

Issue #11

FROM THE

Fall 2016 /
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BATTLEFIELD

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



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This magazine is used as an outlet for expression for all those who have a desire for the Truth, for those who have been given to see how needful it is to maintain this perspective: that we are in fact in a battle! Much as the Israelites, who, after having been delivered from Egypt, found themselves engaging in warfare to move into the land promised to their father by the Lord, we press forward in our good fight of faith that we may obtain the prize which has been promised to those who overcome!

Listed here are some of our regular contributors to this work. We are always open to share the good things that the Lord has given the brethren to see. This opportunity is open to any and all. As long as it is edifying and according to the truth as it is in Christ, it may be considered for inclusion in our publication.

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Also, if you would like, you can visit our group on Facebook where you can read more insights from brethren that could not fit within the limited pages of this magazine.

@<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fromthefoxhole/>



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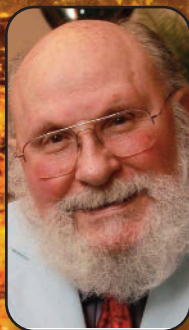
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Bro Robert has an extensive video ministry, through which he records and posts hundreds of gospel messages online yearly. He also delivers regular sermons and bible lessons. He has been a faithful steward of the work that the Lord has given him! Brother Robert handles the printing and distribution of this publication.

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"These Things I Write That Ye Sin Not"

BROTHER MATTHEW COBB



Brother Matthew does the layout/editing for this publication. He also delivers Lords Table Meditations, and monthly sermons at the Word of Truth Fellowship in Joplin, Mo. His desire is that this publication would reach those who are in desperate need of comfort, edification, and clarification about the nature of the good fight of Faith.

He is able to deliver thee !

with Sister Adah Hitchcroft

Things are not always as simple as they seem. The manner of our warfare is diverse - because the enemy of our soul employs diverse tactics. In this, however, we do not have fear or confusion, for the Lord's provision towards us is all encompassing. There are a variety of experiences that will come to the believer fighting the good fight of faith, as it concerns the Lord's deliverance in a combat type situation. Thankfully, however, we are not left up to philosophizing about these matters.

We have been provided an index into the character of GOD and His provisions toward us, lived out in the record how He has dealt with His people. We can see this specifically as it concerns Israel, and the Apostle Paul. He provided ample demonstration in these accounts that the Lord is mighty to save. Regardless of how the circumstances in the present seem to contradict and oppose, the people of God have no reason for worry. Here are a few examples of these diverse deliverances to which we can draw spiritual parallels.

There are times when the Lord will simply deliver you from having to fight at all:

(2Ch 20:17) 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.

There are times when the intentions of your enemies will be made known, and you will be given wisdom to avoid them:

(Ac 9:23-25) And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him: But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him. Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

There are times when the Lord will allow the enemy to assault you, and yet make their assaults come to naught.

(Je 15:20) And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

There are times when the Lord will allow battle to take place, the enemy to surround you, and for you to be put in a place where defeat seems like an imminent possibility. And yet in the midst of all this, empower you in your efforts, as you fight to cause you to overcome the enemy.

(2Ch 13:14-16) And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand.

With many or few, by giving advantage or despite disadvantage. By empowerment with His might, or by a provision of instant deliverance - He demonstrates that in all ways, at all times, and in all circumstances, as the hymn writer once penned, 'He is able to deliver thee'.

In Christ Jesus we are in fact engaging in battle against a foe that is already defeated. It only remains that we survive in the last skirmishes of the battle. We do so, with confidence, and assurance, that no matter what we must go through, victory is ahead! We can share in the experience of the Apostle Paul, as we live by faith in Christ Jesus, and walk in the spirit, we confess that:

(2 Co 4:8-9) We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;



“THE WORK”

Brother Luke records the believers in Antioch of Syria busy with Kingdom work in that city. However, his report of these events began in Acts 11:19. Yet, prior to that was the persecution of believers in Jerusalem beginning with Stephen's stoning. This also included a note of a young man named Saul of Taurus, who watched the cloaks of Stephen's killers. However, by the time of Luke's present report this Saul is a believer of several years back in Tarsus, his birthplace. The Apostles heard of the believers scattered by the persecution preaching to Gentiles in Antioch of Syria, north of Galilee. So, they sent Barnabas to assess the situation. This was after the Cornelius' family conversion by Peter. The Holy Spirit was central in all of these events.

Barnabas: 'Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. ... Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. (Acts 11:23-26) Then Luke records a famine in Judea and relief sent from Antioch, James' death by the sword of Herod, Peter's arrest and deliverance from Herod, and Herod's death by an angel!

Afterward the account returns to Antioch where the prophets and teachers were busy in the work. Again the Holy Spirit initiates events.

'As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, 'Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.' And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.' (Acts 13:2-3) Note the quick manner in which the brethren responded! Such is still the course of believers who minister to the Lord in what they understand with readiness for further direction from on high.

God's Spirit directed them to the island of Cyprus, Barnabas' homeland (Acts 4:36). There the work proceeded quickly. 'And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, 'O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.' And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.' (Acts 13:6-12)

Much if not all beginning opposition to the gospel came from the unbelieving Jews. However, this man Barjesus, was unique. His opposition was not Biblical. It was to protect his status with the governor. However, (Saul) Paul (his name from here on) acts with decisiveness toward this man who opposed the governor's request.

This is the second incident, in New Testament Scriptures, where divine power struck someone through an apostle. The first is when bro. Peter spoke to lying Ananias who fell instantly dead. Then just hours later he announced that Sapphira, Ananias' wife, would also die and she did, on the spot, and then was buried next to her husband. Peter and Paul knew what was at stake for the believers in Jerusalem and the governor of Cyprus. Luke's record shows that the apostles and their associates acted with determined focus and let nothing interfere with the progress of the gospel and its implications.

Another time some Jewish believers in Jerusalem objected to Peter's entering and eating at Cornelius' house. He did not back track or apologize in the matter. He simply recounted the Holy Spirit's leading, the fruit of his preaching, the faith of the hearers, and the Holy Spirit's confirmation of what men could not see. And those who objected quickly accepted the words. 'When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, 'Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.' (Acts 11:18)

So, what are we to say to these things? Peter and Paul did not generate these events. They were following the Spirit's direction in the work to which He called them. At the very minimum let us also press the battle of the truth and light into the darkness of human events. We need not look for a confrontation or fight. Conflict is inherent in this earthly realm of flesh and Spirit. It is within us and around us as we remain until the time of our departure or the Lord Jesus' return on the clouds.

When one speaks the word of God in truth, as did all the prophets, John the Baptist, Jesus, and His apostles ... opposition will result. Satan is the god of this world attempting to damage God's name and ways at any opportunity. He did so in the garden. He attempted it with Job and even with the Lord Jesus : tempting Him to short circuit God's ways in the wilderness testing. Satan was ultimately unsuccessful at every turn. Jesus always did God's will, even as a man. Then His suffering, by the testing, made Him a fit High Priest able to aid us with grace and mercy to help in our times of testing.

Anyone who attempts to stand in the way of God's working is destined to fall. Saul of Tarsus did so for a time. He would later say he acted ignorantly in unbelief. Then light felled him from his horse and the Lord Jesus spoke. Paul would later write of this experience. 'Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.' (1 Timothy 1:16) Barjesus fell in another manner and was also stricken with blindness for a time. We do not know the end of the matter for the man also known as Elymus, except that he was not successful, and Sergius Paulus became a believer.

Now, what are we to take from this record as to our kingdom work? First, seek the Lord and minister to Him for '... he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.' (Hebrews 11:6) The diligence of early believers enabled their hearts to yield themselves to God's leading by the Holy Spirit. His Spirit abides in us doing the work of transformation from glory to glory. The Father has appointed His dear Son as the judge of the living and the dead. All authority and power are His to administer God's grace and truth in His people. And so by the Spirit we follow Jesus!

.. CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 ..

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

... PRESS THE BATTLE "THE WORK".
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 ...

The brethren cited in this essay did so and God rewarded them with power to do what He intended in that fellowship. He had also done this on a lower level in Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, and Daniel, to name a few. God continues to do so in those who diligently seek Him. And not just for initial forgiveness and cleansing. But seek Him daily in the light of Christ who leads us in His ways, ever closer to the time when we shall be with Him and depart no more.

The battle is long and the enemy will not relent. Look around at our present dark culture of violence, indulgence, and greed for more. This is a time for aggressive faith and pressing the battle for our soul's sake. Do so by your faith, serving God, and His people. His truth works in our hearts this moment and His purpose will not fail. Our Lord Jesus will open doors that cannot be shut, as He administers the truth in and around us. He will send those prepared of heart and mind as were the brothers in Antioch.

Let us count ourselves of that number found faithful in little that God might then entrust us with much more according to our stewardship of the smaller things. Nothing is too hard for the Lord and His Spirit at work in us. We need not concern ourselves with when, who, or how. That is God's business. Ours is faithfulness to His name, truth, and attention to what His grace teaches us through many avenues. Brethren, press the battle ere the night shall veil the glowing skies. They glow with God's glory of which we partake evermore.

ARE YOU FEELING CAST DOWN ? PERHAPS DULL AND WORN BY THE ERODING EFFECT OF LIFE IN THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD? I ENCOURAGE YOU TODAY TO TAKE A MOMENT TO CONSIDER WHAT GOD HAS DONE, IS DOING, AND WILL DO THROUGH CHRIST JESUS ON YOUR BEHALF. WHO ARE YOU IN CHRIST?

ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BY THE WORK AND PURPOSE OF GOD IN HIM,

WE HAVE BEEN WASHED, JUSTIFIED, SAVED, SANCTIFIED, SET FREE AND SET APART, TRANSFORMED, TRANSLATED, CHOSEN, CHANGED, CONFORMED, AND CONFIRMED. APPOINTED NOT UNTO WRATH, BUT TO OBTAIN SALVATION, GIVEN A CLEANSSED CONSCIENCE, AND A NEW AFFECTION, THE MIND OF CHRIST, A HEART OF FLESH, AND HAVE BEEN MADE PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE. WE HAVE BEEN BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM, BOUGHT WITH A PRICE, PLANTED, PARDONED, AND HAVE DIED WITH CHRIST. WE'VE BEEN RENEWED, REDEEMED, REGENERATED AND RESURRECTED, RAISED TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE

WE ARE CALLED NO MORE FOREIGNERS AND STRANGERS BUT, 'THE SONS OF GOD'. WE HAVE BEEN MADE JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST, AND CITIZENS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD. WE HAVE BEEN MADE KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO GOD, VESSELS OF HONOR, MINISTERS, SERVANTS, DISCIPLES, FOLLOWERS AND WITNESSES. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE IN HIM, OF BODIES LIKE UNTO HIS GLORIOUS BODY, OF EVERLASTING CONSOLATION AND GOOD HOPE, A CROWN OF LIFE, A NEW NAME, TREASURE, A BETTER AND MORE ENDURING SUBSTANCE IN HEAVEN, GLORY, HONOR, IMMORTALITY, AND TO REIGN WITH CHRIST.

SO, LIFT UP YOUR HEAD! FOLLOW THE LIGHT! WALK IN THE SPIRIT! AND FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!

TAKE COURAGE, BE STEADFAST, AND HOPE TILL THE END! RUN TO OBTAIN AND THE PRIZE YOU WILL WIN!



BY BROTHER JONATHAN BLAKELY

A TESTIMONY OF BEING DELIVERED FROM BITTERNESS

Hebrews 12:15 - "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..."

I can tell you the damage a bitter heart can do to a man, but I can tell you more of the joy that comes from being free from bitterness. Bitterness is the kind of thing that grows and takes over a man if it is ignored and not dealt with. Bitterness can be caused by a variety of things. Perhaps you were wronged or harmed in some way by another person. Perhaps the outcome of something did not work out in your favor. Maybe you're not satisfied with the way things are and are not able to change anything. All of these things can cause a heart to become bitter. Bitterness is refusing to move on from things like injustice and injury that has been caused to self. It is refusal to forgive and demand for the harshest of punishments on another. It is growing feelings of hatred and anger and stamping out those involving kindness. When bitterness is allowed to grow, it will grow a root so deep in your heart that you will be powerless to uproot it and you will become a slave to it. Such a thing is also very painful to uproot and will not go away without a fierce and almost overwhelming fight. Love cannot exist where bitterness is dominating and no spiritual progress will be made as long as it does. This is a weapon the wicked one uses against us. He tries to get us to hold on to things that cause us to not focus on God, which only results in a believer withering in the faith. But rest assured brethren, as destructive as the root of bitterness is, Jesus can free a man from this!

I was once overcome with bitterness years ago, but Jesus opened my eyes to it set me free from its shackles. It was a weight I could not lift from my shoulders and it caused me to desire things that were not harmonious with the nature of God. It created ill-will, jealousy, and hostility towards others. However as right as such feelings felt at the time, I had to consider Jesus in this. What did Jesus say when He was being nailed to the cross?

"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34). I also had to recall the stoning of Stephen, who prayed for those who were in process of killing them, "Lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60). How right is it to remain bitter towards others after reading these accounts? Did God not commend His love towards us by having His Son die for us when we were still sinners? The bitterness that grew in me became a mighty tree that I was powerless to remove. I tried to get past what happened, but just could not get away from it. However, I had to learn that Jesus was the only one that could remove this tree I had allowed to grow inside of me. I may have tried to remove it, but the best I did was remove a branch here and there. The tree still remained despite my efforts. If bitterness is to leave a man's heart, it has to be taken out at the root. That is not something any man in this world can do, but it is something the man Christ Jesus can do! The Lord Jesus gave me power to see the root of my bitterness and it was removed at that moment. It was if a great gaping hole was left there. It came to show how much of me was dominated by this root of bitterness that had developed in me. Today I live with my heart filled with better things that benefit my soul. Jesus has freed me, and I enjoy that freedom today and it has enabled me to serve God without that distraction.

If you are experiencing this same matter today, I can testify that God can release you from it. God can make a heart tender, and He can also heal broken hearts. Go to Jesus, and He will transform you! Men came to Jesus from many cities so they could be healed from their physical infirmities. We can go to Jesus and be healed of things like this as well. Don't let bitterness grow in you. If you do, you will not be able to fight the good fight. Pray that God keep bitterness out of your hearts so that you can forgive others as Christ forgave you.



By: Sister Nicole Cobb

John 6;27 - Labor not for the meat which perisheth, but for the meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the son of man shall give unto you' for him hath GOD the father sealed.

I have been considering lately the mercy GOD has granted us in illustrating to us in our lives, even in common everyday things, the manner of the Kingdom. Specifically, as it concerns the concept of food. Food is necessary for our very mortal life. We need it to live and if we don't have it, we are weak and unable to accomplish the things that we would desire to. This is also true in our spiritual life.

Spiritual life is exactly that - it is life. It is not an inanimate object that one possesses. This life is lively, and requires nourishment to grow and increase. You can't just feed your spirit anything and expect to grow up into Christ in all things. Our lives here in the world are physical, and as such, we require physical sustenance. We have need of something that is substantial, something that will give us nutrition. You can't be sustained by an idea of food. Likewise, the life we have now in Christ, being spiritual life, requires actual spiritual food. Your spirit cannot be sustained by a theory of what may be. Just as you can't be filled by a picture of a meal, you can't satisfy a hunger and thirst for righteousness with the religious philosophies of man.

Just as it is possible to physically feed yourself things that are contrary to good health in the flesh, it is also possible to feed your spirit with another spirit other than the one into which you have been born into in Christ.

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These concepts, comparing the physical with spiritual realities, made me think of this. So much effort goes into people's quest for healthy food in the world. So much time is spent, and so many resources are used, providing for this very thing.

Many people not only are particular about what they eat, but how and where what they eat was made or grown. You often hear these kind of questions asked: "Are these organic, pesticide free vegetables? Is my chicken and beef raised with no growth hormones used? Are they grass fed?" The idea is that anything used that is unnatural will have an adverse effect on the one eating the food.

Processed food is anything that has been altered from its natural state. It can be fruit that has been canned and blasted with chemical preservatives to make it last longer; it can be dehydrated fruits or vegetables, canned soda, or oils that have been chemically altered to increase their shelf life and enhance their flavor. Regardless of how they are used, most of the time these processed foods have been stripped of a large part of their true nutritional content.

Likewise, throughout history, men have often altered the truth of the gospel to make it more appealing to men in the flesh. By the time they have had their way with it, there may be a kernel of truth still there, but it has been voided by the overwhelming amount of added things. They have processed and repackaged it in a way that actually appeals to their desires and lusts. This 'junk food' gospel may taste and look very good to someone who is seeking to be more comfortable in this world, but it leads to obesity of spirit, and eventually spiritual cardiac arrest!

“He Saves Me”

*A hymn of praise by
Brother John R. Sweeney*

If men take this much care and concern for their physical health and sustenance, how much more should we for our spiritual? Let's make sure that the word we are hearing, or giving, is organic, so to speak, that it is not tainted by any additives. Let us take care to ensure that what we are ingesting is coming straight from the Father, without any man made processed programs, additives of worldly wisdom, or pesticides that contaminate the Word.

But, how exactly does one identify these corruptions that have entered in to this circumstance: as is in the case of food, there is often a label that identifies it's contents and source. The Holy Spirit helps us to discern these things.

1 John 4:1-3 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

So, I want to encourage us all to stay alert and let not our minds be given to things that have fillers, or additives, or just plain junk. Let us make sure that we read the labels brethren. Let us keep our minds pure and clean, filled with the untouched Word of GOD. In Christ we will always be satisfied, never regretting, and yet still always hungry for more.

*My loving Savior, I am Thine,
I am Thine, I am Thine;
Saved, sweetly saved by love divine,
So sweetly Jesus saves me.
My soul so full still pants for more,
The higher up, we'd farther soar,
And all Thy glory would explore;
So sweetly Jesus saves me.*

*Oh, if this love be here so sweet,
Here so sweet, here so sweet,
Its full fruition who can mete?
So sweetly Jesus saves me.
I'll sing Thy praises here below,
From conqu'ring unto conquest go;
'Tis glory all Thy love to know,
So sweetly Jesu saves me.*

*Tho' here our tears will often flow,
Often flow, often flow,
Bereft and sorrowing oft we go,
Yet Jesus sweetly saves me.
For whilst I know Thou art so near,
No danger I can ever fear,
The charge is still, "Be of good cheer,"
For Jesus sweetly saves me.*

*E'en tho' we weep, 'tis not in vain,
Not in vain, not in vain;
E'en tho' we die, to die is gain,
So sweetly Jesus saves me.
Who would mount up must needs bow down;
Who'll bear the cross will wear the crown;
Whilst Jesus smiles the world may frown,
So sweetly Jesus saves me.*



“JUST THE FACTS”

In the religious culture of our day, we hear many varied things said about who Jesus is, and what He taught and did while He was here in the earth. Who is Jesus, really? What did he really say and do? Brother Justin Cobb examines this subject in this series of “Jesus Facts” to separate the Biblical Jesus from the mythical Jesus that we have heard so much about in our generation.

JESUS FACT #14

He is the Great Physician (Mk 2:17)! His healing is complete! Perfect! There is no partiality or incompleteness to His healing, or any lingering effects from sin after He has healed (Jn 5:6). He opens the ears of the deaf and the eyes of the blind (Isa 42:7, 35:5 Ps 146:8). He causes the lame to walk again (Jn 5:8-9), He gives strength to the feeble, causes what was withered to be made whole (Mk 3:5), cleanses the lepers, raises the dead (Mt 11:5), emboldens the cowardly, and gives comfort and peace (Php 4:7). Yes, there is no condition in a person that He cannot address, He is able to save to the uttermost! (Heb 7:25) The key is getting to Him to receive His care (Isa 45:22). You might have to crawl through a packed crowd of people (Mk 4:27), or even go through the ceiling (Lk 5:19). But if you can get to Jesus you will be healed. This is why He is called the GREAT physician. Your physical health is important in the sense that it enables you to do things that are necessary while on this earth. But I would have to argue that your spiritual health is even more important.

If you aren't living right before God, it doesn't make any difference how healthy you are in the body.

If you go to Jesus, He has the power and authority to keep you in good spiritual health. And if you can believe this, at the moment you extend yourself is when you will get the healing. (Jn 5:8-9)

JESUS FACT #15

He endured faithfully the death of the cross. (Heb 12:12) He did this at His weakest point (Psa 22:14) However it was not Jesus' love for us that enabled Him to do this. Jesus endured the cross because of the joy that was ahead of Him, in heaven. (Heb 12:12). He did not endure the cross simply because He loves us so much. I'm not saying Jesus does not love us, that would be absurd. I'm saying just human beings alone, by themselves, did not give Jesus a reason to endure the cross. There is nothing about mankind that makes us loveable enough to die for, and such boasting is inappropriate.

In fact, love for us was not enough for Him to be willing to lay down His life and drink the cup of Gods wrath. However, His love for God the Father was enough (Lk 22:42). I just praise God that we are included in His purpose of Salvation! Your love for others is important, but it's not what will make you overcome. I am personally not against helping the poor and needy, or being kind to others. However, you won't hold up under a trial by simply thinking about people or by living to help them. A person needs a reason to live righteously.

Everyone does what they consider to be the best thing at the time. If you can't see the hope of a better life, then the only thing you will see is this life. If all you can see is this life, the words of Jesus become hard to swallow. Dying to self makes no sense if there's no reason other than "you have to do it." But if you can see what lies up ahead for you, then you will want to do whatever it takes to secure it, and shun the things that threaten it. The only way that you can do this is to love God far above everything and everyone. You have to not only believe that He exists, but that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb 11:6).

I thank Jesus that He loved the Father, and that He always did His will. It is my resolve to love God, too, and to know Him. I praise God that He has made it possible to do His will through the power given to us by Jesus!

JESUS FACT #16

He hides the truth from unbelievers (Col 1:26). He never speaks in parables to clarify the truth, but to conceal the truth.(Matt 13:13) He does this, because not everyone is given to know the truth by God (Matt 13:11, Mk 4:11, Lk 8:10). However He will reveal the truth to those who are close with Him. It involves asking, seeking, knocking (Matt 7:7), fearing Him (Ps 25:14), taking up your cross and forsaking all to follow Him (Lk 14:33). Then Jesus will teach you the truth, and open your understanding.(Matt 13:16-18) Until then, all Jesus will teach you is a farming lesson (Matt 13:1-8).

JESUS FACT #17

He has left us more than enough witness to KNOW that He is in fact, the Son of God. Jesus bears witness of Himself, (John 8:18, 14:6) Jesus' works bear witness of Himself, (John 5:36, 10:25) The Father bears witness of Jesus, (John 5:37, 8:18, 1 John 5:9) The Holy Spirit bears witness of Jesus, (John 15:26) The multitudes bear witness of Jesus, (John 12:17) The Prophets bear witness of Jesus, (Acts 10:43) The Scriptures bear witness of Jesus, (John 5:39) The disciples bear witness of Jesus Christ, (John 15:27), even all who follow Him! A criminal in our day can possibly be convicted without tangible evidence simply on the basis of multi-faceted witness and testimony. Not just in our day, even a basis of conviction in the law was established with 2 or 3 witnesses (Deut 19:15). Therefore total ignorance and lack of knowledge is the explanation for wherever the truth of Jesus is not received.

“His Grace is Sufficient”

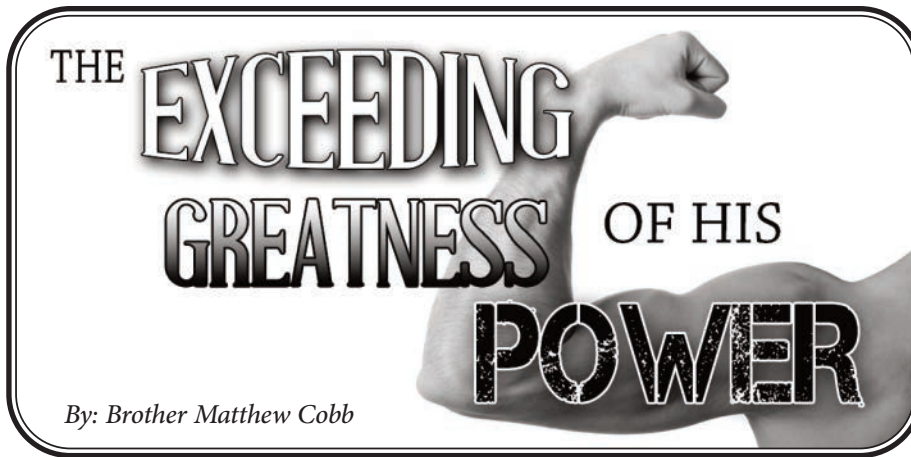
By: Brother Robert Cobb

*When in distress, and wandering sore
Your feet so heavy from the trial you endure.
Be not dismayed, nor fight to flee
It is just the savior, saving thee.*

*The things of this earth, of great profit they cry
But none follow after, when you die.
The only things that transfers there
Are the things sent ahead, of the Spirits fare!*

*We all are by nature, set adrift on life's sea
Where storms and strong waves, attempt to trouble thee.
But alas in the distance, a bright light I behold
It is the voice of the master, speaking peace to my soul.*

*The trouble cannot harm you while your seeking His face
This life is a shadow in which we learn about grace.
His ways are not understood by the wisdom of men
But they are revealed to the humblest of them.*



The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know ... what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
(Ephesians 1:18,19)

It is a refreshing and comforting thought indeed to think of salvation within the context of power. Of something that is affective, that is wholly able and sufficient.

One may not necessarily think of it in these terms if you were to look at much of what is referred to as “Christianity” in our generation. In fact, much of the structure of Christian ministry, especially in our country, actually assumes that this power is not present among professing believers. The overwhelming presence of recovery groups, Christian counsellors, accountability groups, etc... speaks to the apparent lack of power that exists. It is good to never allow this kind of weakened view of the kingdom of GOD to slip into our thinking. Although it is true that in this world we are in a battle which requires a defensive stance against the assault of the enemy, we are not merely defending. Any defense that is mounted, is done so in prospect of avoiding injury to be able to forcefully advance and gain ground. Obtainment is the focus - spiritual empowerment to participate in kingdom work.

Anywhere that a confident, successful walk in Jesus resulting in spiritual growth and an evident life of holiness is not found, there has been a departure from the power which the apostle speaks of in this text. I realize that no one has yet “apprehended that for which Christ has apprehended them”, and we are all growing up into our obtainment of this perfection of holiness. However, if and when we find ourselves neglecting or slipping, we cannot allow ourselves to compromise clarity in this matter.

Where Jesus is at work building his church, there is power. When power is not present, there is in some way a departure. Where there is not a confident reliance upon the truth that He that is in us is greater, more powerful, more affective, more satisfying and fulfilling than he that is in the world, there is a defiling element present.

This lack of appreciation for how powerful and affective this salvation really is, that is rampant in the church culture of our day, finds its root in unbelief. As a believer in Christ Jesus, you should never put limitations on GOD in your own heart and mind. With GOD all things are possible!

The excersize of this kind of decisive, certain, sure, and stedfast power is something which we, as mortal men, must be made accustomed to in the spirit. The uncertainty which you may experience from time to time concerning a matter is not a shared experience in heaven. We sometimes worry and fret over things because we can't see all of the implications, or are not aware of the spiritual activity going on in the background, in a given situation, and we don't always have the power to affect any change in the matter. It is important in times such as these to remember, that this uncertainty is not a shared experience in heaven!

Any difficulty, any hardship or trial you are experiencing on the earth does not worry GOD in heaven. It's not that GOD is unconcerned, or has no care. He does not share in your experience of worry, there are no crises in heaven.

It is good to maintain this perspective - that GOD reigns. He is in control, He works all things according to the council of his own will. His power is driving this whole purpose. GOD is not limited in any capacity as it concerns the exercise of His power.

THE NATURE, OR ESSENCE OF "THE POWER"

This power is one which cannot be easily described by language. It is said several different ways amongst the various translations, I like the way that the Amplified Bible put it; **Ephesians 1:19** *"and so that you will begin to know what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His active, spiritual power is in us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength" (AMP).*

It is generally understood that this power can be seen in reference to the power of GOD exercised in delivering us from the power of darkness : **Colossians 1:12-13** *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"*

It is demonstrated specially in the resurrection of Christ. This same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead was required to raise us from spiritual death. But, as it concerns this text, I want to emphasize more that the apostle wanted these believers to know what IS the power of GOD towards them who believe, not only what was required to bring them to Him, but what is now, currently towards them as they go through this world.

Ephesians 3:20 *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"*

This is the source of our confidence and assurance when it comes to our eternal security, as it were. This is why we can be sure that if we continue to believe in Jesus, and walk according to the spirit of GOD in Him, we will not ever be ashamed. The sheer nature and magnitude of the power that is for us is such that none can overthrow its intentions. 'If God be for us, who can be against us?'

On a fundamental level, this power is like a steamroller, which is able to roll over anything that would attempt to get in it's way, it is superior. It is affective. It is not prevented or deterred. Unlike any power in the world, it is not power granted. It is not power obtained - it is inherent. The power of GOD is not something which He possesses as much as it is something that He IS - GOD himself is, as it were, the definition of power. He is the source of all power. He is the sole personality who always has the inherent ability to do and accomplish what He wills. All things exist, or are destroyed, allowed or prevented according to the might of His power.

That being said, what does it mean when the apostle expresses to these believers that this exceeding great power of GOD is towards those who believe? What is the mode of this power, what is the nature of its outworking?

I appreciate the clarity of the Apostle here, in making the connection with believing. This is the point of apprehension, the means of obtainment **Romans 1:16** *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth"*

This working is a continual extension of Divine will and purpose towards those who are believing in Jesus.

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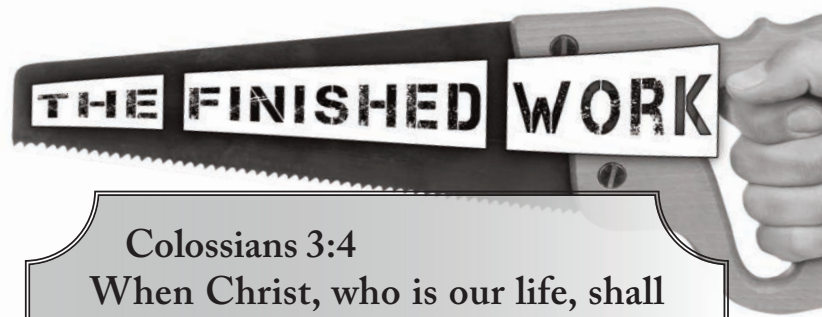
ACCORDING TO THE WORKING OF HIS MIGHTY POWER

Even in the earth, strength finds its utility in being used, and it is gauged by a demonstration of that strength in action. For example, someone could have the most powerful engine in their truck, so that they could pull a large, heavy semi-trailer behind it - but unless that potential is ever actually used, it's ability to do so is a moot point. What good did that potential power do? Likewise, weightlifters don't come together for a competition and just stand around talking to each other about how big their muscles are and how much they can lift. They demonstrate that strength in a measureable way. Without that demonstration you wouldn't have had any idea exactly how strong each of them really were.

But, that being said, the power of GOD is not like the power demonstrated in a strong man competition. This is not a mere exhibition, He is demonstrating his power by accomplishing a purpose, fulfilling a will. The power of GOD is in its nature useful. It is not a raw display of power merely for the sake of a display. It is employed in a manner that also demonstrates great wisdom and precision.

As it concerns salvation, I would say that sheer force of will exerted upon men to do the bidding of the Lord outside of their involvement and participation would actually be a lesser demonstration of power than what GOD has done in salvation. GOD was able to demonstrate that type of power over the heart of a man with Pharaoh, but it did not result in any kind of favor on his behalf. This is the greatness of the power, that it affects change and transformation.

What takes more power, what involves more wisdom, to defeat your enemy, or to cause your enemy to become your friend? This is the power that has been worked in us, and demonstrated towards us in Christ Jesus! We have been made willing in the day of his Power! Praise God for the mighty power that works in us to accomplish his will!



Colossians 3:4

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Considering the "completed project" is most satisfying, and it will generate hope and confidence for the continuance of the "good fight" of faith. Those who are "crucifying the flesh, with the affections and lust" find themselves in a great need for "grace to help in the time of need." The answer is found in the one "who is our life." GOD has set Christ up as our Saviour, deliverer, intercessor, sustainer, and provider. GOD has appointed that this help from Christ comes through "the comforter".

The Holy Spirit has been sent to men, by Christ, from the Father, in order that those whom the Father has given the Son may be able to properly understand "their calling and election" (Eph 1:18 - 2 Thes 1:11-12 - 2 Peter 1:10) The "helper" helps, through the opening of the eyes, through the enlightening of the understanding, and through the transformation and translation, from one degree of glory to another. Those who are in Christ have a great need to "be with Him, where He is" and this is experienced "in part" as the person "walks in the Spirit" - "In heavenly places, with Christ Jesus" - *Brother Robert Cobb*

Praying with all prayer

with: Sister Adah Hutchcraft

Our Gracious God,


We thank You for the reassuring promise that even when we are insulted, persecuted, and falsely accused for Your Name's sake, Your blessing remains upon us. Give us wisdom and grace to live peaceably, yet stand unashamed of Your Word and the working of Your Spirit. We are liberated to rejoice even in our sufferings, knowing that our reward in heaven is great. Though persecuted, we are not abandoned. Where treasure is, our hearts will be also. Keep our hearts steadfast, faithful, and unashamed before You.

In the Name of Christ, Amen (Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Corinthians 4:9).

Our Gracious Father,

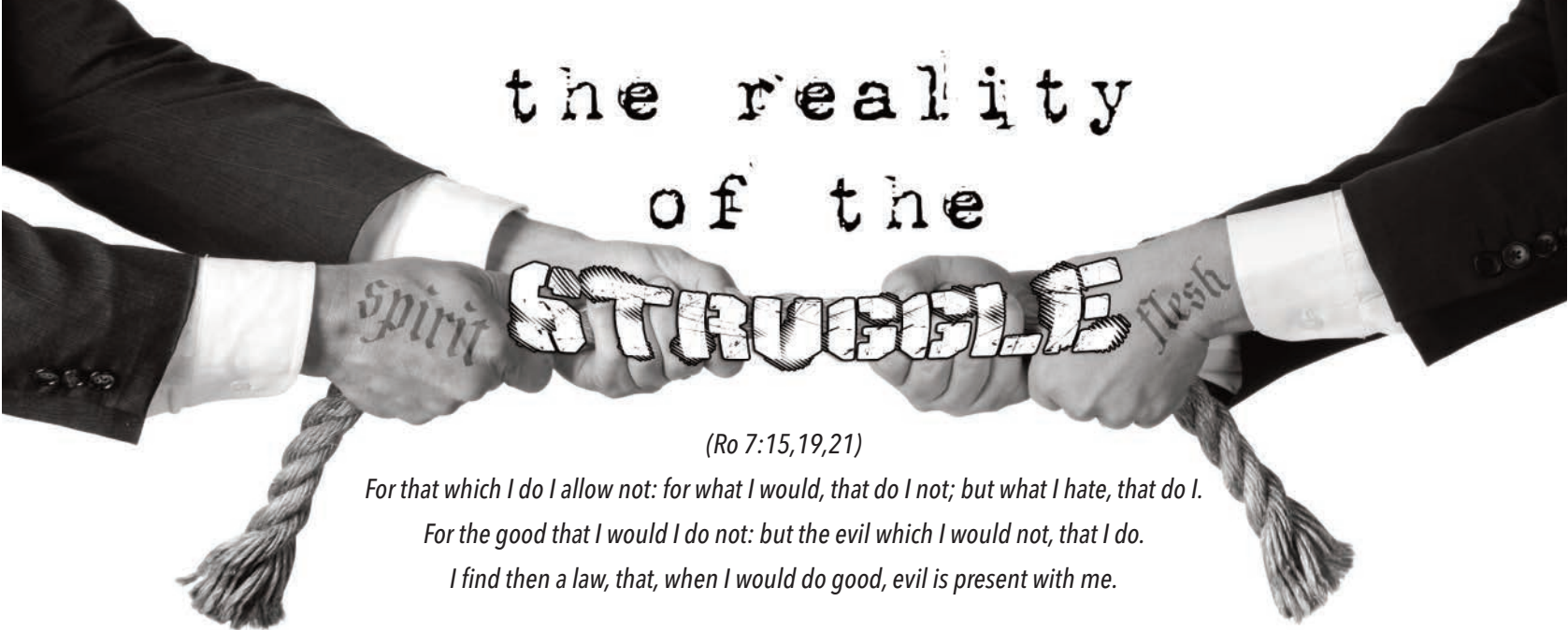
Thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit, our seal unto the day of redemption. May we sincerely and soberly heed the admonishment to not grieve Him. In all You desire us to see, may we not be distracted and unfocused. In what You want us to hear, may we not succumb to the sirens of selfishness but listen for You intently. In the way You set for us, may we follow Christ willingly and not pursue circuitous routes to arrive where You call us to go. When You would have us speak, let us not keep silent, but act with wisdom and boldness. And when You would have us be silent, may we humbly listen and wait with understanding. We want to be Your joy! Thank You for leading us. Let our hearts in obedience to Your call.

In the Name of Christ, Amen



Our Gracious Father, You have kept Your remnant throughout every generation, and You will do so until Christ returns. Jesus promised that until He comes, we would hear of wars and rumors of wars. Yet He tells us not to be troubled, for all these things must come to pass. We remember that He told us nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. You let us know that there would be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in many places. Our brothers and sisters are afflicted and martyred. Betrayal and hate increase, and false prophets arise to deceive many. Our hearts grieve because iniquity abounds and the love of many grows cold. Yet Christ tells us these things will happen, and that He has overcome the world. May we daily be comforted by Your keeping power, and the promise that all who endure unto the end will be saved.

In the Name of Christ, Amen



the reality of the

STRUGGLE

(Ro 7:15,19,21)

For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Part 5 of a series of articles entitled "Inner Conflict and It's remedy" By Brother Given Blakely

Paul's language is arresting--both to those conscious of their involvement in the struggle, and to those ignorant of it. For those experiencing these things, his language is marked by a preciseness that promotes spiritual liberty. For those ignorant of the warfare, his words appear too strong--apparently applicable to a prior time in his life.

Arresting Language

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (v 15, RSV).

"I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members" (v 23, RSV).

When Paul says he does not understand his own actions, he is not acknowledging spiritual naivete. Here is a remarkable confession of faith! The Apostle lived so close to God, that the intrusion of worldly thoughts and perspectives were confounding. Basking in the light of God's grace, he found such encroachments strange. The marvel of this perspective of faith is its contrariety to the experience of the religious masses. For, an illuminating thought is as strange as a morose one was to Paul.

Unspiritual thought is strange to faith; spiritual thought is strange to unbelief. I am confounded by the common acknowledgment of aloofness from God. Preachers and teachers readily admit they are "stumped" by the logic of Scripture. Their speech too often betrays that their mind is filled with thoughts that follow the pattern of the world. But this is not, nor will it ever be, the response of faith.

The "actions" Paul did not understand were not his involvement in the will of God. They were not the deep and profound thoughts he had of the "things of the Spirit of God." Rather, they were the intrusion of earthly thoughts--fiery darts from the evil one. O, that this view were more common in our day. O, that men were more surprised by their propensity to evil than by their involvement in the good and acceptable, and perfect will of God (**Rom. 12:2**). One cannot ignore the nature of this struggle. Here is a graphic picture of inhibition and frustration. The right things are loved, and wrong things are appropriately hated. The will has been altered, provoking the fervent desire for right, as well as an aggressive abhorrence of evil. Yet, the individual cannot consistently implement his desires. He is engaged in a conflict within. Both good and evil are present, struggling for the supremacy!

Further, the writer is discontent with the outcome of this inner warfare. His discontent is not morose, nor does it produce despair. Rather, it stimulates the writer to a more earnest and consistent endeavor to keep the faith. It is important to see that this is not merely Paul's perspective. It is the view of faith, and whoever has faith has this view to some measurable extent. This condition is also set forth in **Galatians 5:17**.

"For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would" (RSV).

Whatever is desired--whether good or evil--competition arises from within. The desires of the flesh--*your* flesh-- and God's Holy Spirit are in irreconcilable conflict with each other. No peace can be made between them. Both cannot dominate simultaneously. That is why one cannot be carnal and spiritual at the same time. You cannot love God and the world concurrently. As Jesus put it, *"No man can serve two masters" (Matt 6:24)*.

Evil inclinations are elsewhere called "fleshly lusts," and are said to "war against the soul" (**1 Pet. 2:11**). They constitute a liability to the believer. It is vital that saints consider them primary while developing their strategy to keep the faith and finish the course. This race can neither be run nor completed without attentiveness and insight. Our acceptance of Christ brought us into a perpetual war zone. Here we are daily confronted with the hostility between good and evil. The confrontation is more internal than external, more unseen than seen. It is a spiritual battle, not a fleshly one.

James speaks of a "spirit" in us that "lusteth to envy," and points out that "more grace" is provided for the situation (**James 4:5-6**). We are in an arena of fierce competition, and God

"yearns jealously over the spirit which He has made to dwell in us" (v. 5, RSV). That Divine yearning is reflected in the struggle against evil which the believer experiences within.

Those in Christ are much like Rebekah, mother of Jacob and Esau. Before they were born, it is written that they "struggled together within her." The condition caused concern to Rebekah, so she went to "inquire of the Lord," an excellent procedure for everyone to follow.

The Lord's words to her are illuminating:

The confrontation is more
internal than external,
more unseen than seen.
It is a spiritual battle,
not a fleshly one.

"Two nations are in thy womb, and two different manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger" (Gen. 25:22-23).

Like Rebekah, the person born from above has two contrary natures within. One is from heaven, the other from earth. One is spiritual, and one is fleshly. One is sensitive to God, the other is sensitive to Satan. One is the root of good, the other of evil. These two natures are locked in mortal combat! Faith, however, causes the new nature to be dominant. When our faith is strong, we are more spiritual. When our faith is weak, we become more fleshly. Our "new man" excels when faith prevails. Our "old man" dominates when faith subsides.

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“THE REALITY OF THE STRUGGLE”
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16 ..

Potential blessing and cursing are associated with this conflict. It is not possible to confront evil without confronting eternal jeopardy. Wherever evil is found, in principle or in expression, Satan is at work. And wherever Satan is at work, imminent danger exists! The fall in Eden's Garden provides us with an example of the seriousness of moral warfare.

The follower of Jesus should not be surprised when confronting conflict. You were "born again" in the crucible of conflict. The word of the Gospel not only informs men of a differing order, but of the means of entering into it. Entrance into this everlasting kingdom necessarily involves an exit from the competing "*fashion of this world,*" which is "*passing away*" (1 Cor 7:31).

Conflict is the experience of competing influences. It is an experience uniquely belonging to the moral arena. Nature, it is true, "groans" and travails in pain. But their's is not the experience of conflict as ours. They do not wrestle with inhibiting influences, but have been "*made subject to vanity*" without the involvement of their will (Rom 8:20). By nature, they are "*waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God*" (Rom 8:19). It is not so with mankind. We must be apprized of Divine provision, and then constrained by intelligent communication to "lay hold of eternal life." Conflict is the unavoidable result of temporality. When we have been ushered into eternal realms, there will be no more conflict.

The presence of good and evil provides us with the opportunity of choice--the employment of our discretionary powers. It also mandates the expression of resistance. One of the antithetical realms must be resisted. They cannot both be embraced or rejected simultaneously. One must be received, and one rejected. There is no other alternative.

The perception of truth occurs in the arena of conflict. Unlike the glory that is to come, truth is made accessible to men amidst contradictory influences. The soul must lay hold of truth by overcoming rational hindrances. These obstacles are not only around us, they are within us, striving to frustrate us. Progress in the apprehension of the truth reveals progress in overcoming the world.

Every believer confronts a fierce inner struggle. Some are taught to ignore it, while others, by misinterpreting it, are brought to confusion. It is vital that those in Christ recognize that they are personally involved in the struggle of good and evil. They are not bystanders in Satan's insurrection against the God of heaven.

Confusion on this matter can cause personal spiritual defeat, as well as doctrinal error. The supposition that life in Christ is attended only by favorable and pleasant circumstances is a false one. It has given rise to a host of false doctrines. The "health and wealth" gospel is prominent in the list of emphases to be zealously avoided. The doctrine of the eternal securitist also ranks high. It teaches that, struggle or not, you are safe in Christ independently of personal effort. This is a grievous error.

Our current conflict requires that we be alert and diligent. "Be sober, be vigilant," the Apostle urges, "for your adversary the devil walketh about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." The only way to successfully counteract his activity is to be "steadfast in the faith." Conflict is not strange thing, and the correct handling of it by those professing faith should not be strange either. A spiritual perception of the nature of inward struggle neutralizes its effect upon the believer!



(Ro 7:24-25) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

I THANK GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD

The 8th chapter of Romans is a rich resource for the believer in Jesus, as it explains this experience of conflict which arises from the introduction of a spiritual nature, and a holy mind into the vile body and carnal mind of the individual. It is vitally important for us to know the details of this spiritual reality, as well as how to deal with it if we are to be successful in living a life of continuing, increasing sanctification and conformation to the image of Christ.

The resolution of this struggle is found in reliance upon Christ. In asking this question, "Who shall deliver me?", Paul is acknowledging that there must be one who is far above him if this deliverance is to be fully realized. This deliverance, although primarily referring to his expectation of the day to come, where his vile body will be taken away and he will be given a body "like unto his glorious body", it also has an application in the work that is being done within the believer currently. It is true that we are in a sense "being delivered."

By remaining close to Christ, being sensitive to His presence and receiving the grace we need to continue, in the present, we are able to see temptations as they come, and we have the resources required to put our bodies under. In this, we are daily being delivered from the body of this death.

Also, The struggle itself is actually a way in which God is continually reminding us that without Christ we can indeed do nothing. It fosters a sense of humility and lowliness. However painful it may seem, it is ultimately arranged to work out for the good of those who follow Christ.

THE CONCLUSION:

So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

At the end of this Chapter, after expounding a very important aspect of Spiritual life, Paul sums things up in a very precise statement. During the time of temptation this is the conclusion that every believer must come to for themselves, in order for them to have confidence Godward. In the previous chapter of Romans, we are admonished to keep our bodies under, to not allow our flesh be the dominating force which rules what we do, and in this chapter, Paul is equipping the believer even more by showing how to kill the deed before it is even committed.

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What is especially profitable about this passage is the clear way in which a contrast is drawn between the new and the old. This distinction **MUST** be clear before any progress in casting down imaginations will be made. It is surely an advantage to know that there is only one part of the collective you which the tactics, and the relentless nature of the adversary can affect, and that is the part of you that you have been delivered from.

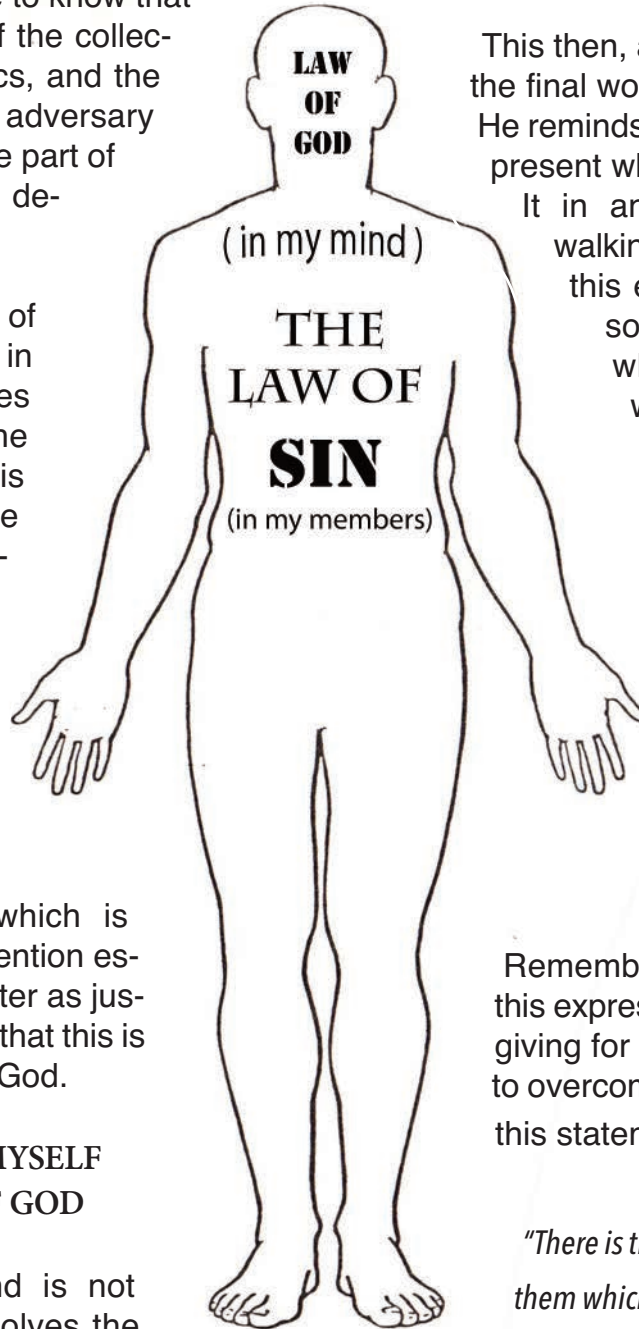
Notice in our first half of this verse, the clear way in which Paul distinguishes which of the “I’s” in the chapter is referring to his true self. “I, myself serve the Law of God.” I, myself. The real I, the I which has been born again “not of corruptible seed”. The I that has been risen to walk in newness of life, the I that is IN Christ. The real me. Ultimately, the issue which is going to come to our attention especially in the next chapter as justification is concerned is that this is who I am in the sight of God.

**WITH THE MIND I MYSELF
SERVE THE LAW OF GOD**

Serving with the mind is not merely thinking, but involves the heart, it involves desire and intention. The *real* me serves the Law of God. This is what I truly enjoy, this is my heart’s desire. This is what, if unhindered I would always be employed with, serving God. Ah, but then there comes our next statement...

BUT WITH THE FLESH THE LAW OF SIN.

In this conclusion he is recognizing that Flesh, however trained it may become will always only be Flesh. The Law of sin forever dictates that the flesh profiteth **NOTHING**.



This then, at the end of the chapter, is the final word which he delivers to us.. He reminds us that the struggle is ever present while we are still in the body. It is an unavoidable product of walking by Faith, the Believer has this ever present conflict within so that they cannot fully do what they would. However, we also have this hope, that one day we will be liberated from these vile bodies, that we will be delivered from this weight, and be unhindered to serve the Lord with all of our being.

May we always be found rejoicing in this Hope, and may we all trust Christ to lead us daily by His Spirit.

Remember also, that directly after this expression of conflict and thanksgiving for the provision given unto us to overcome it in Christ Jesus, comes this statement in **Romans 8:1-2**,

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death”.

So then, believer, rejoice as you are now able to walk according to this freedom!

HE GIVETH MORE GRACE

By: Brother Robert Cobb

James 4:5 - James 4:6 - Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

There will never come a time, while we inhabit this mortal frame, that grace is not needed to overcome our "old man". Our carnal nature is a constant reminder that we have not yet entered into our new bodies.

The Holy Spirit, however, is very aware of our present condition. God is not guessing when it come to salvation and He has made every provision that we have need of available in the person of Christ Jesus. He is the "safe house" of God. He is our strong tower, the righteous run into Him, and are safe.

The Apostle Paul wrote the churches because he saw a need for us to be aware of the "hope" that is available in the person of Christ. We who are in this present dichotomous circumstance, having two opposing, non-overlapping parts (old nature and new nature) have a constant need of God's grace to both overcome and glorify God, at the same time.

The carnal nature must be kept in a constant state of mortification, if we are to benefit from the grace of God. These two natures cannot overlap or be allowed to express themselves equally because the new nature is designed by God to have the pre-eminence it will not share our affection. Either we are giving all diligence in the good fight of faith and therefore God is granting us to be victorious over a world that is superior to us naturally, or, the new man shuts down and no benefits of grace can be realized by those who fraternizes with the flesh.

God has provided a marvelous salvation for those who have eyes to see it. If men can see their true situation they will be humbled and fall at the feet of Jesus. It is when men think more highly of themselves than they should that humility is abandoned for self interest. We are constantly being bombarded from all sides with the thinking of the world. In order for us to walk by faith we must allow the grace of God to *"teach us to deny ungodliness and worldly lust"*. We must take hold of the provisions of God with both hands and abide in the strong hold of the Lord.

After all is said and done, the reality is evident we overcome because God *"gives more grace"*. His desire for us to overcome is greater than our circumstance. His grace is more powerful, as it works in humble hearts, than Satan's ability to deceive. God is bringing many sons unto glory and He has given us more grace because that's what it will take to complete that objective.

edification from facebook®



Bro Jason Rosselli

Here are some insightful comments taken from the "from the battlefield" Group on Facebook.

Make no mistake about it! There are multitudes who shall resist God until the extreme measures He must use to subdue them are beyond our comprehension. For them the second death shall hold terror, and will prove a most painful experience. Let us die now! Let us die to sin now! Let us die to our stubborn wills now! Let us die to our fleshly ways now! Let us take the cup of suffering and submit to the refining fires now! Let us arise in the newness of His life now, to be conformed to His image. He that overcometh NOW shall not be hurt by the second death! Aren't you glad?



Bro Jeff Hostetter

"A transformed life is God's best advertising for Christ."

Most people trade their life's blood, energies and time, for money, for stuff, for a little fun and frolic. Seems like a waste of a precious, God-given life to me. Why not work as necessary, but live to serve God and find our joy in that service, plus knowing that there is eternal rewards to be had with Jesus!



Bro Robert Cobb

" Nobody who fights "the good fight" of faith loses! "

Jesus' blood is much more powerful than any have dared to imagine! His blood can "change" the vilest of sinners and made them acceptable to God! Those who God has given to Jesus will come unto Him, and when they do, they will be made whole!



Bro Matthew Cobb

" We can rejoice in the Lord Always! "

We can rejoice in the Lord always because there is always a reason to rejoice. We can experience joy at all times because GOD is always the God of hope. Jesus is always our Lord and Saviour, as we by faith take hold of the things revealed about GOD, and his purpose in Christ Jesus, we find no reason to do anything other than joy in GOD!

Steadfast Saints



Sister Mary Besson

“Present With The Lord”

November 19, 1957 - December 19, 2016

On December 19th, 2016, Sister Mary Besson said farewell to “the good fight of faith”. In the months leading up to her departure she was regularly assaulted by the wicked one concerning her passage into “the valley of the shadow of death”, a passage that she has now accomplished.

Deep down, Sister Mary already knew that the Lord would be with her during her passage through this “last valley”. Yet, the enemy of our soul is not content to leave us during our times of weakness. Sister Mary mentioned that she had thoughts of not being worthy and we spoke about where those thoughts originated from. She was quick to identify that it was the Devil “throwing those fiery darts” into her mind. This was a great benefit for her to be able to see that Christ had already walked this path, and that now He would be with her during this “last fight” as she passed through the dark valley of death.

We also spoke of the fact that the “valley of the shadow of death” is not the same since Jesus died and took away our sin!

The one who once had dominion over death had been defeated and that scary valley has never been the same since the day Jesus passed through it! This was a great comfort to sister Mary, and she made several connections to the fact that if Jesus would “never leave us” while we were here, then we can expect that He will not leave us when we need Him the most!

Sister Mary Besson is a premier example of what “fighting the good fight of faith” looks like in the real world! Her faith in Christ sustained her through her fight against ALS -and the moment her spirit left her body, she was “present with the Lord”.

If sister Mary could speak to us now, she would exhort each one to “give all diligence in making our calling and election sure”. She would comfort us in confirming that everything the Lord has said about heaven is real and it is worth whatever we must go through to make it there with Jesus.

She would testify that there really are “pleasures at the right hand of God that are greater than anything the world can offer”. She is not in pain anymore, her body is not giving her trouble. She has passed beyond the veil where there are joys which cannot be expressed with mere words.

She is “in the presence of God” and her present status is “redeemed, sanctified and glorified”. She has been added to the “Heavenly Host” and is now awaiting the time when she will return “with Jesus” on that last day.

We rejoice in having known this...

Steadfast Saint.



COMMENTS FROM THE FOXHOLE

"We are either with Jesus or we are not with Him" - June Blakely

"Jesus is the reason for everything" - Tony Parker

"Expectation is to the souls as oxygen is to the lungs" - Aaron Hutchcraft

**"God made Jesus accessible and knowable by making the Word flesh"
- Michael Blakely**

"Prayer is a valid resouse from heaven" - Jonathan Blakely

**"The scriptures are not written in human language, but in spiritual language"
- Justin Cobb**

"As long as you stay with God, your hope will never diminish" - Robert Cobb

**"Hope is greater then trouble, regardless of what is going on around you"
- Judah Hutchcraft**

**"When Jesus returns, the question is, "with you be glad or will you be sad"
- Gene Hutchcraft**

**"Reliance upon God is a full time engagement and a fight of faith"
- Adah Hutchcraft**

**"We come to Him in a state that is helpless, but when we stay in Him we are
changed" - Nicole Cobb**

"We are called, chosen, and faithful. To sum it up, we win" - Tasha Sims

"Our election is a source of assurance, not pride" - Katie Miller