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Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass
It's about learning to dance in the rain

Dance Classes Here

Monthly Newsletter

Rx For The Soul



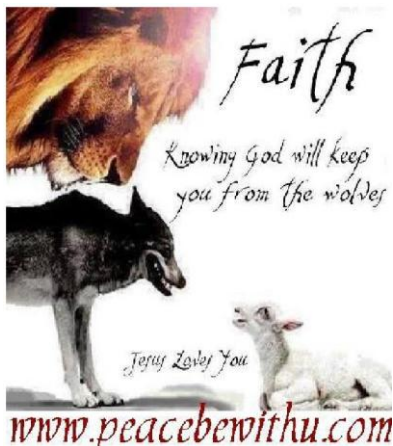
"For we wrestle not with flesh & blood, but with powers and principalities, and wicked spirits in heavenly places..."
Ephesians 6:1-16

I've never wished a man dead, but I have read some obituaries with great pleasure. Mark Twain

"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do."
Leonardo da Vinci



RainDancing101.com
February 2014 Edition
Volume 7, Issue 708
727-365-2778
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Editor - Messenger
'No Pretense Here'



Occupied Territory

Unless they have served in Iraq or Afghanistan, most young people don't have a clue what occupied territory even is. But a soldier who keeps watch at night surely knows...! The camp he guards is often circled by barbed and/or razor wire. One misstep and he finds himself in the enemy's camp! And a whole mess of trouble.

In a military boot camp the first rule a soldier learns is, *know your enemy*. Whether we *like it* or not, and whether we *know it* or not, we are at war! It's a fallen world, and the evil one prevails for a season, Jesus even calling Satan the ruler of this world! 1

What does this mean? That he has a lot more power than you thought he did, & you have a lot less! This power is legally binding because Adam & Eve forfeited it to him. A couple I once knew were awakened in the middle of the night with that dreaded phone call, telling them their teenage son Kevin was in jail - come and get him! They did.

However, these were good folks who attended an evangelical church and they'd taken their son every time the doors were open, it seemed. So, their question was not 'why', but 'how?' *How could this happen?* They'd tried to do everything right by him...

Finally, he asked advice of a close friend, 'What did we do *wrong?*' The friend hesitated... then asked if he'd ever explained to his son about the existence of the devil? Admittedly, the father said 'No'. "Then, you have only presented half of the gospel message!" his friend said. "The other half is that we have an enemy whose objective is to destroy us! Jesus warned, He comes for nothing (*no* thing!) but to steal, kill and destroy."²

The good news is that Jesus told his disciples before He left earth, "Behold **ALL** authority has been given to me..."³ And what did He do with it? - He gave it to us!

Further, Jesus explained to His disciples, "Behold, I have given you *authority* over the *power* of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means harm you."⁴

That delegated *authority* given us exceeds Satan's *power*. But sadly, so few believers KNOW this power is theirs, secured via faith! "According to your faith, be it unto you."⁵ In the *measure* of...but a mustard seed's worth will do!

Justin Bieber is a man who has the *power* of fame, wealth and celebrity. He wasn't particularly afraid of police, until this week when he discovered their *authority* to send him to jail in Miami on charges of DUI and street racing. He also was charged with resisting arrest, asking 'Why are you stopping me?' Police authority - delegated from the city & state - exceeds celebrity power every day!

And so it is with spiritual authority! We simply follow Jesus' example- who spoke to fevers, trees, and the devil.⁶ We should too!

Some think our nation itself is also occupied territory; *lawlessness now prevailing*. Others think not.

But, does it really matter what we *think*? Human opinion is mere *subjective* truth! Facts say we have turned from God. History *plus* the *objective* truth of scripture say, we'll pay! Like other nations before us, our nation is imploding.

Even if so... you may think you *didn't* play a role in its demise!

Question. Have you raised your voice at injustice when you saw it?⁷ Or...did you vote for the party that promotes abortion & gay marriage?⁸ Do you protest sexually loaded sitcoms and entertainment? Or *view* it? One voice matters & will be viewed in eternity's light!⁹

Kevin, a church-goer, went about thinking things 'spiritual' didn't matter! Yet he learned the *intangible* is more real than the *tangible*!

So... when the Bible speaks of 'angels unaware' *as though they're real* ¹⁰ - are not demons also real? You say, *well maybe in Africa or South America*. Wrong! Just because you can't see them, doesn't mean they're not real...¹¹ In the *realist* sense, we do live **IN** 'occupied territory.'

Billy Graham once said "At first we have sin. Then we find that sin has us!"

Picture it this way. That same soldier guarding his camp, accidentally steps over onto the enemy's side, and is captured by enemy soldiers. He explains, "It's okay - It was an accident." So they let him go... right? No. Legally, he's a prisoner of war! Accident or not.

We too ignorantly stumble onto the devil's turf, find ourselves *captive* to drugs, drink, porn, any sin -then wonder why? *The problem is a legal one!* We gave the devil legal right in our lives, by giving him 'place.'¹² *We had a choice* but... made the wrong one!

Jesus said He came to set the *captives* FREE. ¹³ (Us!) That **knowing** 'the truth shall set you Free.'¹⁴

If you will repent (change the mind), turn to God in truth, & *renounce* your sin... He **will** help you!

Experience Is What You Get **WHEN** You Don't Get What You **WANT**

Bitterness is unforgiveness gone to seed! *Editor*

Deceived people don't know they are deceived... because they're *deceived!*

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.



Ask Agatha

My computer beat me at checkers, but I beat it at kickboxing. *E. Phillips*

Man is immortal until his work is done *Geo Whitefield*

Refs: 1) John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 2) John 10:10 3) Matt 28:19 4) Luke 10:19 5) Matt 9:29; 8:13 6) Mark 1:34; 4:37-41; Matt 4:4-10; 21:19-20 7) Prov.21:3; Is.59:4,7,9 8) Rom.1:32 9) Acts 20:26; 18:6; Ezek.33:3 10) Heb.13:2 11) II Kings 6:17 12) Eph.4:27 13) Luke 4:18 14) John 8:32 15) Matt 6:15; 18:35; Is.59:2 16) I John 3:21-23 17) Ps.19:1-3 18) Prov. 4:23; Luke 11:34,35

It's Not What You Think! RainDancing101.com Cont'd. Page 2

Just say 'forgiveness' and people say, 'Oh yada yada' and soon their heads begin to nod. They feel they know what it is, how it works – or should! – and they have a handle on it all. Maybe not...

You know the hardest part of forgiveness to me? I was shocked to realize *I needed to forgive God!* I'd found He wasn't Santa Claus in the sky, caring for my every whim. After all, I had no respect for the parents he'd given me, and didn't even know one of them until *I was 28 years old!* Can you imagine introducing 7 and 8 year old children *to their grandpa!* Then later via a fluke, I discovered he wasn't even my own father!

The other parent was one of my six abusers in youth. I'd lived on city streets to escape

the abuse of my stepfather - City streets were safer, in my mind! I hated him, but... *I hated my mother more!*

At age 25, I was a mess! Never mind, I'd become a Christian by then! No, this God/Jesus thing wasn't what I'd thought – but *my view was based upon ignorance.* Scripture says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" People today are like I was. They haven't really rejected the true Jesus – just a caricature they embraced!

Then God began to wash me in His Word. Realizing I was deeply *offended*, I *did* forgive Him. And I chose to 'let God **be** God' in my life...

But... I couldn't quite pull that one off, due to another problem. *I needed to forgive myself!* My stupid mistakes, unwise choices, dark moods,

plus my unloving nature – I knew I was a loveless creature!. I needed *HIS* love to make me a caring person, like Jesus... *Still*, I realize I'm uncaring – yet I am God's & His compassion makes that weakness *His* strength in me!

Believers don't realize that forgiveness is not an option!¹⁵ Forgiveness **from** God is based upon our forgiveness **to** others. Wanna know why prayers often go unanswered...?¹⁶ Check out the arena of unforgiveness.

Dr. Harvey Goldman, head of Harvard Med School 25 years, once said that, if he could get a patient to merely acknowledge unforgiveness, anger, resentment...then he saw immediate improvement in cancer & arthritis patients. He was not talking 'spiritual' ...just factual information.

Mr. & Mrs. America...?

Dear Agatha: We have brand new neighbors and I don't really know them yet. But I see them at their screened pool next door, and I feel like Mr. & Mrs. America have moved in! I'm not really lustful, but honestly, I find myself gawking at their beauty and physique. Can you comment on this? **Amy**

Dear Amy: Well Amy, I'll share with you information that helped me years ago.

I've often thought that I would donate my eyes when I die. I have traveled so much, both in business & pleasure and I feel I've seen so much beauty & wonder, I'd like to share it all! I've seen Niagara Falls, the Statue of Liberty, Liberty Bell, the Pacific & Atlantic Oceans, the Rockies, Mount Rainier, Death Valley,

Cumberland Valley, Mexico, Canada, the Tennessee River as it winds through 3 states... Breathtaking beauty!

The eyes are wondrous elements of the human body...*but* they can cause us trouble. Hence, we must beware of the 'lust of the eye' not just physical, but material *things* too! What to do..?

A book I read by Jonathan Edwards, an early church father, totally liberated me!

He said when we see a beautiful nature scene, we feel reverence and awe at it all. Even grandeur.¹⁷ We know that it is a thing created by an awesome God! It can inspire gratitude, and worship

But just as we realize beauty in nature is God's handiwork, we see beauty in the human physique as well.

It's normal! (The teaching of evolution as fact, not Theory, has greatly diminished the *truth* of intelligent design! Because...)

We as humans, have been made in the 'image, likeness & similitude' of God. Therefore we're *like* God. We should be able to freely enjoy people in the same way we do nature. With gratitude.

Yet the human torso is different. We live in a society that sells even cars with sex! Most entertainment is full of sexual innuendo. Or worse!

The difference here is, we appreciate what we see in the moment...but we don't take it home with us! That *preoccupation* becomes *lust!* Fantasy follows – then, Sin. Beware! *Guard your heart with all diligence.*¹⁸

