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).**

In The Process Of Time

It is written, heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not. It is a fact that time does not affect God or His will, but we can positively or negatively affect God’s intended will; not only for us, but for future generations. This is not to say that we will stop God, but the good intended for us can be affected by the choices we make, either good or bad. Once decisions are made, and actions are carried out that go against God’s word; the results of these decisions and actions have a lasting effect. Therefore, it is up to us to not be influenced by what we have done in the past; instead we must press forward to the future; being sure to change what we know has caused the problems we have today. We should not embrace the attitude that it is no use or that since it doesn’t directly affect me; I will not be worried about it. Scripture (God’s word) gives us so many principles to live by, and if we are diligent in seeking God through His word and prayer; we can learn what to do, and what not to do from the stories of the men and women in the Bible.

Hezekiah, King of Judah, was a good king when compared to most of the other kings of Israel and Judah. He initially sought God in the day of battle. He humbled himself to God when he was sick unto death, and had 15 years added to his life. However, he apparently did not have a love for God in his heart as David his father did, and as a result, he waivered in his faith. He later sold out to the enemy instead of trusting God. He was not careful to keep the enemy from coming into his house or letting the enemy see all the precious things therein. Although he did pray in the day of battle, spreading out the letter containing threats from the enemy on the altar. Sadly, when it came to securing a future for his children, and future generations who would come after him, he failed to pray. One could ask, what happened? What caused this valiant king to seemingly not care to shed a tear for those who would come after him? Especially considering his past experiences with God. It would seem that he would have the faith to pray to stop the captivity prophesied to him. Could it be that Hezekiah, over the process of time, allowed himself to become complacent? He allowed himself to become distant from God. He did not pray. He ceased to seek God or secure the future of his kingdom as David did for Solomon and his children.

Isaiah 39:5-8 says, **“Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon. Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days”.** Hezekiah did not seem to care what would happen with the future generations or his children that would come after him. The end result was that his son Manasseh did not follow God, and in the end had the prophet Isaiah executed.

If we do not have a love for God and His ways, in the process of time, we will falter in our relationship with Him. This will also affect our relationships with others, even our children. A good relationship with God will cause us to act positively toward others. Those who have a love for God will possibly fall, but will rise back up to seek after Him because the absence of the one they love will grieve them. This is how we know if someone, ourselves included, is a true disciple of God. Not only by their words, but by the things that they do, and the love they show for others. The greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. We see a lack of love for God, and others in the example set forth by Hezekiah. We learn that we cannot let the enemy come in, trusting him with the precious things in our house. We must fight the good fight of faith for our children and future generations. When things are going well for us, we cannot forget about God. We cannot forget His word, and most importantly we cannot forget to pray. 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

STOP HIDING

While reading James 3:19-21, I learned that our evil nature is so embarrassing, every one of us tries to hide it. These things, when hidden, produce a distrustful personality. The best hiding places are dark. But evil dwells in the shadows. In my case, I so didn’t want my family to know about the scams I was doing, so I’d keep them under the cover of darkness. In jail, I finally realized there was no hiding from God. He revealed Himself to save me. God is willing to be exposed. Even if I make another mistake, I’ll prefer to face up to it, rather than living in darkness once again. Moving into the light is easy. You don’t have to be perfect. You only have to live by truth.  **William Moctezuma**

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

THE CHOICES WE MAKE

One thing I realize here on earth is that everybody needs God, drug dealers, meth addicts, etc. I’m grateful that I found His power, mercy, and grace. So in return, we all need to praise Him because He is there for us all. He can move anything our way as long as we keep our faith steadfast for Him. Keep your feet grounded in prayer. Let people know how much they are blessed, and all your pain will make you stronger because pain is your motivation to pray. He never said that our walk was going to be easy without any problems, so my best advice to you is look to the Spirit for God’s Holy Love Signs. Turn around all that hatred you have because God doesn’t hate you, He just hates the choices you make. Please call and write to those family members who got hatred for someone or your so called homeboys to put down those guns because the devil is making those bullets hit totally innocent people who could have had a long meaningful life. So send up prayer, and have hope people will change because God is so awesome. There is another way to live besides claiming a block that’s still going to be there after we are all gone. So be a model family member, and grab them young. Tell them they can have fun without picking up the gun---support positivity not negativity. There are many things that we regret, but don’t let this situation be one of them. Never give up hope. Just because something happened, doesn’t mean you have to live your life miserable. It’s time to break sad habits, and bring out your internal flame; it’s time to be on fire for God.

 **Charles Moctezuma**

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

PURSUING PLEASURE

Inspired by II Timothy 3:1-4

When we overindulge in anything, it loses its ability to make us happy. Smart people regularly back away from life’s big table so the banquet stays fresh and exciting. But it doesn’t always work, and here is why:

1. Neurologically, it overloads the brain’s pleasure center, and depletes your feel-good neurotransmitters, serotonin, and dopamine.
2. Psychologically, it creates unrealistic expectations and boredom.
3. Physiologically, overindulgence in anything, (including food) creates tolerance, addiction, and health problems. Trust me; I know because I have health problems that I want to get better.

Paul writes, “In the last days, people will be lovers of pleasure.” And seemingly benign pleasures can be the most seductive. For instance, if you lie in a recliner every night watching TV, or for us prisoners, lay in a bed or sit at the gates, or even sit in the day room in chairs or whichever; eating junk food (canteen). You might not think you are in danger. But think again, while 60,000 Americans die each year from illegal drug use, over 600,000 die from overeating and inactivity. That’s way too high a price to pay for something that doesn’t buy long-term happiness. The Bible says, “Your motive is wrong, you only want what will give you pleasure (James 4:3 NLT). Lasting pleasure should be your reward, not your pursuit! Trust me; I’m tested in this every day. Paul says, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross” (Galatians 5:24 NLT). Do you do that daily? Because I try to keep them on the cross, and not take them down to reuse them. You see, God is not against pleasure as long as you remember that it’s the dessert---not the main course. The truth is, true fulfillment can be found only in the center of God’s will, not men and women today, tomorrow or the past, even the future. Just God! **Brandy Holmes**

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

GOD

When I was alone and had nothing, I asked for a friend to help me bear the pain. No one came except…God. When I needed a breath to rise from my sleep, no one could help me except…God. When all I saw was sadness and I needed answers, no one heard me except…God. So when I am asked who I give my unconditional love to, look for no other name…God! **Sandro G. Thomassin**

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

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR**

Since we are overcomers by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, we are hopeful that many of you reading this newsletter will send us a submission for future newsletters. We are able to mail up to four newsletters at a time for the price of a stamp so if you would like me to send you extras, just let me know in writing. Again, and as always, a big THANK YOU goes out to all who submit their writings, and make this column possible. I am always hearing testimonies, and words of appreciation for the newsletter. I know that this is because of the time you take to write and submit. I would also like to thank inmates, Plass and Falcon, for their monetary gifts to the Rose Memorial Fund. Both have given, not once, but twice to this cause. And finally Happy Birthday to all whose birthdays fall in June. **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. Thank You!**