

“A Walk through the Beatitudes”

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I hope that one day they can read this book and understand why I spent so much time in front of my computer, for allowing me to follow one of my dreams.

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I believe that this book will be chosen to provide the perfect blend of knowledge and skills that went into authoring this book.

GOD'S ASIAN PRINCESS



I thank each of the collaborators, friends locally and overseas for their prayers and support.

Thanks for everything!

I look forward to writing the second book soon.

I think it will be a great opportunity to evangelize the Word of God to the whole world.

My Pen name is: TinTin God's Asian Princess

Preface

I began this book with great respect for the patriarchs of our faith who paved the way for us to read about their life experiences with the God of the bible and gave us a hunger to experience God's love for ourselves. They left behind some profound revelations and eyewitnesses' who have experienced a one on one covenant relationship with the Living God of the Bible.

These patriarchs agreed that He is the same as He was in Bible as He is today. Their lives is a treasured map that leads to a treasure buried in a remote hidden place just waiting for someone to find it and claim it.

I believe that you will explore the depths of God in this book that will direct you to the secret place described in the division of Psalms 91 as abiding under the shadow of the Almighty.

There is a place in God that is attainable to mortal men to enter and experience a one on one encounter with the God of this universe.

We can apply this theory to our spiritual walk with God where no enemy spirit would dare tread. I am asking all who read this book to keep an open heart and mind and allow the Lord to minister to your needs; both

spiritual and physical. The entrance to the secret place can be found in Matthew the fifth chapter as we glean from the preacher of all preachers as he preaches to the multitudes on the Galilean hillside about God's work of grace in His people in what we refer to as the BEATITUDES.

The Beatitudes are eight blessings recounted in the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. Each is a Proverb-like proclamation, without narrative, "cryptic, precise, and full of meaning. "Beatus" come from the Latin word means "blessed", and the term "Beatitude" comes from the Latin noun which means "happiness". And each of the beatitudes begins with the word "Blessed".

Beatitudes are a map of life, series of directives helping us on our journey. They are also an attitudes that should we possess in our daily life. They are the heart of Jesus' preaching and they take up and fulfill the promises.

The Beatitudes give us a glimpse into the character Jesus expected in His followers, His true disciples the citizens of the Kingdom of God!

The Beatitudes are for all Christians in all ages.

Beloved, the fundamental idea through the Beatitudes is God's approval upon such a man who exhibits these traits.

- 1. What is the world's formula for happiness?***
- 2. What do the beatitudes teach us about real happiness?***

The beatitudes offers us the keys to the Kingdom of God and Eternal life. Happiness has become a lifetime goal for many however, few people have experienced lasting happiness.

Most attitudes today are usually opposite of what Jesus teaches, and if a person can know the true secret to happiness, it is Jesus.

The Beatitudes are contrary to the way that the world thinks is true. The Christian who has put them to the test realize their unquestionable truth.

As you read this book, I am praying and believing that you will receive a fresh anointing from God and you will know for yourself who he is and what His purpose is for your life?

Chapter I

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Matthew 5: 3

Matt. 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Lord is trying to unveil unto us a picture of the kingdom life that is found in Him.

When I think of the word “*poor*”, I think of the scripture that states that the poor will have the gospel preached to them which is found in *Matthew 11:5*.

I know that a hungry man or woman will get desperate to fill their hunger.

Some view those in poverty as being broke or not having the necessary funds to survive and pay their bills.

The Lord here in the Sermon on the Mount is trying to get us to view clearly in an internal or spiritual way.

To be poor in spirit means to have had some of life’s trials and curves bring us to a place of spiritual brokenness. It is also referred to as not material poverty but spiritual poverty apart from God, one sees oneself as lost and hopeless.

We have become broken to our self-will and now our minds are more receptive to the wonderful influences of God’s Holy Spirit.

We have become aware of our past and the broken hearts and lives we left in our trail.

This brings humility in our life and allows God's Grace and Spirit to begin a work in us.

Dear reader, we may not understand God's entire plan, there is nothing better than for us to live Holy and enjoy the love of God in our life.

We need to revere Him and remember that His will and purpose for our lives was placed in us at birth.

Each of us prayerfully needs to search out God's plan for our life by spending time in His word and in His presence.

When we finally succeed in discovering the purpose that God has for us, then that purpose will help establish our vision.

Vision is what God desires for us to contribute toward the building of his kingdom.

Let us live our life with a desire to be more like him and keep our eyes on the right thing.

He said the poor will have a reward in heaven. They are the people who admits their strengths and weaknesses and think they are better than others. Those who admit that they need God and others to help them. Those who always have to have their own way and not too concerned about what they have or don't have. Those who are willing to share with others without making a big deal about it.

Dear one, are you broken; are you sorry for your sins? Then you are a fit subject for the Holy Spirit to use in this end time and will have many opportunities to be a soul winner for Jesus.

Let us focus on doing well to others and leave the criticism to someone else.

Let's keep our focus on the example that Jesus set and endure hardness as a good soldier and reap the reward in the end.

Chapter II

Blessed Are Those That Mourn

Matthew 5: 4

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Many of us have grieved more than once in our life over the loss of a job, or a relationship gone sour.

Some have grieved because of a health problem that limited their ability to live a normal life.

Many Christian parents are in grief over the rebellion of unruly teens that seem to know more than they do especially when the computer can be found in most homes.

We can look back at The Sermon on the Mount preached by the preacher of all preachers and get some insight and hope in a world that is in constant change.

The Lord Jesus has some good news as he preaches to the masses on this Galilean hill side.

The good news is that Jesus came to heal the broken in heart.

Look at *Isaiah 61:1* which says "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted".

Perhaps the best example of this in scripture can be found in the life of the Psalmist David.

David had been made aware that he had sinned against God when confronted by God's prophet Nathan. David was guilty of adultery and murder. David confessed his sin and had a truly repentant heart.

Listen to the mourning of his heart as he prays and asks God not to take his Holy Spirit from him. He also asks God to create in him a clean heart and a right spirit in Psalms 51. We then find that God declared David to be a man after his own heart.

We must realize that sin is hated and despised by a Holy God who is perfect in all his ways. We find this sin hating God at Mount Sinai shouting that the soul that sinneth shall surely die but then we find Jesus stating that he came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

Scripture tells us that those who mourn will be comforted.

Jesus the preacher is telling us that God will forgive and bring spiritual comfort to those who are truly sorry for their sins.

Here Jesus is speaking about those who mourn over their sin. The people who agree with God about the evil of their own hearts can attain an "enviable state of blessedness" due to the comfort they receive from communion with the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

The Spirit comforts those who are honest about their own sin and humble enough to ask for forgiveness and healing. Those who hide their sin

or try to justify it before God can never know the comfort that comes from a pure heart.

This is a Godly sorrow that produces repentance and leads to salvation.

This is true sorrow that affects a person down into their soul.

There is deep agony because they know they have done wrong and they deserve punishment.

When we have sinned, we have violated God and we should feel guilty. We should feel shame because of our wrong doing and we should mourn over our sin.

We should take it to God and like David, ask his forgiveness that we may be cleansed.

Look at what Jesus had to say about our sin as we look in **1 John 1:9**. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just (righteous) to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

We must come to God and identify with our sins. I am talking about calling them out to him, not just calling them sin. He already knows what we have done and the areas in our life that we are having trouble with.

God is moved by our faith and we will be comforted because situations will change.

We can either let the problems around us change us or we can be moved by compassion to change them.

Chapter III

Blessed Are the Meek

Matthew 5: 5

⁴Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the Earth.

Have you ever been tried to the core of your very soul and wonder if you have been singled out to be tried like Job?

Have you ever wondered why some people can get by with doing wrong and yes, even prosper in their wrong doing?

Well, I have often had these thoughts and hoped God would be looking the other way but in reality if we view what is happening in our land with immorality and divorce in the church almost as high as that in the world not leaving out the backbiting among God's people, I do not think it would take long to put a damper on our spirit.

If we viewed all of this with our human reasoning we would tend to ask these same questions about the justice of a loving God.

With this in mind, I would ask the question, "who are the meek and why did Jesus in his teachings make the statement that they shall be the ones who will inherit the Earth"?

Matthew Henry Commentary states; *"that the meek are those who quietly submit themselves to God, to his word and to his rod. They are those*

who follow his directions and comply with his designs and are gentle toward all men”.

To be meek is to be pliable, teachable, and submissive to those who are in authority over us.

Meekness is the fruit of God working in us by his Holy Spirit.

This fruit working in us will give us a new outlook on life and will in time change our attitude into Godly sorrow which will soften our heart to be more receptive to the working of his Spirit within us.

God is at work in our inner man to produce the image of his Son in us.

Meekness causes us to be ready to accept instruction.

Meekness is the opposite of trying to govern our life and allowing God to fight our battles.

A meek person will endure the trial even if it means being embarrassed or suffer pain or loss.

The meek are able to endure with patience because they know that God loves them and that he is sovereign over all his creation and watches over it.

Having a child like attitude and being meek, allows us to bear the insults from others.

Being a meek person causes us to remain calm while others get heated up.

We learn to leave revenge up to God while remaining calm and true to our calling.

No wonder Jesus said that the meek will inherit the Earth.

Psalms 37:16 says: “A little that a righteous man has is better than the riches of the wicked”.

The meek are satisfied with what they have and thank God that they have it.

We need to keep reminding ourselves that Jesus endured horrific trials though he himself was the Son of God. *John 18:11*.

We are going to face trials and tests which are designed to produce Godly character in us and remember that through these trials we are gaining valuable knowledge and experience not forgetting confidence and patience which we can use to help someone else going through their hardships.

God is more concerned with building our character than he is with the hard trials which seem to make us want to ask him why the hurt when we are supposed to be his children.

I will close by saying that there is a difference in our reputation and our character.

Reputation is what man thinks about us but character is what God knows about us and that is the bottom line of why we must endure with the attitude of endurance because in this race the prize is not given to the swift or the strong but to those who finish the race.

To many people want to have a mountain experience without going through the valley but dear ones, we are going to have our trials and suffer hardships, but the good news is we do not have to face them alone for Jesus promised that he would never leave us or forsake us but would go with us all the way till the end of the world.

Chapter IV

Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst For Righteousness

Matthew 5: 6

⁴ Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

Hebrews chapter one begins by saying that Christ is "the radiance of the glory of God and the express image of His person.

The introduction to the Book of Hebrews is that Jesus is in a category on His own for He is the exact representation of God's person.

Do you want to see the beauty, and the splendor and the glory and the majesty of God?

Look unto Jesus. He is far superior to the angels. He is far superior to Moses, the great leader, the greatest prophet to arise in all of Israel.

Jesus is greater than all of the prophets for He is more than a great prophet.

He is God in human flesh. He is greater than Israel's high priest for He is the ultimate High Priest, the One who would go into the Holy Place once and for all to pay the price and give the sacrifice.

God did not make a covenant with us who would not be able to keep it but made an everlasting

covenant with his son and when we accept his plan of salvation we are drafted into that covenant as sons and daughters of the most high God.

His new covenant is better than the old covenant.

When He shed His blood on that cross two thousand years ago, it was not something that had to be repeated over and over again like the shedding of the blood of goats and bulls and sheep or any other animal.

Christ's blood was like no other blood that flowed on the face of this planet. He made a covenant with His eternal blood so that you and I once and for all could be forgiven.

By this covenant, He says in Hebrews chapter 10, "Let us draw near" into that holy place". You and I have been given access into the very holy of holies because a High Priest has gone in and offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

You and I can now come into the presence of a Holy God.

All of this was done by Jesus. God's son Jesus did not do away with the law which was like a doctor diagnosing our problem, but fulfilled its requirements to pay our sin debt and bridge the gap between us and God. The law was then put aside as a requirement for sin which could never be a permanent solution to man's sin problem.

God raised Jesus up for our justification and through faith in him and his finished work; we can become the children of the Living God.

God has given us something to pursue, a dream to pursue. We find it in *Hebrews 12:14*: "*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.*"

What is the purpose?

What is it we are pursuing?

Peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

We define holiness as something just for us, but as we study the history of great revivals when the holiness of God comes we find that people are broken in humility.

What happens is that peace is made between brothers and sisters in Christ.

All the barriers that have been erected by man and by Satan and by the flesh are torn down.

Racial barriers, denominational barriers, barriers of broken fellowship, past hurts and pain are torn down when we get in the pursuit of peace with all men and the pursuit of holiness.

God is righteous and we need to have the same desires that he has.

When something is wicked before us, we need to call it what it is.

When something is pure and holy before us, we need to hold on to it. We need to have a burning desire for it.

Our passion desire and hunger should be on the things that are pleasing to God.

Are we hungry? Do we have a strong desire for God to control our lives?

We need to spend time in God's word and presence, kneeling before Him and meeting with Him. He wants to revitalize and renew us.

If we do not maintain a prayer life and make that a regular part of our Christian walk, we will not be able to cope with all the trials and tests that are sure to come our way

The desire for God and his righteousness should be a driving force in our lives.

Jesus said that we are to go into our closets in private and it is in that private place we are to pray unto the Lord and that is the hidden place where Satan cannot hear our prayers where we are covered by the shield of His love.

When we dwell there, that is where the powers of darkness cannot pervade for it is our private time of knowing God so well and experiencing Him so well that we drink of the wine of Christ and experience the life that He purchased for us as new creations through the blood of His atoning sacrifice.

It is in the secret place where God's mercy meets God's judgment and together we are formed before the foundations of the world by the palm of an all knowing God who loves us and ransomed us through His sacrifice.

We can experience liberation from the powers of darkness and the anointing of the Lord will fill us to the overflowing nature of the everlasting glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

When we abide in the secret place we are hidden from the enemy and the enemy cannot touch us.

Because we are in the secret place, the forces of darkness cannot prevail against us so therefore we can pray in the power of the Holy Spirit without fear because

God has given us a sound mind and strength to pray in the power of His Spirit thus defeating the powers of darkness, through the anointing and indwelling presence of Christ within us who gives us strength to be an overcomer.

We can use an illustration of placing our hand in a glove. By itself the glove can do nothing but when we place our hand in it then it not only has a living substance in it but it also has the strength of the life that is in it. Because we have been redeemed, Christ is now dwelling inside and we not only have the power of attorney to act in his name but we have the strength of that power within (*Christ in us the hope of glory*) which causes us to declare that we can do all things through Christ who strengthen me.

Chapter V

Blessed Are the Merciful

Matthew 5: 7

⁴Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.

Forgiveness and mercy are what God demonstrates to the undeserving sinner.

Romans 3:23 declares, “*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*”. According to this scripture, *that undeserving sinner is us*”.

The scriptures also teach that the manner in which we forgive people is the manner in which we shall be forgiven.

Does not the Lord’s Prayer as found in *Matthew 6:12* declare for us to forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors?

How do we show mercy and forgiveness when we are dealing with forgiving our-self?

There are some people that you just have to love at a distance and others claim that you need your enemies closer than your friends but I will let you make the decision on that.

There is not one person in the whole world worth you allowing them the power to control your life. Only God has that right, if you have completely turned it over to him.

God does not expect you to become somebody's trash can.

It is very hard to forgive someone who has torn our heart out and stepped on it.

Some have stated that if you cannot forget then you still are not forgiving the person.

Dear reader, do you think that God can forget when we have done wrong when he knows all? He is beholding the past, present and future all at the same time.

When he states that all our sins will be cast into the sea of forgetfulness means that the payment for them has been made and they will not be held against us now or in the judgment at the last day.

They have been placed on Jesus and God can now show us mercy.

When we forgive someone who has deeply hurt us, we simply release them of being accountable to us for the sin and look to God to bring justice in his time.

The first work of a Christian should be to show mercy. Again, the scriptures teach that those who are merciful shall be shown mercy.

Dear beloved, just as we need God's mercy every day, we need to extend mercy to others.

Jesus told his disciples that they should forgive man their trespasses 70x70 a day.

Do you think he would ask us to do something that he is not willing to do?

Get it in our big head that he loves us and desires to see us grow in his kingdom.

He said that he will never leave us but would go all the way with us even to the end of the age.

Now that's a God we can put our trust in. I am talking about the abundant life which is found in Christ and if we fall short, God is a restorer.

It is not my brother or my sister but it is me oh Lord standing in the need of prayer.

Help me come out of my comfort zone and have a clean heart to do thy will. Lord, your word says that they that are in leadership are the ones that ascend and they must have a clean heart.

But what about those who bring their gift to the altar which could be singing, preaching or some other gift and they remember there are some unfinished business with another brother or sister.

The word says to go and make things right then come back and offer up your gift?

We are now entering a time of spiritual cleansing and we are all becoming the same size.

There are no big I's and no little U's in the body of Christ.

We are being conditioned now by the Holy Spirit where everyone is flowing together in the gifts.

We are entering a time of unity in the body of Christ.

We are no accident. Nobody has our DNA or our finger prints.

We each have a lot to fill in God's eternal plan and purpose.

Nobody can do what we were chosen to do which leaves no room for jealousy to be in our ranks.

God needs all kinds of people to reach all the different cultures and ethnic groups in our world. We need to start caring for one another and quit being selfish and isolated.

We must have the right attitude toward God and our fellow men.

If we are true Christians then we are blood brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are bound by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and not doctrines or denominations and we need to realize that we are in a fight but not with each other?

The enemy loves for us to fight among ourselves.

If we are in a fight, and we are not fighting each other then we must realize that we need to fight together as one colossal body.

When we discover the plot of our enemy uses to bring division among us and unite together in love, we will experience a spiritual divine strength from within and become a powerful force that will begin reclaiming ground that the enemy through lies and deceit had been wrongfully taken from us.

We then can begin to fight our battles together from the side of the victory that has already been won.

There is a powerful strength and force in unity.

Every moment is a precious gift from God.

God wants us to manage our time and invest it in something worthwhile.

Let us extend mercy and forgiveness and in doing so, we will release our-selves and be a useful vessel in the Lord's vineyard.

Chapter VI
Blessed Are the Pure In Heart

Matthew 5: 8

4 Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God”

The Greek word for pure would be cleansed.

This beatitude could be translated as “Blessed is the man who is genuine in heart”.

A court document is considered genuine and admissible in any court if it is the original document.

A leather bill-fold is stamped genuine leather meaning it is not phony leather.

To be genuine means the real thing.

Here in this beatitude, the word **pure** means one who is **holy**.

The pure in heart are those that will strive toward integrity and being honest with their fellow man. To be pure in heart does not mean one who is perfect but one who is striving to live a clean life and is willing to admit their mistakes and become honest with God and themselves.

In Matthew 5 and verse 8 we find that Jesus made a promise to the people gathered by the Sea of Galilee stating that the pure in heart shall see God. Moses was only able to see God’s hinder parts as he was placed him in the cleft of the rock and God passed by.

This was an overwhelming experience for him to stand in the presence of a powerful being that is perfect in all his ways and character.

We seem to see a trend advancing today that allows the flesh to stay alive with its self - gratification and tend to forget that God is Holy and hates sin.

After being in the presence of Almighty God, Moses had a glow so bright with the radiance of that encounter that he had to place a veil over his face because the Glory of God which was shining through him.

In the book of Revelation, the Holy Angels in Heaven are seen covering their face in the presence of God.

Yes dear reader, if we keep ourselves pure and holy we shall see Jesus face to face.

The bottom line is that we need to fill our hearts and minds with Christ.

In *2 Timothy 2:22* Paul warns Timothy to *“flee youthful passions, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart”*.

Chapter VII

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Matthew 5: 9

⁴Blessed are the peace makers; for they shall be called the children of God”

I begin this chapter by asking you the reader a question; “**What is a peacemaker?**”

First let me say that a peacemaker is not one who is a peace breaker.

I remember growing up with some rough people and some of them were members of a ruthless motorcycle gang called the peace makers.

They would parade through town looking like they were three weeks overdue for a bath and if you shot one of them, it would only make them mad.

There are two kinds of people in the world.

There are those who ***build up*** and those who ***tear down***.

It does not take too much effort on our part to be one who would tear down but it takes one who has a made up mind and a willing heart to be one that would build up.

What I am saying is anything will go downstream but it takes some power to go against the current.

Beloved, we can make up our mind to either be the problem or help find a solution to the problem.

I have had people in ministry come with their complaints about how something was done that they did not approve of and when I would enquire how much they had contributed to the cause the answer was obvious that they had not donated one penny nor did they want to be in a meeting to find a better way to resolve the problem that they could agree to.

I relate these types of people to being like a thermometer that is in a room.

A thermometer reflects the temperature in a room.

If the room is cold then it reflects that the room is a certain degrees and that it is cold. This is all it was designed to do and is incapable of changing the temperature in the room.

There are indoor thermometers and there are out door thermometers and their main function is to reflect the temperature of their surroundings.

A thermostat is different in that its main purpose is to change its surroundings.

A peacemaker can be likened to a thermostat that is visible in our homes and businesses because they have the ability to change the atmosphere in a room.

A room can be full of complaining and a peacemaker can enter the room and say

something which causes people to focus on a different thought pattern.

The whole climate in the room changes and people are thinking different.

God wants peacemakers in the church, workplace, and in the world that will make a difference in people's lives.

He wants those who will point out to people the good things he is doing in their lives and not stay focused on the negativity around them.

A peacemaker is one who is prepared to pursue peace regardless of the cost.

God was willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice and establish peace with his people through the death of his son.

Peacemakers are called the sons of God because they reflect the work of the son of God that brought peace.

Peace must first begin in the home for if you cannot keep peace at home, then your chances are not so good in other environments you may encounter.

We must stand up in our society and not compromise our moral and ethical values.

Paul states in *Romans 12: 18* "*for us to live at peace with all men*".

Beloved, we can only do this by maintaining a disciplined life.

Matthew 5:11-12 “Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my name sake. “Rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you”.

I say unto you the reader that anything can float downstream in a river but it takes something with power to go upstream against the current.

This brings to light the ole saying that when the going gets tough, then the tough gets going.

Faithful and committed people stay committed.

We are going to be judged by our faithfulness.

Luke 16:10 says that “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that his unjust in the least is unjust also in much”

This can be better understood by saying that whosoever can be trusted with a little can also be trusted with a lot.

Whoever is dishonest with little is dishonest with a lot.

Dear reader, did you know our faithfulness reflects our character.

The beatitudes are designed in a specific order and are not just there by chance.

The first four Beatitudes deal with our outward man and our relationship with God. They deal with what it means to be a Christian.

The last four deal with our relationship with others or how a Christian should live their life in the midst of others.

The first four focuses on our needs but the last four focuses on our responsibility to God and our fellow man.

Let's take notice that the sermon on peace is followed by the sermon on persecution. This is no accident, God wants us to know that the Christian life can be a lonely life that can be costly but the rewards are out of this world.

Chapter VIII
Blessed Are the Persecuted For
Righteousness Sake

Matthew 5: 10

⁴Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake; for theirs is the kingdom of God”

I have lived long enough in this world to know that some people cannot be pleased. No matter what you do, they are never satisfied unless they are complaining and griping but they are never willing to help find a solution.

They want to control the money but never give to the fund. I for one would rather be criticized for doing the right thing than for doing the wrong thing.

Matthew 5:11-12 “Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely for my name sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

To begin this chapter we need to realize that there are two things in this world that cause conflict, ***war and divorce.***

Beloved, you can trace every ministry, marriage and yes even businesses that have failed to these two things and I will list them for you.

1. Pride (*God says he hates a proud look*)

2. Greed

There is much here we do not understand, but what is very obvious is that a spiritual war is taking place between evil spirits and angels of God.

This reveals that in the world which is unseen by us there is a conflict going on, a conflict of the ages between good and evil, light and darkness, God and Satan. The bible reveals that there are satanic forces and heavenly forces engaged in warfare.

The bible also reveals that we are smack dab in the middle of the whole thing. The US has been involved in many different conflicts including the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World Wars 1 and 2, The Korean War, Vietnam, The Gulf Wars and literally hundreds of other conflicts throughout our history as a nation.

Some of you have fought for your country and know war firsthand.

Those who are engaged in military conflict have no doubt who their enemies are and have developed a plan to defeat them.

Dear reader, there is another battle being waged all around us in the spiritual realm. Unfortunately, those engaged in spiritual warfare most often do not know who their enemies are, have no plan for victory, and have little, if any, training to confront their enemy.

There has been a war going on since before the fall of Satan that many are not even aware of.

Paul gives us this instruction about spiritual warfare that we need to take to heart.

Ephesians 6:10:12, "Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms".

1. There is An Invisible World That Is Just as Real as the Visible World.

Paul ended his life stating that he had fought a good fight and he was not talking about the church down the street.

For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

Beloved, while we exist in this present visible world, we also exist simultaneously in the unseen world that Paul describes here.

The unseen world is described as the place where evil beings exist, but it is also the place Christ, and all believers exist.

2. Beloved, we are involved In an Invisible War, It is a Cosmic Conflict that Has Eternal Implications

The Bible tells us that once Daniel had been praying to God and not receiving an answer to his prayer suddenly an angel came to him and explained the delay in terms of spiritual warfare:

Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel, since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven and I have come in answer to your prayer. Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them.

We are human beings but in this war we don't wage war with human plans and methods, we use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds.

With these weapons we can break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we can conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ

I want to sound the message loud and clear that God is calling His church to engage Satan in warfare so that we will be strong in the Lord and will be able to break satanic strongholds.

Our weapons are not of this world nor are they visible, but are mighty unseen weapons like prayer, the Word of God, and other things that Satan is terrified of.

Our Foe Is Formidable And His Goal Is To Destroy Us And Discredit The Cause of Christ.

Not everyone that says they are a Christian is a Christian but Jesus said we can know those that are because of their fruit. Their fruit is embedded in their character. He said we will know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren.

Dear reader, we can find in the history of the church that persecution always brought revival.

When Paul was in Ephesus which was in Asia, it seemed as if he had gained nothing from the mission but defeat and shame.

Paul gave us no details except there was some kind of trouble that erupted in this city. He had just escaped death and now this journey seemed hopeless.

Paul spoke of being under such intense pressure that he and the men with him were despaired even of their own lives.

Beloved, it could have been a sickness or it could have been some kind of mob violence. It appears that the Corinthian people knew what the trouble was. Paul informed the people with him that they needed to trust God which could raise the dead.

Paul stated that they were pressed beyond their human strength and the only hope they had was God. This is what pressure will accomplish in us. It will press us out of our selves.

The pressure must be great enough to press us beyond our human strength and any outside source of hope we may be hanging on to. It needs to be powerful enough till we see no hope and if God does not intervene, we will surely suffer defeat.

This is how we grow in the walk of faith. We must come to the end of ourselves until we have no hope but the living God.

When we come to the end of ourselves and sink down until we have no hope in human strength, this is when the victory of the cross comes into shining view.

God never promised any of us that after becoming a Christian that our lives would be without discomfort, discouragement even depression.

Everyone one of us will experience one or the other and sometimes all at once! It's through these times of difficulty that Jesus becomes more real to us all. Even if you feel like the ship you are on is sinking,

God offers faith to us all through the exemplified life Jesus Himself lived. *1Peter 4:12-14*, Paul describes the persecution and suffering one can expect for being a follower of Jesus Christ.

1Peter 4-12, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; 13 But rejoice, insomuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.(kjb)

1 Corinthians. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Beloved, this can be better said that because of God's grace, if you seem to be tempted to an incredible extreme -- take comfort that ye may be

able to bear it and rejoice that He could lay such suffering on you because you are able.

We have all of the resources we need, so let's be on the alert; let's know the enemy and his tactics; let's exercise our faith in resisting all attacks, and let's draw support from the Christian community and the God of all Grace.

Remember that no matter how much trouble we have such as heartaches or sorrows, there is a reason and purpose for it and our God is at work behind the scenes.

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together (good and bad) for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose".

We find that the Christian race is exemplified as that of not embracing the swift or strong as the winner but all who win this race are those that endure to the end".

This tells us that to be a winner in this race; we must have a spirit of endurance.

We already know that when we attempt to do anything for the kingdom of God that we will meet opposition and victory does not come easy but it should help us to know that he is with us and he said in his word that "his Grace is sufficient for our every need".

Paul would not allow himself to quit, turn back or give in to the pressure of others but stated "He pressed toward the mark of the high calling of God which was in Christ Jesus".

Dear reader, *“You cannot do what you say you can’t until you attempt to do what you can”.*

Do you have the heart God wishes for you or have you crafted the heart the world has said you should have?

If you find yourself lacking, its ok, we all lack in one way or another, but the way to make amends and to try to come into alignment with the heart of God, is to repent of your sins, seek His will by reading His Word, pray earnestly for others, and trust in the heart of our Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood to prevail against the assault that the world is even now attacking us all with.

These two scruples are summed up in, *“Love the Lord thy God, Love they neighbor as thyself.”* Do these two things, seek His face, seek His will, seek His glory and not your own, and you will inherit all Christ has promised from the little sermon called the ***“Beatitudes.”*** Amen.

Conclusion

People Are Important to God!

People are important to God and he does not want us living in bondage but in the power and victory of the cross.

The Sin of mankind was dealt a mighty blow by our savior at the cross. God raised him up for our justification that we could come into his holy presence as one who had no sin.

We are declared righteous through the blood of Jesus.

We need to start living as one that knows God from the free pardon of sin and put the devil where he belongs and that is under our feet.

Friends; we must never give the devil an inch in our lives. He will lure us to take the bait like an angler trying to catch a fish. He will make it look appealing but remember, if we do take the bait, it will have consequences and place us in bondage.

It is time to come to God and come out of irons.

Dear reader may I ask what is the source of strength and stability in your life?

Dear friend, if your trust is in anything but the Lord, then you are walking on unsteady ground.

1. We find in God's word that the Lord never changes.
2. The LORD is the Everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth.
3. He will not grow tired or weary, and his ways are higher than ours.
4. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Beloved, even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew (exchange) their strength for His. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint as warriors in their Christian walk.

One does not need a physic or horoscope to predict their future, all they need do is delight in themselves in the Lord and look at what lies within.

Our future is not ahead of us as some would think but it was placed within us at birth.

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