

FROM THE

FALL - WINTER 2019

BATTLEFIELD

MAGAZINE

INSIDE:

TESTIMONIES

FROM THE BRETHREN

EDIFYING

ARTICLES OF FAITH

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WAITING FOR GOD

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ISSUE #15



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DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH

Trusting in God

PG. 8



The All-Possible Giver

*Listen, my brethren, oh be not dismayed
Your maker in heaven has power to save
If it were not so why would you be made?
See there is no reason to now be afraid.*

*Nothing is impossible, for Him nothing's hard
Our God is unstoppable, his enemies barred
His will he performs in purpose and peace
And I say this to you, your faith to increase*

*Now think for a moment, and do comprehend
The works he has shown unique just to Him
He opens the womb in the oldness of age
Calms storms with a word and says don't be afraid*

*Impossible tasks for men to perform
But Not so with God, have you been informed
Goliath, the giant, knocked out with a stone
The bush does not burn when the fire is shone*

*The Red Sea when parted revealed the dry land
The withered and spotted are healed by a hand
The clothes can't wear in the desert by the way
The sun stands still in the middle of the day*

*Paul's not harmed when bitten on Malta by a snake
The Oil's not harmed when given to Elijah for a cake
A valley of bones can stand tall at just a word
Why men would conclude all of these things absurd*

*A virgin conceives and gives forth a blest birth
A man is created and is formed from the earth
A dead man is raised and a new life is given
A person who's many transgressions forgiven*

*And time it would fail me to cover them all
But you get the picture our God is not small
His hand is not short and He gets his own way
For He's doing everything that He's had to say*

FALL - WINTER 2019

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

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

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

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*I speak all these things, not simply in recurrence
But that by Faith everyone in them would find assurance
For the one providing power of possibility unto men
Is the Son in whom has all things rightly given unto him*

*And with sin displaced in open face the glory is revealed
we'll win the race and reach the place that now remains concealed.
Oh he is further faithful than our flesh attempts to tell us
Why would he leave us helpless if his name is rightly jealous?*

*Why would he withhold anything that is of any use?
Why would he when he gave his Son?, oh there is no excuse!
To go to Him at anytime and not have full assurance.
He wants the best for all the Saints. Let that be our concurrence.*

Grace and Peace

-Brother Justin Cobb

Our Purpose

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

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

Contact Us

PHONE: 417-592-2688
E-MAIL: battle@rwrenewals.com
MAILING ADDRESS: 4732 Jute Road
Seneca, MO 64865
EDITOR: bornagain102013@gmail.com

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Visit our group on facebook where you can read more insights from brethren that could not fit within the limited pages of this magazine! Just scan this QR code, or visit the URL below!

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

We gladly welcome new Submissions

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

Our Regular Commentators

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



Sister Adah Hutchcraft

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



Brother Matthew Cobb

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



Brother Given Blakely

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

Brother Robert Cobb

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



Brother Justin Cobb

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



Brother Albert Stoner

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



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Additional Resources

Provision

For the Present Circumstance

By Brother

Matthew Cobb

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." -2nd Timothy 3:1-5

This scripture spoke to me today, it seems to me that this is such an accurate assessment of the generation in which we live, where things which would not so long ago, even within my lifetime (and I'm only 32) be considered at the very least fringe, or odd, out of the ordinary, if not outright wrong and socially unacceptable, are now accepted as common and ordinary, even applauded and considered brave and progressive.

I found myself today pondering, what ought to be my reaction to this ? I know from an individual spiritual perspective, this knowledge, at the very least, makes me very careful, and purposeful in separating myself, running to Christ to be saved from this untoward generation. But, I was struck with a concern for those who are children, being raised in this environment - what a disadvantage it would have been to me to grow up, only ever having known what we have commonly expressed in radio, television, news media, magazines and websites, video games, and phone apps. And then as I was reading through the remainder of the chapter, I received the answer for this burden, that GOD has made counter measures, a provision for all of these things, no matter how seemingly difficult and hopeless it seems to work against such gross iniquity.

..evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving,

and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2Ti 3:13-17)

GOD has given us a testimony, He has accounted for every need, for every possible human circumstance - in the testimony of what He has delivered to us in the scripture. In the beginning He established his power and godhead in the creation of the world, in the flood He revealed his wrath and hatred for sin, in the calling of Abraham and the subsequent creation of the nation of Israel through his seed Jacob, He demonstrated His election, and predetermination to raise up a saviour for mankind.

In the Law He revealed the manner of His character, holiness and righteousness, as well as the lack thereof on the part of man. In the tabernacle and temple, the priests and sacrifices He pointed towards the provision He would make to sin to be taken away, as well as the nature of the price which must be paid to do so. In the prophets He gave words, as Hebrews states it, "At sundry times and in diverse manners" pointing towards the nature of this sacrifice - of the nature of our redeemer, the Christ, the chosen one of GOD.

In the gospel records He shows unto us the bright light which suddenly shone upon the darkness, the testimony of the works and words of Christ on the earth, as well as the record of His atoning death which fulfilled the type of the law and confirmed the testimony of the prophets. And finally, in the epistles we have provided for us a detailed revelation concerning the real spiritual implications behind that death, as well as the goodness, grace, love, and mercy that it provides to all those who by faith accept Christ , are baptised into his death, raised to walk in His life, and abide in Him.

In short, there is no earthly circumstance which the word of GOD , if proclaimed and believed on, cannot overcome and overthrow to the glory of GOD and the benefit of man.

I praise GOD today for His mercy to us, His love towards us in providing us all that is required for us to know, that we may follow and accept Christ so we may indeed be "perfect and thoroughly furnished unto all good works"

"..there is no earthly circumstance which the word of GOD if proclaimed and believed on, cannot overcome .."

-Matthew Cobb

Concerning the Fight

Given O. Blakely

WE MUST FIGHT

Paul admonished Timothy to “fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life” (1 Tim 6:12). Unless these prerogatives were unique to Timothy, those who seek to “lay hold on eternal life” will face resistance – and they will have to “fight.” How are you doing in this assignment?

WE FIGHT FOR GOD

The person who is really fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12), resisting the devil (James 4:7), and wrestling against principalities and powers (Eph 2:12), can be described as follows: “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (2 Tim 2:4). (Rom 8:37)

WE FIGHT FOR OTHERS

When Nehemiah was in the process of managing the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem, opposition was encountered. Moved by the Spirit Nehemiah, “said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: Remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses” (Neh 4:14). Today, the saints of God are in a similar situation. They must be urged to “remember the Lord,” and “fight” the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:15). There are new and fledgling believers – fight for them. There is the church “the body of Christ” – fight for her. If you are a parent, fight for your children. God, through Jesus Christ, has summoned you live for Him in the midst of enemies – and to do so as a builder who has the opponent of the devil and his host.

WE ASK GOD FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE FIGHT

Here is a brief but powerful petition: “Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be Thou my Helper” (Psa 30:10).

Do not assume God will help you, **ask Him** to be your Helper! Once, when Jehosaphat was surrounded by his enemies to fight him, “Jehosaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God MOVED THEM to depart from him” (2 Chron 18:31). When it seems you are surrounded by the foe, call out, saint

of the Lord, call out to God. Our God can move enemies to leave!

OUR FIGHTING MUST BE SKILLFUL

The people of God must become good fighters – not with one another, but in the “fight” into which faith has called us. We are not to fight like shadow boxers, beating the air, or fighting “straw men” that mortals have set up (1 Cor 9:26). Then, there is “the good fight of faith,” battling against everything that inhibits or attempts to take away faith (1 Tim 6:12). There is the “fight of afflictions” (Heb 10:32) that tend to deplete our energies, and there are “fightings without” (2 Cor 7:5). We face formidable opponents, wrestling against “principalities, powers, and the ‘rulers of the darkness of this world’” (Eph 6:12). There is no room in the life of faith for spiritual “sissies.”

OUR FIGHTING IS NOT DONE ALONE

When circumstance appears to be against you, and all your peers forsake you, you must remember the words of the Lord. “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” For this reason, we may confidently shout in the face of every trouble and every opponent, “The Lord is my Helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Heb 13:5-6). This is the truth, and may confidently be trusted. As we keep the faith (2 Tim 4:7) and “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim 6:12), The Lord will NEVER leave us nor forsake us. It makes no difference how gloomy it may look.

- Given O. Blakely

Trusting in God.

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. Blessed is that man that makes the LORD his trust, and respects not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies,"

Psalm 40:1-4

*By Brother
Bill Dinwiddie*

Blessings for those who trust in the Lord

Trusting in the Lord is not an act of blind faith. While we usually do not know exactly how the Lord will show Himself strong on our behalf, those who trust in the Lord believe that God will indeed do so. In one sense, our Father reciprocates the attitude of our heart that He has developed in us. Psalm 18:25-26 (NIV) To the faithful you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless, to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.

Patiently waiting on the Lord is a key element in trust. We are not to be flighty in our approach to life. We are not to be hasty in our judgments. The time in which it takes the Lord to act on our behalf is in direct relationship to how much time He needs to develop what is happening that He will be praised in it. This point may require extended time for us to learn something of Him. Maybe, we are not learning anything new but He is using us to exercise patients while He is working on someone else or bringing about a situation where only He can be praised. But, in the end, that battle, the victory and the praise belongs to the Lord and not to anyone else. The scriptures, especially from the Old Testament have many examples of waiting and trusting for the Lord to reveal Himself.

To Abram, "The LORD had said, *"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."* Genesis 12:1 (NIV) After the Lord spoke to Moses, Moses *"spoke unto Korah and unto all his company, saying,*

Even tomorrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him. Numbers 16:5 (KJV) The time that we wait may only be a day but even one day can seem like a lifetime if the situation is right.

Peter reminded us that *"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord," 2 Peter 1:2 (KJV) As disciples of Jesus, we are blessed in knowing this truth. As the world adds injury to us and then insult to that injury, Our God is ready to MULTIPLY grace and peace to us. In trusting in Him, He provides for us the peace that we sorely need in the time of "our cries." The days when we cannot pick ourselves up and in the nights when our pillows are wet with our tears, the Lord provides to us "the peace of God, which passes all understanding. It shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7 (KJV)*

It is our physical condition and the world around us that gives us the understanding of this life. But it is the peace of God that is multiplied to us in the midst of the fears and our cries that cause us to pass these temporary imaginations of the flesh. Then, in the multiplication of the promises of our Lord, He continually applies the balm to our hurts and then, in the time that fits the Lord's desire, His grace comes to us and opens the door that no one can shut.

From His throne of grace, our Lord, in mercy, reaches down into the horrible pit that we perceive that we are in. He lifts us up as tenderly as a shepherd lifts a small lamb and He washes us clean from the miry clay and once we are rescued, cleaned and restored to a sure footing He establishes our goings. He again points us in the way of righteousness and He leads us. His grace gives us a right perspective, direction and confidence.

The world had trapped us and filled our minds with propaganda. It had told us that the war was over and our side lost. But the Lord, comforted our sorrow, calmed our fears and then delivered us and He did this *IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES!*
Psalm 23:5 Praise God!

When I think of this personally, I react like this:
And, I will praise God and I will praise God with a right heart and mind and proper words. It will be so because the Lord also gives me *"a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:"*
The praise will go to the Father and the Son but "many people shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

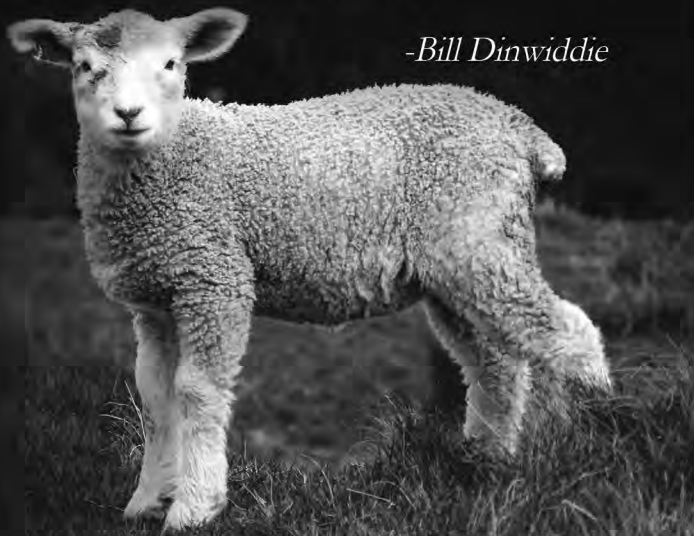
When the Lord does for us what He has promised, it is no problem to sing for Him within view of the place where we were trapped and humiliated. We can see that place still existing but we have been set free. Those who were justified of the wrong point to the Lord as their advocate and judge and those who have been stripped of worldly possessions pray for their friends who gave them miserable counsel in the midst of their trial just as Job did.

I thank God for His foresight to record the manner in which He came to the aid of all of His people. I do not have to imagine or wonder IF the Lord will come to my aid, I just have to be ready for the time that He does. When He does, I will return as the one leper that was healed. I will tell the world that shunned me just exactly what the Lord has done for me.

"Blessed is that man that makes the LORD his trust, and respects not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."

With each and every faithful act of our Lord towards me, He solidifies His nature and adds to the many reasons why I should trust Him and testify to thers that they should trust Him also. This promised blessing applies to me and it also applies to you. Let us encourage one another to receive it.

-Bill Dinwiddie



"It's ok to strain the gnat, just don't swallow the camel."

"God never says, 'I could have said it better.' But we can say, 'I could have heard it better.'"

"Solomon showed us the wisdom of men. Christ showed us the wisdom of God."

"Today is the day of salvation don't be the one who waits for tomorrow!"

"In Christ, there's refuge In other's there's refuse"

"You won't find "Easy St." on a sojourner's roadmap to Glory."

"Ruth had to glean for her portion and we must glean for ours as well."

"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a hospital makes you a physician."

"The prophecies of God are not predictions, they are solid determinations."

"My Lord is NOT a Jewish Carpenter, He is the Son of God."

"If you think the bible is hard to understand - It's probably you who are hard to understand."

facebook brethren



Jeff Hostetter
Kumasi, Ghana

- It only takes one match to get a fire going. Be that match! Zealous, sold out, excited, bold, confident. Forgot all surrounding chatter!
- Seeing and trusting in God's finished work...before it actually happens in our own personal experience, is the very essence of faith.
- Jesus was a man of sorrows. Jeremiah was the "Weeping Prophet". Paul had unceasing anguish over the Jews. Interesting how we can hold great sorrows & intense joys, the bitter & the sweet, anger, grief...and yet also have peace ...that passes understanding...within the confines of our tiny human hearts.
- To (still) be spiritually hungry & thirsty AFTER Christ is obeyed as Lord in baptism should never be seen as normal, but an anomaly to be fixed.



Mike Knapp
Antwerp, OH

- This world may clamor that they are the free ones and that they have choices to do what they want, and freedom over their own bodies and wills, but wisdom is justified by her children.
- What is truth? Truth is what God has established in His son, Christ Jesus.
- John the Baptist knew he wasn't worthy of the simple act of loosening Jesus' laces. Neither are we apart from the blood of Christ. But being in Christ, we are able to boldly come to His throne!
- Christian Brothers and Sisters, we have been given the victory through Christ Jesus now go and possess it boldly!!
- The word retreat is not in the Lord's vocabulary.
- The River of Joy flows deep, wide and free from underneath the throne of God
- The truths of God must become more precious day by day.
- The grave is not the end for a child of God, in fact, it is just the beginning.



Brad Cloutier
Decatur, MI

- Without faith hope and love in your heart, you start thinking that slavery in Egypt wasn't so bad. No, we gotta know where we are going. Stop eating the pig slop and remember who your Father is!
- You know that little 5 year old that will NOT leave you alone? That's how God wants you to be with him! Dead religion says "well Gods busy so pray to these designated saints. If your God is too busy then you need to meet Jesus!
- The mouth of the righteous is a well of life!
- God didn't create us to live in sin. He created us in His image to be like Him
- God never intended for you and I to live separate from Him. And this is why in Jesus we find peace
- You could spend all your time pointing out what's wrong....
Or, you could spend your time putting the right way on display.



Alissia Matthews
Hobart, IN

Get Rid of the weight!

Often times I think that it's possible that individuals may not realize where "their" struggle is. Do you have a weight?? Throw it OFF! What about sin? Throw it OFF.
So, What about the "weight"? We are to throw off the weight and the sin that ensnares. Flee Seriously. Think about it. It's really quite simple. If you're going to run a marathon you're NOT going to put on steel-toe boots and a winter coat... The runner of that race is going to wear barely anything but perhaps shorts, a tank top, and very lightweight running shoes. Why? Because they want to run the race with endurance. TO WIN. What is their prize? Perhaps it's a trophy... or fame. My prize is Jesus Christ, and I pray that the Lord will continue to enable me to run the race with endurance looking to Him.
Not I, but Christ who lives within me. For apart from Him I can do nothing. You may think inside yourself, "I can't throw it off. " You can, if you're connected to Christ. For you can do all things through Christ. And to God alone be the glory.



Katie McKowen
Springfield, MO

- The blessings are countless when we trust in the Lord. The Lord delivers, He gives us a new song, and we shine! Let this be the story of our lives!
- Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations
- In the midst of violence with the enemy we may feel torn apart into pieces left on the ground of hopelessness, poisoned and pierced by the tongue of death, or abandoned and lonely in despair, but the battle is not over! However you have encountered battles, whether it be through rejection, illness, the death of a loved one, a tragic accident, or abuse, in the perfect timing as we look to the Lord for our deliverance, He brings peace and binds up those wounds. With God, the wounds incurred will heal, but the battle scars will remain. The most magnificent realization is that these battle scars are not ones to hide, but they are of holiness, zeal, power, boldness, sanctification, purity, and beauty. For we are given scars of strength.



Victor Knowles
Joplin, MO

- The Promised Land is always on the other side of the wilderness
- **FOUR BIG "IFS"**: 1) If we are winsome, we will win some. 2) If there is no balm for the brethren, there will be no hope for the heathen. 3) If there is no grace for the saint, there will be none for the sinner. 4) If there is no mercy for the prodigal son, there will be none for the profligate sinner
- **FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**: 1) God formed us (Gen 1:27), 2) Satan misinformed us (Gen 3:1), 3) Sin deformed us (Rom 3:10-18). ...but... 4) The Word of God informs us (2 Tim3:16-17), and 5) Christ transforms us (2 Cor 3:18)!
- If you're going to "put someone down", put them down on your prayer list
- Did you know that if you rearranged the letters in the word "depression" you would get "I pressed on"?
- Jesus had to be in his Father's house, how about you?



Taveon Dumas
Cleveland, OH

- Pray instead of worrying. GOD IS FAITHFUL!
- Jesus Christ is my strength. Outside of Him I have none.
- GOD gives you the Joy that no one in the world can take away from you
- Keep going, GOD heard your Prayer..
- Thank God we don't need mans approval to preach the gospel! We preach it if they like it or not. We're here to please GOD not man!
- The only cure for anxiety and depression is Jesus, and I'm talking from experience.
- Satan loves how people are so distracted by the things of this world. Tv, sports, entertainment ect.
- GOD I need you every day of my life, not just when times are bad and I need someone to lean on, but when times are good, and everything is looking up. GOD I need you every day of my life!
- I would rather die Worshipping God than die following the world!



Steven Dutes
New York, NY

- Don't play games with God by counting on a last-minute repentance
- Having a renewed mind will enable you to love your enemies
- In these last days God wants you to come to a greater knowledge of him, not just by reading the bible, but by experience
- The doctrines of men are designed to keep Christians in the outer court.
Only those who are taught by holy spirit will be able to enter into the holies of holies.
- So many ["Christains"] have no peace in [their] situation because they have not learned to trust in the Lord
- Satan tried to deceive Jesus by using the word of God so trust me when I say he's [still] using the scriptures to deceive Christians.



Ramon Carroll
Apple Valley, CA

- Too many professing Christians are majoring in the minors. Starting arguments about things that matter very little while overlooking GLARING falsehoods that actually effect people's eternal livelihood
- When there are clear texts in the Bible that refutes someone's view, usually the person will ignore the text and jump around to other more ambiguous ones to establish their arguments. This is really a form of intellectual dishonesty that should not be tolerated by any respectable student of the word.
- Hatred causes people to lose their sense of reason.
- Knowledge and intelligence are not the same thing. You can have all of the knowledge in the world and still be as dumb as a rock.
- What if you had to be held immediately accountable for every word you spoke as you spoke it or typed it? Think about that for a good while.

waiting for G O O D.

An Essential work of Faith

Bro. Albert G. Stoner

“Oh how great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men!” (Ps. 31:19). “For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him” (Isa. 64:4).

In the texts above both David and the Prophet Isaiah were given to see things that most other men of their day did not see. They were given precious (breathtaking) glimpses of a coming blessedness for the saints prepared by God Himself.

David knew and was persuaded of the goodness and mercy of the Lord that would follow him all the days of his life (Ps. 23:6), even through the valley of the shadow of death. He knew that after being young when he had advanced into old age that he had not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread (Ps. 37:25). The man after God’s own heart confessed a persuasion that when his father and mother would forsake him, then the Lord would take him up (Ps. 27:10). We have very limited knowledge about Isaiah’s personal life, but nevertheless he was given some exceeding precious revelations of the sufferings of Christ, as well as glimpses of the glory that would follow that suffering.

In the Psalm 31 text we see that God had given David a foretaste of the joy and blessedness that was laid up for the people of the saints of the most High God. With Abraham David rejoiced to see Christ’s day, and he saw it and was made glad (cf. Jn. 8:56). Not only is there goodness and mercy that are enjoyed now in the present time, but much more than this there is also a blessedness that is laid up for them that possess a reverential fear of God, and who trust

in Him before the sons of men. And that goodness, or blessedness of which David spoke is yet today being reserved and kept in store for those who are waiting for God’s salvation. David, the man after God’s own heart, was given to see this in his day. Oh for more grace to faithfully and joyfully exhibit this trust before the sons of men and to ever walk in the awareness by faith of the blessedness that is hastening towards us at the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Awaiting the Realization of an Everlasting Salvation.

“But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end” (Isa. 45:17). Some may ask the question, what does this have to do with us who are Gentiles? The answer is this. We, by God’s grace, have been grafted into their olive tree (cf. Rom. 11:16-24). Incidentally, Israel, itself, is not the olive tree, but rather the olive tree is theirs by promise made to Abraham. They are *“the natural branches.”* And we, with them, have been made partakers *“of the root and fatness of the olive tree.”* In God’s eternal purpose in Christ, both Jews and Gentiles have been made partakers of Christ, and the salvation that is in Him.

Let us encourage our hearts that we who are now in Christ, and abiding in Him (I Jn. 2:28), have been appointed to obtain an everlasting salvation. By way of contrast, when Israel was delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians, it was not long after that until they needed to be delivered again. And after David was delivered from the lion, and the bear, and from the Philistine, it was not long after that until he had to be delivered again. And the basking and exultation that were associated with these deliverances were short lived. And the memory of each temporal victory and deliverance eventually faded as a leaf.

But those who continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel (Col. 1:21-23), shall at the last never need to be delivered again! All the enemies shall

be cast into the lake of fire, including the last enemy, death (I Cor. 15:26). In “that world” (Lk. 20:35) there shall be an everlasting memorial to this great and final deliverance from sin, from the course of this world, and from the wrath to come.

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself shall be that precious living memorial. In the Revelation, John beheld, and “*lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth*” (Rev. 5:6). At least 22 times we read of “the Lamb” in the Revelation. His Person is the central focus at every significant event recorded there. Throughout the endless ages to come each of the numberless redeemed personalities will walk in constant and acute awareness of their great indebtedness to “the Lamb”, the Lord Jesus Christ, for their being present there and for the unspeakably great favor that has been shown unto them.

This is an everlasting salvation! The redeemed shall forever bask and exult in the glory of this deliverance. It shall never become old to them and it shall never take the place of secondary importance. And blessedly happy shall they be who are saved with an everlasting salvation! Ye shall not be ashamed. This is speaking of that which the partakers of this everlasting salvation shall be delivered from.

Those who are not partakers of God’s salvation are destined to be forever ashamed and confounded. Theirs will be the unbearable torments of the lake of fire. The personalities that are there shall be made the objects of everlasting shame and contempt (cf. Dan. 12:1-2). The haughty rejecters of this everlasting salvation shall be forever confounded. Their high looks shall be brought low and their boasting tongues shall be forever silenced! They shall be put to confusion, and be forever subject to hurt, and reproach.

Waiting for the Prepared Blessedness. “For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside Thee, what He hath prepared for him that waiteth for Him” (Isa. 64:4). Except for chosen men like David, Isaiah, and a few others, men in general were not aware of the eternal aspect of God’s working in salvation. Many were given to behold some of God’s mighty acts and deliverances, but they were not given to consider those workings as being related to His eternal purpose in Christ, neither the specific objectives of that purpose.

God has prepared unspeakably wonderful things for men, but they did not perceive it. And the times of this ignorance God winked at,

but now He commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). He commands them to repent and obey the gospel in order that they may receive the blessed things which He has prepared for them.

Waiting for a Coming Final Deliverance.

“*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*” (Mt. 6:13). Throughout our sojourn through this world we find ourselves continually in need of offering up this petition. We are delivered from evil and from the evil one, only to find ourselves in need of deliverance again. But the day is coming when we shall be forever delivered from evil. The evil one shall be banished to the lake of fire and we shall finally put off the body of this death. And the world with all its associations with the curse shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.

In the present time there are evil men and wicked devices to be delivered from. There are the evil inclinations of the heart and evil concupiscence to be delivered from. There are evil thoughts, evil rejoicings, evil surmisings, and evil speakings to be delivered from. There are sore testings, afflictions, and much tribulation, to be delivered from. And we stand daily in need of deliverance from the evil one. O Heavenly Father, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil!

The fact that the Lord Jesus taught us to pray this prayer, instructs us that there is indeed evil to be delivered from, and that God is fully set to deliver us from all these things as they arise in this life, until

“OH FOR MORE GRACE to faithfully and joyfully exhibit this trust before the sons of men and to ever walk in the awareness by faith of the blessedness that is hastening towards us at the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

at last the final deliverance shall come at Christ’s long-awaited appearing. This is an exceeding relevant petition as we are daily beset with troubles.

The day is coming when we shall forever be delivered “world without end” (Isa. 45:17; Eph. 3:21)! We shall bid farewell to “the law of sin which is in” our “members” (Rom. 7:23, 25), to evil men and to the wicked one. All of our present troubles proceed from this triumvirate of evil—the world, the flesh, and the Devil, and we shall finally have no more to do with them at all. Praise the Lord! Thus, we can see that there is good reason for asking for deliverance (God is glorified when we ask): because the kingdom, and the power, and the glory belong to Christ! The things and the personalities which cause the need for deliverance have set themselves in opposition to Christ’s dominion and glory, but at the time appointed by the Father the Lord Jesus Christ shall cast them all down in spite of their evil designs. All of Christ’s foes, without exception, are presently subject to Him, as He is King of kings, and Lord of lords.

Waiting for the Salvation that Shall Be Seen by All.

“Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God” (Lk. 3:5-6). Right now all men are given to behold the first fruits of salvation as it is being exhibited in believing men and women. But in that day, they shall be given to see the fullness of salvation. Some will behold as partakers of the great salvation, and others will behold it as rejectors thereof.

This is the long-awaited deliverance from the curse, from the course of this world, and from the wrath to come. All prior deliverances will seem as the dust of the balance when compared with this one. In this salvation redeemed men shall be the head, and not the tail. They shall have joy unspeakable and full of glory. They shall leave off and forget sorrow and crying. They shall reign in life by One, Jesus Christ. They shall forever be in full possession of the crown of life (Jas. 1:12), the crown of glory (I Pet. 5:4), and the crown of righteousness (II Tim. 4:8). And the effects of this deliverance shall never fade away. It shall forever be characterized by newness, by everlasting strength, and by blessedness. And all flesh shall see it together. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Waiting for the Deliverance from the Body.

“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Rom. 7:24). It appears that this question kept coming up again and again with the Apostle Paul until the day that he put off this earthly tabernacle. Then and only then was he completely delivered from the body of this death. We each find ourselves daily being perplexed and opposed by our own body with its evil propensities. It opposes us in our service rendered to the Father and the Son. It opposes us as we purpose in our hearts to keep God’s commandments. It resists us every step of the way in our sojourn to glory. And it is presently seeking to oppose our entrance into the world to come. For this cause we must daily keep under our bodies by walking in the Spirit, and by letting the Word of Christ dwell in us richly.

Awaiting the Coming Adoption.

“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:23). Let us give thanks for the prospect of the redemption of our body! We shall put off this mortal, and put on immortality! We shall put off this corruptible, and put on incorruption. We shall put off the vileness, and in its stead put on holiness. We shall put off weakness, and put on everlasting strength!

Right now, we are in a state of humiliation because of the “body of sin” (Rom. 6:6), and “the body of this death” (7:24). Some translations call the “vile body” (Phil. 3:21) “the body of our humiliation” (ASV), or “our lowly body” (RSV). But at the redemption of our

body, we shall forever be in a state of exaltation and glory, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. An indispensable aspect of the redemption which is in Christ Jesus is indeed the redemption of our body. By this means we shall serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear throughout the ages to come. We shall never again be opposed or hindered by our vile bodies. Our new bodies shall forever be as a blessed “help meet” (Gen. 3:18) for us in our service to the Lord and to His Christ.

"Let us encourage our hearts that we who are now in Christ, and abiding in Him, have been appointed to obtain an everlasting salvation.

A note of Encouragement

*“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”
-Ezekiel 36:26*

Brethren, we are baptized and we have had that contaminated heart washed and we are given a new clean heart. We were given a new clean slate. Not to say there’s no more work to do. There’s much work to do in the kingdom. Maybe even more work than before.

*“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”
-Romans 11:6*

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”
-Ephesians 2:8*

We are given the grace through our faith to obtain our heavenly home. So we are given grace to endure trial to work hard and to deal with all things here on the earth to get to our eternal home. So let us not be weary but encouraged to lay our lives down for the one who saved us

-Sister Tanya Cobb

PRAYING WITH ALL PRAYER

with Sister Adah Hutchcraft

Father in Heaven, Forgive us for any way we are selfish and self-justifying. Help us look to the interest of others and not simply our own. Give us humility and patience to respond to each person with Your grace and wisdom. Open our eyes and forgive us if we have robbed anyone's dignity. Open our hearts to release debts against us so we may be forgiven of You. You have sacrificially loved us. Conform us to Christ's image, for in Him You loved us before we loved You. You justify those who put their trust in You. You exalt the humble. You reward those who diligently seek You. In You we are rich, full and free. No self-seeking can come close to obtaining what Christ died to give us. May we treasure and honor His great sacrifice, and demonstrate the power of it in how we love. In the Name of Christ, amen

Our Gracious God, May we be mindful with our words, thoughtful in our actions, intentional with our words, and faithful in our love for Christ. In His Name we pray, Amen.

Righteous Father in Heaven, You teach us not to say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such things. Instead we pray for a returning to You. What You have torn, You will heal; You will bind up our wounds. Our soul waits for the Lord; our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in You, because we trust in Your holy name. Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You. In the Name of Christ, amen (Ecc 7:10; Hos 6:1; Psa 33:20-22)

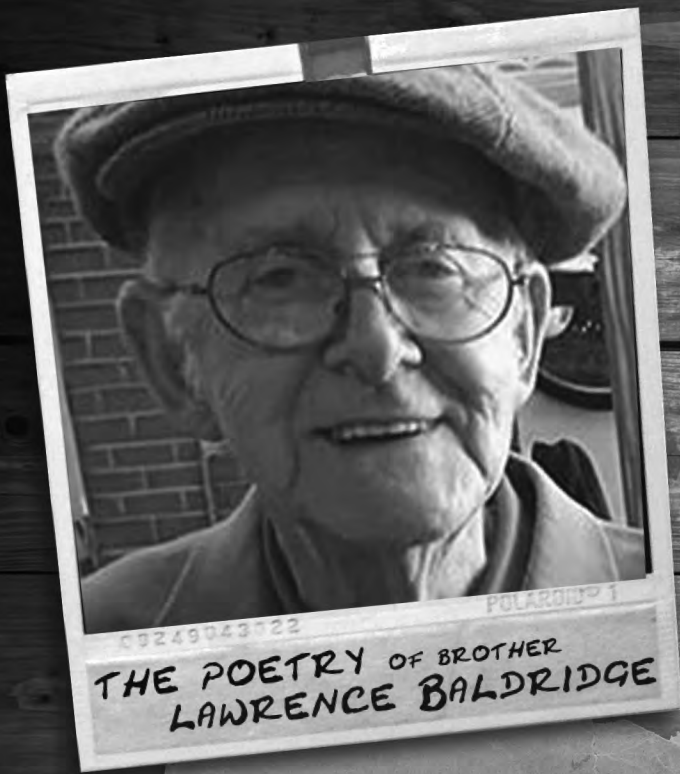
Gracious God, We will turn to You in our pain, whatever its source. We eagerly seek You for safety and solace. You are a defense for the helpless and the needy in times of distress; A refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat. The breath of the ruthless is like a rain storm against a wall. But You have spoken to us so that we may have peace. In the world we have tribulation, but we can take courage, for our Savior has overcome the world. In the Name of Christ, amen. (Isa 25:4; John 16:33)

Illuminating Lord God, You do not experience uncertainty and are never thrown into confusion. Your Spirit helps us in our weaknesses by interceding for us when we do not know what to pray. You search our hearts and make intercession for Your sanctified ones according to Your will. We can rest confidently in the certainty of Your character and promises. You hold us when we confronted with painful uncertainties. We know that all things work together for the good of those who love You, to those who are the called according to Your purpose. You are over all are rich toward all who call upon You. In the Name of Christ, amen.

Venerable Father, We bless Your Name for all You have done for us! Let us frequently recount Your mercies so our eyes are open to what You are doing now, and to what is possible by faith. In the Name of Christ we pray. Amen.

Everlasting Father, Thank You for giving us life. May we give it back to You with trust, faithfulness, and thankful praise. Amen.

Never changing God, You are kind and merciful, honest and just, strong and Holy. Create within us all that is like You. In the Name of Christ, amen.



NEVER LOSE HEART

BROTHER LAWRENCE BALDRIDGE

DISCOURAGEMENT IS COMMON
TO ALL OF HUMAN KIND;
AND IS A PROBLEM OF THE HEART
MUCH MORE THAN OF THE MIND.

FOR WE LOSE HEART WHENEVER
THINGS DO NOT GO OUR WAY,
AND PUT ASIDE IMPORTANT THINGS
THAT WE SHOULD DO TODAY.

THE BIBLE CLEARLY TELLS US
THAT WE SHOULD NOT LOSE HEART,
AND THEN GIVES US THE ANSWER,
AND WE MUST DO OUR PART.

JESUS, IN A PARABLE,
SAID WE SHOULD ALWAYS PRAY
AND NOT LOSE HEART AS SOME DO.
(LK. 18:1)

PRAYER KEEPS THAT PLAGUE AWAY!

THEN PAUL REMINDS, OUR INNER SELF
GOD DAILY WILL RENEW; (2 COR. 4:1)
NEVER EVER LOSE HEART -
BE STRONG THE WHOLE DAY THROUGH!

Brother Lawrence Baldrige has been a pastor and teacher for close to 60 years, the last 55 at the Caney Baptist Church in Pippa Passes, KY.

He has been gifted by the Lord in his expression of poetry which he discovered while attending college in 1956. He has been faithful to serve the Lord in this since then, and has experienced an increase in it over last four years, where he has continued to write at least one a day, and sometimes more, while his wife faithfully assists him in sharing his publications over social media communication, thereby encouraging, comforting, exhorting, and provoking profitable thought in the brethren all over the world

We give thanks to the Lord for steadfast saints, such as brother Lawrence, who have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord, and are examples of what it means to walk by Faith, and not by sight.

HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN

Lawrence Baldrige

No denominations exist
In Heaven up above;
There's only One Door to go through -
And that is through God's Love.

And Jesus is the Door of Love
Through Whom we enter there,
Straight the Gate and narrow the Path
To that Bright Land so fair.

Protestant, Catholic, Gentile, Jew,
These names will there be gone,
And only those that Jesus knows
Will kneel before That Throne.

Thank God no one can earn a spot,
There's simply just One Way
That gives Eternal Life down here,
And There, Eternal Day!

No synagogue, no church, no view
Religious or otherwise,
Can get one into God's Heaven,
However hard one tries.

But simple faith in Jesus Christ,
As we live here below,
Is the only way to Enter that Door,
JESUS HIMSELF SAID SO!

OUR SHEPHERD

Brother Lawrence Baldrige

The Christian Life is not easy,
And sometimes incredibly hard:
Our Shepherd Who leads by still waters,
Leads also through death's dark yard.

But He knows what is behind us,
And all that His Sheep must go through,
For He was in all points tempted,
And knows precisely what to do.

Our season today is joyous,
But the test is waiting somewhere.
We must be ready to suffer
But thank God Our Shepherd is near.

And He is our balm in suffering,
A delight to our heart and soul,
And all that is battered and broken
His Word and His Touch will make whole.

We are the Sheep of our Shepherd.
He guides us and guards us each day,
And with His rod He protects us,
His staff keeps us lest we should stray.

ALL THINGS WELL

Lawrence Baldrige

When Jesus healed the deaf and mute
Near old Decapolis,
He took that lonely man aside,
As He would do with us,

Aware that public scrutiny
Was of no help indeed,
That pity for the poor man's plight
Would never meet his need.

He put His fingers in the ears
Of that unhearing man;
And spat, and touched his tongue;
Sighed; and looked up again,

And cried, Be opened; and behold
The deaf was deaf no more;
His tongue was loosed and he spoke plain
Which He'd not done before.

The people were astonished, and
Went everywhere to tell:
He healed the deaf and loosed his tongue—
He hath done all things well!

Humility

BROTHER
LAWRENCE BALDRIDGE

HUMILITY IS NOT A WORD
OF WEAKNESS IN ONE'S SOUL,
BUT IS A MIGHTY WORD FOR STRENGTH—
A SPIRIT IN CONTROL;

AND YET CONTROLLED BY GOD'S SPIRIT
AND JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON,
WILLING TO TAKE THE GREATER TASKS,
OR TAKE THE SMALLEST ONE.

AND WILLING TO BE A SERVANT
IN THE STEPS OF HIS LORD,
BUT WHEN HE HAS TO TAKE A STAND
HE WIELDS A MIGHTY SWORD!

NOT BY HIS POWER NOR HIS MIGHT
DOES ONE WHO'S HUMBLE STAND,
BUT WHEN HE'S IN A GODLY FIGHT
GOD'S SWORD IS IN HIS HAND!

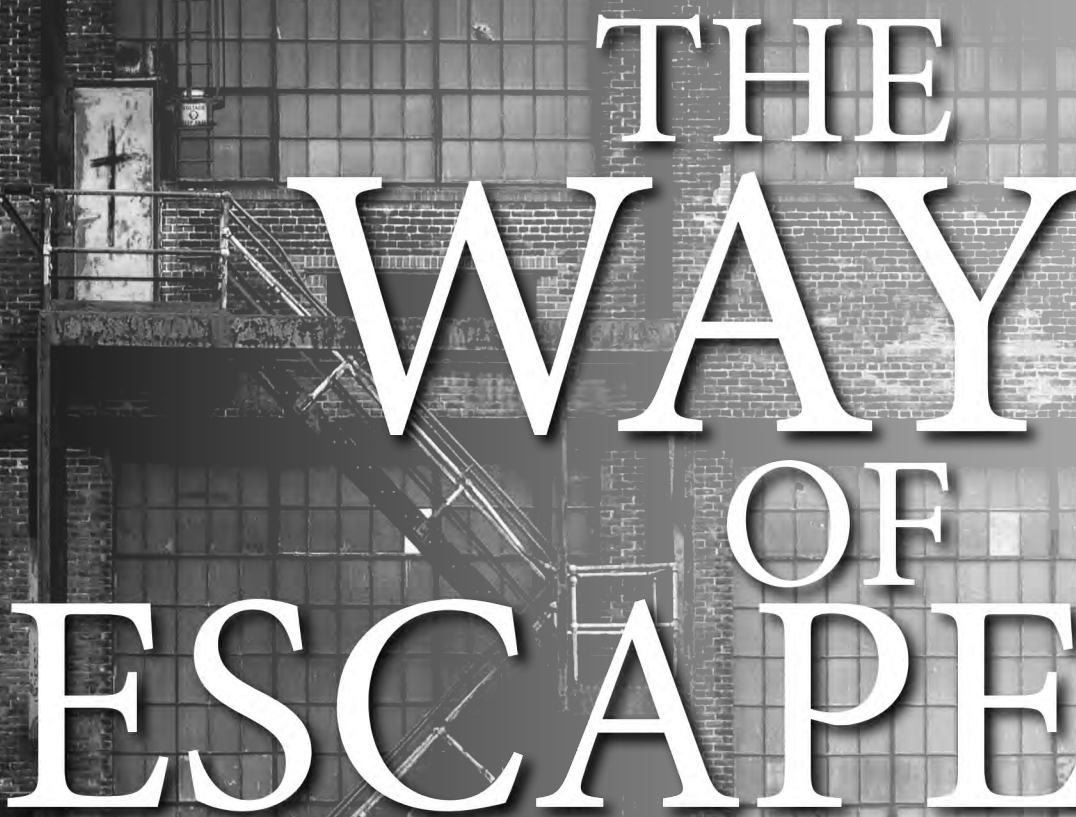
I WILL NOT FEAR

Brother Lawrence Baldrige

I AM NOT GOING TO BE AFRAID ^{SOMETHING MAY TAKE AWAY THIS LIFE}
NO MATTER WHAT MAY COME. ^{BUT I'LL BE LIVING STILL.}
THE WORST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN HERE ^{WHATEVER ONE MAY DO TO ME}
IS NOT TO KNOW GOD'S SON. ^{MY SOUL ONE CANNOT KILL.}

AND SINCE I KNOW HIM, AND HE ME, I WILL OUTLIVE THIS MORTAL DRESS,
HE SPOKE TO ME FEAR NOT! ^{I'M NOT AFRAID TO DIE!}
HE SAID IT ON MY TROUBLED SEA ^{FOR JESUS TOLD ME I WOULD LIVE!}
AND HIS OWN WORDS I'VE GOT! ^{TRUTH CANNOT BE A LIE!}

HE SAID IT OVER AND AGAIN, ^{AND SINCE DEATH COMES TO ALL OF US}
AND SINCE HIS WORD IS TRUE, ^{WHY SHOULD IT TROUBLE ME?}
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AFRAID. BUT WHEN DEATH COMES I WILL BE GONE,
FOR I KNOW CHRIST. DO YOU? ^{AND KNOW WHERE I WILL BE!}



THE WAY OF ESCAPE

Bro. Justin Cobb

At some point in time people have to come to terms with what God said. Saying "We cannot help but sin" is strange talk after God has declared that sin shall not have dominion over us, who are not under the law, but under grace (Rom 6:14). That is not to say that we do not have the capacity to sin, however, there's a big difference between having the capacity to sin, and participating in sin, between having flesh, and walking in the flesh.

Brothers and sisters, this kind of thing is understandable in little children that are just beginning to walk. Any obstacle they face causes them to immediately lose balance and fall, and we don't marvel at it. But this is not the case in a mature adult! *Go to a crowded place full of adults, and count how many people are*

"No temptation

..... has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."- 1 Cor 10:13.

There are popular sayings in our day, such as, "As long as we are in this body, we will always end up sinning." And "We are only human, so we can't help but sin." It's not that everyone says these things because they are hard-hearted apostates, who's sole purpose is to subvert and deceive others. Many of them are taught these things, and as a result of shallow preaching and teaching, and meager spiritual diets, these statements actually become the experience of countless people in the church today. No wonder they are embraced! They reflect people's own experience as a Christian. Who, being tempted to do what they know is wrong, often give into the temptation, feel guilt and shame from sinning, ask for forgiveness, and the cycle continues. And because they are constantly laying again the foundation of repentance, no real forward progress in the Faith is made. One big perpetual cycle of step, failure, step, failure, step, failure becomes common place, when this is actually evidence of spiritual juvenility, not spiritual maturity.

falling all over the ground when they walk. Growing up in the body produces stability of the body, and growing up into Christ produces stability as well. Over all terrain. Like an Olympic cross-country runner. How many times does a professional athlete fall when he runs across the field? Mis-steps for the trained runner are few and far between. Soldiers run obstacle courses with the intent on running through all kinds of hazards on the battlefield without getting tripped up. They have to do this because their life, and the lives of others are on the line! So it ought to be with us, and is to all those who are maturing in Christ, and should be the aim of everyone that is running the race that is set before them, with endurance.

How do we get to that point, were we are able to walk without constantly stumbling back into sin? We must depend on God for deliverance every day. Jesus taught His disciples to pray to the Father, "*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*" (Matt 6:13) There are many temptations that men face because they did not ask God for deliverance from them. Others have not made straight paths for their feet, and as a result, the part of them that is weak is turned aside, rather than be healed (Heb 12:13). It's never a wise recourse to give place to the devil, or to make provision for the flesh. Both things we are exhorted not to do (Eph 4:27, Rom 13:14). But even after someone is sincerely following after the Lord and on the straight and narrow, they will eventually experience temptation. Maybe they haven't considered that there really is a way

of escape, or maybe they don't even know it!

This word about God providing a way of escape for was delivered by our Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. The Corinthian church had been so enriched by the Grace of God, that they came behind in no spiritual gift (1 Cor 1:7), yet they were filled with all sorts of problems. They had to be addressed as carnal, not spiritual (1 Cor 3:1). They were prone to glory in men rather in Christ, and there were divisions among them (1 Cor 3:3). They were divided over which person they should follow (1 Cor 1:12-13). They thought more highly of men than that which was written (1 Cor 4:6), puffed up (1 Cor 4:18) They were swayed by the fair speech and wisdom of men than the foolishness of preaching (1 Cor 1:19-31). There were envying's and strife among them (1 Cor 3:3). They sued one another, and by the hands of the heathen, in their courts (1 Cor 6:1). There were some among them who were reported to be guilty of fornication, and were suffered to continue in it (1 Cor 5:1). Some were somehow convinced that the Unrighteous would inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9). They had to be reminded of the examples of what happened when Israel displeased God through ignorance, idolatry, fornication, complaining and murmuring, and pride, and warned not to enter into these things. It's then that the Apostle reminds them of the faithfulness of God in providing a way of escape for every temptation. It was a fitting word for them, and a much needed word in the day that we live in today where a similar situation exists in the churches.

If progress is going to be made, this truth has to be known. **You do not have to submit to the temptation, there is a way out of it!** The good news is that they were 100% able to resist everything they were tempted with. To understand escaping temptation, we must also understand the nature of temptation. Our text says: *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man..."* (1 Cor 10:13a). There are not special temptations that you will go through that no one else hasn't already been through. All men are tempted in the same way. James spoke concerning this: *"...every man is **tempted**, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. **Do not err**, my beloved brethren."* (James 1:14-16)

Before a person ever commits sin with their body, they first must be drawn away in their focus, error in their thinking, and be enticed in their heart. The battle begins with a thought. A thought that is a presented to you by Satan that appeals to the lust in your flesh. Every person's body possesses lusts. Specifically the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. These thoughts call for your attention. They have a tendency to interrupt your immediate train of thought, like a commercial that interrupts the television program. It's like a salesman that knocks on your door

"...you do not have to submit to temptation, there is a way out of it!"

and asks to come inside. Once you let him in, he begins to make a presentation. The longer he makes his presentation, the more appealing the product becomes. The second you begin to focus on these thoughts, you open the door for the Devil's work to begin. He begins to reason with you, in the same way that the salesman does. He presents sin as advantageous, or something that you can't live without. Even if to merely satisfy a small desire within you, the presentation is made not only to inflame your desire to sin, but to justify doing it. This is not something that takes a great amount of time. The thought, re-direction of focus, appeal to the heart, and conception of lust to sin can happen rather quickly. Someone can offend us with a personal insult, this process can happen, and within a matter of seconds we can find ourselves puffed-up, seeking vengeance and vindication through our response. We all do what we believe is the best, most advantageous, thing at the time, even in split-second decisions. Satan seeks to convince the believer that the sin is the best course of action.

We know this, because the very first presentation of deceptive thinking is recorded in the first few pages of the Bible. Eve saw that, *"...the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."* (Gen 3:6). She thought about what Satan said, and concluded there was an advantage, and being deceived, she performed a deed that was contrary to the commandment of God. Therefore, once a person wants to sin, and has made up their mind to sin, they will sin. At the very moment that they have an opportunity to express it in their actions, they will, (although not all sin is expressed externally). Jesus said *"a man who looks upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."* (Matt 5:28). Covetousness is an internal sin. It's stated, *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:"* (Prov 23:7). It's not really what is done that is the issue, but the reason why we do things- the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Now when she ate of that forbidden fruit, and her husband as well, immediately their eyes were opened, and they saw that they were naked. And when a person who is right with God, is tempted, and yields to the temptation, immediately they know that something is very different. To go from being at peace with God, to feeling the weight of guilt is very different. It's at that point you know and realize that you have sinned. Jesus has to deliver you all over again.

And that is a great liability with yielding to temptation. There is no guarantee that the person who gives into temptation will recover. Sin has a hardening effect on the heart. It is true that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness, but what if a person yields to temptation, and as a result, the sin hardens them to the

point that they don't want to confess their sins? What if they sin, and they are not sorry that they have sinned? Such a person is in a perilous condition. When sin is fully grown it produces death. Unless God grants them repentance and makes them sorry, they will not seek His forgiveness. Like our brother David ministered to us this morning Repentance is not an entitlement! With that being said I thank God that He is a Righteous and Merciful God, and that this does not compete with either of those attributes, he has given men space to repent, opportunity to repent.

The point is to abort the sin in the temptation phase, before it becomes sin. Escape the temptation, before it enters the heart, and stirs up the flesh to forget God and commit sin. The Psalmist writes, *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* (Psa 119:11) Temptation can't easily get into the heart of a man that is full of the hidden word of God. When the temptation makes the appeal to the heart, it is met with a holy desire, and affection for the word that God has spoken. When Satan tempts you to doubt what God said is true, His word is in us as a protection. Another way of saying this is *"put on the Whole Armor of God, that ye May be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil."* (Eph 6:10-20). When the thought appeals to your flesh, it wars against the Spirit. And the closer you are to God, the more this will vex you. When your desire for the things of God grow, your desire for the things of the world dampen. When appeals are made to you to sin, it chafes against your soul. You will find yourself, like Christ, suffering being tempted. Wishing like Paul, that you never had these thoughts being presented to you. This buys you valuable time, and gives you a pressing desire to flee to the Lord for refuge. Nearness to God. Nearness to God is everything! God provides the way of escape, Christ ministers the way of escape, and the Holy Spirit directs us to escape!

You can't be on the border of serving Christ and living in the world, right there on the edge, and fare well when you are tempted. There are some people, who are so far away from God, that when they are tempted, all they can see is the temptation, and they usually don't require much convincing before they cave. All they are able to see is the trial. Even if they have heard this word in their bible study, in the time of temptation, they fail to recall this word. They don't remember it when they are tempted. They don't remember that there is a way of escape.

So we know there is a way of escape, but where is it? Well it's not a horizontal way of escape. If temptation presents you with a thought that is rooted in lust of this world, who would think that the way of escape is found in this world, or pertains to this world? If the Law of Moses could not help people escape the dominion of sin, you can be sure there is no law of man or code of conduct that can be followed to abort temptation. These things only serve to stir up the flesh. We are under Grace, not under the law, therefore sin has no dominion over us, that we should obey it.

Some translations say, Sin shall no longer be your master. It can't Boss you around anymore (Rom 6:14)! The way of escape, then, is up! In other words, the escape of the temptation is the exchange of one thought, for another thought. Knowing there is a way of escape, we can come with confidence before the throne of Grace when we are tempted. Jesus knows exactly what that feels like. He suffered being tempted as well. He knows and can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He not only has the knowledge of what you need, but also the authority and resources. He is able to give you exactly what you need in order to bear the temptation. A way of escape.

There are things that we consider, brought to us in the posture of Looking to Jesus. He is ministering these things. Profitable thoughts in place of the temptation that carry a greater weight. We consider the word of God, and by Faith, believe it, and have respect for it. And as we lean upon what God has said, We consider the things that He has promised us. We look forward to our reward. These benefits and considerations outweigh the temptation, so that it loses its luster. In the light, we are not persuaded by it. We see it for what it really is.

We resist it. We say "NO", I'm not going to do that! The things God offers cause us to consider And Satan's got no response for "NO". Resist the devil, and he will FLEE from you! (Jas 4:7).

Looking to Jesus, we have power, and just as Peter did not lose his footing on the sea in the midst of a storm, we won't lose our footing looking to Jesus either. By setting our affection on things above, and not on things of the earth, we can effectively enter into a realm where temptation cannot operate like Satan intends it to. The goal is, to stay in the Spirit! To not come down! To continue to renew our minds day by day, and fight to get up into the higher places. You've got to fight to get up there! Sometimes you'll find yourself in the evil day! Facing an onslaught of contrary thoughts, imaginations, and temptations. Resist, steadfast in the Faith, and there will come a point that you will finally break through into the higher realms.

The situation is not as hopeless as some present it to be. I can personally testify, that every single time I have been tempted, and I beat a path to Jesus, I clean escaped the temptation without sinning, and on the other hand I can also confess, that every time I have ever sinned, I have not done that. So Fight the good fight of Faith, Brethren! Lay hold on eternal life! ...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. (Jas 1:21).

Salvation appropriates power from God to strengthen the individual to overcome temptation, and to be transformed from Glory to Glory into the very likeness of God. The trying of our Faith works to perfect us, for a purpose. We are divine trophies of the grace of God, on display for an assembled universe to see, with Jesus at the right hand of God, working in His Saints as a dispenser of the manifold grace of God. --Justin Cobb

ANY GIVEN MOMENT

BROTHER DEREK MCDERMOTT

One single moment may change the course of our whole day and every one that has passed tends to have an impact on our life. While there are events that take place in which are out of our control, how we respond or react matters more than the event itself. As we are firm in the Faith, abiding in his Love, no matter how the storm rages on all around us, God will be able to work on our perspective, our Faith, and further mature us in Love. Every moment will be used to shape us, and conform us into the likeness of Jesus, and ultimately [reveal] our character, forming who we will be all to His Glory!!! As we continually mature, Love and Light will emit more and more from our being. With Him we are overcoming the present darkness with each and every breath.

At the end of the road, what will matter most? Who we were or who we are? What we did or who we did it for? Are we known or unknown? As we abide in him by faith; we shall continue to learn, know, and continue to do his good will. It's all done for His Great Name and His Glory. All that was done unto Christ will have mattered more than what mattered to men.

The past most definitely holds a liability. Although we are forgiven, Satan will not let us forget what we have done. How much attention are we giving it? While we are inseparable from Gods Love, we must give attention to it, and keep ourselves in it. How much attention we give to our sinful past will hinder our ability to receive, accept, and abide in His Love for us and others. Remember Lot's wife, who looked back, and perished (Lk 17:32).

The God who always was, is, and shall be [has forgiven our past sins]. He has cleaned us up, [forgave] and forget[s] our wrongs. He [turns] trash into treasure and as some would say He [even] turns a mess into a message. It is our duty to remain steadfast, [press forward, not backwards] and purify ourselves. Continue to prepare for eternity brothers and sisters! The only way to do so is to live and walk by faith abiding in his Love. Always be aware of who He is, who we are because of Him and that He is alive within us.

God has not been left at your latest poor choice, He is with you now and will be. God has not been left behind at your latest traumatic experience. Wherever you are He is with you. Right where you are, you have peace with God, in Him. Embrace it and express it!

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." - Jesus

God be with you all.

- Derek McDermott

THE CALLED-OUT ONES

Brother Obadiah Sampili Mulele.

Those who are washed in Jesus blood are made righteous through faith and make up God's Kingdom. The blood of animals never cut it when it came to dealing with sin. Only through Jesus blood shed on the cross, are we allowed into God's Kingdom. We stand with God's children, the called out ones, saved from sin; we witness in one voice the Good News that Jesus died, was buried and was raised from the dead.

We have the only message of hope that can save a lost world still in rebellion.

Jesus warned us that in the last days there would come phony [false, counterfeit] preachers among us. They would influence the Body of Christ and lead away some from following the Lord. They endanger God's Kingdom by their self centered teachings. They tickle people's ears with words, instead of proclaiming God's truth in power. They stay away from preaching the cross of Christ and the Resurrection from the dead, so no one be offended. They talk scripture, but they don't even know who Jesus is. Through their religious lingo and their charismatic personalities, they use their pulpits to entertain their church.

Too many so called Christians in our churches have given themselves over to the devil by their pursuit of power, fame and fortune. They live for themselves and they don't fear God. They only pretend to know God. Church is to them a show, a religious ritual meant to make them feel good about their pride. Their real God is the image they see when they look in a mirror. They love power. They love money. They worship themselves. Their religion is cold and lifeless. Christ means nothing to them. They require attention and draw resources away from reaching the lost. They are proud and self exalting. These people Jesus also calls to repent!

-Obadiah Sampili Mulele.



“Fight the good fight of Faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and has professed a good profession before many witnesses.”
(1 Tim 6:12).

It should not come as a surprise that the enemy of our soul would attack those who are pressing toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ, those who are sitting on the sidelines do not find the same trouble, at least, not yet.

Those whom God has called into the battle are asked to do things that others do not understand. For the lax in spirit it doesn't seem reasonable to “do all things heartily as unto the Lord” but for those who are walking in the Spirit there really is no greater joy!

Spiritual warfare is hard work, not for the flesh, it cannot work the works of God, we never call the flesh to do a spiritual work of rightness, if it is involved, it is always indirect, and done so with much sighing and crying!

The new man, which is created in us at our birth into the Lord, is at the forefront of the fight! It is very attentive to Jesus and is always ready to eagerly submit to the commands from the king! Actually, as we enter into the labor of the Lord time seems to stop, all temporal things fade into the background and we are transported into another realm, the realm of the Spirit of our God!

The attacks waged against those who are enjoying the “pleasures at the right hand of God” are always calculated to dislodge our attention away from that kingdom work. Satan knows that if he can get Peter to look at the waves he will begin to sink, of course, he was not merely wanting him to sink a bit, but he wanted him to drown! The Lord however would not allow that to happen! Satan attacked nonetheless, his rage toward those who are being conformed into the image of God's Son are tireless and effective to the level that distraction occurs. No person who are walking by faith are immune to the attacks of Satan, they must be handled indirectly, as we focus on eternal things, and crucify the flesh, with the affections and the lust.

Satan will settle for anything that he can get, he is not in any hurry to distract us, just as long as in the end we are distracted!

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We must continually be vigilant against his attacks and as we “set our minds of heavenly things,” we will be effective in the warfare of faith.

Faith is not realized in the things that are seen, but in the things that are not seen! Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of the things not seen! We will not be a better christian is everyone likes us, although we should not want everyone to hate us either, but faith is of another order! It also depends on who likes you, if you are living by faith, setting your attention of eternal realities, then those who have a like mind will be attracted to you, but those who's minds are tied to the earth will hate you, even if they do not understand why. Faith is a very demanding way of life! While we remain here in the flesh walking by faith

will never be easy, and we should not expect it to be, faith calls us up and out of this world, to consider the things that God has done in the person of Christ Jesus, things that make for righteousness and peace, salvation and holiness unto our God.

So, it should not come as a shock to find that we are not at home while we live here in this cursed world, it is really not our home land! We are just strangers of a foreign land, enrolled by God to the home that Jesus is now preparing for us in the heavens! When Jesus entered into heaven, as a man, He made it possible for all who believe in and on Him to someday join Him in His present reign!

The real question is how much does it take to distract you away from the work that God has placed in your hand? How easy is it to forget to do the things that God has called you to do? Where, and in what, do you spend the bulk of your time? – These are all valid questions that those who are living by faith must address, I can't answer them for you, I have my own salvation to work out, but I can exhort you to be serious when you address them and the God of all grace will give you to have a good and acceptable answer, as you sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its desires, but it is my prayer for all of you, that God would send you a double portion of His Spirit, that the work of the Lord would abound in every aspect.


Grace and Peace,

Robert Cobb

K E E P

Fighting the Good Fight!

BROTHER
ROBERT COBB



NO GOD LIKE YOU!

Brother Boyce Mouton

O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below." - (1 Kings. 8:23)

When wise King Solomon dedicated the temple in Jerusalem he acknowledged that there was no God like Jehovah. The God of Israel was unique! He was the Living God Whose presence filled the universe. In fact, Solomon recognized that the heaven of heavens could not contain the God of Israel (1 Ki. 8:27).

Modern atheists think they are clever by pointing out that Christians are atheists too. They smirk and say that Christians are atheists regarding all gods but one. By this line of reasoning they display their ignorance of reality. Yes! There are many gods that Christians do not believe in, but none of these gods is like Jehovah the God of Israel.

The 12 main gods and goddesses in the Roman Pantheon were: Jupiter, Juno, Minerva, Vesta, Ceres, Diana, Venus, Mars, Mercurius, Neptunus, Volcanus, and Apollo. The Romans believed that every one of these gods and goddesses had a beginning. Jupiter and Juno were twins and are depicted by a statue nursing from the breasts of Fortuna Primihenia. Minerva was the daughter of Jupiter and Metis. Vesta was the sister of Jupiter. Vesta was the daughter of Saturn and Ops. Diana was the daughter of Letona and Venus was the daughter of Dione. Mars was the son of Juno and Jupiter. Mercurius was the son of Maia, and Neptunus was the brother of Jupiter and Pluto. Volcanus was also considered the son of Jupiter and Juno and Apollo was thought to be born on a sunny Greek island along with his twin sister Artemis.

If you cannot see the **difference** between these pagan gods and the Eternal God who created everything, I feel sorry for you.

The Ten Plagues God brought upon Egypt were not random at all, but specifically designed to discredit their pagan gods. Without going into detail, here are the ten plagues and the gods they totally discredited:

(1) Water turning to blood - the god Hapi. (2) Frogs - the god Heket. (3) Gnats - the god Geb. (4) Flies - the god Khepri. (5) The plague on livestock - the god Hathor. (6) Boils - the goddess Isis. (7) Hail - the god Nut. (8) Locusts - the god Seth. (9) Darkness - the sun god Ra. (10) The death of the firstborn was a direct attack upon Pharaoh himself who was believed to be the son of Ra and the greatest god in all of Egypt. This arrogant dictator sneered at Moses and said: "*Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?*" (Ex. 5:2).

(As you know, the Pharaoh found out the hard way.)

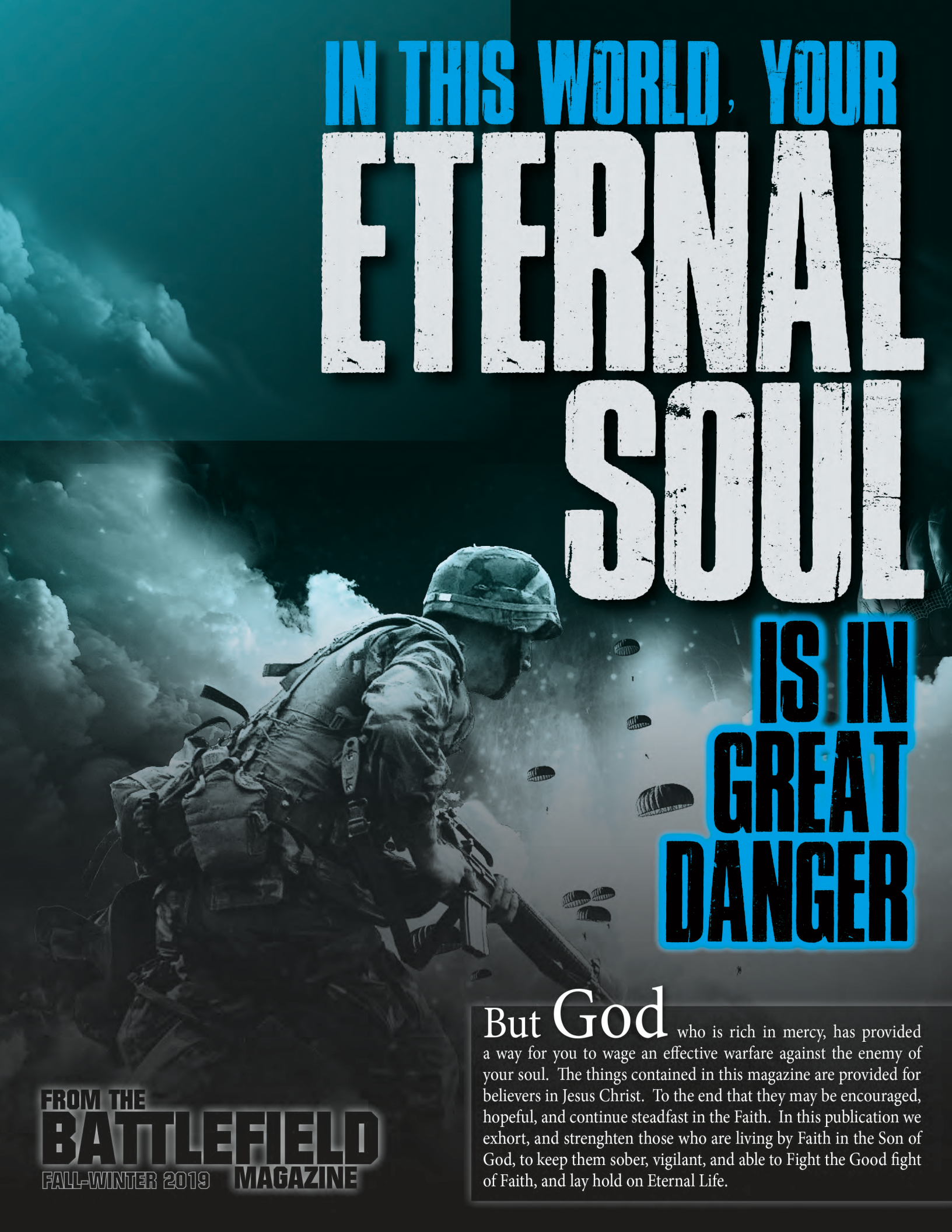
Or consider the contest on Mt. Carmel between Elijah and the priests of Baal. Elijah stood alone against 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah (1 Ki. 18:19). Fortunately for Elijah truth was not determined by a popularity vote or a scholarly consensus (1 Ki. 18).

Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon and the most powerful man on earth when he decided to acknowledge and worship Jehovah as the King of Heaven **unique and distinct** from every other god (Dan. 4:37).

Darius was the King of the Medes and the Persians and he too acknowledged the God of Daniel as unique and sent out a decree to all the peoples, nations, and men of every language throughout the land that there was **no God like the Living God Who lives forever** (Dan. 6:26, 27).

It is interesting to note that the atheists who seek to equate the God of Israel with the Tooth Fairy or the God of Thunder never write books denouncing either. They don't believe in unicorns but never take the time to attempt to prove their point in print. The fact that they focus on the One God they claim not to believe in provides an interesting insight into what they really believe!

-Boyce Mouton



IN THIS WORLD, YOUR
**ETERNAL
SOUL**

**IS IN
GREAT
DANGER**

But **God** who is rich in mercy, has provided a way for you to wage an effective warfare against the enemy of your soul. The things contained in this magazine are provided for believers in Jesus Christ. To the end that they may be encouraged, hopeful, and continue steadfast in the Faith. In this publication we exhort, and strengthen those who are living by Faith in the Son of God, to keep them sober, vigilant, and able to Fight the Good fight of Faith, and lay hold on Eternal Life.

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