

# **CHRISTIAN WARRIORS**

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# **IT'S TIME TO "RISE-UP"**

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## **SESSION #15 – WORKBOOK**

Intended For

**"KINGDOM WARRIORS IN THE ARMY OF GOD"**

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**Unveiling Mysteries in the "Book of Revelation"**

Based upon the Book:

## **GOD'S ANOINTED WARRIORS**

By

**Dr. Donald Bell**

**Major USMC, Ret.**

## **(Slides # 2 - 3)**

### **CALLING WARRIOR-SPIRITED CHRISTIANS TO “RISE-UP”**

The purpose for this session is to prepare soldiers in the army of God for the coming battles by providing some preparation ideas for Warrior-Spirited Christians to “Rise Up” and lead others through the extremely challenging tribulation events - that are soon coming upon America, as well as the entire world.

- Yes, this will be a period of great trouble, even greater than that flood that took place in the days of Noah, for this will be a time of horrendous worldwide suffering which will affect billions of people around the world.

## **(Slides # 4 thru 6)**

### **WARRIOR-SPIRITED CHRISTIANS ----- WHO ARE THEY?**

They are men and women within a remnant of Christianity, who possess a deep, passionate heart commitment for our Lord. Warriors are acknowledged as those who are determined to do battle for their beloved King and His Kingdom.

- These are Christians who will “NEVER RETREAT” from their calling, no matter the circumstances. They are more committed to their “King” than they are to their own lives.
- They have hearts that will never compromise their faith in Jesus Christ - even if it leads to persecution and martyrdom.

**The heart of a Warrior-Spirited Christian embraces the following callings of Jesus ---that is, they have a deep desire:**

- To be numbered among the remnant of God’s people who live a life that labels us as “Overcomers” in Revelation 2 & 3.
- To live out the Christian attributes found in the Beatitudes of Jesus in Matthew 5 & 6.
- To be numbered among the “five virgins” who maintain oil in their lamps while awaiting the Lord’s coming in Matthew 25.
- To live out our daily lives with a deep desire to hear the Lord Jesus say to us, “Well done, good and faithful servant” when we enter into His presence. (Matthew 25:21)

## **(Slide # 7)**

### **A SPIRITUAL WAR**

**Warrior-Spirited Christians in the Army of God must recognize that we are up against an enemy who is incredibly powerful; one whom the great majority of the world's population fails to recognize and thus, they are enslaved to that spiritual darkness.**

Scriptures reveal that there is a violent, ongoing war raging in the spiritual realm - in which the people of God must actively participate.

**It is a war** - "not directed against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" **Ephesians 6:12**

**Both the light and the darkness are coming to full maturity in these times and thus, evil is mobilizing for the battle against the forces of light.**

- This is becoming more and more visible in America as the dark, demonically controlled, leftist governments will soon launch their hatred of Almighty God against His church.

## **(Slide # 8)**

### **RECOGNIZE THESE TRUTHS:**

- 1. This world is in iniquity and will fight to the last against Jesus Christ and His Kingdom on this earth.**
- 2. The heavenly Kingdom of God will come only after world-wide tribulation events - evolving in the persecution of His church which will separate the true Christians from the false.**
- 3. There is an apostate part of the church that will compromise and align itself with the world leading to the betrayal of other Christians.**
- 4. It is through times of tribulation that true righteousness is clearly manifested. For the weeds which were sown among thorns will be separated from the good seeds that have been sown on fertile soil.**

## **(Slides # 9 thru 14)**

### **CALLING FOR LEADERS IN THE ARMY OF GOD**

Every Christian in the Army of God has the potential to positively impact other people for the Kingdom of God. Those who know that they are called to minister to others are also called to be leaders.

- Their ministry may be teaching, discipling, pastoring, evangelizing, intercessory prayer warriors, or assisting those who do these things.
- These are all leadership positions in the Army of God and those who are called to these various ministries are also called to pursue -----
  - **“GREATNESS IN LEADERSHIP.”**

**Greatness In Leadership Is Not An Attribute One Is Born With; It Must Be Earned.  
Greatness Is Not Pursued For The Sake Of Greatness.**

- It is about one's desire to die to himself, his ambitions, and his personal comforts in order to achieve his calling in life.
- Jesus Christ, our Commander in Chief has a predestined mission for each of His people, and those who actively seek for it will find it; and those who find it must then act upon it.
- Such actions will produce Great Leaders who can impact many lives for the kingdom of God.
- Such leaders have a deep passion to see the kingdom of God manifested in glorious strength, not simply in the institutional churches, but in the workplaces, the neighborhoods, the downtown areas, and individual homes, where “real life” occurs.

**Warrior-spirited leaders also recognize that they have weaknesses, but the difference is that they are committed to focusing on their strengths.**

- This creates a spirit of excitement when there is no expectation to continue in one's weaker, less gifted areas.
- They trust their fellow leaders to provide fruit in those areas where they are less gifted.
- Thus, great leaders have no desire to control everything, for their sole focus is on God and His kingdom people.

**Finally, warrior-spirited leadership has little to do with rank and everything to do with responsibility. Leaders think, envision, and ask questions, but above all, these leaders “act.”**

- Even when leaders don't think they are capable, when they realize they are weak and fear begins to invade their consciousness, they still step up to the plate and “act” like leaders.

**Where does one go to get these leadership attributes?**

- One must first die to himself, his worldly ambitions and his fleshly desires, so that he may understand & pursue the Lord's calling & to live for others who are seeking direction for their lives.

**Listen to Paul - a warrior-spirited leader as he speaks to his followers:**

**Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.  
1 Corinthians 16:13-14**

**So keep yourself on the pathway that leads upward. Stay close to our truly greatest Leader, Jesus Christ, and He will make you a warrior-spirited leader that many others will gladly follow.**

## **A MILITARY PERSPECTIVE OF A GREAT LEADER**

A leader does not abide in his tent while his men bleed and die upon the battlefield. A leader does not dine while his men go hungry or sleep when they stand at watch upon the wall. A leader does not command his men's loyalty through fear or purchase it with gold; he earns their love by the sweat of his own back and the pains he endures for their sake. That which comprises the harshest burden, a leader lifts first and sets down last. A leader does not require service of those he leads; he provides it to them. He serves them, not they him.<sup>1</sup>

**These certainly are the leadership traits inherent within the greatest Leader that ever walked on this earth and who currently serves as the true Commander in Chief over the Army of God.**

Notes - Consider your personal calling to leadership in the Kingdom of God- Can you hear it?

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<sup>1</sup> Greg Austin, Pastor & Vietnam Veteran

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**(Slides # 15 thru 18)**

**SELF-DISCIPLINE IN LEADERSHIP**

A priority of great leadership is self-discipline in day-to-day living.

- Warrior-spirited leaders need discipline at those times of the day when they are at their weakest, those times when the spirit of procrastination invariably falls upon them.
- Warrior-spirited leaders need to learn through growing experiences to deal with such issues and not allow worldly temptations to render them impotent during this time.
- If we do not conquer such temptations, we become POWs in the camp of the enemy for a short period of time. And at some point it becomes recognizable, for it creates a deep emptiness in our spirit and a sense of depression begins to creep into our soul.
- Warrior-spirited leaders must learn that walking as disciples of Jesus means “redeeming the time” throughout each day for Him.

**Sadly, the vast majority of American Christians spend the bulk of their days in these POW camps.**

- Among these are many who may have been called to a leadership role, yet did not forsake their lives and thus did not achieve their full calling.
- They are certainly among the saints of God, but they did not attain to the leadership role to which God had called them.

**Every one of us faces these temptations toward apathy, as it is an ongoing attack from the enemy.**

- Today, we must continually resist worldly temptations and prepare to “be ready” for the Day of the Lord lies shortly before us.
- Warrior leadership in the Army of God in these last days must be totally committed to walk the pathway that the Lord Jesus Christ, our true Commander-in-Chief, has laid before them.

**One further note of caution:**

**Christian soldiers are more susceptible to attacks from the enemy immediately following a significant spiritual victory.**

- This is a principle that military leaders learn during combat—we are more vulnerable to enemy counterattack immediately after achieving a hard-fought objective.
- As we begin to internally celebrate our victory, we have a tendency to relax and let down our guard. Be careful here, for this is the most critical time for a counterattack by our enemy.

Notes - Record those areas that you need spiritual discipline in your life:

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**(Slides # 19 thru 21)**

**WARRIORS ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF LIFE**

**God’s Army May Not Be Large, But There Has Never Been One More Powerful.**

- They refuse to retreat before the enemies of the Cross and their faithfulness that may even lead to death is far more powerful than death itself.
- Soldiers in the army of God are not fearful of dying because they have already died to the things of this world and now, they live to do all things for the sake of the gospel because of their deep love for the Lord.
- Mighty warriors of God would never run from the sound of a battle for they know that there cannot be victory without a battle.

**Warrior leadership in the Army of God in these last days must be totally committed to walk the pathway that the Lord Jesus Christ has laid before them.**

**Soldiers in His army must take up the Cross daily, not occasionally.**

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. *1 Corinthians 1:18*

**Our life focus is to seek the will of the Lord, not our own will for we are called to become a living sacrifice.**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. **Romans 12:1-2**

**We need to let go of worldly ways and embrace our calling into the Kingdom of God.**

**BREAK-TIME**

**(Slides # 22 - 23)**

**(Slide # 24)**

## **SEEKING OUR MISSION IN THE ARMY OF GOD**

**As warrior leadership in the Army of God in these last days, we must be totally committed to walk the pathway that Jesus Christ, our Commander in Chief has laid before each of us.**

The following is an example of a *general mission calling* that is designed to drive Christian leadership through the wilderness journey of a committed life to the Lord.

Each of us should memorize this “*general mission calling*” and pray daily that it will be carried out in each of our lives.

- *Day by day, to live out the spirit of the gospel in my life in such a way that it will positively affect others for the strengthening and expanding of the kingdom of God and to stand strong for my Lord Jesus Christ against the forces of darkness in this world.*

**Now, as we continually seek His calling on our lives He will reveal to each of us our *specific mission* to which we are called.**

- This *specific mission* resides in the passion of our individual hearts, and our direction toward fulfilling this calling becomes clearer as it is written down and prayed for each day.



- Therefore, it is important for each of us to internalize our personal understanding of our individual mission(s) to which He has called us.

**The church is about to enter a very challenging time, which is also a necessary prerequisite for entry into its most fruitful times. The darkness is gathering its forces, but so is the light.**

- The Lord has given each of us a specific part to play in His overall plan, and it must be our continual quest to search for our individual mission assignment.
- Almost everyone has a vision for what they want to accomplish, but it's going to require a difficult and continuous work discipline.

**Record your calling to specific mission(s):**

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**(Slides # 25 - 26)**

## **OUR MISSIONAL CALLING**

When we look at the cities of the United States, many of us envision Christians as a people going about their daily business with little sense of their personal calling. Certainly they all look forward to one day entering into the eternal presence of the Lord, but will they hear our Lord Jesus say, on that day when they enter into His presence,

- *Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. (Matthew 25:21)*

**Key Points:**

Perhaps not every Christian who enters into His presence will hear those words. Now this isn't speaking about our salvation - **each of us has a mission assigned that we must pursue; and in order to hear those words, we must move forward in the Lord and His mission for us.**

This doesn't mean simply being faithful in church attendance and tithing. That is all well and good, but each of us has his or her own mission. **Don't ignore it - Seek for it!**

- **Wherever you work, you have a mission—seek for it!**
- **Wherever you live, you have a mission—seek for it!**

We are all called to be partakers of the work God intends to complete, which will usher in the reign of our Lord on this earth.

- If we don't complete our assigned mission, someone else will, and then that person will reap the reward that was initially set aside for us.

**Remember this, there can be no victory without entering into the battle – we must see every challenge that comes into our lives as a great opportunity to fulfill our calling to leadership in the Kingdom of God.**

Notes - Record your mission calling at work & home:

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**(Slides # 27 - 28)**

## **THE FRONTLINES OF THE SPIRITUAL BATTLEFIELD**

**Christians need to awaken to the realization that the traditional church is not where the majority of the Lord's soldiers are expected to carry on their respective ministerial assignments.**

- Now, for those in pastoral ministry, their respective churches are certainly the frontlines of their spiritual battlefield.
- But for the majority of Christians, the mission of the traditional church is in the rear, with the responsibility of equipping the troops in the army of God to be sent to the respective frontlines of the spiritual battlefield.

Key Points:

**There is a growing need for Christians to arise and minister to those people who will not be found in Sunday church services.**

Now Christian soldiers may ask, “Where are the frontlines of our respective battlefields?”

Well, ask yourself the following questions:

- Where is that place outside of our homes and churches, where Christian soldiers can have a tremendous impact for the kingdom of God?
- Where is that place that requires so much of our time and effort in life and yet, most of us approach it grudgingly?
- Where is that place where the Lord brings so many people into our lives over the years and yet, most do not envision it as a ministry opportunity?

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**(Slides # 29 - 30)**

## **MINISTERING IN THE WORKPLACE**

**Early Christians made the workplace their ministerial focus because their occupations regularly took them there. As a result, the workplace played a vital role in establishing and expanding the early church.**

- In fact, most early followers of Jesus remained in full-time business while simultaneously conducting full-time ministry.

Key Points:

**Christian soldiers need to realize that today millions of God’s people are similarly called to full-time ministry in their respective business occupations.**

- It makes no difference what your occupation is - all can have great influence in their respective areas of employment, for that is where they encounter the world and that is where their lives have been positioned by the Lord.

**Contrary to what many traditional churches imply, there is no hierarchal distinction between pastors and ordinary people in the eyes of our Lord.**

- The calling to pastoral ministry is not necessarily higher than the blue-collar workers driving daily through rush-hour traffic to get to work in order to provide a living for their families.
- Christians who work in jobs outside the confines of the church need to understand that they are not perpetual privates in God’s army just because they have not gone to seminary.
- They need to discover that they have the potential to become full-fledged “generals” whose ministry influence can grow far beyond the bounds of the workplace and the walls of their local church and into the very heart of the city.

**Unfortunately, many of these workplace ministers fail to fulfill their divine destiny because they are often derided by others as untrained or uneducated.**

- This is not a new accusation. Both Peter and John, who were fishermen by profession, certainly experienced this ridiculing.
- Additionally, Jesus, who was a carpenter, recruited His disciples from the workplace rather than from those who were trained in the synagogues.

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**(Slide # 31)**

**A GREAT MAJORITY OF MEN REFUSE TO GO TO CHURCH**

**Many workingmen refuse to identify with the pastoral culture in today’s churches and therefore will not seek help from the church.**

- Yet, deep within themselves, many of these folks, who may be your fellow employees, or customers, unknowingly hunger for strong Christian with whom they can relate; namely, peers who understand their world and their ongoing temptations and struggles.
- Those who have lost loved ones through death, divorce, or adultery are unknowingly searching for someone who may be able to restore some degree of comfort to their lives.
- There are many people on this battlefield of life who hopelessly see themselves in dead-end jobs: young men paying fifty percent of their paycheck for child support; blue-collar workers hanging out in casinos, hoping to change their status in life; and small business owners struggling to stay afloat.

**This provides a tremendous opportunity for Christ's anointed warriors to move toward the front of this battlefield to fight for the souls of their fellow workers.**

- Great missional opportunities present themselves in the workplace on a daily basis, yet a warrior for Christ must take the initiative, or opportunities will be lost.
- Soldiers become warrior leaders when they commit to making personal sacrifices in order to show a true, loving concern for those people encountered daily in the workplace.

### **(Slide # 32)**

#### **Our Overall Assigned Mission Is To Lead Those Held In Captivity By The World**

- Out of the darkness of this world & into the light of the Lord's kingdom
- From the deception of this world unto the truth found in the Lord's kingdom
- From the evilness of this world into the righteousness of the Lord's kingdom
- From eternal damnation and misery into eternal life and joy in the Lord's kingdom

**Christians become warrior-spirited leaders when they commit to making personal sacrifices in order to show a true, loving concern for those people encountered daily in the workplace.**

### **(Slides # 33 - 34)**

**As one ministering in the business world, I have written a letter that I send annually to several hundred of my clients.**

**Friendships and trust were built with my client base over several years, and this letter, which communicates a loving concern for them, continues to open several doors for ministry opportunities.**

- A copy of this letter entitled “An Urgent Message for Truly Valued Friends” is available in Appendix “E” of my book entitled “God’s Anointed Warriors.”
- Perhaps it will help you draft a letter communicating your burden for family members, fellow employees, neighbors, or others.
- At any rate, it’s a way to introduce yourself as a Christian

**Some may respond and others may ignore your letter BUT when sudden catastrophic events strike our nation, many of those who have ignored it will certainly run to you for understanding of what is taking place as well as for your leadership direction.**

**Christian Warriors, this is a critical time to sound the alarm. Many of our fellow workers, though not Christians, are very concerned about events that are taking place in our country.**

- Taking advantage of opportunities to speak with them concerning today’s economic concerns, potential terrorist activity, and increased violence throughout the country definitely will open up most people to serious conversation.
- Once they realize your concern for them, communication becomes more frequent and open, and then it is only a small step to speak of the warnings given in Scripture and the call of Jesus Christ on their lives.

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**COMING TO AMERICA – GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT**

The United States as a democratic nation is rapidly disappearing – constitutional law will soon be ignored. As Christians, we cannot put our trust in financial institutions or government promises. **All this is of the world and God’s people need to come out of the world.**

**Those of us who correctly discern the times recognize that God’s righteous judgment will soon descend upon America.**

**What type of Judgment?**

- There have been numerous times in the history of the world when our Lord rained down judgments from heaven. Such as: earthquakes, plagues, hurricanes, tornados, etc.
- However, throughout history our Lord has also chosen to stir up the hearts of nations ruled by evil governments to launch attacks upon a nation that has historically known Him, but have fallen into immorality and left Him to pursue their own sinful pleasures.

**Think about these scenarios:**

- A sudden economic collapse much like the 1929 stock market crash that occurred overnight resulting in sudden bank closures, multiple suicides, famine, diseases, families being thrown out of their homes. All this launched the great depression of the 1930’s.
- Multiple nuclear terrorist strikes that will suddenly hit many cities (probably coastal) in our nation and before ordinary folks like us can adjust; the grocery stores, banks, and gas stations will be locked down. It is quite possible that this may happen in the midst of a Middle Eastern war which will affect the entire world.
- It is also possible that because of our open borders policy, terrorists of today could be smuggling nuclear suitcase bombs into numerous American cities and coordinating for a devastating attack upon our nation.
- Consider what American life would look like a few seconds after an EMP (electromagnetic pulse) incident - a nuclear weapon detonated high above the center of the United States. This would result in a large number of automobiles, airplanes, computers, cellular networks, home electricity, etc throughout our nation being immediately rendered useless for years.

**Whatever the scenario, it will certainly be a series of “sudden” catastrophic events unforeseen by the great majority in this country.**

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**(Slides # 40 thru 43)**

## **COMING TO AMERICA – GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT**

Such catastrophic events will launch more devastation than a thousand 9-11’s.

### **Resulting in:**

- Great panic as people swarm to the banks, the grocery stores, the gas stations. They will not have a “customer mentality” – but a panicky, uncontrollable mob with no direction other than to grab and run with no concern for who gets hurt.

### **Immediate after-effects:**

- Neighbors beating on neighbors doors seeking food. Stone throwing – breaking windows. Caring not for who gets hurt.
- Subsequently, after scourging the urban areas, youth gangs will form and go out to the suburban areas. Their intent is to intimidate families, burglarize homes, and murder those who oppose them.

### **Governmental Response:**

- Government militia forces will eventually unite to bring their “version of order” to the urban areas. Historical events in other countries tell us that eventually, such militia forces will attempt to confiscate all firearms as well as the storage of foods and supplies.

**This time of tremendous challenge is rapidly approaching and in the near future, we will need to stand “shoulder to shoulder” with one another and work together in developing our personal missions focusing upon how we will move forward from here.**

**Those who understand the chaotic challenges that will soon confront our generation need to be communicating with their families and friends.**

- The purpose for this communication is to address “physical preparations” that will needed in the event of a sudden shutdown of banks, stores, gas stations, and subsequent gang violence throughout cities and neighborhoods.



**Gather together in a small group, perhaps 7 or 8 of your close friends and family members who are like-minded concerning the approaching chaos. Then discuss in detail the following ideas for preparedness:**

1. Discuss food supplies for a minimum of six to twelve months.
2. Discuss drinking and cleansing water for an indefinite period of time.
3. Discuss medical supplies, batteries, toilet paper, gasoline, propane, tools, flashlights, radios.
4. Discuss supplies needed to survive a lengthy, cold winter without electrical power.
5. Discuss prepared supplies that may be a blessing - to your unprepared neighbors.
6. Discuss the probability of gang violence in your community.
7. Discuss the ownership and use of firearms in a volatile situation.
8. Finally, discuss the relationship that each individual member of the gathered families and friends - has with the Lord- and develop a plan of how to proceed with the deepening of each relationship.

**More specific information concerning this preparation overview is provided in Appendix G of my book entitled “God’s Anointed Warriors.”**

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## COMING TO AMERICA – PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

A generation of American Christians is watching the early birth pains convinced by their teachers that the next major event will be the rapture of the church or a sudden, peaceful return of Christ; yet what is actually before us is intense persecution.

These are Christians in America who completely miss the point that the Lord makes in the following passage regarding events at the end of the age:

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, **and then the end will come.** *Matthew 24:9-14*

### **This will happen in America!**

- What other country has such a large Christian population that will “fall away” at the end of the age?
- However, most Americans are neither emotionally nor spiritually prepared for the sudden and intense persecution that is shortly before us.
- Nominal professing Christians will stumble and fall under the threat of persecution and will deny their faith.
- They will also betray those who were once their friends who continue to stand strong in the Lord.

**Also, other American churches that embrace the visions of their forerunners in Sardis and Laodicea will unite against the true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- These are led by false teachers who will eagerly embrace the universal doctrines of religion that are acceptable to the kingdom of the world.
- These are beliefs that will mock those who proclaim that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and the only way to eternal life.
- They will join with the Babylonian whore on top of the seven-headed beast in order to continue sharing in her riches and beauty and retain their popular position in American society.
- These are the **weeds** among the **good seeds** that may deny the blood of our Lord Jesus, but have an unquenchable lust for the blood of His martyrs. They are a part of the religious nature of Mystery Babylon.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 13:24-26



## CHRISTIAN WARRIORS ENDURING HARDSHIPS

**In the coming days, true believers in Jesus Christ will be challenged from every direction. Every believer who commits to an all-out relationship with our Lord will come under spiritual oppression, various afflictions, and persecution.**

- We may initially struggle in our trials because discipline and suffering is foreign to us, but as we continue to endure, we will recognize how meaningful the discipline of the Lord really is.
- Our hearts will continually grow deeper in our love and commitment to Him. At times it may seem unbearable when some friends and even family members become spiteful toward us.

**Enduring the scorn and persecution from the world joins us in a partnership with Christ as we share in His sufferings in this life.**

- Suffering with Christ produces a strong heart bond in our relationship with Him and with one another as we follow Him down the same path that He walked.
- For a deep spiritual love for one another begins to grow which will throw off all the cares of this world and focus only upon the Kingdom of God in this world.

**In order to better comprehend this, consider the following: Marines in combat or boot camp who experience really tough trials together eventually grow in strength and closeness with one another. Marines will put their own lives on the line for their fellow Marines.**

- Yet a heart that experiences the hardships that Christ also experienced produces a much greater bond than what Marines share with each other.

**Listen to Paul encouraging Christians to endure persecution:**

Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **2 Timothy 2:3-4**

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. **2 Corinthians 4:8-12**

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



- This will be tough when loved ones embrace you and try to get you to compromise your faith just a little bit by saying, “Daddy please, God will understand.” **Stand fast!**

**Your steadfastness is of tremendous importance to both you and your loved ones who are considering small compromises.**

- It will have a powerful strengthening effect on all who see your uncompromising testimony which prioritizes the Kingdom of God over the world.

**Your family and friends may grieve over your steadfastness that leads to persecution, but they too will be strengthened in their lives as they witness your steadfast commitment to the Lord. For they will see you as a Great Leader as well as a disciple of our Greatest Leader – Jesus Christ.**

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**(Slides # 57 thru 61)**

## **HANDLING SUFFERING IN THE ARMY OF GOD**

**The Lord’s word tells us that suffering is a necessary experience that His warriors must endure in order to receive His glory. Being “prepared” doesn’t mean we won’t suffer.**

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. **(Romans 8:16-17)**

### **One might ask, “What actually is suffering?”**

- Well, suffering may be physical or it may be mental or emotional, but suffering really is anything that we don’t like; anything that is uncomfortable or painful for us.
- Certainly the most painful suffering that may occur would be the loss of our loved ones, but our heavenly Father understands this, for He also experienced the loss of His Son.

- Our hope in such a grievous situation derives from understanding that - as the Father raised His Son from the dead that our loved ones who die in Christ will also be raised to eternal life with Him.

Key Points:

**In the coming days, every believer who commits to an all-out relationship with our Lord will come under spiritual oppression, various afflictions, and persecution.**

- We may initially struggle in our trials because discipline and suffering is foreign to us, but as we continue to endure, we will recognize how meaningful the discipline of the Lord really is.
- Our hearts will continually grow deeper in our love and commitment to Him.

**Enduring the scorn and persecution from the world joins us in a partnership with Christ as we share in His sufferings in this life.**

- It is through suffering in life that warrior-spirited leadership develops the characteristics of holiness that are inherent in His glory and allow them to become more and more conformed to the image of His Son.
- Sufferings in life should no longer be a surprise, yet leaders must learn to handle them today so we will be prepared tomorrow, when the trumpets begin to blast.

**1 Peter 2:21-22**

- *... when you do good and **suffer** for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because **Christ also suffered for you**, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*
- *He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; **when he suffered**, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*

**We must stand as warriors for Jesus Christ in the midst of good times and bad times; for both will be faced in life.**

**Think about how you will handle Suffering & Fear – be specific:**

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**Satan's worldly peoples will always visibly appear to be greater and more powerful than God's mighty warriors for they are usually in positions of worldly authority.**

- Yet, warrior-spirited Christians standing uncompromisingly for our Lord will always prevail in the strength of the Lord.
- The praying believer will never faint during hard times. On the contrary, he will grow stronger and stronger – because he trusts in God before he trusts in men.

*He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for 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. (Isaiah 40:29-31)*

**(Slides # 65 - 66)**

## **COMBATING CONFUSION**

**Confusion Is One Of The Most Dominating Factors In Combat - That Brings About Defeat.**

**Great leadership will step up and take the initiative to be decisive in the midst of confusion.**

- Because confusion and uncertainty is so commonplace in the world, those with confidence in the direction they are going will inspire others.
- **Thus, courageous leadership is a necessary element to achieve victory over confusion for it also encourages others. Courage is a basic foundation for great leadership.**

**COURAGE WILL DEFEAT “CONFUSION!” COURAGE OVERCOMES “FEAR!”**

**Great courage will manifest itself in great leaders for, courageous leaders trust in the Lord more than they trust in man.**

- Our goal as great leaders is not to teach people to obey us, but they need to be taught to hear the Lord for themselves and respond to His will courageously.
- **Those who hear and obey courageous leadership will be among those who also become courageous. And Confusion Will No Longer Be An Issue.**

**(Slides # 67 thru 70)**

## HANDLING IMPRISONMENT

**Imprisonment allows time for the enemy to break down the spirit of people for the purpose of allowing them to voluntarily turn away from the Lord and render allegiance to worldly authorities.**

Though deep in their heart they may still believe in the Lord, some will give up. Ultimately, their life in this world will mean more to them than their faith in Christ.

- Satan rejoices when men will visibly turn away from Almighty God and render allegiance to him, even if it is not from a pure heart.
- Turning people to him is more important than murdering them, for it means he has defeated what is most important to God - the steadfast faithfulness of His people.
- **The one who has turned away from the Lord undoubtedly will be praised before the world as a newly enlightened hero. This will be such a shameful experience.**

### **Remain Steadfast During Times Of Persecution And Imprisonment.**

- Although Christians may be physically overcome during this horrendous period of time; if they remain steadfast in their faith they are the ones who are victorious in this war.
- They have become outcasts from society, mocked at by former neighbors, family members, and friends, imprisoned and eventually, killed.
- This is the Body of Christ having a similar experience that their Lord Jesus Christ endured 2,000 years earlier.

### **They Are Now Glorious Participants In His Great Victory.**

- In the crucial test of faith, they have chosen to relinquish their lives rather than their faith in their God. This is true victory.

**“Christian warriors, we are called to fight, not run from the battle.”**

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**(Slides # 71 - 72)**

## **TRUE CHRISTIANITY – A LIFE OF SELF-SACRIFICE**

**Soldiers in the army of God are committed to die to the world and live for the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of Almighty God and the one and only way to eternal life.**

**If we die to this world, then there is nothing this world can do to us.**

- For one who is dead to the world does not fear rejection or failure.

**Being a soldier of the Cross is both the hardest and the easiest life we could live.**

- It is hard because resisting our selfish, fleshly, prideful nature is very difficult.
- At the same time, it is easy - because living by the new nature of Christ - is the most wonderful life we could live.

## **THE LORD IS WORTHY OF THIS SELF-SACRIFICE DEVOTION FOR HE ALSO SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR US.**

**We may certainly suffer persecution from the worldly darkness, but when that happens, remember that God considers those who do suffer persecution as mightily worthy of His kingdom.**

- When we lay down our lives, we truly find them. This is a comfort and peace far beyond what the world can give us.
- This doesn't mean we will be free of life problems, but as we fight the spiritual battle we are assured of victory.
- Therefore, we need to endure life's problems knowing that things will work out for the good.

**When we are born-again, we are now behind enemy lines and the enemy is all around.**

- **Christian warriors will never stick their heads in the sand.**
- **We are called to endure and continually encourage others - to also endure.**

Are you being called to a life of self-sacrifice? List how you want to move forward:

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**BREAK-TIME (Slides # 73 - 74)**

**(Slides # 75 - 76)**

**STEADFAST PRAYER WARRIORS WILL PREVAIL WITH GOD**

**Christian leaders need to remember that this is a Holy War and that the required power for victory is not found among its human participants, but in the power of God.**

- Thus, believers need to understand the power of prayer which may be likened to that wrestling which took place between God and his chosen warriors throughout history.
- This is the “ongoing battle” that should be taking place within each member of the Body of Christ.

Key Points:

**Believers must prevail with God before Satan can be subdued in their lives. Believers will never prevail by battling in the flesh.**

- The victory is to be the Lord’s and Christians can only prevail if they humble themselves before Him in true heart repentance. Prayerlessness is proof that our life is still under the power of the flesh. Prayerlessness is the cause of a powerless spiritual life.
- Victory is certain if believers will exercise the patient, long-suffering faith that brought His mighty warriors through the battlefield.

**Remember, all of God’s biblical warriors did lose some battles now and then, but they continued to be strengthened by their experiences and did not succumb to self-pity.**

- That warrior spirit may be knocked down on occasion, but will always seek the strength of the Lord through prayer and fasting in order to get back up and again “run to the battle.”

**These are the Christian warriors who will “never quit.”**

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**(Slides # 77 thru 79)**

## **ANOINTED CHRISTIAN WARRIORS PROCLAIMING THE FINAL GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM**

**Christian warriors of the end-time generation will boldly and fearlessly stand united against the apostasy of this age as they proclaim the testimony of Jesus Christ and His truths among all the nations of the earth.**

- *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)*

Key Points:

As to the contents of their message during a time of tribulation, these anointed witnesses for Christ will prayerfully stand before the Lord of the whole earth and they will speak nothing but that which their Lord has commissioned them to speak. That is:

**They will speak of Christ and His atoning blood, which is the witness of the righteousness and holiness of God in the midst of a sinful world.**

- *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)*
- *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)*

**They will openly condemn all efforts to seek salvation outside of that atoning blood.**

- This will infuriate the false church and the worldly leadership that is attempting to establish a one-world kingdom together with a one-world religion.
- This will be a time of tremendous miracles as the gospel message goes forth in a power greater than the world has ever seen; a time when the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and many of the afflicted will be healed throughout the world.<sup>3</sup>

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**(Slides # 80 thru 82)**

## **A TIME OF GREAT HARVEST**

**This will be a time of great tribulation never before seen since the creation of the earth, yet this also will be a time of a great harvest of souls.**

- A time of tremendous miracles as the gospel message goes forth in a power greater than the world has ever seen: the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and many of the afflicted will be healed throughout the world.

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (John 14:12-13)*

Key Points:

**The world must hear the gospel message proclaimed by His end-time warrior-spirited witnesses and they must hear it repeatedly so that they become fully conscious of their sin and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ:**

1. All of mankind shall be well-acquainted with the gospel message of Jesus Christ before the final judgments fall on the earth.
2. There will be no more grey areas; one stands either with Christ or against Him - love and hatred will be clearly visible among all the inhabitants of the earth.

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<sup>3</sup> John 14:12

3. Those who reject Him will do so willingly and deliberately - then the testimony is finished and may be silenced.
4. Those who scorn the message will be without excuse when they stand before the judgment seat of almighty God.
5. Certainly many people will respond and be brought into everlasting life, but the great majority of the world will blasphemy this message and will persecute those who proclaim it.

**Finally, this gospel message not only will be a calling to mankind to repent and give glory to God, but it also will contain the prophetic warning that final judgments are soon coming to the world.**

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**(Slides # 83 thru 85)**

## **WALKING AS GOD'S WARRIORS DAY TO DAY**

### **Redeeming the Time**

- This may be extremely difficult, but it is also one of the most important areas of daily life that champion leaders must master.
- Stay on the offensive; take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and know it, memorize it, and take it up daily.
- Stand firm; when under daily fire, remember Job. Intercessory prayer must become heart driven, for this is where your one-on-one relationship with the Lord truly grows powerful.

### **Fasting, together with Prayer,**

- **Fasting** is a very critical area for those who are called to warrior leadership in the coming days.

- We need to embrace our biblical calling to **“fast”** for this is a great channel for spiritual power.
- Important insights into understanding our call to biblical fasting are available in a **handout**.

**A Time of Great Opportunity:**

- For those who hear this call to be warriors and overcomers, this is an opportunity that was offered to warriors like Paul, David, and Elijah, and it is offered to each of us in our lives.
- We only have one life and thus, one opportunity to stand for our Lord on the front lines of the battlefield and fight against His enemies.
- The rewards that are promised in the afterlife are predicated upon our kingdom work during this lifetime.
- Some will rule ten cities, some five, and some one, but most will be citizens, not leaders. All will receive rewards, but there is a difference—His warriors will be called to eternal leadership in the eternal kingdom.
- **Let your faith shine within your environment; remove the basket, and be the glorious light that you are called to be in the world.**

**Let us not go to the grave wishing that we had answered this call. Now is the time, not tomorrow or next week; the call is now to “those who hear.”**

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## (Slides # 86 - 87)

### **THE ARMY OF GOD IS FOR “VOLUNTEERS ONLY:”**

The common purpose for all volunteers in the Army of God is to prepare in the bootcamp of our prayer closets in order to allow the light and glory of our Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ to be clearly manifested on the spiritual battlefield which lies in the midst of this world.

- Our Commander-in-Chief does not draft His soldiers, but He opens His arms and welcomes all those who volunteer. He does not employ emotional strategies, but simply speaks out of love and calls each of us to join Him on the battlefield.
- Although he calls us to join Him in His battle against the forces of evil, He leaves us free to join the enemy against Him if we so will. He makes no promises that we will become rich or not experience pain in this life.
- Christian warriors who will stand fast in teaching others and will not compromise the true gospel are His disciples whom He values deeply.

#### **Our Choice – Will We or Won’t We?**

- **We are faced with the option of greatness as a leader in the Kingdom of God, but we can choose to settle for less. If we decide for greatness, it will cost us everything we have and are. WE WILL HAVE TO SURRENDER OUR LIFE.**
- **The Choice Is Momentous, But Amazingly, It Is Ours To Make.**

## (Slides # 88 thru 92)

### **COMRADESHIP – STRENGTHENS THE ARMY OF GOD**

This is very important to Jesus as He speaks to His Father:

"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. *John 17:20-21*

**Being in the Lord’s army is much more than just fighting battles. It also is about uniting in community with Him to be built into a spiritual family that will spend eternity together.**

- Comradeship in combat is one of the deepest and unique bonds one can experience.
- Those who go though the fire together develop a unique heart bonding with one another.

- This strong fellowship is also meant to be among those in the army of God a bonding so close that those who are part of it cannot be separated.
- This was certainly the characteristic of those who strongly supported David and became known as “mighty men of Israel.” They could not be defeated.

**Also, the Lord’s small group of disciples, who obeyed His commands,**

- **CHANGED THE WORLD MORE THAN ANY WORLDLY CONQUEROR.**

**A Very Powerful Bonding Among His Soldiers Was Extremely Important To Jesus.**

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." *Matthew 18:19-20***

**To Bond Together At The Depth That The Lord Is Seeking -----  
We Must Start With A Small Group**

**Marine units in the military also use this principle.**

- These units are built on 4-man fire-teams. Three of these teams make up a squad and three squads make up a platoon, and then it grows through the organization of companies, battalions, regiments, and divisions.
- Yet the basic foundational units of the Corps are these four-man fire-teams.
- **In a combat firefight, these fire-teams are more committed to each other than the larger unit. They have bonded together in like-mindedness.**

**Jesus’ Greatest Works And Deepest Teachings Were Given To Small Groups.**

- He did not walk on the water in front of everyone. Could it be that the Lord prefers doing His greatest miracles with the fewest witnesses.
- The Lord had a ministry to the multitudes but He gave far more attention to His closest disciples.
- With the 12 He went much deeper and invested more time. Then with the three (Peter, James, & John), He shared everything.
- Balanced ministries need to have relationships on all three levels --- the multitudes --- those who follow & support the ministry --- the closest of one’s friends.

**These small groups should meet together frequently and begin by praying for spiritual strength found in Ephesians 3:14-21**

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**(Slides # 93 - 94)**

## **LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

### **Remember these Priorities every Single Day:**

- **1<sup>st</sup>** – We fight for the glory of His wondrous Name in the midst of a world of darkness.
- **2<sup>nd</sup>** – We fight for the salvation of those in bondage to the enemy. Family, friends, co-workers and strangers that our Lord brings into our lives.
- **3<sup>rd</sup>** – We fight without fear for ourselves for we are called to let go of this life and not be concerned for the consequences that may befall us.

Finally, my dear brothers and sisters who are hearing this message – may our Lord powerfully anoint you to be mighty warrior-spirited witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God as you travel through the wilderness of this life

- *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ( **Isaiah 60:1-2**)*

## **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH**

### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

# **THE LAMB OF GOD - OUR TRUE “COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF”**

**The days are rapidly approaching when a tremendous separation will take place among mankind.**

**Yet, during this present era of warfare, He reigns as our Commander-in-Chief and His Name continues to be the battle cry for those warriors who fight daily for righteousness and truth.**

## **His name is Jesus, Our Lord, Our King, Our Commander-in-Chief**

- **A truly mighty Leader who would never delegate assignments to His people that He Himself wouldn't readily embrace.**
- **A Commander that Christian warriors will readily follow not matter the danger or what costs have to be paid.**
- **These are warriors whose deepest desire is to hear Jesus welcome them with the following words when they enter into His presence:**

**..... 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' *Matthew 25:21***