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).**

To Overcome

Last month’s topic was based on the importance of maintaining a right relationship with God, others, and ourselves, which without; we cannot obey the greatest commandment given by God in both Old and New Testaments (see Deuteronomy 11:13 and Mark 12:29-30). God, in His great mercy; fulfilling His plan instituted at the foundation of the world---manifested Himself in the flesh to reveal Himself as more than the Great I Am. In doing so, He revealed a greater and even more powerful truth; adding a second commandment to what was given by Moses in the wilderness. **“The second is like, namely this**, **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”.** A critical part of being able to love our neighbor depends on whether or not we love ourselves. A question can also be put forth, going back to the first commandment; if we don’t love ourselves because of our flaws, mistakes, or situations---can we love God? It is easy to blame God for everything that happens to us. If we hate ourselves, our lives, or certain things about us because who created us? We can go on and on. Why did God allow that person to abuse me? Why does God allow children to suffer? Why does God let evil people live and good people die? Why does God do this for one person and not for another? Why? Why? Why? And if God is control of everything, is it possible that He loves me if He allows these bad things to happen?

It would take more space than is available here to write of how mankind, in the Garden of Eden, gave satan license to do what he does today. However, if we take a look at the fall of man, we will see the reason for repeated failures; this being a failure to take responsibility for one’s own actions. This was a problem in the beginning, and it is still a problem today. Look at Adam’s answer in Genesis 3:12 when God questions him. **“And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. 13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat”.** Adam blames God and Eve for what happened because in his reasoning, it was God who gave him the woman who caused him to sin, forgetting how he was given dominion in the garden, and should have thrown the serpent out in the first place, or should have told Eve no! God said not to do that! He could have taken the fruit from her, not to eat, but to possibly dispose of or he could’ve gone to God and said; what I should do now that the fruit has been touched. Then Adam would have been blameless in the matter. Instead, he went along with doing wrong, blaming God and Eve when he was caught. They were told not to eat from or touch the tree. Both knew this, yet **THEY CHOSE** to do it anyway. And look how Eve blamed the serpent. She repeated to the serpent what God had said, but chose to listen to what she knew was wrong regardless of what the outcome would be. Nobody took responsibility for their own actions. It is not written in scripture, but knowing human nature; Eve probably blamed God as well for creating the serpent. The root of this problem is often shame; shame being unforgiveness towards oneself, which will often cause people to not be able to face their faults, and to lie instead of admitting they did wrong, dealing with the consequences, and then taking the proper steps to change **THEIR OWN** behavior to make things better for themselves and others; which in turn shows a love for God. It is written, as we do unto the least of these, so have we done unto Him.

We are talking about actions here, not lip service. Hopefully it is not so, but it could be that Adam and Eve lived in regret for the rest of their lives over this error, which they did not take responsibility for, and passed this mindset on to their children? It appears to be so in the case of Cain. We must be careful not to do the same. Shame, which is really the same as pride; both being equally destructive, will not allow anyone to move forward or to live a healthy, constructive life. Both shame and pride cause an individual to lift their own thinking about the Mind of God. Psalms 138:2 says God has magnified His word above His name; God’s word is greater than all else with the final authority in all things. Therefore, if our mindset is given more authority in our lives than God’s word, whether we are thinking of ourselves lower than what God’s word says we are or if we thinking we are better than what we really are; we are placing our ways above God’s. This is a common struggle, which must be fought daily. The extent of the battle depends on an individual’s situation, and will be more difficult for some than others. Paul wrote, during the midst of his persecution the following: “**And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men”** (Acts 24:16).

The word “exercise” used here literally means to strive. Paul had to strive daily to forgive God and his fellow man. Paul had no regrets about his service to Christ, but in scripture he does refer to himself as the least of apostles in how he persecuted the church, expressing some regret over certain things; calling himself a wretched man, but thankful for the power given to him by Christ to overcome. Paul still accomplished his mission because he strove to forgive himself as well as others, putting the past behind him. How did Paul achieve what he did? First of all, he made up his mind to put his past behind him every day. Then he followed God wholeheartedly by obeying the words he received from Him, and most importantly he forgave. He did not forgive alone or by his own power, II Corinthians 2:10-11 says **“To whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices”.** Paul did not accomplish this otherwise impossible task on his own. Scripture tells us by the mouth of more than one witness that God alone can forgive sin. But if we have the Holy Ghost leading us, if we have put on the mind of Christ, if we are willing to set aside our own thinking and stubborn ways; we can do and forgive the impossible. We can overcome by the blood of the lamb, and the word of our testimonies. 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/**](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/)to be added to the monthly email list or obtain copies. .The site is still under construction, and will in time have all copies of the newsletter since the column **Words from Behind the Wall** was started in 2007.

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WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

WHAT’S A SOUL WORTH?

I gave up trying so hard to gain worldly things. During my days of evil, I could’ve cared less about the results of what I had been doing. Hurting others didn’t matter as long as it was for fun. My lies and stealing ended up causing me to continue down a path toward an empty life missing many great opportunities. My desires almost cost me my life. What I came to realize is that my soul is worth more in eternity than anything I can gain in this world (Matthew 16:26).

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PEACE AND JOY IN THE LORD

He never said we would have an easy time, but He did promise us total victory. We face trouble head on because what we believe gives us strength, patience, and the endurance we need. Learning about Jesus caused me to believe the more I had faith, the more I began to trust in Him. My trust in Him allows me to carry peace within my heart (John 16:31-33). **William Moctezuma**

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JESUS CHRIST

Men have argued over the name of Jesus, attempting to cover up the light that allows us to know the true story of who God really is. In their error, they lost truth, forgetting that the important thing is to know who Jesus is; and that God is all knowing. He has made a way for us, and for all who are willing to see the truth, and get it for the freedom of their mind and spirit. God’s plan is many steps ahead of man’s or satan’s plans. We must not forget who the almighty one is, and how He will do anything to allow us to have a relationship with Him, and to get close to Him. If not, we would all be dead in our sins forever, and lost in the ways of the world. II Peter 2:1 informs us about false prophets among the people, and what they are trying to do. I John chapter 4 informs us about what to believe and what not to believe. Mathew 24:34-37 speaks of what will happen in the last days, but no man knows the time. This is why we need to do things different in our lives, not as before being led by our sin nature. **Patrick Douglas**

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ONE DAY AT A TIME

Need a philosophy to life by? Try this one. “Today I will delete from my diary---yesterday and tomorrow. Yesterday was for leaning and tomorrow will be a consequence of what I do today. Today I will face life. I’ll have to contribute because there is no guarantee I’ll see tomorrow’s sunrise. Today I will be courageous enough not to let opportunity pass me by; my only alternative will be to succeed. Today I will invest my most valuable resource, my time, into my most important possession---the life God has given me. I’ll spend each minute purposefully making today a unique opportunity. I’ll tackle every obstacle, knowing that with God’s help I can overcome it. “Today I will resist doubt and pessimism, and illuminate my world with a smile. I’ll maintain a strong faith, expect nothing but the best, take time to be happy, and see every task as an opportunity to honor God, and endeavor to leave His footprints on the hearts of those I meet”. Today I invite you to start fresh with me, to dream again, to “live one day at a time”. Remember with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). It doesn’t matter what you’re in prison for or how much time you have or even what you’re facing. You’re not alone; God is there with each and every one of us. **Brandy Holmes**

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MAKING ADJUSTMENTS

Throughout the Bible, we see God moving men and women into the proper orbit to be used by Him. You can see this in the life of Abraham. Abraham had to do some “moving” or make some adjustments so he could receive and transmit. God is constantly working with people to change their thinking, speaking, and acting to open up the miraculous for them. You need to get in the right orbit to receive and transmit, not only do you need to be in the right place, but God also needs you to be in your place to do His will. He is working in you to do His will and good pleasure (Philippians 2:13). You must be aware of what time it is. God is showing you your place for world harvest. God wants to bless you; He wants to make you a blessing. He has some “rockets” to help you move into position to see His glory. He has given His word, the Holy Spirit, and the fivefold ministry to help you make adjustments. It takes some changes to get the glory, and it takes some glory to get some changes. You are being changed so you can fit and function in the proper orbit, and realize your potential in Him. **Jamie Alexander**

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