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).**

Feeling Forsaken?

Jesus has promised He will never forsake us. If we truly believe this, we should have hope. We know that no man is an island unto himself. We need our brothers and our sisters. However, there are situations we will face on our own. It is precarious to be fully dependent on human ability. There will be many times when we feel like no one knows how we feel or cares. At times like these, we must know we can call on the Lord. He is drawn to those who are of a broken and contrite spirit. He is omnipresent, and can be in our past, our present, and our future. He has power to remove the eternal consequences of our past from our lives with His blood that He shed at Calvary. Although the “Law of the Harvest” remains, and “we will reap what we sow”; in eternity, our past and future sin can be washed away when His blood is applied to our lives. We can walk in newness of life. It is written; *“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” (Romans 6:4).*

When our sin is cast into God’s sea of forgetfulness, it can only be recovered if we continue in the same sinful acts or when we talk about them. Yes, it is hard to forget things that we have done or that have been done to us, especially when these things have long term effects on our lives or the lives of others. But this is when God can be in our present. This is when His grace will cover us, and enable us to do what we cannot do alone. If we allow the Holy Ghost, through prayer and consecration, to give us the mind of Christ; our minds can be renewed. We can walk in newness of life. We are instructed; *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).*

We have to have our own sea of forgetfulness. We must work every day to forget and forgive past sin. Not only ours, but the sins of others, praying in the Holy Ghost, fulfilling the Law of Christ. We cannot put ourselves in the position to judge sin. Having this mindset only increases feelings of loneliness, isolation, and fear. Let it be proclaimed today that there is a solution, a way to freedom, and a way of salvation. We must live day by day with the determination that we will draw closer to God so that He will draw closer to us. Let us not push God away by the things we say, do, and watch! He cannot force us to let go of bad thoughts or sinful acts. We must allow His Spirit, the Holy Ghost, to work in our lives. This happens when we start by making prayer a daily practice, develop a habit of letting go of the past, and believing the Word of God.

His word tells us we are made clean, we are forgiven, our sins are forgotten, and they have gone before us. We are given power to live above sin. His word says He will make a way of escape for us from temptation. We are not forsaken. God will be with us if we don’t shut Him out by continuing in our sinful acts. We have a promise from God for salvation regardless of what we have done in the past, if we live according to His word in the present and future. It was humanities sin that resulted in God manifesting Himself in flesh to become a sacrifice so we can be saved. How can we forget about or despise such a great salvation?

Even when friends, family members, or parents seem to have forgotten, God has not. His word spoken through King David says, *“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up” (Psalms 27:10)*. He is the Everlasting Father [a term meaning world without end in Hebrew]. This is from a promise made through the Prophet as God looked at us through time, knowing that there would be some who would grow up fatherless, and misguided. He is calling out to the fatherless children today by His powerful Spirit. His mind towards us is as this, *“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee” (Isaiah 49:15).* Let us follow this exhortation which says, *“be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”.* BME

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

DAY SPRING

God showed us the greatest mercy of all time by sending us Jesus; by bringing this Light of Truth into my life, I am free thanks to the gift of forgiveness. Instead of the cold death I was destined to have, I find great joy to be gaining everlasting life with God. Living in the shadows only kept me in the midst of danger. But with the light as a guide, my heart is at peace. **William Moctezuma**

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GOOD OUTWEIGHS OUR EVIL WAYS

Last month Beth was talking about anger (grievous things), and while I was reading it, Luke 6:45 came to my mind. “A good man out of the treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good. And an evil man, out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil; for out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks”. If you’ve read last month’s sermon, you’ll know exactly where I’m going. To me anger is part of evil, and we need to dig deep into our hearts to get it out. God forgave us for what we’ve done---so why can’t we forgive people who trespass against us, and ask God to take them, and use them as He sees fit. Ask God to use them to spread the gospel. Also, our intellect, and every talent we have should be consecrated to God. “Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, with all thy strength, with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself” (Luke 10:27). Think what could be accomplished if everybody applied their entire minds, and hearts to do good instead of evil. Also, when Brandy was talking about the Ten Commandments, Deuteronomy 5:29 came to mind, which says, “Our Lord cries from heaven, O that such a heart would be in them that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always that it might be well with them”. And also, Joshua 22:5, “To do the commandments and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and to cleave to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and soul.

 **Charles Moctezuma**

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COMMANDMENTS 1-3

“You shall have no… gods before me…not make for yourself an idol…not misuse the name of the Lord” (Exodus 20:3-7).

Have you seen the new all purpose greeting card? The front says “Generic Card”, and the inside reads, “Happy whatever”! The first commandment was designed to stop you from going through life pursuing “whatever” the latest fad happens to be. It’s particularly important in an age that encourages you to do your own thing instead of God’s thing. It grabs you by the collar and says, “Hold on! Jesus is supposed to be the Lord in your life, so put Him first”! You shall not make yourself an idol. Me and my friend and sister Antoinette watch The Ten Commandments every year when the TV shows it around Easter. No matter how many times we watch it, it’s always a joy to understand and learn more. I try not to break this commandment. It’s hard because I am a woman who likes to stand by her man. He expects “loyalty before dishonor”. To many of us Christians this commandment is the most abused. Most of us don’t worship golden calves or stone statues. But how about our loyalty to things that have no eternal value, like pleasure, power, possessions, and social standing? Aren’t those things idols too? Anything or anyone we put before God is an idol! You shall not misuse the name of the Lord. Don’t you get tired of the prison system and society dismissing profanity in movies, songs? Also, what inmates say and how they say it, bumper stickers, tee shirts, books, magazines, calling it adult language. But that’s not the only way we misuse the Lord’s name. As Christians we have to show non-believers we are serious. I am trying to practice what I preach---by living right, and not dishonoring Jesus. **Brandy Holmes**

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DEDICATION TO AUGUSTA “DILLY” NEWSON

Excuse me as I wipe up these aching tears from this watery floor. I can only smile as I visualize you with your new found wings in the endless skies as you soar. Without pain, God has you now. Good feelings you would only have to endure, once blemished eyes with steady rain in the heavens. Skies are golden dark clouds you won’t see anymore. When God came for you, He let the heavens roar, and from the angels eyes tears poured. A diligent sign of joy and rejoicing with everlasting encores, from the start He knew for you what was in store. He held the keys to release you from it all. The power to ease your suffering pain, reaching from the throne into this world your soul He would take. As you ascended into heaven, all day and all night it rained. The next day was filled with sunshine, letting it be known another angel has been proclaimed. Now down here you are truly and dearly missed. As so many keep calling your name. A family of hearts has been crushed, knowing so many you have touched. The wise and the bold, the young and the old, friends as well as foes; we all say your life span was rushed---something nobody can argue. It is something God, and His angels already discussed. In loving memory of my Grandfather, who was called home December 13, 2013.

 **Ro’Sean Newson**

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When I came to prison almost twenty years ago, I had been living a sinful, addictive lifestyle out there. I had thought there was no hope to break that cycle. But my loss of freedom has forced a separation from what once drove me to desire such a crazy life. Although the cycle was being broken year after year, I was left feeling empty inside. My life prior to prison wasn’t all bad. I went to church on a regular basis, and thought I loved God. Yet the sinful life I led, which offended Christ, was eating away at me like a cancer. I didn’t realize that if I truly wanted to change my unhealthy ways, I would need to replace those bad energies with Godly ones. So for years now, I have been trying to do that, and I’m finally feeling whole. I know there is much that God is calling me to do. And I view my future with excitement, hope, and gratitude; knowing my God is a jealous God with no room for satan in my life. **Joe O’Neill**

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Happy birthday to everyone with June/July birthdays! I want to thank Martin Cabrera, and those who have given in the past to the Rose Memorial Fund. For more information, and past and current issues of the newsletter, please visit the website@[www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com). Again, thank you for your submissions!

 **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.**