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).**

When A Man’s Ways Please The Lord

David’s son Solomon was not perfect, but he pleased God by asking for wisdom to do God’s will before seeking monetary gain. From this wisdom came many proverbs, one of which says, **“When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him”** (Proverbs 16:7). We live in a world where wickedness is becoming increasingly accepted. Things that would not be spoken of twenty years ago are now openly applauded as being good even by our leaders. It is written, **“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil”**. When mankind twists God’s laws and word to please and justify his sinful ways, it leads to destruction. In heaven there will be nothing foul or abominable in the sight of God. Therefore, we should not love these things. There will not even be found one who loveth or maketh a lie. The study of the whole Bible from beginning to end shows us that God is a God of love, and a God of judgment. If we desire to know Him, we must accomplish it through His Holy writ. Not through words feigned out of the heart of mankind, which is deceitfully wicked. In the mouth of two or three witnesses let every word be established. What this basic law of Judaism means to us is that we will form no doctrine based on one scripture. Scripture has one interpretation, and many applications. Its applications fit every situation we may face.

In life we will face many battles. Do not be deceived into thinking the Christian life will be trouble free. Jesus said, **“In the world ye shall have tribulation”.** We are promised tribulation, but as Christians we will overcome because Jesus said to **“be of good cheer”** because He has already won the victory for us. Colossians 2:14-15 tells us that Jesus spoiled principalities, and blotted out that handwriting and ordinances that were against us, which were contrary to us. He did this at Calvary. Not only that, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them. In the day Paul penned this Holy Scripture, it was a custom for those who were victorious in battle to strip their enemies of their armor, and make them march defeated through the streets to show that they no longer had any power. This is exactly what Jesus did to the devil and his minions. Our enemies have already been defeated, but unfortunately man’s ways give them power that they don’t have or deserve.

This is because God will not override man’s will. Ever since the Garden of Eden, and the fall of man, the devil has been a liar. He continues to entice mankind, and lead him/her astray of their own lust in every way imaginable. One of his most effective ways is make those who stand for God’s ways appear as haters or judgmental. And secondly, to spread false doctrine to attempt to weaken the church God intended to have on the earth so that he cannot be defeated.

Nehemiah was a man who feared God, desired to rebuild God’s house, and lead God’s people in the ways of righteousness. But of course, Nehemiah had enemies. Whenever we try to rebuild our lives, the enemy will come with lies, deception, and temptation. The devil will try to make it seem like God’s ways are too hard. And if something goes wrong, even if it is because we have not been doing what is right; satan will try to make it seem like God’s fault. The devil will always look for a breach, and try to stop the rebuilding of the walls that will keep him out of our lives, and the lives of our families. The account Nehemiah gives is a perfect example of this. When Nehemiah began to address the sin of the people he said, **“It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies”** (Nehemiah 5:9)? When the people did not follow the laws of God, which are always right and never unjust, it gave their enemies the power to speak blasphemy against them. It also prevented God from fighting for them. The same is true for us. God will not fight our battles when we go forth fighting our way. We need God to go before us in battle. Nehemiah encouraged the people saying, **“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”** (Nehemiah 4:14). Let’s fight the good fight of faith, and believe in the victory that Jesus has already won for us. We have our families, and future generations to think of. BME

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

**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. 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

BE GRACEFUL TOWARDS OTHERS

Be as a humbled servant to all, showing them kindness and respect. Not only because we once were just like them, and can be an example of change, but it’s also the way Jesus taught us to act. A positive attitude protects the law of love, and does more to convert non-believers. No matter how harsh they are, God looks after those who follow His way; providing victory in the form of conversion (Titus 3:1-5).

 **William Moctezuma**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

THE ROAD TO VICTORY

The children are our future so we have to be good role models for them. So wherever life may take us, always know that God is with us even when we feel abandoned. Always listen for His voice through all the worldly noise, and don’t be quick to judge anybody because it will keep us from seeing what is true about a person. So please love one another, and leave the judging up to God. We all are going to get deceived by the devil, and may fall into sin again, but repent and ask God to forgive you because no one is beyond the reach of God’s power. He works where we can see, and where we can’t. As everybody knows, the gifts from God are great and small, so love Jesus as much as he loves us. He will show us how to be fully connected to Him through the words of His powerful scriptures that keep us connected to Him. The Bible is a useful tool as we face life’s tasks, and it’ll bring us hope in our direction of life. How we give to others will show our light as we experience God’s goodness. So serve Him by loving others, and speak words that heal not hurt. Each person we meet needs to be reassured of God’s love. We are meant to show God’s goodness, compassion, and to show that God has risen among us today. Just remember that whatever concerns us also matters to God, so stop struggling, and allow God to love you while you praise Him. Help God meet someone’s needs today because don’t forget, He lives with us. Also, forgive others because God is willing to forgive us no matter what we did. Cherish your time with God now because death is not the end. God looks at us with eternal love, and He extends His grace to our deepest un-confessed sins. So ask yourself, how am I nurturing my sprit every day? What am I doing to honor Christ? Also, ask yourself how am I expressing my love for God. Everybody needs to realize that God is the reason why we live. **Charles Moctezuma**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

IT IS FINISHED

John 19:30

“Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on a town garbage heap; at a crossroad. It was so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew: the language of the religious, Latin: the language of the Barbarians, and Greek: the language of the cultured. It was the kind of place where cynics talked smut, thieves cursed, and soldiers gambled. But it’s where He died, and it’s what He died about”. I once heard or read someone say this. So, most still ask themselves and others, are any words more victorious? Jesus draws a deep breath, pushes His feet down on those Roman nails, and cries, “It is finished”! What was finished? The history-long plan of redeeming you and me was finished. The work done by Jesus as man on earth was finished. The task of selecting and training ambassadors was finished. The song had been sung, the blood had been shed, the sacrifice made, the curse of sin broken, the sting of death removed, it was over. I believe the words, “It is finished”, were the same words they write across a receipt when a debt had been paid in full. Was it any less acceptable? No! It is finished! The cross is a trading post. At the point of believing faith, God takes all of our sins onto His shoulders through Jesus, at the same time, wrapping us up in Christ’s righteousness. It’s a major transfer, and well worth it. You want to know how you get it, it’s rather easy really. You see you don’t have to work for it. Oh no! You just receive it by trusting in Christ alone! I’m doing it, so what about you? **Brandy Holmes**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

I know not what I search for, but I know I have yet to find it because it is invisible to the eye. My heart must search for it blinded. And if by chance I find it, will I know my mission is achieved? Can one come to conclusions before the question is conceived? Just as no one knows what lies beyond the shore. I will never find the answer to what it is I search for.

 **Sandro G. Thomassin**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

Lord hear my prayer, please be there for me, a sinner you see, as I don’t want to be, as I fall on my face, begging for mercy and grace. For I know I don’t deserve it. Also, as I continue to ask forgiveness from you for things that I do, I want to live my life in truth, from lies I seek to be loose, and from evil I induce. From all the hurt and pain I cause, I ask forgiveness of it all, and more than sorry too for putting this on you. For I know that I am blessed, as you clean up my mess. But now I must confess, I know I am not the best. Even when you put me to the test, so let your will be done. Even when I think the devil has won. For there are times when I am weak, wanting to give up on it all, but you always stop my fall. There are times that I am strong because of you who carries me along. For I know that I am nothing. But in your eyes, I am something. So I now I ask in this little prayer, mend my heart from despair.

 **Calvin B. Green**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

LEARNING TO FLY

I’m spreading my wings, and I’m going to fly straight this time. I’ve spent my life so foolishly, so lavishly, so avariciously; and I’ve paid for it with my freedom, and my life. My sentence has been about losing, sacrificing, suffering, understanding, and finding hope again. I’ve done it with help from my friends at ICF. They taught me to have faith in myself. They have shown me how to read between the lines, and to see and know the truth. Thank you. God bless. **Oscar Falcon**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR**

I want to wish those who have July/August birthdays---Happy Birthday, and please pray for Oscar Falcon who paroles this month. **Beth Marie Evans**

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

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