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EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS, JUDE 3

BE STRONG AND OF GOOD COURAGE *January 7, 2018, Jim Porteous sermon notes*

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

- Humble and bold as a lion in the Lord. The Lord is calling (actually commanding) His body to be courageous in pursuit of spiritual maturity for effectiveness and victory in ensuing battles by submitting to His strength... His might... His ability to work mightily in and through us.
- Without courage fear is manifested producing anxiety which disables believers/church from walking in the freedom and power given them by the Lord.
- The Lord admonishes us always to "fear not" and to be strong in Him.

Today we are taking, and for some retaking, our promised land; we are going forward in the promises of God. Today we take the stand to walk the path of faith and courage in the Lord; we are fighting and winning in the good fight of faith.

Courage produces peace, internal peace; there is no external peace -- the devil wars against us always. The believer who is walking with Jesus has internal peace. To walk in internal peace we must properly discern and understand God and our relationship with Him and His Word. We must properly discern God, His will, and His ways.

- We must know God's will, His heart, His ways, and what He is doing. Meditate on this passage... (Jer 9:23 – 24 *Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*)
- We must know God's Word (Jesus); (Joh 1:1,12 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* Joh 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (power: or, the right, or, privilege)*)
... and His written word.
(2Tim 2:15; 3:16-17 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* 2Ti 3:16-17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works).*
- We must know God's love
(1Jo 4:8, 16 *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.* 1Jo 4:16 *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him).*
- God is a consuming fire (De 4:24 *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God).*

- God is a merciful God (De 4:31 *(For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them).*)
- God is a jealous God (De 6:15 *(For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth).*)
- God is a refuge (Ps 62:8 *Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah).*)
- God is a sun and shield (Ps 84:11 *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly).*)
- God is the King of glory, strong and mighty, mighty in battle (Ps 24:8 *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle).*)

Spiritual weaponry defined -- warfare (Eph 6:12 – 18). Today, while acknowledging all spiritual armor and weaponry, we stress the importance of prayer and a courageous mindset to be effective in spiritual warfare and in retaking our rightful “promised land” (ALL God’s promises) freely given us by Him.

- (Eph 6:18 *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*)
Prayer is vital – powerful – effective, a battle implement of power, a spiritual exercise of power. (Jas 5:16b *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much).*)

- Accept the Jesus mindset

(Php 2:5-8 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

Php 2:6 *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:* Php 2:7 *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:* Php 2:8 *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.)* Christ’s mind: humble, powerful, victorious.

Destroy the enemy’s strongholds; bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

(2Co 10:3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:* 2Co 10:4 *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)* 2Co 10:5 *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;)*

– one of the mightiest weapons of all, accomplished through God, in destroying the devil’s strongholds in the life of the believer. This is the answer to overcoming the “carnal” mindset.

God’s attitude toward prayer: (Isa 56:7 *Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.)*)

--a house of prayer for all people (God’s victorious war room where the courageous believers go, where joyful victories and God is experienced); sacrifices will be accepted... note sacrifices below.

- Worship the Most High God, the lover of your soul, draw nigh unto Him. Worship Him in spirit and in truth. Enter into His presence in the “holy mountain” (the kingdom of God) and...

Sacrifice...

By all means, take advantage of His gracious cleansing. Sacrifice on God's altar of mercy and grace all strife, pride, self-righteousness, wrong attitudes, anger, complacency, etc. and all that the enemy may have a "legal right" to use against you to keep you from God's full provision, power, and anointing to be His chosen vessel for His marvelous will and miraculous purposes. Repent and renounce all disobedience, and resolve to walk in His holiness by the effective power of His Spirit that "works mightily" within you.

(Col 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus Col 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.)

Stand in awe of your great and mighty God; Humbly, Boldly, Confidently, and Courageously "take back" your promised land through His unshakeable faithfulness to you and His Word. *(Joh 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.)*

While in God's war room, ask Him what His plans are for you today and for the church as a whole.

(Isa 45:11 Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me);

--The Lord speaks saying, "ask of me" – what's next or what's my assignment? His answer will always be in harmony with His revealed word (the Holy Bible). Then proclaim it, command (declare) it, prophesy it, – God's word – the Sword of the Spirit -- the heart, the will, and the purposes of God.

- Courageously and boldly speak power, life, deliverance, reconciliation, healing, and victory for yourself and others and destruction for the enemy. This is God's will and fulfills His expressed purposes... He delights in these things and He will confirm His Word with signs following.

(Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen).

The Lord continually expresses His heart and reveals His will by always calling for "repentance" to initiate revival and transformation, deliverance, joy, peace, righteousness, justice, etc. Courageously pray, apply, enact, proclaim, and implement His will for a victorious life and a more fruitful service.

Father, Abba Father, thank you for revealing your heart, your mind, your will, and your purposes to those who seek you in the secret place, the holy place, your victorious war room. Lord, I pray the prayer of faith, your mighty effective faith, to intercede and proclaim your lovingkindness to send forth your awakening light upon us, the church today. Lord, behold our need and pour out your refining and equipping Holy Spirit upon us once again, afresh and anew. Lord, I declare your lovingkindness and all the things you delight in to everyone everywhere. Lord I declare your powerful life-changing truth, your circumstance-changing truth, your spoken revealed truth, your rhema power in the world today. Lord, send your light upon us. Awaken us to You, our Lord and our God, to the devastating effects of sin and disobedience, and to experience the powerful deliverance and life You have provided for us through the sacrificial, shed blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. In Christ's matchless Name I pray. Amen.