

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

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10am-2pm
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Prayer Support Groups

First Monday of each Month
PRAYER SUPPORT
Next Meeting is June 1st
6:30 to 8:00 pm
Karen Dyson will share her
journey with her Prodigal

RIVER OAKS CHURCH
CLEMMONS, NC
Meet in Room #4 2nd & 4th
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
Currently studying
The Bondage Breaker
by Neil T. Anderson
Led by Jeff and Sherye Hall
All Meetings postponed

Ladies Bible Study

NO CURRENT MEETINGS
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SAVE THE DATE

for Fall Retreat....October 2 - 4
"Whispers of God's Love"



A newsletter from On Wings Like A Dove Ministry

June 2020 Vol. 16 Issue 6

When the Battle Is Hard

"Once again there was a battle between the Philistines and Israel. David went down with his men to fight against the Philistines and he became exhausted." 2 Samuel 21:15

Our family has had some tough battles in years past as we've journeyed through our sons addiction and imprisonment. Also, my husband's family losses could only be termed as tragic. We might not understand it all, but as we look back, we believe affliction came so we might know the God we serve more intimately that we might go out to minister to others out of our pain.

We learned that His grace is sufficient for all our needs. We learned to trust Him in all things. We learned He is our Provider, Counselor, and Comforter. We learned the truth that all things really do work together for our good. We learned to surrender all to Him and let go of any control we thought we had. We learned to lean into His Word and listen for His voice of direction and promise. We learned as Psalm 119:71 says, "it is good for us to be afflicted, that we might learn His statutes".

So, when a new round of afflictions come----can I remember what I have learned in the battles of the past? I must remind myself of His promises in His Word daily in order to stay focused on the truth and quote certain passages over and over until I truly believe what He says.

The past two years have certainly been a battle and like David I have had times of exhaustion. That is when I call in the troops---intercessors who hold up my arms. What would I do without them?

I looked up the word exhausted and one definition was—an overwhelming desire to run and hide; reminds me of our ministry verse as I often want to fly away like a dove and be at rest.

Our key passage describes David's exhaustion. Our battles can become exhausting as we are bombarded with the arrows of Satan when he says "this will never work out, you and your family will be defeated, conflicts will never be resolved". But in 2 Samuel 22 it says David rose out of his exhaustion to sing a song to the LORD. He said the Lord was his rock and fortress, his deliverer, his shield, his fortress, and his stronghold. He began to speak out who He was in Christ and Who Christ said He was. Verse 18 says, "He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me; for they were too mighty for me". Too mighty for me, but not for God and my intercessors. If you are beginning to weaken in your battle, gather your own prayer warriors, determine to get back up and take the next step, and begin your songs of praise (why not praise through David's song in this passage) which brings breakthrough and deliverance. Here is the promise: "God girded David with strength for the battle; those who rose up against him God subdued under him". He will do the same for you and me!

Last week Jimmy and I went to the mountains and walked down a deserted path. When I become exhausted it seems God calls me away and shows me treasures in creation. This picture describes what He showed me as I not only came up under His rock, but I stood on His rock. The solid rock, no shifting sand. That day helped me refocus and begin to not only hope for but believe deliverance was on the way. And so, it was!

~ Sandra



Easily Entangled

Throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.



Hebrews 12:1

Soldiers fighting in a sweltering jungle many years ago encountered a frustrating problem. Without warning, a pervasive prickly vine would attach itself to the soldiers' bodies and gear, causing them to be trapped. As they struggled to get free, even more of the plant's tentacles entangled them. The soldiers dubbed the weed the "wait-a-minute" vine because, once entwined and unable to move forward, they were forced to shout out to other members of their team, "Hey, wait a minute, I'm stuck!"

In a similar way, it's hard for followers of Jesus to move forward when we're ensnared by sin. Hebrews 12:1 tells us to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" and "run with perseverance." But how do we throw off the sin weighing us down?

Jesus is the only one who can free us from pervasive sin in our lives. May we learn to fix our eyes on Him, our Savior (12:2). Because the Son of God became "fully human in every way," He knows what it's like to be tempted—yet not sin (2:17-18; 4:15). Alone, we may be desperately entwined by our own sin, but God wants us to overcome temptation. It's not through our own strength, but His, that we can "throw off" entangling sin and run after His righteousness (1 Corinthians 10:13).

TAKEN FROM OUR DAILY BREAD



Prayer Thoughts

The Great Commission

- Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He told his disciples. "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to **obey all the commands** I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 24:18-20
- What were the commands he gave them? In John 13:34-35 Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you **love one another: just as I have loved you**, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
- While Jesus taught many things, His life continuously demonstrated this love He desired His followers to have and to teach others. This one commandment summarizes all the others. "Love one another" means "love all people," not just "love other Christians."
- **JESUS IS LOVE**, so He is much better at modeling love than we are! Yet, He commissioned us to love others, so therefore, we must strive to do so and make it a priority in our Christian walk. Loving others sets us apart. He said people will know we are His when we do this. In this strange world we live in that is so divided and broken by political and religious viewpoints and differences of opinions, are we doing a good job of loving each other? Can we do better? I know I can. The good news is Jesus said, "I am with you always even to the end of the age" and "I will never leave you or forsake you".
- God knows our weaknesses and He promises to forgive us when we ask. Yet, He commands us to love—it isn't a suggestion.
- **Praise God He will help us do what He asks of us!**
- A prayer ~ Lord, on my own, I can't love everyone. It is only through Your Spirit within me that I can do this. Live through me to love someone today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.



2 Chronicles 20:12



Jehoshaphat and his people were about to face a great enemy, and they were afraid. Armies were on their way to drive them out of the land God had given them, and Jehoshaphat did the only thing he could think to do: he prayed. In his prayer, Jehoshaphat admitted that the people were powerless to stop what was coming at them, and they simply did not know what to do, so they focused their eyes on God and trusted Him!



PRAY FOR AMERICA!

