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).**

Who is Faithful?

Faithfulness is one of the finest qualities one can possess. It is not always sought after, and a faithful man, who can find? While we can never attain unto God’s faithfulness, scripture shows that we can cultivate faithfulness in our lives. David, who was far from perfect, is one of our examples, but how can we forget faithful Abraham? It should be noted that God will not test everyone the same way. And it can be hard to remain faithful when things look bleak. When a situation has been going on for years, feelings of hopelessness can be detrimental to faithfulness. This is when consistency and focusing on God is so important to our faith. Comparing our situation to someone else’s will not increase our faith. Neither will focusing temporal things, the situations around us, listening to the voices of the past, or following after our own lusts. These things will draw us away from God down a very crooked path. If we want to enter in at the straight gate, we must believe God’s word. It is the word of God that will be true in the end.

The apostle Paul wrote that he endured all things for the salvation of the saints, but why? Because he knew God was faithful. Paul wrote, inspired by the Holy Ghost, *“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself”* (II Timothy 2:11-13). What he was conveying to all who would read is that regardless of the circumstances we find ourselves in, put ourselves in, and no matter what has been done to us, God remains the same. His word does not change, His promises remain true. The behavior and actions of others, including leaders and those in authority, should not determine how we will act or our faithfulness towards God.

God does not condone wickedness in our leaders. It is up to us to live according to God’s word, and believe that He will reward our righteousness; instead of focusing on, and acting according to the actions of others. We must choose who we will serve. We must choose to do what is right regardless of what others do. Originally God wanted to lead His people, but men wanted a king they could see. We can still be under God’s authority if we obey his word. One problem with our leaders is that the people of God have failed somewhere along the line to pray for them. I Timothy 2:1-2 says, *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”* Therefore, if we have failed to pray as we are exhorted, should we be surprised at the mess we have? Men, including our leaders, condone and do things that are wicked in the sight of God. We cannot be surprised at the way things are going. In this evil day we live in, we do not want to turn away from God because of man’s injustice. Men will not have the final say so in our lives. We must not turn back because of the wicked deeds of others unless we are to become like them. This is not to say it is okay to speak against those in authority. But it is to say that we should choose righteousness regardless of what is done or said to be legal. These things are not always expedient for us. The day will come when God will judge according to His word. He will not be concerned with what someone else did. One day He will establish His Righteous Kingdom for those who are faithful. BME

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

BEST DEFENSE

The full armor of God provides us truth because it allows us to justly defend ourselves in power and righteousness. While standing before a bias group that uses lies to try to hurt you, God helps you stand your ground through patience, hope, and faith. It’s in our best interest to continue our study of scripture so when we are challenged, we will not be caught unprotected (Ephesians 6:13).  **William Moctezuma**

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THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Nicknames are often descriptive of some noticeable aspect of a person’s character or physical attributes. Growing up, my elementary school friends brutally called me many names. Needless to say, I have always been glad that the names never stuck. Unlike my nickname, I love names that describe His magnificent characteristics. God is so wonderfully multifaceted. He has many names to show His compatibilities and character. It’s no wonder the writer of proverbs encourages us to remember that “the name of the Lord is a strong tower”, and in times of need, God fearing people run to it, and “are safe” (Proverbs 18:10). When an unwelcome circumstance threatens you, and you feel vulnerable, reflect on one of God’s names. Be assured He will be faithful to all His names. **Charles Moctezuma**

CLASSES FOR HUSBANDS

“Be good husbands to your wives. Honor them, delight in them…treat them as equals” (I Peter 3:7 TM).

Someone composed this ad entitled, “Classes for husbands”, Sir, maybe you’ll see something you need to sign up for! How to fill ice cube trays, toilet paper rolls, do they grow on the holder? Fundamental differences between the laundry basket and the floor; dishes: can they levitate, and fly into the sink or dishwasher? Getting over loss of identity for losing the remote control to your wife, how to find things by looking in the right place instead f screaming and ransacking the house. Health watch: Bringing your wife flowers isn’t harmful to your health. Real men ask instead of accusing, and being demanding. How to know the basic differences between your mother and your wife; becoming the ideal shopping companion (relaxation and breathing techniques), fight cerebral atrophy by remembering birthdays, and anniversaries. Now, on a more serious note, if you want to know what God has to say to husbands, listen up:

1. “Go all out in love for your wives…as Christ did for the church. A love marked by giving, not getting” (Ephesians 5:25 TM)
2. “Be good…to your wives. Honor them, delight in them…treat them as equals”.
3. “Live happily with the woman you love…the wife God gives you is your best reward” (Ecclesiastes 9:9 TLB).

So the next time your wife gets under your skin, instead of complaining, remember the qualities that first attracted you to her, and the blessings she brings to your marriage: like caring, nurturing, trust, satisfaction, fulfillment, helpfulness, and happiness. And if you men love your wives---tell her often, it’s something us women need to hear.

 **Brandy Holmes**

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LIFE

Life is so beautiful being able to live with a clear conscience. I have lived all my life doing a lot of wrong to people, myself, family, friends, etc. I was always looking over my shoulder, living on eggshells, knowing one day I’m going to fall through the cracks, hit the ground, and shatter to pieces. Living in distress is not peaceful at all. There comes a time when enough is enough, like the saying “I’m sick and tired of being sick and tired”. And the day will come when you are really sick and tired. Yeah! Rock bottom and nowhere to go! It all starts from the inner core of self, a 180, a new beginning. It’s like learning to walk again. Understanding what purpose you have here on earth, having an open mind to explore what the good Lord has in store for me. Changing old habits, ways, will have its challenges. It takes a lot of effort to change! Old habits and old ways did not happen overnight. It takes time and patience; humbleness is the key factor to beginning a new life. A person must eat a lot of humble pie, if you know what I mean? Here is the key to overcoming the old lifestyle. It’s the power of the Holy Spirit. He will give you the strength to overcome it all! Then you will live life joyful, happy, peaceful, and the most important thing is you will come to love yourself and others. If that’s not living with a clear conscience, I don’t know what else to tell you. God bless you all my brothers and sisters in Christ.

 **Zygmont R Parzych JR**

LIFE IN THE VALLEY

Life in the valley was originally to be a blog I had in mind for the website, but I have felt to take it in a different direction. My past 15 years living for God; rather than living for drugs, alcohol, and self has shown me many things. But one sure thing is that God can take the worst of situations, and somehow bring good out of them. Hence, He can make the ashes of our lives into something beautiful. I know there are many who have walked through darker valleys than mine. I would like to hear from you. Not only about the negativity. But about how good has come out of prison or some other dark circumstance. I would also like if family members of inmates would contribute to this column. Inmates, please encourage them to submit their experiences. And of course Parolees, many would love to hear your positive testimony. The purpose of this column is to encourage those who are in similar or like situations that there is life in the valley. BME

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Happy birthday to everyone who had/have a birthday in February/March! And to those upcoming in April! Please encourage family members to submit encouraging words for the new column, Life in the Valley.

For past and current issues of the newsletter, please visit the website@:

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

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