

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: "WATCH AND PRAY ~ Jesus commands both vigilance and supplication, readiness and dependence. 'Pray to God and row to shore,' says the Russian fisherman. 'Pray to God and keep your powder dry,' runs the saying of our pioneer forefathers. There are two sides to mans religious life: His own honest efforts and God's guidance and support. Either without the other is inadequate." ~ LEAVES OF GOLD

SPIRITUAL WARFARE and CONTENDING WITH THE ENEMY!

The *Spiritual Warfare Training Manual* was written to help give the Christian an understanding of what spiritual warfare is, what it involves, and how to apply it successfully. This manual has traveled to the nations with me. I take it everywhere I go for it is a valuable resource. I use it often.

"Why?" you ask.

The answer is simple; I do spiritual warfare of some type every single day. This manual can be an effective tool in the hand of a Christian.

I have learned in the 40+ years of serving the Lord to be knowledgeable of Satan's operations according to Paul (2 Corinthians 2:11), and to apply biblical principles of spiritual warfare against him, as God gives mighty armor and wisdom to resist the enemy's attacks successfully. I make sure that I am properly trained in order to engage in battle with the enemy; so I become the victor (overcomer in Christ-see John16:33) and not the victim. I encourage you to do the same.

Contending with the enemy! What does that really mean? The word contending has the following definitions: coping, dealing with, be engaged in a fight, carry on a fight, come to terms with, maintain or assert, grappling, struggling, and to exert strenuous effort against opposition. The list was quite long and I was reminded again of the biblical warning to be aware of the plans and schemes of the devil. Beloved, no Child of God is exempt from these battles, so be wise and be prepared. God is on your side--He is your partner!

Some of Satan's maneuvers against us are: He tries to weaken our prayer life, hinders our power and negates our testimony. He tries to involve you in relational conflicts that will destroy relationships and long time friendships. His goal is to tear down relationships. He will tell you one lie after another to get you side tracked in your Christian walk. Satan will try to "*brainwash*" you by telling you that you can't measure what to what God expects of you, so he can't use you. He'll try to tell you that you can't be a witness and win souls to Christ! He tells you that they won't believe, so don't be a fool; let them live their own life. Don't get involved. Just live your life and enjoy yourself—live it up, you only live once. Lies! Lies! Lies! Don't you believe Satan—believe God's Truths—His Promises.

GOD'S PROMISES:

If God be for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31)?

We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us (Romans 8:32-39).

Temptation is common, but God is faithful, and will not allow more than you can bear and will make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it (2 Corinthians 10:13).

All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Rejoice that you are counted worthy to suffer shame for His name (Acts 5:41).

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Psalms 107:2).

If we are ashamed to speak for Jesus in this world, He will be ashamed of us (Mark 8:38).

Put on the whole armor of God and apply it daily (Ephesians 6:10-16).

God's goal for all of us (Christ-likeness) means that we must know God's written Word; it is filled with practical helps. We must be saturated with God's Word, obeying the Word, and insure your Christian growth by faithfully attending a bible teaching church and be baptized as a public testimony of your faith in Christ.

Read! Read! Read! In addition to the Bible, check out your local Christian Supply Store for recommended books. Christian networks—what an awesome blessing they are, especially to the shut-ins. We cannot claim ignorance in our spiritual walk when so many helps are available.

I leave you with this truth in Psalms 4:3-5 which says, "But know that the Lord has set apart him [God's children] that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto him. Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord."

Pray! Pray! Pray! Someone has wisely said, "*Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.*"

To be a partner with God, you must have a personal relationship with Him! Do you know God personally? Do you have a daily relationship with God? Do you

have a purpose, meaning, and a reason for living--these things that we desire and search for in life? Do you have a spiritual void, a "God-shaped vacuum" in your heart and life? Possessions won't fill it, nor will success, relationships, or even religion. Only through a vibrant relationship with God can this void be filled.

Jeremiah 17:9 says, *The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?* The Bible identifies this problem as sin and *We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins, and we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.* (Romans 3:22 (NLT)) God understood our problem, our weaknesses, our sin and sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer the punishment deserved by us all--to die on the cross that we might be set free from a sinful life style.. What must I do to be set free you ask. The Bible says, *Now turn from your sins and turn to God, so you can be cleansed of your sins. Acts 3:19.*

To know Jesus Christ personally and have our sins forgiven, we must first believe that we are sinners separated from God and that our only hope is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to earth and died for our sins. Then we must confess and turn from our sins and welcome Jesus Christ into our life as Lord and Savior. When He comes into your heart, He moves in, and helps you make changes from the inside out. if you are ready to receive Jesus Christ so that you can receive His forgiveness, pray this prayer with me as we agree together...

God, I am sorry for my sins. I repent from them and right now. I turn from my sins and ask you to forgive me. God, I thank You for sending Jesus , Your Son, to die on the cross for my sins. Jesus, I ask You to come into my heart, into my life and be my Lord, Savior, Master and my Friend. Thank You for loving me and for forgiving me and giving me eternal life. Thank You that You will be with me always and You will help me to make good changes in my life. Thank You God, that I am now your beloved child. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer and meant it, know from this moment on that God has forgiven you and He has received you into His family. Tell someone about your new decision and find a Bible-believing church where you can meet together with other believers and serve the Lord. They will encourage you and help you grow in your new faith.