

CAUGHT UP

Rebecca O'Connor

"CAUGHT UP"

1 Thess 4:16-17

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel,
and with the trump of God: and the dead
in Christ shall rise first:
Then we which are alive and remain shall
be caught up together with them in the clouds,
to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall
we ever be with the Lord.*

KJV

Ahh, the rapture of the Lord! Oh what a time on earth when the miraculous "taking of saints" occurs. Have you ever thought what you might be doing at that time if you are alive at Jesus' return? When I was younger I thought it would be nice to be doing something really good at the time Jesus returned and "caught" me. I also wondered if I would be too "caught up" in things to notice that everyone I loved was caught up to heaven. This reminded me of the story of Mary and Martha.

Luke 10:41-42 Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Mary was "caught up" in Jesus while Martha was "caught" up in the cares of life. Mary was spiritually raptured by being caught up in everything that had to do with the Lord. She did not fret over the little things of the day but wrapped her ear around Jesus' Words like a hungry child. Martha was so earthly minded that she was no heavenly/Kingdom good! To seek God's Kingdom and righteousness is to be heavenly/Kingdom minded.

It is the cares in life that make us earthly minded. Those cares are the thorns that choke out the Word, Mt 13:22. If we allow the cares of life to dictate our daily walk, those worries produce thorns throughout the brain that choke out the peace and confidence of the Word. It is no wonder that Jesus was given a crown of thorns upon His head. He paid for our peace by taking our thorns or cares upon Himself. "*The chastisement of our peace was upon Him...*" We only seem to comprehend that Jesus' stripes have made us whole and shed His blood for our forgiveness but neglect to see the crown of thorns that paid for our peace. Peace shows confidence which is believing or faith.

When you look at Mary and Martha you can see the peace of Mary. Martha, however, had lost her peace and composure becoming unglued as she angrily accused Mary before Jesus. Which do you think would be more beneficial? Having Jesus share that precious hidden manna with us, or having to listen as we gripe? We need to decide in which to be "caught up".

So I guess my question remains: what will we be doing when He comes? Will we become so caught up in the world that we will not be available to be caught up with Him? If you remember that half of the ten virgins were so caught up in the cares of life that they neglected their light. While they went about trying to make it right, the other five were caught up with the bridegroom.

If you replaced the word "virgin" with the word "saved", for a virgin is one who is being saved for the bridegroom, the Scripture gives us more insight:

Matt 25:1-13

*Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten **saved**, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.*

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

*7 Then all those **saved** arose, and trimmed their lamps.*

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

*11 Afterward came also the other **saved**, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.*

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

All ten virgins were saved for the bridegroom, and expected to be "caught up" with Him when He came. Being saved does not mean that you are living in wisdom. I have witnessed many saved people being foolish because they are caught up in the things of the world. They may be expecting to be raptured like those who are wisely watching, hearing and following what the Spirit is saying, but sorrowfully they will not. They will now have to make it through

the trials facing the rest of the world. What they did not learn to rise above in the strength of the Lord and the power of His Word, they will have to learn the hard way in the woes they thought to escape.

Do not think you will be in the first fruits rapture simply because you are saved and go to church. I know adulterers, fornicators, cheaters, drug and alcohol abusers, wife abusers, liars, and those who delve into pornography etc. who have great church attendance. They hear sermon after sermon but without effect, and some of them have been the pastors delivering the sermons. These Jesus talked about in the parable of the hearers:

Matt 7:24-27

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

In both of these parables Jesus is addressing all virgins/saved and all hearers/those who heard the Word. How do we spend our lives? We will be caught up in something. I will tell you that to be caught up in Jesus is the better part. If you are caught up in Jesus you are already spiritually raptured, and the only thing remaining will be the trip up!

Is He the better part of your day? Do you suppose that Jesus does not know that a job can be frustrating, raising children take constant attention, and a marriage is like a career? We do not realize that Christ on earth did the work of a physician and counselor, not only on duty but also constantly on call and before that worked as a carpenter. He sat respectfully as His mother and teachers taught Him the creation of which He witnessed first hand. How difficult is it to be taught by someone that does not know your job as well as you? The religious leaders were polluting the minds of the people as fast as Jesus presented clear revelation. These leaders did not keep their opinions to themselves but followed Jesus openly nagging Him with their faulty beliefs and doctrines. But if this was not enough, He was constantly being targeted for death. There was a contract out on His life,

yet He moved without fear. Jesus was caught up about His Father's business.

Those Christians who are caught up in the cares of life are not spiritually raptured and will remain on this earth with the very frustrations, anxieties, and trials of life they wanted to escape. Everything happens in the spirit before it manifests in the natural. Healing is exactly the same. Look at this Scripture:

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye (1) desire, when ye (2) pray, (3) believe that ye receive them, and (4) ye shall have them.

Do you see the order in which it comes?

1. desire
2. pray
3. believe [not that it will come but that you have already received it spiritually]
receive

We do it out of order. This is more like what we do:

1. desire
2. pray
3. receive
believe [seeing is believing]

Faith is not speaking a lie but speaking what we believe over the way things appear. Faith is not seeing and then believing. Most Christians must "see to say", but believers speak their belief because they are spiritually sighted. To be "caught up" in unbelief unless you see, feel or hear will manifest your unbelief with "un-healing". It is the same with the rapture. Unless you are spiritually caught up with Jesus you will be in no spiritual shape to be caught up in the first fruits rapture when the bridegroom comes. You will be too busy being caught up on getting oil when you realize it is too late. The very things you are caught up in will be the same things that keep you grounded rather than ready for flight. Never neglect or procrastinate your faith walk.

I realize that what I am writing will cause some to agree, some to change, some to consider and some to be offended. The reason I am even sharing this with you is because it is God's desire for you to make it. It gives no satisfaction for the Lord to watch His children in confusion and distress.

Tell me this: If you had a company and needed to pick someone to represent what your company was all about, whom would you pick?

- a. A part time worker knowing little about the company and who is gone more than present [someone who works in order to get by]
- b. Someone who is fulltime/career oriented caught up in most all of the workings of the company and is faithful to the littlest details for success [someone who lives in order to work]

Of course you will take the one that best represents the company in order to show the best of what that company is all about. God is a Kingdom. To best represent that Kingdom, you must seek Him first and His righteousness which gives access to all the benefits of the Kingdom. When He chooses those who will be taken to best represent His Kingdom, will He choose the impotent of faith crying for an escape over every little malady, or will He take the champions who run the race of high calling without fainting in their minds? There is a world looking on. The best proof that God's Word is true is when His champions are taken away like He promised. Do you think that taking all whoever confessed Christ whether living Godly lives or not will prove anything to the world other than that the evolution has been completed, and the weakest link is finally gone? God will take the champions of faith that have shown His Kingdom and righteousness, and those who have openly declared God's Word by manifesting it. In other words, those who declare that Jesus heals by walking healed, those declaring Jesus delivers by walking delivered, and those who declare that Jesus is salvation by walking a life of salvation for all to see that they are who they say they are.

Name for me all of Israel's mighty soldiers who thought to step forward to fight Goliath. I only know of one by name. Can you more easily identify those who went upon the ark or those who did not enter? Whose lineage disappeared from the recorded family tree after a time, Cain or Seth's? Yet both Cain and Seth were children of the same father. We know the champions of faith as well as the champions of darkness of which Goliath was one. This has nothing to do with being known on television or radio. What do

the people around you see? Do they hear your faith or see it in action as well as in words? Do the very people that have mocked you or openly criticized you call you for prayer when they are desperate? I have been accused of being out of touch with the world, and I am quite grateful that my critics have noticed. Even if it was meant in a derogatory way, if you think about it, I breathe the same air, deal with the same kinds of people, walk in some of the same places, go through the same trials of faith and have the same television and radio as they who judge me. The difference is how I live in them, how I react to all situations, and what I turn on. Those whose eyes are caught up in the world have a very different view than those caught up in the Word of God. As a matter of fact, some of the things told to intercessors would make your head spin, and counseling those who do not plan on listening can be not only time consuming but frustrating especially when they continue to call at all hours but do nothing other than complain.

God is looking for His champions. These are not necessarily strong in appearance that we should see them, but strong in Godly character that we would see their witness. A witness is not in what we say, but how we live what we say. What we are caught up in will be displayed for the world to see as a witness. Whatever you display is that in which you are caught up. Do you display chronic:

- Worry
- Frustration
- Sickness
- Depression
- Negativity
- Anxiety
- Problems

Or, do you display confidence in God's Word? I am not saying that you have never had a care, worry, anxiety or failure along the road, but does that care move in with you as a permanent tenant that merely changes its clothes and appearance occasionally? What you declare as your faith briefly will manifest in the direction of what your everyday tongue has pointed toward. Christians will be rudely awakened one day when their faith is exposed as more worldly than Godly because they will have that with which they are caught up.

David, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel were champions caught up in the faith of their God not tasting the death before them. It is not that these men never made a mistake or had a weak moment; it is that they were not caught up in the fear of the unknown because they knew in whom they believed. They were spiritually raptured from seeing death, and death in turn could not claim them.

My parents have already been spiritually raptured so what remains for them is the trip only. They both live to do the Lord's work, and until they feel they have finished the race, they remain here in good standing, clear thinking and in the vitality of life. They are both 80 years old and have experienced the trials of living that long, however, they are caught up in the things of the Lord. Recently it was discovered that my father had blood clots throughout his lungs. Of course, the doctor was more alarmed than Dad. Dad just went in to have his leg checked and mentioned being out of breath when active like cutting grass etc. Doc wanted him immediately sent by ambulance to the hospital, and tried to communicate to Dad that he should not be up and moving around. Well, Dad did go finally, after he went to the bank, post office and home to tell Mother what Doc said and pray. While in the hospital, Dad had no fear for he was caught up in the Lord and his purpose which was to make sure that everyone he encountered understood salvation. After he was able to get out of bed in two days, he asked at the nurse's station for the names of those who had not had visitors so that he might spend time with them. The devil should have never messed with Dad. Satan is not in Dad's league. I have no idea how many people were prayed for, prayed with, witnessed to and given Christian materials. As for Mother, we had praise time in the car on the way to the hospital and a blessed time everyday until Dad returned home. Not once did we rehearse fear but faith.

Faith		False
Attitudes		Evidence
In	< versus >	Appearing
The		Real
Home		

So what about you, Dear Reader? In what are you caught up? Choose life in the Spirit where there is now no condemnation. Check out two key points in this Scripture:

Rom 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

What ingredients lead to the success of no condemnation?

- Being in Christ: This means that we are living in Christ and His reality and not our reality.
- Walking in the Spirit: Our walk is more than the activity of our feet but also the activity of what we say with our tongue, view with our eyes and hear with our ears.

This Scripture does not mean that because you have been saved that anything you do, while walking in the flesh of the worldly and acting worldly with all its desires, that you will not be condemned, and yet this Scripture is quoted as meaning just that.

All I can tell you is that the time is short, and we do not know the day or the hour of the rapture. I want to be walking closer to the vicinity of God's Kingdom than the world's so that when the rapture happens I will be in the right place at the right time!

ALARMED OR ARMED

Joel 2:1

*Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain:
let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;
KJV*

The alarm is sounding. There are signs everywhere telling us that the day of the Lord is close at hand. Will we be counted with the alarmed or the armed and ready for battle? The Word has foretold of times and seasons. As these unfold are they going unnoticed by the church? The church needs the watch in order to tell the time, but who is watching?

Hab 2: 2-3

*And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.
3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.*

In my late twenties I had some questions about the tribulation, rapture of the church and end times. God answered my questions in a vision. It is humorous now thinking back on it. Here I was all wet behind the ears asking God to give me information as if a simple answer would return...little did I know.

VISION:

God showed me going behind a large rock the size of a house. It was as if I was watching myself at a distance. I saw myself kneeling behind this rock in the presence of the Lord. I did not see the Lord but only what I perceived was his hand, for the hand was mighty and great in size. I saw the hand point and words appeared upon paper in front of me. I do not know what the words said, but as the hand finished I would take the paper out and read it before the people who were standing in white robes without blemish. They would cheer at the words given them and whirl with excitement. I saw that there were those crawling suffering souls which were in between the standing saints. As I read the words the "crawling ones" did not regard what was being said. This, going behind the rock and returning to read from the paper which the hand made to appear, happened many times. The last time behind the rock as I was taking the paper and beginning to stand, the hand

pointed to my head, and I was slain in the spirit. I found myself back in my own home fully conscious but still slain in the spirit and unable to move for a very long time. I walked in a daze for about a week reasoning that I was a "nobody" that "nobody" would believe. I tried to talk some sense into God but got silence in return until I read:

Jer 1:4-9

4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

7 But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

You have to understand that I was not a writer, nor did I have the desire to write. I thought the writing upon the paper was God giving me words to say. It would be another 25 years before I would begin to write, and another few years before realizing that the writing I was doing was what God had planned from the beginning. We get a certain mind set when we do not see the vision clearly, and by the time we do see more clearly we do not connect the dots right away. God has a lot to deal with in His people, but I thank Him for remembering that we came from dust before He breathed His spirit within us.

I did not openly share this vision because it scared me first of all, and secondly, who would believe it. At the time I received the vision our nation was as always "One Nation under God". The thought of a president declaring that we were not was so far removed from my reality at that time. What I saw in the vision was farther away in time and unimaginable. The vision was too real to dispute so my reaction was silence.

In time, I broke silence to share with those close to me. Then I felt compelled to share with my pastor who made no comment but listened. From the time I shared with him I have felt the urgency to share with any who would listen even though the signs were not what they are today. The times facing us today have put credibility to my words. The vision was a picture in time that with time has become punctuated. At first it was a question, then

went to a period, bringing us 30 years later to our current time in an exclamation point!

Now that I have the understanding more completely I will cut to the chase and get right to the exclamation. What I have learned over the past 20 years is that the condition of the spirit manifests in the natural. For example, when there are factions of strife warring in spiritual kingdoms of light versus darkness we see war in the natural on earth.

There were more main areas in the vision that I noticed besides what I have already written. At the time I believed that everything I saw was the result of a nuclear strike, but I have more insight now. Here are the three general points that I saw which concern us all:

- 1. Condition of the land:** I noticed that there was no green, growing life. The land had the appearance of a desert rather than land scorched by fire. Where the land does not produce there is famine. This nation under God has been an abundance of plenty and then some. We have helped to feed the world during times of their distress because of our excess. But the government removed our covering to be like the rest of the world, and we will get what we want, but we will not like what we get! I saw famine coming to our nation. The only cause of this famine shown to me is that when the spiritual covering of this nation changed from God to secular starving the faith of the Christians through their laws, its abundance will be afflicted as well. They cannot have their cake and eat it too. In order to eat the fat of the land the people must perpetuate its nourishing growth in the spiritual food of the Word. As this nation lacks in the spirit of God so will it lack in the natural. The black horse of famine is on its way and will spread through the nation.
- 2. Condition of the weather:** Though I did not see what others have about chaotic weather and forces of a destructive nature, I saw dry ground or drought. While the government has sown the famine, it will be the church that causes the great drought. It is the responsibility of the church to send the washing of the water by the Word out to a thirsting world. The churches have dried up the spiritual water with programs in place of Truth and organization in place of hearing God and allowing the Holy Spirit to move. They have devalued the Word for the philosophies

of man. I have written this before, but the church cannot just know about God WE MUST KNOW HIM. Church attendance is not the same as a personal relationship. The church has gotten so far away from God that when they call on Him, the call is long distance; this comes as a great charge upon the church that could have had God in residence to freely communicate up close and personal. Because the church has left righteousness for political correctness to enter the new age, she has dried up the water of the Word and settled for a spiritual drought. Drought will be worse than the famine in this nation.

3. **Condition of mortality:** When a nation takes innocent lives and dumps them into the garbage cans of convenience they reap back death. I saw a horrific holocaust of death through plague, pestilence and war [nuclear]. This is not just what the world is reaping but also the Christians who have put their hand to a vote with a platform of abortion. Those who put their hands to a vote toward an abortion platform will taste of its benefits in death and destruction. What you serve will serve you in like manner. The pale horse of death is riding into our towns. You will either have the blood of the Lamb or the blood of innocent lives upon your doorpost. You cannot have both and you will reap accordingly.

We make our choices, and our choices make us. We will be living the consequences of our choices. Here is where I saw two types of people. **While I witnessed all of us living in the same conditions, we were not all living the conditions in the same way.** I saw two very different kinds of people.

Let me be very clear as to whom the crawling people included. First of all it is those who live their lives imbedded in the world, but it will reach its grasp into the churches for those who label themselves as Christians, yet live as the world. Many calling themselves Christians are living double lives that God views as Lukewarm. Lukewarm Christians, having one foot in the world and the cares of the world making an occasional drop-in-howdy-do in the Kingdom, will eat from the same plate as the world. Let me refresh God's Words exactly:

Rev 3:15-16

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Everything I have been talking about is not the wrath of God but a day of wrath. This is from man's wrath due to the judgments man has made, and man's judgment coming back to him. These are not God's punishments but man's consequences.

Rom 2:5-6 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

We are all going to live our consequences. The fruit we eat will be the ingredients of our living.

If we have allowed God to lead us into repentance and are living a repentant life, seeking God's kingdom and righteousness, we will live the condition of its consequences. We may read about these in Ps 91. Those who are worldly or lukewarm Christians will reap the consequences of the woes to come.

The reason we fight in the spirit is because what happens in the spirit will manifest in the natural. Just as the famine, drought and death, will be the manifestation of the spiritual lack. The secular god is Satan, and our country has handed itself over spiritually. **The champions in faith will not be living these conditions in the same way.** God's champions will be doing mighty exploits for the world to see the power of the Kingdom of God.

What I am about to tell you I have already given a glimpse of in the first chapter but have never read or heard it anywhere except from the spirit of God fresh off the press. As with everything, it will start with the spirit and manifest in the natural:

The spiritual rapture will precede the physical rapture. We need to realize that to be physically raptured we must first be translated from the old man to the new creature from this government into the new government which is the Kingdom of God. In other words, we must not think of ourselves as Americans but as children of the Kingdom who are here on a work permit. As I have said before, most Christians have one foot at the cross of

salvation and one foot in the world. This is a place of great suffering because it is not redemptive but going in circles of sin to forgiveness-sin-forgiveness-sin. Jesus is no longer at the cross, and we need to die there and get beyond it and into the spiritual resurrection translated into new creatures. To live on the other side of the cross is the spiritual rapture. If you are still in the circle of going from the world to cross and back again, you put yourself at risk for the time the physical first fruits rapture of the church comes.

The physical rapture coming will be a resurrection as our spirits leave our physical bodies on this earth to be present with the Lord. This will be an amazing witness to the entire world, but a devastation to those who thought they would be in that number. Let me just repeat that before this physical rapture takes place there will be a time where champions rise to show the Kingdom of God in His authority, power and strength which will go beyond the elements of the distresses coming upon the earth. Only those spiritually raptured will have the strength to be these champions weathering these storms. When the first fruits are physically taken, the world will *not* have to wonder who they were because these champions will have testified of all of these things coming as I am now doing.

Those who buckle at the little things while crying for Jesus to rapture them out are in no way ready for a rapture to take place. There is no testimony for the Kingdom of God in lifting a bunch of impotent whiners off the earth.

Steven was spiritually raptured before the stones could kill his body. He was a champion. Those of us who have already died to become a living sacrifice have been spiritually raptured...we have defeated the power of death for it holds no fear.

To quote the four lepers from the OT, 2 Kings 7:3, "Why sit we here and die." The only way to save yourself from being held captive by the conditions of the earth is to lose your life in Christ. These lepers could have whined about their state but decided to shake off the apathy and risk what little life they had left. They conquered fear:

Matt 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Risk your life by losing yourself in Christ. Crucifying the flesh of self and living for Christ is to become spiritually raptured. Many people think they have done this, but all they have done was let Jesus have a guest room in their hearts and gone about their business as usual. Jesus is not the guest but the Host.

There is more to the vision that is just for me to know and not of value to you. But if you are reading from this paper, you have seen this vision unfold, and the rest is on its way. God wants you to be prepared. You want to be armed with the Truth and counted in this number!

What is the Lord telling you? He is talking you know. I have certainly not been the only one to be singled out. What He gives you will be unique to whom you are and what you are to do. This is not one special person, but each of us is uniquely special and as important as any. We make up a whole called the body of Christ. Though big and little of size, we are no different of value or importance, but we must take our places in this hour.

We need to wake up to the reality of the times in which we live. These are the days to arm yourself by feeding your spirit and preparing your storehouse. Do not fret that you may have forgotten something or that you might not have enough, for remember the two fish and five loaves for multiplying food and the rock that gave water in the wilderness. We are heading into hard times, yes, but miraculous times as well, and you need to be prepared for the miracles by building faith muscles now.

So count yourself blessed to be armed with the Truth instead of alarmed and caught off guard.

STANDARD BEARERS

Isa 62:10-12

Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.

Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

KJV

We quote many times how God will raise a standard in the land for all to see and know that He is God. Before the coming of the Lord, He will raise the standard or Kingdom banner for all to see. What exactly is a standard?

Standard: 𐤒 a flag: - banner, pole, (en-) sign, standard.

[From H5264; 𐤒𐤒 a primitive root; to gleam from afar, that is, to be conspicuous as a signal; or rather perhaps a denominative from H5251 (and identical with H5263, through the idea of a flag as fluttering in the wind); to raise a beacon: - lift up as an ensign, standard bearer.]

Notice the points of a flag or standard:

- To gleam
- To be conspicuous
- To be a signal
- To be a beacon

We are a flag conspicuously gleaming from afar as a signal and beacon. You know each nation has its own flag which symbolically represents it. God's Kingdom has a flag representing it as well. We are living banners showing the Kingdom of God in Word and deed.

Ps 60:4

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.

Standard bearers are the champions of the Kingdom of God. They come in all sizes, languages, backgrounds, cultures, experiences, talents and gifts. They are the beacons of the witness of God:

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us...

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

A witness is not just words for many say what "should" be done. But a witness is someone who can walk and talk at the same time. Their walk is the visible expression of what they say, and without that, their witness is just a bunch of words on a playground. You know the words of which I am referring: "My Dad is the greatest Dad in the universe, and he can beat any dad any day of the week and twice on Sunday!" Everyone takes those words for granted, but if you said: "My Dad is Love," then you had better be showing love. "My Dad is healing," then you'd better be praying with the sick laying on healing hands. The banner needs to represent the Kingdom. Whatever you want people to know about the Kingdom of God, you must present in your actions and reactions, or you are just another bunch of words on the playground of the world.

Christians are on the battlefields everyday fighting powers and principalities, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places. While our fight is in the spirit, our adversaries are spiritually affecting the people of flesh to gain earthly troops. In other words, our adversaries while being spiritual will present themselves within the humans in which they take residence. Look at who we are fighting by the Scripture:

Eph 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

- *Principalities: ἀρχή chief, [order, time, place, rank]: - beginning, corner, (at the, the) first (estate), magistrate, power, principality, principle, rule*
- *Powers: ἐξουσία force, mastery, potentate, token of control, delegated influence, authority, jurisdiction, power, strength*
- *Ruler: κοσμοκράτωρ a world ruler, an epithet of Satan: - ruler---of darkness σκότος shadiness, that is, obscurity*
- *Spiritual: πνευματικός wickedness πονηρία: (daemoniacally) a spirit (concretely), or (divinely) supernatural, regenerate, religious--- depravity, that is, (specifically) malice, plural (concretely) plots, sins: - iniquity, wickedness*

These are spiritually led leaders of governments, locally or nationally etc. These are those whose sole purpose is to "wear out the saints". What can we do against these forces of evil, you may ask.

*Luke 10:19-20 Behold, I give unto you **power** [ἐξουσία. **force, mastery, potentate, token of control, delegated influence, authority, jurisdiction, power, strength**] to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power** of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the **spirits are subject unto you**; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

Do you see that the banner of the Kingdom of God trumps the power of the enemy? Not only are we the banner in the forefront of battle but the trumpet sound. We trump-it. Our exsousia trumps-it...what does it trump but the exsousia of the enemy. We are God's wild card which has power over all the power of the enemy.

I have been told that Christians must be careful when dealing with a spirit of rank and may not have the ability to bring it down. Do not ask me the particulars since I have not found a Scripture that says that I cannot do what God has given me license in His Word. It sounds rather "David and Goliath" to me. I have had people who do not want to stand next to me in battle for fear that I take on too much authority, but I have never been hit by a falling giant yet.

I have prayed for people afflicted with demons in which these demons told me audibly that I could not cast them out and threaten my life...yeah right, if they were smarter they'd shut their mouths and stay hidden. The same force that stirred them into a bluffing action can cast them out as well. Trust me they are not all that Hollywood makes them out to be. They always give themselves away. I was asked to pray through a house that had paranormal manifestations thought to be ghosts. [There is only one ghost of whom I am aware, and I am a close friend with Holy Ghost.] I was not told where in the house these occurrences frequented, but it became clear to me when a pressure pushed against my chest threatening to push me down the stairs if I did not back off. I had two other ladies of strength with me, and I shouted, "I found 'em!" I smiled and stepped forward ignoring the bluff. Demons fear us, so they make threats out of their need to defend themselves. They **were** cast out and upon leaving, knocked a stack of papers

off the end of the bed in retaliation. It was no big deal, just another uncircumcised Philistine. I was told later that this was the location of activity even though the demon let me know first.

I have always said that demons are easily rid, however, humans are quite another story. Unless you have the agreement of the human to cast out their unwanted tenant it is best left alone, not because it is impossible but because it is futile, and they will return in strength worse than before. Plus, in most cases it is not a demon but people living out their consequences. Not everything is an attack that did not have an invitation.

The reason I bring up the subject of demons is not to refocus our attention, but these are days when evil knows its time is short, and we will see more of this activity. Do not suit up in your armor daily to fight demons but to praise our King and show His Kingdom in strength, power but most of all our love.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

It is not as much heroic to cast out devils but to love one another. Do not make a walk of demon fighting but of seeking God's Kingdom and righteousness dealing with the enemy accordingly and then move on to greater efforts in the Lord. You will not find the name Goliath in any of David's songs in the Psalms while the Lord is mentioned more than 1,000 times. David knew how to praise God and demons departed. If you want to know how to be rid of the devils in your own life, resist them, and they will flee. Jesus cut off Satan's life support by not bargaining with the temptation set before Him. Once you bargain with the enemy you have given cart blanche to afflictions which will be the trial of your faith. Satan is like the disobedient child causing every disturbance to claim our attention. To give our time and attention to Satan is to get our eyes away from the Lord. Satan does not afflict to get our worship but to divert our attention and focus away from God.

Champions will walk like Jesus in the end times. I believe that while Satan is wearing out the saints through the world, the champions will be wearing out the world. The world will have to come up with new explanations why people are being healed and delivered. They will have to work harder to discredit the miraculous, and with our exponential space telescope showing the Creator and great signs this will wear them out to no end. Where there are food shortages, we are multiplying food. Where there is drought, we are a well of living water refreshing all who thirst, and where there is despair and death we show victory in life.

You can see the battle this government has even today with the people waking their voices all across this land. It is comical how many Christians do not know their strength until they are told what they can or cannot do. We can be a rebellious lot, just ask God. Only this time it is a rebellion against the system of darkness. It is amazing what a bunch of dry bones can do once they come together and get their second wind! I see people wearing out the government. They are so busy trying to explain us away as inconsequential that their strength has been divided, and they have found themselves losing ground.

If you have read all the horrible things coming upon the earth in the revelation of end times, do not lose your focus to the fact that WE WIN. It is the world that loses, but God's children win.

It is time to get in the race and be "caught up" in the things of the Lord and His Kingdom in righteousness.

1 Cor 9:24

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Heb 12:1-3

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

What you have left undone at the cross, go back, and get the job finished.

Repent and turn from old habits before old habits turn on you. Kill the old man and move beyond the cross into the raptured spirit. The only thing you will need once your mind is spiritually raptured is the trip up at Jesus' return. **"Come out, come out, wherever you are! Ready or not here HE comes!"**

RECIPE OF CHAMPIONS

How to be ready:

1. What you fear you empower, and that in which you focus will be that for which you make room.
 - **BEWARE OF THE NEWS MEDIA:** It will be the fear of the future and its seed will spread into the heart of man causing "men's hearts to fail for fear". Fear will amplify the negative in your life and if it becomes your focus it will consume your every thought.
 - **FOCUS UPON THE GOD'S KINGDOM AND THE VISION SET BEFORE YOU:** It will motivate courage to move you in mighty ways of valor and wisdom. God will also bless you with witty inventions that will prosper you for the times ahead. *Prov 8:12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.*
2. This is the time to build listening skills where the Lord is concerned.
 - Christians major in their "petition" and minor in their "listen".
 - The "listen" will reduce the "petition". God knows more about how to function in these end times. It will be wisdom to do more listening than talking.
3. Let your tongue reflect provision not lack.
 - The world will know us by the words of our mouth. Remember to overcome evil by the blood of the Lamb and the **word of our testimony**. Our testimony needs to re-reflect the Word of God.
 - You will be a container holding more answers than questions. This will amplify you as wise counsel, and you will be sought out as a "witness of hope" in a welcome day. *Prov 15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!*
4. Keep focus upon the vision for which you have been called.
 - Everything that can be shaken will be shaken. Know who you are in Christ and why you are here. *Acts 17:26-28 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the*

bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

- Simplify and cut back anything in your life that has no redemptive qualities. These are the "unnecessaries" that will choke your time and dull the vision.

5. God will raise up and congregate His champions together.

- Some churches will flow with the Spirit of God. The Lord will also meet with His children in intimate home meetings. These homes will be beacons of light like filling stations in which people will come to fill up or top off the tank and go on in strength.
- We will be a network of support to one another and a stable influence in the world.
- God's children will take the captivity of the world crisis captive through mighty exploits walking as Jesus did.
- Champions are not full of themselves but empty themselves and show the Lord's credibility and strength.

6. Avoid the knee-jerk predictability of the worldly.

- If the desperate try to hold tightly, you determine to give.
- When the world points a blaming finger, you hold out a hand of forgiveness.
- As the world wrings its hands, you clap your hands in rejoicing and celebrate Him.
- As the sufferers' countenance draws down, lift up your heads O ye gates that the King of Glory may come in.

7. Who shall ascend?

Ps 24:3-10 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

- Hill הַר promotion of the Lord

8. Promotion Day