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).**

The Power of death

From prison Paul wrote, *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;” (Philippians 3:10).* The word “conformable”, as it is used in the Greek, means co-imitator or follower-together. The word Christian attached to someone’s life implies that they will be Christ like. To claim Christ without dying to the things of this world, and the sinful nature of our flesh is hypocrisy. Paul, who claimed to be the one of the greatest of sinners, understood this battle saying that he died daily. He had to bring his flesh under subjection; unless he himself should be a castaway after having preached to others. He admonished us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. And so we should, as everyday is a battle. A prisoner is confined to keep them from doing wrong, but many know that in spite of the “rules”; evil actions are not prevented by bars. A love for righteousness and the beauty of God’s Holiness (separation from the world) must come from the heart. There must be a death of old ways before God can make all things new.

Romans 6:4 says, *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”.* The Bible goes on to say that if we are buried with Him, we shall also be resurrected with Him. Therefore, we should crucify the old man, walk in newness of life, and not serve sin. There are those who believe that following laws is bondage, but this is a lie of the devil, It has been put forth to please man’s foolish flesh. Are not those, as the proverb says, who return to their sinful behavior after being cleansed, like a pig returning to the mud or like a dog who goes back to eat his own vomit?

To have authority over our own sin, and to be able to pray for others trapped in the snare of the devil, we must walk in obedience to the right ways of God. Only then can we walk in the light as He is in the light. Without the desire for righteousness grace has no authority, and without grace we are in trouble. Please note the following scripture. *“That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might* ***grace reign through righteousness*** *unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord”.* The word “reign” as it is used here literally means to rule. If there is no desire for righteousness, there is no grace. While God understands our struggles, and we all have them, there must be a desire to do what is right. The way to overcoming our struggles with sin is a daily dose of the Word and prayer. Without these, we cannot stand in the evil day or take authority over the enemy.

Our carnal mind cannot understand these things. This is why we must have the things of the Spirit. We need the Holy Ghost, and the blood of Jesus applied to our lives. The devil cannot fight against these things. He is fighting a losing battle anyway, but he gets a foothold in our lives because of the things we allow. Remember, the weapons of our warfare are not of flesh, but are powerful, and of God’s Spirit. And can be used to cast out every evil way of thinking, throwing out of our lives the devil’s lies and deceptions. Then we will be able to come against every evil spirit, and to put wickedness under our feet by dying to our old way of thinking, and to have the mind of Christ. *“And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled” (II Corinthians 10:6).* Let’s show the devil, we are not on his side. His ways are the ways to the second death. Death to sin is the way to eternal life. Therefore, Jesus says, if you save your life, you will lose it, but if you lose your life for His ways, you will save it. BME

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

BE GOOD

We are unable to control the actions of others when they choose to pick on us or mistreat us for no or any reason. If you are like me, thoughts of defense or revenge come to mind. As they say, why add fuel to the fire? We are in control of our own actions, even if going against the flesh doesn’t have an effect on the person you intend. That action may help others in their actions. Romans 12:18 says, “When possible, as far as it depends on us, live in peace with everyone”; a great reason to avoid trouble.

 **William Moctezuma**

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JUST A BREATH OF FREEDOM

Held captive for your politics; they wanted to break your soul. The ordered the extermination of all minds they could not control. For you the fate was worse than just a brutal homicide. They caged you like an animal, and watched you slowly die inside. As you breathe your first air of freedom on the day you became a free man. Raise your regal brow in pride, for now you are in God’s hands. The life of many was given so that one day would come that the devil’s power at Pretoria would pay for the evil crimes they’ve done.

 **Sandro G. Thomassini**

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COMMANDMENT FOUR (PART 1) EXODUS 20:8

When I read the Ten Commandments in my cell, it was because I wanted to feel closer to God. The Fourth Commandment shouldn’t be interpreted:

1) In a legalistic way! Because God said, “Keep the Sabbath Holy, people have made it heavy. In fact, by Jesus’ time there were over 1,500 things you couldn’t do, like bathing, walking too far, or scratching a flea bite! The Sabbath is for rest and relaxation; a time to recharge your spiritual battery, not drain it. It should be the milestone, not the millstone of your week!

2) In a loose way! The flip-side of the legalism coin is that now “anything goes”. People go everywhere on the Sabbath except to God’s house, and excuse it by saying, “I’ll be there in the spirit” or “I’m closer to God at the Lake”. Do you know that companies who conduct random drug testing usually do it on Mondays because most abusers get high on weekends? That’s not what God had in mind when He said, “keep the Sabbath Holy”.

3) In a limited way! Do you attend church on Sunday, and then ignore God the rest of the week? Is your Christianity so irrelevant to daily life that it is just a one-day-a-week affair? Remember, He’s not just the Lord of the Sabbath; He’s the Lord of Life. So stop containing Him to church, and start taking Him to a world that needs hope, and salvation.

 **Brandy Holmes**

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THOUGH I STRUGGLE

Never lose yourself in sorrow or hang your head in despair. Always have hopes of a better tomorrow, and you’ll find some solace there. Life can be so confusing, especially if we fight and struggle all alone; when praying is what we should be dong, and keeping our faith in Him who sits on the throne. Sometimes your heart may be heavy; as your burdens are heavy to bear. Just know that on your call Jesus is waiting, and when you reach Him, you can leave your burden there. Friends and family sometimes fail you, when you’re weary and need them the most. When the devil assails you, pray, asking God to send a Heavenly Host. His angels will protect you, and the Lord will never leave your side. So give your worries and your troubles to Jesus, and in His love you can abide.  **Ro’Sean Newson**

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LOVE YOURSELF!

Life is too short to waste. I need to live as if today is my last day on earth. Why? Because---I will be more focused on what I do everyday! Before I leave this earth, I want to share what has been given to me from the Holy Spirit; love, peace, sound mind, patience, this can only be given to you by accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior! True freedom comes from what is planted inside of you! When Jesus Christ pours His Holy Spirit inside of you, you will feel a new life, come alive, and all of what He has, you too will have. Then you can share this great gift with others! Refreshed, and born again; life the fountain of youth. Oh, yeah, how many people would like to drink from the fountain of youth? And I’m here to tell you that you can---but this fountain is much better. Accepting Jesus is the best of all. He offers you more than the fountain of youth, which is everlasting life, and eternal life in Heaven. How much better is that? My Brothers in Christ, I just want to tell you, when you live like Jesus Christ, you become like He is. And He is all that we need. Thank you, and may you strive to be like Jesus Christ.

God Bless. **Zygmont Parzych**

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POT HOLES

In March, people in the city were complaining about all the pot holes in the streets, and it reminded me of those real tough days of our Spiritual journey when it may seem like a path covered with pot holes, but with our personal pot holes, they occur in all the seasons of our lives. When we, in faith, acknowledge that Jesus promises to walk along side us to make the path straight; we will not bounce away from His Word. Jesus doesn’t take away the pot holes, but even in spite of them; He will bring us blessings, and then ultimately to our final destination, which is eternal life with Him. So if you are working through a pot hole riddled path, may your faith hold on to His Word, and see you through it.

 **Charles Moctezuma**

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Happy birthday to everyone with July/August birthdays! I want to thank Martin Cabrera, who has given many times, and those who have given in the past to the Rose Memorial Fund. All money goes to ensure the mailing of the newsletter to Inmates. For more information, and past and current issues of the newsletter, please visit the website@[www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com). As always thank you, thank you to those who have submitted their thoughts to the newsletter. As much as I would like, I do not have time or resources to write everyone on a regular basis. To answer a recent question regarding the ministries ability to provide jobs or other similar services upon an Inmate’s release; I am sorry to say that at this time, we do not. However, if you would like to attend ICF, a Spirit filled Church, upon your release; we would love to have you. And look forward to the opportunity to meet you. I encourage ALL, behind the walls or in this “so called free world”, not to succumb to this world’s system or its authority. I do not mean don’t obey common laws. What I mean is that when we break laws, we put ourselves under this world’s authority. Instead bend your will to God’s righteous way, choosing life and liberty. Be under God’s authority, and His soon coming Kingdom; which even now, is being established on this earth through His Church.

God bless you all.  **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.**