

Voice of Thanksgiving

Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

For the Week of October 18, 2009

Do we dare imagine that we—by thinking, and reading, and hearing—can understand or become partakers of the holiness of God? What folly! May we begin to thank God that we have our private prayer room, a place where we can be alone with Him. There, may we pray, “Let Your holiness, O Lord, shine more and more into our hearts that they may become holy.”

Andrew Murray from *The Believers Prayer Life*

The Life of Prayer

The Armor of Victory

David Williamson

Castles can be fascinating and a great way to view history. The Edinburgh castle overlooking Edinburgh, Scotland is one of those wonderful castles like those found many places across Europe. Here as is found on many castles, at the main gate of the castle is a guard of statues of two knights in armor. They look great in the armor of the period when they defended the castle. However, for years now they have just stood in place posing for pictures for the tourists.

At one time in history knights were a mighty force for armies. They would ride out to do battle with the enemies of the kingdom. Their armor was designed to give them protection so they could be fearless in battle. Over the years this protection got stronger and better until the knights were fully encased in metal armor and had to be lifted to their armor clad horses. However, through out the evolution of their armor, knights never just stood still. They always did battle.

The victorious Christian life is often portrayed as preparing for and doing battle. Unfortunately too many Christians act like the knights on the castles of today, standing in armor but never leaving their perch or pedestal. Not knowing their position or power in Christ, they are afraid to bother the enemy. They think the best way to survive is to be as quiet and hidden as possible. They think they can make it through life if they do not bother the enemy. If they do nothing to rile him up, then they will not be attacked. And to make matters worse, the enemy has so buffaloed many Christians they blame God for their problems and not the enemy who attacks even though they have worked not to disturb him. They do no battle and reap a mediocre life at best and never experience the joy of victory.

The most famous comparison of the Christian life with armor is found in Ephesians chapter six. Paul carefully laid out the various pieces of the Christian's armor; belt, breastplate, boots, shield, helmet, and sword. This armor is the great protection for the Christian; truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. This is the great battle armor of the Christian and what Paul expects all Christians to wear.

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Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- Ephesians 6:10-18 (NKJV)

This is the armor of the great Christian soldier who is marching as to war. Where the problem begins is people's thinking about the word "stand" found in this passage. Too often it is understood as a command to not move, or even to remain, like the knights in the castles today, out of the way of the battle. Standing has become an art form, with every aspect of life and living designed to not stir up trouble or offend the Devil. People tolerate almost anything, rather than fight against the Devil. And most people are buffeted by him and this seems to be a hopeless way of life.

This hopelessness should not be the Christian's lot in life. The armor is not for standing and taking a beating, it is for doing battle and winning great victories! Too long the Body of Christ has been a doormat to the Devil, allowing him to reap havoc in our life, family, and ministry. This should not be so. We are the victors, if you do not remember this, read the end of the Bible. It talks about a great victory and we are a part of winning the war. We have great armor and weapons that are mighty and designed for victory. We must change and stop thinking we are weak and helpless. We must rise up and do battle and win! Our victories are to overcome the attacks of the Devil here and now! God has given us all we need to win. The weapons of our warfare are mighty. We have the armor for protection and the Word of God for attack.

The power for a Christian warrior is the Word of God. And the Word of God is designed for our use in attack. Verses 17 and 18 of the armor passage explain the battle plan. We are to ***take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.*** The weapons of our warfare are simple, but powerful, speaking and praying the Word of God. The word translated stand in this passage is not passive, but active. It is the Greek word, "histemi" and means an active stance, to continue to present. One of the definitions of the word "present" is to introduce before a court as an object of inquiry. The idea here expressed is one of continually speaking the Word of God through prayer. Now remember this is a spiritual battle (see verse twelve), and so our job is to put on our armor and speak and pray the Word. Paul in this passage states that we attack by praying the Word of God.

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Jesus when tempted by the Devil presented the Word of God. His active attack in the battle was, “***It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God.***” Jesus had a great victory over the Devil. The Devil comes around at what he views as an opportune time. When he comes, we must be in battle armor and then turn the battle on him and attack, just as Jesus did. We do this by speaking and praying the Word of God.

If we are at the hospital and the doctor’s report is cancer, this is an opportune time for the Devil. He will shout death, hopelessness, certain defeat. He will attack and wipeout the less than vigilant man or woman. Too often the armor is at home in the closet and before we can even think of doing battle we have been wounded. We cry out in pain, despair, and defeat.

When knights wore armor they would suit up on the days they were going out and do battle. Their armor was too heavy and unwieldy to wear it everyday and every where. So they only suited up, mounted their trusted steed and did battle on certain days. We must prepare for battle. However, we should daily have on our armor. We should plan to do battle and have the victory every day. Before the enemy can attack, we are prepared. When he comes to do battle we are ready, armed with great armor and ready with our powerful weapons using the Word of God.

We do not fight fair. We come prepared, we are protected, and we have the ultimate weapon, against which the Devil cannot stand. We follow the three steps to victory. We pray the Word of God. We then continue in prayer by praying in the Holy Spirit. Then we remain constant in faith by speaking the Word of God with a good confession. The Devil’s only option is to get beat up a little or a lot!

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (NKJV)

It is time for Christian soldiers to rise up and take an active stance. We are to do battle with the Devil and defeat him on every front. For too long the Body of Christ has played the role of weaklings, waiting for a beating. This is a false image of a Christian; it is not what we should be. Now we need to stand up as the victorious Bride of Christ, endued with His power and name. Now is the time for men and women of prayer to have effective, fervent prayers that avail much, not succumbing to the wiles of the Devil, but overcoming by speaking and praying the Word. Jesus brought us into the Kingdom not to get whipped, but to be mighty in battle. We are destined to win and the time for winning is now!

Let us pray!

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A Call for Prayer

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem Pray for safety and God's protection for the people of the land of Israel.

Pray for Pastors In many places around the world there is an attack on pastors. Often they are the lightning rod of the Devil's attacks against the Body of Christ and the spread of the Gospel. We need to pray for the strengthening, protection, provision, and anointing of pastors. Please pray first for your pastor, then for other pastors in your town or community, and then also for pastors listed here in *Voice of Thanksgiving* and others of ministries you pray for and support.

Continue Faithful in Prayer

Please pray; your faithful prayers change situations, remove hindrances, and empower ministry

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

Joyce Abrahamson – Head of a Christian school in Brazil

John Coon – Ministry in Europe and the USA

Churches in Belarus – Growing number of churches in Belarus

Churches in Lithuania – Growing number of churches in Lithuania

DK Limbu Daniel – Pastor of a church in Nepal and church planting among Nepalese people

Marianne and David Dean – Missionaries on college campuses in East Asia

Lori Farquhar – Children's Ministry Director

Jacek Gromadzki – Pastor of a church in Kolobrzeg, Poland

Marek Kaminski – Bishop of Poland and co-founder and leader of the BBB Conference

Bernd and Heike Pastor – Ministry in Germany

Mark Spencer – Pastor of a church in Longmont, Colorado, worldwide ministry, and co-founder and leader of BBB Conference

Patty Spencer – Pastor in Longmont, Colorado, worship leader, and artist with a great new CD

William (Bill) Williamson – Pastor of a church in Cedaredge, Colorado

Charles and Janice Wilson – Pastors in Wyola, Montana

David Williamson – Writer and editor of *Voice of Thanksgiving*

Calling Christians to Effective Fervent Prayer

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