SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth 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).**

Thankfulness and Faithfulness

There is a way to have peace in a world of turmoil. Even when there seems to be no hope, and the weight of the world is pressing on us. The weight of the world is different for everybody, but the remedy is the same for all. A garment of praise will surely cast off the spirit of heaviness. We must not let the temporary things of this world steal the hope that lies within us. The old song and saying “This too shall pass” still rings true in every situation. The intrinsic desire to survive and rise above, live and not die must rise up in us. Our faith must not be “dead faith” or “temporal faith” based on circumstances. It especially cannot be based upon our successes or failures.

We never want to put faith in our successes, believing in our own abilities as some of the kings in the Bible did. Wasn’t it King Nebuchadnezzar who was turned into a crazy beast because he claimed he built his kingdom with his own hands, and did not give God the glory? It is God who sets men up, and He who sets them down. He does this in his own wisdom and sovereignty. Putting our faith in the arm of men is like putting faith in a broken reed. Too often, people are disappointed in their fellow man because they do not stand by them through difficulties. There are times when the weight of our problems is too heavy for human flesh to bear. This is why the following is written for our edification: *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (1 Peter 5:7-9).*

We are encouraged to stay awake and watchful of the work of our adversary, whose main goal is to steal our faith. If he can get you offended at others because they didn’t “have your back”, stealing your faith will not be hard to do. Instead, if we cast our cares on God, whose yoke is easy and burden is light, He will give us a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. He will lighten our heavy burdens. It is on us to make the decision to give things over to God, and this takes faithfulness on our part. The things that belong to God are the things that we cannot do or change for ourselves. There are many things we should not be putting on others. We are responsible for the maintenance of our lives, and should do the things we are able to do.

All too often, when and if we mess things up, pride would have us think we should be perfect. Shame would have us deny we have any problems or need to change. Both of them will also have us lie to ourselves, others, and God to jeopardize our souls. We should never put our faith in our failures. When we don’t forgive ourselves, and attempt to change what is wrong; we are choosing to remain in the same pit. We have put more faith in our shortcomings and failures than in God’s ability to change us according to His word. Change begins with turning to God. It is not an effortless work on our part or a one time occurrence. It begins with wanting to change for the better, and being thankful for all He has done. Faithfulness will bring us to our destination regardless of the roadblocks ahead.

The Answer

Where there is void, confusion, and disorder,

You speak calmness, peace and order.

Where there is darkness, you speak light.

Where there is death you speak life.

Where there is want, you make wine

Where there are sinners, you would dine

Where there is need of knowledge, you have supplied.

There in your word the wisdom of the ages resides.

Where there is a repentant heart, you draw near.

To blind eyes you give sight, you make deaf ears hear.

Where there is a soul that longs to be free,

You break every yoke, you alone have the key.

There in your word, the truth we will find.

Your wisdom we desire, control of our mind.

There is no one like you, everlasting mercy you have shown,

The answer is to know you, the oil of joy to those who mourn. BME

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

GODS WAY NOT OURS

In the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego found in Daniel 3:8-25, we have the well known story of the fiery furnace. Nebuchadnezzar challenged their faith by threatening their lives. But these three men knew God is more powerful, and would save them since they chose to obey. Verse 18 brings all of the times when I felt shorted by God while asking for help to light. Even though they knew God can easily save them; those three friends knew He is in control, and may have chosen for them to serve a different purpose. Signs are meant to convert or strengthen those who are willing. What matters is we remain faithful and obey

 **William Moctezuma**

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COMMANDMENT FOUR (PART 2)

We’ve considered what the Sabbath isn’t: not let’s look at what it should be. I sometimes suffer from burnout, and most times I forget to slow down. I hate getting lectured on burning my candle at both ends when all I want at times is more wax to keep me going. God meant life to have a definite rhythm, like work, worship, labor, and rest. Why? Because the bow that’s always bent will eventually break! A group of African explorers hired some native guides. For six days they were up at dawn and ready to go. So on the seventh morning when the guides didn’t rise, the explorers asked why. In broken English the head guide replied, “We not go today. We rest. Let souls catch up with bodies”. That says it all! The Sabbath was designed to let your soul catch up with your body. This is a day of rest! Toward the end of my mother’s life, she knew her time down here with me was short, but she made it her best. She told me, “I’m old, and I’ve learned that there are very few things in life that really matter---but those few things matter intensely”! Worshipping with other believers matters because it reminds you about the important things about God:

1. His word
2. His will
3. His ways
4. His promises
5. His call
6. His grace
7. His family

A day of remembering! For Christians every Sunday is a mini-Easter---a time to celebrate new beginnings. It’s a symbol of God’s love. It’s designed to renew your spirit before taking on the cares of another work week. So please, if you can; keep the Sabbath. This is a day of resurrection.

 **Brandy Holmes**

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DOES HE HEAR MY CRY

I wonder as I star out the window from dust until dawn, does He hear my cry? I wonder when times are rough, and analyze whether He will finally say, “this is enough”. Does He hear my cry? Why am I the one who is forced to endure this torture, does He hear my cry? Will there ever be some relief to this pain that I’m experiencing? Does He hear my cry? As I sit in my cell, and shed my tears for my lost loved ones, and pray for a miracle. Does He hear my cry? I exceed to another level, and I’m confronted by the devil. Does He hear my cry? So when everything around you seems be deteriorating, don’t you wonder, does He hear my cry? Know that He knows all of our needs and wants, Yes, He does hear my cry. I am blessed in every aspect of my life, whether it seems good or bad because I don’t ask the question, does He hear my cry? As our Heavenly Father, He knows when we’re down before we know it, and He already has a solution to the problem before it occurs, so yes, my brothers and sisters, He does hear our cries.

 **De’Ante Howard**

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DON’T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes will, when the road you’re trudging seems all uphill. When the funds are low and the debts are high, and you want to smile, but you have to sigh. When care is pressing you down a bit, rest if you must, but just don’t quit. Life is a challenge with its twists and turns, as every one of us sometimes learns. And many failures turn about. When he might have won, had he stuck it out. Don’t give up though the pace seems slow, you may succeed with another blow. Success is failure turned inside out. The silver tint of the cloud of doubt, and you never can tell how close you are, it may be near when it seems so far. So stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit. It’s when things seem the worst that you cannot quit. The race is not given to the swift or the strong, but to him who endureth to the end.  **Ro’Sean Newson**

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Happy birthday to everyone with August/September birthdays! Please pray for Martin Cabrera, who has paroled. Pray that he connects with Godly people, and can find work.

For past and current issues of the newsletter, please visit the website@[www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com).. We have received more great submissions. Thank you for those. I have also received a request for the address of one of our writers. You may have noticed that there is no use of nicknames or locations of those who submit their thoughts. The reason for this is to ensure the newsletter will be allowed in every prison. It has been a blessing to many, and those of you who submit and share the newsletter have made this possible. However, it is illegal in Illinois for inmates to write one another unless they are co-defendants. Also, to prevent the newsletter of ever being suspect of being used for gang communications, I use only proper names, and do not give out your locations. I hope you all understand. ☺  **Beth Marie Evans**

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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 Avenue, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009.**