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).**

A Better Way

I was once told by an inmate, who is serving a near life sentence, not to mention taking things for granted. I believe he was troubled by the little things he could no longer do, and no longer had. The day to day things we think nothing about. The truth is we all take so much for granted. We don’t appreciate simple things, like being able to walk, to see, to be in our right mind. It may take being in a situation like the aforementioned inmate to be able to appreciate something as simple as being able to take a shower when we want to. However, there is a better way of thinking, of living, of walking on this earth. Everyday can be a day of celebration when we make the choice to be thankful. Thankfulness, like love, is a choice.

There will be bad days on this earth, bad things will happen. If not, why would anyone want to leave here or desire a better kingdom? There will be sorrow sometimes. Jesus said, “*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted”.* We cannot escape tribulation in this world. But the good news; there is a comforter. There is a God in heaven to hear our prayers, whom we can cast our cares upon. The challenge is to remember this in the time of trouble, and heartbreaking sadness, instead of turning to other things, becoming angry at God, and others. We can even turn to God when we have made mistakes that seem so bad that there is no way out. He will even give peace in times like these. What better way is there than this?

Jesus sent this message when He gave the Sermon on the Mount. He wanted mankind to know that even in trials, persecution, and tribulation; there is cause to rejoice. He has given us the promise of a better kingdom, an eternal kingdom. In spite of the fact that the fall of man messed up paradise, we are promised something better. The choice is ours. We have to choose what we will believe, and what we won’t believe. If we think things are hopeless, and we have no reason to do better, chances are we won’t. But if we see each day as a new opportunity to worship God, being thankful for the little things in life that are so often taken for granted, even when things don’t go our way; we can still have a blessed day.

The next time an incident comes along to ruin our day, instead of becoming angry or discouraged, and falling into the enemies’ hands; the first thing we should do is pray. The first thing to pray is; “Jesus, what good can you bring out of this situation”? Secondly, if nothing else comes to mind, cry for help to be delivered out of or withstand whatever it is. Sometimes, we cannot get out of the situation, but there are many situations that we can walk away from, The Bible says that a man who meddles in strife not his own is like someone who takes a dog by his ears. In other words, let’s “choose” not to put ourselves in bad and destructive situations. And trust God for help and deliverance in or out of those that cannot be avoided. Let’s not turn to the enemy by letting hurt or anger cause us to stumble, turning away from God and His ways, towards the vain and empty things of this world, such as a love for things, drugs, and alcohol. There is a better way. BME

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WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

THROWN DOWN

Hate and anger cause people who know God to seek joy and resolve, even though other things are trying to set us back. I have always come across such enemies. Some are able to live with a solution, while some only want my destruction, even if it costs them. This is why I Peter 5:9-10 tells us God provides strength. Sometimes I feel like giving a simple punch or good pay back. Instead, scripture teaches me to fight back with the truth. Christ uses it as a defense against the devil himself. In I John 4:4, we are told we are from God, and we have the power (Holy Spirit) within us to overcome the devil, and worldly things that are seeking to destroy us. Just stand by the truth, and rely on Him for strength. **William Moctezuma**

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PROMISES

By now I know we are all tired of hearing the candidates who are running for office make promises that many of us think (or know) they cannot keep or really don’t want to keep. They say what they say just to try and gain some votes. There’s seldom a candidate who keeps all his promises, but the child of God (Jesus) has a perfect promise record. Paul explains it in II Timothy 2:13. “He remains faithful---for He cannot deny Himself”. Our loving God has, is, and will always keep His promise. There are written examples of this found in Matthew 6:14-15, Psalm 43, 139, and also Psalm 23, 84, not to mention, Hebrews, Luke 11:5-13, I Corinthians 15, and another in Matthew 6:19-34. But the great promise God has made is that all of our sins are forgiven and forgotten; and eternal life is guaranteed! God’s word is truth, and Jesus keeps all His promises.

**Charles Moctezuma**

DO NOT MURDER OR STEAL

(Exodus 20: 13, 15)

These two commandments are about respecting others. “Do not murder” sounds odd coming from a person as myself that has been convicted of murder. So yes, even though I’m innocent, the sentence of death, and now life, is a mistake and a blessing. So, who should this commandment be written to? Just think if we came to a sign that had written on it, “The world’s most dangerous animal”. But beside it is a cage with only a mirror inside. And all you see is your own reflection! Could it be any clearer? Human beings are the most dangerous of all God’s creatures! But we’re also the ones with the most potential for good. Jesus enlarged on this commandment. “The law of Moses says, “Do not murder…but…if you are angry with someone…call someone an idiot…curse someone, you are in danger of…hell (Matthew 5:21-22). Strong sentiments? Jesus knew that hatred in the human heart blinds and distorts you long before you ever strike the first blow. Do not steal! A friend of mine told her husband, “You won’t believe this, but our overnight guests stole the towels”. “Well”, he replied, “people are like that; they just can’t be trusted. By the way, which ones did they take”? She told him, “the big white ones with Holiday Inn written on them”. What a wake-up call this commandment must have been for the Israelites. As nomads, thieving and looting had always been acceptable, even expected. Stealing distorts our priorities; it makes things more important than people. It violates the rights of others by saying, “I’m more important that you”. For that reason God says, “be honest in all your dealings, and respect those around you, and He means it!

**Brandy Holmes**

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MESSAGE

This is a message for my comrades up here in Angola. To the smaller pads, hold your head up. I know it’s hard, you are a sole survivor. Trapped in the field like you aren’t a man, praying to God that they will see you are a man. Don’t let them do it because mentally they admire you, wondering how you get your strength, while they are making slaves of you in the darkest tomb with no lights or water. But crack babies, what a sad tune, it’s evident that we were destined for a blighted doom. I lost my Grams and my Granddad while I was in. Questioning if we were in the same weight class; He set me down and said, “Chill”. You’ve been skipping class. I gave you breath, but you blew it fast. This isn’t the end. It’s just a quiz to test your total mass. I know its hard going through it; you’ve got to ride above it. Job did it. Daniel did it. Paul committed, and faced death a couple times. But you made it out, gavel ringing in your ears. I know you’re full of doubt. Rap sheets got you staring at your white sheets. Don’t be a sucker in the game, where only he could gain. Break the cycle for your sons, so that they could reign, so that they could reign. **Ro’Sean Newson**

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

I pray that you all have the most blessed Thanksgiving possible and are encourage by the love of our Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ throughout the holiday season.

Happy birthday to everyone with November/December birthdays!

For past and current issues of the newsletter, please visit the website@:

[www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com)..

The column Words From Behind The Wall was seven years old last month. The first newsletter was written in 2004 when I was inspired to write a monthly prayer newsletter by the scripture Numbers 10:9. It has been written monthly ever since, but in October of 2007, I was driving from a meeting at Cook County Jail in the summer of 2007. While stuck in rush hour traffic, I was thinking of a poem an inmate had sent me. I became inspired to start a column with that one poem, replacing the praise report column; although we have plenty of praise reports. Since that time, the column and newsletter has flourished. A couple years ago I asked to speak to a Catholic ladies group about the newsletter because of the inmate column. While speaking to these ladies, many had tears in their eyes, and it became apparent to me that many had children in prison. Let me encourage those incarcerated that nobody can reduce the recidivism rate, but you. In the past, I sat it clergy advisory meetings held a Cook County Jail, and listened to many methods on how to reduce recidivism. But rest assured; it will only be accomplished by you, your desire to change your thinking, and hence, your behavior. Due to time constraints, and the ever increasing cost of postage; I have decided to begin to publish the newsletter bi-monthly beginning in December/January. It is something I have considered for some time, even prayerfully, and feel it is time to do so now. Please continue to send your submissions to keep the column going, pray, stay in the word, and seek God while He may be found. I will do the same. It is my goal to finish the manuscript of my second book shortly after the beginning of the New Year. **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. To request to have an inmate added to the mailing list, please email your request to bethspeaktruth7@gmail.com**