SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that opresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

A Measure of Faith

The Bible tells us in Romans 12:4 that God has given every man a measure of faith. We are instructed to not think more highly of ourselves than others, but to humble ourselves when considering the power made available to us; which helps us obey God’s commandments. Believers in Jesus know that He was able to perform the great miracles that drew people to Him because He was confident in this power. He was and is our example of how we should believe and live; including the mindset we should have. Not because we are great or have ability on our own, but because we trust and believe in God’s goodness towards us and those around us. And we know that God has our best interest no matter what kind of mess we have gotten ourselves into. Even when we are living with circumstances that we did not help cause, and are no fault of our own, our confidence that God is going to see us through will help us make sound decisions. It is at times like these that our “measure of faith” should, and can be exercised.

Prior to Romans 12:4, we are told, **“be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).** Paul tells the church to present their bodies as a living sacrifice. A “living sacrifice” does not imply any type of death, but implies life. After Paul gives instruction not to think the way of the world, which leads to death; he writes to us about the gifts of the Spirit. These are the precious things God gives to men through and by faith. God gives priceless things that do not decay as the false riches of this world; by which many men are deceived. Those who chase after these things do not find the way to life. Their lives are empty and full of strife. Those that seek these things do not find what they are looking for. They offer their bodies as living sacrifices to corruptible riches, and after this, many times to drugs and alcohol. They often do this because they cannot find what they were looking for when they gave themselves to work or thievery to get the things they desired that they thought would make them happy.

When we exercise our measure of faith by standing on God’s promises and word, we will be filled. When we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we will find true riches. Incorruptible things that rust, moths, and even fire cannot destroy. In fact, the things God wants to give us can stand in the fire. But to have them we must exercise our measure of faith. The Bible tells us that faith “worketh by love” (see Galatians 5:6). The mindset of this world is not based in love. We live in a world that thinks nothing of killing, robbing, slandering, or destroying. The ways of this world are the ways of death. Jesus warns us in Matthew 24:11 that men’s hearts will grow cold with offense; and they will hate and betray one another. We must not allow ourselves to be conformed to this mindset. It is often our fear and unbelief that keep us from trusting in God’s way. Sometimes we might think it’s too hard or think it’s the wrong way to go. When we see a wilderness, we automatically think that it is a place of death. But all too often it is the way to hidden treasure. And the way we need to take to find everlasting riches. Paul wrote in Hebrews that the children of Israel could not enter into God’s promise because of unbelief (see Hebrews 3:19). Love is the key to great things. Jesus said,”**thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30-31).**

We are not able to live up to this commandment on our own, but it is the measure of faith that God put in every man and woman that will enable us all to fulfill the greatest commandment ever given. We cannot walk in the way of a God we don’t trust. We cannot love a neighbor we do not value, and we cannot love ourselves without seeing the value that God has put in us. If we do not believe God created us with a purpose and plan to give us an expected end; what God put in us will never bear fruit in our lives. But if we will grasp on to a promise that better days will come. If we will believe God would not have given a commandment He would not enable us to fulfill; our measure of faith can overflow to others, and touch the next generation. BME

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**THE ROSE MEMORIAL FUND**

Rose Golden believed that every inmate should receive a card or newsletter. Upon learning of her passing, an inmate requested a memorial in her honor. All funds go to mailing the monthly newsletter or sending a card to an inmate who has lost a loved one. Please make funds payable to International Christian Fellowship. Thank you.

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**International Christian Fellowship extends thanks to Johnny Plass, and Oscar Falcon for their sacrificial, monetary gifts to the Rose Memorial Fund.**

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For more information about the Rose Memorial Fund, The Illinois Prison System, Life Catalyst, Hospitality House; or if you would like to receive the newsletter by email please visit

[**http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/**](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/)

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

AVOIDING DETOURS

At all cost avoid the path evil constantly places in front of you. This may require giving up certain things such as family, friends, or the stuff you like. Proverbs 4:10-19 tells us to keep away from what is going to destroy us, and move towards the good. Verse 16 highlights something I went through. In the twenty man room I sleep in, half of them would stay up late talking loudly, and sleep during the day. Even though I tried many different ways to tell them that some of us are trying to sleep, they continued doing so. They are so blinded by the devil that some don’t even realize they are a part of a group, and suggest I retaliate in some way. Satan puts such a clever twist in making us mad enough to stumble. We must pay attention to what path we take every step of the way. **William Moctezuma**

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WALK IN FAITH (PART 2)

Stop cutting corners and go the extra mile. You will be able to take care of yourself, and what God gave you. A new level in your life means a new demon for your soul. So concentrate on your victories, and not your down falls. You might not be where you want to be, but thank God you’re not where you used to be. Be grateful you got back up, and continue to walk. Stay encouraged, not discouraged, and don’t forget what God has done for you. Your mind is the battlefield. Believe that you’re going to be what God created you to be. The more you know, the more you’ll be able to stand against the devil. **Charles Moctezuma**

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UNMET EXPECTATIONS

John didn’t deserved imprisonment in a filthy dungeon. After all, he was the forerunner of the messiah, and he was Jesus’ cousin! So, he sent a message to Jesus asking, “Are you really the Messiah? Or, “Should we keep looking?” Paraphrased: “When are you going to get me out of here?” It was a human question motivated by unmet expectations. My half-brother Anthony was sentenced to life on July 31st on a charge that was over-built, and clearly should have been self-defense. We both wondered, “Where’s God when we needed Him?” And it feels even worse when you’re working for Him! I cried and screamed at this God who could have helped. Instead He looked down on my brother, who was devoted to Him, and decided to let him become another one on the top of the prison’s chart listed as “Life” instead of a number. Talk about unmet expectations! Being angry was just as useless as it seemed, but: Jesus who walked on water, cast out demons, and raised the dead; could have easily saved John or Anthony. But He didn’t’. Instead He sent back word, which in essence said, “Don’t worry, everything’s on target. The Kingdom is being built; you fulfilled your assignment well” (Matthew 11:4-5). It probably wasn’t the answer John hoped for or expected. He was looking for solutions to temporal problems while Jesus was busy establishing an eternal Kingdom. Next time God doesn’t’ seem to meet our expectations or time frames, it’s not that He doesn’t care, it’s that He sees the big picture. And He is handling issues that we can’t begin to comprehend. So keep trusting Him because I still do! If you don’t hold on to hope; your faith will slip, and what will you be left with, Huh? **Brandy Holmes**

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A WAY WITH WORDS

If we think about it, don’t we have a way with words? Is it really power of the tongue? I believe so. Still, let’s think about how what we say sounds or how we say the words. “Man if only”, “it’s bigger than me”; “you make the bed, you lie in it”, and “you can only play the cards you’re dealt”. “Something like that”. My point to this is God. Yes! With God is where it will start, and where it will end. In Genesis, the Lord had the first word, and it was so. Then it became a living blessing, which Jesus is the Word of God. Now in Proverbs chapter 13 verse 2, “A man shall eat by the fruit of his mouth”. So our tongue can be a two-edged sword, but God tells us that we have to ask Him to control that very thing, our tongue. Throughout the Word of God we are told about how we must conduct our speech, even when we pray and ask for things. I bring this up because many people are heard saying that they want to stop cursing, so I tell you this. We have to be slow to speech, and quick to listen at all times because of the goodness of God. So I tell you that if we take heed of the counsel of the Word of God, it will change the way we have with words. **Patrick Douglas**

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WE ARE IMPORTANT

When you and I take the time out to read and study the Word of God, we can come to understand and see the importance of God’s love for us and our lives. Yes, we are important. We are special to God. We can’t begin to comprehend the love that God has for us. Always keep in mind we are unique “Some Bodies”. I write these words while going through my trial and things, but what is important to me is that I, James Maxwell, rather go through them with God than without Him. Here are a few words of encouragement. We are not a “No Body”, you and I are “Some Bodies”. We really matter because you and I are children of God. Important we are. **James Maxwell**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Evans, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Ave, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009. Thank you.**