

First Light Herald

Sharing the tree of life with you...

July 2010



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The Strong Man

I know we've all heard a load of different interpretations regarding the "strong man", but one area that the Body of Christ is weak right now is in confidence in God, His promises and the written word. I believe we are supposed to be strong in faith, but at present most of us are the opposite. As I type these words I'm reminded in my heart of David as he approached his brothers. They were all cowering in fear though they were supposed to be the armies of God. Why were they cowering? They were cowering at the threatenings of one big bully. He had size on his side, but he was ONE guy. The enemy is like the grasshopper who bullies an entire colony of ants. It was inevitable for the ants to realize they outnumbered the grasshoppers. So it is with us, we must realize we are "more than conquerors in Christ Jesus".



Why is our confidence so weak? Let's look at things in the word that speak of confidence.

*Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: 12 **In whom** we have boldness and access with **confidence** by the faith of him. Our confidence is in HIM.*

*Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God **in the spirit**, and rejoice **in Christ Jesus**, and have no **confidence** in the flesh. Our confidence is not in flesh or things relating to the flesh.*

*Hebrews 3:6 But **Christ as a son over his own house**; whose house are we, if we hold fast the **confidence** and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. Again, confidence in the Lord.*

*Hebrews 10: 35 Cast not away therefore your **confidence**, which hath great recompense of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. We must not cast away our confidence. We must hold fast to it.*

Things you may have let slip:

- God CANNOT lie!
- God is love and loves His children. He acts His love.
- You are NEVER alone.
- God is with you in trouble.
- You have been made righteous by faith in Yeshua/ Jesus! It isn't based on any thing you do or don't do. You can't add to what he did to make it more holy and you can't take from what he did to make it less holy! YEAH!
- Yeshua/Jesus EVER lives to make intercession for you. He is able to save, heal and deliver you to the uttermost!
- We walk by faith in God, not in ourselves!

The Strong Man.....continued

*1 John 2: 27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 28 And now, little children, abide **in him**; that, when he shall appear, we may have **confidence**, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. 29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.* As we live in the anointing and the anointed one we have confidence. When we are led of our flesh we lose confidence.

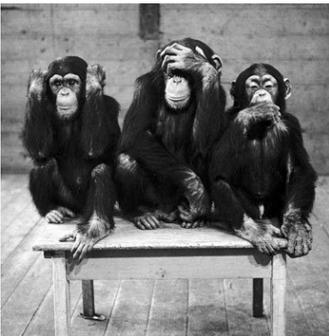
*1 John 3: 20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we **confidence** toward God.* When we walk in sin and condemnation we lose confidence.

*1 John 5: 14 And this is the **confidence** that we have **in him**, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.* Again, our confidence is in HIM!

I have shared a good many scriptures dealing with confidence. I do so for a very important reason. Faith comes by hearing, but if you hear the word and have lost confidence in it, your confidence must be renewed. When a believer loses confidence in God, in faith, in the word, in his ability to hear God the enemy has a chink in his armor and if not dealt with the chink will become a way into his heart. When we read the word and recall things we've heard before our faith is renewed. The word is likened to "manna" or fresh bread. When we eat it we receive fresh strength or "faith". When you hear God and know that you know you've heard Him, there isn't much that can shake your faith.

It doesn't take a gaping hole in a house for ants to get inside and become pests. All it takes is a tiny pin prick of a hole and they will create a trail for their fellow pests to follow. The path is invisible to the naked eye, but will be clear to all the thousands of hungry ants. I will refer to this "parable" later, but keep it in mind as you read this and read it again.

The enemy is invisible to humans. He has almost 6,000 years of experience in tricking and messing with humans. Even on his/her best day the oldest living human has far less experience. The enemy was defeated at Calvary, but was left here for a precise reason. His stolen lease isn't up until the end of the "7th day" or at the end of the Lord Yeshua/Jesus' reign. For that reason he was left here and though defeated he continues his oppression of mankind. He hates God, but can't reach God any more. He hates anything that belongs to God. He hates anything that God has created. He is so full of self worship he foolishly thinks that he still has a chance of beating God. He goes after humans in order to "take control". Even though he will have what appears like huge control over many humans in the last days, ultimately he will be chained and eventually destroyed. The prophets draw a clear picture of his demise.



We are supposed to be aware of his devices, but surprisingly enough most of those who call themselves "Christians" are totally blind to the truth of what is happening and what is about to happen. Rather than take time to fill up on the word of God, they feed on TV, books, movies, radios, and anything else that feeds the natural

The Strong Man.....continued

mind. Their hearts are full of the world. If asked about the most recent, “American Idol” most can tell you exactly who he/she is. BUT if asked what the spirit of God is speaking to the Body of Christ, that same person would give you a blank look. A deer with a blank look staring into headlights is bound to be clobbered by on-coming traffic.

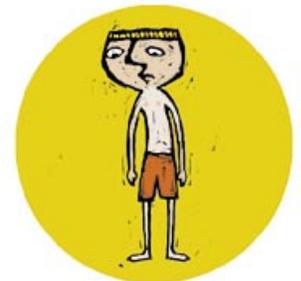
Where do we go from here? Someone has to stand up to the bully, the enemy and say, “Enough”. We have to believe the word of God.

Hebrews 11: 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Our confidence must be in God. We must believe He exists. If we believe that He exists, we must believe what He has said, is saying and that He is speaking to us. The word tells us this, “My sheep hear my voice”. Most people look at you like your insane if you tell them, “God told me....” They are ready to either run the other way or ready to burn you at the stake. Of course there are those who claim to hear God, but what they tell you is so far from the truth of the word of God you know they aren’t hearing God. Deuteronomy and the Lord tell us that we don’t live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. The bread he spoke of is the written word; the other is obviously the Father speaking to us.

We are supposed to build upon the foundation of the word; whether written or spoken the word is our BED-ROCK. When we attempt to live by knowledge rather than spiritual and eternal truth we are no longer on firm foundation. Christians are floundering all over the world. They start out all fired up with faith because God’s grace is abundant for baby believers. As we mature God expects us to act upon the word. No acting on the word means God can’t work. He requires us to walk by faith (again, which comes by hearing the word on a constant continual basis.)

The enemy wants to steal our confidence in God, but he is nothing but a liar. As we resist him steadfast IN THE FAITH we will see our confidence returning. One step at a time, as we endeavor to hear and obey the confidence to walk on water will return. No matter what anyone may say to us, we have heard God and we’re going to do what He is telling us. Today we are called to encourage you. We are called to encourage you to hear and obey. You will be that “strong man” and not a 98 pound weakling! I leave you with this verse. Remember faith comes by hearing the word of God. Faith in the word of God is our power.



Ephesians 3: 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us

Awake to Righteousness



I struggle this morning to put into words what God is speaking to me. Just because darkness is inevitable doesn’t mean we stop calling out to folks. I remember as a young girl that it was my job to wake my dad up. Just because he rarely heard the alarm clock next to his head didn’t mean I should just stop doing my job. It was my job at 6:00 each morning to come in and wake him up.

Awake to Righteousness.....continued

Once he was awake he would hear the alarm clock and turn it off. One time I went in to wake him up and as I touched him to stir him I caught a left hook. He had been deep in sleep and must have been dreaming. I didn't notice that he was dreaming so I got punched for my efforts. The next morning I was a bit apprehensive at the thought of waking him up. I was more cautious, but I still went in as soon as I heard his alarm and got him up. My dad was horrified he had slugged me, but he still needed me to wake him up.

The herald's job is to continue to notify the people of important events. It may not be popular or appreciated, but it is clearly needed.

herald: (the definition)

- (n.) A forerunner; a precursor; a harbinger.
- (v. t.) To introduce, or give tidings of, as by a herald; to proclaim; to announce; to foretell; to usher in.
- (n.) An officer whose business was to denounce or proclaim war, to challenge to battle, to proclaim peace, and to bear messages from the commander of an army. He was invested with a sacred and inviolable character.
- (n.) A proclaimer; one who, or that which, publishes or announces; as, the herald of another's fame.
- (n.) Any messenger



1 Corinthians 14: 8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

The Lord was fully aware that many who heard his words didn't understand them. For those who did hear what he said and those who wanted to understand fully, contact was made. His disciples contacted him. They asked him for clarification. He heralded the word of God to the people. He spoke in parables so as to keep the adversary from forming certain weapons against the children of light. A football coach doesn't scream out offensive or defensive moves where the opponent can hear or in a way that the opponent can defeat the play. An officer doesn't give out plans and strategies in front of the enemy without codes and signals.

We have been gifted with righteousness. What are we to do with it? The son of God was manifest to destroy the works of the adversary. The Lord Yeshua/Jesus equipped the body of believers to do just that. He gave us righteousness apart from works and then told us certain signs would FOLLOW all who believed in his name (character and authority). We were assigned the job of preaching the gospel (good news). No where did he say, "Only the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are supposed to teach the gospel." I really think people believe those words are somewhere in the bible. The gifts of the "heralds" was to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. Somewhere along the line a kind of hierarchy was set up completely opposite to what Yeshua taught. The leaders were supposed to be servants, not served. Today if you step into what most folks think is the true "church" you will see a bastardized version of the Body; men lording it over cowering oppressed sheep. The "leadership" of these "churches" has become an elitist group. They expect the best seats in the temple. They make wide the borders on their garments. Just like the Pharisees of days gone by

Awake to Righteousness.....continued

they are served and not serving. Yucko deluxe!

*Mark 16: 17 And these signs shall follow **them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

Every single one of these signs impacts the enemy. His *spirit*, his breath is anti-*christ*. We don't really understand this without some further translation. Anti means against, that is pretty simple, but *christ* is often misunderstood. Christ is NOT Jesus' last name. He is not Mr. Christ. In Luke 4 he told us he was anointed to do what he did. Christ means anointed and the anointing is what destroys the enemy's hold and power. Anti-christ is better translated, against the anointing of the Holy Spirit to destroy the works of the enemy. The enemy wants to continue unhindered on his path of destruction. He is full of hate. He is hate. He is looking for human bodies to oppress and occupy. If he can convince us that he has the right to make us sick or to stop the work of God, (because we've sinned or failed) he has done his job. For strategic reasons the enemy hindered the translators from translating the Greek word "*christos*" into English. If we are blind to a word we won't understand it and we won't act on it. The Lord passed the anointing onto us before he left. The Holy Spirit is the Anointing power of God to destroy the works of the enemy. If we don't receive an initial infilling of the Holy Spirit and then daily subsequent fresh infillings we are powerless to do the will of God. Just a few defeats and we lose our confidence.

We have been MADE the righteousness of God in Christ. In the anointing that the Lord passed to us is our righteousness. It was and is a free gift. We are supposed to be doing all the things the Lord mentioned in Mark 16:17-18. Christ or the anointing must be formed in us. As we walk in the things the Lord taught and shared with his disciples, that anointing is formed in us; first the seed, the sprout, the blade and the full ear in the corn.

As soon as the early believers began to walk in faith the spirit of anti-christ came along to stop the work. Persecution and affliction came to stop them in their tracks. When that didn't work, affluence, greed and the lust of other things came in. The enemy has no new tricks, just old ones in different costumes.

I feel like screaming, "Warning Will Robinson". Will anyone listen? Only God knows, but for now I will continue to herald the words; "Awake to YOUR righteousness and sin not"! Begin to be the manifested sons (and daughters) of God!

Prayer Needs:

- Agreement for a replacement car for Jeff's Suburban. Matthew 18:19
- Direction for the month's ahead. Proverbs 3:6
- Open and effectual door of utterance wherever we go. 1 Cor. 16:9
- Renewed strength and motivation to keep to the course ahead. Isa. 40:31 and 41:1
- Renewed vision for the Body and for reaching the lost. Prov. 29:18 & Rom. 10:14
- Financial blessings upon the Body to keep us going. Like Israelites in Goshen! Phil. 4:19
- Fresh anointing as we seek the will of God for the Body. Ps. 92:10 & Isa. 28:12