

# *Ezekiel Ministry*

*A Ministry of Hope and Healing*



*“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”*

*Hebrews 10:23*

*April 2011*

***“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31)***

I don't know about you, but I just don't have it all together. I have more questions than I have answers. We live in a culture that unless we are doing something we are lazy and we will never be a success. God measures success in His own way and not the way of the world. I have been having problems and my problem is I just cannot get anything to flow in my writings. I have written this newsletter three times already and I don't know if this is going to be what I send out. If you are reading this, you know that I competed this month's newsletter. God has been telling me that I need to wait. I need to wait on Him. It is so hard for me to wait. God has answered my prayers and I know the direction I need to take.

I feel that now I have a clearer plan that God wants me to follow. I know when God is telling me that I need to make a change, but it takes me time to know what that change is. God wants me to move the ministry more into the internet. Starting next month our newsletter will be online and it will be at our web site. I will send out an email when it will be on line.

I know that all of you don't have email or access to the internet. In that case I will mail you a newsletter if you will let me know. Our address and email is on the back of the newsletter, please let us know how you want to receive your newsletter.

***“As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: What did you go out to see? A reed shaken by the wind?” (Matthew 11:7)***

John the Baptist preached on the shores of Jordon. In that region were beautiful reeds. In the morning these reeds stood tall in the mist and cool rays of sunlight; during the heat of the day they sank down. In the cool of the evening they rose again, shaking gently in the breeze. Jesus was asking them, “Did you go out expecting John the Baptist to be like others, shaken and tossed about by every wind of doctrine and the cunning of men. Did you expect him, like others, to be beat down by the opposition, only to arise, shaking, when the comforting breezes of a safe evening have come?”

John the Baptist stood for Jesus no matter what was happening or what men said about Him. He refused to back down. He only moved forward for Jesus. Not only in the good times but also in the times of darkness. He knew where his strength came from. He did not walk in his own strength, he was walking in the strength of God.

If we are going to walk for God in all circumstances, we need to understand what is meant by spiritual warfare.

In the next few newsletters I will be writing about spiritual warfare. Please pray for us as we move forward for God as good soldiers.

***“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you will seek to enter and will not be able.” (Luke 13:24)***

“Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult, once we truly understand and accept it, then life is no longer difficult. Once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters.” (Scott Peck)

Jesus tells us many times in the scripture that life is difficult. He tell us that the road to life is narrow and few find it. He tells us that He came to earth not to bring peace, but to bring fire.

Paul knew this truth. He knew that the true disciples of Jesus Christ must prepare for hardships. He knew that they must prepare for war. ***“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.” (Ephesians 6;10)*** These young Christians were quaking in their boots. They could see how strong their enemies were and they felt that they were too weak to fight this battle. How much more we see today the battle that rages in our world and we look around and feel that we can do nothing in this battle because we are so weak. The truth that Paul tells us in these scriptures in Ephesians is just as true today as they were when Paul wrote them.

Paul tells us, don’t let your fears overwhelm you. March on with courage and be strong in the Lord. The outcome of the battle rests on God’s performance, not on your skill or strength.

We must fight this battle, day after day, year after year, generation after generation; otherwise it will take over. In this battle we can become disillusioned because we feel the battle is never ending.

But take heart, do not be discouraged. The battle we are engaged in will end in victory. Therefore, you must fight the good fight of faith and not doubt; you must not give in to disbelief. Conquer the foe of doubt and unbelief within and your enemies without will be vanquished.

What I am writing this month comes from a book by William Gurnall, [The Christian in Complete Armour](#). This book was published in 1655. It’s message is so timely for the days we live in. If we are going to be victorious in our Christian walk, we must know how to fight our enemy, Satan.

We are called to be soldiers in God’s army. There is no way that a true Christian can escape being in this battle we call Spiritual Warfare. This battle takes more courage than a physical war. This battle is more important than any physical war that has ever been fought. It is a battle for your soul and where you will spend eternity. ►

“All have a desire to be successful soldiers, but few have the courage and determination to grapple with the difficulties that accost them on the way to victory. All of Israel followed Moses joyfully out of Egypt. But when their stomachs were a little pinched with hunger, and their immediate desires deferred, they were ready at once to retreat. They preferred the bondage of Pharaoh to the promised blessing of the Lord.” (Gurnall)

In these times that we live in God is looking for a few good soldiers. He is looking for followers that will start with the most important weapon of our warfare, that weapon is prayer. Are you ready to enlist in God’s Army?

***“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)***

God never intended for us to merely survive and settle for a mediocre life style. God wants us to live life and to live it more abundantly. To do this we must learn to use the armor that God has provided for us so we can be victorious.

Prayer is the main line that leads straight to the throne of God. By it we approach God with humble boldness of faith, taking hold of Him, wrestling with Him, and not letting go of Him until we have His blessing. Our problem is we give up the fight too soon. We face the enemy and we feel that he is stronger and we cannot win. We must stay in prayer until we have won the battle and God has given us the strength that we need. Daniel prayed and the angel started to Him with the answer, but had to fight for three weeks to make it through the enemy lines to bring the answer to Daniel. As we continue to pray we also help the angels fight the battle for us.

***“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin that ensnares us. And let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)***

“God, angels, and the saints already with the Lord are spectators, watching how you conduct yourself as a child of the Most High. The crowd of witnesses shout joyfully from the celestial sidelines every time you defeat a temptation, scale a difficulty, or regain lost ground from your enemies. And if the fight should be too much for you, your dear Savior stands by with reserves for your relief at a moment’s notice. His very heart leaps within Him to see the proof of your love and zeal for Him in all your combats. He will not forget your faithfulness. And when you come off the field, He will receive you as joyously as the Father received Him upon His return to Heaven.” (Gurnall) ►

If you are to stand up against your enemies, your principles must be fixed. If your principles are not fixed, your heart will not be stable. Two things are required to fix your principles.

You must have an established knowledge of God's truth. You must know God's Word. You must be a student of the Bible. You need to be in God's Word studying and reading His Word in prayer. Asking God to show you the truth in His Word and what it means for your life. As you read and study, you will come to know God more and more. You will come to realize how much God loves you and wants to be your strength. You cannot be a good soldier if you don't know the instruction manual.

Your heart needs to be set in the right direction. Head knowledge of God is not enough. Following Jesus is a matter of the heart. If your heart is not fixed in its purpose, your knowledge of God and His Word will not be much of a weapon. Half-hearted resolve will not venture far for Christ. Nor will the heart with false motives. The hypocrite may show strength for the moment, but when the enemy attacks the hypocrite will not stand.

***The soldier is summoned to a life of active duty, and so is the Christian. The very nature of the calling precludes a life of ease. If you had thought to be a summer soldier, consider your commission carefully.***

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