

What Jesus Wants! Part 7: "A Force to be Reckoned with, Pt. 2"

"Do you know what I want from you?" –Jesus

Soldiers... Living to please the One who called them to service! **2Timothy 2.4** Who have a biblical worldview of life and the battle for men's souls! **2Corinthians 4.1ff, 6.4,7** Who have a "one more, Lord" mentality, motivation and resource! **Philippians 1.20-25 2Peter 3.9** Who are willing to enter the battle for the souls of mankind *just because He asks us to!*

Words for the battle... Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, cinched up with the belt of truth, covered by the breastplate of righteousness, equipped with the cleated boots of the gospel, above all, bearing the shield of faith to catch all the fiery darts of the wicked, wearing the helmet of salvation, wielding the sword of the Spirit – which is the word of God, and pray all the time with all kinds of prayer! **Ephesians 6.10-18**

For the battle... "We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, *that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.* **2Corinthians 4.8-10** "As a minister of Christ I was in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews *five times I received forty stripes minus one.* Three times I was *beaten with rods;* once I was *stoned;* three times I was *shipwrecked;* a night and a day I have been *in the deep;* in *journeys* often, in perils of waters, of robbers, *of my own countrymen, of the gentiles, in the city, in the wilderness, in the sea, among false brethren;* in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—and besides those things that have come at me from the outside, there are those things that come at me from within, the care of the churches... **2Corinthians 11.23ff**

Being a force to be reckoned with... Begins with the proper decision! Comfortable kinship v. Kingdom conflict! "We don't live by bread alone (natural) but by every word that proceeds from God (supernatural)!" **Mt4.4 Exercised "rights" v. Matured strength!** "We do not tempt the Lord our God!" **v7 Shortcuts v. the Straight and Narrow way!** "You will worship the Lord only and Him only will you serve!" **v10 Jesus' same choice of profitable suffering over personal comfort!** "Nevertheless, Your will, not my will!"

Profitable Suffering! "The Spirit bears witness that we are the children of God, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ if we suffer with Him to be glorified with Him. And I reckon the sufferings of this present age are not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in us! **Romans 8.16-18** "As you are partakers of the sufferings of Christ so will you partake of the consolation [deliverance]." **2Cor 1.7** "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works in us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory! **2Cor 4.17** "Don't be terrified by your adversaries –

which is a token of your salvation, for unto you it is given on behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him but also to suffer for His sake, having the same conflict you saw in me! **Phil 1.28,29**
“Your faith gets tried with fire so that it may be found for praise and honor at His appearing!”
1Peter 1.7 “As brothers we all know the afflictions we have in the world, but having suffered a while, God will make you perfect, established and strong!” **1Peter 5.10**

Being a force to be reckoned with... *Is rigorous business!* “For this purpose... *to destroy the works of the devil!*” **1John 3.8** “On some show compassion, making a difference; others *save with fear, pulling them out of the fire*, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh!” **Jude 22,23** “We that are strong *should bear the infirmities of the weak and not live to please ourselves*, as Jesus pleased not Himself!” **Romans 15.1-3** “You will be *hated for My name’s sake*. And if they have called the Master a devil, *what will they call you, but, don’t be afraid, you’re covered!*” **Matthew 10.22-30**

Being a force to be reckoned with... *Requires a ROCK-SOLID foundation!* We can, and should, go proactive working w/Unbound, Freeport Alpha, local P.D.’s... But we will not be overcomers of dark forces and strategies without bedrock!

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. Live in Me and you will bring forth much fruit, for without me you can do nothing lasting. If won’t live in Me, you will wither and get cut off. If you live in Me, and My words live in you, you will ask what you will, and it will be done. Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit... You have been chosen to bear fruit and that it should remain! **John 15.1-16**

Rock-Solid... *With God!* From the beginning our enemy has been after our relationship with God! With every bad thing, unexpected, should have been anticipated thing... Accuses God/casts doubt on His love! Need to settle the issue up front!

“For when we had no strength, God sent Jesus to die for us, the godly for the ungodly, and we love Him because He first loved us and sent His son to save us!” **Rom 5.6-10 1 Pet 3.18 1John 4.19** “We will die serving Him!” **Dan 3.16ff**

Rock-Solid... *With mates and families! Make your marriages secure!* “Don’t let the sun go down on your anger. Give no place to the devil: the slanderer, false accuser!” **Eph 4.26,27** He’s not hopeless! She’s not the wrong one! ‘There’s nothing I can do until...’ is a lie.

“Husbands love your wives like Jesus loves the church and gave Himself for it!” **Eph 5.25** “Live with her according to knowledge, honor her as your helpmate, and as being heirs together of the grace (favor, gifts, benefits) of life, so that your prayers are not hindered!” **1Pet3.7**

“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as unto the Lord!” **Eph 5.22** “Showing your sacred lifestyle, attracting them with the beauty of a strong and calm spirit, a great value in the sight of God. This is how women who trust God have adorned themselves!” **1Pet 3.1ff**

Rock-Solid... *With mates and families! Make your marriages secure! Secure your family!* “Train up (catechise) your children up in the way they should go!” **Pr 22.6** “Don’t provoke them to anger but bring them up in the nurture and admonition *of the Lord!*” **Eph 6.4** Learn, from the word, what it means to “rule your household well, having your children in submission with all integrity!” **1Tim 3.4,12** Having children who are faithful and not accused of living riotous or unruly lives!” **Titus 1.6**

Rock-Solid... Placement in the Church, with Leaders! “God has set the members in the body as it has pleased Him... so that there should be no schism. You are the body and members in particular and God has set some in the church...” **1Cor 12.12-28** “so that the saints can be matured for the work of their ministry!” **Eph 4.12** “And the gates of hell cannot prevail against it!” **Matt 16.18** “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves and so much the more (not less) as the day approaches! **Heb 10.25** “For where you are gathered together in My name, there I am!” **Mt 18.20**

“Will you solidify your position just because I am asking?” –Jesus