

VICTORY
IS THE EYE
OF EVERY
BATTLE



NANCY ANGOVE

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Acknowledgments

I love my Savior. I love my God. I love the Holy Spirit. You've directed me to write, and whenever I want to draw back because it can seem hard and like a whole lot of trouble, You encourage me by saying through different sources that the books are helping people. So back to the computer. I acknowledge your gentle, encouraging nudges, and I couldn't live without your fellowship.

I have to acknowledge my husband, who encourages me, pays for all the stuff, tells me the books are good and to keep writing, prays for me continually, eats pretty simple, and besides that is good looking, a good provider, and a good father. (He doesn't know this is here.)

I acknowledge my readers who actually took the time to read any of my books, knowing I am not famous or well-known, but a little housewife with a little ministry, but having the same Big God you do. To the many who write and say they have received help from the books, I say thanks for those encouraging words. We lay hands on all the letters often and pray over them.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nancy Gray". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'N' and a long, sweeping underline.

To the Readers

In researching this book I was surprised at the extent of all the bloody battles in our Bible. There was blood squirting out of everybody's nose and knives sticking out of their backs. Especially in family battles which I was particularly interested in because that's where many live (and fight).

God doesn't leave us without wisdom in our battles. What God's people and families went through in their battles and what caused the defeat or the victory is very enlightening for us to learn from today.

If you can't find the eye of victory in your storm, hear what Zecharias spoke out of his prophetic mouth:

“Because of and through the heart of tender mercy and loving-kindness of our God, **a Light from on high will dawn upon us and visit us.**

To shine upon and **give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death**, to direct and guide our feet in a straight line unto the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78-79)

“But you are chosen race, a royal priesthood, God's own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues of **Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**” (1 Peter 2:9)

Let's march (even stumble) from the darkness of battles into the light of victory. A recent example of darkness—which may not be as serious as some of yours—but every battle has a darkness that wants to stay and

keep its objective there, which is to destroy little old you and those around you, and the sooner it's out the better. Yesterday my grandson was playing soccer and got whamoed. They took him to the hospital and put him into intensive care after the cat scan. The doctor said it was the worse concussion he had ever seen, forget about college for the whole quarter, driving for a while, and all the comments that come under a bad report.

You think, well, here we go, another battle, but then get your faith energized after the shock, get to praying in truth the prayers that God has taught us to pray, one being to cast out a spirit of concussion, as sometimes spirits come in with the accidents. The Lord told us also during our intercession that the best thing we could do for him was to believe that God would move. Our family prayed, took communion, and called a few ministries to join us.

That was last night. This morning they said he could go home. He's alert, could answer all the doctor's questions and reaction testing. When we asked the Lord why the accident because our family is diligent about praying the blood of Jesus over our family and the protection of the Lord. Obviously no-one likes darkness to slip in and attack.

The Lord told us through tongues and interpretation that "there will always be things that try to dissuade you from walking this way. But the Lord says to remember that I am the Victory and you will never be defeated if you continue in the way of the Lord. And there will be times of testing, but always remember that God has you by the hand, and God will see you through." And, of course, darkness tries to dissuade from certain callings on our lives.

This book is divided into three parts:

Part I – God's People in Their Battles. (Learn from them!)

Part II – Our Personal Battles. (Ways to Win!)

Part III – God's Battle Weapons & Stance on our Behalf!

Look at battles as opportunities for victory. The darkness of enduring through battles brings enduring joy of victories.

So, readers, “strengthen the hands that are weak, and your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that which is lame may not be put out of joint but *rather be healed*” (Heb.12:12), because battles are here and on their way, but **Victory** is the Eye of *your* Battle.

Note: Tongues and interpretations quoted in this book are from a proven interpreter in our ministry who has been interpreting privately and in churches for many years. The tongues are from different proven sources. The King James Version and the Amplified Version are used in this book.

Contents

Acknowledgements.....	iii
-----------------------	-----

To the Readers.....	v
---------------------	---

Part I—God’s People in Their Battles

<i>Chapter 1</i> The First Family Murder, Cain & Abel.....	1
<i>Chapter 2</i> Abraham & His Spirited Household.....	9
<i>Chapter 3</i> Emotional Drama—Jacob’s Household.....	15
<i>Chapter 4</i> Joseph & His Jealous Brothers.....	21
<i>Chapter 5</i> Murmuring & Jealousy, Miriam, Aaron, & Moses.....	27
<i>Chapter 6</i> Family Slaughter, Abimelech.....	33
<i>Chapter 7</i> Jephthah, The Fighting Stepbrother.....	37
<i>Chapter 8</i> Civil Strife Between Tribes.....	41
<i>Chapter 9</i> Hannah & Peninah.....	47
<i>Chapter 10</i> David and Saul.....	51
<i>Chapter 11</i> David’s Family Troubles.....	59

<i>Chapter 12</i>	<i>Athaliah—The Queen From Hell</i>	65
-------------------	-------------------------------------	----

<i>Chapter 13</i>	<i>New Testament Battles & Disputes</i>	69
-------------------	---	----

Part II—Our Personal Battles—Ways to Win

<i>Chapter 14</i>	<i>So What Can I Do?</i>	81
-------------------	--------------------------	----

<i>Chapter 15</i>	<i>Enemies, Enemies, Enemies</i>	89
-------------------	----------------------------------	----

<i>Chapter 16</i>	<i>The Plague of Selfishness</i>	97
-------------------	----------------------------------	----

<i>Chapter 17</i>	<i>Two Plagues: Fruitless Activity and Not Building on God's Foundations</i>	105
-------------------	--	-----

<i>Chapter 18</i>	<i>The Plague of Limiting the Lord in Your Battles</i>	113
-------------------	--	-----

Part III—God's Battle Weapons on Our Behalf

<i>Chapter 19</i>	<i>No Battles, No Victories</i>	127
-------------------	---------------------------------	-----

<i>Chapter 20</i>	<i>King Hezekiah</i>	133
-------------------	----------------------	-----

<i>Chapter 21</i>	<i>The "Lord of Hosts" is His Name</i>	139
-------------------	--	-----

<i>Chapter 22</i>	<i>Know your Enemy</i>	155
-------------------	------------------------	-----

P A R T I

GOD'S PEOPLE IN THEIR BATTLES

(LEARN FROM THEM!)



THE FIRST FAMILY MURDER

Cain & Abel

There are examples all throughout the Bible of family disputes, conflicts, jealousies, hatred, and to put it mildly, differences of opinion. There are many things that make up the dynamics of a family, and if everyone in a family would learn to get along instead of letting darkness come in to separate and divide, there would be more power available against the problems of life that come to the different individuals in a family.

When you read about these families and people in the Bible, keep in mind who the Holy Spirit wrote them to and why:

“Now *all* these things befell them as an example and warning to *us*; and they are written to admonish and fit *us* for *right action* by good instruction.” (1 Cor. 10:11)

If you recognize anything in them that caused their downfall that could be in your life and soul to cause your downfall, the wisest decision you can make is to earnestly seek deliverance.

In these battle stories of the Bible you may think you know the story,

but these truths have many layers to learn from, and we'll never know a truth in its depths until we apply and use it in our own life.

So onward to the fray: The first two brothers in the world, a small family, but some large jealousy.

Cain & Abel

(Genesis 4:1-11)

Adam and Eve had two sons, the first was Cain and the second Abel. Here are the only two brothers on the earth. They must have played and laughed together, had family times, and, knowing boys, wrestled together. They didn't have school friends, radio, TV, newspapers, even church: they just had each other for entertainment and fun. There had to be some type of closeness.

This story includes the first false religion as Cain brought what he wanted to offer to the Lord, which was the fruit of the ground. Religion offers activities, performances, false doctrine and offerings to God, and expects God to accept them because, after all, we do put God's name on them. And if God doesn't accept *our* offering (it was a lot of hard work!), then God isn't my friend, and especially if He accepts someone else's offering.

Abel brought of the firstlings of the flock, which was the right offering. He learned this somewhere, obviously his parents, he had no grandparents, and there were no Bibles or books lying around. If he knew it, Cain knew it. Anyway, the "Lord had respect and regard for Abel and for his offering, but for Cain and his offering He had no respect or regard."

So Cain was "**exceedingly angry** and **indignant**, and he looked **sad** and **depressed**." The Lord asked him, "why do you look sad and depressed and **dejected**?" The Lord gives him a second chance and tells him that if you do well and do the right thing, I'll accept you. And if you don't "sin crouches at your door and it desires you, but you **must master it**."

Right here is a life and death decision which we're faced with all the time in life. Cain could have said, "Oh Lord, I'm sorry, I want to be accepted by You too, I'll run and get the right offering and be right back,

thanks for your longsuffering and mercy, I don't want that sin to leap from a crouching position and pounce on me and master me, I don't want to live by the desires of sin, but by Your desires. And I remember what happened to my Dad and Mom when they disobeyed, they were escorted out of the beautiful garden you gave them. Please forgive me, Lord, that isn't that hard a thing to do, to offer a blood sacrifice."

But the pride of the flesh rose up stronger than his desire to do the right thing, and the Master of **Murder** leaped on him because of his choice, and in the very next verse after God's kind words to spare him, "Cain said to his brother, Let us go out to the field. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him." I wonder how far they went in the field, and it says that "Cain talked with Abel," and they may have even laughed and had companionship, and Abel didn't have an inkling that his life was going to be ended by his only sibling, all over an offering. You wonder how often Cain was **jealous** of his brother when they were growing up.

Choose Your Nature (1 John 3:9-12):

"No one born of God deliberately, knowingly, and habitually practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born of God.

"By this it is made clear who take their nature from God and are His children and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practice righteousness is of God; neither is anyone who does not love his brother (his fellow believer in Christ).

"For this is the message which you have heard from the first, that we should love one another.

*“And be not like Cain who took his nature and got his motivation from the evil one and slew his brother. And why did he slay him? Because his deeds were **wicked** and **malicious** and his brother’s were righteous.”*

It’s interesting that Cain “took” his nature and “got” his motivation from the evil one. He got what he took and chose to get his motivations from the evil one. He wasn’t born with a gene that said you’re going to kill your brother and you can’t help it, it’s not your fault, but he chose that fateful day whom he was going to serve, and should I kill or not kill, and right now I’m so furious with my righteous brother that God accepted his offer and not mine that I don’t even care, this murderous rage is my master.

Hebrews 11:4 also speaks of Cain and Abel and how Abel walked by faith, knowing what God wanted, and even though he died he is still speaking to men by his faith in the blood atonement. In Genesis 4:6, God says, “the voice of your brother’s blood *cries* to Me from the ground.” This word in the Hebrew means *to shriek, to cry out in anguish and fear*. The word “blood” here means *dam, drops of blood,*” maybe because it cut off his whole posterity for future generations.

Imagine how Adam and Eve must have felt when they heard the news, and I wonder how it was told them, if God told them or Cain came and said that Abel had attacked him first and that he had no choice but to kill him. If he took his nature from the evil one, it says that “he was a liar from the beginning,” so what’s the big deal of lying to your parents at this point.

So, apply this family jealousy to your own life. If you have even a taint of any of the things that caused Cain to commit the first murder, get healed. As strong as some of those feelings may be, God said, “sin is crouching but you can master it.” Confess it, cry against it any time it rises up in your heart. You can turn the things of murderous jealousy against others that are standing in your way or have something you want, or you can turn it against the sin itself and remove it from your doorstep.

You and I both know that jealousy and envy is common even in fam-

ily members and friends who love each other. That jealousy of another person's life can creep in and spread like a snake in your bones. Those feelings are so natural to us, but they're not natural to the new man in Christ Jesus that we have to keep putting on. So it's not, whoops I forgot to put my new nature on today and I killed my brother, and then of course felt obligated to lie about it, who wouldn't?

How Do You Act When Confronted With Sin?

Cain not only was a murderer, but he added **lying** to his ever growing list. God came and asked him where his brother Abel was. The **insolent** answer, to God no less, was "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The Lord said that He had heard Abel's blood crying to Him from the ground, so He cursed the earth from under Cain's feet and said that when he tilled the ground it wasn't going to yield its fruit. And that he was going to be a vagabond and fugitive in the earth. Cain had worshipped the works of his own hands and had brought the "fruit of the ground as an offering to the Lord," now he could plant his little heart out and nothing was going to come up.

Whatever we try to offer God that isn't of Him, but we choose to offer Him what pleases us, that offering is not acceptable to Him, and even has a judgment connected with it. You can ponder this regarding your sacrifices of works "for God" and see if they're all God's choices. Cain said his punishment was more than he could bear and that everyone who saw him would kill him. This could all have been avoided if Cain had paused for 15 seconds before he asked Abel to come out in the fields with him, and said, God help me, I want to kill my brother and I know it's not your will, strengthen me to master this sin. God would have been delighted to run to his rescue.

I wonder if God would ever restore in the Millennium the children people should have had if that seed could have come forth from the loins of the slain, and where their heritage had been cut off by evil and death. Just a thought.

We asked the Lord one time concerning sibling rivalry and the problems it causes among brothers and sisters who were given to each other by God to love and care for. He said:

“You need to pray and ask the Lord to deliver this family (whoever you’re praying for) from **ancestral rivalry**; and this is a **curse**.”

How a Man Thinks in His Heart Comes Out Through His Actions

In this story of Cain and Abel, Cain had a choice in how he was going to think and act, to kill or not to kill. Weaknesses in us may make it harder to make the right choices until we get those weaknesses healed, but we can still lean hard towards the right choices in dire situations. The demon-possessed man of Gadera must have been having a bad day, but when “he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him” (Mark 5). He had 2,000 unclean spirits. So unless you have 2,001, you can run towards Jesus if you’re tempted to kill someone with a knife or your even sharper tongue.

We received an interesting exhortation on October 21, 2006:

“And the Lord says to you, My children, that the Lord pours out upon you a blessing, and if you will understand and apply this blessing you will find that your life can be completely changed and renewed.

“In My Word the Word says that God is good, and if I am good then what I do is good and all that I do is good. And you need to understand that the Lord pours out upon the world and fills the air with the truth and the love of God.

“And every thought that is good comes from the Lord, and the Lord pours these thoughts out. But because the Adversary is a counterfeiter he does that which is evil and not good, and he pours out thoughts that are evil and not good.

“And the Lord says to you, understand that my thoughts are filled in the air, and truth is filled in the air, but because you are in the flesh it is easy for you and others, to lay hold of the thoughts and the lies that the Adversary pours out.

“But if you will realize that **you can make the choice that your thoughts are good and truth is what you lay hold of**, you will find that your life can be changed.

“For the Lord says to you that **all have a choice** because I pour out as much truth and love as the Adversary pours out lies and evil.

“But people **need to decide that which they will take hold of and that which they will apply to their life.**

“And the Lord says to you, if you can comprehend this and apply it, you will find that your life will change.”

I read this often, and then deliberately and consciously change negative thoughts to God's good thoughts that He has for me that day.



ABRAHAM & HIS SPIRITED HOUSEHOLD

We were asking the Lord about family conflicts because we pray for people to be delivered from the causes. The Lord spoke to us in tongues and interpretation:

“He that hates his brother is a murderer and no murderer has eternal life in him. And you need to pray against the **Spirit of Jealousy** for that in many ways causes the desire to murder.”

We continued to see fires burning in front of us, and the Lord said:

“And you need to command the **fires of jealousy** to be out lest it consume.”

A tiny spark of jealousy left in you will continue to spread and ignite into a full blown blaze until that person is considered as blocking your path and desires in life rather than the sin in you blocking your desires. We don't plunge our best kitchen knife in their back, but use more subtle ways of cutting up their character.

Well it's God's fault for making me like this. James says differently in James 1:13-16:

“Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by what is evil and He Himself tempts no one.

“But every person is tempted when he is **drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire, lust, and passions.**

“Then the evil desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully matured (you thought about it too long!), brings forth **death.**

“Do not be misled, my beloved brethren.”

You may think you’re justified in your feelings. You may even love and admire the person you have a relationship with, but competition and envy will grow and overcome the love. These feelings are your own worst enemy, not other people or circumstances. If you say wrong words to anyone, right then, apologize, and then later cast those words to the ground that they die and don’t live and bear the fruit of what you said. You can kill evil seeds by your mouth.

Abram & Lot

(Genesis 13:8-9)

When the herdsmen of Abram and his nephew Lot were having strife because the land couldn’t hold all their possessions, and **strife** came between them, Abram chose the right attitude and nature:

“Abram said to Lot, Let there be no strife, *I beg of you*, between you and me, or between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, **for we are relatives.**

“Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself, I beg of you, from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if you choose the right hand, then I will go to the left.”

Abram gave Lot his choice first. After Lot left him the Lord gave Abram great promises of much land and descendants. Abram got rid of the cause of strife, in this case his nephew, by walking in love. Then God could cause His promises to come forward. Lot put himself and his family in danger by choosing Sodom and Gomorrah, the land of the gays. Don't be offended if you're struggling with homosexuality, it was the land of gay people, but that can be healed just like any other weakness you're born with or develop. Don't accept anger or temper tantrums in your life, and don't accept leanings toward homosexuality, it's a sin like any other sin, fight against it, get rid of the Spirit of Homosexuality and the curse that's been passed down in your family. Choose the nature that God chose for you.

Abram & Sarai & Hagar

(Genesis 16:1-6)

When God's promise to Abram and Sarai of a son hadn't come to pass, they decided to come up with another plan. Sarai told Abram to take Hagar, her maid (to bed), and Sarai could perhaps have children by her. Abram “listened and heeded,” like most men would, thanking Sarai for her ingenuity. When Abram undertook his duty successfully, Hagar got pregnant.

Hagar took this as a sign of being Queen of the tent, because she then looked with **contempt** upon Sarai and **despised her**. Wrong attitude of gotcha now Sarai, it's obvious you're never going to have a child, you guys are dependent on me, I used to be the Maid, now I'm the Maiden.

Sarai told Abram—you can imagine the heated discussion—to send this woman away, and Abram reacted like most men and told Sarai to do whatever she wanted to do about Hagar, it's in your hands and power,

meaning I don't want to deal with all this emotional stuff; and you feel a lot stronger about Hagar's behavior than I do Sarai, so take care of it, I've got work to do, this tent is getting too small, and by the way, what's for dinner tonight?

So Sarai was **mean** to her, dealt severely with her, and sent her away. A woman can do this easier than a man. The Lord told Hagar to return and submit humbly to Sarai, in other words, eat crow or you're going to die in the wilderness. The Angel of the Lord spoke to Hagar, and gave her the name of *Ishmael* for her son. So Hagar went back and had Ishmael, the little mistake of Abram and Sarai. It was Sarai's policy, not Abram's, to take Hagar to the bed, the result being Ishmael, "a wild man," in one place saying "a wild ass of a man," but that's an offensive word to some so we'll leave it out. Some of his descendants are still giving us a wild time, along with many other nations, but we say to them that we love them and want them to accept Christ as their Savior and walk in peace.

Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael & Isaac

(Genesis 21:9-13)

God then gave the long-suffering parents, Abram & Sarai, the promise of a son, *Isaac*; and changed their names to *Abraham*, meaning "Father of many nations or multitudes," and *Sarah*, meaning "Princess."

When Sarah had Isaac, Ishmael didn't like the competition and **mocked** Isaac. He had probably learned this from his mother. Once again Sarah talked (heatedly) to Abraham, gave him the instructions for the day, and said, I've had enough, cast out Hagar and her son, he is not going to be heir with my son.

She may not have done this if her son hadn't been mocked, and she was not going to stand by and see this son she had waited for her whole life be put down; and most mothers will agree with this, don't come unjustly against my child, or say goodbye to your future.

God told Abraham to listen to Sarah and sent Ishmael away. It was "very grievous" to Abraham, and that must have been why the Lord had

personally told him or he may not have done it, as it's not natural to cast a son out.

But the problem was the **mockery**, and mockers sometimes get sent away by stepmothers. What if Ishmael, the little brat, had decided not to mock God's chosen seed, it might be an entirely different story. They say prayer changes things, so does sin.

So mother and little mocking son were cast out. Abraham gave them bread and a bottle of water and out the door they went with no destination or map, as it says she wandered aimlessly and lost her way in the wilderness. I know that's what I would do even a block away from the tent, where am I? If Sarah had really been involved I think she would have given them more than bread and "a" bottle of water. It seems that's all Abraham could come up with. Does that seem frugal to you? Probably not, but I'd rather be sent out by a woman as far as provisions go.

Hagar wept and cried out for her son, and it's interesting that once again an angel of God takes notice of her, called to her out of heaven and they had a little conversation, and God even supplied a well of water. She later got Ishmael a wife out of Egypt, which doesn't sound too good. Anyway, it appears that now everyone is happier and the family is more peaceful. Sometimes family squabbles take a while to iron out, like years, the appearance of God, the appearance of angels, promises, mistakes, a little suffering, drama, and tension between man and wife, but God was in the middle of the storm as usual.

How would you like to be in the middle of family problems all over the earth? Thank you God for your longsuffering and patience with us while we're trying to figure out our daily emotional lives, and whose kid is whose, and which tent are we assigned to.



EMOTIONAL DRAMA

Jacob's Household

Emotional drama and trauma, upheaval, sadness, and bitterness in a family are caused by what? You guessed it. Sin, the big sin of SELF. Get rid of that and you got a brand new family with a brand new inheritance. Jacob's family didn't always want to stay together or pray together, but God said, My promises are coming through your lineage so I'll let My patience and longsuffering (and endurance) be tested and help you stay together as a family, I've got the most important seed in the world coming forth through you.

Jacob & Esau

(Genesis 25, 27-28)

Abraham and Sarah, after much disruption, had Isaac. Isaac later married Rebekah, and the Bible says "he loved her." They had two sons, Jacob and Esau, who didn't get along. Even though Jacob was the youngest, he managed to get the birthright and the blessing from their father Isaac. It took some doing on Jacob's part to obtain his father's blessing, but Esau had a **love of his own desires above his birthright**, when he sold it to

Jacob for bread and stew because of hunger pains.

That's an interesting story and should make us think what we would sell that God has given us. He may say I want you to spend time with Me today, and we may decide to go shopping instead, selling out our time with God, which is part of our birthright in Him. It says after Esau ate and drank, he rose up and went his way, "thus Esau **scorned his birthright as beneath his notice**" (Genesis 25:29-34).

Esau later had great hatred for Jacob and accused him of "taking away my birthright," the rights of a firstborn son. Jacob had a great fear of Esau after that. Jacob and his mom had to be wise to get God's result of supplanting Esau's blessing. But Esau was at fault for disdain his birthright and blessing, and then crying with "a great and bitter cry" when he found out. "Beneath his notice," my, how exalted can one hairy guy get?

The reason I'm not going into the "craftiness, subtlety, and trickery" that Jacob is often accused of is because I'm not sure how much he was to blame. It was obvious he was supposed to supplant Esau, and how was he going to do it? Recently I heard a message by Bill Cloud, a prophecy type guy who ministers with Perry Stone and other prophecy teachers, refute that, and he did a great job, explaining from the Hebrew and Greek (you know how those smart teachers are), that the original meaning of Jacob was to "take by the heel." If he hadn't done that in different ways, Esau would have crushed his head and there would have been no line for the Savior to come forth. I'm not saying he was perfect, but if you want a good understanding of this, you can request the literature from www.billcloud.org.

Regardless of who was the most crafty, this family was extremely blessed by God, and they all had enough to get along, but Esau's wrath and jealousy interfered so that Jacob had to escape for his life. Rebekah meant to send him away just until Esau cooled down, but it turned out to be 20 years and she never saw Jacob again. Poor Rebekah.

She also had the heartache of seeing Esau running around with the daughters of Heth, and said, I'm weary of my life, if Jacob takes a wife of these Hittite girls around here, what good will my life be to me? In a sense

she lost both of her sons, and mothers know how that would feel.

So this family, that had been divinely appointed and blessed by God, had many negative feelings resulting in bad decisions, and the flesh working alongside the blessings stole many of the blessings God wanted them to have.

You out there reading this, as families, what is happening in your family and how can it be corrected to where peace and harmony and forgiveness between you is more important than soup and silverware? The Spirit of the Lord tells us clearly in James 4:1-4:

“What leads to strife (discord and feuds) and how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members?

“You are **jealous** and **covet** what others have and your **desires go unfulfilled**, so you become **murderers**. To **hate** is to **murder** as far as your hearts are concerned.

“You **burn with envy** and **anger** and are not able to obtain the gratification, the contentment, and the happiness that you seek, so you **fight** and **war**. You do not have, because you do not ask.

“Or do you ask God for them and yet fail to receive, because **you ask with wrong purpose** and **evil, selfish motives**. Your intention is when you get what you desire to **spend it in sensual pleasures**.”

It then goes on to say that when you act like this you're acting just like the world and that makes you a **friend of the world**, and then you're in the classification as an **enemy of God**. If you're a friend of the world you need to be put on suicide watch. There used to be condemnation on those who committed suicide because of being overcome by depression

and helplessness (many times a spirit). But anyone who knows God and continues in sin is in the throes of spiritual, eternal suicide, even if they don't believe that enough to actually make the effort to change.

So is it worth hating and burning against your natural brother or family member because you think they're more favored, making more money, or getting ahead in life more than you are? Is it? Well, is it? Hang out with them, love them, and maybe you'll catch some of that favor. Many times the green-eyed people are just as blessed but are color blinded by jealousy and envy.

If Esau and Jacob had it to do over hopefully they would change a lot of things in their relationship and with their parents. They could have spent the rest of their life loving and helping each other, being prosperous because the blessing of God was upon them, and that blessing of oneness and love would have prevented the strife and murder between the tribes today.

The saga of Jacob and Esau covers one-half of the book of Genesis so I may add a little study later on them. For those of you who aren't into studies, you can skip it. I like to take the stories apart, gather the information, and see it in front of me, and then it's clearer in my mind. But many don't have a penchant for a lot of facts in the stories, and I'm not sure what penchant means but it sounds smart. Actually, this book got so long I decided not to.

Jacob & Laban

(Genesis 29-31)

This was a can of worms even though eventually the dust settled, as Laban **deceived** Jacob on a regular basis, and Jacob was forced to stay and work with Laban to gain his daughter Rachel, after being **deceived** into marrying Laban's other daughter, Leah. All the emotional drama in this family goes on for at least three chapters and over many years. We're still in the first book of the Bible readers! Jacob kept getting richer and richer, and Laban started getting upset when his sons came and told him that Jacob was taking away all of Laban's **glory**.

This is the first time “glory” is mentioned in the Bible and it’s in connection with the possessions of cattle, camels, and servants. All of that was God’s glory to Jacob. So the battle between all of them goes on and God told Jacob to get back to his own land. By this time his parents are dead and he doesn’t know if Esau is going to try to kill him.

Families, don’t let all this sin come into your family. Teach your children while they’re growing up with each other that it’s not worth it, and what the consequences and losses are to members of the family for generations who continue in their own desires.

Families could be so strong and powerful to help each other, to stand against darkness, and to help each other progress in life, but the petty junk takes over and everyone is weaker because of it and the junk piles up at the doors of their hearts to master them. Jealousy and strife are a breeding ground for Satan. Darkness stalks Christians with huge black watchful eyes waiting to come in on the words and attitudes of strife, and claim their territory forever, unless dealt with. You gotta keep your family garden pruned and weeded. We’re taught how to tend everything in the physical but our own souls.

Rachel & Leah

(Genesis 29-30)

Rachel & Leah were the wives of Jacob and there was quite a tussle going on between them for children and for Jacob’s love. It seems that one man having two wives or women doesn’t make for family bonding. Jacob loved Rachel more, Rachel couldn’t have children for a long time, was **envious** of Leah, and they both strove to get Jacob to come into their tent at night. It was like a little three-way circus with kids from everywhere running around. Rachel and Leah even had an argument over mandrakes, of all things, and for the large population who don’t have a clue what a mandrake is I’ll help you out.

A mandrake is a lettuce-like plant of dark green color, with purple flowers and fruit about the size of a small apple. It was used in love-potions

to enhance conception. Leah had her son Reuben go get some in the field, Rachel wanted them, Leah said no sister Rachel, you've already taken my husband, take your hands off the mandrakes. Rachel said if that's the way you feel, tonight he can lie with you, but then you have to give me the mandrakes, as I need them worse than you, and Leah agreed. She told Jacob that he had to pay her, Leah, a conception visit that night, that she had hired him for the mandrakes. These women were intensely serious about child-bearing. Visits of conception is a nice phrase isn't it?

All those successful visits brought forth the sons that would become the 12 tribes of Israel. These brothers were destined to be mightily blessed in every way, but they stole many of the blessings from themselves by fighting, quarreling, hatred, and jealousy. And later on when they had their families because of all the visiting and socializing, these families turned into tribes and the tribes turned on each other many times. Only in eternity will we know how much we've been robbed of because of family strife and separation. Families, we could have it all if we would hear God and walk in love.



HATRED, JEALOUSY, & MURDER

Joseph & His Jealous Brothers

Joseph & His Brothers

(Genesis 37)

After much ado about very important things, Jacob and Rachel had Joseph, and Joseph, the 11th son of 12 sons, had 11 brothers by four different mothers. This sounds like many households today. When they took a population census in the U.S. awhile back, I read that it was difficult, if not impossible, to figure out who was a part of which household.

Joseph was born into this complex household, and it didn't help matters that his mom, Rachel, had died when his little brother Benjamin was born. Joseph had a godly dad but what dad can successfully handle 12 sons? So the interchange of drama, jealousy, and suspicion continued on. Maybe they did have some nice family dinners together and times of fellowship, but that's not recorded. What God wanted recorded was that the brothers thought they killed Joseph when they threw him into a pit, but the one who eventually got mightily blessed was Joseph. So if you have murder in your heart towards a brother, you may have to stand helplessly

by and see that brother blessed beyond you. God said, Is your eye evil because I'm good? Does God being good to people stir you up because you think that goodness should be yours? Just asking.

The murder/jealousy problem started with the brothers when they noticed that Papa Jacob appeared to love Joseph best because he was the son of his old age. One translation says that because Joseph waited on Jacob and helped him in his latter years he got to be the favorite. It does help to be nice to your parents. That reminds me of the story of a friend of mine who waited on her sick mother for years and did everything to help her. When the mother died she left most of what she had to my friend. When her sister heard about it she leaped on a plane from another state, went to her sister's house, and literally popped my friend on the head with a fist she got so mad that she wasn't in the will.

It must have slipped her selfish mind that she had forgotten to visit or do anything for her mamma over the years, well maybe a Christmas card: Hi mom, hope you're doing o.k. after having a leg removed from diabetes, we're doing fine except we're a little short on money, your grandson Herbert was sent home from school for not wearing the latest fashion, could you help out a little, and Merry Christmas, can't wait to hear from you.

That's a trait of our culture too, give me something for nothing, don't be fair in your rewards, because I need money, I have bills, and I'll lash out in fury if you don't try to help me. The all or nothing generation means I'll take all and leave you nothing. Here we get back to that demon of selfishness that blinds you to anyone's needs but your own. Some is caused by not being conscious enough of God and His impending judgments, and like He's forgetting to watch me and hear me today. Like the man at the bar telling his buddies, don't tell God I had a drink today.

Jacob stumbled into a mess by making Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors. Perhaps he should have been wiser knowing there was strong sibling rivalry in his household, but then he didn't have a wife with two sides working in her brain to tell her left-sided husband what was going on. Wisdom cries in the streets and says if you have 12 sons you better make 12 coats or none; and even though the coat was a sign of Joseph getting

the birthright, it's like keep it in a corner of the closet until later. But of course God knew and God worked it all out.

It says that when Joseph's brothers "saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they **hated** him, and **could not speak peaceably to him.**" They were so burning with jealousy they couldn't say a nice word to him again, they "could not." Then Joseph, following in his dad's footsteps of adding fuel to the fire told his brothers that he had a dream where they were bowing down to him. His brothers said, you're not going to reign over us or have dominion over us, "and they **hated him yet more for his dreams.**"

Joseph continued in his folly by relating to his brothers and Jacob another dream he had along the same lines. Remember, young 17 year old Joseph didn't have a mom to warn him of things not to say around jealous brothers. Jacob was about 91 when Joseph was born, and even though many signs and wonders had been given him by God throughout his life, including the ladder reaching to heaven with angels descending and ascending, he didn't understand family relations, and it seems that ladder was pulled out from under him.

As parents know, it takes a lot of learning and wisdom from God to raise a family and have a peaceful household. Take a few parenting classes or get so close to God you can hear His voice in family situations. We can quote the whole New Testament and not know how to treat our family.

Joseph said that in this dream the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to him. The sun is a symbol of Israel, the moon his wives, and the 12 stars his 12 sons. This didn't go over real well either. Even Jacob got upset and rebuked him. It then says, the "brothers **envied** him and were **jealous** of him." Reminds you of Matthew 10:36, "A man's foes shall be they of his own household."

For your information, "envy" and "jealousy" are pretty similar brothers, but "envy" is "to look at; malice; painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage." "Jealous" is from the

word “zealous, zeal, intolerant of rivalry or unfaithful; hostile towards a rival or one believed to enjoy an advantage; a jealous disposition, attitude, or feeling.”

Then these bully brothers “**conspired** against him to **slay** him.” This didn’t happen at that instant. Jealousy, envy, and hatred has a build-up for a while until it finally leaps out of the heart to **murder** and do away with the object of the jealousy. Remember, the above says envy is “painful.” So people want to destroy the person that’s causing them the pain instead of them going through the pain to get rid of it in them. These are things to be saved from, not endure, squelch, and pretend you don’t have. These are serious negative feelings that need to be resisted by faith and cast out in the Name of Jesus.

They said, I’ve got a good idea, let’s slay this dreamer, cast him into some pit, and then we’ll explain it away by saying that some evil beast has devoured him. Then we’ll see what will become of his dreams, let’s kill the dreamer and his dreams will die with him. Reuben wasn’t in agreement and said don’t kill him, cast him into a pit. He was thinking he would later go back and deliver Joseph to his father. That was nice thinking compared to the rest of the brothers, but as the firstborn he should have rebuked his brothers and taken a firm stand to deliver him to their father. When Jacob later prophesied concerning the 12 tribes, “he said concerning Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power, **unstable as water.**”

After they cast their little brother into a pit, “they sat down to eat bread.” Callousness follows jealousy and if you’re hungry why not eat? The little brother must have been screaming help from the pit, but it didn’t stop their appetites.

While they were chomping on their bread, they saw a group of Ishmaelites coming. That got Judah to thinking, well what profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? He said to his brothers, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites, let’s not slay him, he’s our brother, our flesh.

Oh what a change, it couldn't be because the profit was in selling him? **Killing your brother** (or any relative, or anybody for that matter) for **profit** is the Judas spirit, along with some others. They got 20 pieces of silver. Reuben wasn't there for this exchange and when he came back and saw that Joseph was gone he tore his clothes, but it was too late.

So they took the coat of jealousy that they'd removed from him, dipped it in the blood of goats, and took it to Jacob and said, oh, look what we found dear father, does this look like Joseph's tunic? Like there were many in that area. Jacob was horrified, tore his clothes, put on sack-cloth, and mourned. The brothers tried to comfort him (wasn't that nice, they knew Joseph was alive but mum's the word, we don't have to have him for a rival any more). Heartbroken Jacob said, I'll go down to my grave mourning for him. They must have heard him crying for Joseph many days and at different times, but the brothers eleven never said what they had done.

Hatred and blindness followed the jealous rage, and there has to be a lot of **lying** and **deceit** to cover acts of jealousy. Many of these "things" are passed down through our lineage and find a home in our genes and dna. We come out of the womb screaming for our own way, and an attitude of everyone else in the world is a counterfeit and I'm the real thing.

You may think, well, it all turned out for good later because Joseph was able to save his family from famine because he had been sold to the Egyptians. It only turned out well because of God's mercy and He had a plan for this family that they kept interrupting. Jacob had to suffer all those years mourning for his son, the brothers' lives had to be less blessed because of their sins, Joseph and his family couldn't enjoy each other and what God wanted to do through the whole family. It will be interesting to know in eternity what would have happened in different lives, including our own, if we had stuck with the plans without putting our plans of jealousy, deceit, hatred, and murder in the situation. We make God work real hard to give us blessings sometimes.

In Acts 7, Stephen thought it important to repeat again from Genesis what was in Joseph's brothers' souls, and when he was talking before the

High Priest he said in verse 9: “And Jacob’s sons, **boiling with envy and hatred and anger**, sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt.”

On that Day wouldn’t it be a relief to hear God say about you that you loved your brothers and sisters, that you got healed of every jealousy and anger that rose up in you against them, you didn’t let those negative emotions live in your temple of the Holy Spirit, that you prayed for their success, walked in a love that never failed even toward the snotty snubbers.

This morning as we were praying I saw hundreds of red apples everywhere in the air. The interpretation was, “And the Lord says to you that this is the fruit of the Spirit that the Lord desires that springs forth from each and every believer.”

Like we don’t know that, but somehow with all the emotions demanding attention in us, we need to consciously choose love and exercising our faith to walk in love. Love is a powerful influence. The Lord told us because we always need reminding:

“And the Lord says to you, and the Lord says to you again,
that the most powerful thing that you can have in your life to
influence others is to see the evidence of Me in their life, and to
see love.” (12-12-03)

Judah, Shuah, Er, Onan, Shelah, Tamar, & Little Twins Pharez & Zarah

(Genesis 38)

Judah was one of Joseph’s brothers. The above story is such a mess of wrong choices and family unvalues that I don’t have the energy to delve into it right now. After you’ve figured it all out, you can let me know.



MURMURING & JEALOUSY

Miriam, Aaron, & Moses

Two Brothers & A Sister

(Numbers 12)

Here are troublesome times in another family. Moses and Aaron, brothers, had a sister, Miriam. They worked well together with all the problems they faced, but then **jealousy, rebellion**, and a **fear of losing their leadership position** came into Aaron and Miriam's hearts. This is an interesting story and it should help us to keep our lips zipped.

Miriam, one of Israel's prophetesses, enjoyed the position of first rank among the women of Israel being the sister of the two chief men of the nation. And Aaron was his right-hand man. They had a brief discussion in verse 1-:

“And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married.

“And they said, Has the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? Has He not spoken also by us?”

It mentioned Miriam first, but Aaron sided with her, and the reason they got in trouble was because God hears everything:

“And the Lord heard it.”

Scary words. Moses had married Zipporah—an Ethiopian, or Cushite, a descendant of Cush, a son of Ham—and had two sons that were left in Midian. Jethro, Zipporah’s dad, brought them to the camp where Moses was so the family could be reunited. All of a sudden Miriam had competition, and her **ambition** stared at Zipporah (maybe she even saw some oneness between them), and the fear of being supplanted swirled around in her heart until she said something to Aaron.

The two of them then challenged the right of Moses to serve as the leader of the whole nation, but Miriam seems to have been the chief instigator because punishment fell on her alone. Aaron was misled by the pleadings of his sister and he yielded to her as he did once before to the desires of the people who urged him to make a golden calf and dance and sing around it. This trait alone disqualified him from being the leader of the nation of Israel.

After their complaints came into the ears of God, God didn’t waste any time, “suddenly” He said to Moses:

“Come out, you three, to the Tent of Meeting. And the three of them came out. The Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the Tent door and called Aaron and Miriam, and they came forward.”

Payback time. The Lord went on to inform them how close He was to Moses, how faithful Moses had been in God’s house, and that with him I speak “mouth to mouth clearly, and he beholds the form of the Lord.” In other words, I don’t speak to him through others, through dreams and

visions, I come right in front of him in My form and we communicate face to face, mouth to mouth.

The Lord continues on, oh, how is it going to feel to be a Miriam or Aaron on the day we have to give account for our words?

“Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?

“And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and He departed.”

When the cloud departed from over the tent a strange thing happened, “Miriam was leprous, white as snow.” What a sight. Aaron almost panicked and said to Moses, “Oh my lord” (that’s a change), I plead with you, don’t do this to us, we’ve done foolishly and sinned, don’t let our sister be as one dead, already half decomposed.”

The half decomposed sister wasn’t talking any more, she was probably in shock, thinking I’m the anointed sister and the anointed prophetess in Israel, how could a few words do this to me, and my good must have been more than that selfish ambition that came out of my heart for a few minutes. You’ve probably heard of those unsettling verses in Matthew 7:22-23. Here Jesus is warning us ahead of time what many people, supposedly Christians, are going to be saying to Him:

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Pride and position will deceive you into thinking you can still leave some “natural” sins in you and be safe behind the mold of yourself you have made with your own hands, instead of believing the Word of God

about leaving iniquity in your heart.

When his sister turned white, Moses was a little shocked himself, and “cried to the Lord, Heal her now, O God, I beseech You!” This was what you call a dramatic tent meeting, and this is how more of our church services should be if we sin and want to be exalted. There should be excitement stirred up against the blatant sins hiding in spirit-filled (?) hearts, sinners should be falling out, turning white or purple, struck dumb, frozen in their self-centered pews, and repenting. We need to shake ourselves up about getting the ways of the devil out of our churches, hearts, and spirits.

The Lord said to Moses, I’m not going to heal her now, I want her to be ashamed of what she did, and have time to meditate on it so she doesn’t do it again, so put her outside the camp for seven days. So the whole camp was shut down and they had to change their plans and stay instead of moving on. Her sin was shouted from the housetops or the tent-tops of the whole nation of Israel. Their prophetess had fallen. So Miss Whitewash had to be by herself with no position for seven whole days. I don’t know if they brought her meals or water or how you take care of a half-decomposed person. I wonder how she was received after she came out and faced everybody. She was probably glad just to be alive again. Mortified but relieved.

That’s what God’s great mercy and love does to us, half the time we’re outside the camp trying to get healed because we’ve sinned, and He brings us to life again through Christ. He also takes away our shame and our guilt. I’m so glad I’m in the camp even though it seems like there’s always spots of leprosy around. But Moses’ cry was Jesus’ cry, “Lord, heal them!”

The Bible has much to say about the tongue and our words, and I know it’s not just the tongue but it’s that which is in the heart that comes out through the mouth. Since we’re in the book of Numbers, it’s interesting (the Bible is interesting!!), that there are 10 plagues in Numbers. Ten plagues, where have we heard that before?

1. Fire—for misuse of tongue (11:1-3)
2. Sickness—misuse of tongue & lust for flesh (11:4-35)
3. Leprosy—misuse of tongue & jealousy (12:1-16)
4. Death—misuse of tongue & rebellion (14:28-35)
5. Sickness—misuse of tongue & rebellion (13:31-33; 14:37)
6. Earthquake—misuse of tongue & rebellion (16:1-3, 29-33)
7. Fire—misuse of tongue & rebellion (16:1-3, 34-35)
8. Sickness—misuse of tongue & rebellion (16:41-50)
9. Serpents—misuse of tongue (21:5-9)
10. Sickness—adultery & idolatry (25:1-9)

God is the same today, and the same judgments stand against the same old sins. Our faith is that Jesus took the judgment of those sins so we have a space of time to repent, but confession and repentance is vital to avoid the decomposition that sin is always trying to work against us.

There has to be a ferociousness (if that's the right word) in us to be delivered from every sin we walk in because we don't realize the ferociousness of darkness to destroy us. That's one thing you learn in a deliverance ministry is that darkness is a lot darker and more determined to destroy you than you thought. When you realize there are spirits assigned to kill, maim and cause suffering to even little children—and they not only have this purpose but they delight in it—you get far more snarly in opposition.

Sometimes Christians are in la-la land when it comes to realizing we have a formidable enemy who is out to destroy our lives. I know, we have Jesus, who is out to give us more life, but many times we choose darkness even in subtle ways and think we'll be o.k., when we've opened the door to a totally dedicated foe, and we have to get serious about getting jealousy, envy, selfish ambition, etc., etc. out of our lives.

As we delight in goodness, love, and light, darkness delights in suffering, causing people excruciating pain, and hopefully they'll curse God and die. The reality of life and death situations because we've let sin get situated in our hearts and minds is lacking in many Christian's lives, who

think I'm Jesus' little lamb, safe and secure, while still pasturing in the world's fields, nibbling on the dead grass.

But anyway, kudos to the trio for working it out for everyone's good.

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FAMILY SLAUGHTER

Abimelech

Abimelech

(Judges 9)

Here was another guy who didn't want to bond with his family because then he wouldn't get to be the leader, the king, the I-get-to-direct-this-show; and that **vicious pride** and **self-exaltation** took over and destroyed many lives, including his own.

There were five Abimelechs in the Bible. This one was the son of Gideon and a concubine. After his great man of faith dad, Gideon, died, he didn't waste any time pondering What Would God Do, but killed Gideon's 70 other sons. He was tricky about it, he went to his mama's house (good place for blind loyalty), and talked to the whole clan of his mother's family. He said:

“Which is better for you; that all seventy of the sons of Gideon reign over you, or that one man (me of course) rule over you? Remember that I am your bone and your flesh.”

I think a lesson here is don't get fooled by your flesh and bone (or adopted) relatives, but learn to test the spirits, or what's behind the offers you may get even from a beloved family member. Many people have been left in the dust and the mud by relatives, after all, who do we have the most intertwining with?

Anyway, his speech worked because all the relatives said, let's follow Abimelech, for "*He is our brother.*" Not a valid reason. They actually gave him money to hire assassins, who the scriptures call "worthless and foolhardy," to go to his father's house and kill the 70 brothers. You can imagine his relief when all his rivals were removed and he wasn't going to have to share any glory with them.

He reigned for three years until God intervened and sent an evil spirit between him and the men of Shechem where he lived, so there was bloodshed back and forth, kind of like a small middle east turmoil if you want to read the whole chapter.

Abimelech liked to see people run into towers to hide from him because then he would burn the towers down, one time killing 1,000 town people at once at the Tower of Shechem. He thought, that was easy, so encamped against Thebez and took it. There was a strong tower in that city also and all the people, men and women, fled into it. As he drew near the tower to put it on fire, "a certain women cast an upper millstone down upon Abimelech's head and broke his skull."

Yeah for "certain women." While the men were making complex plans and drawing maps on how to defeat Abimelech, the woman, not having time for the strategy meeting, picked up a millstone and broke the killer's skull. A good idea backed by good aim. It reminds us of the woman (a "wise women") in 2 Samuel 20 who threw an enemy's head over the wall and saved her city. Joab, king David's right-hand man, was coming into her city to get Sheba who had lifted up his hand against the king. She stepped out of the city and called Joab to hear what she had to say. She said, "I'm peaceful Joab, and faithful in Israel, and the inheritance of the Lord lives in this city, will you swallow us up because you're after one man"? Well of course Joab would have, charge and conquer everything

in sight until you get your man.

But Joab didn't want to admit that he was ready to destroy the whole city for Sheba, so he said, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy." So innocent. The woman said, instead, wait here, I'll go in and get his head and deliver it to you over the wall. The woman went to the people of the city and they cut off the head of Sheba and cast it out to Joab (2 Samuel 20:16-22). Nowadays we're too delicate to pick up a bloody head and toss it anywhere—and what if it didn't get over the wall and splattered back? This woman had a heart and wisdom for warfare to save those around her.

I'm not sure of this of course but it could be that all the men, inside the wall and those outside, would have been raring for a fight, especially after all that training and men being made to conquer and all. It may have been disappointing for Joab and his army to come home from battle with one dripping head that they didn't even cut off. Where's the glory in that, like is that all you could manage to bring home?

The wise woman handled Joab really well and she may have come out of the city to confront the mighty Joab because a guy didn't want to or the men voted that she was certainly anointed for the job. I'm not picking on guys (yes I am, it's fun), 'cause they built the city and the walls and the tower, and it takes strength and wisdom to do that and stay alive. Good job men. But women are good at getting to the very source of the problem because they've had to deal with kids in a family who are trying to kill each other.

I like the woman, *Jael*, in Judges 4:18-21 who drove a nail through an enemy's head and helped save her nation. The unsuspecting man, *Sisera* was the military leader of the king of Canaan, and as he was running by Jael's tent, she ran out to meet him and said, "Turn in, my lord, turn in to me; fear not." (It's o.k. to be a little wily when it's a matter of life and death for a nation.)

This great military leader went in, she covered him and gave him a bottle of milk. He asked her to guard the door and if anyone asked for him to say he wasn't there. So then the great military leader fell asleep and

Jael took a tent nail (they're big) and pinned his head into the ground, and his last meal was milk, and it could have left a mustache for his burial.

Barak was pursuing him past the tent, Jael went out and said, come on in, there's someone here you'd be interested in, and I guess the lesson is, enemies are easier to kill asleep than awake. I felt bad for Sisera's mom because she was looking out the window for him thinking he was going to be victorious but getting worried because the curfew was past. But moms have to raise their sons to be on the right side of the law, especially God's law.

Back to Abimelech, even though he was dying because of the head-bashing incident, his pride was very much alive, as he said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and slay me, so that men may not say of me, A woman slew him." You'd think he'd be trying to repent and make his peace with God and at least say, sorry I killed my 70 brothers God; but his pride overshadowed everything, and he was worried people would know a woman killed him, with a rock no less. Even though his thick skull was cracked, he managed to express his last words, "make me look good." So he died staring at his armor-bearer driving a sword through his body. The shame to that proud, dangerous man. I suppose his mom said she couldn't understand it as he was always a good boy, it must have been something in the wheat that Gideon had formerly threshed.

Sad, the end of another brother who, instead of helping his family, killed them. It says that the men of Shechem who had aided him, "God repaid upon their heads."

As a deliverance minister the most common spirits in people, and yes the brethren, have to do with pride, self-emulation, wanting to be seen as superior, self-exaltation, and the list goes on, and then along with it the spirits of jealousy, pride, deceit, murder, and along with some of that the I just love you, let's get together for lunch, and as long as you don't get ahead of me, we'll be friends forever.



JEPHTHAH

The Fighting Stepbrother

Jephthah

(Judges 11:1-12:7)

He was one of Israel's judges about 1100 B.C. He was a "mighty man of valor," *and* "the son of a harlot." His family chose to regard the latter description because when his dad later had sons by another woman, those sons grew up and "thrust Jephthah out of the house." You know why? They said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman." They didn't want to share the inheritance. Inheritance is thicker than blood. Joseph's brothers threw him in a pit because of jealousy, with these brothers it was throw him out of the house, we don't like sharing.

Mixed families seems to have a problem this way, actually it's more than a problem, it destroys the good life they could have. I think everything God put in the Bible was written for us to apply to our "little" everyday life and family, and to beware if any of the soul's diseases that were in their families could be in our families. We don't have to be how

they were, because of Christ suffering the judgment of those things so we could get delivered. No matter how mixed up our families might be with half-brothers and sisters, half, whole, quarter, or who knows without dna, or mixed race, or mixed religion, or even a little harlotry mixed in, everyone could have a beautiful life if they get the snakes and weeds out of their family garden and inheritance.

When Jephthah was forced from his home, in fact, it says he “fled,” so it was safer out in the world than at home by the fireplace with his family. Having a lot of energy, he gathered some worthless men around him and they all went on raids. He later changed because he’s listed in Hebrews as one of the heroes of faith. Once he put that wildness to good use and on the right side, he prospered.

When the Ammonites started war against the land, Jephthah’s people found him and said, please, pretty please, come and fight for us and be our leader. Jephthah’s reaction was normal, didn’t you hate me and drive me out of my father’s house, so why have you come to me now when you are in trouble? They said, well, we didn’t used to like you much, but now that we need you, we’ve learned to love you, and we came to tell you that. You know how to fight better than us, you’re tough and our mama spoiled us.

After his leadership was established, the Ammonites’ king sent a message to Jephthah saying “Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt 300 years before, from the Arnon even to Jabbok and to the Jordan, now restore these lands peaceably.” Jephthah denies these charges, and it’s so interesting that he rehearses 300 years of Jewish history to the king (read it in chapter 11:14-26), and says exactly what the Israelites’ experiences were with the different enemies of the land that the Ammonites were now saying was theirs. He ended this with, I haven’t sinned against you, but you do me wrong to war against me, and the Lord the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.

I like this guy, he knew the whole history, and pointed out definitely that the king was sinning. But these kings are stubborn to their own

death and the death of their families, so he wouldn't listen to Jephthah.

Then a wonderful thing happened, and it can happen to us today in our battles: **“Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah,** and he passed through many lands to get to the children of Ammon to fight against them, and the Lord delivered them into his hands, and he smote them throughout 20 cities and unto the plain of the vineyards with a very great slaughter.” Good job. That's why he's in the faith chapter, that faith caused the Spirit of the Lord to come upon him.

Like this wasn't enough, a civil strife kicked up. The men of Ephraim were summoned together, knocked on Jephthah's door and said, “why did you cross over to fight with the Ammonites and did not summon us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire.” Oh these natures again, instead of rejoicing over the victory they were mad that he didn't include them in the battle, and their first words were, we're going to burn your house down over your head.

Jephthah answered them and said, “when I was in great strife with the Ammonites and I called you, you didn't come and help, so I put my life in my own hands and went ahead, and the Lord delivered me, so why are you fighting me now?”

The whole tribe must not have had anything else going on so they were still mad that they didn't get some credit for fighting and had to get it out of their system. So Jephthah fought with Ephraim and smote Ephraim because they had said, oh you Gileadites (Jephthah's father was a Gilead), you guys are fugitives of Ephraim. Because of their stupid pride 42,000 were killed by Jephthah.

All these battles have interesting sidelines. When some of the men of Ephraim escaped, and Jephthah's soldiers weren't sure if he was one of them or of Ephraim, they stood before the passages of Jordan before the Ephraimites got there. As they tried to ride through, they asked him, “are you an Ephraimite?” And if the guy said, “No,” Jephthah's men would ask him to say “Shibboleth”; and if he said “Sibboleth” instead for they couldn't pronounce it the right way, that ended their trip home to get back to their family. You have to know the right pronunciations to get

through the battles. God will help us to say the right things in the right way to avoid death.

People go into battle, heated, intense battle, over the dumbest things, and fall headlong over their own swords of envy, jealousy, and competition. And these battles are still going on everywhere: Nations, cities, schools, governments, churches, families, I don't agree with you so I'm calling a rally against you, and my ministry is more spiritual than your ministry, and my family is superior to your family, and my mom is better than your mom, down to and not only that, but I'm ten pounds lighter than you, ha.

Anyway, Mrs. Gilead's stepson, Jephthah, got in the faith hall of fame and not her own sons. Some moms get blessed with a kid who turns out surprisingly brave and strong, and others have these unhealed psychos who want to kill everybody. You never know what's curled up in that womb, so pray mothers, pray, before the delivery.



TRIBE MAYHEM

Civil Strife Between Tribes

Tribes of Benjamin & the Tribes of Israel

(Judges 19-20)

These tribes were “brethren” from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Many of their descendants lost their lives in these battles. There are a few cities of Gibeah mentioned in the Bible, but the most significant Gibeah was the city in the tribal territory of Benjamin. This is a weird story, but think of all the weird stories you hear today.

A Levite and his concubine were traveling together and stayed the night at Gibeah. The sodomites (homosexuals) there were pounding on the door where the Levite was staying and demanding of the host of the house that he send out the Levite so they could have relations with him. The owner of the house said, don’t do this act of folly against this man. The passion-mad men at the door wouldn’t listen so the Levite took the concubine out to them. They raped and abused her and left her for dead at the doorstep.

There has to be a lot of deep stuff here. The concubine had been

unfaithful to the Levite, and maybe having relations with a Levite priest would be worse for everybody than with a concubine, I know you scholars out there have the answers. I don't want to get sidetracked, meaning I don't want to study it right now. But the story that follows this is most interesting.

After she died the Levite cut up her body and sent the different parts to the tribes in Israel as living proof (well, dead proof) of what the sodomites had done to his concubine. It's hard to say if the Levite meditated on which part should go to which tribe. When the men of Israel got their surprise package in the mail, they gathered together at the city of Gibeah and declared war against the tribe of their brother Benjamin at Gilead.

This was a serious battle, and it was all over the rights of homosexuals, kind of like going on today. The men of Israel said to the Benjamites, deliver all the sodomites in the city to us to we can slay them. No, they didn't hate gay people, but they knew that it was a sin that had to be taken out of Israel because of God's judgment against it, just like they were to remove any idol out of the land or they started losing their battles. God loves winning and He loves sodomites, but the two don't mix, and He prefers that His people win their battles for their whole future as a nation. Legalizing laws that God hasn't legalized are a curse upon our country.

So they said, "put away this **evil** from Israel." The Benjamites mobilized to protect the sodomites, breaking the law of Leviticus 18:22-30. For those of you who aren't sure if homosexuality is right, wrong, or who cares, verse 22 says, "You shall not lie with a man, as with a woman; it is an abomination." It's hard for abominable nations to be blessed, and the Israelites were well aware of this so they took a firm stand against it. Nothing personal, just trying to survive. Leviticus chapters 18 and 20 are the "sex chapters" for those of you interested in sex. And no, we don't want to put the sodomites to death, we want to put that sin in them to death so they can live. "Death to Sin" would be a good banner for Christians against every sin that is defiling our land.

The men of Benjamin made the stand to protect the rights of sodomites, and so the war which cost thousands of lives started. The

Benjamites had 26,000 men at that time out of the cities, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, which were 700 chosen men. The Bible is so fascinating. It says that these 700 men were lefthanded and that every one could sling stones at a hair breadth, and not miss. (We can do this with our words but that's another chapter for another time.)

Israel had 400,000 men of war. In the first battle Israel was beaten. The children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and destroyed down to the ground 22,000 Israelites.

In the second battle the men of Israel encouraged themselves and tried again, in the same place as before. They felt bad about the whole thing and asked the Lord, "should I continue to go into battle against my brother." The Lord said, go get them, they're sinning. But the Benjamites destroyed 18,000 men. Those battles had to be fierce to kill so many.

The children of Israel did the right thing: they came to the house of God, they wept, and they sat there before the Lord, and they fasted until evening, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. The ark of the covenant was there in those days so Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron stood before it and asked the Lord, "shall we go to battle against the children of Benjamin, our brother, or shall we cease?" That was a good question after losing two battles in a row.

But the Lord said, go against them, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand. That took faith to go into battle after seeing 40,000 bodies strewn over the fields the previous days. They must have trusted the word of the Lord through Phinehas.

The Benjamites saw them coming and went out of the city and began to kill the Israelites, as at the other times. But the Israelites used some wisdom in warfare this time. Benjamin said, we got them, just like before. Israel said, let's flee and draw them from the city into the highways. So they set an ambush and 10,000 men rushed out of their place in the meadow and came against Gibeah.

The consequence to the Benjamites for harboring sin in the land knowingly almost cost them their whole tribe. What a stupid battle to lose your life over. It says the Lord overcame Benjamin and the children

of Israel killed 25,100 men. The men of Israel and their ambush men had a signal that when they made a great cloud of smoke arise from the city that Israel should all turn back in battle. So Benjamin said, here they are, some have fallen before us as in the first battle.

But when the signal cloud of smoke rose out of the city, the Benjamites looked behind them, and their whole city was going up in smoke. So they fled and fled into the wilderness, but Israel pursued them and in this battle 18,000 men of Benjamin, “all of them men of valor” were smitten.

So then some of the Benjamites turned and fled another way, and Israel “picked off 5,000 of them.” As if that wasn’t enough, they continued to pursue some of them and slew 2,000 more of them. 600 more fled and met the same fate. That was a decisive battle.

After that mighty battle that God had told them to go into, the Israelites still felt bad that they had almost done away with one of their tribes. The Israelites had previously sworn that they would not give any of their women to wife to a Benjamite, and if anyone did they would be cursed (this was a deadly serious subject, whether to leave sodomites in their land), so now they had a problem, we have a few hundred men left, what do we do for wives for them?

They sent their men down to Jabeshgilead to capture 400 virgins, and brought them to their camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan. There were still some men left without wives so they sent them to the yearly feast of the Lord in Shiloh, and these instructions are interesting. They told the men if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance, then come out of the vineyards and catch you every man his wife and go to the land of Benjamin. I’d like to see a video of that. You went out to celebrate a feast unmarried, and one dance, and you ended up married to a Benjamite. So these few Benjamites that survived the battle took their wives and went back to their inheritance to rebuild. And remember the “tents of conception” from another chapter, so rebuilding wasn’t a problem to them.

The moral of this story is pretty obvious. And why are we studying these stories? To be able to discern good from evil, how God thinks

about things, and that death awaits any who continue in sin and stand up for sinners. Protecting what God is trying to destroy out of the land is very unbeneficial to everyone. And as in all my writings, I again quote, “These things were written for our learning and our admonition” (1 Cor. 10:11).

Tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim

(Isaiah 9:18-21)

“For wickedness burns like a fire: it devours the briers and thorns, and it kindles in the thickets of the forest; they roll upward in a column of smoke.

“Through the wrath of the Lord of hosts the land is darkened and burned up, and the people are like fuel for the fire; *no man spares his brother*.

“They snatch in discord on the right hand, but are still hungry [their cruelty not diminished]; and they devour and destroy on the left hand, but are not satisfied. Each *devours and destroys his own flesh and blood*, or his neighbor’s.

“Manasseh thirsts for the blood of his brother Ephraim, and Ephraim for that of Manasseh; but together they are against Judah.”

God says His people thirst for each other’s blood. This bloodthirstiness obviously is in many people as we’re learning from the Word. People had a choice in the Old Testament, just like the New, to decide what kind of person they were going to be, and whether to choose good or evil, life or death. The Spirit of the Lord was still around people who chose to call upon Him, and they understood repentance and forgiveness.

There was hope for these tribes because God says in Isaiah 11:13:

“The envy and jealousy of Ephraim also shall depart, and they who vex and harass Judah from outside or inside shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex and harass Ephraim.”

When they get united, the following will happen:

“But with united forces Ephraim and Judah will swoop down upon the shoulders of the Philistines’ land toward the west; together they will strip the people on the east (the Arabs). They will lay their hand upon Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites will obey them.”

Being united will win battles you can’t win divided, whether in marriage, families, friends, or church members. There’s a lot of evil out there coming against what Christians stand for. You can’t always control what everyone else is doing, but you can control the evil in you by getting rid of it, and then the protection of God surrounds you and delivers you from all evil.

Yes, the family or tribe that hates together comes down together.



TWO WOMEN IN A HOUSEHOLD

Hannah & Peninah

Hannah & Peninah

(1 Samuel 1 & 2:1-21)

Here is the story of the birth of Samuel and the rivalry of two women married to the same man. The woman who did the provoking was less blessed than the woman who did not do the provoking. It doesn't pay to **provoke**. These stories tell us how God treats those with a right heart and those with a provoking heart.

The two women were Hannah and Peninah. They were married to Elkanah. Peninah was the Provoker and Hannah was the Provokee. Peninah **jabbed** at Hannah because she had children and Hannah didn't. That was very important in those days, to bear children unto the Lord, our husbands, neighbors, and relatives who were all waiting to hear the fertile news. In these days we would be more likely to provoke over material things, like she has two cars and I only have one, she has a better house than I do, and I'm talking to my husband about it, why don't you get me better things like all the other women have in church. Actually, our society provokes the women they think are having too many children.

Peninah didn't pray for Hannah or console her because she had no children, but the Bible says that "her rival provoked her greatly to **vex** her, because she was childless." This went on year after year, and "whenever Hannah went up to the Lord's house, Peninah provoked her, so she wept and did not eat." That was serious extended provoking.

You can imagine the household: Peninah cooing and nursing her children, playing tag with them, they're all laughing and giggling, and Hannah is sitting by herself reading or cooking, longing for a child. It says that her barrenness "embarrassed and grieved Hannah." That was **mean** of Peninah. You wonder if Peninah's children didn't start copying their mom and taunting Hannah, "you don't have any children, you don't have any children."

I love Elkanah's reaction to Hannah's dilemma in 1:8, "Then Elkanah said to her, Hannah, why do you cry? And why do you not eat? And why are you grieving? *Am I not more to you than ten sons?*"

Should we even discuss this comment? Hannah didn't straighten up and say, oh I'm so sorry El, what am I thinking, you are more to me than one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, and yea, even ten sons, and yes I yearn for just you and you alone, and it really shouldn't bother me that my rival provokes me daily that I don't have any children, I should just rise up and answer her with, "well I have Elkanah."

The happy household would all go up to the yearly feast at Shiloh, where the tabernacle was, to worship and sacrifice. Eli was the priest there. It says, "Hannah was in distress of soul, praying to the Lord and weeping bitterly," and she made the vow that turned her life around and gave us all Samuel the mighty prophet. She vowed to the Lord that if He would give her a son she would give him to the Lord all his life. That's what God was waiting to hear because his nation would need this son. The gift of prophecy was badly needed back then just as it is now.

She poured out her soul to the Lord (good example to us). Eli thought she was drunk. Evidently he had not heard much earnest prayer before. She said she was speaking out of her "great complaint and bitter provocation." Eli, bless him, said, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant

your petition which you have asked of Him.” Hannah believed that and went her way in peace, ate, and her countenance was no longer sad. That was faith before seeing.

They all returned to their home and Hannah conceived, bore a son named Samuel, and told Elkanah she was not going to Shiloh yearly any more but staying home with Samuel, and when he was weaned she would take him to the tabernacle and leave him. That would take faith in God, that He would take care of her little son. It seemed like she could have waited longer until he was a little older but she must have wanted his first impressions of life to be in the house of God. I wonder what Peninah was thinking about this. What makes her think her son is more special than mine? A mother should be home with their children and not put them in the daycare center at the tabernacle. She just doesn’t want to bother taking care of him, it’s more work than she thought.

So Hannah, who gave her precious son literally to the Lord, brought him to Eli and said, look Eli, here is the son that I was praying for three years ago with you, and I am leaving him here because he is given to the Lord. Eli and Hannah worshipped the Lord right then and there.

Hannah prayed in the spirit of prophecy in 2:1-10, and being a deliverance minister, I rejoice in that prayer, it has a warfare spirit in it, and this is a time of warfare in our personal lives, church, and nation.

God rewarded Hannah for giving Samuel to Him to mold for the future of Israel. In fact, Eli said the blessing over Elkanah and Hannah, “May the Lord give you children by this woman for the gift she asked for and gave to the Lord.” And the Lord “visited” Hannah so that she bore three sons and two daughters. I like that word “visited.” We all need to be in the humble position Hannah was and receive many “visits” from the Lord. When He visits you life springs forth in whatever area you’re barren in. I know, you don’t want too many “visits” of the little blessings, but we need “visits” of every kind, diaper, dollar, and deliverance visits.

In Luke 1:68, Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, is prophesying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He has ‘visited’ and redeemed His people.” Get your spiritual house (you!) cleansed so He can come

and pay you some visits, and you can be redeemed from your problems. Satan will provoke you to believe otherwise just like Peninah provoked Hannah year after year, but heartfelt prayer and a relationship with the Lord prevailed.

Peninah may have blamed God (her nature wasn't the kindest) for the big turn of events in her household that she had dominated for years with her brood, and now she had to stand by and see God's blessings on her rival.

Many years ago I wasn't conceiving (we didn't have a tent), I went to a conference where the woman teacher talked about this story. So I determined that if Hannah could get pregnant I could too if I followed her example, even if I didn't have Elkanah. It gave me more faith for a child, and we did have children, praise the Lord, and now they have children.

I think Hannah's life got more and more blessed, and Peninah's didn't progress that much because of the different attitudes they chose to take. It doesn't say that Hannah was mad at Peninah or tried to get back at her. Hannah would be good to have for a girlfriend.



HATRED & ATTEMPTED MURDER

A Young Man and His Father-in-Law

David & Saul

(I Samuel 18-28)

After David bravely (in faith) killed Goliath it startled Saul and he didn't like it one bit, as leader of the army, that this kid came along and killed the giant with a sling and a stone. That was never a part of the army instruction manual and they all had heavy armor, but it was faith that moved that mountain.

When Saul heard the women were dancing and singing, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands" that was too much for his **selfish ego** to take. Examine your heart: When someone else is more successful than you in something, in fact shows you up in your own department, even saving your nation from the Philistines, W.W.M.H. do. That means What Would My Heart do? I just made that up. Do I rejoice in the victory and say, thank God, I'll have a kid like this in my army to help in future battles, what can I do for him, my nation has been saved many deaths, praise the Lord. Or take Saul's reaction, which was that he

let himself be **very angry**?

There again, this jealous anger caused Saul to try to kill David for years, and he was so consumed by jealousy in chasing him around different countries he couldn't have spent time doing anything constructive, like bonding time with his family. But it only ended when Saul himself got killed, along with his son Jonathan. Jonathan should have chosen to stand by David instead of his jealous angry daddy. Family loyalty is great, but standing on the side of good and God is better (and safer).

It says a couple of times that Saul **feared** David. That's interesting, he feared one young man who had nothing compared to Saul, but it frightens us sometimes that someone is going to dethrone us. We look at it as a dethroning instead of two heads are better than one and I can learn from this person.

David had a different take on the relationship. When Saul demoted David from being general over all his armies to being captain over only 1,000, he didn't complain, but went out and came in before the people as usual, "behaving himself wisely" in the demotion. "When Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was **afraid** of him." Think about that. Saul ruined his whole life, Jonathan's life, and other members of his family and army because of **jealousy, competition, and murderous rage** at someone doing better than he was doing.

All of these hellish emotions try to destroy our lives and those around us. At times we don't know what to do about our emotions, push them down, ignore them, well, it's just natural, and don't bother to take the time and effort to cleanse ourselves. We wouldn't think to miss a church service, listening to tapes, or tithing, so I must be all right, and then deception moves in. God has a high standard of "going on to perfection" for us.

Another Jealous Brother

(They try to reign in many families!)

Before David killed Goliath he went down to Saul's camp where the army was gathered, totally perplexed about what to do with this huge man shouting at them from across the way. David started asking questions of the men, reasonable ones like, well "who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

No-one seems to have gotten mad at David for inquiring but his oldest brother Eliab. Eliab was pretty straightforward in his feelings toward his brother and he was **angry**, and said, "What are you doing down here, and with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness?" (Your tiny insignificant job.) "I know your pride and evilness of heart: you came down that you might see the battle."

Anger does speak! That's why many times in scripture it says that someone's anger was "kindled." It's like a fire that burns everyone around, including yourself, and the false accusations were strong. Eliab said, "I know..." I don't think he was rejoicing when his little brother slew the big giant and everyone was cheering him. Here's another example for us: Eliab could have chosen to be different, to stand by David's side and been a help and strength to him, and later stood by a king and been blessed mightily. He must have had to go back and take care of the few sheep as the Lord took David out of the wilderness and into Saul's army.

David was very courageous and sure of himself in the Lord as he and Goliath had a contest of wills and shouted at each other across the way. Goliath "**scorned** and **despised** David because he was an adolescent, and he **cursed** David by his gods." Scary what anger and pride does. After he cursed David he said, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field."

I love David's answer: "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the **name of the Lord of hosts**, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." David even warned him what was going to happen to him, and said, "The Lord will deliver you

into my hand, and I will smite you and cut off your head.” Great words of faith. That’s what we need to say to our enemies, “Anger, I’m coming against you in the name of Jesus and I’m going to cut your head off, spirit of anger, get off of me.”

David, the adolescent, boldly continued on, and said “I’m going to give the corpses of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.”

That’s what God wants, for people to see us defeating our enemies of hatred, murder, anger and jealousy, whether they’re giants or tiny seeds, so our families and friends may know that there is a God in our family and in our church. The greatest testimony is for people to see we have power over our spirits and human nature and walk in love.

So after David killed him, he cut off his head (good to keep your promises), and when the Philistines saw that their “mighty champion” was dead, they fled. Then the men of Judah and Israel rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines leaving them falling all over the county roads, and to finish the job came back and plundered their tents. Don’t ever underestimate the power that is in the anointing of the spirit of even one man to take down enemies.

Saul’s Jealous Obsession

Saul’s obsession to get David, his biggest competitor, out of sight and out of mind led him to attempt to kill him 21 times. The javelin seemed to be the weapon of choice as three times he tried to spear him. He used everyone around him to do away with his competition: Michal, his daughter; the Philistines; Jonathan and all his servants; by sending messengers to David’s house twice; by messengers to Ramah three times; and then personally going there himself. These attempts didn’t do away with the best fighting man Saul had, so he planned to kill him the second day of the feast; and getting more desperate, made war on the whole city of Kellah just to kill David. There are so many word pictures in the Bible that could have “this is the old nature at work” stamped on them.

Then he heard that David was in the wilderness of Ziph and went after him, then sent spies to find him; then his army after him; and then again going after him with 3,000 selected men. That's when Saul himself fell into David's hands, but David spared him.

The New Testament says to the normal people in church, "If we bite and devour one another, we'll be consumed one of another." Apply Saul's experiences to our church or family life. If we're jealous or competitive or want to **control** someone, we can gather our little army of friends (the selected ones) and start our javelin throwing with our words. Or if they're going through a wilderness experience we can chase them down while they're weak and try to kill their ministry or their popularity.

Many of the real charismatic ambushes come if someone is taking your place with the pastor or leaders and they are gaining more recognition than you, and God Himself forbid that anyone is seen more anointed than you. Then jealousy starts crawling all over that anointing until the anointing to destroy is stronger than the anointing to create life with those around you.

Because of our insecurities the stronger someone else gets the more we fear them instead of trying to draw closer to get their anointing. Saul went through all kinds of intricate plots to kill David, one time telling him that he could have Michal his daughter and actually be the son-in-law of the great king Saul. The king sent a messenger to David saying that he didn't desire any dowry, but a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, thinking for sure that the Philistines would fight for their life against David to spare their parts. I don't know how David did it, but it says he was rapid in his attack and collected 200 foreskins, twice what sweet Saul had said. That's when Saul saw that the Lord was with David, "Saul was yet the **more afraid** of David; and Saul **became David's enemy continually.**" So if you're able to do what David did, you'll be greatly feared!

Oh the blindness of jealousy, knowing the Lord was with David made him even more of an enemy of David's. Is that called **spiritual jealousy**, along with a **spirit of jealousy**? Saul had the spirit of the Lord upon him for a few years until his disobedience and attitude pushed God off of him

and invited evil spirits in. In fact, it says that God became his enemy.

One day Saul saw the Philistines were coming, and “his heart greatly trembled. When Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor Urim, or prophets.” Readers, this is scary and the end result of a person anointed by God not keeping his heart right. I don’t think he’s going to be at the marriage supper of the Lamb feasting with Samuel and David. He sought a witch at Endor, fascinating story. The next day Saul and his three sons, including Jonathan, were slain by the Philistines. The next day the Philistines came by and cut off Saul’s head and stripped off his armor, and fastened his body to a wall. Take that.

God intends the detail in these stories to implant in our hearts the dangers of hatred and jealousy and how it takes hold of a person’s life and manifests in all variations of destroying ways, maybe more than 21 attempts.

Some attempts on your life, short of a bullet in your head, would not be known without the gifts of discernment; and the person being discerned thinks they’re safe and no-one knows how they feel, but they can be deceived. Remember, God will, and is, revealing the secrets of men’s hearts and thoughts. What I like about it particularly is that God blesses you by warning you where your enemies are coming from so you can put up a standard against their plans, not against them personally, but their intents against you and your family. The person attempting to harm you, Bible in hand, will use their families, their army (friends), and their church to plant seeds against you. Unless, of course, you’re still an advantage to them by being alive.

Don’t play around with this stuff that was under Saul’s heavy armor and thinking because you’re a “Christian” you’ll escape. There are no escape routes for these sins except through the blood of Jesus, and to “repent or perish.”

David & Michal

(2 Samuel 6)

Michal was King Saul's younger daughter who was given to David in marriage for the price of 100 dead Philistines. She tried to help David escape one time. For **revenge** Saul gave her to another man. Later David reclaimed her. This is a rare instance in the Bible of a woman openly avowing her love for a man and her desire to marry him (1 Sam. 18:19-21). She loved him, but made a fatal, sad mistake because she obviously wasn't very spiritual. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought back to Jerusalem, David rejoiced with wild enthusiasm, and Michal looked at his dancing and robes flying and it disgusted her. She was never allowed to have children after that.

Later, for good reason, David ordered her five stepsons that "she brought up for Adriel" to be hanged on a tree by the hands of the Gibeonites. Sad.

Abigail & Nabal

(1 Samuel 25)

This is another example of those around David who treated him well got treated well by God, and those who didn't usually fell dead.

Abigail and Nabal did not meet through Harmony.com because Abigail was a "woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance." Nabal was "churlish and evil in his doings." He was also rich but that didn't seem to improve his disposition.

It gives no indication that Abigail fought against this stupid husband or called him a fool (*Nabal* means "foolishness"). But God gave her a golden opportunity to respond in the right way to a situation. David had done him good and he returned evil to David. Abigail heard about it, fixed up a bunch of food (she didn't just pray!) and sent it to David's men. David was going to kill him but when Abigail intervened with prayer and her beautiful countenance and words, saying don't avenge yourself, Nabal is a fool, and here's a banquet. David relented, and the old rich fool's heart turned to stone when he heard the news, and he died ten days later.

David's life was filled with battles, but the eye of victory was always there. The Bible calls him "a man after God's own heart." In his failings and weaknesses he always confessed, repented, and turned to God.



DAVID'S FAMILY TROUBLES

The Royal Family

Amnon and Tamar

(2 Samuel 13)

Amnon was the firstborn son of King David. He raped his half sister, Tamar, whose full brother was Absalom, David's son, who then killed Amnon. When David heard that Tamar had been raped by Amnon he was "very wroth." That's good, after all it was his daughter. But he didn't obey the law of Moses in Leviticus 20:17, where it says that anyone who uncovers their sister's nakedness shall be put to death. He should have cast uncleanness out of his household, but didn't, so Absalom avenged her by having his servants kill Amnon. Absalom then fled. David mourned for Amnon, but mourned for his son Absalom "every day."

Can you imagine all the **trauma** in the household because of this sin? Poor Tamar remained desolate in Absalom's house in sorrow and crying. All the households we're studying about were ordained by God, and set up by God so he could bless them and love them and leave his inheritance for them, and that eventually their lineage would bring forth Jesus. They

had to go through so much heartache and tears and loss because of their disobedience to God's laws.

When Amnon was starting to force Tamar, she begged him not to, that it was folly in Israel to do such a thing, that I will have shame and you'll be a fool. And not only that, but speak to the king and he won't withhold me from you. But his sinful passion took over and he forced her, then hated her because of the emotions she had stirred in him that he didn't control, and sent her away. This is so sad: she said, "this evil in sending me away is *greater* than the evil of raping me." At least stand by me and love me now that you've taken me, don't add to your sin by sending me away. Amnon's servant brought her out and bolted the door after her. **Cruel.**

David and Absalom, the royal mess

(2 Samuel 13-18)

David sent for Absalom where he had run to Geshur, and had Joab put him up in a house, but David made a serious mistake in still refusing to see him for two years. Absalom resented this attitude, and it gave him an excuse to plot against his father.

Absalom was getting so upset about his father not seeing him that he set Joab's field on fire to get Joab's attention to come and see Absalom. He told Joab he was upset that Joab had brought him back on the premise of seeing David, but this meeting hadn't happened yet.

Joab's burnt fields got his attention, and he told David, David finally sent for Absalom, and it says the king "kissed" Absalom. In general it doesn't sound like a warm reception, and perhaps the kiss was a cold formality, because it says that after this meeting Absalom prepared chariots and horses and fifty men to run before him, and he rose up early and stood by the gate. He was good at winning the hearts of the people by various means, helping them in their controversies, and giving them a hug and a kiss. It says that "Absalom stole the hearts of the people."

He then asked David if he could go to Hebron, his birthplace, and serve

the Lord by offering a sacrifice. Unsuspecting David said to go in peace. Absalom sent secret messengers (remember, he had their hearts), saying to everyone that as soon as they heard the sound of the trumpet to say that “Absalom is king at Hebron.” He invited 200 men to come to his sacrificial feast who went in their simplicity, not realizing all the conspiracy that was going on. He even sent for Ahithophel, David’s counselor. “The conspiracy was strong, the people with Absalom increased continually.”

Finally a messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom.” All this story shows the dynamics of a father and son, and you can pick out if you have any of the traits in either man that kept them from getting along. So instead of walking in love towards one another and enjoying all their abundant blessings, the war was on.

David knew when he heard this that he had to flee, which would be better than dying by the hand of your son, but it wouldn’t be easy to pack up with your household and leave a beautiful home and run for your life through the wilderness. It says he left ten concubines to keep the house so the house had to be fairly large or their hearts weren’t into cleaning. All his servants were loyal and went with him and said they were ready to do whatever the king wanted.

All of this family commotion made “all the country weep with a loud voice,” but they passed over the brook Kidron. Abithar, the priest, and Zadok, the priest, and all the Levites went with him. They were bearing the ark of the covenant. The king told Zadok, take back the ark to the city, if I find favor with God He will let me come back and see it and His house.

It’s a pity all the negative hurtful emotions in these family stories since studying them, as it says that after they took the ark back “David went up over the Mount of Olives and wept as he went, barefoot and his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, weeping as they went.”

There was so much **betrayal** from different priests and servants, and so much loyalty also, but people’s hearts were being tested, just like today in families.

So for six chapters the chase, betrayal, tears, weeping, plots, and loss of life continued. Here again, this family had it all, and could have enjoyed every blessing. Even Ahithophel, David's counselor, who sided with Absalom, committed suicide because his counsel wasn't followed. Aren't we touchy? David prayed that Ahithophel's counsel to Absalom wouldn't be followed, and like God says, prayer changes things. Ahithophel was disgraced, so he put his house in order and hanged himself.

Finally this ended in a big battle at Mount Ephraim in the woods. David set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over his army, divided them into thirds, one third being under Joab. The king commanded Joab and the other two leaders to "deal gently for my sake with Absalom." They're all risking their lives, being loyal to David, and they're instructed to "deal gently" to his disloyal son who is trying to kill his whole household and take over the kingship. Don't give orders like that.

There was a great slaughter that day of 20,000 men, David being the victor. The rebellion really ended with Absalom's death. That was the oddest death: Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his thick head of hair caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away. That can cause a lot of constriction and while he was hanging there Joab took three darts and thrust them through his heart while he was still alive and dangling.

Word got back to David and he wept and cried for Absalom and said, I would have died instead of you. Was that God's will? I don't think so. The people needed David for king, not Absalom. The Bible says that mature men learn to discern good from evil, and not just discern it, but stand on the side of good even if you have to stand against the side of a loved one, because what is in them will cause problems for many innocent people. But sometimes strong family emotions override God's emotions in the situation and we can make immature decisions.

So the glorious victory that day was turned into mourning because all the people knew how David felt, then felt ashamed of their victory and left. Meanwhile David was still lamenting for his son. Joab set his think-

ing straight, and said, “you’ve shamed all your servants which have saved your life and the lives of your sons and daughters,” and then asks David a good question: “Do you love your enemies and hate your friends”?

Joab even went further and said, “if we had all died and Absalom had been spared, this would have pleased you a lot.” He admonished him to speak comfortably to his servants, or they will all leave you, and that will be worse for you than all the evil that befell you from your youth until now. David speaks to the people and makes things right, but the battles go on as there was still contention and jealousy over and around David.

From the way things are looking in the world this is still going on in a larger, more destructive way. The whole world could be happy under God and dwelling in pleasant green pastures, but because of jealousy and strife and the spirit of false religion, are blowing each other up. It’s even more than that, it’s the spirit of Satan using a religious guise to destroy God’s plans and God’s people.

So even if you’re a believer and doing good, there’s battles and forces after your foreskins, your life, and your family. Take heart.



ATHALIAH

The Queen From Hell

Athaliah

(2 Kings 11; 2 Chronicles 22-23)

Athaliah was the only ruling queen of both Judah and Israel, and reigned six years. Her reign was a reign of tyranny. She was the daughter of Jezebel and Ahab, and yes, the bindings of the sins and iniquities of the fathers are passed down to their children. When her son, Ahaziah, reigned for one year she exerted great influence over the land. She loved two things: herself and Baal. This makes a woman dangerous. That great political ambition filled her soul and came out in the fire of death for anyone who stood in her way.

When her son was killed, Athaliah arose (meaning she really went to work) and destroyed all the royal heirs and household. Were these royal heirs her grandchildren? Yes they were. All her grandchildren were slain by their grandma, except one, Joash, an infant, escaped with a nurse and hid in a room for six years while she reigned. Then judgment came in upon her, they discovered Joash, and made him king.

You may think this is extreme, and in some ways it is, but it shows the ambition that blinds people to the point they will stand by and watch their grandchildren get killed, not only watch but be responsible. I've seen this spirit working in people, as there are many ways to help remove people out of your way. We may not think of it as murder, but let's quote the Word of God here in James 3:6-18:

“The human tongue is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and curse men. If you have bitter jealousy, envy, and contention (rivalry, selfish ambition) in your hearts, don't be proud about it, this wisdom is from the demon world. For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition) there will also be confusion, rebellion, and all sorts of evil and vile practices.”

The Lord used Jehu to eventually come in and rid the land of the evil of the house of Ahab. So even the tiniest traits of Queen Athaliah should be prayed or cast out of your family's lives.

Benhadad

(2 Kings 8:7-15)

Let's toss him in here because he was only a few years after Athaliah's reign. **Benhadad**, the king of Syria, got sick. When he heard that Elisha, the prophet, was in town he sent Hazael, one of his officers, to ask Elisha if he was going to live or die. Before he went, Hazael took “presents with him of every good thing of Damascus.” (They respected their prophets!). He told Elisha of Benhadad's request. Elisha said, “Go, say to him, You shall certainly recover; but the Lord has shown me that he shall certainly die.”

It says that Elisha stared at him until Hazael was embarrassed, and Elisha started to cry and said, I know the evil that you are going to do to the Israelites, even to ripping up pregnant women (abortion). Hazael said, “Am I a dog that I would do this monstrous thing?” I think this is

why it says not to judge people by the hearing of your ears, as those with evil ambition know how to cover up.

Hazael left and came to where Benhadad was and said, You shall surely recover. And then took the bedspread and dipped it in water and spread it on the king's face so that he died. And then, surprise, Hazael reigned. These leaders had great evil satisfaction in finally obtaining the power of those over them.

So what Elisha had said came to pass: the king would have recovered from the disease, but he died. It's hard to recover with a wet bedspread crushed up your nostrils, especially if someone is sitting on your face.



NEW TESTAMENT BATTLES & DISPUTES

God wanted all His people in the Old Testament to experience joy, happiness, peace, love, and prosperity. Instead God had to write down in words all the suffering His people had to go through because of the many sins mentioned in this book. I don't see how He stands watching so many of His people perish, and bless you Lord for your patience and longsuffering. It's obvious He won't interfere with our free will and choices.

Paul & Peter had a little dispute, and Galatians 2:11-13 says that "Paul withstood Peter to his face because he was to be blamed." But unlike most we have been looking at, they worked their dispute out to the glory of God, without killing each other, and both continued to preach and teach the gospel, and the fruit of their standing together for the sake of the gospel is obvious.

King Herod (the Great), king of Judea, was so troubled at the birth of Christ that he killed all the babies under two at Bethlehem. No, he wasn't of another race or planet, he was a human being, who decided to take his nature from the evil one. Herod had his own children, so it wasn't like he didn't know what they were like, or that they were human beings like himself. He definitely believed in abortion, just a little later term than

usual, two years old and under. From the instant of inception or two years old, they're humans with body, soul, and spirit. Later term inside or outside of the womb is still aborting a child's life.

We can think that these "horrible" stories don't apply to our generation. All the Bible applies to us. It seems incomprehensible as we read the Old Testament and how they used to put their babies in a fire to burn to death in order to honor the god Molech, but our country kills thousands of babies yearly to honor and sacrifice to our desires and flesh, the god of Self.

We're off the subject here, but want to add about abortion, I forget the number of babies we murder right now in the United States but it's enough to incur God's wrath on our nation. I think our kids not valuing life is partly stemmed from the way we treat our unborn babies. Well if we don't want the baby, let's just kill it. If we taught our kids the opposite, and how sacred life is, and how much it's to be appreciated and loved, there may not be so many casual killings and shootings. The number of abortions also opens up our land to the Spirit of Murder, among many other evil spirits. A nation or a person can't do evil without some spirits coming alongside it.

King Herod probably didn't wake up one morning and say, I'm going to kill every baby I can find in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof no matter how cute they are. That pride and self-exaltation grew to where he couldn't tolerate being replaced. The seed(s) started, they grew over the years with more pride in his position, being ruler over all, his staff and household bowing down to him, complimenting him, in fact, we're going to call you Herod the Greatest.

Because the seeds were conceived, then they had a natural desire to grow as they were fed, and as they grew, there was no room for God, compassion, reason; there was only room for darkness, and finally those seeds came to birth and spoke to Herod to kill every baby that might be a possible threat to him and his beloved throne. Oh how some people love thrones, even if they don't have a literal one, especially the throne of their own thinking and their own life.

This is how sin works, and along with the evil intents, purposes, and soul's diseases, come the big spirits, demons, and curses of pride, self-exaltation, ambition, jealousy and whamo, you're a loaded gun, maybe still attending church, fighting in the background to keep your position, but then the death you carry spreads itself around and finally comes back and eats you with worms, and you don't even know how wormy you're getting.

You remember the story in Acts 12: the big King who killed little babies was going to sit on his throne and give an oration. Now what does a king who murders babies talk about? And of course he was arrayed in royal apparel. His oration must have been inspiring because they all shouted, "It is the voice of a god, and not of a man."

While he was soaking that up, the Lord "immediately" sent an angel of the Lord to smite him, and *then* he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. I think he was smitten so he couldn't move, and the death was slow and agonizing. It takes a while for greatness to be eaten up. I wonder what the people thought, well maybe he's a worm-god, at least we don't need a big coffin.

He had a dynasty going for a while, and his children followed his attitude, one (Agrippa I, grandson of Herod) ordered James the son of Zebedee killed with the sword, and imprisoned Peter.

Some psychologists have said that the desire for power is the number one desire of the human personality. (Whether it's over your mate, your family, your co-workers, your city, nation, and for some the whole wide world.) Paul said that he wanted power, but he wanted to forget all his wisdom, knowledge, and focus on one thing: Jesus Christ crucified. He then said, in effect, when I do that I can be sure that the Holy Spirit will come in power.

The Church People Weren't Always Spiritual

James, the half brother of Jesus, was pretty outspoken when he wrote to the 12 tribes that were scattered abroad everywhere, and pointed out a particular deathly problem. (This passage of scripture is quoted elsewhere

in this book, but it's so appropriate to what we're talking about.) We can't brush off these truths and think they don't apply to us, but let the Holy Spirit convict us if even the tiny mustard seed of that sin is there. You can abort that evil seed through Christ in true repentance. Read James 4:1-4 again.

Jealousy and envy ran rampant among the religious leaders, the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees. They didn't enjoy their knowledge and study of God, because they were always looking over their shoulders wondering what Jesus was doing and how to get him out of their sight, and God forbid that any of the people should follow Him instead of them. Even in churches today, many with the same spirit as the Scribes and Pharisees don't want the Spirit of God to come in and rattle the bones of their programs.

Jesus went about humbly teaching, preaching, healing, always going about doing good, never seeking His own. The educated religious guys wore long robes and made sure their prayers were heard. Jesus had a righteous fury toward them because they were hypocrites and looked good on the outside but inside were "full of extortion and excess." He said, you "appear beautiful outward, but within you're full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." He didn't mince words and added many more things, one being that you "appear righteous unto men, but within you're full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

It's hard to get along with people like that and work in harmony and love, so they caused a lot of dissension among the Jews, because religious leaders are looked up to. But many of the Jews chose to follow Jesus' ministry even though it seemed completely contrary to everything they had learned. It must have burned the religious leaders that one man comes along, says He's God, and does miracles while they're walking down the street trying to get attention and sit in the high places of recognition. Miracles are hard to compete with. Talk about someone spoiling your party.

Just think if all the people had joined with Jesus how blessed their life would have been and the effect and success they could have had over all their enemies. But the religious leaders and the government leaders were

all a self-centered mess who were in their own world, not connecting to the general public. Without that envy and jealousy, the leaders could have helped so many people. There is great power in unity. Remember that families.

There were always battles and dissension between the leaders and “common” people. While the people were following Him around to hear Him and see His works, even to going without food for a few days, and sacrificing to be with Him, the leaders were turning greener and greener with envy. You would think that some of the dissenters must have had children who needed healing, and they would have been grateful that there was an avenue of healing and miracles in their midst, even if for their own bodies. Envy and jealousy really are the green monsters.

We can apply their life to our life today, and in America we have a large percentage of Americans who want our government and religious leaders to walk uprightly and in integrity, to protect us and our children, and to quit squabbling over the best seat in congress. This percentage wants to protect our precious way of life and put our children first, while it seems many officials and experts and leaders are too busy promoting their ambition and career and public persona and, like the Pharisees, make long prayers (speeches) in the marketplace (TV). They get so caught up in their world they forget there’s a world of people out there who are thinking differently and have different goals, like hello, how about safe borders for the sake of everyone, and getting our own oil so we don’t have to bow down to evil countries to survive. Long speeches and no works.

Many government leaders are so distracted by self and orations against one another, they’ve missed the true values of life and give in to liberalism and protect the guilty because they don’t want to miss out on anyone’s votes. Can you see how far reaching self-centered attitudes are, and how valuable healing is for our attitudes and the effects upon a whole nation.

Christians, if we’re not sincerely and daily praying for our leaders and our country, putting a lot of effort and money into your kids’ future and college will not be necessary because we have an enemy who wants to

destroy every one of us, and it will happen if we don't pray and change it, which we have within our power to do. But without prayer, judgments fall because there are no words of faith to stop them from coming down on us.

This brings to mind an exhortation our church had on February 1, 2007:

“And the Lord says to you, My children, you need to realize that this nation that you live in has been blessed because the founding fathers sought the Lord. And through ages there have been those in the government who have sought Me for godly counsel to do the right thing.

“But realize that blessings can be removed, and blessings will be removed if hearts in this nation are turned from Me and seek after other gods.

“And the lesson for you to learn is that with families it is the same way, that families can be blessed because you seek the Lord, but the Lord says also that blessings can be removed.

“So I say to you, never stop seeking the face of the Lord, and always encourage every member in your family to do the same, and for them as well as you to realize that blessings can be removed.”

The Prodigal Son experience is in Luke 15:11-31. If you're not sure of the word “prodigal” it means “to squander, lavishly and foolishly, extravagant, wasted expenditures.”

There were two brothers, one being the prodigal, and as we've seen, whenever there is more than one person in a family the trouble can start. The prodigal spent all his money, was even starving, and decided that maybe home with dad wasn't so bad after all. He did it with the right at-

titude as he confessed his sin to his father, said I'm no longer worthy to be your son, make me like a hired servant.

The dad was so happy to see his son and prepared a welcome home party with music and dancing. But then the green monster spoiled the party, and his brother was angry and wouldn't go in and greet his long-lost brother. He told his dad off (the same dad that had supported him, given him a job, and had an inheritance for him), and said I've been obedient to you and you never had a party for me, poor green me, where's my chocolate cupcakes?

Our own worst enemy is ourselves, and keeps us from enjoying other's parties and celebration because we keep turning green or chartreuse, or think the good that is happening to others should be happening to us. And you knew that's why Christ died didn't you, to set us free from all the curses and death that happened to people and families in the Bible because of their envy and rivalry. You cannot be happy unless you're healed of those diseases, and anything that turns you green is considered a disease.

Diotrephes

(3 John 1:9-10)

Well, who was he? He was a Christian in the church. The Holy Spirit recorded in 3 John some of the serious faults he had for all to read for eternity. He said, Diotrephes:

“Who likes to take the lead among them,
And put himself first,
Does not acknowledge my (John's) authority,
Refuses to accept my suggestions,
Or listen to me.”

John determines this is not going to continue, and states what he plans to do about it:

“So when I arrive, I will call attention to what he is doing, his boiling over and casting malicious reflections upon us with insinuating language.”

John continues and says that Diotrephes is not only this way:

“But refuses to receive and welcome the brethren himself, and also interferes with and forbids those who would welcome them, and tries to expel them from the church.”

He was a little witchcrafter and manipulator. They took care of people like that in the early church and addressed them bluntly. They did not let Christians with those traits to continue to operate according to the flesh and leaven the whole lump. Those were the good old days in the church. Here again is that “liking to take the lead and putting himself first.”

John goes on in the very next verse, “Beloved, do not imitate evil (don’t be like this guy who is trying to run things), but imitate good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen (discerned or experienced) God [has enjoyed no vision of Him and does not know Him at all].” So was Diotrephes saved, or had he been saved for a while and then decided to get himself unsaved?

It states that if you do the boss stuff like Diotrephes you haven’t really experienced God and you don’t even know Him at all. What do you say eternal security people? Keep acting saved, and none of us will have to worry if you’re saved or not, especially if we’re invited to your funeral. Funerals are not necessarily honest. Which is merciful, as sitting through an honest funeral could be excruciating (and couldn’t we have fun discussing this?).

In I Peter 5:1-3, he warned the pastors and elders to tend, nurture and guide the flock of God that was their responsibility, and not to dishonor their offices by being “motivated by the advantages and profits.” He adds, don’t be “domineering, dictatorial, and overbearing over the people in your charge, but be examples of Christian living.” The epistles in the New

Testament are filled with warnings to the *church*.

The Book of Acts is a book on how to survive while you're preaching and teaching the gospel. The clashing between believers and unbelievers, between believers and believers, between unbelievers and unbelievers, between Jews and Gentiles took a lot of time and effort that could have been spent increasing in God's kingdom and entering our land of milk and honey, or credit cards and espresso.

Stephen was stoned, James beheaded, Peter and others thrown in prison. The church's biggest problem was not what color chairs to get for the sanctuary or who was going to lead singing, but who was going to be alive to sit in the chairs and to lead singing. Do you get the impression throughout the Bible that life is a battleground, and only those with faith and love get to enjoy it because they win the battles.

Churches in the Book of Revelation, on a scale of 1 to 10 were not receiving high marks by Jesus. He pointed out their shortcomings and said, Repent! Also Overcome!

There's bad stuff in good people and good stuff in bad people, and the gifts of discernment will help the church to know the difference because it's not always obvious to our natural eyes.

Jesus was saying that it's better for a person or church to be hot or cold rather than lukewarm because then no-one can identify where you stand. The Laodicean church was wrapped in cozy deception as they thought they were hot stuff and didn't even need any more than what they had. Jesus said you make me gag, and you think you've been prospering, growing wealthy, and "are in need of nothing." He also said, you're like the naked Emperor who trotted down the church parking lot thinking he was dressed in the finest array, but he was "wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked." Remember, deception is the biggest tool of Satan because that's his only weapon. And we can be masters at deceiving ourselves, and others.

So the cold Christians thought they were hot, the lukewarm Christians thought they were hot, and the hot Christians thought they were hot and walked in pride. Or something like that. It's good to know where you

stand before God so you can humble yourself, seek His face, and be open to deliverance.

Time for Part II, *Our Personal Battles (Ways to Win!)*. I hope Part I gave you an overview of all the tension and battles that went on for thousands of years with God's people. You probably know people who have everything but still lose in life because they allow ambition and jealousy to come in with the blessings. It's not like many of them had to claw their way out of poverty; they had it all, but all wasn't enough.

P A R T II

OUR PERSONAL BATTLES
(WAYS TO WIN!)



SO WHAT CAN I DO?

In Part II we talk about some ways to help us in our personal battles that sometimes start when our eyes flutter open in the morning. And if you're asking, what can I do to get delivered and have peace, my quick answer would be to drop dead and go to heaven, but that doesn't sound very spiritual because the Bible says we can have a peace that is beyond understanding in our life. Which means if everyone around us is getting green with envy (watch out for the hidden envy), we can have the peace of God by striving against the sins in Part I, praying for our enemies, seeking His wisdom, having close fellowship with Him, and helping everyone we can. This is more fun than it sounds, and assures good times ahead.

That is impossible without using what God has given us for victory, which is His Son, His Spirit, and His Word. The Word is filled with answers to your questions, like how to defeat this bilious green sin in me. It takes effort and desire, but I know it's possible, and even expected, by God. Otherwise He went to a lot of trouble for nothing. If you desire to be close to Him to where you'll do what is necessary, you will find your life and circumstances changing. Your deliverance will only go as far as your effort and desire.

Words You Speak are Soldiers Fighting for or Against You

There has been so much in the Bible, Christian books, television broadcasting and magazines about the power of life and death that is in our tongues. This is just a reminder, and the more you learn about that the realization finally starts coming into your spirit that your words *do* have the power of life and death, in every aspect of your life, and even affects the lives of others. I know for sure I'm a lot more careful now than I used to be. I'm also diligent to cast down every wrong word into the ground so that it doesn't bear the fruit of the words I spoke. If you've kindled some fires with your words ask that they be put out in the name of Jesus and don't continue to burn their damage.

The fire in our words can inflame, contaminate, and deprave the whole body James says in his famous third chapter, not to mention being full of deadly poison. Read *Quantum Faith* by Annette Capps on creating and changing your world by your words. It adds an interesting aspect.

When you pray, you always have to believe that **prayer changes things**, prayers come against and hold back the devastation that is or has come upon a person, intermingles and drives back the darkness in a situation. Believe that your prayers (words) have the fire of God in them to drive and put out the fires of the devil or the fires we've started with our own careless words.

Every word you speak is like a soldier on your side on the front lines protecting you in the battle you're in, and waiting to hear your words of command. When you speak those words of victory, soldiers go to work to bind or loose, deliver, heal, whatever words you're using. You can gather as big an army as you want by your words. If you command, say, a spirit of lying to be bound and cast away from a person, when you say, "spirit of lying, we bind you" I've seen them get bound; and when you say, "We drive you out and send you back from where you came," I've seen them leave. Those words have great power and I sometimes think of them as actual soldiers being sent out of my mouth to fight a battle. You have a great army you can control in your tongue.

Spirits & Curses

I know life can be an intense challenge, but we're to be victorious in our battles, and go in and defeat the enemy with the sword of the Spirit and the gifts of God. We can be understanding of the children of Israel being scared of the giants and problems they faced, but every time they followed God they won; every time they whined and dined and disagreed with God, they failed. So you may be afflicted with serious sin in the form of a soul's disease, demon, spirit, or curse, or your own silly lethargy to put God first. There is a chapter in my book *Get The Hell Out So Heaven Can Come In*, on healing of the soul and confessing your sins one to another that "you might be healed" of that sin that has attached itself to your soul.

Many people—and this is more common than you've been taught—are bound with spirits and curses that need to be removed. This is a whole study in itself but the above book explains some of this, and there are more deliverance books available now. The church is waking up to the fact that no amount of earnest work, teaching and singing will get rid of some of the weaknesses and infirmities that Christians are experiencing. Why do so many Christians fall, and even leaders? Because they've left "stuff" in them, maybe not even knowing how to get rid of it. So get busy and find out.

Many prisoners in jail have read the *Hell* book and when they write they are totally open to the fact that they can have demons, spirits, and curses, and are relieved to find out there's an answer and they don't have to stay bound not knowing the mystery of the binding, and well my family has always been poor and in trouble and I'm part of their "inheritance." That's because they are in desperate need and see the truth, and haven't been brainwashed into thinking Christians can't have demons. It's hard to dispute when you see the dark ugly spiritual world in all its various ugly forms and see them go when you cast them out of Christians. For sure, Satan has kept the gifts of discernment from the church or many more would see his works and helpers and cast them out.

You can beat your chest all day long saying that you're Tarzan or Jane, and strong in every area, but if you have a demon or spirit of pride that needs to be cast out, your chest beating will just take off all the hair or ruin your manicure. Well, maybe Jane didn't beat her chest, I can't remember.

We Need the Gifts of the Spirit

We say there are at least nine gifts that should be operating in the church. How many do you count in your church? I just read a well-known author who said that the church she went to for 20 years believed in healing, even had you sign a membership statement that you believed in healing, and yet she never saw a healing in all the years she attended there. We somehow feel good that we believe in it, and that's all we're liable for, so to speak.

The church desperately needs the gifts, because many people are desperate to be set free; and there's no freedom without using what Christ gave to set us free. It's like the rattling of the bones in Ezekiel as the church comes together to be one, and the rattling has scared us, and we run to our activities and do-good stuff and it isn't *really* setting people free. But the gifts can't be ignored or set aside any longer as it obviously quenches the Spirit.

People who try to use the gifts in church need to be taught, and their gifts need to be expanded and perfected, or directed in another way. Most churches we've been in are not free to even *think* about operating gifts in the assembly. But we let everything live in the church but the gifts of the Spirit. We can't push aside the gold in the gifts because we don't want to go through the trouble of training. I admit it's hard nowadays to rebuke or tell anyone they're not doing something right, or our next appearance might be in court. But the church is supposed to operate like the church in Acts, not like the world is now. The reactions of Christians can imitate the world in that attitude of "how dare you offend me, I'm a gifted Christian, and I'm going to prophesy every week or leave and take my

tithes, and God is telling me to tell you this.” Find out who is operating the true gifts, train them, and let them operate under the guidance of the leadership.

We’ve made our battlegrounds into playgrounds, and rather than facing the enemy and getting to the roots and sources of the problems of Christians (hard work!), we play beautiful music and say no spirit is touching me, and let’s have another espresso and fellowship. We can play music and fellowship, but let’s turn our battlegrounds into victory grounds and fight for our brethren instead of milking our cows (for those lattes), on this side of the river Jordan while others cross over and fight for the victory land that God has given them.

Crucify the Flesh & You’ll be Happy

Our covering of flesh is so strong and we think we’ll be happy if we get this, get that, go here, go there, change this, change that, but that’s not the Word. We were praying for a young person once and the Lord said, “they’re getting addicted to the flesh.” That’s a great addiction to be delivered from, and it’s little by little, tiny by tiny, every day of our lives.

If you’re not happy with your life and think blessings are passing you by, here is an exhortation given to our church October 12, 2006:

“And the Lord says to you, My children, that there are many and great blessings for all who will do this: And that is to humble themselves before the Lord, and when the Lord says humble himself the Lord says to you to yield yourself.

“For the Lord knows the truth and the Lord knows the end from the beginning, and so the Lord has all wisdom, all knowledge, and all understanding.

“And for all who will humble themselves, who will yield themselves to the Lord, they will find that every decision they make will be the right decision. For the Lord says, yield yourself

unto the Spirit, crucify the flesh, and you will find that *life can be perfect in every way* as you are led by the Lord.

“For the Spirit of the Lord’s desire is to lead and to guide and to direct and to show the way. And the Lord says to you, *this is available to all who will crucify the flesh* and will yield themselves unto the Living God.

“For the Lord directed the children of Israel through the wilderness in a way that was true, but because they gave in to the flesh they had problems.

“The Lord says to you, My children, if you will yield yourself to the Spirit, crucify the flesh, you will see the problems disappear.”

We need the gifts in each other to set each other free. Christians have long-standing problems and hindrances that they have adjusted their life around, but many sins and bindings are not being actually separated and removed from them.

I’ll quote from a good book by James and Michal Goll, *God Encounters, The Prophetic Power of the Supernatural to Change Your Life*. They had experienced intense visitations from God every night that brought joy and terror to them, and changed their lives forever, which also changed their marriage, their family, and their ministry. We can even reach out in faith for supernatural God Encounters to help us, and if God says you’re in a position for one, you’ll maybe receive one. I’m open. This is from Michal who received heavenly visitations for nine weeks:

“The Church is beginning to experience exactly what we did in our marriage. Before my angelic visitations, I had partially buried my gifts and abilities under Jim’s considerable giftings. Countless branches of the Church desperately need the hidden and silent gifts that have been buried in the congregation. For

far too long, the quiet gifted ones have been silent, while those with stronger, more visible gifts are readily accepted and take the lead. These leaders are used to being the “mouthpieces” of God and the Kingdom’s decision-makers and shakers.

“But change is in the wind. God is raising up the quiet giftings and unearthing the hidden resources He planted in His Church long ago. That means that the household of God is going to experience tension for a while. Recognized leaders in the Church might face an incredible challenge to yield as God moves these new gifts into visible ministry. Does this mean that God plans to do away with existing leaders and ministries in the Church? Absolutely not! But God does want a full-voiced choir declaring His purposes. As opposed to a program exclusively devoted to soloists, He wants to see duets, trios, quartets, ensembles, instrumentalists, and more!”

Lord, invade our unholy comfort zones with visitations of Your Presence!

Strongmen & Strongholds in Marriage

Since marriage is the whole foundation of most lives and of our society, it is being viciously attacked from every direction, and many don’t even know God’s purpose for marriage and how important it is. But rather than getting into all that, I’ll relay the following to you that we learned not long ago. It should be in more of a deliverance type book, but you can use it however you feel led.

I had an open vision during our prayer time of Jack (the husband) and I sitting on a bench across from each other in the woods. Above the trees in the sky there was a huge face of an old man with yellow hair and, for some unknown reason, a yellow and blue top on and a big flashy necklace.

Interpretation: “And the Lord says you need to realize that in the heavenlies there is a Strongman, and his desire is to *terminate love* and to *stop marriages*.”

(What is his name?)

“And the Lord says that that which is in the heavenlies is the **Strongman of Hatred of Marriage**, and the **Stronghold here is Divorce**.”

The “heavenlies” meaning the second heaven above us where Satan operates with his strongmen. This subject is covered in the book *Get the Hell Out so Heaven Can Come in* by Nancy Angove, chapter 7.

Later I had another open vision of couples sitting together on a bench, rope all around them. They got up and had to hop to their destination, even to minister to someone. What was hindering these couples?

Interpretation: “And the Lord says this binding is in the world, the binding of **preferring yourself above others**. Ask the Lord for release.”

The **Strongman is “Self”**

The **Stronghold is “Your Own Desires”**

“Ask for the love of God to flood into their hearts to take the place of their own desires.”

“Ask the Lord to work in each person complete forgiveness towards the other.”

The Lord had told us on December 10, 2006, “And the Lord says to remember that **all sin is based on self**, and so the Lord says it is good to pray for anyone who will confess this, that they may be healed and delivered from the **Spirit of Self**.”

If you don’t know, there are some huge spirits in the world that we need deliverance from, one being a Spirit of Self. You can’t bind the spirit out of the world, but you can bind it by your words away from you and your family, and remove the effects it has put on you.

You just got a little deliverance lesson, like it or not.



ENEMIES, ENEMIES, ENEMIES

(Don't Let Them Live)

Fight Whatever Wants to Take Everything You Have

We have all watched people who apparently have everything in life, some even a spiritual calling along with all the material goods, and their life is even envied by many. And yet they opt for drugs, alcohol, and sexual sins after God has elevated them and blessed them. Their fall is great because they were up so high, and their thud causes many reverberations. A woman pastor we know recently committed suicide, and it's hard to understand until you realize they were not equipped to handle and stand against the battles that were trying to kill them. Anointed but undelivered.

Deliverance is so needed in the church (and everywhere!), but many downfalls could be stopped if the person realized or was told, can we pray for you for a Spirit of Suicide, or a Spirit of Depression, or a Spirit of Drugs, or Addiction, or the curses bothering them. Sins are all a betrayal of Christ, and this is why Judas went out and hung himself. There are many things that cause a person to take their own life. I think with the younger people it's partly they don't value life and realize the preciousness of it and are not taught what God thinks about their life. They can't

appreciate the normal things of life, food, health, shopping, so always have to seek highs and give themselves to a life that causes them to feel good without doing anything about it themselves.

People are not taught how to battle enemies, or they don't want to put up a fight, and go with the flow of the enemies instead of stepping into the stream with the Ark of the Covenant and saying no to the flow of darkness that is slowly enveloping them. They don't know how to get to the other side into the promised land of victory.

Our nation and culture has gotten soft and squishy in many ways and people, especially younger ones, have not developed a grit for the everyday battles of life. They'd rather go fishing, a movie, or smoke a joint and try to forget it rather than getting together with God, and others, and drive that thing or weakness out of their life. And to keep at it until it's done.

It reminds me of the story in 1 Kings 20 of Benhadad, king of Syria. This is a picture of what sin will do to you, even though it doesn't appear that way at the tiny beginning of the sin, a little drink, a little gossip, a little menthol cigarette, a little anger. When Behadad, king of Syria, mused he hadn't killed enough enemies that month, he decided to besiege Samaria. So he sent messengers to Ahab, king of Israel, and said:

"Thus says Benhadad:

Your silver is mine

Your gold is mine

Your wives are mine

Your children are mine, even the fairest."

As if that wasn't enough, Big Ben continued to threaten the destruction of Israel:

"And I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house and the houses of your servants; and all the desire of your eyes they shall lay hands upon and take it away."

That's how Satan and our enemies think, whether inside us or outside. Only your utter destruction and taking everything you have will satisfy that hunger in them to not only conquer you, but to take everything you have. Remember our brother James who said, You got baited and drawn away, and your next step is death. Then said, Don't be misled.

We're misled by our own desires, thinking we can get by with a little sin, that we're too precious to God to actually die from our own sins, or even too prideful to see our sins. Oh the battles we would save ourselves if we took the sword of the spirit to that first beginning of that evil desire before it gathers its whole army, and slay it on the battlefield of our heart and soul before it slays us.

In February '07, we were praying for a Christian family, and I immediately saw a picture of the one person in the family all shriveled up, and then laying in bed like a skeleton. We asked our interpreter of dreams and visions for the interpretation. It was, "And the Lord shows you the end of all who **desire to bring down others that are seeking My face**, and the Lord says that you would do well to pray for him and ask the Lord to move." The Lord brought out of hiding the enemy in their family that was causing some disturbances in the family, and then they knew to send the curses back that were wished upon them.

Even your beloved family and friends can have negative reactions towards you rise up, especially as you progress in life and it makes them feel put down, then they have to put you down. They may even like and admire you, but in their insecurity you're a threat to them. They don't come out like a roaring lion, because after all, they know it's wrong, and I'll smother it because I like being a part of the family because of the advantages.

Win or Lose on the Basis of Your Relationship With God

The following are excerpts from Tommy Tenney's book about Queen Esther and the battle with Haman, who wanted to destroy all the Jews.

"Whenever God gets ready to elevate you, He must first introduce an enemy.

This lesson is played out in the life of virtually every leader in the Bible.

Remember, the more important your future, the greater your opponent! Do you suddenly feel as if you are facing giant enemies? Hold on—your destiny is about to be revealed. If it had not been for an enemy called Goliath, David would have always been a shepherd.

Never let the size of your enemy, the massiveness of his strength, or the volume of his threats intimidate you. Do what you've always done. In other words, Sling what you've always slung!

One smooth stone guided by bravery and determination can cause your enemy to fall. Even a small boy stands taller than a fallen giant!

The size of your enemy is immaterial. Israel won battles over much larger enemies and lost battles to much smaller forces. As a nation, Israel lost a battle against the small city of Ai; but as a lad, David defeated a giant called Goliath.

Battles are not won on the basis of your strength *or* your enemy's size. **You win or lose on the basis of your relationship with God.**

Don't fear your enemies—no matter what size they appear to be. Love your God—He is bigger! When an enemy arises, promotion is on the horizon! Esther, meet your enemy!

Haman was an Agagite, which is why Mordecai wouldn't bow down to him, because it was king Agag and the Amalekites that committed atrocities against Israel for generations.

That's why God told Saul to kill them all and spare nothing. Saul didn't, saved Agag and the sheep. Samuel killed Agag, but after he was captured by Saul and before Samuel executed him, he may have fathered a son who preserved his wicked bloodline. If Agag had been eliminated when captured, future generations could have been spared sorrow.

The bottom line being, 'What you don't eradicate when you are strong will come back to attack you when you are weak.'

And 'Deal with your enemy now or your children will have to face your enemy tomorrow.'

In King Agag we see the link between Saul's greatest failure and the greatest challenge to Esther and Mordecai. Esther is forced to risk every-

thing and deal with a problem that her ancestor Saul could have handled centuries before.”

Battle for Your Mind

Do we recognize that our battle is against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places, four great giants with all their helpers? If that’s our enemy, don’t you think we have to be strong in the Lord and the power of His might to defeat them?

The forces of darkness are *real*, and work covertly behind most disasters and many moral failures. They come to tempt, seduce, deceive, and to assault the mind, a mind that will listen and cooperate with them.

So a great key to winning every battle the devil wages against you is to keep your mind dominated by the Word of God. And if you think you don’t have time to do that, it takes a lot more time and energy to get unbound once the devil starts tying you up little by little. If the devil can take control of one small area of your mind, he can begin to expand outward into other weak areas of your life. Don’t you feel stronger the more you make conscious choices to hear and read the Word of God? And don’t you find that when you watch worldly TV, and maybe not even worldly, but secular, and magazines to excess you find yourself thinking about that story or that person and dwell on it, taking up valuable space in your mind. So, don’t stain your brain with junk, because that will affect your faith, because “as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”

Don’t Take the Bait

Those old-time men of God set their hearts and faces like flint, they kept a straight path in front of them and didn’t swerve to the right or the left, put God first, and didn’t waver and become double-minded and unstable. There are so many lures to distract us, it’s like Satan is sitting on the bank of the river of life with his fishing pole out trying different lures on us to see which one we’ll bite at. There might be a fight as he tries to bring us

to where he is on the shore, but because we have too many distractions in our mind, we eventually get tired, give up fighting him, and give in and keep his hook in our mouths.

Our little deliverance team was discussing the big enemy of “self” on May 19, 2007, and God added to what He had said previously:

“And the Lord says to you, My children, you need to understand that which the Lord just said to you, and that is to resist. And if you will realize the **power in resistance**, you will realize that you need not be bound by anything. For evil, wickedness, and darkness comes and it suggests unto you, and at that point understand this: You can say yes or no.

“And if you say no, you’ve resisted, and there is nothing else that evil, wickedness, and darkness can do but suggest. And so the Lord says to you, **realize the power in resistance.**”

Offense is an Enemy

There is much written and said on offense, so this will be brief, but an offended heart is a breeding ground for deception as it allows all kinds of negative, evil thoughts in, not to mention unforgiveness. We were discussing with someone the communication difficulties in their marriage. The Lord told us:

“And the Lord says to you that the Lord gives you a key to life in this: When you are offended, rather than holding on to that offense, pray for that person, and you will find that life for you will change, and if you pray in faith life for them will change.

“But the degree of your prayer needs to be that you believe and that you believe for the change, and if you will pray rather than be offended, you will find that life will change for you.”

Distractions are an Enemy

The Lord gave us this exhortation on May 12, 2007:

“And the Lord your God is leading and directing in your lives, but the Lord says to you that you need to learn and you need to learn well, the ways of the Evil One, for the Evil One’s desire is to **detract** you and turn you from the Way.

“And so the Lord says that you need to be careful and you need always to watch and pray, for there are many things that will get you off the track, but you need to be sure that you’re *always* in tune with the Lord, and that you’re doing the things that please Me.

“For the Lord’s desire is for you to do the right thing and not to wander from the way by distractions. If you continue in the Way of the Lord, the Lord will keep you and preserve you.”



THE PLAGUE OF SELFISHNESS

All you little selfish people out there—whether you think you are or not—have got to learn and practice saying “**NO**” to selfishness. It’s like an apple Satan tempts you with all the time, take a bite of this, do what you want to do, talk about yourself all the time because that’s your main interest, don’t develop a sensitivity to those around you (then you can’t dwell on yourself!), this apple of selfishness is so satisfying and delightful, please take a bite, you don’t have to eat it all at once, just nibble by nibble, decision by decision. God told us once that selfishness is a stench in his nostrils.

My four year old granddaughter, *Luca Adalyn*, and I play the “apple game.” She wants me to get an apple and try to entice her to say yes to Satan and give in to him instead of God. When I talk to her, slide the apple towards her, she literally stomps her feet, puts her hand on her hip and yells “no, Satan, I’m not eating that apple, I don’t like you, now get away,” and the drama is surprising. I never taught her the drama to go along with the story, she just sensed that’s how she should be. One time she pretended to go into another room and get Adam, came back, and said “I brought Adam but he says no too, we’re not going to eat the apple.”

Recently when we were playing it, and I couldn’t coax her to give in, I put the apple down and put a few M&M’s in my hand. I said, here’s some

candy to eat, how about it? She walked up to my hand, took the M&M's and said, "God just told me I can eat these." Some enticements are easier to say no to than others.

We've been studying about families and their breakups and what caused them. First of all, get it in your mind that families are ordained by God, and God has always worked through families, is concerned how they get along, and how He can progress them in the natural and spiritual. He likes them to stay together and be blessed in Him. That's *His* plan. Many people in families in the Bible opposed that plan, in fact, ruined it for generations. Many Christians in our society also oppose that plan, to their own hurt and sorrow.

Instead of the Smith family and the Brown family striving together to receive all the blessings God intended for their family, they started entering into jealousy, rivalry, evil thinking about one another, competition, and the ever-present dad and mom love Johnnie more than me.

We're not talking here of family members that should separate from one another if one is a negative influence on the other, but family members who stick together much of the time, but then allow darkness to interfere as situations come along instead of making a firm commitment to the family unit.

Satan knows how important the destinies of families are to God, and how God wants to bless them as a unit if they stay together. So he interferes constantly with his evil, wickedness, and darkness to break up members of a family, especially if that family seems to be on a road to success. If he can break them up they will lose some power, but mainly he has a legal, and to him delightful, right to send in spirits of division and strife.

As mentioned previously, the Lord told us recently that all sin is based on *self*, and that it would be good to pray for anyone who will confess the sin of self, that they may be healed and delivered from the *Spirit of Self*. When your life and decisions are based on self, selfish desires, selfish ambitions, fulfilling the desires of self at the expense of others, you have invited this spirit and demon and curse in to you and your family.

Remember that Strong Man of Self in the heavenlies, and the Stronghold of Your Own Desires. And that they have established strongholds of one degree or another in everyone. Sorry. So always confess when that big old Self comes up.

I should add this skeleton version of how to pray against strongholds and strongmen: The strongman is in the heavenlies pulling the strings and control over the stronghold that has been built up against or in a person. He needs to be bound (Mt. 12:29) and the cords cut to the stronghold (good to name both if you can). You then go in to the stronghold by faith with your words and separate the spirits from the spoil in that stronghold that Satan has been keeping from you. You cast out the spirits, send them back from where they came from, then give the spoil to the person. The spoil is all that the person has been robbed of. Cast the cut cords from off that person's territory. Cast down and away the false gatekeeper that has been guarding the in and out traffic in that person's life in whatever area, and set up the true gatekeeper of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Consider the decisions you make each day and how many are based on your own selfish desires rather than edifying and helping someone else. I know the culture now is be good to yourself, treat yourself, sit in the hot tub, spend the grocery money on pedicures and lunches out every day, and now you don't like me already. But the reason so many married couples have trouble is because they have mixed priorities, one priority for self and another for maybe their self and family members. Should I fix a dinner for tonight or should I go shopping? And of course the guy of the house, should I watch football or spend time with my undisciplined kids? Decisions, decisions, every day and hour, what should I do with my life?

This isn't marriage counseling, I could never do that, it's too complicated for me, but some of us can be so entwined in self-indulgence we don't even realize it, it's such a habit and a way of life we've developed. I don't mean you have to put yourself in a trash can, but your main focus for the day should be focused on serving God, Who is a great believer in serving people.

Selfish people are unhappy people, because the Word says, “In the flesh dwells no good thing.” It’s not fulfilling or fun to be around them for long as they don’t know how to share a conversation, but want to dominate the situation with their selfish boring talk. They can’t be interrupted with your comments and are not really interested in those they’re with except to use them for a sounding board. I love to listen to people, even the little stuff, but there’s a time if they don’t know how you feel about anything, how do you know they even like you, or agree with you, or do you have anything in common? It’s hard to be good friends with someone who loves himself, even if they have a ministry where everyone loves them from the audience. Selfishness is a great barrier to friendship and intimacy.

We’ve all heard the horror stories of families who have a death in the family. The person leaves a will, nobody likes the will or cares what their beloved mamma and papa wanted (they were becoming senile when they decided to leave your sister the car). And the fight begins for the toaster, the birdcage, the photo albums and everything they can get their greedy hands on. And I mean stories of screaming, shouting, I’m coming with a truck to get the furniture, and these family members that were friendly, sent Christmas cards to each other, laughed at the weddings, and rejoiced over the births, but when a parent dies, it’s off to the races to fight for the money and possessions. A fairly loving family can turn into little monsters cursing each other. It’s a sight to behold. It’s particularly baffling when the ones fighting for the toaster are well off.

The possessions become more important than the relationships because of the stink of self. Self gives off an aura because the person (no matter how charming) is always looking to see how they can gain in every situation, who they can get on their side, what information they can get out of you, are you getting something they want and deserve, and the list of self is inexhaustible. The message here is get rid of self, lose that life of self, and you’ll find your real life. That takes a commitment and dedication on your part daily and hourly until your flesh starts to get less lively and your spirit gets stronger. You’ll become a new person, and giving will

be more satisfying than taking!

There are always problems in life because the spirit of the flesh rules and reigns in many people rather than the spirit of God. Your prosperity and advancement in life is stopped by selfishness and the love of self. A person can love their mate, but love themselves more, and then the relationship is tainted.

So what to do? Fight against it, resist it like the plague that it is, ask God's forgiveness, ask another to pray with you for deliverance, recognize it for the ruination it causes, and if not outright ruination, a continual dripping in your household that keeps blessings at bay. A lie of the devil is that selfish choices make you happy, when all the time you're opposing yourself and the good life God has for you by your rotten choices. Not even big things, like I'm going fishing for two weeks, you stay home with the kids, but in more subtle ways, one after another, day after day, and the message sent is that I'm more important than you, the kids, the church, the relatives, or anyone else in the world. My world is Me, Myself, and I.

Much of it can be hidden under other guises, even your sterling personality, but it's hindering your life greatly and a dryness can start to set in and it's so slow you don't even recognize it, and you think you're doing fine because there are pleasures in the indulgences of self, but it's a darkness that descends almost imperceptibly on people and they're deceived. To put it on a larger scale, before the fall of every civilization they were eating, drinking, making merry, living in prosperity, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, and then sudden destruction. The sin of self is something you don't want to be bosom buddies with, then you only have one friend.

Hard-heartedness is also friends with selfishness, as it's hard to feel other's feelings because your own feelings and desires are so important. You get blinded by the flesh and your view of the world and every situation that comes up is from your own viewpoint. When everything revolves around you being in the spotlight, your world is too crowded with yourself there's no room for anyone else, even those you may in a sense love to some degree. Self is ish.

You create your own atmosphere and environment in whatever situ-

ation you're in. You've known people that come into a group with an air of I'm unhappy and disgruntled and here I am, not caring if I infect you, and I'm upset right now so put up with it. Yes, I'm here but my stern face says I'd rather be somewhere else and I've got more important things on my mind than you, in fact you're not important enough for me to extend myself for. Then everyone who wants to be happy has to fight to overcome the atmosphere of your attitude. Self makes life hard on everyone, especially the unhappy Selfish Prig.

Self is splitting up many relationships and families, and it starts with a decision, well I'd rather go out and have a good time tonight and leave my kids with a babysitter I'm not sure of, but it's important to me to socialize and get out of the house. Or so what if I holler at you kids, you deserve it, even in public. Self gets in those emotions and comes out and hurts and destroys, and the wrong things are said in a spirit of anger because your little self got irritated and how dare they intrude upon my peace and well-being. I want this and I want that and I'm going to take what I can get out of this relationship or business or home.

This could go on forever and you've all experienced *self* in yourself and others, that old self-seeking nature we were born with and we're hanging on to it instead of being born again out of it. We need to practice coming out of ourselves and into the spirit of the living God who gives Himself for us every minute, and ever lives to make intercession for us. You have to keep that self in a cage because it's always wanting to come out.

Practice giving, practice being aware of those around you more than yourself, practice getting your priorities straight, practice hating self in comparison to loving those around you. Every situation you're in is an opportunity to show forth Christ and His fruit, every time you come in the door of your house you have an opportunity to look at your family with love, ask how they are, tell them you love them, and maybe spank them later for disobeying, but even that is in love and easier not to do. Or you can arrive at your house, what's for dinner, I'm tired, I've had a bad day, and with all that attention on self, you can't see that those around you need help and attention more than you, and that there might be tears

in someone's eyes.

You may want a big-time ministry, but you have “little” ministries all day long, to either grow in or ignore. The yearning to be a big-time jerk and impress the whole world with your ministry will blind you to the little ministry world God has put you in.

The point of this chapter is to relate that *selfishness* is a main cause of family bickerings, disputes, contentions, strifes, and even murders, and it keeps those afflicted by it in a turmoil. There's good advice out there for those bound by this, and that's to start helping other people, especially if you don't have your own family to minister to, go to hospitals, pray for the wounded and sick all over the nation, get involved in an organization that helps others. The needs are great and if selfish people would start ministering they would be happier and so would everyone else.

Recently I had a vision of a long line of people with different infirmities and wounds, bandages, canes, straggling along a road. They came to a cliff, and one by one went over the cliff to their death. I looked to see if there was anyone at the edge of the cliff to stop them or help them, then realized there was no-one to help them. The interpretation was:

“And the Lord shows you the attitude of many people in this world, which is a hopeless attitude, and they have been wounded and injured, and yet there is no hope.”

What can we do?

“The Lord says to you, and to all that claim to be servants of the Lord, that you need to be involved, and to give people hope.”

How?

“And the Lord says to you, you can give people hope by your very lives, and even as said, to get involved. As you prepare yourselves the Lord will gather.”

Even a kind word will keep some from going over the cliff, so transfer all that energy of self into energy for helping others.

We (the hubby) and I had a mind-heart focus moment awhile back. This focus attacks selfishness wherever you go, and for those of you always decrying that you don't have a ministry that suits you, this is it, I have the answer, and it lasts all day every day, seven days a week for a lifetime.

Two of our girls play softball and we were attending their tournament. It was cold and wet and long, the team was losing, everything seemed off, we got some irritating phone calls, annoying people kept trying to talk to us, one of our girls was limping around from an injury, I was hungry and didn't want a hot dog, I didn't like my husband excessively that day, nor he me because we had opposing thoughts about everything.

Later as we discussed this, we were ashamed of ourselves as we had a couple opportunities to pray for people and passed them by because we were distracted and didn't feel spiritual enough to extend ourselves.

We came to a brilliant decision: That everywhere we go, we are going to help others. Our focus isn't going to be on if the girls are winning or losing, if we're comfortable and enjoying ourselves, our focus will be on being open to helping everyone we come in contact with. Apply this to everything in your life, who and what am I going to church for? What and why am I going to that function, event, seminar, shower, sports function?

That's a great ministry and keeps the plague of selfishness out of your heart.



DON'T ALLOW THESE TWO PLAGUES TO COME NIGH YOUR DWELLING

Fruitless Activity & Not Building on God's Foundations

There are two more seemingly innocent looking plagues that try real hard to enter our lives. They're not out in the open like fleas, lice, grasshoppers, blood in our tap water, or hailstones causing concussions, but they gather little by little, and you don't recognize that you and king Pharaoh have some things in common, only his plagues were from God; ours are from Satan or ourselves.

One is *fruitless activity* and the other is *not building on God's foundations that He has given you*. These can be as intrusive on your family life as bedbugs. (Don't you love those articles that explain in detail the billions of little bugs that love to live uninvited in your bed, and you should do all these time-consuming measures to be alone while sleeping. They think they're smarter than you because they're invisible—and that is an advantage—but Lysol is my advantage.)

These two plagues are intertwined (three if you have bedbugs), and surround you slow but sure; in fact they're almost invisible and unless we're aware of their intrusion we let them live and hibernate and eat away at our family life.

If I had “it” to do over, life that is, I would be wiser concerning my time. I didn’t realize I was going to get this old this soon, and didn’t really believe life is but a vapor. I know we have to have fun and hobbies and time to ourselves, and whatever all the thousands of articles tell us we’re supposed to do, but many times mom is off having her fun, dad is off having his fun, and the kids are having their own fun or fighting. The point being, try to have fun together more often, especially at home. We get so busy doing our separate activities that we end up huffing and puffing and blowing our own house down.

Then we use all the activities *we’ve* chosen and pant how busy we are, no, I don’t have time to read to you kids, there’s TV dinners (5,000 mg. of salt in them, so don’t use any more salt) in the freezer, and I know you’ve had a bad day at school, we’ll talk about it tomorrow in between classes and jobs and shopping and PTA, and yes, I’ll say a bad thing, the never ending church activities that we have to be such a part of or we won’t feel spiritual.

If my days are jammed with activities I won’t have to do the boring things I don’t want to do, like boring cooking, boring housework, and boring games with my kids, and the same for da-da, home from the boring job at last so I can watch TV, relax and eat. So, is everyone enjoying their life? No. Everyone is crabby and stressed and don’t even know each other.

One reason is the lack of recognition to appreciate the foundations God has put under us. The foundations *He* puts under us are the ones He will build on, bless, and multiply, and all the other foundations *we, our clueless selves*, put under us are not going to be blessed, even if they’re momentarily satisfying. You and God have to be building on the same foundations at the same time, otherwise you’re filling your Nike’s with sand.

An obvious foundation *God* has put under you is *Him*, your fellowship, your relationship, and your ministry with Him, not necessarily all the church activities. The other foundation is your *marriage*, your *kids*, and your *home*. So concentrate and build on these, and your blessings will come from the root of these foundations. Cut off all the branches that try to get in the way and clog up these main roots.

Examine your life, what, and who, is first in my life. Women, create a good household for your family, that's God's foundation. Men, create a good household for your family, that's God's foundation. These are sure foundations, and of course the job God has given you to support the household.

If you look and focus on the foundations God has put under you, and not on all the ones you've chosen because you think you're supposed to, or you want to, or you don't know any different, or, I don't know, you figure it out, it's your life.

I know from experience that my husband is successful because of me! Just kidding kind of, but I contribute all I can to his life, like cooking, watching out for his health with vitamins, removal of bedbugs, have a somewhat orderly home, praying together, and staying together whether we like it or not sometimes. If you stick with the right foundations God will deliver and set free. I've asked God's forgiveness for all the time I've wasted on fruitless activity and helping build other people's foundations. (Nothing wrong with that in itself but I wasn't strengthening my own foundations at times.) When your kids are older you would love to go back and do it over again and spend time reading with them and frolicking instead of work and projects, and yes, sometimes church meetings that weren't always that stimulating.

This is an independent culture—we want to be free to build upon any foundation we choose and wear ourselves out and miss the mark. If Satan can't tempt us with adultery he'll tempt us whatever way he can. He subtly breaks down the oneness of the household with fruitless activity, forgetting our main foundations, and especially tries to keep the head of the household from succeeding because he's a pillar of the main foundation.

I encourage the women to learn and appreciate taking care of their family and house, even while taking care of their jobs if they have to work out. It's all a foundation from God, and you can learn to love what God loves. And please, enjoy your family instead of being so busy hammering the nails in someone else's foundation.

“Home life” has to be important to the men too. It’s not just dragging your wife and kids around to do a little grocery shopping and “enduring” it and being crabby and frowning, but learning to have fun, yes, you can *make* a gathering fun you selfish man. How about *giving yourself to the occasion* and the blessed opportunity to be with the most important people in your life, now and for eternity.

When I see parents being crabby (I don’t have a large vocabulary) with their kids out in public, mad, impatient, teeth clenched, eyes narrowed, I wish I had a pamphlet (now that’s an idea) to hand out to them on appreciating their family and how to develop them for good instead of making everyone nervous. If I had it to do over, I would try harder to enjoy the nerve wracking shopping trips with four little kids whining, shooting the sample perfumes in their eyes, and hiding in the clothes racks. Let’s face it, kids don’t have the same agenda as we do, at home, abroad, in public, in restaurants, or in the car. We want peace and quiet, they want chaos, noise, and chicken nuggets.

So we can kick our foundations right out from under us little by little, outing by outing, meal by meal because we’re overstressed and we just want some peace and get these kids to bed, preferably unconscious. Unless you’re ready to adopt your kids out, and maybe your husband too, change your attitude and keep changing it for the better. It’s important.

Learn to enjoy every moment you can with your family and teach them and show them an example how to be so they will be successful in their family battles in the future. It’s not, well kids, your dad and mom left our important schedules to have a little time with you, and you’d better appreciate it and behave, don’t act normal, we need the break too, and we’re working hard so you can have the best tennis shoes and art lessons. It should be that we’re creating the best atmosphere of love and hope and longsuffering for them to absorb. Why teach them about the solar system and the history of Genghis Khan if they haven’t been taught, by example, love and peace?

By cluttering your mind and heart with needless activities you can’t think of the things you should. You can’t hear God’s voice. You can’t walk

in peace. You're teaching your children stress and tension, and that life with God is hard.

It's also a danger, because then you're not aware of potential dangers and problems, because busyness covers up dangers. The unnecessary activity and not working with God on *His* foundations is causing us serious heartburn and headaches. Accidents also happen more easily with confusion.

Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light." So if our life is heavy and our yokes, or the things we attach our life to, are heavy, it can be our own making, lighten up and enjoy your life even if you're not doing the things you think would make you happy. Of course there are days that are harder than others, but if our attitude is right they go away sooner and we feel we can overcome them.

The first book of the Bible starts out when God made man and woman (and marriage), He said for them to leave their father and mother and cleave to each other. In other words, leave the old foundation and start your new foundation because two foundations won't flourish. Now the world and Satan with his spirits have men and women so confused they don't even know if they are a man or a woman. That's another whole subject, but remember there is always healing and deliverance for everything, no exceptions, unless you don't want healing. Just because you feel weaknesses toward the same sex doesn't mean you have to keep that there, that's a curse and a binding from the sins and iniquities of your past fathers, just like anger or unforgiveness, but it can be healed, in fact has to be.

Our Jesus also said, "every branch in Me that bears good fruit I'll purge it that it may bear more fruit." Another word for foundation could be trees, whose branches go deeper and hold the tree up even through storms, and then the fruit comes forth, so if we're bearing the fruit of our foundation He will heal us and cause us to bear more fruit (John 15:5-6). If we remain in what He has called us to, we'll bring forth "much fruit," not fruitless activity.

Many of the younger generation, because of the culture of life and

the teachings we see and live under, don't like to hear the serious side of a natural and spiritual life, but this attitude of escapism causes their lives to get heavier because they can't deal with passing through hard situations with grit. Grit needs to be built up in people to deal with the hardships of life, or call it faith, and that takes a settling down time and effort. Getting through life victorious in every area is *really* hard with a frivolous attitude. Choosing activities that lean towards escapism from the realities of what we should be doing (like reading your Bible, praying, and seeking God) is a self-deception, oh I just named another plague. Our society has more plagues than Egypt ever had.

That reminds me of an interesting verse, which I may have quoted in another book, but it's in 1 Kings 8:38 where Solomon is praying to God at the dedication of the temple, "Whatever prayer and supplication be made by any man, or by all Your people Israel, each man knowing *the plague of his own heart*." So, recognize your own personal plagues and get them out of the garden that God has given you to tend and beautify. He'll be coming by about 3:00 every day to check on you, well actually more often than that.

From a Dear Member of Our Family

I asked this dear family member with two young children, because she's of the younger generation, what her thoughts are on the previous plagues. She wrote:

"The only thing I would add is a lot of younger moms don't even know how to do "the domestic," because either they never took the time to learn or usually because they never had a mother that took the time to show or teach them about taking care of the house. I see moms showing their kids how to paint, learn a sport or anything else under the sun, but not how to have the balance between taking care of the house and still having a few hobbies.

“I truly think most moms get “burned out” and want to do other things by the time their oldest reaches ten. That’s why it’s so important to keep a balanced life so that you can feel good at home, knowing that the hubby and kids are fed and you feel fulfilled because your talents are also being used.

“And I understand that there are different seasons but make sure you are in the season God has created for you to be in. Homes are being broken, and it’s easy for moms to teach their children the joys of things outside the home, but it takes a wise mother to show the child the joys of their home, ‘A wise woman builds her house, and a foolish woman tears it down’ (Proverbs 14:1).

“Home is where your heart is...children are so observant—they know.”



THE PLAGUE OF LIMITING THE LORD IN YOUR BATTLES?

Sometimes when we need Him the most our faith starts failing, and we lose that winning attitude and fighting the good fight of faith because we're looking at and feeling our circumstances. Or we have partial victory and then back off from the battle because it seems too hard, and then we don't possess that portion of land we were fighting for. We stop short, learn to adjust and live with the enemy instead of casting him out. It takes effort and pressing in and pushing like we're in labor sometimes, but victory is always ours if we do our part, which is small compared to God's part and what He will do.

He has every battle weapon at His disposal and He will use it for us. I have been delivered from many sins, weaknesses, and infirmities over the years, and I could have spared myself some of the heat, but like the children of Israel, didn't always obey, or even hear for that matter. Well, you know how it is. Sometimes you have to gird up your loins of strength and faith your way through the battlefield until the Goliaths are slain.

A major hindrance in our battles is that curses and spirits can attach themselves to the attitudes we've developed, along with the soul's diseases, so we always need to keep on the path of deliverance (that's the path He's on!), because most of us have had many things to conquer and put to death in our life. Many people don't want to take the time and spiritual

exertion and learning necessary to detach themselves from their own grave clothes and get a whole new change of white garments.

Maybe because I'm older (write & ask me how old if you're curious) and have been through years of battles for myself and others, I'm conscious of the need to fight the good fight of faith, and not fold up your wings. When the Lord tells us that "whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk and conduct himself in the same way in which He walked and conducted Himself," that's a big order that takes lots of big fights. It takes labor on your part and a labor of love on His part. He has taken us through battles that were literally like being on a battlefield, and it felt many times like I didn't have the right armor on, or enough faith to get through the battle, but I can't impress upon you enough to keep calling on God, don't let your sins and weaknesses condemn you so much you don't keep seeking Him.

The battles of life have always interested me because I always felt I was in one or in someone else's with them, and I felt bound in many ways even from early childhood. It may take you years to get released from some bindings, but God loves it when you press in and keep walking towards Him, and everything you learn on your battlefield helps you to help someone else, and sharpens your spirit and soul for the next one.

If you compile even a short list of what God did to help His people defeat their enemies, that faith of understanding His nature increases your faith. Just like kids know their mom will give them another cookie, and they rely on her nature to get their way many times.

And most Christians understand the biggest weapon of warfare He has given us is Christ Jesus who has already defeated our enemies as we apply His Name, His Blood, and His ways, and hear and obey His instructions.

I love studying the way God treated His people through their life journeys. The more you study, and hear the testimonies of others, the more expectancy of faith you have that He will do the same for you. I've been asking for God Encounters, Miracles, more Signs and Wonders, inviting Him to show up and come into my life in whatever way He wants, because I want to experience all I can of Him here on earth before going to heaven, as what I experience here will help others. This is warfare time in

the whole world and we better be getting on our horses and cutting the enemies' heads off in our lives and others'.

Discernment is a Great Weapon of War

I encourage people to ask for the gift(s) of discernment because it's needed to discern how to help others, and is a powerful weapon of war to defeat the enemy because then you know what you're battling instead of flailing the air with every prayer you can muster.

Since I was baptized in the Holy Spirit I have always had open visions (I called them "pictures"). Pictures (discernment) are valuable in deliverance because then you know what the problem is or what you should seek the Lord for on behalf of that person. For instance, a skull above someone would indicate death or disease is coming and to make preventive prayer. You may see dark clouds over someone, a dark figure in back of them, dots in their eyes (maybe cataracts forming), fire coming out of their mouth (their words are binding them), a wolf, lion, etc. on their property (their property needs cleansing), various things that are indications of hindrances against their business or investments, the list is endless, but there are many clues (God likes to use the gifts He gave to the church!) and He wants us to cooperate with Him instead of Him doing everything and we don't learn warfare. Warriors need battles.

Discernment also discerns spirits in or over a person. You may look at a person, say Hi, and wham, you see that spirit in their eyes and you're not even looking for it. You don't go around "looking" for things in people, God just shows you so you can help them. There are many things people are bound with besides outright sins they've committed, but curses from birth from the bindings of the sins and iniquities of the fathers, and even inherited spirits (familiar to that family) are right there from birth.

There are many curses against marriages, Satan makes sure of that, and it's one reason for many of the problems. It has helped in our long marriage to remember when serious discussions arise that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood (each other), but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. The binding of a

curse or spirit can be behind the “dead serious” discussions.

Discernment can come in the form of dreams. In one of the infrequent dreams I’ve had, I saw a certain church with cigarette butts in piles on the floor, so knew something wrong was going on and we prayed for some things. We later found out that the leaders were smoking, so in that case the cigarettes were more literal than I would have thought.

I’m not down on those who are trying to get delivered from smoking as that can be tough to push out of your life, but when it’s the leaders who are long-time Christians and preach against smoking, that’s a different “picture.” But that helps you in the sense you may not want to encourage others to attend that church for a while. Along with one sin goes another, and we later learned that drinking and recreational drugs were also involved.

Without the gifts of discernment operating in our assemblies we sometimes don’t have a clue what’s going on, who needs deliverance from what, how to pray, or what their true motives are. These are just literal examples, but we’ve experienced hundreds of pictures over the years to help people, or ourselves. Our churches many times operate by sight in their decisions instead of the gifts of the spirit to know the real truth. We can be easily deceived if we left the weapons of our warfare outside the church doors. Remember Joshua and the Gibeonites, that moldy bread and old clothes they used to fool even Joshua. For one reason or another, our beloved Joshua didn’t check with the Lord or hear the prompting of the Lord saying, “these little tricksters are fooling you Joshua.”

Discerners also see and discern good things. I have seen money coming down on a business, money coming down on a person, and other blessings. Then you can ask God to bring the seed of that picture to fruition with faith. I’ve been blessed to see various kinds of angels, even on our property, the past few years. They come in many forms physically, and their duties or name shows on their stature and countenance. A few years back I was concerned because one of my daughters had to drive through some dangerous traffic every day, twice a day. As I was thinking about this I saw a huge angel pick up her car and carry it over the traffic and land it in front of her job site. I quit being concerned after that.

In the angels I've seen, a warrior angel can be huge with a mile-long wing span on both sides, stays in the same spot, looks alert and almost nervous to do battle. A few times I've heard (not with my ears) him say, "War is coming." We fight in prayer for our country daily as prayer can prevent judgments coming, but if the judgments have been spoken and they're coming upon us, the only thing that will stop them are the prayers of the saints, otherwise the judgments have a clear atmosphere without the power of words to stop them.

One angel was hanging over the roof of a business and literally swiping away enemies with one "hand" that tried to get in the door, which would most likely be spiritual hindrances. I've seen a teaching angel and protection angels around us. One will literally clamp itself to someone's house with long wing spans, and stay there.

One morning, in prayer with my husband, I was aware of a lot of commotion overhead in the atmosphere, it was like many, many angels being active and busy, and realized as I looked upward in the spirit that they were all excited and preparing for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. As I continued to "look" I saw many saints that have gone on before us helping also, and everyone in heaven was joyful, happy, preparing, setting the table, enjoying one another, and the impression that they and God could hardly wait the anticipation was so great. Well after all, it's a one-of-a-kind banquet. I tried to "see" if there were name tags and certain places for people to sit, but couldn't tell.

Discernment helps us to know who needs to repent, and so you can pray earnestly for them to repent. The interesting thing about discernment, if that's the word, is that much that you see and judge in the natural is the opposite of the discernment in the spirit. Some of those needing to repent you would think were the most put-together Christians around. That's why we're supposed to "look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen." Deception and cover up is Satan's biggest tool.

You may see little white things swimming around in someone, which may mean viruses. These are just a few examples to encourage you to stir up that gift that is in you. What I love about it is, that as the Spirit shows

you, you can pray many things for people and they never even know it. I like that background ministry of deliverance. Sometimes it encourages their faith to be told, but for some it's almost better that they don't hear what was against them. It depends on the situation and the person.

Sometimes you don't "see" things, but you just "know." You know something without being told. You may "feel" something is wrong but don't know how you know it. Some things you act on right away and either pray or understand them, others have to be filed away because you don't know it all yet.

So God will help you in your battles by what He puts **in** you, and by the Holy Spirit, an "ever present Help in time of need." And of course the other gifts, tongues and interpretation, prophecy, word of knowledge, wisdom, even the gift of giving which builds up many people in their time of need.

Sadly, many of you have read about these gifts for years but have not experienced them in your groups or churches, or have been taught how to use them. By God's grace, which has been ignored for too long, this is changing, and we thank Him.

If you're willing to go to battle for yourself and others, God will anoint you for war and deliver you from the hand of your enemy.

The gifts have multiple purposes, and without them we're fighting with both hands behind our backs. They awaken in us a desire to know Him more because He reveals many truths about Himself when you use His gifts (after all, you have to know Him to use them!). The entire purpose of revelatory giftings is to spur us into greater pursuit of Him. They arouse an appetite for God's presence because He will draw near to you if you're trying to help people get set free, and gift you accordingly. It's an added incentive to keep your life as spotless as possible because you want to continue to be used (I want to continue to see angels and pictures to help others!).

The gifts of the Spirit and moving in the supernatural are for any Christian who will make themselves available to God to set others free. Earnestly desire and ask for whatever gifts God is able to bless you with and that you're able to receive and operate. They're our main weapons of warfare.

Prayer (talking to God) is a Great Weapon of War

Prayer is tilling the ground for God to work in on your behalf until you get the full value of deliverance. We have a plaque by where we pray that says *Prayer Changes Things*, and we have to believe that so we don't get weary in well doing, but keep speaking those prayers, it's not vain repetition, but a believing God to keep pressing in with our words of faith. It's not that we're trying to talk Him into doing something He wants to do (and even died to do), but as we press in we're removing barriers and giving God opportunity to teach us what the opposition is. And to show we earnestly desire it!

There is so much written and taught about prayer, so this is just to encourage you to believe that prayer does change things, and to give you a recent prayer I've learned that you may not know about. I feel a power in this prayer when I pray it (my husband also, but we pray it separately because of schedules). It's a deep prayer that kind of includes the whole universe of God coming down on the earth. It is from Kimberly Daniels' book *Give it Back! God's Weapons for Turning Evil to Good, and Break Through the Enemy's Barriers to Reclaim What is Yours*. (All on front of book.)

I won't go into all the details as I would be quoting too much of her book, but you can sign up to be a Morning Commander by going into **www.kimberlydaniels.com**. The Lord gave her this prayer, and thousands are praying it and in conjunction with *Strang Communications* (*Charisma magazine*). It has to do with the morning fourth watch which is from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., basically to deprogram all the agendas of darkness before the break of dawn. Thousands of Commanders are praying this prayer on the fourth watch so you feel that power of agreement with them as you pray.

There are many verses attesting to victory at dawn, Jesus walked on water in the fourth watch, lepers collected the spoils, etc. A few of the scriptures are Ps. 110:3; 88:13; 67:5-6; 139:9; 49:13-14; Job 38:12-13; Judges 5:20; Mal. 4:2-3; Jer. 31:35-36; Gen. 1:14, and you will have more understanding if you get the teaching.

We have received more revelation and power since praying this prayer. I pray this every morning from 5:00 to 6:00, and I feel, and say, that I am gathering my spoils for the day, that I am capturing that day for myself, others, and my nation. The main **“Commander of the Morning”** prayer is:

“Father God, in the name of Jesus, I rise early to declare your Lordship! I get under the covering and anointing of the early riser. I come in agreement with the heavens to declare Your glory! Lord, release the mysteries unto me to bring heaven down to earth. The stars (chief angels) are battling on my behalf ahead of time. My appointed times have been set by God in the heavens. I declare spermatic words that will make contact with the womb of the morning and make her pregnant. At sunrise the dawn will give birth to the will of God and light will shine on wickedness to shake it from the heavens. At twilight my enemies will flee and newly founded spoils will await me at my destination. My destiny is inevitable!

“Oh God, let my prayers meet you this morning. I command the morning to open its ears unto me and hear my cry. Let conception take place that prayer will rain and be dispatched upon the earth to do Your will. I command the earth to get in place to receive heavenly instructions on my behalf. My lands are subdued! I command all the elements of creation to take heed and obey! As my praise resounds and the day breaks the earth shall yield her increase unto me. I declare that the first light has come!

“The first fruit of my morning is holy and the entire day will be holy. I prophesy the will of God to the morning so that the dayspring (dawn) will know its place in my days. I decree that the first light will shake wickedness from the four corners of the

earth. The lines (my portion) are fallen on my behalf in pleasant (sweet agreeable) places and I have a secure heritage.

“I am strategically lined up with the ladder that touches the third heaven and sits on earth. The angels are descending and ascending according to the words that I speak. Whatever I bind or loose on earth is already bound or loosed in heaven. Revelation, healing, deliverance, salvation, peace, joy, relationships, finances and resources that have been demonically blocked are being loosed unto me, now! What is being released unto me is transferring to every person that I associate myself with, I am contagiously blessed!

“As I command the morning and capture the day, time is being redeemed. The people of God have taken authority over the fourth watch of the day. The spiritual airways and highways are being high jacked for Jesus. The atmosphere of the airways over me, my family, my church, my community, my city, my state, my nation and the world is producing a new climate. This new climate is constructing a Godly Stronghold in times of trouble. The thinking of people will be conducive to the agenda of the Kingdom of Heaven. Every demonic agenda or evil thought pattern designed against the agenda of the Kingdom of Heaven is destroyed at the root of conception, in Jesus name!

“I come into agreement with the saints, as we have suffered violence, we take by force! No longer will we accept anything that is dealt unto us in our days. I declare that the Kingdom has come and the will of God will be done on earth as it is in heaven. As the sun rises today, let it shine favorably upon the people and the purposes of God. Daily, destiny is my portion because I have no thought for tomorrow. I am riding on the wings of the morning into a new day of victory. God, you

separated the night and the day to declare my days, years, and seasons. I am the light of the earth and I have been separated from darkness. This light declares my destiny!

“The Lord has given me dominion over the elements and all the work of His hands. He has placed them under my feet. Because I fear the name of the Lord, the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings and I shall tread down the wicked until they become ashes under my feet. I commit to walk in this dominion daily. I decree and declare a new day, a new season and a fresh anointing. As the ordinances of the constellation have received orders from God on my behalf, they shall manifest in the earth realm.

“The ingredients of my destiny are programmed into my days, years, and seasons. I bind every force that would attempt to capture my destiny illegitimately. I plead the blood of Jesus over every principality, power, ruler of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places assigned against my purpose. I bind every destiny pirate, destiny thief and destiny devourer in the name of Jesus! They are dethroned and dismantled and have no influence over my days. Every curse sent against my days is reversed and boomeranged back to the pits of hell. I displace the Luciferian spirit.

“I bind every false light bearer and counterfeit son of the morning. My prayers will disrupt dark plans and give my enemies a non-prosperous day. I have victory over my enemies every morning. Because I obey the Lord and serve Him, my days will prosper! This is the day that the Lord has made and I will rejoice and be glad in it! Amen.”

Bind & Loose in Prayer

This is also a good time to bind and loose because in Matthew 16:19 Jesus says, “I will give to you the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” This is your ladder from earth to heaven with the angels going up and down the ladder (Gen. 28:19) according to your prayers (words) of binding and loosing.

A good book for binding and loosing is *Shattering Your Strongholds* by *Liberty Savard*.

During this morning prayer time I bind myself (and others) to God, His will, plans, mind, and thoughts for the day, to the truth of God, to the blood of Jesus and its healing power, protection, covering, and cleansing, whatever is on your heart. Then loose whatever you don’t want. This can go into every area of life and is good to pray for others. It is a key given us so you may want to learn more about it.

A Prayer for Your Children

Following is a prayer for you to pray for your children, and if you don’t have any, to pray for other people’s children. This is from *Give It Back!* book.

“I repent for my sins and any iniquities of my past or present that may work against the lives of my children in a negative fashion. I call out my children by name [Name each child aloud.] I thank You for the salvation, healing, deliverance, and prosperity of my children.

“Let every hidden thing operating behind the scenes be exposed by the spotlight of the Holy Ghost. I command every generational sin to be disconnected from my bloodline, in Jesus’ name! I curse every demon to the root that transferred through the umbilical cord, and I plead the blood over the navel(s) of my children. The blessings shall flow through their lineage, and

the curses are blocked and bound. Every destiny devourer is cut off from my seed.

“My seed shall live and fulfill the perfect will of God in the earth. The power of peer pressure and ungodly association is broken. It is replaced by the pressure of the Holy Ghost and closer relationship with God. My children are not bound by the spirit of the world. All fetishes hiding behind fads are exposed and renounced. Every vicious cycle ruling over my seed by association, incantation, or generation is destroyed by the whirlwind of the Lord. All word curses spoken ignorantly or intentionally are cut off from my children forever.

“I close every illegitimate door that has been opened against them now. Uncommon favor and doors that the Lord has ordained are wide open. I call all demonic seeds, plans, nightmares, omens, and false visions that have been assigned in the dream lives of my children to dry up. I plead the blood of Jesus over my children wherever they sleep. Incubus, Succubus, spirits of molestation, masturbation, and all other perverse acts are far from them. My seed is holy, separated unto the Lord, and cannot be contaminated by darkness.

“Rebellion and disobedience shall not rule over my seed. Sickness and disease shall not rule over my seed. Poverty and lack shall not rule over my seed. My seed has victory over death, hell, and the grave. The words of this prayer are programmed in the heavens forever! Amen.

Prayer Changes Things! So, pray dear readers.
Don't just think about it, pray about it!

P A R T III

GOD'S BATTLE
WEAPONS & STANCE
ON OUR BEHALF!



NO BATTLES, NO VICTORIES

He is a **mighty Warrior God**. Accept Him as such. And because He is, “He teaches my hands to war and my fingers to fight” (Ps. 144:1). We were taught to pray that psalm years ago, and I have a suspicion that’s why we’re deliverance ministers and teaching about warfare. I still pray it almost daily. The Word is clear that our Lord is “A Man of War” (Ex. 15:3). “There is a time of war, and a time of peace,” (Eccl. 3:8), and this is warfare time for the church, and yes, little old you. God is pointing the finger at you and saying, you’re going to have peace for eternity, but for now get busy, get delivered, find out how to war, and you don’t have to be scared if you say your prayers and have faith in God.

If the thought of battles makes you tremble a little, Part III of this book should calm you down and prepare you for war. The enemy doesn’t go away because you ignore him, he keeps beating you up, knowing you don’t have a spirit of fighting in you.

Exodus 6:5-7 speaks of God bringing His people out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and out of their bondage with great judgments, and that’s how we’ll know He is God, when He brings us out from the burdens. Our Christ is a “burden-removing, yoke-destroying” Son of God, and He’s just like His Father. They’re both nice, but they’re filled with warfare and strategies for war. And you know why? We’re always at war! You can’t hide under an army blanket, the alarm has gone off, put your whole armor on and get out there, even if you lose a few.

Isaiah 41:11, God Almighty speaking, “They that war against you shall be as nothing and shall perish.” That includes people, principalities and powers, and the weaknesses in you that seem undefeatable, but aren’t. Darkness is always trying to dissuade us *from* what God is trying to persuade us *to*. If you hold back from battles because you’re not in the mood and there’s other things you’d rather do, God will excuse you from battle like He did most of Gideon’s army because they forgot they were supposed to be warriors, lapped up the water with their faces (or spirits) down and forgot to keep an eye on the enemy. They got sent home to bed, and never got to participate in a wondrous victory.

You may face battles and feel fearful, and yes, it’s great to be healed of fear, but many times our healing isn’t complete in the different areas we face, and when fear comes in, do whatever you need to do anyway. I always remember *Joyce Meyer* saying, “Do it afraid.” That’s better than not doing it at all.

The children of Israel had a bad habit of complaining almost immediately after God gave them a great deliverance. Don’t do that. If God even gives you a teeny victory (maybe you didn’t say the words you wanted to say!) give a big thanks. The Song of Moses in Exodus 15 is beautiful, they were ecstatic over the wide-screen Red Sea victory, but shortly after, their dancing turned to mourning and murmuring because they couldn’t find water. Like maybe after God parted the Red Sea, lifted up the waters on both sides, and then had it crash down on Pharaoh’s chariots, He couldn’t manage another water miracle, that was His miracle for the month.

If they had started praising God for His mighty works, knowing His nature would have been to supply water, they could have saved themselves from wailing and weeping, and probably depression, it’s depressing to cry long and hard. And what kind of testimony is that to your kids, oh dad and mom are crying again because God won’t help them.

Even if you’re way down on the ladder, or under the ladder, as far as knowing God well and being a “super-Christian,” the following should give you encouragement, Isaiah 48:11:

“For My own sake, for My own sake, I do it [I refrain and do not utterly destroy you]; for why should I permit My name to be polluted and profaned [which it would be if the Lord completely destroyed His chosen people]? And I will not give My glory to another [by permitting the worshipers of idols to triumph over you].”

Oh, I get it, He doesn't want His name polluted by destroying us, or permitting enemies to triumph over us. If you think He won't give you victory because you're so ugly, reach out that He likes His name to look good too, just like you do.

If you're in a battle **declare words of victory**, and you won't have any trouble finding them in the Battle Book, declare your victory, declare those things that aren't as though they are. Declare, **The Lord has redeemed His servant** ———, and put your polluted name there, and believe God to unpollute it, or is it dispollute?

One of my favorite means of victory in the Bible is Judges 6:34:

“But the **Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon with Himself and took possession of him.**”

If you don't give up and continue fighting (struggling) for your victory in any area of your life, or others', He will do whatever it takes to supply the need for your victory. “My God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” The riches in glory are to supply **our** needs. Who else does He have the riches for?

You don't think of hornets being riches from heaven, but in Deuteronomy 7:20 and a few other places, it says:

“Moreover the Lord your God will send the **hornet** among them until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed.”

A hornet is a “fierce kind of wasp, about an inch long, strong and greedy of food, and one that caused terror among men and beasts.” There are instances of whole nations being driven out by such creatures and this is attested to by ancient writers.

Well, He doesn’t send hornets now, that’s Old Testament. But that’s how He is, and I believe that if I need hornets sent to defend me He will send hornets, or send things that sound like hornets to scare my enemy.

If you ever feel like a wimp, these are good verses to meditate on:

“The Lord God is my Strength, **my personal bravery**, and my invincible army. He makes my feet like hinds feet and will make me to walk, not to stand still in terror, but to walk, and make spiritual progress upon my high places of trouble, suffering, or responsibility!” (Habakkuk 3:19)

“The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a Mighty One, a Savior Who saves! He will rejoice over you with joy; He will rest in silent satisfaction and in His love He will be silent and make no mention of past sins, or even recall them; He will exult over you with singing.

“Behold, at that time I will deal with all those who afflict you: I will save the limping ones and gather the outcasts and will make them a praise and a name in every land of their shame.

“When I reverse your captivity before your eyes, says the Lord.” (Zephaniah 3:17-19)

I’m praising the Lord right now!! Let’s keep this going:

“There is none like God, O Israel, **Who rides through the heavens to your help** and in His majestic glory through the skies.

“The eternal God is your refuge and dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms: He drove the enemy before you and thrust them out, saying, Destroy!

“Happy are you, O Israel, and blessing is yours! Who is like you, **a people saved by the Lord**, the Shield of your help, the Sword that exalts you! Your enemies shall come fawning and cringing, and submit feigned obedience to you, and you shall march on their high places.” (Deuteronomy 33:26-29)

His majestic glory will ride through the heavens and the skies to us. Our enemies are His enemies, and when He stirs up His anger they better start praying, whether they’re powers of darkness from the spirit world, curses, or enemies in the form of people working through people, to destroy you.

“And the Lord shall cause **His glorious voice to be heard** and the **descending blow of His arm** to be seen, coming down with **indignant anger** and with the **flame of a devouring fire**, amid **crashing blast and cloudburst, tempest, and hailstones**.

“At the **voice of the Lord** the Assyrians (or whoever our enemies are) will be stricken with dismay and terror, when **He smites them with His rod**.

“And every passing **stroke of the staff of punishment and doom which the Lord lays upon them** shall be to the sound of Israel’s timbrels and lyres, when in battle **He attacks Assyria** (or whoever our enemies are) with **swinging and menacing arms**.” (Isaiah 30:30-32)

I like to picture Him attacking arthritis, cancer, mental illness with “swinging and menacing arms.” But we have to want it and be sincere,

and dead serious so to speak, about our deliverance and calling on the Lord of Hosts to fight for us.

When you read how the Assyrians were you don't want to face even one of them. A description of the Chaldeans in Habakkuk chapters 1 and 2, is enough to make you crawl under the bed with your blankie. The point being is our enemies are not any worse than theirs, they come in all forms and names, but the spirit of life in these passages is saying that, look, look how God is, and what He did back then is really to show us what He will do now for us.

The Fighter for your deliverance is with you and in you, don't give up if you seem to face insurmountable problems in your life, go down (well, maybe we shouldn't say down), fighting. If you know of any deliverance people, call them, write them, ask them for prayer, and at least get the seeds for your deliverance out there. **You** call upon the Name of the Lord. We're not supposed to lose any battles in our life, even though it may seem that way temporarily, and who doesn't learn a lot through the battles? Don't fear your enemies:

“When you go forth to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, do not be afraid of them, for the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you. As you draw near to battle against your enemies, let not your minds and hearts faint: fear not, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them.

“For the Lord your God is He Who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to save you.” (Deut. 20:1-3)

Remember: **The spoils of every battle belong to you!** Gather them by faith and take them into your life. Do this by your words of faith.



KING HEZEKIAH

There are many clues for us in the battle between King Hezekiah and the Assyrians. Remember, God said, I will not leave you clueless, but I'll teach your hands to war and your fingers to fight.

Hezekiah & the Mean Assyrians

(2 Chronicles 31)

This is an interesting battle, and we can learn what to do and not do. Sennacherib, meaning “the moon-god increases brethren,” (don't name your kids that), had big victorious plans, he marched in (like our infirmities and problems do sometimes) and invaded Judah and encamped against Israel's fortified cities, or against your body or against your mind.

So Hezekiah walked in wisdom, went to work, and:

“Stopped the waters of the fountains which were outside the city by enclosing them with masonry and concealing them. They stopped up all the springs and the brook which flowed through the land, saying, Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?”

He also:

“Took courage
Built up the wall that was broken
Raised towers upon it
Built another wall
Strengthened the Millo in the City of David
Made weapons and shields in abundance
Set captains of war over the people
Gathered them together and spoke encouraging words to them.”

I like his spirit, which shows through his words:

“Be strong and courageous. Be not afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him, **for there is Another with us greater than all those with him.**”

That “Another” is with us, so take courage, build up your spirit, raise your faith, build more walls of faith by speaking and praying words of victory, put on your weapons of the armor of God, get help from some captains if you need to, and speak encouraging words to everyone around you, and if you’re weak, say you’re strong for this battle. He knew how to talk:

“With Sennercherib is the arm of flesh (hordes), but with us is the Lord our God to **help us and to fight our battles.**”

It goes on to say that the people “relied on the words of Hezekiah.” Let’s rely on God’s words to us, and lean on them even if you’re feeling like you fell on a sword.

Sennercherib sent his servants to Hezekiah and all of Judah to start his first strategy of war: *to put FEAR in them*. And this is how our enemies (thoughts) will speak to us. You think this over and apply it to your own battles:

“Hezekiah, God is leading you on in order to let you die by famine and thirst, saying, The Lord our God will deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria. And Hezekiah has taken away all the other gods and commanded Judah and Jerusalem to worship before one altar and burn incense upon it?”

What a braggart, and this is how sin talks to you:

“Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands in any way able to deliver their lands out of my hand?

“Who among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed was able to deliver his people out of my hand, **that your God should be able to deliver you out of my hand?**

“So now, do not let Hezekiah (God) deceive or mislead you in this way, **and do not believe him**, for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of my hand or the hand of my fathers. **How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!**”

Battle clue: Don't listen to the taunts of your enemy that are hindering your victory.

This guy was so sure of himself because of his family battle heritage, he even wrote letters to Hezekiah insulting the Lord God of Israel and speaking against Him, reiterating his favorite theme, “As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people out of my hand, so shall not the God of Hezekiah deliver His people out of my hand.” He and his servants puff up even more and “they shouted it loudly in the Jewish language” (they spoke the language!). Their reason, “to frighten and terrify them, that they might take the city.”

Battle clue: Don't be frightened and terrified so your enemy can come in and take over through that weakness. You can fake courage if you have

to until it becomes real. They can't see into your heart, but they can hear your words.

If your enemy is cancer, disease of any kind, depression, unhappy marriage, drugs, don't let it talk to you, taunt you that you'll never get rid of me, your God can't deliver you, I and my family of spirits and curses multiplied have been with you a long time and your God hasn't delivered you, give up and come down off the walls of salvation and surrender! We can start responding emotionally to the words of darkness and start retreating instead of speaking bold words of faith. Faith has a boldness when spoken.

What did Hezekiah (you) do? **"He prayed and cried to heaven."**

What did God do? **"And the Lord sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria."**

What a welcome sight that must have been. The enemies were always bragging about their fathers being so great, but look what an army our Father has, one of His angels can cut off any army in the world. Their big-time training must not have included how to stand against an angel. God's forces of Light are so much stronger than the forces of darkness that try to come in and take our land of health, children, finances, or ministry.

So mighty Sennacherib "returned with shamed face to his own land." And here's the mighty family loyalty: "And when he came into the house of his god, they who were his **own offspring** slew him there with the sword." What a difference a day makes.

Our line of true inheritance in battles is not from some of our sniggley forefathers, but from the seed of Abraham to being the offspring of Christ, and don't we call God our Father? Well, take that any enemy who is bragging about his background and how dangerous and mighty his heritage is.

Great victories bring great temptations. Hezekiah got sick, he didn't respond the right way for this great victory, but "his heart became proud at such spectacular response to his prayer."

Battle clue: Don't be proud or take glory for your victories.

These are not old-time, old-victories, old-testament stories: they are alive today for us, showing the tactics of our enemies and how we should respond. Your enemies are not going to change, they're still rotten to the core, but we can change in our faith, responses, and words, and trust our Commander to lead us in and out of battle.



THE “LORD OF HOSTS” IS HIS NAME

This is my favorite part of the book, and it awes me when I read in this small Bible the huge, hundreds of things God will do to fight for us to make us look and act more like Him in preparation for our face-to-face meeting.

The highest weapon of spiritual warfare is His great presence. The biggest, best, and most effective weapon of your spiritual warfare is GOD! And you have Him, inside and outside!

When you're reading the following truths, think about how God acted when His children were in battle, whether personal, a family battle, or a nation battle, or just in the struggles of life. Our spirit can respond and say Amen to His Spirit of Warfare on our behalf. We can be victorious in every area of our life, but before victory there is a battle. We are all going through battles daily, big and small, so we need to stir up our faith by hearing the Word of God. He really wants us to win because He's the Lord and Commander of His army of believers, and if we follow Him we take the right path for victory in every battle. They may not be instant or as fast as we want, but through the battles we need to draw closer to the Lord no matter how miserable we feel, and believe that He knows what weapons we're to use for every battle.

God has access to your soul through battles that is otherwise denied Him. He doesn't "put" accidents or harm on you, but since there is no defeat in Him, if you trust Him through the battle, and even rejoice in it, you will be victorious. It's good to remember that God looks at things through an eternal perspective, and your soul is more important than your body.

We can feel so insignificant and think that the Lord is just in the "big" battles, and He's too mighty and powerful to concern Himself with catching the sparrow (or Christian) that falls to the ground. He is as interested, concerned, and involved as you want Him to be, in every battle you face in life, from a headache, a spat with your husband, or a serious disease. At times it's the little infirmities that drive us to distraction. Oh, how we need God for our everyday life, it takes faith in how the Word talks about Him (I guess that would be how He talks about Himself) to be victorious in our day by day life, seeking God, taking care of our families, being content, being fruitful; and it seems so ordinary to us, but it's not ordinary to God who is watching our every move and our every word, and judging.

He thinks, that's awesome that you overcame problems at work, crying kids at home, you just kept bearing fruit all day, and you had faith that I was going to help you through this Friday that was pretty much like Thursday, Wednesday, etc. You even had faith to get some dinner cooked. And men, when you came home and were tired, you had faith and grace to stop and play with your kids and help your wife. Well that's nothing, millions of people do that, what's so big about it? Millions of people are not doing it with grace and faith, and are not content and praising God while they're doing it. We need to get that "big time" world mentality out of our minds, and exercise our faith for everyday manifestations in the Spirit, and humble ourselves toward a "normal" life, which God has given to most of us.

If God calls you into a worldwide ministry, that takes great faith too, but don't let the visions of sugarplums dance in your head if God hasn't called you to travel in foreign countries and teach and preach to crowds.

Thank God for those ministries, and we can do a lot for them by sending in our little/big checks from our households, but that's not most of us.

I belabor this some in other books—it must be my age. But we do need God fighting for us in everyday situations and problems, and not think what we're doing is nothing, that's a lie of the devil to hinder our growth in the house/kids/marketplace work. The biggest challenge we all have is to keep our hearts right as God dwells with those “of a humble and contrite heart.” He wants our fellowship and our right spirit while we're checking the dates on the meat at the supermarket (the motive being not to poison our family), or making 10 trips into the house with the groceries.

Satan has distracted us from being fruitful and growing in our everyday family situations and having appreciative concentration on that. He makes us think, and we do it to our own thinking, that everyday family life is not all that important or big wow stuff.

I love what God told us October 12, 2005 concerning “greatness.”

“And the Lord says to **all** that there is in the world a tradition of men that reaches out to do great things, but you need to understand that this is man's standard and it is not the Lord's standard. For the Lord's standard is that you do that which the Lord gives you to do, and if you do it, **this will be a great thing.**

“And in doing that which the Lord says, others will also benefit from that which you do, but if you do great things in the natural few will benefit; but the Lord says to you, reach out for the things of the Lord for these are eternally great, but the things in this world that man calls great perish.”

His Names Reveal His Battle Stance

So, God, through His Son, His gifts, and His Holy Spirit will anoint you for war and deliver you from the hand of your enemy. He has tried so hard to reveal Himself to us so we know what to expect of Him, thereby having faith, *in* Him, how He is, what is in Him for us. He reveals an aspect of His divine nature by compound names that have to do with His battle attitude and stance.

We're familiar with some of these unique names, *Yawweh-Nissi* ("the Lord My Banner") or *Yahweh-Jirah* ("the Lord My Provider") or *Yahweh-Rapha* ("the Lord My Healer").

But there is one Name He uses more than any other, approximately 290 times! And the context of hundreds of other Scriptures includes the meaning of this revelation of God. That name is *Yahweh-Sabaoth*, "**the Lord of Hosts.**" This means "**the God of the Armies.**" By this revelation, which is the most frequent one used, He teaches us how He is, and as you can see from the previous chapters, "Warfare" was His Name. He's saying, I'm always in battle mode because My people and nations are always in a battle. Once in a while I'll give you a refreshing and rest, but that's to face the next battle, for yourself, family, or church.

When we pray with people for deliverance, we try to remember that we are following the Lord of Hosts into this battle, and that He is the Lord of Powers, and He will take us through this battle and cause us to be victorious because He revealed Himself that way to us. Just like He always did for His people, when they obeyed, He will "deliver you from your strong enemy, and from those that are too mighty for you, and He will rescue you" (Ps. 18:17-19). Rescue means you were in the middle of something uncomfortable or painful and needed rescuing. We also, by words and faith, place ourselves in heavenly places with Christ Jesus and operate with the truth that we're the head and not the tail, and all principalities are under our feet.

When you gather the truths from the Bible on how God acted and what He did to save His people it builds up your faith that He will do

whatever is necessary to battle for you. All of the following examples and variations are for us today. In our warfare experiences we have called upon some of these to save people out of dire situations and our faith rises up in battle because we know how our God is.

Our enemies can become like grasshoppers in our sight, and the reason they seem like giants is because we're being deceived by darkness, and our eyes aren't beholding our Warrior God. Reader, rejoice when you read the following pages.

What the Lord Will Do To Save You and Keep You

Speaking His Word for the Battle

God will speak whenever necessary to you in your "chosen" battle. Look at the battle as God's choice for you. He will speak His Word to you by His angels, Himself, prophets, a friend, a pastor, a spirit, even through a donkey! He has a way of getting His truth to you. In the book of Joshua they were breaking the laws of conquest, and God wanted to tell them about it (Judges 2:1-4). He sent an **Angel** into Joshua's camp and the angel rebuked them for not breaking down their enemies' altars, and said that was a big mistake so now I'm not going to drive these enemies out, you live with them if you won't get rid of them. You're going to be sorry because they're going to be like thorns in your sides, and their gods are going to try to snare you, so you're going to have to resist hard and protect your children from the dangers of getting ensnared. So all the people wept, but it was too late to change those words,

Throughout the Bible it's like God is saying, wake up My people, look what your daddy will do for you, you just keep messing around with my words and salvation, your children are suffering because of it, you go to the synagogue and church, shake hands at the door, toss me some praises, and then go home to your idols and love of your own life.

Your biggest deliverance will be what God will do **inside** you to transform you into His image. The battle of the flesh almost gets you some-

times, and Satan sees those weaknesses and comes after you, and if you're not running towards God constantly you'll lose the battle of winning more of God and His ways. He's the greatest thing that has ever happened to me, and I want Him to know it. I've lost a lot of battles for a while, but eventually ended up winning more as I learned what He was like, and that I was running after a Real Winner. We've got some serious enemies lodged and working in our minds, soul, and bodies, but He will show us how to get delivered from even ourselves.

God is keeping track of you to see where you need help; He was always sending angels to meet people on the way, to warn them or instruct them. Sometimes they saw the angels, other times they just heard a voice. God spoke to His people many times and that's why we need to learn to hear His voice (no voice, no direction). From Genesis to Revelation, that's His way. He had a covenant with Jacob and spoke to Laban one time and said you'd better not harm Jacob, even though it's in your power to do so. Laban told Jacob, I'd like to harm you as I think you've done me wrong, and I've never liked you well enough to give you a fair shake, but God spoke to me. Maybe he didn't want Jacob to think he was turning soft and was letting him get by with something.

He spoke to Elijah in a "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12). He's always speaking; learn to hear the promptings.

Storms & Weather

God sent a "**very heavy rain and dreadful fall of hail.**" "**Thunder and hail, and fire** (lightning) ran down to and along the ground." "There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the weighty hail." "The hail beat down all the vegetation and shattered every tree of the field." Pharaoh said to Moses, "Entreat God, there's been enough of these mighty thunderings and hail [these voices of God]." (Exodus 9:18-34)

To help Joshua out in a battle God "**cast great stones from heaven and they died**, and more died from the **hailstones** than they which Joshua slew with the sword." (Joshua 10:11)

The mean Philistines were drawing near to attack Israel, “But the Lord **thundered with a great voice and threw them into confusion.**” (1 Sam. 7:10)

When the people asked for a king to be over them instead of the Lord, because they wanted to be like all the other nations, “Samuel called to the Lord and **He sent thunder and rain that day,** and all the people greatly feared.” (1 Sam. 12:18)

Joshua found out that God will do mighty acts to save His people. Don’t be afraid of the battles, because it’s in the middle of these that you see His works. Joshua “spoke to the Lord, and said in the sight of Israel, **Sun, be silent and stand still at Gibeah, and you, moon, in the Valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed,** until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies.” (Joshua 10:12-13)

Got that? The whole solar system stopped revolving for a day so they could finish their battle. “And there was no day like that before it or after it, **that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man:** for the Lord fought for Israel.” (Joshua 10:14)

When Hezekiah was sick and wanted a sign from the Lord that he would be healed, Isaiah the prophet asked him, “shall the shadow [denoting the time of day] go forward ten steps, or go back ten steps?” You’d think his answer would have been, well either one would be great, thanks. But Hezekiah answered, “it is an easy matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps; so let the shadow go back ten steps. So Isaiah the prophet cried to the Lord, and **He brought the shadow the ten steps backward** by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.” So the solar system was going one way in the morning, and actually turned backwards 10 degrees for a sign for Hezekiah. The sign was also given to show Hezekiah that God would deliver Jerusalem from the king of Assyria. (2 Kings 20:9-11)

Angels & stars will fight for you. When the Canaanites (or whatever your enemy is) came storming against Israel (or your name) with their mighty kings, Israel met them by the waters of Megiddo. This was a strategic city of Canaan because it guarded the main pass through the

Carmel mountain range. Judges 5:19-21 says, “**From the heavens the stars fought, from their courses they fought.**” It sounds like the heavens sent great hail and rain, causing a great flood in the river bed of Kishon which swept away multitudes of the enemy downstream to the Mediterranean because, “The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon.”

Saved From Depression & Fed by Angels

(1 Kings 19:4-8)

Elijah was exhausted from all his trials, sat down under a juniper tree, and requested that he might die. (He was a man of like passions just like we are, even to the passion of depression.) He even said, God, this is enough, take away my life, I’m no better than all my crazy ancestors.

As he was sleeping, an **angel touched him**, and said, Arise and eat. And there was a cake baking on the coals, and a cruse of water by his head. How great is our God!

Depression makes you tired so he slept again, and the **angel of the Lord came again the second time**, and **touched him**, and said, Arise and eat.

That must have been healthy organic food because it says he went in the **strength** of that meat **forty days and forty nights**. How strong is our God!

So one day you can be weak with the battles of life and asking God to do away with you, and two days later you can run for forty days and nights. Don’t give up! He will always save you if you want it and let Him!

He’ll Send Birds to Feed You

(1 Kings 17:4-6)

Elijah was in duress and God told him to go hide by the brook Cherith, and God commanded the **ravens to feed him there**. It’s interesting that the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning and bread and

flesh in the evening for many days. It doesn't sound like that would be enough to fill me up unless a raven has a bigger mouth than I thought. And I like my bread toasted and my meat cooked. Hopefully I wouldn't complain and ask God for a hot chocolate.

God Fed Flijah by Multiplying Food

(1 Kings 17:8-16)

The famine was great in the land so God sent Elijah to a widow woman who had only a handful of meal and a little oil left for her and her son. Elijah had faith in God's words, "For thus says the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth." She believed the word of the Lord and saved herself, her son, and Elijah.

God Uses Miraculous Demonstrations

(1 Kings 18:17-40)

Elijah and Ahab and 400 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah had a good old-fashioned showdown at Mount Carmel. Elijah had the audacity to disagree with king Ahab, and you know how some people are when you try to correct them, run for the hills.

Elijah said, you great almighty guys, put a bullock on some wood and I'll do the same, then call on the name of your gods, and I'll call on the name of the Lord. And the God that answers by fire, let him be God. Oh that would take faith in front of that crowd of heathen. From morning to noon they cried, O Baal, hear us, leaping upon the altar. They were getting frantic now to prove their ministry, and started cutting themselves with knives until blood gushed out upon them.

They didn't give up easy and kept prophesying from noon until evening, squawking and leaping. No answer. Elijah stepped up to the plate, or altar, arranged a few things, and then asked God, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel,

and that I am your servant. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that you are the Lord God.” A 63 word prayer, and he didn’t wear himself out jumping on the altar and cutting himself to get God’s attention.

“Then the **fire of the Lord fell**, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.” My goodness, our God *is* a consuming fire! Then Elijah slew all the prophets. (They were probably worn out and couldn’t fight back.) What a showdown that day in Israel!

God Will Strengthen Your Legs to Escape

(1 Kings 18:45-46)

Soon after, Ahab was chasing Elijah on a horse to Jezreel. I love this, the “hand of the Lord was upon Elijah, and he ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.” This was a 30 mile foot race, Elijah must have scooted along the ground, robes flying and arms churning. He got there before Ahab’s galloping chariot. Our God will strengthen our bodies to “outrun” the principalities and powers chasing us. This same supernatural strength will go into our souls and spirits and give us wisdom and gifts to defeat our enemies.

God supernaturally strengthened His people for battle, just like He will for you today. David “**smote the Amalekites from twilight even to the evening of the next day.**” (1 Samuel 30:17) Some of our enemies take a while to defeat, I know from experience that darkness doesn’t give up easily. That reminds me, the other day during a meeting the Lord said: “Evil, wickedness, and darkness (the unholy trinity) are constantly in the battle, and they never give up, nor do they rest or sleep. You need to always be on guard and always remember that evil, wickedness, and darkness is always plotting and planning against the people of the Lord.”

Not fun to think of, but that’s a part of our life until we get out of here.

More Fire from God

(2 Kings 1:9-14)

King Ahaziah was after Elijah and sent his captains who found Elijah on the top of a hill. They said, “Thou man of God, the king has said, Come down.” And here goes Elijah again, and said, “If I am a man of God, then let **fire come down from heaven, and consume you and the fifty with you.**” So the fire came down and literally consumed them. I don’t know if they gathered ashes in urns in those days to send to the families because there was a lot of fleshly soot on the ground when God was through.

So the king sent another captain with fifty men. They said the same thing even though it didn’t work the first time, “O man of God, thus has the king said, Come down quickly.” Elijah said the same thing, why not, it worked for him before, “If I am a man of God, let **fire come down from heaven,**” which it did, and they went to the same place as the first fifty. God’s got everything up there and down here that we need; He doesn’t have to whip up a huge bonfire, He just sends down flashes of the fire that are in Him right down on top of people, places, and things.

The third captain was smarter as he came before Elijah, fell on his knees, and begged for his life and the life of his servants. The **angel of the Lord spoke to Elijah** and said to go down with him to the king and not be afraid. It pays big time to have the right attitude; instead of get down here Elijah, the king commands. His attitude was so humbling that God sent an angel to talk to Elijah and tell him how to respond.

God Will Heal Waters for You

Three times in the Bible God healed the waters: The waters of Marah by Moses (Exodus 15:23); the waters of Jericho by Elisha (2 Kings 2:19-22-25); the waters of the Dead Sea by God (Ezekiel 47:8-9).

The Lord Will:

“**Confuse** with a **mighty panic**.” (Deuteronomy 7:23)

“And the Lord caused the enemies to **panic**.” (Joshua 10:10)

“The Lord **thundered** with a great voice and threw the Philistines into **confusion**.” (1 Samuel 7:10)

“The Lord **confused** and **terrified** Sisera and all his chariot drivers and army.” (Judges 4:15)

God made the Syrian army **hear the noise of chariots and a great army** so they fled and left all the spoil for the lepers to gather. (2 Kings 7:6)

The **terror from God fell on towns**, and they didn’t pursue the sons of Jacob. (Genesis 35:5)

When David was in a battle with the Philistines, God told him to go around his enemies and come upon them over opposite the mulberry trees. “And when you **hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then bestir yourselves**.” (2 Samuel 5:23-25)

Those Ministering Spirits (Angels) Again

Angels struck the men of Sodom with **blindness**. When “Lot lingered, the **angels seized him** and his wife and his two daughters.” (Genesis 19:10-11)

An **Angel of the Lord slew 185,000** in the camp of Assyrians. (2 Kings 19:35)

When Peter was in prison **angels** smote him on the side so his chains fell off, and then the **angels** led him out. (Acts 12:5-10)

More Supernatural Interventions

The Lord made the **waters look like blood** so the Moabites thought the enemy kings had slain one another, so they went to get the spoil and got slain. (2 Kings 3:16-27)

The Lord **dried up the tongue of the Egyptian Sea.** (Isaiah 11:15)

God can use a **broom.** “I the Lord will sweep it (Babylon) with the **broom of destruction.**” (Isaiah 14:23)

He has **weapons of mass destruction.** (Isaiah 13)

God sure helped Gideon: When his army **blew trumpets** and **broke pitchers** and **shouted, all the host ran and fled** (Judges 7:20-21). God has unlimited weapons in His arsenal.

God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem. (Judges 9:23)

God can open your eyes to see your help, and **give your enemies blindness** (2 Kings 6:14-22). He opened the eyes of Elisha’s servant who was getting intimidated, and smote the Syrians with blindness. Aren’t you glad you’re on His side?

Jehoshaphat Didn’t Have to Fight

(2 Chronicles 20)

He was king of Judah for 25 years. He did a good job until he made an alliance with Ahab (sin). But before the alliance God fought for him. Word got to Jehoshaphat that there was coming against him “a great multitude from beyond the sea.” So he did what most of us would do, he “feared.” But in that fear he sought God and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. He spoke a beautiful prayer to God (read it), and God spoke back and said:

“Be not afraid or dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not your’s, but God’s.”

And then God told him where to find the enemies, and then the clincher:

“You shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.”

So while Jehos (that’s what they called him for short) sang and praised the Lord, **“the Lord sent ambushments against their enemies.”**

Praise is a Weapon

(2 Chronicles 20:21-23)

There was a big battle coming up, and Jehoshaphat “appointed singers to **“praise the beauty of holiness,”** and to say, **“Praise the Lord; for His mercy endures forever.”** When they began to sing and praise, the **Lord set ambushments against Ammon and Moab...and they were self-slaughtered.**” Meaning, because “they suspected betrayal, they all helped to destroy one another.”

God is good at that because He says “I will make those who oppress you **consume themselves, thus eating their own flesh;** and they will be drunk with their own blood.” (Isaiah 49:26)

God will not only give you strength but He will exhaust your enemies. The Egyptians were in trouble with God, but the Lord said that the **“spirit of the Egyptians within them** will become **exhausted, emptied out,** and will **fail.**” (Isaiah 19:3)

“The Lord has mingled a **spirit of perverseness, error, and confusion** within her leaders, causing Egypt to **stagger in all her doings** as a drunken man staggers in his vomit.” (Isaiah 19:14)

Your enemies and God’s enemies will continue to be defeated by very miraculous, interesting means. All of this isn’t about the Philistines, the Egyptians, etc., but it’s a picture story of how God acts and what lengths He will go to defend us. It has everything to do with your victory and how much you believe the Word for it. Of course God loves your enemies, but there are many sides to God besides love; in fact love of the innocent and those calling upon Him comes first, and He’s obligated because of

Christ's blood to defend you.

Most of us have had many enemies of God's Word in our very nature, whether in spirits, curses, wrong thinking, let's say hundreds of things that don't line up with God in our lives. These are the Ammonites, Egyptians, Philistines, whether in physical form or spiritual form. If you're being held back you have an enemy who is on the front lines keeping you back, and you need to destroy "it" before "it" destroys you. By destroy I mean get out of your life.

We need to get serious about deliverance instead of letting our enemies live among (in) us. If you burst out with anger on a regular basis, what is that? It's an enemy to hurt and destroy. Now who does that remind you of? Satan and his world. Now if you act like the devil in certain areas of your life, do you think you have an enemy on your battleground of life? Find out about your enemy instead of thinking well that's just me once in a while, I'll do better next time.

Face that enemy, seek God, find out why the devil speaks in you at times (oh yes, we know, you have the Holy Spirit, but does the Holy Spirit always have you?). You need to seek the prayer of agreement of someone else for that anger, and it could be a spirit. Oh no, a spirit? Who cares what it is as long as you get rid of it. Christians say, well I couldn't have a spirit in me. I'd rather say it's a spirit talking than that I chose to talk that way in anger to you. Or I'll just ignore that jealousy or envy in me and sing praises to the Lord for He is good. Spirits of anger are ugly, and anger feels a little monstrous if you see it attacking someone, especially a small child.

The whole Bible is a battlefield for people just like you and me, and they didn't get victory unless they fought for it. We get tired of fighting, but fight on, don't give up, pick up the sword of the spirit and keep calling on God. If you need deliverers sent to you, He'll do it. The most wicked ferocious enemy we face today is our own flesh, our own desires, that old spirit of Self, Self, Self. That love of our own life, which is more important to us at times than the life God wants to work in us.

We hear, well, nobody's perfect, but we have to continue going (fight-

ing) on for perfection, or as Hebrews 6:1 says, “Advancing steadily toward the completeness and perfection that belong to spiritual maturity.” If I see anger or jealousy flowing out of someone I do not immediately think, oh they’re a mature Christian, I can trust them. Spiritually mature Christians have control over their flesh (most of the time anyway!).

Of course Christians sin and we don’t throw them to the lions. God says, if you’re a Christian, go through whatever you have to and fight to get the fruit of a Christian in you instead of trying to keep sin covered and in check. Weaknesses kept in check will show up eventually anyway, unless you’re really an expert at deceiving yourself and others.

The Greatest Battle & Victory of All

The greatest victory of all time since the world began was when God raised His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, out of death and hell, where His soul descended after His death on the cross. This is in various books and writings but I like *Christ in Hell* by Nancy Angove. Yes, I read myriads of other books, and to me they all sound more intelligent and better written than mine, but I keep trying, and I did learn a lot about Christ in Hell years ago that I like to share.

Psalm 18 is the Resurrection Psalm and explains what God did to raise His Son. It speaks of hail stones, coals of fire, lightnings, the thundering voice of God, His arrows of deliverance, the waters of death and hell parting, riding upon a cherub to come and draw His Son out of that place that was holding Him captive.

You haven’t seen drama until you read Psalm 18 in that light. Without going into all the details here, the end result was you can be delivered from everything that is more like death or hell in you (call it what it is), than heaven, because Christ went through it for you.



KNOW YOUR ENEMY HE KNOWS YOU!

In this last chapter I'll give you one of the most important verses in the Bible after you've learned and followed John 3:16. It is John 10:10:

“The thief (Satan) comes only in order to STEAL and KILL and DESTROY. I (Jesus) came that they (you) may have LIFE, and have it ABUNDANTLY.”

So whoever and whatever is stealing from you, trying to kill you, and trying to destroy your life in any way or any part is caused by your enemy Satan and his kingdom. Get him out of there.

And whatever in your life is causing blessing and fruit and good things is from God. Thank Him for it.

I wish this could be written for everyone in the world to see and believe. There is such confusion and God is being blamed for all the bad evil wicked things that Satan does. Obviously people don't understand God's nature or Satan's nature.

This is a serious problem and will not be covered in-depth in this

chapter, but want to get the main thought out there. God has made it plain in His Word how to prosper and how to protect yourself and your family, the prayers to make, the confessions to make, and how to receive every blessing.

Most in the world don't earnestly try to know God, don't particularly care about God, even though believing there is a God, and ignorance of God's ways can give Satan an open door to come in and confuse the situation. Our free will is very important to God, that's why He gave us one, and He's very polite not to intrude. So many people walk about unprotected, making wrong choices, not hearing God's warnings, have accidents and harm happen, look up to heaven and curse God.

God is not stealing from you, God is not killing you, and God is not destroying your life or anyone's life. God is trying to give you life more abundantly but you gotta play by His rules.

Satan is robbing you, and trying to kill you, knowing God will get the blame, and the more we blame God the more we're on the devil's side.

A well-known woman whose husband is in politics was recently saying, because her son had been killed, that she keeps God out of her public discussions because she had to think about a God who wouldn't protect her wonderful kind-hearted son, that God didn't only not protect him, but God's hand blew him from the road and even participated in her son's death. She said she had to accept the fact that God promises enlightenment and salvation, but doesn't promise protection.

That nice woman did not know who her enemy was and blamed the wrong source for his death. I felt sad when I read that because many millions feel the same way. Why didn't God protect? Why the earthquake, the storms, the tornadoes...the list is endless. God has all power in heaven and earth but He doesn't overstep His boundaries that people give Him and cheat. If people aren't praying and believing they are unprotected, and Satan can use car accidents, diseases, and even has power over "mother-nature" at times. Yes that's true. And if you know how to pray you can change not only the storms of life that come against you but the storms of nature.

In a recent *Newsweek* article I was reading a debate between a well-known pastor and an atheist, who asked the pastor if anyone, say a little girl, ever died after he prayed for them. The pastor said yes. The atheist said, you mean God killed a little girl. The pastor said, well sometimes God says no and sometimes God says yes or wait. As wonderful a pastor as he was, he didn't have the authority or knowledge to declare to this atheist that Satan was the killer, not God. It's hard to believe all that Satan is getting by with, laughing in the second heaven at us. Let's be clear who our enemy is so we can give a positive confession of what Satan is like and how wonderful our God is.

"Things" do happen, but many times they could be totally worse, and God always brings us out into new life through every situation.

People go through such heart-wrenching battles with cancer and diseases and depression, struggle, go through years of trying to get better, and all the time don't know who the enemy is they are fighting. You can flail the air with your arms and scream and cry, but in every battle on earth that has been won, they knew their enemy, their name, their territory, their battle weapons and their thinking. They weren't in this haze of thinking why is God doing this to me, why is this happening to me, God gives, God takes away, God forgot to protect this time, God is trying to teach me a lesson by sending excruciating pain, God the robber, God the killer, God the destroyer.

We need to get rid of that thinking and renew people's minds whenever we can to help them in their battles.

God is our Savior, Healer, Deliverer, Restorer, Protector, giving us life more abundantly whenever we let Him.

I don't want to be like those (and maybe I already am) who once they start talking or writing don't know when to quit. So we'll say "When" until the next time. And always remember that *Victory is the Eye of Every Battle*.

Nancy has authored:

“Get a Better Life” – mainly for women on how to obtain a better family, home, and social life.

“Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” – mainly for women on how to appreciate and be fulfilled in their own life.

“The Chocolate Cake Principle: Feasting on the Presence of the Lord” – will help you appreciate and obtain the presence of the Lord. Published by Xulon Press.

“To My Family: Remember Love” – good advice on love (which never fails!) and ***“Multiplying the Bread of Life”*** - expanding & enriching your prayer life. (These two books have been combined.)

“Multiplying the Bread of Life” – expanding & enriching your prayer life.

“Christ in Hell” – treasures about Christ’s Burial in Hell

“Get The Hell Out So Heaven Can Come In” – deals with deliverance from spirits and curses.

“Victory is the Eye of Every Battle” – how to avoid battles, get through them, and learn from them.

“THE BLESSING—What Did God Speak?” – the Blessing Spoken to Man.

“Bad Sex Stuff” – this booklet title speaks for itself.

“Life in the Death Rattle” - a real death and life family experience.

“Angels” study - everyone is interested in angels

Some of you (very few) have requested a picture of my husband, so I (not we) have included one below. Since this is a book about battles, I decided it would be appropriate for him to have his full battle regalia on. So here is Jack Angove ready for warfare:



