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).**

Servant of All

When we think of God, we do not automatically think of Him as a servant. We think of Him as high and lifted up, sitting on a throne, having control over everything. Although we know that He is the One who sits on the throne, all knowing, all powerful, and omnipresent; scripture also tells us that there is another side to God---who manifested Himself in the flesh, demonstrating His love for mankind (see I Timothy 3:16). The visible image of God was manifested to us through the birth of His Son Jesus, who was literally the flesh of God. God is a Spirit. However, He needed flesh to be able to shed His pure blood for the remission of sin. Without blood there is no remission for sin (see Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:22). We see evidence of this fact in the Garden of Eden when man fell. After the fall of man, the shedding of blood was necessary to cover trespasses. We know this because scripture tells us that Adam and Eve were clothed with animal skins. The process of time proved that the blood of animals could not remove the scourge of sin forever so God offered a better, faithful, and eternal sacrifice for us---Himself (see Hebrews 10:1-12).

How can we begin to relate to or live up to such a sacrifice? Most things written in scripture are meant to be an example or can be used as an application for our lives. Obviously we cannot die on a cross to save anyone. Some of us may not be in a position to help anyone financially or do “works” to help those who are in need. It is really not possible to offer anything in comparison to what God did for us. But there is something that we can do that releases the power of God’s love, and increases the faith of others. If we will take a moment to look beyond problems and painful situations to the needs of others by offering a smile, an encouraging word, or offering to pray. Or by considering how our actions affect others, and making necessary changes for their benefit, it is through these things we can release God’s love.

In essence, becoming a servant doesn’t necessarily mean doing a lot of physical work, it could, but often doesn’t. It begins with a mentality to consider others. In a hurtful situation, the physical “works” can be easier than putting aside ones feelings for the sake of others because it means pushing ones self out of the way, and being conformed to the mind of Christ. It can be applied in many situations, for example, shifting our focus, and taking the time to pray for our government, and ultimately for the common good of mankind (see II Timothy); even if someone is locked in a prison of loneliness with so many voices screaming in their head recalling memories of past mistakes that have created results that must be lived with. Yes, even then, we can be a servant by crying out to God on behalf of others; and on behalf of ourselves as we petition God for the much needed ability to forgive. It is through this effort of self sacrifice that the power of God’s love is released into our lives, moves through our lives, and then can be passed on to others. When this power is released, faith is transmitted to others regardless of their knowledge of God or their personal beliefs. The Bible tells us, **“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love (Galatians 5:6).”**

The Bible tells us in the original Greek that the word “worketh” means to be active, efficient, effectual, and fervent. Therefore, faith will be in effect when it is combined with a concern for the welfare of others, and a willingness to forgive all offence. We need God’s supernatural power to accomplish this. But it must start with a willingness to turn aside, as Moses did when he saw the burning bush, and then by putting our faith into action by looking beyond our immediate situation, believing that God will do His best by us, and realizing we are not the only ones who have been hurt or are in need. God’s power is rooted in love. That is why fear, which is the opposite of faith, is a destroyer of faith. But love, being more powerful, has the power to cast fear out (see I John 4:18). Love covers a multitude of sin, which includes offences perceived or real. When we look beyond our immediate situation, we are doing what Jesus did in His walk on this earth. He looked beyond the offence of the cross to what would be accomplished through it.

This is what we must do even if it means swallowing our pride, and choosing to let go of the things that hinder us no matter how many times they come to memory. The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the church in Galatia; **“ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another” (Galatians 5:13-15).** No one would think of Jesus as bound by anything. He is a great King, and has all authority in heaven and on earth. He didn’t gain power by thinking of Himself; instead He took on the form of servant. He did not need to do this, but chose to become a servant of all for those who He knew would reject Him, but through love He conquered all. BMLR

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Inmates, family members, and those who are interested can now access the monthly newsletter. Please visit **http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/** .The site is still under construction, and will soon have all copies of the newsletter since the column **Words from Behind the Wall** was started in 2007.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

I want to honor a Dear Sister who went to be with the Lord on December 6, 2011. She was my friend, who made me feel loved and appreciated. I will miss her. I want to request those who receive the newsletter to please pray for the family of Sister Rose. I ask this not only because it is the right thing to do, but because of all the prayers she sent for those who are incarcerated, as well as those she came in contact with. She would always think of those less fortunate, in need, ill, and troubled. I know that there are those reading this who received cards from her. The Bible tells us that God stores prayers in golden vials. The prayers Sister Rose prayed still live on even though she is no longer with us. In her memory, I will remember to pray a little harder, and look towards the needs of other, both of these are liberating things to do, and all will benefit from them. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her, but I am thankful her example can live on. BMLR

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

LOVING ROSE

I just wanted to share my experiences with Sister Rose, a great, loving Christian who passed away on 12-6-11. Rose began writing me a few years ago. Each letter came to me at times I deeply needed a pick-me-up. Most of the people I wrote did not respond. This perfect timing was one thing, which told me she was influenced by the Lord. The other thing came a couple months later when she admitted that she was not sure if she wanted to write a stranger in prison, but the Lord must have been leading her because Rose did it anyway, which both of us were thankful for since we loved sharing scripture and prayer. Back in March of 2010, my grandfather passed away, and it was Rose’s idea for me to tell others about the good times we had, and it worked. This was a poor older lady in painfully bad health taking the time to write a guy doing time for no other reason, but to serve the Lord. Even though I never met Sister Rose in person, we still were able to gain a wonderful, loving, relationship through Jesus. I’ll always remember her, not only as a person kind enough to speak with and pray for me, but as one of God’s children sent to help me with my daily walk. I only pray to serve as well as Sister Rose had, and look forward to meeting her in eternal life. **William Moctezuma**

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LET’S GO

Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” I found out in life that circumstance and ones trials are a battle. It even can be persecution. Still, we must understand, believing in the righteousness of God/Christ, suffering, weeping is all part of a subdue process, meaning learning how to give up our flesh, and resurrect the Spirit to be transformed. Colossians 3:2 says, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth”. This idea of obeying comes to us as humans when we were children. Someone put that in us to understand how to obey, so it’s a “do thing” we have learned in following a command or order. If God is in our lives there are laws and order from Him that must be followed. God has given every man the ability to do this through His laws and principles to bring about change, and put their lives into order. Therefore, we understand that our Father has these things set in order to bless us and if we follow and give Him the glory, many blessings will come our way. God doesn’t hurt us or wrong us. I Peter 3:9 says, “Not to return evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, blessing, knowing that you were called to this thing so that you may inherit a blessing. For he who loves life and sees good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and do good, let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”. Let us all think for a moment before going on…Let’s really ask ourselves about what was read above, and really put it in our mind. Remember again what was read in Philippians 4:13. Doing all things and believing it can be done. As long as we become a part of God’s family, and apply works to our faith, we can overcome and get ahead, receiving our blessing. God again tells us what we must do, and what must be done to stay on the right path. Then God says that He is with us along the way, and at times the Lord carries us just so we are able to conduct our faith with love. So “Let’s Go”, and be the doers we are supposed to be. Amen. **Patrick Douglas**

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BREAKING HABITS THROUGH PRAYER

*I am watching over my word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12 NAS)*

Do you know I struggle with a habit so stubborn that it has a life of its own? It is like a mind that thinks for me, a voice that speaks to me, a power that keep pulling me down. Nothing brings victory like praying the word, “For God says, I am watching over my word to perform it. So begin each day by praying: Lord, your word says that if I call on you, you will answer me; you will be with me in trouble, you will honor me, and you will deliver me. You said that through the power of your indwelling Spirit, I would be set free from this vicious cycle of temptation, sin, and failure (see Romans 8:2). You said if I fully commit my life to you, I’d have the strength to stand up to the devil, and he would flee from me (see James 4:7). You said you have given me the power to pull down my old mental strongholds, and take control of every wayward thought, imagination, and impulse (see II Corinthians 10:5). You said that by reading your word each day and meditating on it, I would become a partaker of your divine nature, and overcome the destructive tendencies of my flesh (see II Peter 1:4). You said I’d be strengthened in my mind, my emotions, and my will; and that my self-worth would be based solely on your love for me; that you would do exceedingly, abundantly above all I could ask or think---because you are at work in me (see Ephesians 3:14-21). Today I thank you for helping me to overcome this habit---in Christ’s name. Amen **Brandy Holmes**

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