

Good News From the Battlefield

Paul the apostle said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). Paul is saying here that *there is power in the Good News!* However, the power only comes if you believe it!

This word “gospel” in its original meaning is “good news from the battlefield.” When a soldier came back from the battlefield, everyone in the city knew how the battle went, because the triumphant soldier marched in victory, wearing the enemy’s crown. King David came back with Goliath’s head and presented it to King Saul. The word “gospel” can also be translated “good tidings.” When you get good news from a battlefield, you get glad. You get happy!

If you are feeling sad or mad today, you may have lost your focus and may not be believing the Good News. The Gospel was settled in three days: Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. The Good News is that He died for you and rose from the dead so that you could have eternal life. He became sin so that you could become righteous. From the cross He cried out, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me” (Psalm 22:1, *NIV*)? so that you could cry, *Abba, Father!* There was a covenant exchange that took place and that is the Good News that we preach. That is the Gospel! When you look at the fourteen sermons in the book of Acts, ten of which were written by Paul and Peter, in the centre you will find the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. If you will believe this Good News, it will make you glad.

Satan is the one who tries to blind you from the truth. He tries to mask you, to blind you from not seeing the truth of God’s Word, so you will become discouraged and want to quit. But Colossians 2:15 says that Jesus, having spoiled

principalities and powers, made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. The enemy has already been defeated! What they would do back in Bible days, was go into the enemy’s camp, cut off the king’s thumbs and big toes and they would parade him through the streets of the city, leading him around in disgrace. This is a picture of the enemy being disarmed. “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8). So if the devil has been defeated, what’s my problem? I was hoping you would ask!

When we get our eyes off God and His plan and purpose for our lives, we forget where we are going. We sometimes get so caught up with circumstances and what we are dealing with that we don’t see where He is taking us. If you don’t look where you are going, you will not take another step forward. Have you been caught up in the mundane circumstances of your life, or have you been looking ahead to where God is taking you? If you cannot see it, you will not pursue it!

In Psalm 34, David was in the Cave of Adullam with individuals who were in debt, distressed and discontented: they were a bunch of unhappy people. David shows them how to get out of their mess. “I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth . . . O magnify the Lord with me” (Psalm 34:1, 3). Our focus can sometimes be in the wrong place. We need to make an adjustment. David said: Magnify the Lord with me! Stop having a pity party. Stop looking for sympathy, looking for people to feel sorry for you and begin to magnify the Lord. Let us exalt His name together, not exalt our circumstances. Begin to praise Him right now, right where you are. Oh God, you are so great! Oh God, you are so wonderful! Great is our Lord and greatly to

be praised! God said, “I will never leave you. I will never forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). We need to boldly declare this! He will never leave me! He will never fail me! In the very next verse, He tells us that the Lord is our helper; we have absolutely nothing to fear.

Proverbs 10:11 says “the mouth of a righteous man is a well of life.” Your mouth is a source of life! We need to master our words. It is so important to put a guard over our mouths. Your heart is like a tree and the fruit that it produces are the words that come out of your mouth. Whatever is in your heart in abundance is going to come out. That’s why we must stay full of the Word of God. When we speak God’s Word, we can fully expect it to come to pass. He watches over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12). His Word is forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life” (Proverbs 15:4). Every time you speak, you are activating the supernatural.

Many times we are crying out, “Where’s the power, God? Give me more power.” The *Gospel* is the power of God! Glad tidings come from the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. That’s where the power is! Believing and speaking His Word! When you open your mouth, you are operating in the God class. Life and death are in the power of *your* tongue. Proverbs 21:23 says, “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.” We need to choose to speak the blessing. The tongue is the decisive member of your body. Your tongue will decide your destination. You hold your future in your mouth! If we can just get a hold of our tongues, we can walk in protection, healing, prosperity – everything God has for us! *If you will just focus on the good news that came from the battlefield, and begin to speak God’s Word, you can be wearing your enemy’s crown today!*

~Pastor Gary Hooper

Breaking Down The Walls of Containment

There’s a battle we go through as Christians. The revelation of this truth has been holding us back from going forward to reach our full potential in God. It’s a battle of containment! Satan tries to contain us and put us into a box. There is a lot of contained, restorative power within us that needs to explode and get out. Satan tries to keep us from exploding with the love of God (Romans 8:11). He tries to contain that power. The word “contain” means to “hold within limits, to stop development, to keep limited, blinded, deceived, and to stop growth and potential.” That is not God’s will. A wall of containment is built by deception, ignorance, not knowing God’s Word, negative emotions, offense, insecurity, inferiority and unforgiveness. Issues on the inside prevent the power and the Word from working.

Sometimes we go after the devil when things are going wrong, but maybe it’s the “inner me” that is our enemy, not the devil. Please don’t be condemned by that. We’re all dealing with the “inner me.” If the roots are messed up and still producing anger, insecurity and all that stuff, we have to dig them out and replace them with the fruit of God’s love. Until the roots are connected in love, we can’t expect to do all things. Everything has to be motivated by love (1 Corinthians 13:4-8). If we can’t walk like that, then there’s something wrong with our roots. Bad roots produce bad fruit. Good roots produce good fruit. The more we deal with the “inner me,” the more love can flow through us, the more

the Word can flow through us and the more effective it will be when we speak it. It is time to take the limits off!

Knowing the truth, knowing what it means, being able to quote Scripture, but failing to apply it to our life, is deception. Just knowing the truth intellectually is not going to make us free. We have to continually hear the Word (Romans 10:17), practice what we hear, speak it and apply it to our life, so we can develop and grow. Continue means no stopping. Every day we have to renew our mind by the Word of God. It’s not going to happen if we don’t put it in. Jesus said, “Continue in my word” (John 8:31-32). We are not His disciples if we don’t continue in His Word. A disciple is a disciplined person, being taught to do something. We need to be consistent and continual in the Word and pray in the Spirit.

Praying continuously and consistently, if motivated by love, will cause any wall of containment, or whatever else the enemy has formed against us, to break down and fall. Power has a name and its name is love. A man that lives and abides in God’s love can’t be contained (Ephesians 3:14-16). The word “might” means “the ability to do all things” and that might is within us (Philippians 4:13). When the enemy says we can’t, we say, “I can do all things with the ability of might which strengthens me.”

God has given us authority (Matthew 18:18). The power of the enemy is not stronger than our authority. Rest in that. We have authority over all the power of the enemy (Luke

10:19). We have to get our sword out and say, "In the Name of Jesus, I bind you Satan. You take your hands off my stuff! Cease your manoeuvres against me, now! Hallelujah! In the Name of Jesus, Satan, get out of my house, now! You will not have my children!" And mean it!! Get some attitude!! The word "spoil" is defined as: "to strip by violence, carry off by violence, to secure by violence." We have the power and the authority. We are taking over! The word "violence" in the Amplified Bible says, "ardent zeal, intense exertion" (Matthew 11:12). Just the intensity of that sounds forceful. "The kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it" (Matthew 11:12, *NIV*). So it is okay to be forceful when we are speaking to the devil.

It's time to rule and reign! The things we are going through are opportunities to develop our faith in the things God has called us to do – to continue in His Word, to know the love

of God so we can be filled with the fullness of God, which is a condition of completeness: nothing missing, nothing wanting and needing nothing. I don't need anything but to be more in love with God! We have to allow His love to work in us so we can walk in His fullness, to know the richest measure of His divine presence in us (Ephesians 3:20)!

Confession: In the Name of Jesus, I will not be contained. I can't be defeated. The walls of containment are coming down because I am rooted and grounded in love! In Jesus' Name, my development will not cease. I grow and I glow because my roots are in love. No more lack! Hallelujah! Glory to God! I will go and put some love on somebody now!

~Pastor Nancy Hooper

Salvation Prayer

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" and "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9). You said my salvation would be the result of Your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me (John 3:5-6, 15-16; Romans 8:9-11) and that if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4).


I take You at Your Word. I confess that Jesus is Lord. And I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Thank You for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as You have promised, and for being Lord over my life. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer, you are born again. Welcome to the family of God! Contact us today and we will send you our free salvation package which will help you become rooted and grounded in your new life in Christ.

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Canada Day has always been a special occasion in our family. We have celebrated in various ways over the years: doing crafts, visiting museums, watching firework displays and, of course, eating strawberries and ice cream. This summer, on July 1, we travelled to the "gentle province" of Prince Edward Island. As dusk gathered, I sat on a blanket in a Charlottetown park, waiting for the fireworks to begin. A friend of my daughter's put a small Canadian flag in the ground beside me - and the Spirit of God spoke to my heart. Not many months ago, even a very short vacation, would have barely seemed possible. Yet, here we were, on Canada Day, not only enjoying a holiday, but in the very place where our country became a nation. The Holy Spirit whispered to me, in this province of gentle hills and ocean waves, that He has plans for Canada. His flag of ownership is already in place. Many will be involved in taking our land for Jesus. We are here for such a time as this and will truly experience the dominion of God from sea to sea.

Ruth Ann-Dartmouth, NS

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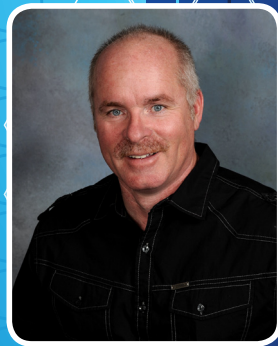


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