CONFRONTING COLLATH

Everybody has one. Let's slay yours!



RANDALL J. BREWER

CONFRONTING GOLLATH

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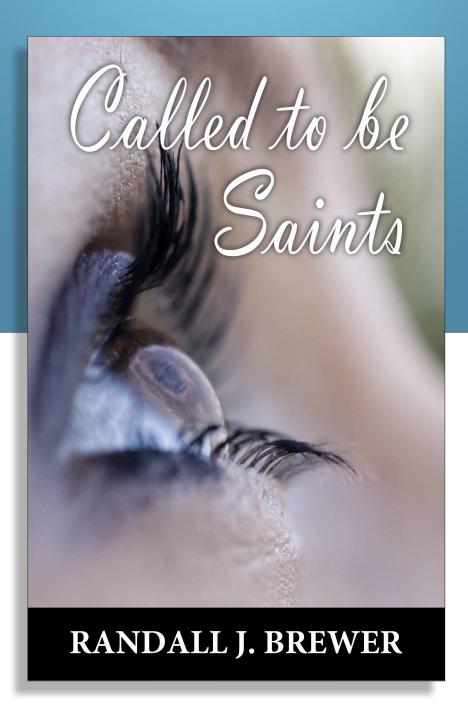
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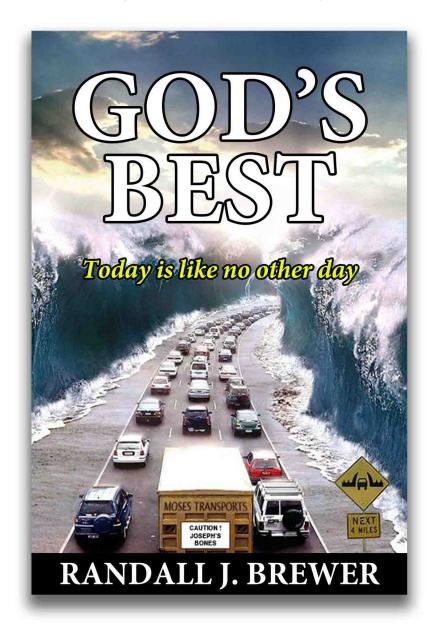


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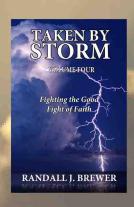
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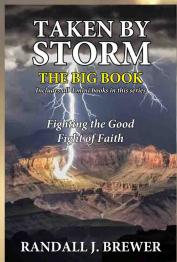
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PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD

here is a teaching that is as scarce and infrequent as Big Foot sightings. This phantom teaching is hardly ever spoken of in churches and Christian circles. These teachings are of the last-days-church that is rising above society's political correctness. These messages are not New Age, or of Charismatic/Evangelical/Pentecostal familiarities. These teachings are birthed on the Scripture that states, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

A day is almost upon us when we will see the most amazing miracles and wonders of God yet seen by any man, as this world explodes with sin, disasters, pestilences, hatred, and death. The *knowledge of the glory of God* is the evidence of God's miracle-working-power that every man, woman, and child will be witness to. This knowledge will be the proof that there is only one God.

The gods of this world will be put to shame as the God of Christ our Lord will reign with power through His warriors, who stand against evil and injustice.

Randall J. Brewer's book, *Confronting Goliath*, addresses the fact that, we have to begin to live like victors, not wimpy Christians. When Christ the Victor Who has overcome the world returns, He will be looking for those who look just like Him. This book teaches us *how to prepare* to fight the good fight of faith, *how to fight* the fight successfully, and what to do once you have won the victory.

This is one book that should be in the library of every Believer, because every Believer needs a victory today.

Paul Baker,

Publisher and Covenant Partner of Randall J. Brewer

INTRODUCTION

A LITTLE SCRATCH

by Randall J. Brewer

he Lord spoke a word to me about you today, and He told me to stop what I was doing and share it with you. So, here I am.

We're in a war! You know that, don't you? The good news is that only strong warriors get to enlist in the army of the Lord. That's you, my friend.

I once saw a movie where a handful of Spartan warriors stood up to the entire Persian army. When one of the good guys got sliced up real bad with an enemy sword the captain said to him, "You're not going to let that little scratch stop you, are ya?"

Ha! Ha! I like that. My friend, when the devil attacks you that's all it is...a little scratch. I ask you, "You're not going to let a little scratch stop you, are ya?" Of course not, because you are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus!

The Lord would have me tell you to stand strong, and to assure you that you are not alone. I am by your side, and most important, Jesus is by your side. Yes, the victory is yours.

On a more personal note, there is nothing more important to me than the fulfillment of the call of God that is on my life. My dream is to encourage and exhort my fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord with anointed messages that come straight from the throne room of God.

I've worked long and hard on this assignment from God and I've got the scars to prove it. For sure, I have shed gallons and gallons of blood, sweat, and tears. The fact that you are reading this book today is the result of years and years of hard work and toil. However, I didn't let a "little scratch" stop me.

As I was meditating on all the Lord and I have been through together He brought to my attention the verse that says, "Your gift will make room for you and bring you before great men." He then said to me, "Randall, the people who read your messages are the 'great men' this verse is talking about. Your gift has come before them, thus they are great."

I'm telling you, thousands of people, Christians mind you, have

rejected these messages. They've written me cruel and nasty letters and one person even called me "Satan in email clothing" (that's a new one). Why do they do this? Apparently they are not great.

But you are different and that is the message the Lord wanted me to share with you today. The great God of the universe thinks you're great. So do I. And it's the great men of God who are in the league of the "chosen few", those born again believers who are willing to pick up their sword and march headfirst into battle, those who won't be stopped by a "little scratch." That's you, my friend. That's what being a "great man" is all about.

The Lord loves you and so do I. We both think you're great.

God bless you.

CHAPTER ONE BOLD AND CONFIDENT

Prison is the last place from which to expect a letter of encouragement, but that is where Paul's second letter to Timothy originates.

This was Paul's last epistle before his death and he begins by assuring Timothy of his continuing love and prayers. He reminds his young protege of his spiritual heritage and responsibilities and that only the one who fights the good fight of faith and perseveres will reap the reward, whether it be a soldier, athlete, farmer, or minister of Jesus Christ. Fortunately, Timothy had Paul's example to guide him and God's Word to fortify him as he faced the challenges and growing opposition of serving the Lord his God.

To win the good fight of faith, one must pay close attention to what Paul said in verse 12 of the first chapter,

"For this reason 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 what I have committed to Him until that day."

The Message® Bible states,

"This is the Message I've been set apart to proclaim as preacher, emissary, and teacher. It's also the cause of all this trouble I'm in. But I have no regrets. I couldn't be more sure of my ground - the One I've trusted in can take care of what He's trusted me to do right to the end."

Jesus said in Mark 11:22,

"Have faith in God" and Paul says "I know Whom I have believed..."

The heart of Paul's message here is that people put too much emphasis on "what" they believe and not enough on "Who" they believe. This makes all the difference in the world as to whether or not you stand strong on that evil day when the enemy comes and knocks on the door of your life.

How well you know God will determine how well you receive from Him. Indeed, there is a difference between knowing God and knowing about Him. Jesus prayed to the Father in John 17 and said in v. 3.

> "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent."

You don't have eternal life until vou "know" God. The Lord said in Jeremiah 9:23,24,

> "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in might, nor let the rich man glory in His riches: But let him who glories glory in

> this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, lovingkindness exercising judgment, righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight."

In John 4 Jesus witnessed to the woman at the well, and so astonished was she at what He said, she immediately left and told the men of the city what had happened.

"And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who

testified, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, 'Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world" vv. 39-42.

For faith to come, you have

to hear from God for yourself. Eph. 1:13 says,

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of

truth, the gospel of your salvation; in Whom also having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

The Message® Bible says,

"It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free - signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God

2 BOLD AND CONFIDENT

his

We are all one family

in Christ. He is the

vine and we are

has planned for us, a praising and glorious life."

Our life depends on us hearing from God, and so often we need His assistance in doing this. For this reason we were sealed with the Holy Spirit, Who is the Comforter, the Revealer of Truth. It is He Who enables you to hear from God, and this is how faith comes. Just like those Samaritians who believed the testimony of the woman at the well, so also will the Holy Spirit put His anointing on gifted preachers who proclaim the good news all over the world.

Paul says in Romans 10:14,

"How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Never minimize the value of good preaching. Isaiah 52:7 says,

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!""

It is for this reason that

we are taught in Hebrews 10:25 to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. A popular verse that instructs us how to get faith is Romans 10:17,

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

We should always hear ourselves confess the Word of God, and when we believe what we hear ourselves say, faith will come. However, let's not overlook the context in which this verse was written. Verse 14b says,

"And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

and vs. 17 says,

"faith comes by hearing."

A preacher is a "proclaimer," and with the call comes the anointing that will allow you to hear things you wouldn't normally hear. Faith comes by hearing the anointed preaching of the Word and this is why Jesus said in Matt. 11:15.

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The "anointing" can be described as 'God on flesh doing only what God can do' and it isn't given just so preachers can say nice spiritual things. More than

that, it is given so the listener can "hear" and properly discern what's being said.

An example of this not happening is found in Mark 16. Jesus had just risen from the dead and we read in vv. 9-11,

"Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. And when they heard that He was alive and had been

seen by her, they did not believe."

Mary Magdalene was no stranger to these mourning disciples and there was no reason for them not to believe her. God, however, in His infinite mercy, was willing to give them another chance to believe. Verses 12, 13 in the same chapter says,

> "After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either."

These two men were on the road to Emmaus (also see Luke

24:13-48) and notice that scripture says they were "of them" who had been with Jesus. They also were not strangers to all the others. Still, the disciples did not believe their report. Let's also not forget the famous story of doubting Thomas John 20:24,25 who also did not believe the others whom the Lord appeared to and talked with.

What was the Lord's response to all this? Mark 16:14 tells us,

"Afterward He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief

> and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen."

The love of God always gives.

The Message® Bible says,

"He appeared and took them to task most severely for their stubborn unbelief, refusing to believe those who had seen Him raised up."

Why does Jesus rebuke unbelief in such a harsh way? Because He "knows" you and He wants you to "know" Him. It is only by grace through faith that you can "know" Him in a deep, personal, and intimate way. God has a plan and purpose for your

life when you truly "know" Him as Lord and Master. Heb. $4:14-16^{\,\mathrm{MSG}}$ states,

"Now that we know what we have - Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God - let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest Who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all - all but the sin. So let's walk right up to Him and get what He is ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help."

King James says in vs. 16,

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Boldness is needed to fight the good fight of faith, and it comes when you know God in an intimate way. David was a man after God's own heart and you can hear the boldness in what he told the giant Goliath,

"You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver

you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel" 1 Samuel 17:45,46.

Concerning God, Paul wrote to the Ephesian church,

"In Whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him" Eph. 3:12.

Having confidence eliminates all doubt from your life and allows you to forever walk in faith. When you're confident, you're bold, and when you're bold you'll be sure that God will do what He says He will do. Just as it is impossible to please God without faith Heb. 11:6, so also is it impossible to please Him without confidence and boldness. Put your wavering and questioning aside.

Don't wonder any more and don't *try* to believe. Just do it! If you are in faith, you will have confidence and you will knowthat you know—that you know—that you are not sure that God will move on your behalf, then you are in trouble. You win the good fight of faith by being sure.

The word "faith" means

- To be firm, stable,
- To build up and,
- Support.

Faith will build under you a firm foundation and is something to stand on without fear of falling. It is a spiritual force that you can,

- lean on,
- · depend on, and
- rest your weight upon without concern that it will collapse under you or let you down.

It means,

- To be certain,
- To be true,
- Permanent,
- Established,
- To believe in or to trust.'

A person of faith is a bold person, and because your confidence is in God, you can speak openly and freely. There will be no uncertainty in your heart thus allowing you to speak plainly without reservation and hesitation.

This David did when he faced the giant in the Valley of Elah. When you are bold and have confidence in God, you are

unstoppable, and no enemy can prevent you from going all the way with God.

When you fight the good fight of faith, you must finish the same way you began. Matthew 14:22-32 tells the story of how Peter and the other disciples were on the sea in the midst of a storm and Jesus was not with them.

In the fourth watch of the night, they saw Jesus walking on the water and they were troubled and cried out in fear. Jesus immediately spoke out to them

saying,

"Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and

said,

Speak freely without

reservation and

hesitation

"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

When Jesus told him to "come", Peter, with boldness and reckless abandon, went down out of the boat and walked on the water to go to Jesus. Notice what happened next. Verse 30 says,

"But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord,

save me!"

Peter began with boldness, but ended in fear and unbelief.

Jesus always responded to the disciple's unbelief, and we read in verse 31,

"And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Doubt is the lack of confidence that God will do what He said He would do, and will cause boldness to flee from your life.

Do not fall into the trap of believing that to walk in faith all you have to do is make faith confessions. You can confess something all day long and not believe in your heart that it will come to pass. Never say something desperation, because out of chances are you won't believe it anyway. To walk in faith you must confess the Word and not doubt in your heart. If you don't truly believe it down in your heart, then it's best not to say anything at all.

James 1:5,6 says,

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, Who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."

The word "doubt" comes from the word 'double' and James continues in verses 7, 8,

"For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways."

Doubt will make your words powerless, null and void. You may be saying the right things, but are not fully convinced down in your heart that it will come to pass.

People who waver can't make up their minds what they believe.

Like a wind tossed wave they'll be up one minute and down the next. One minute they believe and the next they don't. You can't travel in two different directions at once. Doubt is a serious enemy to your faith and it will prevent you from receiving the will and provision of the Lord.

The solution to doubt is to be single-minded. Ephesians 4:4-6 says,

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Not two! *One!* Faith begins where the will of God is known, so you must refuse to consider anything else. Romans 15:5 says,

"Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind."

You've got to be stable.

Stop being of two minds and become settled and unmoved in your faith in God. Continue to study

and pray until confidence rises up inside of you. If you are single-minded, the Word of God *has to* come to pass in your life. When you believe without a doubt, you will receive without delay, without fail. God said you would receive what you say *if you doubt not*.

When you cast doubt out of your life you will not fret or have anxiety about anything Phil. 4:6. If you are worrying, then you are doubting and the Bible states in Matthew 6:25,

"Therefore I say to you, do not

worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Worry is worldly and it will get you no where. In fact, it only makes the situation worse. The more you worry, the worse it gets. Peter learned this lesson well when he began to sink in his quest to walk out to Jesus on the water. Worry chokes the Word and will choke Jesus out of your life.

The devil is the author of alternate choices. In the Garden of Eden he offered

Adam and Eve a different lifestyle than the one God intended.

Likewise, he wants you to live a life of worry and doubt instead of a life of faith and confidence. Therefore, never worry about any-thing. Instead, cast all your care on Jesus ^{1 Peter 5:7,8} and fight the good fight of faith. The AMP© Bible says,

"casting the whole of your care, all of your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and He cares

BOLD AND CONFIDENT 8

When you believe,

you will receive.

about you watchfully."

The Living[®] Bible translates Peter's words this way,

"Let Him have all your worries and cares for He's always thinking about you, and watching everything that concerns you."

When you do this, confidence will come and with it the boldness to fight and win the good fight of faith. Remember, Jesus never worried about anything and neither should we.

The author of Hebrews tells us,

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful" Hebrews 10:19-23

We then read in verse 35 of the same chapter,

"Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward." You can boldly have confidence that good things will happen in your life.

Faith draws near, so never draw back and play it safe. Live confidently and always encourage yourself in the Lord knowing that He cares for you.

Don't be passive, be possessive!

Paul told Timothy,

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life..." ^{1 Tim.} 6:12a

The Message® Bible says,

"Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to..."

The Greek word for "lay hold" is 'take', so stand up and take what God says you can have.

CONSIDER THE WOMAN

...with the issue of blood. She didn't stand in the back of the crowd and do nothing. No, with boldness she pushed through the crowd, pressed in, and took her healing. She had confidence and the full assurance of faith that if she could but touch the hem of

His garment she would be healed. She fought and won the good fight of faith and was completely set free from her ailment.

You, too, can receive from God. With confidence that is sure and bold you must believe that you take what belongs to you. You have to lay hold!

People who possess the promises are not weak and passive, they're bold and aggressive. God gave the people the promised land but they had to go in and possess it. God provides what you want and need, but you must rise up and possess it. You must possess your possessions.

Nehemiah 9 tells us.

"Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations, and divided them into districts. So they took possession of the land..." v. 22

"So the people went in and possessed the land" v. 24.

"And they took strong cities and a rich land, and possessed houses full of all goods, cisterns already dug, vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and grew fat, and delighted themselves in Your great goodness" v. 25.

The blessings of God are forever available, but they won't fall on you from out of no where. No, you must go and possess them. When the manna fell in the wilderness, the people still had to go pick it up. They learned that if you don't take it, you won't get it.

It is interesting to note that the word "possess" is used over 300 times in scripture, with none

as meaningful as Numbers 13:30,

"Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let

us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

Caleb knew what it took to fight the good fight of faith. He knew that God provides His blessings by grace, but you must go in and possess them with the full assurance of faith, a faith that is bold and confident.

Likewise, if you know what belongs to you, then it's time to rise up and go get it. Like Caleb, take possession of what is yours.

Take possession of

what is yours.

CHAPTER TWO STRONG AND MIGHTY

All over the world headlines declare that chaos abounds on planet earth. The devil knows that the end of his kingdom is near, so the closer we get to that glorious day the worse things are going to become. Diabolical destruction and calamity will cover the earth in Biblical proportions, and Jesus said.

"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places" Matt. 24:7

The good news is that believers serve a God, "who always leads us in triumph in Christ" ^{2 Cor. 2:14}, and just as He provided a means of escape for His followers in times past, so will He do the same today. He provided an ark for Noah to escape the flood, and He gave David a sling to escape the oppression of the Philistine army.

Today, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds $^{\rm 2~Cor.~10:4}.$ Prov. 18:14 $^{\rm AMP}$ says,

"The strong spirit of a man will sustain him in bodily pain and trouble, but a weak and broken spirit who can raise up or bear?"

It is not right for Christians during these hard times to want to quit and give up the ghost and go to heaven. God has great things planned for you down here, so you need to have a strong spirit so you can endure the hard times, so that God's will can be done in your life.

A strong spirit will get you through physical challenges, troubles, financial relationship every problems, and difficulty. The stronger you are spiritually the more you'll receive from God, the more you can resist the devil, and the more you'll be in position to help other people. Get serious about living and don't sink in the mire of hopelessness and self-pity. The Bible says,

"If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small" Prov. 24:10.

Most people don't realize they are a spirit, so they don't consciously strive to get and maintain a strong spirit. The tendency is to only be aware of the physical world around them, to be body and mind conscious. This is why the knowledge of man is so limited. 2 Cor. 4:16 AMP says,

"Therefore we do not become discouraged, utterly spiritless, exhausted, wearied out through fear, though the outer man is progressively

decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being progressively renewed day after day."

There is an outer man and there is an inner man. You are a spirit and your body is the house you live in. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit ^{1 Cor. 6:19}, and spiritually you never grow old and never decay.

You are not in an aging process on the inside like you are on the outside. In fact, as time goes on, as your hair turns gray and wrinkles appear, on the inside you should be growing stronger.

Believers should look forward

to growing older.

If you could reverse the aging process and grow younger instead of older, you would lose all the knowledge of God you've learned over the years. The trade-off is not worth the desire to be younger, because the more knowledge of God you have, the higher quality of life you will live. Don't look back and don't desire to go back.

"Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" ² Cor. 5:17.

Look forward, even though it means getting older the longer you live. If you look old on the

outside then so be it. You never grow old on the inside. You only get better and stronger. And the stronger your spirit is, the more vibrant and full of life your body will be.

Serving God and working in the ministry is hard work and you must continually be building up your inner man. You need a strong spirit to do the things God would have you do. Just like the outer man can be strong or weak, so can the inner man be strong or weak. Your spirit is a human spirit and it must be built up and progressively

older the longer you live. If you look old on the outside then so be it. You never grow old on the inside. You only

You are a spirit and the

body is the house you

renewed day after day. The more you give out spiritually, the more you need to take in, for if you don't feed your spirit, you will burn out.

God is not a hard task-master Who runs His people into the ground until they drop. Only those who are disobedient "burn out". But if you will consistently listen to God you'd never get run down, for the life that's in the fleshly body comes from the spirit within. Prov. 4:20-22 says,

"My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh."

While in Asia, Paul experienced trial and weakness, and in 2 Cor. 1:8b he wrote

"We were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life."

Paul was at the point of giving up, but he knew that strong faith comes from having a strong spirit. He went on to say in v. 9,

"Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead."

9,

The Message® Bible says,

"We felt like we'd been sent to death row, that it was all over for us. As it turned out, it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally - not a bad idea since he's the God who raises the dead!"

He later wrote in 2 Cor. 4:8,

"We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

There is no future in feeling sorry for yourself, for God is not moved by people wallowing in self-pity. Pouting, murmuring, and complaining irritates God, and it even cost Elijah his ministry.

Being perplexed is when you have a question mark over your head and don't understand what's going on around you. This does not mean you have to question God and despair. There are going to be things you don't know and things you don't need to know. Just trust God and live a good life.

You can have the peace of God and the joy of the Holy Spirit. Be like Paul who said "none of these things move me" Acts 20:24.

Don't let things move your heart or shake your confidence, for,

The evidence of a weak spirit is despair and discouragement.

There is no such thing as a strong spirit that is down and depressed. When trials come you are to

"be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" Eph. 6:10

The New Liv-ing Testament® says,

"be strong with the Lord's mighty power."

God is strong and He wants you to be strong and mighty, for spiritual victory comes only to those who are prepared for battle. Hope that is tingling with anticipation and expectancy of good things to come, is evidence of a strong spirit.

You are in faith and you have victory inside of you. You're an overcomer. If something gets in front of you, you come over it.

You're more than a conqueror. You're a strong and might warrior, so act like it and talk like it.

Living by faith means that no matter what's going on, it does not move you or shake you. A strong spirit knows that God always causes you to triumph every time. Today! Tomorrow! Next week! Next year! Why? Because always is always! You've got the Greater One living inside of you! You've got the victory! Always!

1 John 5:4 says,

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the

world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith."

You can locate your faith by what problems look big to you. A big problem means your faith is not up to that level yet, but with a strong spirit what was once hard to believe for, is now easy to believe for. Faith is a rest. Job 22:21 says,

"Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Therefore good will come to you."

Faith says, "God will provide. Everything will be fine. Don't

The steps of a good

man are ordered by

the Lord.

worry about it."

Faith is like fishing. First, you have to believe there are fish out there. You don't see them, but you know they're there. After you hook the fish, you next have to reel it in and get it in the boat. Just because there are fish out there does not mean you'll have a fish fry tonight.

How do you hook the fish? You must believe that you receive, that you've got something on the end of your line. With great expectation you begin to reel the promise in. You keep expecting the blessing to be manifested in your life until it comes out of the water and you can see it and feel it and taste it.

Endurance takes strength and you must be strong and mighty to reel in the bigger fish. You must submit to God and resist the devil, doubt, and all fear James 4:7.

Some fishing lines are stronger than others and you need a strong line to pull in the big fish. The big fish are in deep water and the stronger your faith is, the farther out you can reach.

How does your faith get stronger? Strong faith is a product of a strong spirit, just like great strength is a product of a strong body.

To face and conquer the hardships of life you must develop in godliness and keep yourself spiritually fit. Paul tells you how in 1 Tim. 4:6-8.

"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself rather to godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

Paul mentioned nourishment and exercise for these are the keys to developing a spirit that is strong and mighty. You are a spirit, and nourishment is based on what you eat spiritually. Jesus said in Matt. 4:4,

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Nourishment for the inner man is the Word of God...

...and you must feed your spirit if your spirit is going to be strong. 1 Peter 2:2 says,

"As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."

The Message® Bible says,

"...drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God."

The Word of God is to your spirit what physical food is to your body. Jer. 15:16 says,

"Your words were found, and

I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart."

Your spirit has an appetite and can be hungry. It is not a good sign for people not to be hungry and not want to eat.
God's words feed your spirit. Job. 23:12 says,

"I have not departed from the command-ment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."

Acts 20:32 states,

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all

those who are sanctified."

You need faith and grace to feed your spirit and build you up. When you minister to others, use the Word to build people up, and not to condemn them and put them to shame. People can hear the Word and not be nourished by it. You need to hear the Word from the standpoint of faith and grace. The Message® Bible says,

"Now I'm turning you over to God, our marvelous

> God whose gracious Word can make you into what He wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community

of holy friends."

Most Christians have not got the revelation that they must build themselves up in the Word every day and not just once a week. They feed their body steak and potatoes, but only eat crumbs when it comes to their spirit. You need to daily partake of Him!

If you read and meditate on the Word, you can feel strength coming into you. God is ministering to you and your spirit is getting developed and becoming strong and mighty.

[Satan] attacks

your joy because

there is no power

People can be saved a long time but not be nourished and developed. Heb. $5:12^{\,\mathrm{NLT}}$ says,

"You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's Word. You are like babies who need milk and can not eat solid food."

The passage of time does not cause you to grow. You need words of faith and words of grace. Jesus said,

"I am the bread of life," John 6:48

So eat, and keep on eating. Meditate on Godly thoughts throughout the day. God's words contain God's thoughts and His thoughts are spiritual food. His thoughts will nourish you when they get down into your spirit. The truth is, you are what you eat.

Paul wrote,

"So we're not giving up. How could we? Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without His unfolding grace" ^{2 Cor. 4:16,17 MSG}.

If your spirit needs to be

renewed, that means your spiritual energy is being depleted and needs to be charged up again, day after day, after day. You expend spiritual energy and resources just like you do physical energy and resources, so you need to be renewed spiritually just like you need to be renewed physically. 1 Tim. 4:8,9 MSG says,

"Exercise daily in God - no spiritual flabbiness please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever. You can count on this. Take it to heart."

You must train yourself to be godly, so keep busy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit. It is easy to think you're in better shape than you actually are, especially if you're not doing much.

Arm-chair quarterbacks are not as good as the ones they're watching on the screen. If you want total development, you have to exercise yourself in all areas.

- Having strong legs does not mean you have strong arms.
- Having strong faith to get healed does not mean you have strong faith for finances.
- If you want faith in all areas,

you have to feed and exercise faith in all areas.

 You will not become strong by just simply hearing the Word, just like you won't become strong physically simply by eating natural food.

You need exercise also. You can get big physically, but not be strong; and you can get good spiritually, but still be weak. You can know the Bible from cover to cover, but you have to use and exercise your faith for it to do you any good.

God is big on stewardship, so you have to utilize and maximize what you

have in order for you to get any more.

You can't just know what to do, you have to do it. Exercise videos is a multi-billion dollar business, but what are people doing with those videos? For most people they're sitting on the shelf next to the bag of potato chips collecting dust. Some people sit in a chair and only watch the video as they're eating ice cream. Watching people pray will not turn you into a prayer warrior. You have to do it! James 1:22 says,

"But be doers of the word, and

not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

To develop in any area, you have to do the work. Watching people do push-ups won't help you at all unless you do it.

How can you tell the difference between the hearers and the doers? When the storm comes, the doer's house will stand and the hearer's house will crumble. People can go to church and shout "hallelujah" when they hear a good sermon, but what

happens when they walk out the church door? To become strong and mighty you must daily walk

in the Spirit. Gal. 5:16 says,

"I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

The Message© Bible says,

"Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit."

Jesus said in Matt.26:41,

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Being willing is a far cry from being able!

Because you want to do

God is big on

stewardship.

something doesn't mean you'll be able to do it. Col. 1:29 states.

"To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."

If you want a strong spirit you have to put some effort into it. You've got to work, strive, and push. It's easy to quit. Anybody can quit. It takes effort. You've got to do something.

Paul said in Gal. 5:25,

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

To develop spiritually, you must develop in the fruit of the Spirit v. 22, 23. Every one of these fruit require effort. You're not going to develop in love automatically with the passage of time.

- You must feed your spirit on love scriptures and exercise yourself in love by doing kind deeds for other people.
- Exercise yourself in joy, peace, and long-suffering.
- If you have little patience, then exercise being patient.
- It takes effort to be joyful when you don't feel like it,
- To be in peace when you're tempted to worry,

 To walk in gentleness and kindness when you're tempted to be harsh and hard.

It is a fact that most people don't want these things enough to do it. It takes effort, but if you want it, you can have it. As you put in the time and energy to develop your inner man, you will get stronger and stronger.

- Your love will get bigger, and
- Your joy will be greater, and
- Your peace will get stronger.
- You're developing spiritually and you're getting strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
- You are strong and you are mighty.
- No weapon formed against you will prosper.
- You are a victor and not a victim.
- No longer do you complain about what you don't have, but instead you are content and grateful for the things you do have.
- Your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life!
- You don't worry when bills come in the mail, but rejoice because you serve a God

who will supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus Phil.4:19.

- You'll conquer one mountain and then go climb another one.
- You are a champion, a master, a winner. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ 1 Cor. 15:57.

One final thing you need to do in order to develop a

strong spirit is rest spiritually. Not only do you need to feed and exercise your spirit, you also need to rest your spirit. Jesus said in Matt. 11:28-30,

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

As you grow strong and mighty, God will show you how to take a real rest and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

Muscle cells in weight-lifters are rebuilt as the athlete rests

from his lifting. They don't get strong and get refurbished during the training and the competition, but rather during the times of rest. They take several naps a day. All during the day they're either eating, sleeping, or working out. They know they've got to rest to give their body time to repair and be built up.

People need to realize how important rest is. If you are ill, the doctor will tell you to get plenty of rest. When Lazarus died Jesus

> said he was sleeping. His disciples then said,

> "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well" John 11:12.

If you rest, you can get better, for your body repairs itself while you rest. This is why you should wake up every morning feeling refreshed and ready to go. However, you can not rest outwardly until you can first rest inwardly. If you're not resting your inner man, you'll toss and turn and won't wake up refreshed.

To walk in peace and rest inwardly, you need to walk in faith and keep your mind focused on the right things. Faith doesn't worry for it knows that God is still on the throne. When you are in faith, peace comes and with it

You cannot rest

outwardly until you

first rest inwardly.

you are able to obtain rest in your inner man.

Faith is a rest, therefore, if you don't know how to rest you don't know much about faith. Heb. 4:1-3a says,

"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them, but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. For we who have believed do enter that rest..."

If you're uptight, you're not much of faith person. If you're trying to meet your own needs, you're not resting, because you're not in faith. You're worn out, drained, and you're upset with the Lord. People get old before their time, because they try to carry their own load instead of casting all their care onto the Lord. Paul said in 1 Cor. 7;15b that

"God has called us to peace,"

...for it is part of the manifested presence of God.

How do you get the peace? It comes by entering into the rest of God. Isaiah 40:29-31 says,

"He gives power to the weak,

and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

The rest of God is refreshing and life giving, and He gives strength to those who wait on Him. Just like that weight-lifter who takes several naps a day, you'll mount up with wings like eagles, for you are strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

You are the head and not the tail, above and not beneath.

David wrote in Ps. 4:4b,

"Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still."

The NIV© says,

"Search your hearts and be silent."

God lives in your heart, and to rest spiritually you must be silent and still and meditate on Him. It is during these times of silence that God will reveal Himself to you, thus causing your

inner man to be renewed with strength and power. Ps. 46:10a says,

"Be still, and know that I am God."

Verse 1 says,

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

To develop a strong spirit you must be still and silent before Him, and with faith and patience learn to wait on Him.

You don't have to be doing something all the time. Busy bodies get no rest and eventually burn out.

Resting is simple, but you have to put your flesh down to do it.

When you rest you're not putting out, you're taking in. You're not praying and you're not reading your Bible. Instead, you are being still and you are meditating on Jesus. Ps. 63:6 says,

"When I remem-ber You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches."

Put your mind on Jesus and be quiet. It's just you and the Lord. Nothing is more important than Him, so don't let your mind wander. Is. 26:3,4 says,

"You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in YAH, the Lord, is everlasting strength."

If you can rest, you can receive all that God has for you, so purpose in your heart to rest. It's not in your own strength that you win. It's in His strength, and if you're not resting, you're not trusting in Him.

Jesus is coming soon, and James 5:8 tells us what we must be doing as we wait for that glorious day to

arrive,

"You will keep him

in perfect peace."

"You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

The Message® Bible says,

"Stay steady and strong. The Master could arrive at any time."

When Jesus does return, may He find all His children with spirits that are strong and mighty.

CHAPTER THREE CONFRONTING GOLIATH

oo many people make the devil out to be bigger than he actually is. They give him way too much credit, and by listening to them talk, you would think he was bigger than God.

Hollywood doesn't help, and with all their movies about demons and exorcisms it's easy to see why the uninformed think the way they do. They don't seem to realize we will one day gaze upon the devil and ask, "Is this the one who made the nations tremble?" Isa 14:16 Instead, they make him out to be the Mike Tyson of the spiritual underworld. Come to think of it, they may be right.

Many years ago, Mike Tyson became the youngest man to win the heavyweight championship of the world title. He was the ultimate warrior. He was young, relentless, forceful, and solid through and through. He was a modern day Goliath, and so awesome was the destruction of his opponents that, knees trembled at the mention of his name. He fought with the ferociousness of a rabid bull, and was easily able to force his will on those in front of him. For some,

this is the same description they have of the devil.

Mike Tyson was like a school yard bully who no one would stand up to. Fear and intimidation ruled supreme in the minds of his opponents, causing them to lose the fight before they even stepped into the ring.

Using their fear to his advantage, Mike Tyson sliced through his opponents like a hot knife through butter. On the night he won the title, so fearful was the reigning champion that, Mike Tyson barely even broke a sweat. Mike Tyson was sitting on top of the world, until one day the unthinkable happened. Like the real Goliath, he also got confronted by a fighter who was unwilling to back down.

The management team of Mike Tyson picked a no-name fighter named Buster Douglas to be the next victim on their fighters' long list of defeated foes. But, unlike the fighters before him, Buster Douglas refused to submit his will to the will of Tyson and set his course to tarnish the record of

the newly crowned champion.

To prepare for an upcoming bout, a fighter and his team will view film clips of their opponents' past fights in an effort to find a weakness they can use to their advantage. Because of the shortness of Tyson's fights this was hard to do, but upon closer examination a weak link was eventually found.

It seems that Mike Tyson did not respond very well when he himself was hit with a hard

punch. Instead of continuing his relentless forward onslaught he would stop for a second, collect himself, and

then continue on with his fight plan. This slight moment of hesitation was all an experienced fighter needed to regain his own composure and either dance out of harms way or deliver another devastating punch of his own.

The conclusion to this film study was that, if you wanted to defeat Mike Tyson, you had to take the fight to him. You had to confront this man who fought like a raging bull. You had to suck up the pain, and during this moment of hesitation, you had to hit him hard again and again. Bam! Bam!

Bam! This, Buster Douglas did to perfection and, even though he himself got knocked down, when the fight ended it was Mike Tyson on the floor taking the ten count.

And so it is with the devil. He really is like Mike Tyson and his Biblical counterpart Goliath. He is a spiritual bully and he'll push you around and wreck havoc in your life if you don't stand up and confront him. This is why Goliath was able to taunt the army of Israel for so long. Nobody was willing to

confront him until the teenage David showed up. And if like David you do confront the devil, he'll quiver in fear like the senseless

coward he really is.

The devil is a spiritual

bully. Stand up and

confront him.

After the Buster Douglas fight, Mike Tyson never regained the form he had before, and would later get beat up and knocked out several more times. He was only a shadow of the fighter he had once been, and this was all because he got confronted.

To fight our spiritual battles we all need the tenacity of a Buster Douglas, a willingness to go on the offensive and take the fight to the devil. We need to stand up and confront him and the Goliaths he

puts in front of us.

The truth is, the entire Bible is a book about confrontations between good and evil. In both the Old and New Testaments, we read of confrontations that took place and, unfortunately, ones that did not.

We read where a young shepherd boy named David confronted the giant Goliath, whereas Adam stood by and did not confront the serpent who had been lurking there in the Garden of Eden. We also read where Elijah boldly confronted the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, but ran away when threatened by the evil Queen Jezebel.

Moses sent 12 spies into the promised land, and giants living in walled cities were found dwelling there. Joshua and Caleb wanted to go in and confront them, the others did not. What followed was 40 years of endless wandering in the wilderness, ending only until everyone who had come out of Egypt had died off with the exception, of course, of Joshua and Caleb.

With sword in hand, Peter confronted those who came to arrest Jesus, but not long after refused to confront those who accused him of being a disciple of

the Lord. It is amazing how Peter's attitude changed in just a few short hours.

Like the early opponents of Mike Tyson, fear gripped his heart and this fear caused him to deny his Lord three times. Afterward, Peter went and wept bitterly knowing that this lack of confrontation had pierced the heart of his Lord and Master. Know with certainty that the enemy will not stop until he is confronted, and refusing to do so has serious consequences.

For all practical purposes, God quite often uses people to do his bidding on planet earth, and so also does the devil. For many it's easy to confront the devil, because he's not there in front of your face.

What's hard is to confront the people the devil uses, because they're right there in front of you. They can fight back, and argue with you and threaten you with bodily harm.

People and politicians alike are afraid to take a public stand against abortion, gay marriage, and false religions. They're afraid to confront Goliath. They think it's better to join them than fight them, so they run away and do nothing.

What does the Bible have to

say about all of this? The Message© translation of Gal. 5:1 says,

"Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you."

In other words, don't let Goliath push you around. Goliath was the Philistine champion and twice a day for 40 days he challenged and taunted the army of Israel in the Valley of Elah.

Much can be learned about the devil's intentions when you consider the Hebrew definitions of the words related to this story.

Don't let

Don't let Goliath push you around.

• "Goliath" you means 'to denude, to strip as in shame, disgrace, to lead into captivity."

- The word "Phil-istine" means to 'roll in the dust' or 'wallow in the mud'.
- In the Hebrew language a "champion" is 'a strong tyrant.'
- Finally, the "Valley of Elah" is 'a strong rooted tree, a stronghold."

Jesus says a thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy John 10:10, and he'll do just that if he is not confronted.

Modern audiences often

think of this story as a children's tale that is read to youngsters on Sunday mornings. They consider this passage of scripture merely as a battle scene where an inexperienced underdog toppled an ancient superhero. In the deep confines of their mind they comfort themselves believing they will never have to deal with such a scenario.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. Like a roaring lion, your adversary the devil walks about seeking whom he

may devour ^{1 Peter 5:8}. He pounces on the weak, the helpless, the intimidated, those who are afraid to stand up

and confront him.

The truth of the matter is, we are all called to be a modern day Davids. David's short battle with Goliath was more than a fight between Israel and the Philistines. It was a battle between good and evil, a defense of Jehovah's Name against those who doubted His supremacy.

Sometimes people have the mindset that it is easier to let someone else stand up for God, or if they ignore the problem long enough, maybe it will go away. It won't, and one must decide for themselves as to whether they will stand and fight or turn and run away. That decision is truly a matter of life and death.

Solomon tells us in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that,

"to every thing there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven".

He makes it very clear that indeed, there is a time in our lives for confrontation. Consider verse 3a where he says there is,

"A time to kill, and a time to heal."

Verse 7-8 says there is,

"A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."

We are soldiers in the army of the Lord, and we must be forever ready to stand up and confront those people who compromise the will of God on planet earth.

Nehemiah was a man who had one such confrontation. God had used Nehemiah for the purpose of rebuilding Jerusalem's broken down walls, and as governor, Nehemiah was also used to rebuild the people spiritually

and morally. Once, when he was away from Jerusalem, Eliashib the priest, befriended Tobiah, who had persecuted the Jews in times past and prepared for him a large room in the house of God. Good and evil do not mix and it was time for a confrontation.

Nehemiah himself writes in Neh. 13:7-9,

"And I came to Jerusalem and discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. And it grieved me bitterly; therefore I threw out all the household goods of Tobiah out of the room. Then I commanded them to cleanse the rooms; and I brought back into them the articles of the house of God, with the grain offering and frankincense."

Notice that before this confrontation took place that Nehemiah grieved bitterly. The first step in confronting Goliath is to have a righteous, spirit-led anger when the will of God is compromised.

You can hear the anger rising up in David's voice when he asked,

"For who is this uncircumcised

Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" ¹ Sam. 17:26b

David believed that someone had to wipe away from Israel the reproach caused by Goliath's insults. Since no one else would step forward, he volunteered to defend Yahweh's Name. All because he got angry.

A similar story to Nehemiah's cleansing of the temple is found in Matt. 21:12,

"Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out

all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the

moneychangers and the seats of those who sold doves."

Jesus did not turn the other cheek and walk away. No, He confronted Goliath. He got angry and He drove them out.

Turning the other cheek at the wrong time can be considered a cowardly act.

Remember, a bully is a Goliath who's never been confronted, and the enemy won't stop harassing you until he is.

Spirit-led anger is the stone

you put in your sling when you confront Goliath. Solomon says there is "a time for war", and you can't do that until you first get angry.

Anger is the strongest of all passions, and when controlled, can be used for your benefit. Many people think they shouldn't get angry, because they're a Godly individual. But anger is not sin if it's justified. Many times Jesus got angry, as did the Heavenly Father Mark 3:5; 2 Chron. 28:25, and there are times when we are commanded by God to also get angry.

Eph. 4:26 says,

"Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your

wrath."

There is a time for

war.

The Message[®] Bible says,

"Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry - but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry."

If people are not careful they'll miss what's being said here. They focus too much on the "do not sin" part, and not enough on the "be angry" part. They don't realize that there are certain times and conditions where they are commanded by God to "be angry".

Spirit-led anger is a method of getting other people to know you're serious. When controlled, righteous anger is in fact God's anger manifested through you.

The closer you are to God the more angry you'll become when His will is compromised. David was a man after God's own heart, and ran toward the giant when the time came to confront him. Likewise, do not wait or hesitate when Goliath stands in your path. Be like Caleb who,

"quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it" Num. 13:30.

Take a stand like David's three mighty men ² Sam. ²³ and confront the enemy. Know for certain that, Goliath molehills turn into Goliath mountains when not confronted immediately.

Like Goliath, people do what they can get away with and these are precisely the ones who need to be confronted. God has given us the tool of spirit-led anger in order to take a stand against sin, rebellion, injustice, and pettiness. It let's you know when you are being mistreated and when the will of God is compromised. Righteous anger is a learned response and can be a means to an end. To defeat the enemy you must confront him and make him more miserable than he's making you. You do that with a controlled, spirit-led anger. Take a stand and say something. Better yet, run toward your giant and do something.

You don't confront Goliath to hurt people, but for the purpose of correcting a wrong, making sure the will of God gets fulfilled. Therefore, do not be angry over things your anger can not change.

Of course, you must add and balance common sense when it comes to matters such as this. You can't go off and abuse somebody just because they did something you don't like or their opinion differed from your own. The Bible says "be angry but do not sin" Eph 4:26. When it comes time to confront the enemy, be led by your spirit and not the arm of the flesh. If not, somebody may confront you.

God has given you the keys of the kingdom Matt. 16:19, and this means that God is not in control of everything that goes on in your life. You are! God has chosen not to control us like robots, but instead to put control in our hands.

The devil tricks people into thinking that God is always in control, so they won't rise up and take control themselves. This way the devil can be in control, and he is a forceful coercer and manipulator. It is not the Lord's will for the devil to be in control of anything, especially you. If you're in control, then for sure the devil isn't.

Spirit-led anger controlled anger. Remember, you have the keys of the kingdom,

and this means that God will allow what you allow. Be led by your spirit, control your anger and, by

all means, don't let the chance of sinning keep you from getting angry. Do not fear your anger, but take charge and control your anger. A controlled anger is one you can turn on and off at your choosing.

You only sin when you yield to your anger and let it control you.

Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit Gal. 5:22, 23, so have confidence that you can control your emotions.

To confront Goliath successfully you must turn your feelings off and be led by your spirit. If you do, you can be bold and strong knowing the Lord your God is with you.

Given how our culture scoffs at both the Father and the Son Jesus Christ, believers will certainly spend more time in David's sandals than not. Thankfully, the battle is the Lord's and He gives victory to the faithful. You are more than a conqueror in Christ Rom. 8:37. So when Goliath shows up, run toward him and hit him with everything you've got.

> Buster Douglas proved Mike Tyson was not that big, and David proved that Goliath was

not that big. And, of course, at the empty tomb, Jesus proved that the devil is not that big either. The moral of the story is that David stood up for God and you must also do the same. Take charge and confront those who would compromise the will of God.

Rise up and let your voice be heard.

Spirit-led anger is a

controlled anger.

CHAPTER FOUR COWARDS BE GONE

here has never been a better time to be alive. God's plan since before time began is about to unfold all over the world, and He wants you to be a part of it.

Jesus said in Matt. 11:12,

"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of God is advancing forcefully, and forceful men lay hold of it."

God is going to establish His rule and cover the earth with His glory, by pouring Himself into those believers who throw off the cloak of passivity and put on the whole armor of God. We live in a world at war and we're supposed to fight back.

To kill the lion you've got to run to the roar. For many this is a difficult reality to embrace, as witnessed by the passivity that marks much of Christianity. Most people want the Christian life to be all about the sweet love of Jesus, not knowing that Christianity is not a life of comfort—but of conflict. Anyone who chooses to become a Christian automatically

enters God's military and is immediately engaged in the longest war ever fought. Our God is a Warrior because there are things worth fighting for. Ex. 15:3 says,

"The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name."

Is. 42:13 states,

"The Lord shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies."

David wrote in Ps. 24;8,

"Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle."

God made man a warrior in His own image, because He intends for man to join Him in the battle. The prophet Jeremiah wrote.

"But the Lord is with me as a mighty, awesome one. Therefore my persecutors will stumble, and will not prevail. They will be greatly ashamed, for they will not prosper. Their everlasting confusion will never be forgotten" Jer. 20:11.

The late Nelson Mandela once said,

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. You

playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is

within us. It's not just in some of us, it is in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates them."

Life is a battle, a struggle, and there is no such thing as an easy life. To win the battle you must rise above your circumstances and be the victor instead of the victim. There is a real divine power that can be resident in your life that helps you overcome whatever obstacles you face in life. God in you will make you stronger than whatever trial you are facing. You have greater capacity than you think.

There is truly a God who lives inside of you, a Godly Spirit that makes you stronger in the heat of battle. 1 John 4;4 says, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." The Message® Bible

says, "...for the Spirit in you is far stronger than anything in the world."

What comes to mind when you think of courage? Many think of a lion as a

symbol of strength, courage, and gallantry. In story of "The Wizard Of Oz," the lion is missing the one quality that should define him the most: courage. Fear crippled his ability to see himself as he actually was. As the movie unfolds, he discovered he always had courage, he just didn't show it.

In the Bible, the phrase "do not fear" is written 365 times. Every day of the year God gives you a personal message that says "do not fear." You can not always control your circumstances but

In the Bible, the

phrase "do not

fear" is written

365 times.

you can control your response to your circumstances. The word "fear" is used to describe lack of faith Matt. 8:26; Mark 4:40, and the cowardly are "timid ones, persons showing fear in a shameful way."

The wicked and lazy servant hid his talent in the ground out of fear, rather than investing it for the Lord's benefit. He was rebuked by the Master and cast into outer darkness Mark 25:25;Luke 19:21. Those who deny Jesus before men, possibly out of fear, will not be confessed by the Son of Man before God and His angels Luke 12:8,9.

Many of the religious rulers believed in Jesus, but for fear of being put out of the synagogue by the Pharisees, would not confess Him. They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God John 12:43.

During the Tribulation, the beast worshippers took his mark out of fear of losing their lives Rev. 13:16,17. They were among those who, because of fear, saved their lives for a season, but ultimately lost both their soul and body in hell Matt. 10:28. In Rev. 21:8, the cowards are the first who are thrown into hell,

"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars have have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

God hates cowardice and it is His will that all cowards be gone from His kingdom. This is why Deut. 31:6 gives the command to

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

You are stronger than your enemy. You are tougher than anything the forces of hell can throw at you. You can have a strength that gives you peace, stability, and assurance, because Jesus has already conquered the world and He lives inside of you. Rom. 8:11 says,

"But if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."

You are stronger because God has made you stronger. The Message® Bible says,

"It stands to reason, doesn't it,

that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, He'll do the same thing in you that He did in Jesus, bringing you alive to Himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and He does, as surely as He did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With His Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's!"

Everybody is battling something. That is not always a

bad thing, because every victory must have a battle beforehand. Every champion had an opponent and every

comeback had a setback. You can win from within if you have an understanding of what God's Word says about having the spirit of a warrior. Jesus said in Luke 10:19.

"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

The Message© Bible says,

"See what I've given you? Safe passage as you walk on snakes and scorpions, and protection from every assault of the enemy. No one can put a hand on you."

The only way you can be strong and have this power is to be connected to the One who gives this power.

Webster's Dictionary defines "courage" as 'the attitude of facing and dealing with anything recognized as dangerous, difficult, or painful, instead of withdrawing from it; it's the quality of being fearless or brave;

valor.' The apostle Paul said in 1 Cor. 16:13,14,

"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be

brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love."

The Message® Bible says,

"Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your conviction, give it all you've got, be resolute, and love without stopping."

The NIV© states,

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."

Every person is born with the potential to show courage, and without it you can not produce anyother virtue with consistency.

"Be on your guard;

stand firm in the

faith."

You can't be kind, true, sincere, merciful, generous, or honest without courage.

Like the cowardly lion in The Wizard Of Oz, you already have courage, but you must face major challenges so you can display courage.

You are a warrior and you are called to win major battles in life. Those who are fearful and weak don't take risks. They choose comfort and security over opportunity. Warriors, on the other hand, don't run for cover. They run toward danger knowing that they have the God-given ability to overcome any obstacle that comes their way.

Courage is not the absence of fear, it's acting in the face of fear.

Warriors eat problems for breakfast, lunch, and supper. They do it for fun. They see it as part of who they are. They look at every problem as a set of weights that will help them grow stronger.

Danger is your opportunity to awaken courage. Courage sleeps quietly until it is awakened by an opportunity to confront danger head-on. Sometimes low self-esteem is connected to a lack of godly courage. If so, then having courage is the recognition

of your potential.

- A warrior reflects courageous energy and is characterized by initiative, protection, provision, and perseverance.
- A warrior is a man of action, a person who tackles life headon and wins.
- He takes the other guy's best shot and still stands strong and continues to move forward.
- He looks fear in the eye and spits in its face.
- He does not allow fear to handicap his ability to fight and move forward, leaving him in a worthless position.
- A warrior works the hardest and the longest, and outlasts the competition.
- He perseveres in the midst of all kings of adversity and fights for what matters most.
- He takes the initiative and does not run away from problems, and is most comfortable on the battlefield.
- He has an inner supply of conquering energy and with holy boldness makes an impact on the world.
- A warrior is assertive, but gets his direction from God.

- This is not about power, it's about strength of character.
- It's not a destructive force, it's positive energy force.
- A warrior fights with purpose for noble things and eternal values.
- He has a reason to fight and is constructive and intentional.
- He runs the race to win staying alert and in top condition at all times.
- Warriors are those who,

"mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall run and not faint" Is. 40:31

No one becomes a success without mulitiple failures.

• They fight the good fight of faith and lay hold of the eternal life to which they have been called ^{1 Tim. 6:12}.

Righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and perseverance are not easily seized in any person's life. You must fight for these qualities, and it takes courage to obtain them. There is a warrior inside of you and you must reach down and call him out. Is. 40:28,29 says,

"Have you not known?

have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. There is no searching of His understanding. He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength."

David was a fearless warrior and 1 Sam. 17 tells the story of David and Goliath. What helped him display his courage?

David practiced courage before he faced the giant.

He killed the lion and the bear before he killed Goliath. He worked his way up the ladder of courage. You must

climb the little mountain before you climb the big one. Michael Jordan once said,

"I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

No one ever becomes a success in life without first having had multiple failures. Real men practice climbing out on the limb until it breaks. They then dust themselves off and do it again. Real men take risks. If you haven't failed, then you haven't taken enough risks.

All of the fruit of life is out on the limb of the tree. Warriors go after it, those who are fearful cling to the trunk of the tree. Become a professional limbwalker and do what David did. Practice! Practice! Practice! If you practice enough, when reality strikes, you'll be ready for it.

Become numb to failure. Courage is having radical obedience in the face of what scares you the most. It doesn't pull back. It's pressing into your fears, not denying your fears.

Courage is a maximum-gain-strategy.

Michael Jordan, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Edison, and Colonel Sanders all had multiple failures in the quest to accomplish a great work. Would anybody call these men failures?

Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important. In 1 Sam. 17:29 David said,

"Is there not a cause?"

Esther said,

"And so I will go to the King, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!" Esther 4:16b.

Sometimes people have to do things they're afraid to do. Being brave doesn't mean you never get scared. It means that even when you are scared you step up and do the things you have to do.

Courage is a choice, so choose to be brave.

Make your life count. Billy Graham once said,

"Courage is contagious. When one brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened."

The Bible describes Jesus as the second Adam ^{1 Cor. 15:45-47}, and He set the pattern for how life was to be lived. Every person will walk in the shadow of one of these two Adams. They'll either walk in the darkness of the first Adam or the light of the second Adam.

The first Adam was passive in the garden ^{Gen. 3:6}, but Jesus rejected passivity. A warrior does not just stand around and do nothing.

Jesus did something.

• He acted. He turned over the tables of the money changers.

- He called the religious leaders "hypocrites" and children of the devil.
- He looked at Peter and said,
 "Get thee behind me, Satan!"
- He touched lepers and women who were unclean. People are passive because they wimp out.
- The army of Israel feared Goliath, but David ran toward the giant.

the

Those who are

passive...

lack courage.

• Elijah faced down prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, but wimped-out when threatened by Jezebel.

will go away.

Jonah ran away from Ninevah, and Peter denied Jesus three times. Those who are passive are uncomfortable doing what they have to do. They lack courage. It's easier to do nothing. They think if they ignore a problem maybe it

Vince Lombardi once said,

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but a lack of will."

When you are passive, you put yourself in a position to fail.

Consider Paul who got stoned, got up, and walked back into the city from which he came. Consider also Jesus who went into Jerusalem knowing that torture and death awaited Him. Declare war on passivity, comfort over courage. Man up!

When you don't operate in courage, a part of you dies. Every action you take that lacks courage is like cutting yourself with a knife.

There will be times in your

life when you will be confronted by Goliath, and fear will grip your heart and try to stop you from standing up to him. Call it fear, anxiety,

concern, or hesitation, the fact is we all face moments when fear tries to keep us from something better.

Fear in and of itself isn't your problem. Your problem is not facing your fear head-on. The solution? Man up! Do it anyway. If you have to, do it afraid. You have to learn to do what you have to do, even if you're afraid to do it. Josh. 1:9 says,

"Be strong and of good courage; Be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever you go."

If you will move forward and do it afraid, you will find that fear loses its grip. If you don't, you will miss many opportunities and the good life will pass you by. For a warrior life isn't about getting comfortable where they're at right now. Wimps have retirement on their mind and a comfortable life as their goal. Warriors know that life is about breaking barriers and going to the next level.

When you're scared and want to draw back, that is exactly the time you should go faster, move forward, and do more.

Life is a continuous journey that requires you to stay in motion.

That takes courage. Fear runs much faster than courage, but it never has enough energy to finish the race. Phil. 4;13 says,

"You can do all things through Christ that strengthens you."

Courage is a confidence in God's ability that says "you can do it" while fear says you can't. Moses sent 12 spies into the Promised Land. Ten spies said,

"We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are" Num.

13:31, 32

Caleb, along with Joshua said,

"Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it" Num. 13:30.

Warriors display courage simply because that is who they are. They know their worth, and can increase the display of courage by creating very tangible rewards.

David asked what the reward would be for killing Goliath. He was told his descendants wouldn't have to pay taxes and he could marry the king's beautiful daughter. David kept these benefits before him as a mechanism to eliminate fear and help him act with courage.

Caleb and Joshua's reward for facing their giants was a land flowing with milk and honey. Real warriors always expect a great reward for what they do.

They also capitalize on their own strengths, rather than copy someone else's. David tried on the king's armor, but it didn't fit, because it was too big and too heavy for him to wear. He goes back to what he was good at: slingshots. He chose to focus on his strengths, and that increased his confidence and his courage.

David was a man after God's own heart, and he used his connection to an infinite God to overshadow the fear of what he saw and what he heard. Goliath had better equipment and was physically superior in size and strength. David's only defense was God, and that was enough. Having God on your side is a confidence booster that allows you to display more courage. It's about seeing what needs to be advanced and what needs to be accomplished, as being greater than your personal comfort.

Warriors explore their spiritual nature. They look to God for guidance and strength. It gives

them the confidence to take on any giant that stands in the path that leads to victory. Paul told Timothy,

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of s sound mind" ^{2 Tim. 1:7}.

1 Tim. 6:12 MSG states,

"Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses."

You must go beyond the mechanics of this scripture and grab hold of the spirit of what's being said here. Paul is talking about having the spirit of a fighter. If you're going to make it in this world of hardship and trial, you are going to have to be a fighter. You have to seize and lay hold of what God has given you.

Eternal life does not just mean life that goes on and on without end. It is a quality of life, life as God has it. Paul is saying that, in order to enjoy this God-

kind of life, you have to fasten on to it and take it. It won't come to you automatically, so you must wrap your arms around it

and pull it to you.

Having God on your

side is a confidence

booster.

You have an adversary who comes to kill, steal, and destroy and 1 Peter 5:8 says,

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking who he may devour."

There is no fight unless there is first an enemy to fight, and,

Peter is saying to wake up, watch, stay alert, and stay sharp.

If you snooze, you lose.

Those who lack courage and don't like to fight are defeated right now. They're gone, they're history. Your adversary doesn't fight fair and he is always looking for an opportunity to get the best of you. He seeks to devour you, and he comes to attack you and tempt you and to throw obstacles in your path. Verse 9a tells you to

"Resist him, steadfast in the faith..."

You may have to resist him more than a minute or two. It could take weeks, months, and even years. Resist and keep resisting. Don't give up. If you get tired and quit, then that is when you are defeated. Life is rough and can be hard, but if you'll trust God and fight the good fight of faith with courage, He'll give you the victory every time.

Prov. 18:14 AMP says,

"The strong spirit of a man will sustain him in bodily pain or trouble."

God will give you the victory, but He needs something to work with. Faith is the determining factor, but it takes a strong spirit to fight the good fight of faith. You will be more inclined to fight if you are strong and not weak or passive. If you are weak you

will give up and quit before the fighting even starts.

There is a war being waged and a battle to fight. Don't allow the devil to keep you from possessing what God has already given you. Don't lay down and give up. Fight the good fight of faith and take hold of what is yours.

The devil is not big enough to defeat you. He is under your feet. You are more than a conqueror and the devil picked the wrong person to mess with when he attacked you. All things are possible to them who believe, not to those who quit. In 2 Kings 7:3 four lepers said,

"Why are we sitting here until we die?"

They then stood up and did something great. It is now time for you to step forward and do that which you were born to do. Your destiny is calling out to you, and it's time to step out of your comfort zone and into the unknown. Fight the good fight of faith! God is talking to you, and this is not a suggestion. Do it! Don't try to do it...do it! You were born to be great.

Recognition is not greatness. Greatness is being faithful and doing what is right with dignity and courage. God is calling you to do great things, and with His grace you can fight the good fight of faith and do it. Ps. 118:6 says,

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

The psalmist then said in v. 17,

"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord."

That is a fighting spirit. Warriors are eager and enthusiastic about advancing the kingdom of God and pushing the devil out of the way. So what are you waiting for? Let the battle begin!



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Randall J. Brewer has been faithfully serving the Lord since the day he first bowed his knees before Him in the summer of 1974.

Since that time Randall has stepped through every door that the Lord has opened for him and over time he has been involved with a children's ministry, a teenage street ministry, and has led a Christian singles ministry. He has been involved with an outreach to those in prison and many inmates have been blessed as the result of his efforts.

Randall has also managed a church bookstore, has been the substitute host of a three hour Christian radio program, and has taught Bible classes at church and hosted many home cell groups.

Recently the Lord had him write the eye opening story "Heaven: The Great Adventure" with the promise that it would open doors all over the world, giving those who read the message the incentive to grow closer and stronger in their own personal walk with the Lord. Since the completion of this book, Randall's work has been

translated into several languages, and invitations have come in to go and teach the

world.

Randall and his beautiful wife Anne Marie have been bonded together by one God, with one love, for one purpose. They know firsthand the trials and pain that come with having a sincere desire to serve the Lord.

The result of going through many harsh battles is that the Lord has anointed them to lift up and exhort those who are also serving the Lord and going through similar circumstances.

Their mission in life is to encourage all believers to rise up in the midst of their adversity and become all they were meant to be in and through the Lord

Jesus Christ. Their heartfelt prayer is that once you read this book, your life will never be the same.