

A String of Pearls

The Proverbial Woman
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Battles And Battlements Guest Article by Corey Giard



Spiritual Warfare. For me, the term evokes images of Roman or medieval soldiers marching into battle, the tramping of feet in perfect step a thunder in the distance, an impenetrable wall of shields overlapping each other, each man defending the man on his right, swords flashing in summer sunshine, and the roar of the battle cries going up from a thousand or more throats sold out to their cause and ready to die for it.

“Why,” You might ask, “do you think of that as **spiritual** warfare?” Because the Word tells us that we will understand the spiritual through the natural, and being the daughter of a navy man, and the sister of an army man, growing up in a military world, I've learned a lot about war, and I love the subject immensely.

“Alright,” You might say, “I can see why you might think like that, what with the Armor of God passages in the Word. So are you going to tell us about that today?” Nope! I'm going to write about peace. Not the peace that comes when there is no war, for this war that we believers are waging right now will go on until this world ends, but the peace that comes supernaturally from God so that even in the midst of chaos and war we are not troubled or moved by the enemy forces.

Many people think that they are set once they put on the Armor of God. They go tromping into spiritual battle with the enemy and get soundly trounced. They cry to God wondering where they failed, how the enemy could get through their defenses and put sickness, pain, confusion, or any other bad, nasty things on them, or why the enemy has them hemmed in on all sides, unable to find rest from the constant attacks battering them down.

The answer to that is that they left their fortress, castle, or the term the Word uses for it, “Keep” unattended.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” - Proverbs 4:23.

Most think automatically, when they read that word “keep” there, that it means to hold onto or take care of. It does, in a certain way, but the Hebrew root

Special points of interest:

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, (sicknesses in Hebrew) and carried our sorrows (pains in Hebrew): yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **5** But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Matthew 8:17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

I Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

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for that word means “To Guard.” It’s a much more visceral word than just taking care of something. You can take care of a garden, or a cat, but you’re not standing guard over it.

“What’s that got to do with peace?”



“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” -Philippians 4:7

That’s the same type of “keep” as before, but with some extra goodies thrown in. In Greek, the word translates into “Garrison and Guard”. The word garrison there isn’t simply the building, but a verb. To garrison is to post soldiers in a fortified place. God will post soldiers to protect our hearts and minds through Christ and they will guard, or “keep”, our heart. They will build up the walls of peace around us inside and out, so that we can walk into battle with our enemy confidently, knowing we are safe in God’s hands, even if there is chaos and strife all around us.

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most high shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my Fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.” -Psalms 91:1-2

Your “keep”, your place of peace, is inside you. You bring it with you wherever you go. That way, no matter where you are, you can retreat into the peace of God in your heart and be safe from all the attacks of the devil and his creepy little minions.

“He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me.” -Psalms 55:18



Our shield of faith will get beat on, our sword of the spirit will get pitted and cracked, and the rest of our armor will get dented and dinged up. The “keep” of peace that God made for us is a safe place to go while we repair them with time in the Word. We **need** that time in the Word for repairs, because our enemy is expert at finding weak spots and needling them. Nothing delights him more than causing the sons and daughters of God pain and suffering. We need the place of peace to resist the attacks of the enemy while those repairs happen, or he will overrun our defenses and cause us to grow “weary in well doing”.

God will build this peace for you in your heart, however, it’s not all up to Him. You have your part to perform in this, and that’s leveling the ground where the “keep” will go!

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which you have

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both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of Peace shall be with you. ” -Philippians 4:6-9

Let's break this down.

First, *be careful for nothing* means having no cares about anything. So the action associated with this phrase is “STOP. Stop fretting, stop worrying, stop letting anxiety take over your mind.” Resist the temptation to dwell on the things you can see and hear in the natural, just trust God. God NEVER asks us to do something outside the realms of possibility. He told us to STOP worrying so He equips us to stop!

Next, *But in every thing BY prayer* (Which actually means worship) *and supplication* (That's your list of needs and wants) *WITH thanksgiving LET your requests be made known unto God*. So the action with this is to Worship and bring your wants to God thankfully. Always thankfully, because we are to believe we receive **WHEN** we pray. (*Mark 11:24*)

Then, *the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*. After you do those two things, putting aside the cares and worries, and bringing your requests to God by Worship and supplication, **then** will the peace of God “keep”, or garrison and guard, your hearts and minds.

Finally, *whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of Peace shall be with you*. To continue what we did before leveling the ground for God's peace to build our “Keep”, we **maintain** the grounds and tidy the castle up by **exercising** our peace and fixing our minds on the **good** things that God has done for us. Just like Isaiah said,

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee.” - Isaiah 26:3-4

So we have to keep our minds stayed, fixed, glued on Him.

It's not easy. Our enemy is crafty, tricky, and while he **has** to play by the rules, he by no means plays **fair**. He's an excellent legalist and will twist the Word around and around until he's got you dizzy and confused. . . But the good news is, even though he may be a good legalist. . . Our Jesus IS the Word. Though the enemy might get you down, just pick yourself back up, get into your “keep”, hunker down, rest, recuperate, and repair in the midst of the storm.



The Bread of Life



The Lord sent his disciples to prepare the place where he would share his last Passover before he would be offered up as THE Passover Lamb. They found the perfect space and began cleaning it of "hametz" (leaven).

The women were busy checking every nook and cranny for anything that might be considered a leavening agent. Corners were swept, every surface was cleaned and all old bread products with yeast in them were removed and burned. It was an intensive "spring cleaning" project.

Soon they were all gathered for the celebration. The women were exhausted from the cleaning and meal preparation. The lamb had been sacrificed and the food filled the table.

The Lord entered the room where the feast was laid out and proceeded to pull out a loaf of leavened bread!!! The women gasped and the men all looked at each other in amazement.

You're probably wondering where this story came from. It came from my heart as I considered what would have happened when Yeshua/Jesus took the leavened bread he **MUST** have had in a bag **AFTER** I read the following scripture.

Matthew 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took BREAD, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.

The word BREAD that I have capitalized is "artos" in Greek. It is the word for **leavened** bread.

In verse 17 of this same chapter we are told it is the feast of "unleavened" bread and the word "azumos" is used. This is the Greek word for **unleavened** bread.

It would have caused quite a ruckus for the Lord to have a loaf of leavened bread at a Passover feast, but he was sending a huge message in doing so. Leaven is a picture of sin. At a normal Passover feast "matzah" or unleavened bread would have been served, Yeshua/Jesus was telling the disciples that soon he would be that leavened loaf, full of mankind's sins and bearing humanity's sicknesses. He would be hanging on a cross stake, becoming the curse of the law.

In Isaiah 53 we see a picture of the Lord taking on all our sicknesses and sin on Calvary. In Galatians 3:13 we learn that Jesus became the entire curse written in Deuteronomy 28. I highly recommend you read and learn exactly what the "curse of the law" encompasses. It will open your eyes to all the things we as believers in Jesus are NOT supposed to put up with!

We are told to "Submit to God (through knowledge of His word and will), resist the devil (and everything that is evil and contained in the curse) and he will flee"!

Because of the finished work of Jesus, we have been given back our Genesis dominion over the planet. We have been given the power to "cast out devils" in Mark 16. Wherever the enemy is present we are supposed to deal with him. Most believers are blind to this and are waiting for God to act. WE are supposed to be the manifested sons (and daughters) of the Most High God. The Lord left US with the calling, the empowerment and the instructions to carry out the destruction of the works of the adversary. We just have to "Go Ye" and obey.



Selah

Precious Grace



In the past few months I've been extra attentive to the Spirit of God in hearing for where to sow. I have received God as my husband and so everything I do these days is completely by faith. Now I'm not sitting on my duff waiting for God to move on my behalf. I'm busy serving Him as He commands. A spiritual servant does things differently than someone working in the world, but a spiritual servant is NEVER lazy or slothful. God has brought me through some really trying hours and days in the past five months and I'm trusting Him in ways I never dreamed possible.

In the past three months I've had two open visions while praying or praising him. Oddly enough both have involved restaurants. While worshipping God in my bed one morning I had a vision of "Arby's" come to my heart and then the words, "bearded man". So at lunchtime on the day I was set to go to Odessa I headed to Arby's. As I was driving I heard, "Wendy's" and "Jesus". That was confusing to me at first UNTIL I drove up to Arby's and saw that its sign was in front of the Wendy's restaurant. The Lord told me to find a bearded man and give him a certain amount of money. I walked in the restaurant and looked for a bearded man. I saw a clean-shaven man working on paperwork at one table and a couple sitting next to the window across from where I stood. I couldn't really see whether the man across from the window had a beard so I decided to order a small sandwich and drink and wait. After ordering I sat close to the couple and saw he had a short beard and looked like Jesus in profile! Voila! I approached them after eating and said to them, "You will probably think I'm crazy, but God told me to come give you this money". The man replied, "You're crazy all right".

We talked for a while and I learned that they were husband and wife and were both from Montana and were even from cities close to where I was born. They asked for my phone number and a few days later I had a call from the man. We talked about the word for a very long time. I knew I had heard God! Ministering reconciliation is part of the call on my life. He had grown away from God and my obedience had been a blessing. He still calls me and we talk!

The next "open vision" I had was of Chilli's, another restaurant. I logged it in my mind, but it seemed I never could get there. Today I took my friend home we decided to make Chilli's the stop of the day so I could fulfill my assignment.

My girlfriend brought a book of healing scriptures in and began reading it to me. We have been tag team reading for three weeks and today was no exception. I paid careful attention to see if God would show me someone to minister to. One waitress kept listening to my girlfriend read. She seemed interested, but nothing more. We ate and I worked extra hard to be kind and loving to our waiter. When we were done eating we left.

As I was pulling out of the parking lot, a man in a yellow hooded sweatshirt walked in front of us. I just now as I was typing this realized there were lightning bolts all over the sweatshirt! (Jeff's favorite color was yellow and he was always involved in power in one-way or another). He looked a little grungy, but I didn't think much of it. As we were pulling out of the parking lot to the street I noticed he was standing next to a pole and holding a sign, "Hungry, will work for food". I knew that was why we had come to Chilli's. The verses that exhort us to "never close our ears to the poor" came to mind. I couldn't give him any money on my first pass around the lot as I was already in the street so I took another pass and came back toward where he was standing. My girlfriend asked if I had a spare bible in the car we could give him. I said, "No" but then remembered Jeff's small New Testament was sitting in the console. I picked it up and said, "Jeff's butt bible"! That's what he called his little New Testament. He never went anywhere without it. I began to weep as I realized I was once again letting go of something precious. I wept because God had been gracious in waiting for me to



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get to Chilli's. I wept at the thought that my man would have done the same thing had we been together. I just wept to be weeping. We handed him the money and the bible. He said, "God bless you", took the bible and money and began to read it. God is so good.

Today was a blessing in so many ways. Some friends bought me a Kindle. No one knew I had asked God for one. Another brother in the Lord called and asked me about my finances and said he'd be helping me with my cars and other things. This evening my neighbor came over and gave me a bag of scratch for my chickens. Just a few moments ago my friends who bought me the Kindle sent me links to a bunch of free books and bibles as seed for something he is believing for. I'm just so overwhelmed at God's love and grace. God tells us in the word, "If you're willing and obedient you will eat the fat of the land" and I'm seeing this come to pass in my life.

Prayer Requests:

- Standing for travel trailer buyer to be found or to find me!
- Repair of van (heater core needs replaced and it's a big job!)
- Wisdom for future ministry
- Effectual door of utterance for ministry