

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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PRISONERS OF WAR

Webster defines a prisoner as: "a person who is deprived of his liberty." He (Webster) also defines a prison as: "a place or state of confinement." War is defined by Webster as: "a struggle between opposing forces, for a particular end."

Dear saints, whether you realize it or not, there is a war going on which involves you and me. The war that I am speaking of makes the war in Iraq look like child's play. In fact, no war on planet Earth past or present can compare with the war that now rages in the heavenlies. Yes, I am speaking of the spiritual war between the Kingdom of God and Lucifer's kingdom of darkness. The souls of all men hang in the balance between this clash of Light and darkness – between this raging confrontation of evil opposing Good – between pure Holiness and pure evil! And just as we men take prisoners in our earthly wars, so do Lucifer and his agents take spiritual prisoners and hold them captive, thereby depriving them of their liberty in Jesus Christ. No, dear saints, these are not the vain imaginations of a middle aged man who calls himself a servant of the Lord of all Lords. What I am declaring to you is not spiritual fantasy. No! It is spiritual reality and it is exceedingly violent and eternally deadly.

*"And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence,
and the violent take it by force."*

(Matthew 11:12)

*"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."*

(Ephesians 6:12)

*"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,
seeking whom he may devour."*

(1 Peter 5:8)

Father's word is clear on this matter. So clear, in fact, that we have no excuse, nor any right to claim that we have not been warned over and over again. Our problem, as it has been from our beginning, is that we are in rebellion against God's word. We do not believe that the Holy Bible is what it claims for itself.

“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.”

(Psalm 119:89)

“The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”

(Psalm 119:160)

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

(Matthew 24:35)

“For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

(Matthew 5:18)

“My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.”

(Psalm 89:34)

***“But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit,
And who trembles at My word.”***

(Isaiah 66:2)

Dear reader, I pray that you are an exception, one of the few who call themselves followers of Jesus Christ, who actually believes God and who trembles at His word. If so, know that you are blessed and that Father looks upon you with great favor. You are truly His friend and one whose name is recorded in the “book of remembrance” that is mentioned in Malachi 3:16.

Sadly, the vast majority of we Christians fall into the category of those who claim to believe God's word where prosperity, deliverance, peace, healing, protection and eternal bliss in our mansion in heaven is concerned. However, when it comes to fearing God, pursuing holiness and righteousness and separating ourselves wholly unto Him - When it comes to God's word that relates to His judgment, and that of His people first (1 Peter 4:17 & 18) - When it comes to believing every word of the sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5, 6 and 7), or to the warnings that are recorded in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 – when it comes to the place where our flesh must be crucified in favor of God's word- we reject that Holy word, and are taken prisoner by Lucifer, becoming spiritual plunder in the war of wars. That is where most of us are today. You may deny it. You may be offended by my words and call me a judgmental sorehead. You have every right to call me whatever you want to call me – but know this! – We are going to be judged by the word of God and by our response to that word. If you have been told different, you have heard from a liar. Whether that word came through your pastor, a priest, a prophet, the Pope or anyone else, the fact is, that the one who spoke into your life was a liar and close to being accursed (see Galatians 1:6-8). Listen to Jesus.

“And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

(John 12:47 & 48)

For those with ears to hear, listen to the Spirit of God. Lucifer and his agents will not begin their attack on you by enticing you into some blatantly sinful act. Rather they will approach you as light and righteousness in an effort to deceive you and cause you to question God’s word. Satan’s tactics are no different today than they were in the Garden of Eden when he approached Eve and said: “Has God indeed said ---.” And “You will not surely die.” (See Genesis 3:1-8) Adam and Eve had heard God’s word, just as we have heard God’s word. However, Adam and Eve were deceived into believing a lie and rejecting Truth, just as the vast majority of Christians have done today. Adam and Eve believed that they were choosing life but discovered that death was their reward, just as God had promised.

Today, the Christian community, for the most part, believes that they have chosen life, but in fact have rejected God’s “pure” word, resulting in the loss of God’s covenant promises. The leaven of sin is now spreading throughout the body with the end result being death. Jesus, Himself, warned us of the danger of deception in Matthew 24:4, 5 & 24. Paul also warned us in his letter to the Corinthians when he wrote;

“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

(2 Corinthians 11:14,15)

From the very beginning, God has demanded that His people obey Him. He has promised to bless us not only in the life to come, but also in this life that we are now living – if – we will obey Him. When we break covenant with Him by disobeying His word, we automatically lose His full blessing, and in the worst case, we are counted among the goats and numbered with those who are cast out of Heaven. Obeying God’s word is the key to life, and apart from a heart that desires to obey, there is no salvation. The word of God is clear in this matter.

“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”

**(Hebrews 5:9)
Emphasis Added**

Hebrews 5:9 is easily understood by His people, as is John 14:21, 23 & 24 as well as 1 John 2:4, 5 & 6. However, even though we understand what God has said, we have listened to the same voice that Eve listened to and believed the lie – “Surely God will save you regardless of your disobedient heart. You will not surely die.” This is the message that is now preached in one form or another from the pulpits of organized religion. Once this lie is accepted we are trapped and held captive by the enemy. We are prisoners who have lost our spiritual liberty. We think we are free, but in fact, we are confined and brought into bondage by Lucifer and his agents. The reality of this truth will not be realized for the “many,” until the moment of death. Again, Father has warned us about these lying spirits and what happens to us when we accept their lies. Please listen -

“For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

(2 Peter 2:18-22)

Dear saints, approximately four years ago, I was led out of an organized church with one burning desire in my heart. I did not want to have come to this earth, have lived and died, and never have known the truth. All I wanted to know was the “Truth,” and I told Father that I was willing to go wherever Truth led me. I set aside all of my religion as I heard Jesus say:

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

(John 8:31 & 32)

From that point on, I determined to abide in Father’s word, and to measure all issues of life by His word while under the tutorship of the Holy Spirit. I was determined to place my faith in no man, but Jesus Christ alone. It was not long before I learned that such a determined commitment would carry a price. Jesus warned us in Luke, chapter 14 verses 25 through 33, that the cost of becoming one of His disciples, and following Him alone would be high indeed. Today, most of us are not even aware of His words in Luke 14. Others, who are aware of this sober warning, have no intention of taking it seriously, because they have heard the hiss of hell say: “Surely you do not have to forsake all to be His disciple.” Once that lie is heard and received in the heart, not only is that one disqualified from being a disciple but he or she has been taken captive and is now a spiritual prisoner, who has been deprived of his liberty in Jesus Christ. When our liberty in Christ is lost, we lose our freedom in Him. We are no longer free to “follow Him.” We are automatically deprived of the fullness of His blessings that flow freely into those who are “with Him” (Mark 3:13-15). We may sincerely believe that we are free in Him, just because we believe in Him, however, according to God’s word, we are spiritual prisoners – held captive by the same religious spirits that our Lord came to set us free from. Listen -

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”

**(Isaiah 61:1)
Emphasis Added**

Jesus Christ came to the earth to set us free from the spirits of religion. He came to set us free from the bondage of man's organized institutions of religion. He came declaring that there was a "spiritual rebirth" available to all whom the Father drew to Him (John 6:44). He declared that apart from spiritual rebirth, there was no hope of entering heaven (John 3:5 & 6). The word of the living God declares plainly that you cannot "join" the Church – The Body of Christ – you cannot! You must be "born" into it. Most of what we see today and call the church is nothing more than religious flesh.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."
(John 3:6)

Man has no ability to bring about spiritual rebirth, either in himself or in anyone else. Spiritual rebirth is a God thing from start to finish. The entire process of spiritual rebirth begins as a sovereign work of God, and it ends as a sovereign work of God (Philippians 1:6). Man is helpless, hopeless and totally undone when it comes to spiritual rebirth. He may make an intellectual commitment and even confess Jesus with his mouth, but if God was not the Author and Finisher of the entire process, that person may as well have joined a civic club for all the good it will do him when it comes to entering God's heaven.

Dear reader, Jesus declared that we, you and I, would become one with Him – that we would know His voice and would follow Him. He declared that we would walk with Him in total liberty – free from all religious bondage. Listen:

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
(John 3:8)
Emphasis Added

"At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."
(John 14:20)
Emphasis Added

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
(John 14:26)

"He (the Holy Spirit) will guide you into all truth."
(John 16:13)

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
(John 8:32)

"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."
(2 Corinthians 3:17)

Dear reader, if you are born again, our Lord desires that your testimony confirm His word relating to your spiritual freedom. He desires that you follow Him alone, not your pastor, not your priest, not your Bible study leader, not the Pope or any other man of the flesh – He is jealous for you – He desires that you be with Him – to be His friend – to be His disciple. The Holy Spirit desires to reveal Jesus to you – in you – and through you.

If you are bound up in religion and being held a prisoner, I urge you - in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of Lords, enter your prayer closet and cry out to Him, who is the only one able to open your prison door and set you free.

***“He who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.”***

**(Psalm 146:7)
Emphasis Added**

May the heavens be filled with the joyous voices of the saints, as we cry –
“Free at Last – Free at Last – Thank God Almighty, I am Free at Last!”

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Your Brother, in Christ

Tom

P.S.

Please visit our website: oakhillministries.org.

"EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE; HE IS A SHIELD TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN HIM. DO NOT ADD TO HIS WORDS, LEST HE REBUKE YOU, AND YOU BE FOUND A LIAR." (PROVERBS 30:5 & 6)