



*Blessed are they  
which do hunger  
and thirst after  
righteousness;  
for they shall be  
filled - **Matt. 5:6***

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# The Voice of Christ

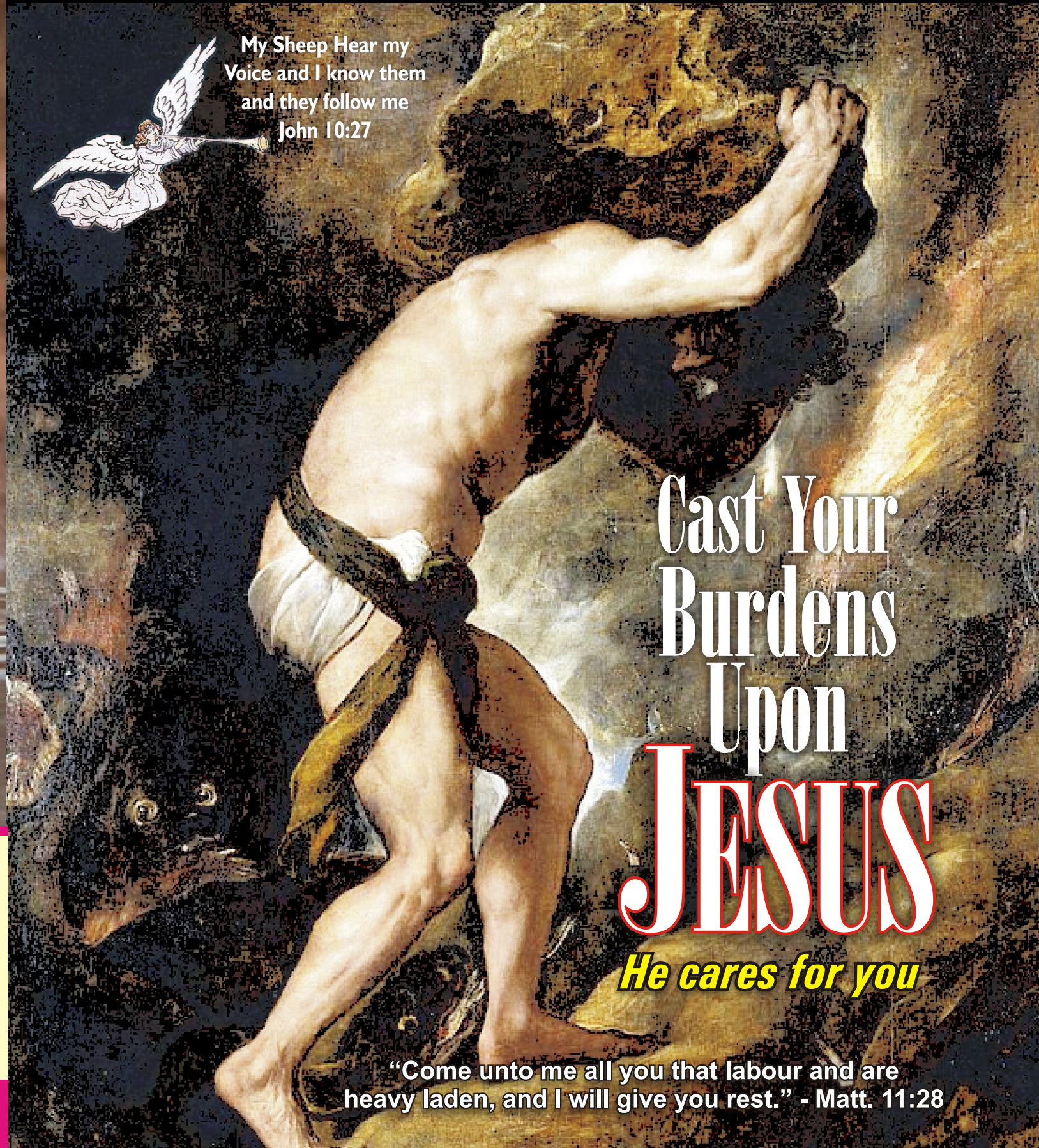
*"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" - John 8:32*

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My Sheep Hear my  
Voice and I know them  
and they follow me  
John 10:27



Cast Your  
Burdens  
Upon  
**JESUS**  
*He cares for you*

*"Come unto me all you that labour and are  
heavy laden, and I will give you rest." - Matt. 11:28*

**The young lion do lack and suffer hunger  
but they that seek the Lord shall not want  
any good thing - Psalm 34:10**



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## GET READY FOR ALL THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU!

God is already working: **IN** You, **THROUGH** You, and **FOR** You. To bring you to a place where everything is provided for.

Your responsibility is to rest and receive it.

Even as I write this, many of you are doubting because you think that unless you do something to fix your situation in life, whatever it may be, nothing will get done.

But this is contrary to God's heart for you.

He created us in Christ to experience a life of rest, but the unfortunate reality in our modern world is that this gift has been forgotten.

God says in His Word that: "There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience." (Hebrews 4:9-11)

God's rest is not sitting in a chair or lying down on your couch. It's a matter of the heart and a way of life, given to us because of the finished work of Jesus Christ.

True rest is believing that God is always working on your behalf. True rest is believing that God will never leave, forsake or fail you. True rest is believing that God delights in promoting, blessing and favouring you. In other words, true rest is believing.

When you believe that God is doing all these things for you and so much more, then you can stop "doing" things in your own strength and you can live with ongoing peace, knowing He will freely give you all things.

Some are asking right now, does that mean I need to stop going to work or stop taking care of my family, or things like that? Absolutely not.

What this means is rest **IN** work, not rest **FROM** work! When we walk in

the rest of God, it means that we are continually committing our burdens, responsibilities, workflows, schedules, relationships, family needs, problems... everything in our lives to the Lord.

When you do this, it allows you to experience genuine peace in whatever you are involved in. You are continually trusting and believing that God will always give you a better outcome in your circumstances than you can do on your own.

The only "work" you have to do to enter and remain in God's rest is to fight off the persistent temptation to give away your peace. You have a choice every time you're tempted to be stressed, worried or anxious: will you trust those feelings or will you be at peace and trust God will take care of it?

The Word tells us this gift of rest "remains" for God's people. It's not a one-time or occasional thing. It's ongoing and always present, if we want it and if we receive it.

You too can live this way. It's your destiny. It's your birthright as a child of God. You can choose to put your trust in the finished work of Jesus and not in man. And the beautiful part is when you live God's way you get God's results and not man's result.

When you're stressed and worried, even your sleep can be troubled. You go to bed thinking about your problems and you even dream about them. The next morning when you wake up, you don't feel refreshed and strengthened to face the day.

That's not the kind of rest God has for you. True rest doesn't depend on your ability to get your work done, to solve all your problems, or to ignore them. When you understand the fullness of what Jesus has accomplished for you through the work of the cross,

you'll realize He's done it all! All He's asking you to do is trust in Him and receive it.

A young girl went to an amusement park with her father. The man wanted her daughter to experience the fun and excitement of the rides. As she looked up and saw how massive it was, she got a little nervous. But when she looked at her father and he told her everything was going to be fine, that was all she needed to know.

She didn't go to a 52-point safety inspection. She didn't need a written guarantee from the manufacturer. Because she trusts her daddy, she could rest and enjoy herself.

How much more can you and I trust our perfect Heavenly Father, who created us to enjoy life and be refreshed as we regularly enter in to His rest.?

You can wake up every day and invite God into every area of your life. Not only will He come, but He'll bring His perfect peace and the rest He provides when you put your trust in Him. You don't have to be stressed, anxious, worried and sleep-deprived.

This concept is so hard for our modern world. Before the invention of the light bulb the average person slept more than 10 hours per night. Today, on average, people only sleep about six hours. We're resting less, worrying more and accomplishing less. This is what happens when you put your trust in your strength you get man's results.

But, dear ones, as God's children, we can live at a higher level where we enjoy God's results.

God's done everything for you to enjoy His true rest now all that's left for you to do is to enter in! This truth will change your life. You'll see stress, worry, anxiety and fear begin to fall away from your life. And as you do, your peace, your joy and the quality of your life will be supernaturally blessed by God.

**Exodus 33:14 - And he said, My presence shall go [with thee], and I will give thee rest.**

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1 Cor. 2:9

## The Bliss of Heaven



In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:2



Heaven is the Beautiful place that God has prepared for them that love Him. It is the everlasting Home for the saints of all ages

### A PLACE PREPARED BY GOD

For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. (Isa 64:4)

### CITIZENSHIP OF HEAVEN

All saints and believers of all ages are citizens of heaven they are only ambassadors on earth, strangers here. Their Home is Heaven, Their Father is there; their Saviour is there; their lives are there, their treasures are there; their affections, their heart, inheritance and citizenship are all there!

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body. Philippians 3:20-21

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ. 2 Cor. 5:20

Heaven is a city build by God Himself!

### DESIGNATION OF THE CITY

The city is called the New Jerusalem. It is the Capital of the eternal state, the eternal residence of the Bride of Christ and all the saints of all ages of. This city is also known as "the Bride" because of its virgin Beauty. God Himself is the Maker of this City!

### DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY

The most important thing about the City is that it is full of blazing, brilliant glory of God. Everything in Heaven is transparent "clear as crystal".

The foundation of the wall of the City were garnished with all manner of precious stones

1. Jasper (Clear Diamond); 2. Sapphire (Blue); 3. Chalcedony (Sky-blue agate); 4. Emerald (Green); 5. Sardonyx (Red and White); 6. Sardius (Red); 7. Chrysolite (Gold); 8. Beryl (Sea-green); 9. Topaz (Yellow-green) 10. Chrysoprasus (Green); 11. Jacinth (Violet); 12. Amethyst (Purple).

Everything will reflect the glory of God visible in all points at all times.

### DIMENSION OF THE CITY

The City has a good design and a perfect symmetry. It features 12 Gates; 12 Angels; 12 tribes, 12 Foundations; 12 Apostles; 12 Pearls; 12 thousand furlongs and 12 by 12 cubits

The New Jerusalem will be a Cube, measuring 12, 000 furlongs (approximately 1500miles) in length, breadth and height).

This means that this eternal glorious City is 2,250,000 square miles in one layer of mansions! Streets will rise up over streets 1500 miles! Millions of intersecting layer of avenues are there. The New Jerusalem will easily contain billions of people it is big enough for all who will find the narrow way (John 14:2; Matt. 7:14)

### DECLARATION FOR THE CITIZENS

All who enter the New Jerusalem must be born again here on earth. All those whose names are written in the Book of Life live in the Heavenly City forever.

### DESECRATION OF THE CITY IS IMPOSSIBLE (Rev. 21:27; 20:15; 22:15)

No sinner ever enters the Holy City to stain or desecrate the City. All sinners are forever banished from the presence of God and from the Holy City and from New Heavens and New Earth.

All sinners are forever cast into the Lake of Fire before the New Jerusalem descends "from out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Rev. 20:15; 21:1,2)

### LIFE IN HEAVEN

- a. A life of fellowship with God
- b. A life of rest
- c. A life full of knowledge
- d. A life of holiness
- e. A life of joy
- f. A life of service
- g. A life of abundance
- h. A life of glory
- i. A life of worship

*Will you be there!  
Strive to make it!*



# From the Editor

Do you have burdens in life that are too heavy for you to bear? Are you facing great challenges that seem insurmountable? Problems that have defied solutions? Do you have troubles that give you sleepless nights? That seem to smash your mentality to the walls? Are you about giving up? Are you losing hope in life?

Is your business collapsing? Is your career nose-diving? Are your children, a big hell of a headache-some tough nuts to crack? Is your spouse not giving you joy? Is everything in your life going zigzag? Are you considering living any kind of life since you have tried and always not succeeded? Do you want to stop going to church or even stop praying at all?

Have you sought solutions from all corners yet the problems keep piling?

Well, I have good news for me! "Cast all your problems upon Jesus; He cares for you!"

Jesus Christ has the solution to all these problems. No situation is hard for Christ to settle. He beckons on all saying "come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy-laden, I will give thee rest". Matthew 11:28

Carry all your burdens too Jesus. "Your shoulders are not big enough to carry the burdens you're trying to bear by yourself. The load will eventually break you; so please let Jesus be your burden-bearer! Take that load and heave it with all your might. Fling it over onto His back, and let Him carry it for you!"

Jesus is more willing to help you than you are ready to ask.

In this edition of our magazine, you will know the peace of depending on Jesus and relying on Him for solutions to all your problems. You will learn key strategies to defeating giants in your life and assurance of living a lack free life.

God bless you as you meditate in the word of God.



## Cast Your Burdens Upon Jesus

*Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7*

**A**re you tired of wrestling over and over again with the same old concerns? Has it become aggravating to the point it is beginning to weigh you down? 1 Peter 5:7 says "Cast all your cares "anxiety" on him because he cares for us". Just throw it on him, and let him carry your burdens. Jesus said we could cast all of our cares on him because he cares for you! There is nothing we are going through that we cannot cast on the Lord. Christ Jesus wants to change our life and set us free from worry, anxiety, fretting, and fear!

A burden could be described in many ways. Firstly, a burden could be something that causes you lots of worry or hard work.

Secondly, a burden can be a heavy load that is difficult to carry mentally and physically; the sickness of someone that you truly love or maybe you yourself. That sickness could be one that is incurable. Watching a loved one suffer could be more than you can bear. Those cares, worries and stress are what the Lord wants you to cast on him; just throw those burdens and concerns on Jesus for he cares for you. Let God handle that situation, which will soon send you favor.

The word "casting" used in First Peter 5:7 means *to hurl, to throw, or to cast*, and it often means *to violently throw* or *to fling something with great force*.

In Luke 19:35, the Bible says, "And they brought him to Jesus: and *they cast* their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus there on." It is important to note this passage, for it correctly conveys the idea of the word *casting*, which pictures *the flinging of a garment, bag, or excess weight off the shoulders of a traveler and onto the back of some other beast, such as a donkey, camel, or horse*.

We know what burdens feel like. They make our hearts feel heavy like something is weighing them down. We are not designed to carry the burden of worry, fretting, and anxiety. This load is simply too much for the human body and the central nervous system to bear. We may be able to manage it for a while, but eventually the physical body and mind will begin to break under this type of perpetual pressure. In fact, the medical world has confirmed that the major source of sickness is stress and pressure. Man was simply not fashioned to carry pressures, stresses, anxieties, and worries; this is the reason his body breaks down when it undergoes these negative influences for too long. It's usually because we see something painful in our future. And the fear of future pain is a weight a burden on our hearts. Think about your own heart. Are you feeling burdened? If so, identify what pain you are fearing. Maybe it's the pain of a broken marriage, or a lost job, or wayward children, or poor health.

But what can we do when we feel burdened? If *you* are struggling with sickness or depression, your condition very possibly could be related to stress and pressure. In First Peter 5:7, Jesus is calling out to you and saying, "*Your shoulders are not big enough to carry the burdens you're trying to bear by yourself. This load will eventually break you so please let ME be your beast of burden! Take that load and heave it with all your might. Fling it over onto MY back, and let ME carry it for you!*" Just as Luke 19:35 says *they cast* their garments upon the back of the donkey, now you need to cast your burdens over on the Lord and let Him carry those

### The Voice of Christ

Anchored on Christ we are safe and secured.

In Christ, our lives are preserved on earth and in eternity. If we have made Christ our Refuge we need to abide in Him the rest of our lives. For those who believe, God preserves an inheritance for them in heaven and preserves them for the inheritance. Knowing the Lord as our personal Lord and Saviour guarantees divine favour, protection, pardon, provisions and protection. The wind may blow, the devil may tempt, trials may come, if Christ is our Rock, our Salvation, our

Defence, we shall not be moved. Repentance, salvation and faith in Christ makes us part of the invisible organ against which the gates of hell shall not prevail. If our names are in the Book of life, we can be rest assured that whatever happens in life we are protected and preserved. Besides, we have hope of eternal life. To enjoy these privileges, there must be proof of genuine salvation, of our hope being anchored on the Rock of Ages.

Obedience to God's Word ensures our refuge in Christ while mere profession of repentance without positive proof of salvation experience will fail us in times of storm.

**2. THE AFFLICTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS** *Psalm 34: 19; Genesis 39:7-20; Psalm 105: 17-19; 1Peter 2:20; 5: 10; Romans 8: 17; John 16:1-3,20-22,33; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10.*

Righteousness attracts affliction in a world controlled by Satan and his cohorts. But in heaven where

righteousness is appreciated, there is no affliction, tribulation or persecution. In times of affliction, Christ is our Anchor. His Word is our Anchor.

Refusal to compromise may expose us to the ridicule, scorn, reproach hatred and persecution of men. In our place of work, in our families taking a stand for righteousness may bring us afflictions. Joseph's refusal to commit sin led him to prison. But no matter the affliction, we should not compromise our faith and hope in Christ. The story of Joseph shows the worthy end of righteous living. It shows that the Lord is watching over our lives. It shows that there is a commission on our lives. If Joseph had succumbed to temptation the promise and dreams that he was given by God would never have been fulfilled. When our faith is anchored on the Lord, when the Lord is our fear, we will not succumb to temptations, no matter how fierce they may be.

**"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."** Tests and trials will come. But if we stay by our conviction, consecration and commitment, the persecution of today will turn into the promotion tomorrow. If we do not compromise our faith and conviction, our sworn enemies will soon tremble before us. The storm we see today will soon give way to a calm atmosphere.

**3. THE ARMOUR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
*2 Corinthians 6: 3-7; Romans 13: 12; Ephesians 6:11-18; Daniel 1:8; Daniel 3: 15-18; 1 Samuel 26: 7,12; Daniel 6:22.*

If we will abide in the favour and mercies of the Lord, we will need to remain steadfast in righteousness. We will need the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. Problems and storms of life may beat against our lives. But if we will remain firm and will not compromise, if we will not allow circumstance and trials to overturn our faith and conviction, the Lord will promote us before our adversaries. In a matter of moment, everything will turn around to our promotion and to the glory of God the Father. Whatever the threats of Nebuchadnezzar, however deep-rooted the envy of the people of Babylon, whatever the persecution, whatever the affliction, whatever the suffering, if we will make righteousness our guide and watchword, the Lord is going to promote us and fulfil His purpose in our lives.





## A SURE ANCHOR IN A DRIFTING WORLD

Acts 27:13-15,19,20

**M**any lives and families are drifting today. For them there is no anchor. There is no clear purpose for living. Christ is the Anchor that supports and keeps the soul. A life that has not met Christ, a life that seems to have everything going for it sees no need for the Redeemer, the Rock, and Restorer until it runs into a storm. It soon realises its need for an Anchor. That Anchor is Jesus Christ the Lord. Without Him and His truth, we will be drifting in life. Without Him, we will

live a wasted and unprofitable life. The end of a drifting life is eternal

suffering in hell fire. Believers have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows roll: fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love. In times of storm, when the clouds unfold their wings of strife, will your anchor drift or will it firm remain? In times like this, you need a Saviour. You need an anchor. Be very sure your anchor holds and grips the solid Rock.

**1. THE ANCHOR OF THE REDEEMED**  
Hebrews 6: 17-20; 1 Peter

1:3-5; Psalms 40:2-4; 62:2; Matthew 16: 1S; 7:24-27

The redeemed are they who are saved from sin, who have surrendered their lives to the Lord. They are they who have the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ as their Father. They are the people who have anchored their lives and hope on the Lord Jesus, who realize that without Him they can do nothing. Storms and waves of life cannot sink your ship when Jesus is the Captain and the Anchor of your soul. Whatever the devil may do, whatever the storms of life, if our souls are.

### The Voice of Christ



burdens for you!

But exactly what problems and cares are we to throw over onto the shoulders of the Lord? The apostle Peter says we are to cast all of "our cares" upon Jesus. It describes *any affliction, difficulty, hardship, misfortune, trouble, or complicated circumstance that arises as a result of problems that develop in our lives.* It could refer to problems that are financial, marital, job-related, family-related, business-oriented, or anything else that concerns us.

This means anything that causes you worry or anxiety *regardless of why it happened* is what you need to throw over onto the shoulders of Jesus Christ! Nothing is too big or small to talk to the Lord about, because He "careth for you, because He is *concerned about you; thoughtful of your well-being; interested in your affairs; aware of your situation; notices your challenges; and gives painful and meticulous attention to your difficulties.* This word is used to assure us that Jesus really does care about us and the things that are heavy on our hearts. In fact, He gives meticulous attention to what is happening to us. He is interested in every facet of our lives.

So don't ever let the devil tell you that your problems are too stupid, small, or insignificant to bring to Jesus. The Lord is interested in *everything* that concerns you!

**1 Peter 5:7, this verse carries the following idea:** "Take that heavy burden, difficulty, or challenge you are carrying the one that has arisen due to circumstances that have created hardship and struggles in your life and fling those worries and anxieties over onto the back of the Lord! Let Him carry them for you! The Lord is extremely interested in every facet of your life and is genuinely concerned about your welfare."

When we see these words and perceive how deeply Jesus cares about the burdens that are on our heart, we will realize we are carrying loads we didn't have to bear by ourselves. Jesus was standing right at our side, longing to help us and inviting us to shift the weight from our shoulders to His shoulders. By

faith, we pile those financial cares onto the back of Jesus and when we do, we are set free from the stress, anxiety, and pressure that had been weighing us ever since. Whenever we are burdened, God promises to sustain us and not let us be moved or be shaken. But there is something we must do to receive this promise. We must cast our burden on the Lord.

So what does it mean to cast a burden on the Lord?

**First, turn to God through Jesus**  
Don't just say "it will be fine," or "it will all work out," or "God will take care of it."

None of those involve you actually meeting with the Living God.

Deliberately turn your heart to God Himself. Come to God, cleansed by Christ's blood and clothed with His righteousness.

Turn to God and know that through Christ he loves you, welcomes you, and promises to help you (Heb 4:16).

**Second, ask God to keep this painful event from happening**

Ask God to save your marriage, keep you employed, save your children, give you good health.

To strengthen your faith, think about times when God delivered His people Israel from Egypt, Joseph from his dungeon, Bartimaeus from his blindness.

Strengthen your faith, and then pray that God would deliver you from this painful event (Psa 50:15).

God may choose to deliver you, which would be a great mercy. But the Bible also teaches that He may not, which is why at this point you probably still feel burdened. So this next step is so crucial

**Third, trust that if He allows this painful event to happen, it's to bring you more joy in Him.**

Your greatest joy is knowing God, beholding God, loving God (Psa 16:11). And God promises to orchestrate everything including every pain, sorrow, and trial to bring you even more joy in Him (Rom 8:18; 2Cor 4:17).

So take time to set your heart on God. Use His Word to help you see His love, majesty, glory, and grace. Use passages like Gen 1:1; Isa 6:1-7; Mark 15:39; Rom 5:1-10.

Pray over God's Word until the Holy Spirit helps you see and feel the all-surpassing worth of God the Father and Jesus the Son.

Now look at your future. You see that this painful event might happen. But now you also see that if it does, it will mean not just pain, but gain the gain of more joy in God now and forever.

This is when the burden will start to lift when we see and feel the worth of God, and that all future pain will bring us even more of God.

But there's one more step to completely remove the burden.

**Fourth, trust that if He allows this painful event to happen, He will take care of every need it creates.**

He will. He promises. He will provide all the wisdom you need to make tough decisions (James 1:5) all the finances you need to fulfill His call on your life (Mat 6:33) all the comfort you need for your heartaches (2Cor 1:3-4) all the grace you need to keep faithful to Him (2Cor 9:8) all the strength you need to persevere (Phil 4:13)

all the joy in Him you need to make this all worth it (Rom 8:18)

Pray over these promises until the Holy Spirit strengthens your faith. Pray until you trust that God will take care of your every need.

You don't have to carry the whole weight of the world by yourself. Jesus loves you so much and is so deeply concerned about you and the difficulties you are facing that He calls out to you today, "Roll those burdens over on Him. Let Jesus carry them for you so you can be free!"

If you are carrying around worries, cares, and concerns about your family, your business, your career, or any other area of your life, why not stop right now and say, "Jesus, I'm yielding every one of these concerns to You today. I cast my burden on You, and I thank You for setting me free!"



# Becoming A Spiritual Giant

Few people would choose to be dwarfed. It seems that every little school-age child dreams of growing up to be big and strong. Likewise, each individual who accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour desires to grow to become a strong, powerful Christian. Unfortunately, however, many people have a dwarfed experience with God. They're Christian pygmies, as it were. In fact, some churches contain so many spiritual pygmies that the occasional "normal" Christian, who is growing daily in his religious experience, is looked upon as something of an oddity!

How can we grow spiritually to become strong, beautiful believers-giants among the pygmies?

First of all, a most basic step must take place. There must be a birth! In order to "grow up" spiritually, a person MUST be born again.

**Experiencing the New Birth**  
The new birth involves two simple yet essential steps. Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:3-5. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16. The first step in the new-birth process is to be born of the Spirit. God tells us in John chapter one how this is to take place. "But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them gave He power ["the right, or privilege"] to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."



John 1:12, 13. Those who receive Jesus and believe in Him as their personal Saviour are born of the Spirit or, as it says here, "born of God."

Receiving Jesus into our lives is not difficult or complicated, and we need not fear rejection. Jesus tells us, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20. When guests knock at our door, we "receive" them by opening the door and inviting them to come inside. In the same way, we receive Jesus by opening our hearts to Him in prayer and then inviting Him to come in and transform us by His indwelling Holy Spirit.

After Christ enters our lives, a dramatic change takes place. Paul states, "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." Romans 8:10.

The old man of sin dies; and as with any death, it is appropriate to have a funeral and bury the corpse. Spiritually this is represented by the baptismal service. In chapter six of Romans, Paul says: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:3, 4.

A baptismal service is the happiest funeral you could ever attend! That's because it combines the symbolism of a funeral, a resurrection, and a wedding all together in one service. Baptism celebrates the new birth and represents a new beginning. In baptism we unite with Christ and with His body-His church (Galatians 3:27; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:18). The baptismal service is



# THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD SERIES 7 PRAYING WITH ALL PRAYER (Eph.6:18)

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit....

The last in our series on the believer's armor is PRAYER. So far, we have seen (1) that we are well protected when we put on Christ as the girdle of truth, for He is our truth who provides us with integrity. (2) He is our righteousness, protecting our heart from the attacks of the adversary, as we put on Christ as breast plate. (3) In Christ we have feet shod with the gospel of peace, giving us a firm standing in the field of battle with Satan. (4) He is the shield of our faith with which we are able to quench all deadly attacks. (5) We also learn that in Christ we can have victory in the arena of our mind and brain, being covered in the head with a protective helmet--the hope of our salvation. All five weapons are defensive, but we have one offensive weapon (No.6), the sword of the spirit which is the word of God; effectively used by Christ himself before embarking on active ministry. Having won victory over Satan - our common enemy- Christ sets the example for believers to emulate. Our final, (No.7) weapon is prayer.

Prayer and warfare have always been close companions: the chaplain and the combatant soldier both live in the same camp; so it is no surprise that the last to be mentioned of Paul's description of the believer's spiritual armor is prayer. To appreciate the value of prayer and to understand what Paul means by "all prayer", we need to consider what Christ is doing right now. For above 2000 years, Christ has been interceding for believers at the throne of God. Prayer is a

resource at the believer's disposal to back-up and strengthen all other weapons. Paul's prayer message speaks, among others, of two basic principles: the persistence and the power of prayer.

The Persistence of Prayer (Praying always): What does it mean to pray always with all prayer? In the parable of the unjust judge the Lord Jesus admonishes that men ought always to pray and not to faint or lose heart (Lk.18:1). Christians are told to pray without ceasing (1Thes.5:7). For Samuel, it is sin to stop praying for others. "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against God in ceasing to pray for you" (1Sam.12:23). In my neighborhood, there is a magnificent church building with a bold inscription, prayer changes things. As we learn about bible characters, we discover that prayer actually changes things. But prayer also changes people, and the people that usually get changed by prayer are the people who pray always.

When Paul wrote that our prayer is to be all-prayer, he was probably saying that we are to pray on all occasions: in public worship, during welfare launchings, at the summit ground, in leadership meetings; We are to pray in all places: in bible classes, around the family table, in prayer closet; we are to pray at all times: morning, noon, and night, daily - seven times maximally and three times minimally; we are to pray in all situations: in prosperity and in adversity, in health and in

sickness: Even as we begin to drown, like Peter, we need to cry out, Lord, help; Or, when prayer language appears too difficult, we may offer this simple prayer, like the apostles: Lord, teach us to pray, (Luke 11:1).

The Power of Prayer (Praying always, in the Spirit): What is the power of our prayer? How can I know what I pray for is the will of God? The Holy Spirit who lives within us determines not only the character, but also the content of our prayer. As the Christian submits himself to the Holy Spirit, He directs him to the things God has already promised in His Word; and when he prays, God answers. Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered (Rom.8:26). When you pray and ask God to give you guidance, you will have power in prayer. If we forbear what God forbids, we shall receive what He promises.

Prayer for the Christian is an on-going line of communication with God. But there is one form of prayer that must come before all others; that is the prayer in which we express our faith in Jesus Christ and receive his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life. If you have never prayed a prayer like that today, I hope you will go on your knees right now, and do so without delay. You will be glad you did.

*Peace on Earth*

## "I AM" STATEMENTS OF CHRIST, SERIES - 1

# THE BREAD OF LIFE

(JOHN 6:35)

We commence a new seven-part series on the "I AM" statements of Jesus Christ, all in John's gospel. Each of these claims has a significantly unique place to show that Jesus is fully God who came in human flesh, and that He's the Redeemer promised in Genesis 3:15 after the fall of man, to assure humanity of eternal life. These claims of Jesus have never been made by anybody before and after His earthly life. No one has ever disproved the claims either. Jesus said, "I AM" because this is how He was introduced when Moses was commissioned in to encounter Pharaoh (Exo.3:14). This is the same "I AM" who says: "You are my chosen people" (Deut.7:6-8). We shall examine each of these claims in subsequent editions to see what they teach about life in Christ, beginning with, I am the bread of Life (John 6:35).

When Jesus made this claim above 2000 years ago, the ordinary people in Israel depended largely on bread and water for survival. It was a staple food of life, made of wheat a grain that contains vitamin E properties that help preserve cells in the human body. Since these cells support vital organs, they are absolutely necessary for life. Some nutritionists believe that so many of our health problems today are caused deficiency in essential vitamins including vitamin E found in that little grain of wheat. By understanding the vital importance of bread as God intended for health of the human body, we can appreciate what Jesus meant when He declared, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger.

In the context where Jesus claims to be bread of life, he has just miraculously fed 5000 people with 5

loaves and 2 fishes. Jesus was aware that they were coming to Him because He fed them with bread. You seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled (John 6:26). The Jewish people know the story of how God rained down manna from heaven for 40 years through Moses. Jesus explains that His Father provided that manna daily as mere temporal bread that sustained the body only. This is the same Father who sent Jesus from heaven -- the true bread that feeds the soul and sustains eternal life. As important as bread is for sustaining physical life, there is spiritual bread that is infinitely more important for sustaining eternal life. He is Jesus Christ! Without Him, there is no hope for eternity and no true joy in this life. The disciples understood fully what Jesus meant by being bread of life, especially, after His death and resurrection. They knew that for bread to be brought to the table, the wheat had to be crushed in the mill of stone. Then, it will be beaten and kneaded into dough, and then placed in the heat of the furnace in order to bake it. That's precisely how the bread of life, the Lord Jesus, was crushed for us. The prophet tells us that he was bruised for our iniquities (Isa.53:5), just like wheat was crushed in the mill. In the Lord's Supper, Christ alluded to his broken body when he took bread, gave thanks, and gave to the disciples, as He meant to say: "As this bread is broken so My body will be marred and striped for you" (Lk.22:19; 1Cor.11:24).

As temporal bread is eaten daily, so the bread of life must be eaten on daily basis. In Matt.4:4, Jesus, quoting the OT said, Man shall not



live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Deut.8:3). The prophet ate the words of God like food, Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing (Jer.15:16). How did the prophet eat God's words? He believed. Jesus declared further: And he that believeth on me shall never thirst (John 6:35b). The real hunger is for truth which only the bread of life can give. There are many who know Christ, but stale bread and spiritual junk food would leave them hungry again. It is absolute truth that material things will never satisfy the human soul. Only Christ, the true bread of life can provide the real nutrient that the cell in the soul requires. If you want to be sure of your eternal salvation, then take and eat of God's beloved manna. When we are feeding on the true bread of life, not just one day, but on daily basis, we will experience spiritual transformation that will result in a sanctifying effect that lasts forever.

Next, "The Light of the World" (John 8:12).

*Peace on Earth.*

not an indication that an individual is perfect. Rather, it is a public testimony of a person's love, commitment, and union to Christ.

### FIVE STEPS TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Physical birth is just the beginning of a long and perilous journey, and the "new birth" is no different. Growth must begin instantly after spiritual birth, or else the individual will soon fall prey to a spiritual grave. Jesus says, "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." Matthew 24:13.

To discover how we can grow spiritually after we've been born again, let's consider for a moment how children grow. There are at least five basic things they do (either consciously or unconsciously) in order to grow. They eat, they drink, they sleep, they breathe, and they exercise (play and work). Those same five things apply to spiritual growth, as well. Let's consider each step.

#### Step #1-Spiritual Food

What do babies need in order to grow and develop? Milk and love. Without these two things, infants will not even survive, much less grow. A spiritual newborn is no different. The church family is to provide the loving support for the newborn Christian. But what is to be our spiritual milk, and where do we get it? "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:2. Milk makes babies grow, and our spiritual milk is God's Word

In reference to spiritual food, Jeremiah says, "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Jeremiah 15:16. For Job he said; "I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food." Job 23:12. It was Christ Himself who said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4. To live "by every word" means not only that the Scriptures sustain

our spiritual life, but more importantly that we live in harmony with the instructions and principles given in the Bible. It also means to "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39. The prophet Isaiah spoke of comparing Scripture with Scripture (Isaiah 28:10), and Paul stressed the importance of "rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

There is no benefit in sitting at a table filled with food and simply viewing it. You must put the food into your mouth (one bite at a time), chew, and then swallow. But does the process end there? NO! Your body still must digest the food (which is automatic if you've done the first three steps correctly). In the same way, to receive nourishment from the written Word, we need to take a sizeable portions of it, chew on them, swallow, and then digest them. This all takes time, of course, just as with eating a decent meal. Don't try the fast-food approach to Bible study!

The spiritual nourishment gained from such a study of the Bible will strengthen and enable us to resist temptation. The Psalmist wrote, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11. Shortly after His baptism Jesus used Scripture as His defense when facing the devil's most subtle temptations. Three times He answered, "It is written" (Matthew 4:1-11). God's Word equips and empowers us to live a victorious Christian life.

The Bible is God's voice speaking to us. Through the written Word, we come in contact with the living Word-Jesus. As we associate with Jesus in Scripture, we become like Him in character (2 Corinthians 3:18). By feeding on the written Word, we are eating the bread of life (John 6:51-58). We are partaking "of the divine nature" through the precious promises of Scripture and daily growing to reflect ever more of the divine character of Jesus.

"When" we eat can be just as important as "what" we eat. If you fast all week long, hoping to thrive on the nourishment gained from church service on Sunday, your soul will be stunted and starved! You need at least one good spiritual "feast" each day. Write out a Bible promise on a card and stick it in your pocket or purse. That way you can pull out a spiritual "snack" several times throughout the day! The best time to eat spiritual food is in the morning. And just as we thank God in prayer for physical food and ask for His blessing upon it, so we should ask God to guide, instruct, and help us understand the Bible before beginning each spiritual meal.

#### Step #2-Spiritual Drink

A person can survive several weeks without food, but only a matter of days without water. What is to be our spiritual water, and where do we go for a drink? Jesus gives us the answer. He says, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit...)" John 7:37-39. The water Jesus promises to give us is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Luke 11:13. To receive this spiritual water (the Holy Spirit), all we have to do is ask for it! God promises that if we come to Jesus just as we are and ask for living water, we will receive a spiritual drink.

Then, just as water cleanses, purifies, and refreshes every cell in our physical bodies, so the Holy Spirit cleanses, purifies, and refreshes our souls. However, when the Holy Spirit is convicting us of something we should do or quit doing, if we refuse to surrender and to accept the purifying work of the Spirit, we can hardly expect to receive another draft of this blessing. It is



the Holy Spirit's work to convict us of sin (John 16:8) and to guide us to all truth (John 16:13). Then, as we respond to the leading of God's Holy Spirit in our lives, He becomes our Comforter (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). Of this life-giving water we may partake freely (Revelation 22:17).

### Step #3-Spiritual Rest

Most growth in children takes place during sleep. They grow the most when they are thinking about it the least!

The secret of experiencing spiritual rest is contained in one of the most encouraging promises Christ ever spoke. He said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matthew 11:28, 29. Our souls can find rest only as we come to Jesus and place our trust in Him. When we learn to trust God in all situations, we experience a blessed peace that no psychologist can simulate.

In contrast, consider the wicked: "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Isaiah 57:20, 21. The wicked have no rest or peace. This is because "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Psalm 119:165. A person who loves God's law will naturally obey it, and the result is "great peace." The wicked have no peace because they are breaking God's law. It is abundantly clear from Scripture that there can be no rest in disobedience! If we are willfully breaking one of God's commandments or refusing to follow His leading in any area, we will never have peace.

Paul makes it crystal clear in the New Testament that the Sabbath hasn't changed. God didn't change it; the apostles didn't change it; and Paul didn't change it. The Sabbath still remains as a sign of rest-not only physically, but also spiritually. Thousands of Christians today are wasting their

spiritual energies and are dying unnecessarily because they have willfully refused to enter into God's rest.

### Step #4-Spiritual Breath

Life can be sustained only a few brief moments without breath. "Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. Neglecting prayer makes one lose hold on God.

Jesus "spake a parable unto them to this end that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" Luke 18:1. Just as people faint and pass out when they do not have enough supply of oxygen to sustain them, so neglecting to pray, makes one's spiritual life gasp for breath.

There are three conditions to having our prayers answered:

- We must recognize our need of God's help (Luke 18:10-14).
- We must have faith that God will hear and answer as He sees best (Hebrews 11:6).
- We must forsake our sins (1 John 3:22; Proverbs 28:9, 13).

The good news is that in prayer, we can ask God to help us fulfill each one of these three conditions.

### Step #5-Spiritual Exercise

The final step to becoming a spiritual giant demands the most action. If you're a parent, you've probably noticed that it's almost impossible to keep a child from activity. Children are so full of energy and enthusiasm; they have to be active. Likewise, a child of God cannot be kept from spiritual activity.

If all you did was eat, drink, sleep, and breathe, what would happen to you? Well, in a spiritual sense, your veins would soon clog up with the cholesterol of selfishness and self-pity. You'd have a spiritual heart attack and die! Literally thousands of churches today have become like morgues, filled with the corpses of Christians who have long ago died for lack of spiritual exercise.

The following exercise program

was prescribed by Jesus for His followers: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19. "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8. God has called us to be witnesses. Witnesses simply tell what they have seen and heard. For Christians, that means telling others about our experiences with Jesus.

Has Jesus done anything for you? If so, then you are a key witness for your Saviour! You have a testimony that no other person can share. Believe it or not, witnessing is probably the most important of the five steps. Spiritual exercise is what triggers your spiritual appetite. It will make you hungry for the Word and thirsty for more of that living water-the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life. Exercise also enables you to sleep better. Your spiritual rest (trust in God) will be sweeter, more secure, more refreshing! Spiritual exercise will cause you to breathe deeply, too. You'll have a richer, deeper prayer experience.

In a nutshell, witnessing is what keeps you spiritually healthy. Your spiritual muscles will grow strong through exercise. Just as athletes are known to have bigger hearts because of rigorous workouts, so you will become "large-hearted" through continuous spiritual activity. The fore-going steps will help you become a spiritual giant. We must take them ourselves every day. God is not going to send an angel from heaven each morning to read the Bible to you, pray for you, or do any of those other steps, for that matter. These things we must do in cooperation with God; and by so doing, we will become little in our own eyes, but great in the eyes of the Lord. May the Lord help us to become spiritual giants for Him in Christ's name, Amen!



work, diligence, etc.

Parents don't have to fear for their children's welfare. We can safely leave them in the hands of God, knowing He will provide for them. We can go about our lives, putting God first, and understanding that God will put our children first when it comes to the necessities of their lives. This is faith in action.

Israel was afraid to go into the Promised Land, using the welfare of their children as an excuse not to enter into the promises of God. The generation that used their children as an excuse not to enter into the Promised Land died during the 40 years wilderness wanderings, and the next generation (their children) entered into that land, saw the great glories of God's undeniable victories, and possessed the land.

Will this work for us? Will we try to back away from fulfilling the task and completing the project God has given us to do, saying that our children will suffer if we take a more complete stand for God? God is able to withhold blessings from our generation and give those same blessings to the next generation. At the same time this principle is true, God is able to give us the blessings He promised us, plus give our children (the next generation) more blessings than we could ever dream of.

We must remember that the promise of Psalm 37 belongs to those who trust in the Lord and do good (Psa 37:3), take delight in the Lord (Psa 37:4), commit their ways to the Lord (Psa 37:5), and who are still before him and patiently wait (Psa 37:7). At times, we get outside these divine boundaries and needlessly suffer, therefore God's children must be

disciplined for their sin and corrected to righteousness (Heb. 12) and at times are in want. I think all of us can identify with this. The covenantal blessing pertains to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, not unrighteousness (Matt. 5:6).

The continual begging of bread was a curse against the wicked (Psa. 109:10), not the righteous. God provides for the needs of the righteous (Pss. 9:18, 10:12; 12:5; Isa. 41:17). Although God had told Israel that they would always have the poor with them, he also mandated their provision.

Yet for others, they must suffer for the furtherance of the Gospel: "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him" (John 9:3)

Ultimately, the righteous are victorious, as God will never leave them or forsake them (Heb. 13:5). This offers hope to the faithful saint.

God's people have difficulties! At times trouble befalls us (e.g. Joseph and Job). Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Paul says, "I am instructed ... both to abound and to suffer need" (Phil. 4:13). However, in all these trials, God is revealed as our ultimate provider (Psa. 68:10; 111:5; 147:9) and sustainer (Pss. 3:5; 18:35; 41:3; 51:12; 54:4; 55:22; 119:116; Isa. 46:4). In suffering, we are given the opportunity to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). It is an opportunity to show others the mystery of the Gospel. Is there any sacrifice too great for the spread of the Gospel? NO! Is this not a precious blessing! YES! (Phil. 1:20, 29).

As it goes through troubled times, God will not see his Church forsaken (Rom. 8:35-39; 2 Cor. 4:17-18). We should be able to say with Paul, "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor. 4:8-9). We might get cast down but we will get back up. "For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again" (Prov. 24:16). Though we may get hungry at times, we will not be utterly forsaken, for God is our sustainer and provider.

Luke 16 and Psa. 37 contrasts the destiny of the wicked with the future of the righteous. Ultimately, the beggar (Lazarus) was not forsaken by God and is seen in the riches of Abraham's bosom. As Charles Spurgeon once said:

Disasters and reverses may lay him low; he may, like Job, be stripped of everything; like Joseph, be put in prison; like Jonah, be cast into the deep. He shall not be utterly cast down. He will be brought on his knees, but not on his face; or, if laid prone for a moment he shall be up again ere long. No saint will fall finally or fatally. Sorrow may bring us to the earth, and death may bring us to the grave, but lower we cannot sink, and out of the lowest of all we shall arise to the highest of all.

Ultimately, the rich man became an eternal beggar, the thirst of which would never be quenched! (Mark 9:48). However, "For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones" (Psa. 37:28). The righteous will not be forsaken and his seed shall never beg!





are a test of our faith. It's where we will discover God's faithfulness. Keep the faith.

**Psalm 34:17-20** "When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken."

However, When considering this scripture in Ps. 37:25, people frequently ask; what about Luke 16:20 where Lazarus laid at the rich man's gate full of sores, not only sick, but also begging bread. They erroneously reached the conclusion that if people served God faithfully, they would never have to ask people for help, or go through severe trials and hardships. Even David had himself desired bread of Abimelech the priest, (1 Sam. 21:3), and he and his soldiers desired food from Nabal (1 Sam. 25:8), but the Lord of the Sabbath provided (Matt. 12:1-8). David had tasted the sweet and the bitter. He had experienced both joy and pain. However, through everything David faced, whether good or bad, God had not forsaken him. There, we should have hope as well, for God will not forsake us either!

Christians have trouble reconciling this belief with what happened to Lazarus and what happened to the faithful believers during the dark ages and reformation who had to suffer for what they believed, some even giving their lives. Looking carefully at that verse though, it does not say the righteous won't starve to death, or suffer many hardships because of their

righteousness: rather it is saying, the righteous is never forsaken and **their children** won't beg bread.

1. David wrote this Psalms in his later life because he says so. David draws from the span of his life's experience to make a point: God does not abandon His people! ranging from young to old. Occasionally it may momentarily appear that the righteous are forsaken, sometimes the righteous are brought to this sad degree of misery, whether it be natural disaster (tornados, hurricanes, etc. - Psa. 107; Matt. 8:26-36), circumstantial (society's sin, etc. - Dan. 6), conscientious (for righteousness sake - 1 Pet. 3:14), or corrective suffering (sin - Heb. 12). Why? There are some things we won't understand because we don't have the benefit of experience. The only way to get experience is to remain faithful to God in those things you know, trusting Him to make unknown things clear.

2. There are two things David had never seen: (1) the righteous forsaken, and (2) his seed begging bread.

**The Righteous Forsaken**

God said He would never leave us nor forsake us. We can rest on His promises. David said in all his lifetime, he had never seen any of God's faithful children forsaken by Him. David has probably seen God's children forsake Him, but he has never seen God forsake any of his children.

**His Seed Begging Bread**  
**The 'poverty' of the righteous will not be passed on to their children.**

If a man is righteous in serving God, if he gives himself so much to God that he doesn't have time to lay up a rich material inheritance for his children, God will lay up that inheritance for him. This is not saying that our children will become instant billionaires if we serve God, but God will see to it that poverty is not passed to our children or the next generation. There is a lot of difference between having enough and begging bread. Our children won't have to beg bread, if we put God first.

This principle is very readily seen in the world. Poor parents frequently have poor children. Rich parents frequently have rich children. The saying, "The poor get poorer and the rich get richer" applies to the worldly situation of this life. Poor parents teach their children how to be poor, not because they want them to be poor, but because that is all they know how to teach them. Poor people are not necessarily dumb, stupid, or lazy. In this world, poor parents often don't know how to manage money, or how to apply themselves to their jobs so they can be advanced to a higher, better paying position. Rich parents teach their children how to be rich because they understand the principles behind making and keeping money. God is very able to change this cycle. When parents are Godly, they have a good reputation in the community; their advice is readily sought and heeded. They are looked up to in the community, and people will make a place for their children. Merchants will assume their children have been taught basic principles such as honesty, hard

# Facing Your GIANTS

**“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goals.”**

Anonymous

**H**ave you ever felt like you are up against **unbelievable odds**? Are you in a bad place financially or spiritually? Do your struggles make you feel like you are facing a mountain of difficulty?

We all face giants in life. We may want to run away in fear, or become emotionally or spiritually paralyzed. We battle giants of fear, unforgiveness, loneliness, insecurity and many others.

There's no greater story in the Bible than the story of David & Goliath for us to learn important spiritual insights about overcoming giants. Goliath was a giant and a champion warrior. He was undefeated. David was a young man, about 17 years old when he went to the battle lines to bring food to his brothers. It was there that he faced the Goliath and killed him.

One way to overcome giants is to take attention off the giants and put it on God. We have to lift our eyes off the giants and put it on the "Giant Slayer."

David had to put his attention on God, not Goliath. We have to put our attention on Jesus the healer, not on the disease. We have to focus on God, not on our losses.

What we focus on, we magnify. What we focus on, we energize. Goliath was between nine and ten feet tall. He was hard to ignore. He was undefeated in war. Beating Goliath was like "impossible", but what is impossible with men is possible with God.

In life we will face many giants AND the odds look like they are highly in favor of our enemy.

David, a teenager, with impossible odds stacked against him, did not focus on Goliath's successes. He chose to focus on the character, promise and power of God. David said to his giant, **"for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"** (1 Samuel 17:26) His focus was not on the giant, the champion "this Philistine", but on the living God.

Sometimes **God's plan doesn't add up...** the calculation is irrelevant but the victories are sweet. God helps us win against impossible odds in our lives. We can overcome when we place our hope and our trust in Him. On a side



note, we could all learn from the fearlessness of young people. David's brothers and the rest of the Israelite army were terrified. But the little boy who had confidence in and focused on God our mighty warrior, took out the giant. Just imagine.

When you are following God you CAN defeat your enemies. When all odds are against you, God is there helping you. He is turning situations around. He is healing you and restoring everything the enemy stole from you. Keep your focus on the faithfulness of God and His promises.

Remember this: "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)



## FACING YOUR GIANTS: THE FIVE KEYSTONES



God used a brave young man full of faith to face a huge hulk of a man to the glory of God and amazement of His people, Israel. With sling in hand, David chose 5 smooth stones from a brook and charged against the fiercest giant of his time as he ran into a valley of certain death. God guided his actions and the stone went right between the eyes of the giant who fell flat. Then David proved he knew how to get a head!

David is not the only person to come up against a giant. All believers will find themselves face to face with big challenges, and quite often. But on a few rare occasions you find yourself staring into the eyes of a Goliath! Then either fear or faith takes over. Most often it is fear and an expectation that we are about to be squashed!

The Philistines had invaded the Israelite territory, "which belongeth to Judah." (1 Samuel 17:1) Goliath stood and defied the army of God, and Israel were jumbled together, frightened, and did not attempt to do anything to eliminate him.

Satan stands before the local church today and defies the living Savior and His church, and the people are, for the most part, jumbled down and frightened to do anything about it. People who are indwelt with the Holy Spirit and commissioned by God look on helplessly as their church dwindles and hope slowly fades. Goliath stands waving his spear high in the air challenging someone to defend the name of God, and the church seems indifferent against such a

belligerent foe.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph 6:12) The enemy is all around us today. We are faced with Goliaths from every angle. We have been given weapons and armour that will kill any giant that stands before us, thus, we must use what God has given us.

David reached down into the brook, picked up five smooth stones and then proceeded to kill the giant. (1 Samuel 17:40)

Let's look at those stones for a few moments. Let's spiritualize these stones a bit; making each represent something that the Bible says David already possessed. *The First Stone represents:*

### I. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The Spirit Of The Lord Came Upon David. (1 Sam 16:13) "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah."

Without the power of the Spirit we will settle for a substitute. We will accept Man's will rather than God's will; activity rather than spirituality. Without God's Spirit, man is helpless in his own strength.

David was empowered by the Spirit of God. (Zec 4:6) "...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."



# Never Forsaken!

In the journey of life, we meet with crossroads of uncertainty, never knowing where it will lead. However, we are consoled as believers that in God's timing indeed all things work together for good.

When storms come and we find ourselves wondering how did we get on the other side? Asking ourselves over and over, how did we make it out alive? We're bewildered at how we made it through the storm. It was all God. He rescued us while riding through the storm.

Every day we will face new challenges and new experiences that will question our faith. And

at times we will find it difficult to see God in anything. God does not keep us from encountering storms, but he will see us through the storm. He promises to rescue us. He walks with and is always with us. You will not fail. "I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). Trust God. He knows just what he's doing.

This may be hard to believe and impossible to understand, but sometimes in the face of adversity God's perfect will for your life will be revealed. God is speaking to you. He wants to know if you trust him. He wants to see what you're going to do because he already knows what

He is going to do.

God sends trials to test your faith. The devil sends temptation to destroy your faith. Don't give in. Let God handle him. When God removes some things from you, the devil knows how to cash in on your lack and will try anything he can to destroy you. Don't let him. Whatever he dishes out, return it to the sender!

No matter what troubles you. There's nothing God can't do. Nothing is too hard for God. We may struggle and want to give up at times. Consider it pure joy. Praise God in the midst of the storm. No matter the circumstance, glorify God. Trials



# The Righteous Cannot Be Forsaken His Children Will Never Beg Bread.

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. Psalm 37:25

It is greatly rewarding to be righteous! God is keenly interested in what the righteous has. While the world focus on the wealth of the wicked, God focuses on the little that the righteous has.

**A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. (Psalms 37:16)**

From this scripture we are told that some possessions are better than others. That means you can have little as a righteous individual and give of your little; it will be of great value to God than the individual who gives of his or her abundance but lives in secret sin. Are you righteous but you are bothered because you earn so little and cannot give much? Don't be troubled! All God is looking for is that little in your hands. He will bless it and abundance will spring forth from there.

Moreover, according to Psalms 37:17, while God is breaking the

arms of the wicked, He is strengthening the hands of the righteous. God uses His hands to uphold the righteous. The righteous are guaranteed to stay on top because God's hands are holding you up. You will not fall! You will not fail! God is your backbone. In addition, another benefit of the righteous is that he is never forsaken. David testifies of this in Psalms 37:25:

**I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.**

In his life time, David experienced and observed God's track record of faithfulness to the righteous. God is never far from the righteous. He is ever present with you whether you feel Him or not. He will not forsake you. In Matthew 28:20, His ever-abiding presence with the righteous is promised. Besides, David says he has never seen the children of the righteous begging bread. Psalms 37:3 says:

**Trust in The LORD, and do good; so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.**

Some people think to enter Heaven; they must go like Lazarus the beggar. No! You can go like wealthy and famous Father Abraham. You can go like influential and honourable Daniel. If truly you are righteous, your seed should not beg for food. If you see the seed of any righteous perpetually begging, you can be sure something is wrong somewhere.

**Prayer Point:** Oh Lord, according to Your word and faithfulness, I shall not be forsaken and my seed shall never beg bread in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!



The flesh is no match for Goliath. But sadly Christianity has become more occupied with the strategy of the Philistines [flesh] than with the power of God. We are more occupied with the things of this life than the things of our future life and eternity. We are more involved with pleasures of the social, athletic, and financial society than with things of God.

Our thoughts seem to be more on the fact that Goliath is out there, rather than how to defeat him. It seems we spend more time studying his armor and trying to duplicate it rather than studying the secret of David's sling and stone. This battle will not be won by the flesh.

We must be filled with the Spirit of God and trust in it to get the job done. And we must do the little jobs as though they were big jobs and when the big job comes, God will let us do it as though it were a little job. Attempt great things for God, and expect great things FROM God!

David was a sheep herder, but he became a giant killer.

**The second stone represents:**  
II. PAST EXPERIENCE Vs. 32-37

This is very important in the success that you want to accomplish.

A. David Had Proven The Power Of God In His Past Life. Some of us have had great victories in the past, but today stand on the brink of defeat.

B. David Knew That Victory Could Be Won. He was not fearful of the armor or the size of Goliath.

He had faced giant sized enemies before. The bear and the lion.

C. When Jesus Faced Satan On The Cross Of Calvary It Wasn't The First Time He Had Been Face To Face With The Devil. He had already defeated him before in the wilderness of temptation.

Think back to that great events in your past when you knew God had really worked on your behalf. God can do it again. Relive the battles you have fought and the victories won.

D. A lion had taken a lamb from the flock and David slew the lion and retrieved the lamb.

The devil is a roaring lion. (1 Pet 5:8) "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" However, Jesus defeated Satan on the Cross. Satan is a defeated foe.

The reason David was so sure of victory was that he had gone to the well of Divine strength before and had proven it was sufficient.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> stone could be...**  
III. THE WORD OF GOD Vs. 45-47

David Got his Confidence on a hillside while caring for the sheep. He was alone with God. The Psalms will bear this truth.

1. (Psa 119:92) "Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction."

2. (Psa 119:97) "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

3. (Psa 119:98) "Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me."

The Answer To our Perplexities

Are Found In The Word Of God. Psa. 107:17-20.

**The Fourth Stone represents:**  
IV. A VISION OF SOMETHING BIG Vs. 47-48; 51&54

We must not be satisfied with what God has done in the past. We must continue on attempting big things for God.

(Psa 81:10) "I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."

(Jer 33:3) "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

The only limitation is how big a vision will we believe God for. He causeth the winds to blow. It's time we get on God's program. He can make things happen!

If we want God to add to the mercy drops He's been dropping around us, and if we want showers of blessings, then we need to prepare our fields for rain.

**The Fifth Stone represents:**  
V. A HEART FULL OF FAITH

For any reason, "Let no man's heart fail..."

You will always have plenty of faithless people around. Saul, the strong men in Israel and David's brothers who should have been the one to face Goliath, had no faith either.

But David had faith from the beginning of this giant undertaking. How about you? Does spiritual heart failure occur when you hear about the dreams for the future, or do you have a heart full of faith? Like the disciple said, "Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief!"



# 7 Strategies To Defeating Giants In Your Life

Are you facing any giants today? How do your giant(s) compare with Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:4 says: "And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span."

Based on the King James Version of the Bible six cubits and a span would make Goliath over nine feet tall.

When you consider that the average height of a man is five feet eight inches, Goliath was truly a giant.

"And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass." (1 Samuel 17:5)

According to historical research Goliath's helmet weighed roughly 66 pounds and his brass coat weighed roughly 175 pounds.

1 Samuel 17:7 says: "And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him."

The tip of Goliath's spear (not the entire spear) weighed approximately 20 pounds.

Without question, Goliath was a fierce-looking, loud-talking, massive killing machine who struck terror in the hearts of his opponents.

Have you faced any Goliaths today? We are not talking about a natural Goliath. Is living from paycheck to paycheck barely making ends meet a giant in your life? Is being unemployed or under-employed a giant in your life? Is having someone you love addicted to drugs or alcohol a giant in your life? Is having your spouse

unfaithful either in word or deed. . . a giant in your life? How are you dealing with your giants? Are you making the typical response?

David had a defining moment based on new information and motivation. "And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel." 1 Samuel 17:25

David discovered that the person who killed Goliath would be given three things:

**First, not just riches but "great riches."**

**Second, he would be given the hand of the King's beautiful daughter in marriage thus making him a member of the King's family and giving him entrance into the King's court.**

**Third, his father and family would have their homes free from payments and taxes.**

Upon learning of the reward, David made a profound statement in 1 Samuel 17:26 when he said: "for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

David finally received the right motivation. Here are **seven keys to defeating the giants in your life.**

**1. Show up for the battle ready to fight.** Sometimes you don't get to just watch and accept the place, the time or situation but you must always be ready for the fight. **Sometimes you must take the fight to the enemy.** 1 Samuel 17:34-35

David didn't just defeat the lion

and the bear. The scripture says that David went after them when they stole what belonged to him.

**Second, you have to expect the return of what belongs to you plus restitution.** There will be times in life when the enemy takes what belongs to you. He will steal your income, your home, a family member, your time and/or health. You must be aggressive in going after what the enemy has taken. Proverbs 6:31 says: "But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house."

**Third, you must be ready for battle in season and out of season.**

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.." 2 Timothy 4:2

Finally, remember **you will never win a battle you didn't show up for.**

**2. Don't run from the battle.**

Ignoring a problem will never make it go away or lessen the intensity of the battle you're facing. Running in the midst of a fire fight with the devil will either make you a prisoner or a casualty but never a victor. If someone or something is causing you a problem, it's better to face the consequences. **If you want to be the leader of the band, you must be willing to face the music.** You don't have to run from any battle because you always know who's with you in your life's pit and in every adversity you'll ever face. "The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can



man do unto me??" Psalm 118:6

**3. Don't be afraid.**

If you're facing difficult, if not, seemingly impossible financial or other attacks of the enemy you can take comfort in knowing that God is in the situation; He's with you no matter where or what kind of battle you're facing.

With God by your side, there is no reason to fear or ever doubt the outcome of the battle.

**4. Don't worry about what other people may think.**

No one else can fight your battles. No one else will take your place on Judgment Day. You and you alone are accountable for what you do or don't do.

Other people may face a shortage of money, opportunities, courage and/or wisdom but there's one area where they never experience a shortage; that's in opinions of what you should and/or shouldn't do. Why do some of your co-workers talk about you behind your back? Why do some of your friends and even family members get angry on your initiative and desire for a better quality of life? Your success becomes a reflection of their lack of success.

Sadly, some people instead of facing up to their lack of success seek to minimize who you are, what you do or are capable of doing so that it will not reflect poorly on them. It's important that you understand other people's motivation for the hurtful things they may say. It's critically important that you never allow their opinion of you to determine what you do or don't do.

In life, there may be times when you like David will ask "what have I done now." The attitude and actions of others may not be so much as to what you're doing as to what they are not

doing.

Consider the words of Colossians 3:23 which says: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" Remember, it's not important what others think but what God thinks about what you're doing.

**5. You choose the weapons.**

There are three things you should know when it comes to choosing your weapons.

**First, get rid of anything that doesn't work for you.** Eliminate anything that can be weaknesses or that will restrict your movement and possibilities of success. (See 1 Samuel 17:38-40)

Remember that just because somebody else does something that it may not work the same way for you.

**Second, find something that will work for you. Play to your strengths.** David's weapons of choice wouldn't work for anybody else but him that's because he was the only one that it could fit.

**Third, you have weapons that can defeat every foe.** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds) 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

**6. Understand the rewards of winning.**

Never make any mistake about it: the battle you are facing is for territory; for the rewards that God has promised you. Like David discover the rewards waiting for you for eliminating your Giant.

God has a benefit delivery system designed for every person who ever lives on earth. He desires for you to be rich that's why He gave you

the power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18.)

Your enemy wants you broke, bewildered and disgusted. Once you realize who's fighting against you and the weapons available to you, you can begin your active pursuit of the prosperity God has for you. And that would give Him more pleasure than you realize what He intended for you to have (Psalm 35:27.)

The enemy wants to keep you in huge debt, strung out by payments and with little, if any hope of ever becoming debt free. The enemy wants you to believe that where you are in life right now is where you're going to stay. That's simply, not true.

When you let God help you, when you are obedient to His word, then your financial dreams will become a reality.

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" Isaiah 1:19

**7. Do something with what's in your hand.**

**"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."** You should always start where you are; with what you have at the moment.

David choose five smooth stones, he didn't choose someone else's weapon he chose what he knew would work for him. David activated what he knew would empower him. "That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us". 2 Timothy 1:14

In every battle you face, being empowered by the Holy Spirit will **GUARANTEE** your victory and your ability to defeat every giant of debt, lack, sickness, despair and doubt.

You'll defeat every giant you face because God is on your side.