



Mighty in the Word

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

*Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)
The Wise Still Seek Him*

*of the
Lord
Jesus Christ*

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Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy (I P 1.13-16).

There is a song that says it well. *Go Forth in Great Confidence.*

Soldiers preparing for war, anointed with power by your King, Now gird up the loins of your minds that you may be fully prepared.

Who is the captain of your army? Let Him ride out ahead of you, Preparing the path you are to take, then riding along side of you.

Robed in the strength of your God and clothed in the armor He provides, Is there one to overcome you? No, you shall not be disturbed at all.

God alone is your Rock, a Fortress for you in time of need, And He is the source of your strength; without Him you could not succeed.

Know, too, the love of your brethren, let it encourage you, For though you go forth from their midst, still you remain one with them.

Refrain

Go forth now in great confidence for you shall not be put down For your God goes forth with you. You shall not, shall not be put down.

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Gird Up Thy Loins

A war is being waged against us, and there are times it feels we are being defeated - as we endeavor to stand against the wiles of the devil. He has an army that is strong, and some of his members may be in your family, may be your friends who know the ways of the enemy. The enemy is strong, cunning, deceptive, treacherous, opportunist . . . What more can I say other than he is fighting against the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This war in which we so often find ourselves will wear us down, take us down roads we need not travel, should not travel. This war is taking its toll on the followers of Jesus Christ, weakening us endeavoring to cause us to compromise out of our fatigue of the war being waged against the people of God in Christ Jesus.

How many in the Biblical days were worn down, led down another path referred to in the New Testament as the broad road that leads to destruction? How many today are following this same path out of growing weary from the struggles put before them?

Wherein lies their strength? Wherein lies your strength? What are some ways Satan endeavors to lead you down the broad road that leads to destruction? Have you ever fallen into his traps, his lies, his deception? It is so easy to trust those we know, to fall into their ploy. All too often we do so because we do not want to be rejected or thought of as being different.

The Lord said in His Word,

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I *[am]* the LORD your God (Lev 20.7).

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, **Be ye holy**; for I am holy (I P 1.15, 16).

Sanctify (**שְׁתִּify**) in the Hebrew means to be ye separate. The Lord calls us to be separate from the world. We are in the world, but we are not to be of the world; we are not to enjoin them in their gods, their teachings, their way of life. II Corinthians makes this clear. We have too long applied certain scriptures to one's liking, using it, all too often, as a weapon with ill teachings. Look closely at this passage in II Corinthians 6.14-18.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *[them]*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *[thing]*; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

When a person separates oneself from the world and girds up, prepares for what lies before them, seeks the power of God in their life, that they might know what it is the Lord wants of them and seeks strength to go forth, the Lord will respond with the Truth, His Truth.

We must gird ourselves with the Truth of God, for it is in knowing the Truth that we will be prepared for the *Via Dolorosa*; we will be strengthened as were the Magi to make the journey across the Arabian Desert, that they might indeed behold the Glory of the Lord - as they bowed before the King of kings and Lord of lords.

When we write of a journey, we are writing of the life lived daily for the Lord Jesus Christ. It may be we remain where we are, but the journey is living for the Lord Jesus Christ, to come out from among the world to be and do what the Lord has called us to be and do - whether remaining where we are - or going beyond where we presently reside to distant lands.

Girding up is a time of preparation to be strengthened in the Lord. We are to gird up daily as we put on the Armor of God daily (Eph 6.10-18).

Putting on the whole armor of God is a time of girding up, a time of preparation for what lies before us.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

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]*.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

This is a time of preparation, a preparation of war, is it not? We need to realize that we need to be ready to go forth in war daily. We are reminded of this in II Kings 9 and also Jeremiah 1.17.

Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child. (2Ki 4:29)

And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead: (2Ki 9:1)

And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I *[am]* with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee (Jer 1:16-19).

Paul understood that he must always be ready to go forth into war for the Lord. He understood how the enemy works against those who trust in the Lord, those who are endeavoring to live for the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and many others suffered much, as we read how John the Baptizer was beheaded, and James the Apostle, and many all through the centuries who have suffered - as well as those in the Old Testament.

But oh, the faith of those in times past, and many today, who trusted the Lord and experienced Him bringing them through it all.

Act 12:6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

Act 12:7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *[him]*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *[his]* hands.

Act 12:8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Act 12:9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

Act 12:10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

Act 12:11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *[from]* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

Come what may, we are called to a life of holiness in the midst of the warring that is a part of the lives of those walking on the *Via Dolorosa*. Peter also encourages us to walk on in the Lord and to be prepared for war with the enemy - and his followers who come against those who love the Lord Jesus Christ.