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).**

When You See War

It seems that everyone wants an easy way out; a quick fix for their problems. You never hear anybody say, “I can’t wait for adversity to come my way”. The mindset of most today is to have fun, take it easy, and take whatever you can get as long as you don’t have to work too hard for it. But this is not what God wants for us, and this is not what forms good character. God has intended for us to be strong through Him, and for adversity to make us who He created us to be, not destroy us. It is written that we can be overcomers regardless of our circumstances. God will take us through things in order to make us strong. One thing is certain. God will always bring about a good outcome from the worst situations if we turn to Him for help. He specializes in bringing good out of bad. Not every battle is meant for us to fight, but God will always go before us when He has ordered our steps.

God knows human nature. This is why He will sometimes take us the long way when fulfilling promises in our lives. We see an example of this in scripture. Exodus 13:17 says, *“And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt”.* God knew that the people would want to turn back when they saw trouble ahead. Therefore, He did not arrange for any shortcuts on the way to the Promised Land. Instead He led them through the wilderness, and a dry and barren land. This is where they saw miracles, signs, and wonders. This is where God could demonstrate His power, and show them His mercy.

God has not changed in His dealings with mankind. There are some things written in scripture that apply only to Israel. But we should be thankful that He manifested Himself in flesh, making most of the promises, i. e. the power of God unto salvation, applicable to Jews and Gentiles alike. God does not want the easy way for us. He wants the right way for us. It has been said of the children of Israel; that it is hard to understand how they backslid after seeing the great miracles that God did. But if we take a minute to consider; God has done so much more for us than He did for them. He has parted some red seas for us, and He has done more than bring water out of a rock. He has given us living water by shedding His own blood.

What greater miracle is there than a life that is changed? What is more miraculous than seeing a drug addict willingly put down their habit, and live for God? Sure it is awesome to see a miraculous healing. And those miracles still happen today. But no one can dispute or explain away the person who was a drunk in a bar, a drug addict on the street, or an inmate in a prison, rising about the filth of this world, walking upright, and contributing to society. This cannot be explained away by any naysayer. This is evidence of the power of God. Many will turn to drugs, alcohol, and even suicide to escape going into battle. But be encouraged today that you can go in, fight, and overcome your battles. And we can be sure that there will be adversity, whether we have God on our side or not. When you see war, do not take the easy way out. The easy way does not lead to victory. Seek God always through His Word, and through prayer. He will lead you beside still waters, and even though He may take you through the wilderness, He will not leave you there. He is the good shepherd, a refuge, and a battle axe in time of war. When we are on God’s side, and He is on ours, the victory will be ours. BME

**The Shepherd**

For every lost sheep, you make a way.

None are forgotten, you see them stray.

Every path you direct and facilitate,

You open the door at the pearly gate.

There’s only one way, one road to you.

Our ways are flawed,

Your word will see us through.

We need you to guide us, to show us the way.

To have and to seek you, your word we obey.

You are the good shepherd, you have given all.

You came to the world, in spite of its flaws.

Looking for the lost, for souls to keep.

To rescue from darkness, to wake those who sleep.

For those who think there is no better way,

To awaken, enlighten, empower to pray.

To be with us always, to straighten our ways.

To lead us through life, to take us home one day. BME

WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

IN GOOD TIME

I must wait for what is good because when I rush, time ends up standing still. Patience allows me to notice when my prayers have been answered. Being unwilling to wait makes me forget that I even asked. Expecting my Lord to hear a cry for help builds my faith, but thinking He doesn’t has me believing in lies. Trusting myself in His hands is the only way I’ll gain tender care. If that trust is lost, then so am I. Inspired by Psalm 5:3. **William Moctezuma**

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REGRETS

There are many regrets in my life, but the biggest regret was starting to use drugs, and using heroin. It got to the point of me putting a needle into my arm to get high. Now I’ve found out that I have cancer (hodgkin’s lymphoma stage two). At first I was down, and wondering how much time I will have left on this earth. I felt sad, and opened my Bible. As soon as I opened the book up, I was on Romans 5, which basically describes how sickness and death entered this world through the misused freedom of our original parents Adam and Eve. Since then, it has been a plight of human kind to deal with all kinds of diseases by word or touch (Mark 7:31-35; 8:22-25). But in Mark 2:9-12, Jesus forgives the sins of a paralyzed man. People believed God alone had the authority to forgive sins, and to prove His authority and identity; Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “Take up your bed and go”. Then he not only had the use of his limbs, but was also given the strength to carry the bed that for so long had been his prison. How great is it that a withered, twisted pair of legs can become immediately and visibly whole at the word of Jesus. The onlookers recognized that that source of the miraculous healing was the creator, who had initiated the healing process by supernatural means. One regret I will not have is being faithful with the word of our loving, Heavenly Father.

 **Charles Moctezuma**

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COMMANDMENT FIVE

Honor your Father and Mother Exodus 20:12

God placed this fifth commandment right in the middle of the rest to teach us how to learn to live with our family. If we can’t get along with them, we will have trouble getting along with anybody else. To me, this commandment means:

* 1) Honoring your parents! Other translations of “honor” are to respect, cherish, accept, obey, love, take seriously, treat with courtesy, listen to, and give weight and authority to”. Do we honor our parents like that? God says we should.
* 2) Being honorable as parents! Children form their first impression of God from observing us. When our children pray “Our Father”, what do they see? Love? Integrity? Faithfulness? Joy? Or do we live in a climate of tension. Do they fall asleep listening to fights and arguments?
* 3) Honoring our predecessors! Why? Because those pioneers and trailblazers worked and sacrificed for the faith and religious freedom we enjoy. This didn’t come cheap, so we shouldn’t take it for granted.

This is the only commandment that comes with a promise. God tells us, “honor your father and mother…you will live a long and full life”. Sounds like He’s striking a bargain, doesn’t it? But actually He’s just stating a fact because as the family goes, so goes the nation. When parents are honored, families stay strong and society benefits. But when families disintegrate, it affects all of us negatively. Why? Because home is where most of us learn the great fundamentals like: respect, education, character, concern for others, and love for God and His word. Cultures that undermine family eventually destroy themselves. This is why God makes us these promises; to bless our families, and make us stronger together. If you didn’t have a mother or a father or the close-knit family, it’s not your fault! Home is where the heart is at. Most kids and grown people had stable homes, even with strangers. **Brandy Holmes**

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WATCH AND LISTEN

I can see it now with an eagle’s view. It’s like God said, “Look that’s for you”. And all you have to do is stay liberated, and your path for tomorrow Ill navigate to the destinations your heart is set upon, even beyond your deepest imagination. But you have to remain patient, and let me curve the path so I can bring color to all areas that are black because it’s a proven fact that you’re lost and blind without me. That’s why I gave you vision so you could see your dreams and purpose for being in existence. So from now on my son, watch and listen. **Ro’Sean Newson**

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Happy birthday to everyone with September/October birthdays! For past and current issues of the newsletter, please visit the website@:

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

There have been some requests for extra reading material. Please know my husband and I try to respond to every letter in a timely manner, but we are unable to send extra reading material as it would not be possible to do this for everyone. God bless you all, and thank you for your submissions to the newsletter**. 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.**