has made reconciliation for iniquity, and has brought in everlasting righteousness. Now, having no more basis by which to accuse the

brethren, Satan is summarily cast out of heaven. (Daniel 9:24, Revelation 12:10) It for this reason heaven cries out with this warning *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time"*. (Rev 12:12)

"The devil is come down unto" you, This is the warning given to all those on the earth. However, it is the saints of God who are the target, those who hold to the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. They are the saints of God, the remnant who the devil has "made war" against. The ones who are fighting the good fight of faith, crucifying the flesh, and mortifying the deeds of the body. Those living by faith know all too well that while on the earth, they are in the danger zone. The people of God need to be constantly reminded. Teachers need to be teaching, and preachers preaching. The way of the kingdom of God is fraught with all the danger of wickedness and opposition of the devil. The truth that these are perilous times must go out and it must be proclaimed. For, the devil himself has come in preaching a message which is entirely different than the one we have been given. In his attempt to disarm the saints, he has sent this message to persuade the saints to remove the armour of righteousness and be at home in this world. So, we continue to be mindful that this world is not our home. We are sojourners and pilgrims in the land looking for a city that is a heavenly

one, whose builder and maker is God.

The words of Peter come ringing in our ears prompting us to: *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"* (1 Pet 5:8)

The message that needs proclaiming to all those who are fighting in the trenches, who are taking hold, holding fast and standing in the evil day, is they have been assured the victory. The captain of our salvation has overcome our foe by his death. The Lord strong and mighty, mighty in battle has come to "bind the strong man" and has spoiled him..."and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." (Col 2:15) This is the same One who says *"be of good cheer for I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). So, then, the victory that has been given to the saints comes by way of overcoming. The saints are able to overcome for *"greater is he that is in them than he that is in the world."* The people of God overcome and do so knowing the devil desires that some grow weary and discontinue to journey.

The saints take the kingdom of God forcefully through the enemy's domain knowing Satan longs to hinder and make the way difficult so that perhaps some may quit. However, we know it is given to the saints not to stop, not to quit because they have one who has gone up before them, their forerunner who bekons from the high place to stand fast and take hold of eternal life. At the end it will be said of them: *"And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death"*. (Revelation 12:11)

Letters from the Bride



By: Mattie Blakely

Dearest Bridegroom, Since the day your faithful disciples stood looking steadfastly up at you returning to heaven in the clouds, and having received the word from the Angels that you would return again, your faithful

servants have not ceased to look for your glorious appearing! We, having begun to fight, are not willing to desert our fellow brethren who are even now engaged in warfare, fighting the good fight of faith and are advancing. The enemy continues to threaten and assail us with bitter words and we have neither the time nor the kind of safety that would allow for ease and indolence. The armor you have so graciously provided us is invaluable in this fight of faith, and does keep us safe so long as we use it. We could not hope to have survived the assaults of the wicked one without the Armor's effective protection. In addition, we are immeasurably grateful for the provisions you have dispensed to us. Shouts of joy filled the camp when the wagons arrived, laden with every good thing. Surely you have prepared a table before us in the presence of our enemies and we have been revived and encouraged by eating at it!

Now we continue to press on and encourage one another in the fight by speaking the truth to one another continually. We spend our days rehearsing the wonderful works of God, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs and our hearts are made glad in the way. We know all too well that we are in the territory of the enemy. Every day we must fight to keep from losing the ground we have won. This world is not our home, and that fact becomes

clearer to us with each passing day. There are many dangers we must face in this foreign land, but you have given us everything necessary to sustain our lives and maintain Godliness and Holiness in a wicked and perverse world.

Please continue sending provisions. Your servants depend on the nourishment and there is nothing that is capable of sustaining spiritual life growing in this land. Your abundant supply of the Bread and Water of Life have been keeping us all healthy and the Wine and Oil of Gladness have given us hope and fill all those who partake of them with Joy and Gladness. The morale is good among the ranks and your soldiers are strong and eager to fight the good fight of Faith. You have ensured us victory over our enemy and the men are confident of this. Therefore they take up the Sword of the Spirit with Confidence and Assurance, knowing that by your Grace we cannot fail! As we continue to look for your appearing we are always making preparations for your imminent arrival. Everyone is being cautious to keep themselves unspotted and alert. No one wants to be caught sleeping and unprepared when the trumpet heralding your arrival sounds out at last! We are greatly anticipating that day when we can finally put off the implements of war and beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks. While we are waiting May our motto ever be "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life" so that in the end, when all warring is done, we may be able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith". Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

The Bride

May we ever be ready to "enter in" when the bridegroom calls! - God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness in His Son.



Jesus

By Karen Sankowski

Jesus is the hub of all heavenly activity. All things are by Him, and through Him. All Things!

Jesus is the fulfillment of the law, He is the express image of God, He is the brightness of His glory, He is the embodiment of everything God wants to say to men.

Jesus is God's Christ, He is holy, He is the Savior, He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, He is the Vine, He is the Anointed One, He is our Propitiation, our Intercessor, the Resurrection and the Life, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

He is Jesus Christ the Righteous. His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor . . . the Prince of Peace. He is our High Priest, our Mediator. He is the First and the Last. He is the Morning Star, the Lamb, the Lion of Judah, the Root and Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.

He is the Bridegroom, the Word, our Master, the Son of Man, the Alpha and the Omega. He is our Captain, our Refuge, our Anchor, our Shepherd, the Bishop of our souls.

God's plan, in its entirety, is centered around Jesus. If you take Jesus out of the plan, it becomes null and void. It would be utterly impossible for us to approach God, or for God to make these provisions available to us, apart from Jesus.

But praise be to that precious Name of Jesus, who was obedient to God for our benefit. For now we are partakers of all things that are in Christ Jesus. How can this be? The benefits are ours if we believe the record of God's dear Son. Jesus: His Name alone is the Name above all other names, the Name with power and majesty, forever and ever, Amen.

Dear Flesh,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I have filed for divorce. We cannot live together in harmony anymore. I always knew that you didn't have the best of friends and your heart wasn't towards anything good, but I figured that since I had to live with you that I should make some allowance for you; This however, has changed, I met another man.

This new man told me things that I had never heard before. He has revealed things to me that I cannot, and shall not, deny. I had thought all men were the same, but to my delight, I have found this new man to be perfect in every way. He always encourages me to love God and is always quick to edify me. I am looking forward to the wedding, when I will be joined forever with the groom.

I know that the divorce will not be finalized for some time, so, until then I have been advised by my councilor to deny you any and all access into my life. I have decided to crucify, kill and destroy your evil and wicked lust. Even as I purpose to do this I feel a wave of resolve that strengthens the new man. I will soon be free from your defiling influence forever, until then, I have been told that you have a condition that does not allow you to live at high altitudes. The thin air in this environment causes you to lose consciousness for hours at a time. I have decided to move to the highest mountain I can find.

Soon someone will be showing up at your door with the final papers. You do not need to sign them, just know that parting is not sweet sorrow. I will not miss you; I do not even like you. It is in light of my new home that I can finally find the strength to express my true feeling for you. I hate you. You are everything I have come to loath. Until the papers arrive I suggest that you keep still and quiet, or I will be forced to read more from that book you hate so much. I promised my new man that I would come up higher, so you probably won't be able to join us. Even so, I like it that way. I always make more progress when you are not awake.

Goodbye, or should I say, until then...

- Robert Cobb



COMMENTS FROM THE FOXHOLE

There is a change that is taking place now and it is preparing those in Christ Jesus for the final change. - **Brother Tony Parker**

We carry out our commandments from the Lord with joy! Even though our physical bodies might be burdened in the process of doing so! - **Brother Justin Cobb**

The faith that saves is that which experientially lays hold of the Christ of God, unhesitatingly hearkens to His every Word by full obedience, and steadfastly cleaves to Him unto death - **Brother Fred Blakely**

There are days when we get weary but the Lord never loses strength. The blood of the Lamb is always fresh and powerful. It is through Him we overcome and are taking the Kingdom by violence. - **Brother Dave Kennedy**

We will win, if we will fight! All who seek, find. All who put their hand to the plow advance in the faith! The only losers in salvation are those who do not follow after their supreme commander! - **Brother Robert Cobb**

Among God's people, there is no provision for obtuseness, slothfulness, indifference, lukewarmness, indecision, etc. In the professed church, men may see these as "common," but that is not how they are viewed in heaven. - **Brother Given O. Blakely**

Brethren, Please pray for this ministry. We desire to bless those who are engaged in the good fight of faith, that through these testimonies and insights, your faith would be built up and encouraged. We desire that all saints everywhere would be strong and bring glory and honor to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.