A close-up photograph of a dark red granite surface with a rough, crystalline texture and some visible cracks. The text is overlaid on this image.

**Red Granite**

**16 Daily  
Devotions**

**WARFARE IN  
THE SPIRIT**

brought to you by  
**Marshall & Jessica Jones**

**Published by  
Red Thread Poets**

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## ENDORSEMENTS

From : Jessica Reavis-Christensen,

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=forged%20by%20fire%3B%20iron%20sharpening%20iron>

I'm a former Recreational Leader of the New Lisbon Correctional Institution and I have to say that I am SO thankful for the 9 months I got to spend in prison. I would have never understood the need for prison reform if it wasn't for my experience.

When I was hired at N.L.C.I., I came in with the understanding that my position was to help rehabilitate the men to become successful citizens of society. I encouraged them to put the work in during their time, so they would have the tools to thrive in their freedom. Well, administration did not like that. The administration was threatened by the joy and empowerment that I brought to Recreation. They didn't like that the men were choosing healthy outlets, they didn't like that the countenance of the general population was lifting, they didn't like that the men were excited to be treated with humanity rather than unimportant scum. My time in prison was cut short because of the administration feeling threatened by the atmosphere I brought to the dark institution. Light is not wanted within those walls and that is something I believe needs to change.

After 40 days of unpaid administrative leave, I was terminated on Friday, December 13th 2019 for "not passing probationary standards". It didn't matter that all the programming I had added and built upon was changing the atmosphere in the institution for the better. They needed a scapegoat to get rid of me, and "not passing probationary standards" was it. Friday, December 13th was a day of sadness but also a day of resolution. As I drove away from N.L.C.I., no longer employed by the DOC, I made a pivotal decision to write Marshall Jones.

Marshall Jones was one of four inmate workers that assisted me in my Rec Leader position. He lead fitness classes, reffed all competitive events, assisted setting up Rec events, helped encourage men that came to Recreation, and counseled the men to prepare for their release. Marshall's conduct spoke for itself and I could see he was a man of his word by the actions displayed. He worked hard in Rec and Marshall worked even harder doing his time by becoming a published author of his first book, "A Raven's Meal". While working with Marshall, I learned he was serving a double life sentence, and I was shocked he would be there for the rest of his life. The reason I was shocked was because Marshall lived more free within the walls of that prison than any other person I've met in my life. How is that possible? It was possible because of the faith he so boldly lives. Marshall was incarcerated at 21 years old and has served 17 years of his sentence. When I drove away from N.L.C.I. I decided I wanted Marshall to know that he was remembered by someone. I wanted him to know he made an impact on my life by living the way he did within the walls of prison. I wanted him to know that despite the circumstances, I wanted to extend the olive branch of becoming his friend. Writing Marshall Jones was one of the best choices I have ever made in my life.

I believe so many men like Marshall are deserving of a second chance. This is something I wouldn't have ever understood if I didn't have my time in prison, working closely with the general population. There is a deep need for prison reform and Marshall is the perfect story of a cast away finding redemption. I know how many second

chances I have had. I believe it's time for those who have proven rehabilitation exists, get their second chance. To make evident their efforts aren't for nothing.

**From: Kelli**

Comment from Kelli, who read the Climb, a poem by Marshall on Red Thread Poets Website  
[www.redthreadpoets.com/the-climb/](http://www.redthreadpoets.com/the-climb/)

Re: The Climb, by Marshall Jones

This poem personally speaks to my heart because I know the struggle of many who are fighting for their freedom from incarceration. Prisons are full of people who have been given unmerciful harsh sentencing who are just wanting to be given a chance to redeem themselves in society to help others. God wants to use those who have surrendered their hearts to His Son Jesus Christ who's incarcerated to become the mentors for our youths in today's culture. God has a plan for every individual's life. Keeping people confined to incarceration who God need to be Ambassadors for His Kingdom is certainly not the answer. Treating all people how one would want to be treated should be the defining moment when passing a judgment onto others. Love and mercy covers a multitude of sins. God and the Lord Jesus are expressing love and mercy everyday towards all people and humanity must practice in doing the same. God Bless all who read this comment and take it to heart.

**From: Peter W Stevens,**

Friend to the Founder of Red Thread Poets (Our Triune God). [www.redthreadpoets.com/category/100-poets/peter-will/](http://www.redthreadpoets.com/category/100-poets/peter-will/)

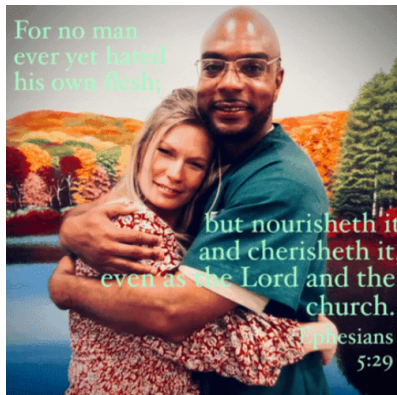
I met Marshall through Jessica. We have become very close brothers in just a few short months emailing everyday. I live north of Toronto in Canada and was building a website to glorify God and honour poets. Red Thread Poets. Marshall sent me his poems, i have his book a Raven's Meal and he is one of our honoured poets on the site. HOWEVER it is his daily devotionals under the 'banner 'RED GRANITE' that show his anointing - they are high impact for me every day. We post them in Facebook under Red Thread Poets, and recap them on the website. <https://www.redthreadpoets.com/daily-devotions/>. Marshall is DEARLY LOVED, peter

November 1, 2023, update:

Since November 1, 2020, Marshall and later with Jessica have written approximately 1,300 Daily Devotions, of which there are now over 12 Series. On November 1, 2022, they were married. Hallelujah.

Marshall continues to study and write from within the confines he remains in for now. He has commenced a bachelor's degree in biblical studies, please pray for them both, and for The Lord to arrange his release before too long. Jessica posted this recently:

'I can confidently say my husband is everything he's supposed to be in our marriage, and he is always wanting to love me more tomorrow than he did today. He's not smothering, nor is he one who says things but doesn't follow with action. My husband is the real deal, and I am so thankful to know what it means to truly be loved by him like Christ loves the Church. Today's message (Ephesians 5:29) is great encouragement to husbands, wives, and the whole walk of marriage. God bless each of you and your marriages you are committed to!'  
Much love!



## INTRODUCTION

The world as we know it is at war. Conflicts in the Middle East, mass shootings worldwide, violence from political uprisings, hostile takeovers of governments. We are experiencing warfare in all corners of the world, and there doesn't seem to be an answer to bringing much needed peace into this world again. All of the peace talks, ceasefires, and ending of wars have not changed a thing, but the problem seems to be getting way worse. The problem in our world is that we are fighting these wars from the wrong realm, with the wrong tools, and very few people in power understand that the war needs to be fought in the spiritual realm. The same spiritual warfare is raging in our personal lives as well, and as long as we fight spiritual wars with our flesh, Satan will always be victorious. Warfare in the Spirit is a journey through our daily lives, as we experience victory over the enemy through our faith in Jesus Christ and through the utilization of the Word of God. Through the power of the Word of God, we will discover where our warfare begins, what tools to use, and how to be prepared when Satan mounts an offensive against the children of God.

### WHY KJV (King James Version)

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

This is one of my favorite Bible verses, a constant source of encouragement for me to dig deeper and deeper into the Word of God to receive truth in its deepest form. I believe it is our job as believers to study as deep as we can, and then build our way up. The King James Version of the Bible is one of most popular early translations of the Bible to English, so that is where my study begins. I have come to learn that by putting the King James Version side by side with other translations that may be easier to read, that easier doesn't always keep the deeper meaning intact. The "thee", "thy", and "ye" can be a little overwhelming at first, but as with anything else we study continuously, it will become easier to decipher.

The Bible I use, the KJV AMG Hebrew-Greek Keyword Study Bible, gives me an enormous tool to not only study the Word of God from an earlier English translation, but gives me access to study the keywords in the Scripture to find the deeper meaning of the verses I study. The more I studied the Word of God, the deeper I wanted to go. When I first started my incarceration over 17 years ago, I read the NIV version of the Bible. As I matured as a reader, I went back to the King James Version in 2007, wanting to learn the most difficult English translation. I went to the Hebrew-Greek Keyword Study Bible in 2014 and have been using it since. I recently was given a MacArthur Study Bible, NASB, which I use for scriptural cross-references and commentary purposes. I am in no way saying it is wrong for anyone to study any translation other than the King James Version, but I do suggest that everyone possesses one, so we can break down the Word of Truth side by side. It is important to go to the earliest possible translation, to see the modernized translations accurately convey the Word of God.

Studying the Word of God pleases Him, and I desire to break down the Scriptures rightly, understanding that by studying the Word of God, I am breaking down truth so I can position myself for the Holy Spirit's teaching. Whatever I learn, I then share, and by sheer repetition, I am able to retain what I learn better.

May the study of God's Word release amazing truths and powerful revelations in your lives.

## Ephesians 6:10 - be strong in the Lord

As believers, we no longer have to move in our own strength and in our own power. With the mighty presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling inside us we now have the ability to walk in dominion as Christ did when He walked the earth.

The enemy knows what type of power we have access to, and what that power is able to do to transform lives, such as turning more people to the Lord.

And he wants to take that away from us.

Because nobody can take away anything God has given, Satan's only method is to cause warfare in our spirits, in the hope we relinquish our position in the kingdom.

If that happens, he can torment us at will.

Spiritual warfare is present in every believer's life, but too many are trying to fight off the enemy with the wrong weaponry, and in the wrong realm.

This can be tragic to both a believer's life and the world around them.

Today, we look at Ephesians 6:10, and begin a study into the Warfare in the Spirit.

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

The word "brethren" means "one who is connected with another in any kind of intimacy or fellowship, having the same "Father", being followers of Christ, and being of the same nature". Context is important to Scripture.

In Ephesians 1:1, the Bible says, ***"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus"***.

From this verse we learn the writer is Paul, and he is writing to the saints at Ephesus.

"Saints" are spoken of those who are purified and sanctified by the influences of the Spirit". So saints and brethren are believers.

So how does this pertain to us now?

In 2 Timothy 3:16, the Bible says, ***"ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"***.

All Scripture is valuable to bring us into fellowship with God.

In Romans 12:4-5, the Bible teaches, ***"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."***

As brethren, we are one, one with Christ and one with one another.

This unity is powerful in the faith, and in Ecclesiastes 4:12, the Bible says, ***"And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."***

Our unity in Christ strengthens us, making it harder for the enemy to break us.

In John 15:5, Christ says, ***"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."***

We need each other, but without Christ have no leg to stand on.

"Be strong in the Lord"

The word "strong" means "empowered".

This means power is given to us by the Lord! In order for the Lord to give us power, He has to have power correct?

In Matthew 28:18, ***"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."***

Jesus Christ has ALL POWER, so it is absolutely nothing for Christ to give us some of His power, right?

The word "strong" here is a variation of the word "dunamis" which means "miraculous force".

It's word, "endunamooō", means "to enable or strengthen."

We must understand that our strength doesn't come from our ability, our wisdom, or our power.

In Philippians 4:13, the Bible says, ***"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."***

Our ability as brethren and believers is directly linked to Christ's strength.

In Zechariah 4:6, the Bible says, ***"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."***

The Spirit of the Lord will fill us with the strength we need to overcome the enemy.

Being strong in the Lord is walking in the strength HE supplies!

***"And in the power of His might"***

The word "power" here means "vigor or strength".

The word "might" means "forcefulness, or spiritual ability".

Spiritual ability, not physical or mental ability.

We can't wrestle our way to victory over the enemy, nor can we think our way out of an attack. Trust me, I have failed miserably at this!

In Ephesians 1:19, the Bible says, ***"And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power"***.

The power is meant for us, but is conditional that we believe.

Our own lack of faith is where we lose our battles.

We must also learn to not use weapons that are ineffective against the enemy.

In 2 Timothy 1:7, the Bible says, ***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."***

What God has equipped us with is sufficient for victory.

When we begin to move in the strength and power the Lord has given us, we will experience more victory in warfare.

## **Ephesians 6:11 - Put on the whole armour of God**

The enemy is busy, looking for ones that can be swayed to entertain his influence.

The enemy doesn't have power over believers because Christ destroyed his power on the cross, but the enemy will operate freely within the power we give him.

Imagine someone following behind us looking for any sign of weakness, poking, prodding, trying to find a place of vulnerability within us. That is exactly what that enemy does, and sadly, most of us at some point break down and allow the enemy room to sow tares among our wheat.

This is warfare in the spirit, and a soldier is at their absolute best when they put on their armor.

Armor protects us against attack by absorbing the blows that would consume us utterly without armor.

Armor is only effective when we put it on and wear it correctly. If the enemy is able to penetrate any part of our lives, it is only because our armor wasn't on or used properly.

Today, we look at Ephesians 6:11, the whole armor of God.

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

The phrase "put on" implies we dress or robe ourselves. This is an intentional act on our part.

In Colossians 3:10, the Bible says, ***"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him"***.

Now I want us to look at 2 Corinthians 5:17, which says, ***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he IS a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."***

If we ARE new creatures in Christ, then why do we have to PUT ON the new man?

God makes salvation available to us, but it is our job to accept His gift.

God makes our identity available to us, but it is our job to accept who we are in Christ.

There can be a difference between who we are and what we put on.

In Ephesians 4:22-24, the Bible says, ***"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."***

We as believers have to reject our old man and accept this new man understanding that in Christ we are made righteous and holy. We must put on the "whole armor of God".

So that means that, in order to accept God's armor, we have to put off whatever defense mechanisms we used to use to protect ourselves. In order for armor to work, it must be worn in its entirety, thus the "whole" armor.

Some armor is no good from God's perspective.

In Romans 13:14, the Bible says, ***"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."***

This is great armor, but if we 'make provision for the flesh', we will take Christ's armor off, thus taking Christ off!

In 1 Samuel 17:47, the Bible says, ***"And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands."***

David, being obedient to Saul, tried to put on Saul's armor, but couldn't move properly because he has never fought with armor before. David knew the only armor he needed was the Lord! Man's armor cannot win the battles the Lord can!

***"That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil"***

The phrase "stand against" means "to endure, persist, continue, or withstand".

Putting on the whole armor of God gives us the protection we need to withstand attack.

In James 4:7, the Bible says, ***"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."***

We can't resist the devil without submitting to God first. When we submit to God we are putting on the Lord Jesus Christ, accepting His way over our own.

In 2 Corinthians 6:6-7, the Bible says, ***"By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left"***.

Battles over the enemy are won because we are robing ourselves in Jesus Christ, leaving no room or provision for the flesh.

In Romans 8:8, the Bible says, ***"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."***

We can't please God if we are in the flesh, because flesh wars against Spirit, and Spirit against flesh.

The word "wiles" means "trickery, to trace out with method and skill, to deal artfully, to lie in wait."

In Genesis 3:1, the Bible says, ***"Now the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"***

The word "devil" means "false accuser, or slanderer". God said the serpent was more subtle than ANY beast of the field, so trickery is what he does best. The full armor of God gives us the knowledge and power of God in its entirety to withstand the deception of the devil.

What good is it if we don't use it?

## **Ephesians 6:12 - for we wrestle not against flesh and blood**

In warfare, it is easy to see people as the enemy.

They are tangible, able to be approached, and if we deem necessary, we avenge ourselves against them.

We go through life victimized by people, we develop hatred in our hearts for them, we're unwilling to forgive, and the people that hurt us are to blame.

People fight to right wrongs, people shoot each other to even scores, and it seems like our whole world is at war in some fashion.

The enemy is enjoying this because as long as we continue to make war with each other, we will never come to understand where the wars are really waged.

There is a spiritual realm at war with believers, aiming to wrestle victory from the saints, and it is headed by Satan.

When believers begin to understand that there aren't bad people, just bad spirits in people, we will begin to pray for their deliverance instead of hope for their downfall.

Today, we look at Ephesians 6:12, wrestling against the spiritual forces.

***"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."***

This word "wrestle" means "to struggle hand to hand with an opponent, to struggle with attempting to handle, maneuver or manipulate something". The key word in this is struggle.

In 1 Corinthians 9:25, the Bible says, ***"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."***

Our struggles should always be for crowns that can't rust or fade; but also for crowns that please our God and bring us into closer fellowship with Him.

The phrase "flesh and blood" implies the physical and moral weaknesses and frailties of humankind.

In 1 Corinthians 15:50, the Bible says, ***"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."***

If flesh and blood can't inherit the kingdom of God, then surely flesh and blood won't prevail in a spiritual war. Let's look at our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Ephesians 1:21-22, ***"Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."***

Christ had to put off the corruptible flesh in order to seize the incorruptible spirit, and he has authority over all spiritual things. Christ never wrestled against flesh and blood because He knew the war was in the spirit.

We must know the same as believers, shouldn't we?

In John 6:63, Christ says, ***"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."***

The flesh can get us nowhere, and has no value compared to the spirit.

***"But against principalities, against powers"***

The word "principalities" means "the princes and chiefs among demons".

The word "powers" means "demonic dominion".

This changes everything because society thinks people are the enemy, not their realm that is working within the people.

In Ephesians 2:2, the Bible says, ***"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience"***.

We used to "go with the flow" when we moved according to the world, living in disobedience, completely detached from the will of God. We waged our wars in the flesh because that was the nature we answered to.

When we "wrestle against" principalities and powers now as believers, we stand in opposition to the demons and demonic dominion that tries to utterly re-enslave us time and again.

***'Against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places "***

The word "rulers" refers to Satan and his angels.

The word "darkness" pertains to people in a state of moral wickedness, under the influence of Satan.

We don't come against the people under Satan's influence, but we come against Satan and his angels.

In Matthew 16:22-23, the Bible says, ***"Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."***

Here, we have a perfect example of Christ warring against Satan, not Peter, because Peter's rebuke of Christ came by the influence of Satan. The person that tries to keep us away from God's calling is under Satanic influence, and in that case, Satan must be resisted.

"Wickedness" means "moral malice, an evil disposition".

In Colossians 1:13, the Bible says, ***"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son"***.

Because we are in the kingdom of Jesus Christ, we now have the power to fight against the enemy from heavenly places. If our warfare is against Satanic influences in heavenly places, then there is no reason why we should be warring with people on earth.

In Luke 23:33-34 when Christ was on the cross, the Bible says, ***"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."***

Do we really consider that when we are wronged, that the people hurting us aren't fully aware of what they are actually doing, that they are actually under Satan's influence?

This is why Christ says in Matthew 5:44, ***"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you"***.

It is our job as believers to take the high road when in warfare, which requires us to exercise the things of the Spirit, not the things of the flesh.

May we understand the power the Spirit has over the flesh and keep the right perspective on where our battlefield really is.

## **Ephesians 6:13- take unto you the whole armour of God**

The enemy can be withstood. Sometimes, we give the enemy more power than he deserves and far more power over us than he actually has. No one wants to accept that we give Satan power through unbelief, through sin, and through our own desire to do things our own way. We can't be people that block God out and then expect to become successful in warfare. The whole armor of God is exactly what we need to overcome the enemy, but if we go into warfare with one piece of our armor missing, there lies our vulnerability and the enemy's point of entry. Christ was at all points tempted but didn't sin, able to withstand the trickery of the enemy by the Word of God. The enemy only has the power we turn over to him to operate in our lives. Unlike those in the world who don't have salvation or the promises of God, we can stand victoriously against the enemy. Today, we will look at Ephesians 6:13, withstanding the enemy.

"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."

The phrase "take unto you" means "receive unto yourselves". This implies that God makes this armor available, but it is our job to receive it. God is not going to force us to use the armor He provides. In Romans 13:12, the Bible says, "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." The time is now to receive the armor of God, because the enemy is constantly trying to engage us in warfare. In Luke 22:31-32, the Bible says, "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Even Christ implied to Peter that he would have to resist the enemy. That is what I love the most about God, that He doesn't force us to love Him, or use His gifts, but He equips us anyway just in case we are willing. In Colossians 3:12, the Bible says, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering". We are the elect of God so we are able to receive amazing qualities unto ourselves that will make warfare easier to master. In Hebrews 2:8, the Bible says, "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him." When we put on the whole armor of God, the enemy is subject to us, so the only way the enemy can get the victory is if we never take up the Lord's armor.

"That ye may be able to withstand in the evil day"

The phrase "that ye may be able to" is a conduit for a condition fulfilled. Taking up the whole armor of God makes us able to withstand, but without the whole armor of God, we will only fail. Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me". The ability to do all things lies in the provision of the Lord. The word "withstand" means "stand against, to oppose". In Ephesians 4:26-27, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil." The enemy uses our emotions to render us vulnerable, causing us to not take up the armor of God. We can't succeed against an enemy when we are giving him place to reign. The phrase "evil day" means "a period of time where people are morally wicked, corrupt, and the world is full of sorrow and affliction". Kinda sounds like right now doesn't it? We have a Covid pandemic, tons of mass shootings, a culture oversexed and violent, and we currently have Israel and Gaza firing off rockets at each other. In John 12:35, the Bible says, "Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth." Imagine going to war in darkness. That is exactly what happens when we don't take up the whole armor of God. We are unable to oppose the enemy because we can't see the enemy or where he is attacking from.

"And having done all, to stand"

The phrase "done all" means "to work fully, to accomplish, to fulfill". The word "stand" means "to hold one's position firm". When we take up the whole armor of God, stand against the enemy, and obey the Word of the Lord, we have done all God has asked us to do. In 2 Chronicles 20:17, the Bible says, "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you." When we follow the Word of God and take up His armor, the Lord will fight our battles and we will stand, seeing God's deliverance. That is something worth standing for!

## Ephesians 6:14 - stand therefore

A believer's armor protects us from the blows of the enemy. Each piece of armor has a purpose, covering a part of the body that the enemy can penetrate. The armor of God fulfills this same purpose but the armor is spiritual, its qualities aimed at eliminating vulnerability in us. We have to always remember that wearing the WHOLE armor of God is vital to our spiritual health, that no piece by itself is sufficient protection. In warfare, we have to be vigilant in making sure we are covered because the whole point of warfare is to conquer and win! We will discover the importance of truth and righteousness to a believer's life, how the enemy loves to twist the truth and get mankind to circumvent the righteousness of God. Remember, the enemy's goal is to get us to abandon our spiritual armor! Today, we are going to look at Ephesians 6:14, living in truth and righteousness.

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

The word "stand" means "to hold one's position against and enemy". So we aren't just "standing" there casually, but we are standing there ready for battle. In Matthew 26:41, Christ says, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." A believer has to be aware of the enemy and be on guard. The word "loins" means "procreative power". Interesting meaning isn't it? The loins is where life comes from. The phrase "girt

about" implies being fastened around a believer like a belt. So not only does this give us protection, but being fastened around like a belt speaks of permanence. The word "truth" implies a love for the truth, in words, conduct, and sincerity. In John 16:13, Christ says, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." When we gird ourselves about with truth, we are putting ourselves in position to receive the Word of God from the Holy Spirit, and move according to His leading. Our jobs as believers are to be conduits for the truth to be spread. In John 1:17, the Bible says, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." When we gird ourselves about with truth, we are putting on Jesus Christ! In John 1:14, we understand why grace and truth came by Jesus Christ where the Bible says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." The word "full" means "abounding". Christ came to the world full of grace and truth and He kept truth in the world when the Holy Spirit was sent. God told us to be fruitful and multiply, and that happens through procreation. In spiritual warfare, the truth has to be fruitful and multiply the same way. The enemy is a liar and the father of lies, operating through deception, so this is why we need the truth. The enemy can't hold up against the truth!

"And having on the breastplate of righteousness"

"Having on". The breastplate is only effective if it is worn! The breastplate is a corselet that protects our vital organs from attack, especially our heart. In Proverbs 4:23, the Bible says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." We have to guard our hearts against attack. Here's how. In Psalms 119:11, the Bible says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." The Word of God protects our heart against the attacks and deceptions of the enemy. The word "righteousness" implies "justification, Godliness, a heart that is right with God". In Isaiah 54:17, the Bible says, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD." This is the truth, that no weapon formed against us shall prosper or succeed. We have to understand that our righteousness is not ours, but God's! In Philippians 3:9, the Bible says, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith". We are made the righteousness of God by our faith in Jesus Christ, so we are putting on the Word of God, receiving it as truth, shielding ourselves in God's protection. In Isaiah 11:4, the Bible says, "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked." The righteousness of God invokes power, and that power is found from the Word of God.

May the armor of truth and righteousness be the evidence of the Word of God's power over Satan.

## Ephesians 6:15 - the gospel of peace

Spreading the gospel of the Lord is essential to the faith. It is not about how much spiritual knowledge we can receive from the Holy Spirit, but how much of what the Holy Spirit teaches us that we share with others. When Christ ascended to the Father, He told the disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, and through discipleship, more people can have access to the Lord. The feet are what moves the body, and if the feet are injured, nothing moves, the message doesn't go forth and the body doesn't grow. Whatever doesn't grow tends to atrophy and die, so it is essential for us to keep our feet protected, so the Word can be delivered. The beauty about breaking down the Word

of God is that we tend to learn and retain more Scripture and revelation if we share what we learn with others. What we know about the Word produces security, and security produces peace. Today, we will look at Ephesians 6:15, the beauty gospel of peace.

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace".

The armor being described is typical of a Roman soldier's armor. The shoes the soldier wears have a special design, an early design of a cleated boot that grips the ground during combat. Having feet firmly planted is essential in battle because the enemy tries to move us from our position. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, the Bible says, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." God desires his children to be unshakeable in their faith, unable to be negatively influenced by the lies of the enemy. If we are stable in our foundation, it makes it way easier to help others gain the same ground spiritually. In Hebrews 3:14, the Bible says, "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end". To partake in this divine nature, we must be able to stand firm, and endure to the end. A lot of people fall away because times get hard and they lose their confidence in the very ground God has given them to stand on. In Proverbs 24:10, the Bible says, "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." Why is that? It is because we have abandoned the strength of the Lord to take up our own strength, which caused us to remove the shoes the Lord has provided for us to hold our position. No cleats means no traction, and without traction, the enemy can easily knock us back. The word "shod" means "to bind around one's feet". This is once again an intentional act, securing ourselves in the Lord, so if we are mistakenly thinking that we can operate effectively without putting the armor on, we are fooling ourselves. In Colossians 2:6-7, the Bible says, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Receiving Jesus Christ, or putting Him on, allows us to grow roots and build our foundation in Him.

The word "gospel" means "good message" and it refers to people preaching and teaching the gospel, or laboring in the gospel. These are people that are carrying the Word of God out, that are living it out in their lives. In James 1:22-24, the Bible says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." Our identity is in the Word of God, but it manifests itself when we live the Word of God out, when we do what the Word of God says. Obedience is mandatory. Imagine forgetting who we are because we aren't living out the Word of God. How can our foundation be firm in the gospel if we don't know who we are? In Romans 10:15-16, the Bible says, "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias [Elijah] saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?" When the gospel is being spread, good news is being spread. Good news tends to produce peace, if the good news is believed. Not every one will receive our message, but spread the gospel anyway. The word "peace" pertains to welfare, prosperity, and every kind of good that produces Godly bliss. In Colossians 3:15, the Bible says, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." When peace is allowed to have reign, that means the gospel is being lived out and spread, and that makes us one with God and one with the Church.

Are our feet planted firmly in the Word of God so we can experience and share the gospel of peace?

## Ephesians 6:16 – taking the shield of faith

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". This is a very well known and quoted verse, but faith is so much more. It is also the foundation under our feet, the refuge we need from storms, and the protection we need from the enemy's attacks. If the enemy can attack our faith, then our foundation in Christ can be shaken, and that opens us up for lies to come in. We have to intentionally protect ourselves with our faith, showing the enemy that we will not be deceived. When our faith is under attack, it can come up close or from a distance, but the protections we have by our faith will cover us in all situations. It is our job to put the shield of faith on, because armor is only good if we use it. When we operate in faith, God steps in and covers us from anything the enemy tries. Today we are going to look at Ephesians 6:16, taking the shield of faith.

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

The word "above all" expresses the importance of faith. Faith is highly essential to the life we live, and the enemy knows it. In Romans 10:17, the Bible says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Our faith comes from the Word of God. The hearing is the conduit by which we receive the Word. The first aspect about faith we have to consider is the Word of God. So far, we have looked at truth, righteousness, and peace in the armor of God, all of which are found directly in the Word of God. In order to have true faith, it has to come from the Word of God. The word "taking" means "receive unto oneself". In 1 John 5:4-5, the Bible says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" Born of God, born again, the recipient of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. That is who we are as believers, and that identity is engrafted into our foundation in the Lord. The enemy is known for attacking our identities in Christ, causing us to question the validity of our place in the kingdom of God. The word "shield" refers to a large shield, by some estimates 2.5 x 4.5 ft., able to cover the entire body. This shield is one of "faith" which means "a firm persuasion, a deep reliance on Christ, an unshakable confidence in the Word of God's truth. In Psalm 33:20, the Bible says, "Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield." If we don't believe this, then we won't take up the shield of faith, because we won't believe that faith is enough to cover us from the enemy's attack. With a shield this big, we have to intentionally place ourselves behind it, also holding it in place. We can't be lackadaisical with our faith.

The enemy is real and the attack can be destructive.

In Psalm 91:4, the Bible says, "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." His truth is our shield. The Word of Truth!

"Wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked"

The word "quench" means "to extinguish". So the shield of faith is lined with oil-treated leather to extinguish the fiery darts, which are flaming arrows. Did you notice that this verse said "ALL the fiery darts"? That means the enemy's attacks will hold no weight against the shield of faith. The enemy just doesn't want to consume us, he wants to destroy everything around us as well. The enemy has even put the Word of God to test before hasn't he? In Matt 4:1, the Bible says, "Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." So if Jesus Christ, when tempted of the devil, took up the shield of faith to extinguish the enemy's flaming arrows, then we must do the same. Satan used Christ's hunger against Him, and in Luke 4:3-4, the Bible says, "And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Satan questioned Jesus Christ's power and then

questioned His authority. Christ responded with the Word of God, telling Satan that bread for food means nothing compared to the Word of God. In Psalm 7:10, the Bible says, "My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart." Do we trust God's shield in times of trouble, when we feel affliction, or when the enemy tries to tempt us to sin? The word "wicked" means "Satan, or the evil one". In 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22, the Bible says, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." We must identify the evil that exists around us and stay away!

Will we make the choice to take up the shield of faith, to extinguish every attack from the evil one!

## Ephesians 6:17 - the helmet of salvation

Our standing with the Lord has real power. Do we as believers really understand that our salvation makes us a part of a kingdom where the Holy Spirit works to produce the will of God in all of our lives? The enemy tries to alter our perception about our standing with the Lord, so we don't accept the power we have and then walk in that same power. The enemy also tries to make the Word of God a lie in our minds and hearts so we don't receive its truth and experience victory. Our salvation and the Word of God are a part of God's armor indeed, but the beauty about the Word of God is that it is a weapon designed to mount an offensive against the enemy. Until this point we have been protected by God's armor, but now, we have the ability to fight back! Today, we will look at Ephesians 6:17, the power of our salvation and the Word of God in our walks of faith.

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

The word "take" means "receive unto oneself". There are many who aren't walking in victory because they won't receive the gifts God has graciously bestowed upon them. The word "helmet" means "an encirclement of the head". The word "salvation" means "deliverance by a defender". In Isaiah 59:1, the Bible says, "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear." How many people have we heard say, "I have done too much wrong. I am beyond saving"? Where does that thought come from? The mind! In Romans 12:2, the Bible says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." The helmet covers the head, and the head is where the thoughts are processed. The enemy loves toying with our minds, because if he can convince us that we aren't saved enough, or works will produce our salvation, then we will go through life chasing our tails never experiencing the abundant life God promised us. Blows to the head can be fatal, so it expresses the importance of protecting our salvation. In Hebrews 2:3-4, the Bible says, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" We can't be believers who neglect our salvation and take it for granted, nor can we attribute our salvation to any other than Jesus Christ, because in Acts 4:12, the Bible says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." The enemy would love to get our minds wondering about our salvation, causing us to take our helmet off and not walk in the victory of our salvation. Remember, this letter to Ephesus was written to believers, so our taking our helmets off won't cause us to lose our salvation, but it will cause us to doubt and destroy our assurance of salvation.

"And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

The word "sword" means "knife of war". The word "Spirit" refers to the Spirit of God, and usually brings empowerment, and the impartation of spiritual knowledge, aid, consolation, sanctification, and intercession. The word "word" here is the spoken word of God, used in teaching, precepts, and doctrine. In Hebrews 4:12, the Bible says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." If we don't believe in the Word of God's power, then the enemy will exploit this weakness. Imagine soldiers with swords, and they don't believe in their power. They don't stand a chance in warfare, because their life will be about defense and never about victory. In Romans 15:4, the Bible says, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." So one of the Word of God's jobs is to give a believer hope in God. A believer will not win a battle where we don't have hope! In Romans 5:5, the Bible says, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." We have sure confidence in victory over the enemy if our hope is in the Word of God. In Romans 13:4, the Bible says, "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." Kingdom people have authority, and we are not to bear the sword in vain.

God gives us the armor and weaponry for victory, but what good is a sword we never swing it?

## Ephesians 6:18 - praying always

Prayer changes things. Prayer is our way of communicating our wants, needs, desires, fears, and flaws to God in order to receive His ear, His answer, and His intervention. We actually get to speak to and with God! We've been talking about taking up the whole armor of God, but prayer is embedded in not only a believer's armor, but also in every facet of our lives. There is an importance to prayer that a lot of us don't fully appreciate, and it is easy for us to slide into a lackluster, ritualistic prayer life which adds no strength or power to our lives. Prayer has been responsible for healing, for people coming to repentance, for people being raised from the dead, and for victory over the enemy. With such a powerful, proven record, it most certainly has to be acknowledged with the armor of God. Today, we will look at Ephesians 6:18, the powerful impact prayer has in a believer's life.

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

The word "praying" means "petitions made to God". The word "always" means "every occasion or every set and appointed time". Prayer is supposed to be a regular part of all of our lives, and we are to be in constant communication with God. In Luke 18:1, the Bible says, "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint". Christ took time out of His ministry to point out through a parable why prayer is necessary. Parables are earthy stories told to reveal Spiritual truths. In Luke in this particular parable, a widow was looking for justice from her adversary. She was persistent! In Luke 18:4-5, Christ, speaking of the adversary, says "And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." The answer didn't come right away, but the widow's relentlessness is what got her the answer, as evidenced by her "continual coming". Do we have any clue how many prayers of ours didn't get answers because we stopped being persistent, and

stopped asking? In Luke 18:7-8, Christ says, "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" God will definitely answer our persistent prayers, but we have to have faith that He will answer.

"With all prayer and supplication in the Spirit"

With ALL prayer and supplication. God wants it all! In 1 Peter 5:7, the Bible says, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." God is an all or nothing kind of God, so we have to be all or nothing kinds of believers. The word "supplication" means "an expression of need or desire concerning ourselves or others". In Colossians 4:2-3, the Bible says, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds". We are not to just pray for ourselves, but also for the Word of God to spread to others through every available channel. This is to be done with thanksgiving, signifying a faith that the prayer will be answered. "In the Spirit" refers to our coming into full submission to God's will, conceding our desires to what God desires. This can be done by praying according to the Word of God, or by praying in tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance. In John 6:63, the Bible says, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are SPIRIT, and they are life."

"Watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints"

The word "watching" means "to stay awake, to keep guard". "Perseverance" means "persistence". The word "saints" means "believers purified and sanctified by the influences of the Holy Spirit." In Matthew 26:40-41, it says, "And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Intercession is absolutely necessary in the Church, and we have to persistently look for the answers to our prayers. God wants his children to pray with expectancy. In James 5:16, the Bible says, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." The purpose of prayer is for answers to our prayers, both for ourselves and others. Our prayers can have great results.

Prayer is fellowship with God in a place the enemy can't inhabit. The greatest prayers offer the greatest resistance!

## Proverbs 21:31 - safety is of the LORD

A believer's job in warfare is to put on the whole armor of God. We are to robe ourselves in truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation and the Word of God in order for us to withstand the deception of the enemy. Armor is essential to a believer, but there are also things that are useful in battle as well. No matter what we include with our armor, we have to understand that it is God that is supplying the victory. We have to realize that we are empowered by God with everything we need for the victory, but we must not attribute the armor, the horses or the armies before we acknowledge that it is only because God provided it that the victory was won. We must not become believers that savor the blessing before we savor the One who blesses us, because we are incapable of fighting the enemy and his forces without everything that God provides. Today, we will look at Proverbs 21:31, safety in warfare.

"The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD."

The word "prepared" means "set up, established, to be fixed and steadfast against an enemy". Horses put the soldier at a major advantage, they are harder to reach being higher up, and enabling blows to be struck with speed and efficiency. So a horse was very much a luxury in war and some horses were equipped with armor as well! In Psalm 20:6-8, the Bible says, "Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright." There are people in the Church who don't depend on God for the victory. It is the saving strength of God that gives us the victory. How many believers believe that the NAME of the Lord trumps all kinds of weaponry? The people who trust in horses and chariots, will suffer defeat while the believers in the Lord will remain standing. In Psalm 33:17, the Bible says, "An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength." People give weaponry and materials of war too much credit, and they are left disappointed and even destroyed by letting them replace God's power to save. In Isaiah 31:1, the Bible says, "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!" As believers, we have to seek the Lord and what He provides for victory. Seeking the provision of the world, or the numbers in an army, or the strength and experience of the soldiers, will take our eyes off God and rob us of deliverance. The phrase "day of battle" means "in the occasion of warfare." This verse doesn't mean we don't prepare ourselves for war, but there is a difference between preparation, and trusting in the Lord alone for the result.

"But safety is of the Lord"

The word "safety" means "deliverance or victory, not by human means". In 1 Samuel 17:47, the Bible says, "And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands." David knew that the weaponry didn't matter, the height of the enemy, nor the experience. When the battle is the Lord's victory is ours. In 1 Samuel 17:45, the Bible says, "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied." David knew the victory was in the name of the Lord, but he also knew that the enemy wasn't defying him, but he was defying God himself. We have to be mindful of what the enemy is actually attacking, in order to prepare oneself for battle. We tend to make people the enemy, instead of the hurt that has caused unforgiveness, the unforgiveness that comes from our not walking in truth, righteousness, faith, and the gospel of peace. The enemy loves it when we have no clue where the attack comes from, because we will resist everyone but him! In 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, the Bible says, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." God has given us victory from sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ, not through horses, armies, or experience. In Jeremiah 3:23 the Bible says, "Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel." It doesn't matter what we have for battle or where we are, because if the Lord isn't giving us the victory, we will lose!

## Proverbs 21:30 - there is no ... against the LORD

Since the beginning of creation, the enemy has tried to mount a serious offensive against the purposes of God. Satan does not want to see God's will be done, he doesn't want to see lives transformed by repentance and true salvation, and he definitely doesn't want believers discovering the authority God has freely given to all who believe. If the enemy can get us to question our salvation or underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit within us, then we will walk this earth as lesser version of our true selves, much to the disappointment of our God. Many kingdoms have tried to war against the kingdom of God, many voices have been spoken against our Lord and Savior, but none of them have been able to hold up to the Word of God. Any counsel that doesn't lead us into the presence of the Lord God, or cause us to race towards the purposes of God in our lives, is counsel that should not be given any credence. But sadly, even many in the Church are listening to the wrong voice. Today, we are going to look at Proverbs 21:30, another aspect of warfare, counsel against the Lord.

"There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD."

The word "wisdom" implies "skillfulness, experience, shrewdness, and wit". In Proverbs 1:7, the Bible says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction." The beginning to wisdom is to fear and revere God, so the first thing we have to look at when receiving counsel is whether or not the person has reverence for the God we serve. In Proverbs 1:3, the Bible says, "To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity". We have to incline our ears to wisdom and instruction, positioning ourselves to hear the Word of the Lord, and we also have to make sure we are receiving counsel by people who are doing the same. Why would we trust the wisdom of people who aren't seeking the wisdom of God? Strangely, the wisdom we receive from God concerning us may come from an unbeliever. Don't think so? In Numbers 23:11-12, the Bible says, "And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether. And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?" Balak sent for Balaam, hiring him to curse Israel. Balaam's word had to have power, but in Numbers 22:12-13, the bible says, "And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed. And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you." Even though Balaam practiced magic and divination, and was considered a false prophet, said to have led Israel into apostasy. When God spoke to Him, telling him not to curse Israel and not to go with the men Balak sent, Balaam revered God and listened, for the most part. The enemy calls us cursed, but God deems us blessed, and because man's wisdom could not hold up to God's wisdom, Balaam blessed Israel three times instead of cursing them!

"Nor understanding, nor counsel against the Lord"

The word "understanding" means "insight, discretion, or intelligence". In Jeremiah 9:24, the Bible says, "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD." We have to receive understanding that guides us into the knowledge of God, understanding that makes us more sound believers, better people in Christ, and more committed. In Psalm 119:104, the Bible says, "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way." A person can only give what they have, and if they aren't receptive to the Word of the Lord, then how can they convey the Word of the Lord to others? The word "counsel" means "advice, idea, or plot". The word "against" means "to stand in opposition to". In Acts 5:38-39, the Bible says, "And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of

God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Do we really realize that when we go against the counsel and Word of God that we are actually fighting against God? Men's counsel will come to nothing, but God's counsel will stand forever. In Hebrews 6:17, the Bible says, "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath". Immutability means unchangeable, so our God's counsel can't be changed or shaken.

May we find security in the wisdom, understanding and counsel of God, knowing that nothing can stand against God.

## 2 Timothy 2:4 - please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier

In warfare, focus is absolutely mandatory. We have to set our minds on the purposes of God, what He commands for us to do, and on the life He ordains for us to live as His children. Focus is a term of vision, and to be focused implies that we train our eyes and mind upon a set position, goal, or plan. Where we focus our attention will ultimately determine our victory in warfare or our defeat, because if we take our focus off of the Lord and off the Word of God, then we will lose sight of the bigger picture. A hunting lion attacks a crowd, hoping to get someone to break from the group, leaving them vulnerable and unprotected. Satan is no different, and He looks for someone who focuses on the world and not the Word, thus breaking from the Church. Our focus should be on the Lord, how we as His children are supposed to please Him. Today, we will 2 Timothy 2:4, setting our minds on Christ.

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

The word "warreth" means "to serve in military, or to execute the apostolate". The word "entangleth" means "to entwine, or involve oneself in". Both of these actions are intention and involve a commitment. In 2 Corinthians 10:3, the Bible says, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh". Our commitment needs to be to keeping our warfare in the Spirit, as good soldiers of God. In Romans 12:2, the Bible says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." In order for us to be spiritually minded and driven, there has to be a renewing process that continues in our minds, weeding out the flesh that so stealthy tries to enter into our space. In 2 Corinthians 10:5, the Bible says, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ". What we allow to remain in our minds will take root, grow, and bear fruit, so every thought or idea that threatens to distort our focus on the Lord needs to be opposed. There is real vigilance required as a soldier in the army of the Lord, because there is an enemy present that is always looking for a point of vulnerability. In 2 Peter 2:20, the Bible says, "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning." God gives us a way of escape from living and warring in the flesh, but it is our job to take it and not entangle ourselves in it again. The only way we can be overcome in spiritual warfare is if we entangle ourselves in the flesh again, and the consequences will not be favorable to us.

The word "life" represents the present life we are living and our livelihood. In John 17:14, Christ says, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." When we make the commitment to accept Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior through faith in His name, we become a

people of the Word, and not of the world. In 1 John 4:4, the Bible says, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." When we focus on our Lord and we focus on our position in the kingdom of God, we understand that the only way we can be overcome by the enemy is if we allow him to reign over our thoughts, speech, and actions. In James 1:14, the Bible says, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his OWN lust, and enticed." This verse is for anyone that will utter the lie, "The devil made me do it." If we lose focus, we can only blame ourselves, because we have the word of God, so we know where to focus our attention.

"That he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier"

The word "please" means "to be agreeable to, to be acceptable to". The word "chosen" means "to enlist in an army or gather as a warrior". In John 8:28-29, the Bible says, "Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." When we receive the Word of God with a willing mind and heart, speaking only the things we were taught by God, living the way God's word declared for us to live, God will make His home in us, giving us the power we need over the enemy.

"When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." Proverbs 16:7

## **Romans 6:12 - let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body**

Sin is one of the main reasons we lose our battles in spiritual warfare. We are tantalized by a sinful nature that we have been delivered from, and indulge, leaving us in need of forgiveness. How can we, as believers, created in the image and likeness of God, ever have victory in warfare when we can't get past the sin that entangles us? This is the place the enemy wants us to remain in, because if sin is our war, then sanctification and spiritual maturity are way off. This is not to say that sanctified or spiritually mature people don't sin, because that would be a lie, but it is to say that sin doesn't have authority in a sanctified and spiritually mature person's life. Whatever has reign, whether flesh or Spirit, will be what is evident in our response to the enemy's influences. If sin has reign, the disobedience to God will be present, but if the Spirit has reign, victory will be present in the face of warfare. Today, we will look at Romans 6:12, ending sin's reign in our bodies.

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

The word "sin" implies a proneness to sin or a propensity to sin. This is deeper than just doing something wrong in God's eyes. This suggests a pattern of sinful conduct which can be construed as a lifestyle. Paul is writing to believers in Rome, so this is addressed to people in the Church! In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the Bible says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Receiving salvation in Jesus Christ makes us new creatures, and as new creatures, we now answer to a new nature. What is this new nature? In Romans 8:29, the Bible says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." We as believers are now conformed into the image of Jesus Christ, then we represent Christ in our homes, our families, our communities and in our churches. In 2 Corinthians 5:21, the Bible says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that

we might be made the righteousness of God in him." When it says that Christ "knew no sin", it means that He never became one with sin, agreeing with it in order to partake in it. To know sin means to form a union with it. Christ did not sin, so He didn't form a union with sin. If we are conformed into His image, then we have to same ability to not form a union with sin, but sadly, all of us make decisions that are contrary to what God commands for us. Some people sadly believe that because we are under grace, that gives us a license to do as we wish, knowing "we are going to heaven anyway". In Romans 6:1-2, the Bible says, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Let us not be among those deceived into believing that we can live lawlessly as believers. Christ lived to obey and please God and we must do the same.

The word "reign" means "to be king, to have dominion, to prevail against". In Psalm 19:13, the Bible says, "Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." As believers, do we pray to God, asking Him to empower us to fight against the sin that tries to have dominion over us? If the desire to sin is too strong, do we ask God for help? The phrase "mortal bodies" refers to part of us that are subject to death. The brain and its thinking processes are a part of the body and thus tempt our souls with its sinful lusts. In Ephesians 1:20-21, the Bible says, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come". We are of a kingdom that has power over all sin, but if we don't allow Christ to have reign in our lives, then we won't have power to triumph over sin.

"That ye should obey it in the lusts thereof"

The word "obey" means "to heed or conform to a command or authority, to hear under as a subordinate". The word "lusts" means "a longing for what is forbidden". In Romans 6:17, the Bible says, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." We were a people that heeded the longings for what was forbidden, but now, we a people who heed the word of the Lord, walking in obedience that leads into righteousness. We were a people set for death, but now are a people destined for eternal life.

Let us ask ourselves what has reign in our mortal bodies, flesh or Spirit?

## 2 Timothy 4:5 - watch thou in all things

Believers are to expect warfare at some point in their lives. God never promised that we would avoid hardship, persecution, judgements, betrayals, or anything else when it comes to the faith, but He did promise to never leave or nor forsake us. Having the assurance that the Holy Spirit dwells right within us, ready to teach us what we need to learn and what we need to do makes the thought of going through warfare or hardship manageable. Within us lies the power of God, but the only way we can access it is through faith. If we aren't experiencing victory, or peace until victory comes, then we are not fully using the knowledge and the power that God has freely given us. Remember this is warfare and we are soldiers in the army of the Lord! Our jobs are to not only endure hardship but be able ministers in the midst of hardship as well. The goal is always introducing more souls to Christ, no matter what we struggle with. Today, we are going to look at 2 Timothy 4:5, ministry in the face of warfare.

"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

The word "watch" means "to keep guarded". We are to always be on guard in our faith walk. In 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6, the Bible says, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." A good soldier always remembers who they are and what they are fighting for. If we lose sight of what we are fighting for, the enemy can plant the wrong cause in our lives. In 1 Timothy 6:12, the Bible says, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." Sometimes, we can be misdirected into fighting the wrong battles, and that will amount to wasted time and hinder fruit from being borne. In Acts 20:30-31, the Bible says, "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." There is always someone whose goal is to spread lies and division within the Church, but even in the Word of God, there is a warning system in place. God doesn't just tell us to "watch", but He tells us what to watch out for!

"endure afflictions"

This phrase means "to undergo hardship or trouble with patience". In Romans 12:12, the Bible says, "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer". Please don't miss the fact that we have to rejoice in hope. If we don't have hope to rejoice in, then we will think that our hardship won't end. Without hope it will be extremely hard for a soldier to be assured in what they are fighting for. In 2 Timothy 1:11-12, the Bible says, "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." See, Paul knew that sufferings came with the responsibility of spreading the Word of God, and he wasn't deterred. The goal was more important than the hardship of the process.

"Do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of the ministry"

The word "evangelist" means "preacher of the gospel". An evangelist doesn't have to be located in any particular place, but they travel as missionary to preach the gospel and establish churches. The word "ministry" implies Godly service, ministering in divine things, as teachers, preachers, and apostles." In Matthew 28:19, Christ says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost". If we know or see lost people, then we have a responsibility to share the gospel with them, not just the pastorate. The phrase "make full proof" mean "to confirm, accomplish entirely, or to fulfill". In Colossians 1:25, the Bible says, "Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God". God empowers us to be preachers and teachers of His Word, to fulfill Matthew 28:19-20. In warfare, the work of the Lord is still required to be done, no matter the affliction, hardship, or stress. In 2 Corinthians 1:4, the Bible says, "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." God will always comfort His children when they are under hardship. That comfort allows us to comfort others; and allows us to remain strong under warfare.

May the strength of warfare make us able ministers of God's Word.

## Proverbs 16:7 – when a man's ways please the LORD

In warfare, the right perspective is vital. The type of mentality we have while going into battle will greatly affect the outcome of the battle itself. My late beloved Auntie Dianne used to always tell me that if I do the right thing, then I don't have to worry about the consequences. If we focus our attention on pleasing the Lord, and fulfilling His purpose for our lives, then it takes the sting out of the warfare the enemy tries to inflict upon us. The Lord doesn't promise us that we are going to be well loved and accepted as believers. In fact, the Word of God says that some of our enemies will be in our own homes. What do we focus our attention on, the enemies that present themselves as an obstruction to our faith, or do we concentrate all our efforts on pleasing the Lord and allowing Him to deal with our enemies Himself? Today, we are going to look at Proverbs 16:7, pleasing the Lord in the face of warfare.

"When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him"

The word "ways" means "course of life, mode of action, or journey". In John 14:5-6, the Bible says, "Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." The first thing we have to embrace totally is that Christ is the only way to God. There is no pleasing God without Christ being our Lord and Savior. In 1 John 4:17, the Bible says, "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." Our love is perfected in Him, giving us the ability to represent Christ in our lives. So it is not only vital for believers to receive Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior, but it is also crucial for us to live like He did. In John 8:29, Christ says, "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him." Christ always pleased the Father, and the Father remained with Him. When we please the Lord, God remains with us. How can the enemy prevail with our God right with us? The word "please" means "to be acceptable, to be approved, to produce delight". In John 14:23, the Bible says, "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Obedience is mandatory to pleasing the Lord, obeying both the written and spoken word of God. God rewards our obedience by making His presence with us, affording us the best protection in any level of warfare we encounter. In Romans 8:8, the Bible says, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." God wants a people who remain in the Spirit, right where He is. If we continue to lose our battles, then we have to ask ourselves, are we obeying the Lord, are we following Christ's example, and are we allowing God entrance in us to dwell with us and in us? Sometimes, we have to check ourselves to make sure that we are giving ourselves every opportunity to succeed in warfare.

"He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him"

The word "enemies" means adversaries. These are people that come against us. In Matthew 5:44, Christ says, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you". When an enemy presents themselves, do we operate from a position of love, compassion, grace, and prayer? When Christ was on the cross staring out at people that opposed Him, He asked God to forgive them because 'they know not what they do'. He prayed for the same people that strung Him up on the cross. How many enemies or adversaries have mounted up against us that we have prayed for, that we have blessed, that we have forgiven? Remember, the verse in Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord ..." Well, if the Word of God tell us to forgive, to bless, and to pray for our adversaries, and we don't do it, then how will they ever be

at peace with us? The word "peace" implies safety, being uninjured in the mind and body. Jacob was terrified by his brother Esau, because he tricked him out of his birthright and then stole his blessing. Esau wanted to kill him, so Jacob fled. In Genesis 33:3-4, the Bible says, "And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept." Jacob humbled himself before Esau, and Esau gave him a hug and a kiss, weeping at the sight of his brother. God turned an adversary into a brother because Jacob's ways pleased the Lord!

May we come to know that warfare produces the surest path to peace if our ways please the Lord!

## Romans 8:28 - all things work together for good to them that love God

There has to be a purpose behind the storms we face and the warfare we find ourselves under. We tend to ask God why He causes things to happen the way they do, sometimes causing a great discomfort to us in the process. Even as I type, I am wondering how I accidentally erased this devotional on my tablet without sending it, causing me to do a brand new one in its place! God has an intention for our warfare, for our storms, and for our struggles and that intention is for us to triumph! God didn't create us to have dominion, to be fruitful and multiply, only to have something in creation be able to triumph over us. God's word not only gives us the instructions we need to live on this earth, but it also gives us the assurance we need in the face of our battles. How does one maintain their joy while under the heaviest of hardship? By cleaving to the Word of God, and by living out the promises in the Word. Today, we are going to look at Romans 8:28, finding the good in the face of warfare.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

The word "know" here means to "to perceive, to be acquainted with, to have a relationship with". Knowing takes two separate things, Scripture, and a willing spirit, and makes us one. It's the same dynamic that exists in marriage. When we know, we live according to what we know, essentially becoming what we know. In James 1:2-4, the Bible says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; KNOWING THIS, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." What we know isn't blind knowledge that doesn't come from God, but it is the assurances given by His Word that makes us confident in all situations. If we don't know or haven't received the Word of God, then how will we ever count anything joy, and how we will ever see that our warfare produces patience? "ALL things." That means good, bad, and nasty. In Ephesians 1:11, the Bible says, "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will". When Christ was crucified, we were given an inheritance and had a purpose where ALL things worked together to fulfill God's intentions. In warfare, we have to have assurance that our Lord is leading us into a place where we will obtain victory, no matter how rough things may be or how badly things look. That assurance is only through the Word of God, both written and spoken into our hearts.

The phrase "work together" means "to cooperate". So the circumstance has to cooperate with our God's direction. In Colossians 1:16, the Bible says, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him". If we understand that everything was created by God and for God, then we know better than to give circumstance power over our God! In Romans 5:3-5, the Bible says, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that

tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." When all things cooperate according to the will of God, and the love of God has spread all through our hearts, then warfare produces a patience that allows us to gain life experience, and life experience gives us the opportunity to see God's hand give the victory in all situations. It becomes easier to hope in the Lord.

"For good to them who love God"

The word "good" means "beneficial, useful, profitable". The word good also implies God's intention being fulfilled. In Genesis 1:4, the Bible says, "And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness." God called for light and it appeared and God declared it good. The word "good" is God's declaration that it is exactly how He called for it to be! "Who love God" implies a condition, so if we don't love the Lord, then there should be no expectation of all things working together for our good. The word "love" refers to superiors, including the idea of duty, to love and serve with fidelity". In Exodus 20:3, the Bible says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Fidelity implies faithfulness, that God is our first and most important love, that God comes first. If God isn't Lord and first in our life, then, the promise doesn't apply to us. In 2 Corinthians 2:14, the Bible says, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place." When God is loved and is first, He will always cause us to have victory in Christ and reveal the power of His knowledge every place we go. So God's word is available to us in all situations, so in the Word, we always have assurance.

"To them who are called according to his purpose"

The word "called" means "appointed, invited into the kingdom promises and privileges." The word "purpose" means "eternal intention of God." In Romans 11:29, the Bible says, "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." When God calls someone, He doesn't revoke it. We sadly don't accept His calling, which is another reason why all things don't work together, because we aren't working together with God! In 2 Thessalonians 1:11, the Bible says, "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power". God has to count us worthy to call us, and He calls us so that we can fulfill His will for our lives. He calls us in full expectancy that we will use His Word and His power in all things. "His purpose". Even though we are the ones going through the warfare, it is NOT about us! God doesn't make all things work together to fulfill our desires, nor does He do it to make our name great. He does it so that His will may be done. In Genesis 50:19-21, the Bible says, "And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones." Man's purposes will never triumph over God's purposes. Joseph didn't realize why he was sold into slavery, then falsely accused of rape and imprisoned, until his brothers came to Egypt to buy grain. Then, the dream he had as a child about his brothers bowing before him was fulfilled and he understood "why". He had to endure the warfare in order to understand the purpose fully! In Ephesians 3:11-12, the Bible says, "According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him." Warfare endured gives us a look into God's purpose, which then should give us the confidence to cleave to His Word and the promises in them by faith. Warfare is designed to make us stronger believers, wiser followers of God, able to not only endure warfare, but show others how to endure it as well.

May we come to understand that the purpose of warfare is to triumph in Christ Jesus!

## Marshall's Bio, Poems, and History

### Marshall's Bio

Marshall Jones is a 38 year old man on a lifelong journey of bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. The author of "A Raven's Meal" (RoseDog Books), a poetry collection, he aspires to target the grey areas, and the people who are terribly misunderstood by society. Believing that everyone deserves a voice, he not only shares his testimony, but he also tries to use his gifting to share other people's experiences as well. He writes from the prison system that has housed his body for 17 years, but also from the place that has been the catalyst to his freedom.

### Marshall's Poems

You can view Marshall's poems at <https://www.redthreadpoets.com/category/100-poets/marshall-jones/>

### History

Red Granite Daily Devotions commenced on Red Thread Poets Facebook page on November 1, 2020. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> in his Daily Devotion Series. The Daily Devotions are recapped by date at [www.redthreadpoets.com/daily-devotions/](http://www.redthreadpoets.com/daily-devotions/)

Marshall uses these resources in his Bible Study: AMG Hebrew Greek Keyword Study Bible (KJV), Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, The MacArthur Study Bible (NASB), Webster's New World College Dictionary.

## ABOUT RED GRANITE DAILY DEVOTIONS AND MARSHALL JONES

- Entirely influenced by Holy God Almighty
- Conceived November 2020
- First Daily Devotion November 1, 2020
- 13 Series available as of Q2 2026
- Over 1,300 daily Devotions written since November 2020.
- Written by Marshall Jones from his cell in Wisconsin, United States of America
- 22 years to 2026 serving a double life homicide sentence
- Jessica his wife and partner from November 1, 2022
- We all await the Lord's grace for a positive outcome from the new 2026 Commutation Advisory Board in Wisconsin, please pray for such

## FOLLOW MARSHALL AND JESSICA JONES:

<https://www.redthreadpoets.com/red-granite-daily-devotions/>

[Forged by Fire; Iron Sharpening Iron Private Facebook Group](#)

## THE SERIES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

1. PSALM 91: 16 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on January 2, 2021.
2. LOVING YOU: 30 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on January 28, 2021.
3. THE FEARLESSNESS OF FAITH: 21 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on March 13, 2021.
4. WARFARE IN THE SPIRIT: -16 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on May 19, 2021.
5. THE BEATITUDES: 10 Daily Devotion: The first was posted on July 21, 2021.
6. THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD: 15 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on August 13, 2021.
7. PSALM 23: 6 Daily Devotions: The first was posted in November 2020.
8. JESUS CHRIST - THE MYSTERY UNCOVERED: 31 Daily Devotiion. The first was posted on November 28, 2021.
9. MARITAL BLISS: 12 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on August 21, 2022.
10. GODLY PROSPERITY: 10 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on October 10, 2022.
11. SLAIN TO RECEIVE: 7 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on September 4, 2023.
12. FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: 12 Daily Devotions. The first was posted on October 28, 2023.
13. LIGHT OF CHRIST: 31 Daily Devotions: The first was posted on February 23, 2025.

## WARFARE IN THE SPIRIT

Published by:  
Red Thread Poets Inc

