

## Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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### **"Haman" Defeated**

**F**inally, you can breathe! Now you have enough strength in you to Praise the Lord! One of your toughest battles is over, and you can say that Satan has been defeated; there is peace. You were knocked down, but not defeated; the strength of the Holy Spirit poured into you from . . . from where . . .? God knows; it was His work.

Satan knows! He had run headlong into the prayers and support of the Body of Christ, and it was too much for him.

As you wait in the Lord's presence, you think of a neighbor who knows Jesus but seems not quite himself recently. The Holy Spirit prompts you to intercede for him. Time passes as the Holy Spirit does battle through you against the enemy (read Daniel 10.10-13, and note especially verse 13). You feel exhausted – yet, you are strengthened.

A sister in the Lord comes to mind; she is elderly and lives alone. You sense her need for fellowship – and your need to fellowship with her. You arrive at her door with a pot of tea and fresh-baked cookies. The conversation centers around Jesus, His love, and His care for His Body – words of life and encouragement. Each of you have been blessed by sharing the Word of the Lord.

Someone is sick, unable to get out of bed, another member of the Body of Christ goes to them, prays for them, then takes out a handy wipe and bathes their face and arms. They leave the package of handy wipes with them along with words of encouragement and life. That person is touched by the Lord. The person soon rises out of the bed on which they have lain for some days with healing in their body as well as in their spirit.

A caregiver is exhausted. The constant vigil of caring for a loved family member has been a strain. The caregiver needs rest and a break from the deep concerns and responsibilities, a load lifted for awhile. Two members of the Body of Christ arrive – one to sit with the family member.

the living Almighty God is greater than any force that Satan can bring against us.

We have the Word of God, the written word and the Living Word. No force of the enemy, no religion controlled by Satan, no amount of degradation in our society, no demon from hell can stand against the power of Jesus Christ and His Body who, as the Body of Christ, function as one (*Eph 6.18*).

[Let us pray] always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for **all saints**.

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***Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ***

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

The one who takes the caregiver out makes effectual in each of their lives the Word of the Lord in Philippians 4.8.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *[are]* honest, whatsoever things *[are]* just, whatsoever things *[are]* pure, whatsoever things *[are]* lovely, whatsoever things *[are]* of good report; if *[there be]* any virtue, and if *[there be]* any praise, think on these things.

This time spent with another servant of the Lord has been refreshing, restoring life and strength to the caregiver to continue the journey as well as to the person being cared for and – the members of the Body of Christ who came to encourage.

Several of Christ's Body have met to pray and worship together. They shake hands as they leave; one slips some money into another's hand in response to God's instructions to meet the needs of one another (Acts 2.42-45; I John 3.17-18).

When the Body of Christ functions properly, we have strength and power against Satan. The old saying, "united we stand; divided we fall" is very true in The Church. All Satan's ploys are meant to defeat us and stop the effectual work of the Kingdom of God on earth. United, we have the ability to stand strong in the face of Satan's devastating attacks: fear, illness, accusations and lies, guilt, loneliness, lethargy, rejection, financial problems...

Have you experienced struggling through a very difficult trial, fighting for your life, thinking you may never feel the presence of the Lord again? You are beginning to see a little light through the darkness; you have a glimmer of hope – only to be faced with ten more Haman's! You are not strong enough to fight alone. You need reinforcement. Where – is – the Body of Christ?

Reinforcements come – "**Haman**" Defeated!

Are we, the Body of Christ, in the presence of Jesus enough to sense His prompting when a brother or sister needs our support? Are we quick to respond to that need regardless of what may ensue or how things may or may not be resolved?

Daniel faced certain death unless he could reveal and interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream – an impossibility for Daniel without a miracle of revelation from God. He went to others of God's people, the three Hebrew children, and asked for prayer (Daniel, Chapter Two). Their prayers were answered as God revealed the dream to Daniel "in a night vision."

Esther knew the profundity and efficacy of coming together regarding the decision that she was called to make for the lives of her people, God's people. She knew the need for a time of coming together as one to accomplish the will of the Lord God. She knew the efficacy of coming together with another as she told Mordecai, "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day . . ." (Est 4.16). Mordecai also knew the efficacy of coming together as we read in verse

17: "So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him."

Esther had risked her life to intercede for God's people. Haman was dead. The enemy defeated. Mission accomplished. . . But, No! There were ten more "Haman's." Not only was Haman himself strong, but he had ten sons and their families and all who served them – a concentration of the enemy in Shushan, the palace, a stronghold against the works of God through His people (Esther, Chapter Nine). In all of the 27 provinces, the enemy was defeated in one day's battle while the Jews in Shushan had to fight two days. However, the victory took place **in SHUSHAN**, where the decree was made which granted the Jews the right to fight for their lives (Est 8.7-11).

It is interesting that Esther had two banquets of wine – then had two days of battle. Saints, the closer we are to God's throne, the stronger the battle; but if we do not press our way into the presence of the Lord, into a very close relationship with Jesus, we will not be able to stand in these last days. We **all** must fight. There is no middle ground; there is no choice if we are following Jesus, if we are taking up our cross and following Him for the sake of the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

We must sit in the King's presence and be strengthened by the wine of His blood. We must be empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit in double portion – for the battle against us is doubled. We face an enraged enemy who knows his time is short (Rev 12.12):

Therefore rejoice, *[ye]* heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

In light of the increased onslaught of the enemy and considering the change in attitude in our country toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His people, you may ask, "How do I attain the relationship with Jesus Christ that I must have?" Perhaps a good starting point is to join with King David in his response to the Lord in Psalms 27.8: "[*When thou saidst*], Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek."

Certainly, we need to read carefully and apply the armour listed in Ephesians 6.11-18. Notice that God provided everything we need for protection – if we will apply it. Notice also, that the only thing given for offensive warfare against Satan is the Sword of the Spirit, "... which is the word of God," – the weapon Jesus used against Satan during His temptation in the wilderness.

The apostle Paul gives us a very good (and somewhat alarming) reason for putting on the "whole armour of God" in verse 12: "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]*." But, be encouraged; know that our God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,