



THE GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

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Spiritual Weapons

By: M. L. Chancellor

“Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance...” (Gal. 5:22, 23)

These don't sound like weapons do they? Well, maybe not in the conventional sense, but what about in the spiritual sense?

When writing the article, *Unconventional Weaponry*, in the previous issue, I originally made a reference to Galatians (though corrected in print to be Ephesians). When I got to thinking about it later, and realized that I probably was thinking Ephesians when I put Galatians, I decided to read through Galatians and see if there were any spiritual weapons in there that we could use to defeat the enemy. As I got to looking and thinking about it, the more I realized that the fruit of the Spirit are also weapons we can use to overcome/win/defeat the devil in the things that come against us. I'm going to take them one at a time and point out other scriptures that back up this thought.

Love – Jesus said that the two greatest commandments were to 1) Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and 2) Love your neighbor as yourself. In Romans 13:10 it says, “Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” 1 Corinthians 13 expounds more about love and its qualities. So, how is this a weapon? There will be times when temptations come to try to get you to do wrong to someone, to treat someone wrong, to take advantage of someone, or to otherwise act in an unloving manner. When those temptations come, we can look at the situation and realize that love doesn't act or behave that way, it doesn't allow those feelings to work, and then we can look for a way to put the love of God that is in us into action. Instead of allowing the temptation to cause us to act in an unloving manner, we can let the love of God shine through us, and find something kind, helpful, and loving to do for that person. If the temptation is to think evil of someone, we can let the love of God work on the situation and put those evil thoughts aside and not pick them up again. We can use love to overcome the temptation and bless someone else.

Joy – This is one of the ones that really doesn't seem like a spiritual weapon when you first look at it, but as I thought about it more, I realized that it could be used to defeat the devil. There's an account of the disciples being taken before the counsel and being reprimanded and abused for teaching in the name of Jesus. Instead of being cowed and defeated, the Bible says that they “rejoiced that they were counted worthy” to take part in Christ's suffering. They let the joy that they could endure for Christ carry them through and help them to defeat the enemy in their trial. The verse that came to mind when I was thinking of Joy as a spiritual weapon was, “Count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations.” Are we going to let the trial push us down and defeat us, are we going to let that discouragement overwhelm us, or are we going to look at the bigger picture and find joy in the fact that we are “counted worthy” and in the good that the trial will work in us? Can't you just see the devil turning and running when you look at him and say, “Don't you see, God thinks I'm worth it”? I think Joy is one of our valuable weapons, and we need to keep a firm hold on it. (Read 1 Peter 4:12-13.)

Peace – When I think of this, I think of Jesus, standing in the boat with the frightened disciples in the middle of the storm saying, “Peace, be still.” The enemy of our souls would love to get us all agitated and focused on the trial. He wants us to worry, to fret and to generally be disquieted. He knows that if he works on us long enough we're going to get all dismal and gloomy and discouraged, and if he continues that long enough, he can get us to the point where we just want to throw up our hands and quit. Can you see what a valuable weapon peace is? In the middle of the trial, instead of allowing the devil to work on us like that, we can turn our eyes on Jesus and allow him to keep us in perfect peace because our mind is stayed on him. When we focus on Jesus, the storm may rage all around us, but that peace in our souls will keep the devil at bay. He won't be able to work and drag us down to the point of giving up. His hands are tied, and he has to go.

Longsuffering – Patient endurance... with kindness. “We count them happy which endure” (James 5:10-11) Sometimes endurance is how the battle is won. The devil wants you to wear out and quit. He wants you to give up, to think it just isn't worth the pain. But patient endurance will get you through and help you to overcome. There's a verse that says the race isn't to the swift and the battle isn't to the strong, and in another place it says he that endures to the end shall be saved. James 1:12 is another good verse regarding this weapon.

Gentleness – “Thy gentleness hath made me great.” (Psa. 18:35) “A soft answer turneth away wrath.” (Prov. 15:1) Those are two verses that come to mind right off. Sometimes our trials are dealing with other people. Gentleness is a wonderful weapon for turning the

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The Jordan Memorial Stone

Excerpt from *Adventures in the Land of Canaan* By: R. L. Berry

One thing has always troubled me, and that is the witness of entire sanctification. How may one know all the time that he is sanctified? What is the witness to sanctification? Is it a feeling? An assurance? A peace? Or what is it? Is it equally strong at all times, or does it come and go? If you can give me any information on this line, I shall greatly appreciate it.

One of the things that Joshua commanded the Israelites to do at the crossing of the Jordan has always been intensely interesting and suggestive. It was not a miracle, and there was nothing marvelous about it; it was just a thing that any man could do. When the crossing was being made, Joshua selected twelve men, one from each tribe, to do a special service. After all the people had passed over and the twelve priests were standing still in the River's bed, with the ark of God, Joshua commanded the twelve men to go to the middle of the Jordan and each take up a stone, place it on his shoulder, and carry it across to the camp in Canaan. Here the stones were to constitute a memorial: "And these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever" (Josh. 4:7). Joshua also set up twelve stones where the priests' feet had stood in the River; but it is these stones on the bank in Canaan that are of most interest to us.

We shall call these stones the "stones of testimony." They testified to a great fact, a great miracle, a great crossing, to the beginning of a new era in the lives of those hundreds of thousands of Israelites. Whenever an Israelite saw those stones, he was reminded of this fact.

Now, dear, seeking soul, as you cross the Jordan of entire consecration, the line between the place where you are not wholly consecrated and where you are wholly consecrated, the line between the time when you hope to be sanctified and the time when you shall know you are, as you cross this, carry out your stone of testimony. You have never passed this way before, and you need not pass it again; so get your stone of testimony now.

First note that this memorial was stone. It was not wood, that would rot, burn up, or float away to the Dead Sea. It was not gold or some precious metal that would be needed for other uses. It was not a piece of parchment or paper upon which was written an account of the crossing. It was common, solid, enduring stone. So, too, the testimony of your sanctification is solid and enduring—as solid and enduring as the word of God, the directions of which you have followed.

Notice also that this memorial was rather large, too large to carry around all the time, but was dropped and left as a reminder. There is of course an inner witness that is yours forever; but the crossing of the Jordan, that is, the *obtaining* of entire sanctification, is an event that will forever stand out as a time when you really received the experience of entire sanctification. There should be those witnessing spiritual realizations that differentiate it from all the other of your spiritual experiences. In short, it should mark your entrance into Canaan, the land of rest, of milk and honey.

What are these realizations? First, that you have been brought to a knowledge of God's will to sanctify you wholly. Next, you have definitely and solemnly dedicated yourself to God to be his and his alone forever. Then you have asked God to sanctify you according to his Word. You have believed that the work is done. All these steps are in direct harmony with what God said for you to do, and they, being carried out with the help of the Spirit, constitute the charter or receipt or evidence of your entire sanctification. You have met all conditions, and the grace is yours. You are sanctified wholly, filled with the Spirit, and you drop your memorial stone on the Canaan side of the Jordan.

As long as you remain true to your vows, to your covenant and consecration, you will continue in possession of your experience. You have no need of ever going back into the wilderness, much less to the Egypt of sin, but the fair land is before you—launch out and explore it. Enjoy for yourself the boundless riches of the grace of God and eat honey out of the rock.

Honey in the Rock

By: F. A. Graves

O my brother, do you know the Savior,
Who is wondrous, kind, and true?
He's the Rock of your salvation!
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Have you tasted that the Lord is gracious?
Do you walk in the way that's new?
Have you drunk from the living fountain?
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Do you pray unto God the Father,
"What wilt Thou have me to do?"
Never fear, He will surely answer,
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Then go out through the streets and byways,
Preach the Word to the many or few;
Say to every fallen brother,
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Refrain:

Oh, there's honey in the Rock, my brother;
There's honey in the Rock for you.
Leave your sins for the Blood to cover;
There's honey in the Rock for you.

Spiritual Weapons (cont'd from page 1)

situation from being a trial into not being a trial. It defeats the design of the enemy because instead of having people at each other's throats, you have one person who is working to defuse the situation and to bring it to a peaceful, but honorable conclusion. We can be gentle without being weak. That carefulness in dealing with others, that concern for their good, brings down defenses and destroys the devil's plan. Another verse that comes to mind regarding this is 2 Timothy 2:24-26. Through gentleness, we can draw souls to God – which defeats the devil's design of destroying their soul in hell. I'm sure there is more that can be brought out on this weapon, so please, feel free to share your thoughts with me on this.

Goodness – “Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.” (1 Peter 3:16) That was the verse that came to mind when I was thinking of this weapon. People might speak evil of us, they might go around slandering us, but if our life is a life where goodness shows through consistently, the devil will be defeated in that. It might seem to work for a time, but a consistent good life will eventually put to silence those that speak evil of you.

Faith – I think most saints realize that this is a spiritual weapon, and one that they use continuously. Faith is important for us to succeed. Faith tells us that God will do what he says he'll do. Faith holds on when the devil paints a picture that looks opposite of what God has promised. Faith defeats the enemy by its trust that God is not only able but willing to perform what he said he would perform. There's so much more, but I'm having a hard time getting it to come to mind at the moment, so please, if you have thoughts on this, share them with us.

Meekness – I think Jesus is probably the best example of someone who used this weapon to defeat the devil. When I think of meekness, I think of the words, “humble strength.” Can humility in the life be a strength that can be used to defeat the enemy? Has the enemy ever come to you and told you that you're proud? Has he ever brought accusations against you? I think in those cases, humility in the heart would be evidence that could be used to defeat the enemy and cast down those accusations. Christ was the epitome of meekness – humble, taking the lowly place even though he deserved the best, becoming a servant so that we could enjoy the blessings of salvation. If we are meek, and take the lowly, humble position, and have a heart to serve, others will be touched by it. Through humility and helping others, we can defeat the enemy of souls and draw souls to Christ.

Temperance – Self control or moderation. I think of that verse where Paul says, “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” (1 Corinthians 9:27) How can self-control be a weapon that can be used against the enemy? Look at this verse as an example: “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” (2 Corinthians 10:5) Sometimes there will be thoughts that come and come and come against us, and we will have to consciously make the effort to turn our thoughts into other channels. If we don't, the devil will use those thoughts against us – either to accuse us or to tempt us to yield to them. Self-control - making that effort to do our part in the battle against the enemy, turning our thoughts in other directions, removing ourselves from a situation where the devil is attacking us, not allowing ourselves to be led into temptation, and most of all, taking our will and placing it into God's hands and yielding it up to him so that we can do his will and follow his way.

“Seated in heavenly places...”

Streams in the Desert—October 28

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ ... and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Eph. 2:4-6)

This is our rightful place, to be “seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” and to “sit still” there. But how few there are who make it their actual experience! How few, indeed think even that it is possible for them to “sit still” in these “heavenly places” in the every day life of a world so full of turmoil as this.

We may believe perhaps that to pay a little visit to these heavenly places on Sundays, or now and then in times of spiritual exaltation, may be within the range of possibility; but to be actually “seated” there *every day and all day long* is altogether another matter; and yet it is very plain that it is for Sundays and weekdays as well.

A quiet spirit is of inestimable value in carrying on outward activities; and nothing so hinders the working of the hidden spiritual forces, upon which, after all, our success in everything

really depends, as a spirit of unrest and anxiety.

There is immense power in stillness. A great saint once said, “All things come to him who knows how to trust and be silent.” The words are pregnant with meaning. A knowledge of this fact would immensely change our ways of working. Instead of restless struggles, we would “sit down” inwardly before the Lord, and would let the Divine forces of His Spirit work out in silence the ends to which we aspire. You may not see or feel the operations of this silent force, but be assured it is always working mightily, and will work for you, if you only get your spirit still enough to be carried along by the currents of its power—Hannah Whitall Smith

*“There is a point of rest
at the great center of the cyclone's force,
A silence at its secret source;
A little child might slumber undisturbed,
Without the ruffle of one fair curl,
In that strange, central calm, amid the mighty whirl.”*

It is your business to learn to be peaceful, and safe in God in every situation.

Nicodemus Comes to Jesus

Except from *Egermeier's Bible Story Book*—John 3:1-21

One man who believed in Jesus was a ruler among the Jews. He was Nicodemus, a rich Pharisee. Most of the Pharisees were very proud. They did not believe that either John the Baptist or Jesus were teachers sent from God.

Nicodemus was not like the other Pharisees. He heard Jesus teach the people who had come to worship at the Passover. "Surely Jesus is very great," Nicodemus thought.

While other Pharisees were finding fault with Jesus, Nicodemus wanted to hear more of his teachings. One night he went to the place where Jesus stayed to talk with him.

Nicodemus said, "Master, we know you are a teacher from God. No man could do the miracles you do unless God was with him."

Jesus wanted Nicodemus to know about the kingdom of God. He said, "Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus was puzzled. He asked, "How can a man be born after he is grown up? Can he become a tiny baby again?"

Jesus did not mean that a man would be born again in body but in heart. He said, "Unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Do not be surprised when I say that you must be born again. The wind blows. You hear it and see what it does. Yet you do not see the wind itself. You cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes. That is the way it is with those who are born again."

Nicodemus thought about Jesus' words. No one could see the Spirit. Yet the person whose heart was changed, born again, would act as if he had the Spirit of God in his heart.

Finally Jesus said tenderly, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



Questions

1. What Pharisee sought to become acquainted with Jesus?
2. What did Nicodemus think of Jesus after he had visited with him?



1. Nicodemus
2. He believed more strongly than ever that Jesus had come from God

Answers

Bible Study—Divine Healing (Part 1)

By: E. E. Byrum

- I. Divine healing is a Bible Doctrine
 1. A time of healing prophesied
Isa. 35:5-6
 2. A prophecy of Christ the healer
Isa 53:3-5
 3. He came
Matt. 1:21
 4. The prophecies of healing fulfilled
Matt 8:16-17, Luke 7:21-22
 5. Jesus had the power of healing
Matt 28:18, Acts 10:38
 - A. He exercised that power
Matt. 4:23-24, Matt. 8:17, Luke 4:40-41
 - B. He taught and practiced healing from the beginning of his ministry
Matt. 4:23
 6. Christ gave the power of healing to the twelve apostles
Matt 10:1
 - A. They exercised that power.
Mark 16:20, Acts 5:12-16
 7. He gave that power to the seventy
Luke 10:1, 9
 - A. They exercised that power
Luke 10:17-20
 8. He gave that power to Stephen, Paul and others
Acts 6:8
 9. The power of healing is given to some in the church.
1 Cor. 12:9
 10. The power of healing is given to the elders.
James 5:14-15
 11. That power is given unto us if we believe.
Mark 16:16-18
John 14:12

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Spanish interpretation is available in the services.

Service Times:

Wednesday Prayer Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young People's Service (Sunday)	4:45 p.m.
Children's Service (Sunday)	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Service	6:00 p.m.

We have literature available for those who would like to study the Word of God in the confines of their home. Let us know if you are interested by contacting us at the above telephone number, address, or website.