



NON-PROFIT



TAX-EXEMPT

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” MARK 16:15

March 2018

FROM US TO YOU

As the world moves closer and closer to the return of Christ (see Revelation 19:11-16), our society has improved immensely in medicine and technology. But, in many ways, human nature and our culture have changed for the worst. The younger generation doesn't know any other way, unless they watch television shows from the fifties and sixties. But the older generation can probably remember a gentler time when people were more polite, and not so invasive. A time when people knew that certain personal questions should not be asked. A time when people were given more respect. And teachers, religious leaders, and other authority, were treated with more dignity.

These days, however, just about nothing is considered out of line. Case in point, when Rudy Giuliani was campaigning for president in 2007, he was asked by one young woman if he wore a toupee. “What are you kidding me?” he said. “If I wore a toupee, I would hope it would look a lot better than this.” In 1994, when President Bill Clinton was speaking before a group of people, a young seventeen year old girl, named Laetitia Thompson, asked him, “Mr. President, the world's dying to know. Is it boxers or briefs?” [Clinton actually answered the question!](#)

More recently, on January 16th of this year, the President's doctor held a news conference to clear up the question of the President's health. Among the questions that were asked of him were, whether Donald Trump wears false teeth. She was told he has no false teeth or partials. For many years Mr. Trump has been accused of wearing a toupee. Hopefully, he settled that question when he allowed several women, including Barbara Walters, to touch his hair and see that it is real.

There was a time when officials, especially presidents, were admired and given courtesy. Parents were treated with respect (2 Timothy 3:1-2). Back in the 1950's girls were told that if a boy tried to kiss her on a date, she should slap him across the face. By the sixties, girls were afraid to do so for fear that they would be hit back. Schools were places for young people to learn. And children were respectful and intimidated by their teachers. These days teachers, in some cases, have been attacked and killed by students. In 1950, only 9.3% of homes had a single occupant. By 1960 it was up to 16.3%. [Today the number is over 25%](#). The marriage rate was at its highest in 1920 at 92.3%. [Since 1970 the marriage rate has declined by almost 60%](#).

The Apostle Paul wrote, “*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them*” (2 Tim. 3:1-5 NIV).

People in the 1950's and early 1960's were better listeners and there were less interruptions. They never had cell phones back in those days. But neither did they have telemarketers calling them up several times a day and trying to sell them something. People never had computers then. But they were more concerned with getting it accurate than in getting it done fast. You could repair more things back then. Men would tune their own cars by ear. Women could fix toasters. Now, if something breaks down, it's cheaper to get a new one. Back then, you could call an office up on the phone and speak to a real person. Now you get one menu after another and have to leave a message. The rudeness has gotten so bad that, over the years, we have seen advertisements where the actor would knock on the television screen, and yell, “Hello!” Doctors made house calls back then. Now no matter how sick or injured you are, you have to go to the doctor. There are emergency rooms available at hospitals, but in some areas, you have wait up to six hours to get treated.

Back then, police officers were admired and respected. These days they are treated with contempt and disdain by some members of the population. People had respect for their flag. And children recited the pledge of allegiance, including the phrase, “one nation under God.” Far less people went to college back then. But, when someone graduated high school, they

were more educated than students of today. Prayer and Bible study is needed more than ever before. Because our standard of measure should be based on the Word of God, not some bad example. These days the attitude seems to be, “It's not so bad that he sleeps in the gutter. Because that other guy lives in the sewer.”

When you went to a fast food restaurant in those days, people spoke English. And when you bought a new product, it didn't include a list of instructions in six different languages. Foreigners were welcomed into our country as long as they came legally and made an effort to learn our language and assimilate themselves into our culture. Yes, times have changed. But our God doesn't change (see Revelation 22:13)! He is the same God who spoke to Noah, Abraham, Daniel, and the Apostle Paul. His standards have not differed one bit. It's society that has gotten further away from Him. This month's main article, “God's Strategy In Spiritual Warfare” will tell Christians how to cope with the distractions of modern times.

We want to thank our supporters and prayer warriors that encourage us so much. And we ask all Christians to pray for this ministry. Eric has painful sciatica and Anne has an auto immune disease that gives her painful rash. Both of us have suffered with these afflictions for decades. For Satan has sought to destroy this work through low funding and attacks on our health.

In the love of Christ, we remain *Eric and Anne Kaestner*



God's Strategy in Spiritual Warfare

By Anne Kaestner

Have you ever felt like God has abandoned you? Do you often feel that you are all alone in your walk with Christ? That even your church and fellow Christians don't know what you are going through? And you feel that they will never understand. You ask yourself, "Why is this coming upon me?" Perhaps you have been trying to live for God but everything you do seems to go wrong. Has your life gotten harder since you came to Christ and you don't know why? If so, believe me, you are not alone. Everyone God wants to remake in the image of Christ (Romans 8:29) will go through this. And it's hard. I know. I've been through it myself since I was ten years old, when I first came to Christ. If you have repented of your sins and asked Jesus to come into your heart and take control of your life, you are no longer a child of the flesh. You are now a child of God, **reborn** through His Holy Spirit. For, "...as many as received Him [Christ], to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13 KJV). As such, God has a definite plan for your life (Ephesians 2:10). Before you were even created, back when you were only a blueprint in the mind of God, He had a specific work He wants you to do for Him. But before He can use you, He has to get the world out of you.

That's because Christ doesn't want a Bride that loves the sinful things of this world (1 John 2:15-17, Revelation 3:16). For Satan is running this world at the present time, and has been, since he finagled it away from Adam, whom God gave it to (Genesis 1:26). "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air [Satan], the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" (Ephesians 2:2-3 KJV). But now that you want to serve God, you will go through a demolition period that will be painful. For before you can build a new beautiful, glorious structure, you have to knock down the sinking, dirty, crumbling building that was there previously. And it's going to hurt! If you stay true to Christ, you will face loneliness, heartache, rejection, and even despair. At times, it will seem like God is a million miles away. The devil will come to you in your most vulnerable hour and tell you that you are a fool for trusting God. "Look at all you have given up for Him," he will say. "Look at the friends you've lost. Even your family doesn't understand you. They think you are crazy. You're putting your job in jeopardy. If you lose another one, how are you going to pay your bills? Stop trusting God. Can't you see He has already rejected you. Come back to me and I will give you all the things you want most. Don't be a jerk anymore and trust in Christ!"

Does that sound familiar? If so, you will not be the first to go through this testing. Even Jesus went through it during His time of fasting prior to the start of His ministry (Matthew 4:1-10). And many others before you have gone through the same thing. One of them was Joseph. God told him, in a dream, that the sun, moon, and stars would bow down to him, his mother, father, and eleven brothers (Genesis 37:9-10). And yet his life got worse, not better. His brothers, who noticed that there was something different about him, hated him for it. What was different was that hand of God on his life, and the others could tell he was special. God planned to use him, but before He could bring about His purpose in Joseph, He had to bring Joseph

down in order to bring him up. God gets greater glory that way. For God, "...chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things - and the things that are not - to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him" (1 Corinthians 1:28-29 NIV).

For example, He took an uneducated fisherman, like Simon Peter, and made him an apostle of Christ. It was the same as with Jesus. He was an uneducated carpenter. And the people of His hometown said of Him, "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother's name Mary, and aren't His brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all His sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at Him..." (Matthew 13:55-57 NIV).

You see, God chooses people that the world does not regard as being of any importance. He chose a shepherd boy name David, to slay a giant (1 Samuel 17:1-51). He chose an old man of eighty years old (Exodus 7:7) to lead His people out of Egypt. He chose a ninety year old woman (Genesis 17:17), named Sarah, to give birth to Isaac, the forefather of the Semitic people, and an important genetic link to Christ. But, before God could use Joseph, He had to bring him down before He could bring Him up. Or, I always like to use the analogy of a bow and arrow. You can't shoot the arrow forward unless you bring it backward first! And before Joseph could get to the place where God could fulfill His purpose in him, He had to bring Joseph down.

One would think there's nothing lower than a slave. Not so. After Joseph's brothers beat him and sold him into slavery, the Lord blessed Joseph so much that his owner, Potiphar, put him in charge of everything in his house, including all the other slaves. Joseph had it fairly well for a while. For God blessed him and Potiphar liked him. However, it must have hurt him to be rejected and hated so much by his own brothers. He was a human metaphor for Christ, who would be hated by His own people, the Jews (Isaiah 53:3, John 1:11). But God was not ready to use Joseph yet. He had to bring Joseph even lower in order to raise him up. Have you ever been accused of something terrible that

you never did (Exodus 20:16)? Joseph was! That is the kind of thing that will separate Christ's sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:32). For when this kind of thing happens, the fair weather Christians will be angry and turn away from God. They will listen to the devil's lie. For he will tell them that God put them in that situation. And in the case of Joseph he will be right. But Joseph continued to trust God (Proverbs 3:5-6). If he had been like many people and turned away from the Lord, God would never have been able to use him in such a mighty way (Genesis 50:20).

Jesus gave the analogy of the Farmer, symbolic of the Holy Spirit. "A farmer went out to sow His seed. As He was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.' When He said this, He called out, 'He who has ears to hear, let Him hear'" (Luke 8:5-8 NIV). In other words, he who is wise will learn from this metaphor.

As to the meaning, Jesus said, "When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.



But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown” (Matthew 13:19-23 NIV).

If Joseph had gotten angry and turned away from God, he would have been like the seed that fell among rocky places. His heart would have been too hard to live by faith and trust God. But Joseph’s heart was soft and free from the rocks of sin. So God was able to trust Joseph to go on to the next step in His plan. Joseph became the most important man in all Egypt, except for Pharaoh. And he saved the lives of all his brothers who had hated him (Genesis 50:20)!

If you don’t trust God and live by faith, He cannot use you at all. But great things can happen when you trust Him! This reminds me of the story of Moses and how he led the Jewish people out of Egypt. God had made it clear to Pharaoh that He had power and might that was way beyond anything that Pharaoh or his magicians could come up with. Remember how the serpent of Moses swallowed up the snakes that the magicians conjured up? (See Exodus 7:10-12.) Yet when the test came and God was ready to make life even easier for the slaves He had freed, they failed the test. Remember how I told you that God does many things to give Himself glory? Well that was the case in this situation too. For the Lord said, *“I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen” (Exodus 14:17 NIV).*

Looking at it from a human standpoint, the Israelites thought they would be slaughtered. For *“the Egyptians - all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops - pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea... As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD” (Exodus 14:9-10 NIV).* And they lost all trust in God and in Moses. *“They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!’” (Exodus 14:11-12 NIV).*

This is symbolic of the Christian who is delivered by God, out of the slavery of sin, and set free from the devil’s kingdom of darkness, into the kingdom of Light (John 8:12). Then, after he has seen how God has blessed him, something happens to test him. And he looks back and begins to wish he hadn’t left the things of this world and wants to go back to them. Jesus said, *“...No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62 NIV).* And *“Remember Lot’s wife!” (Luke 17:32 NIV).* Do you remember how, after delivering Lot and his family from Sodom, before it was destroyed, the angel told them not to look back (Genesis 19:17). *“But Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt” (Genesis 19:26 NIV).*

What happens when a born again (see John 3:3) Christian looks back? It happens many times in our society. They become hypocrites! Now I know that sounds harsh but sometimes it takes a strong warning and a lot of love, to keep a person on the **straight and narrow** and out of the fires of Hell. Remember the scripture, *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV).* If you live by faith and trust God, He will

keep you on the right path to Heaven. If you don’t trust Him and go your own way, you will end up on the wrong path. So, *“enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14 NIV).*

To be more specific about it, I have known many people who were saved by Christ and had faith in Him. That is, until the devil came along with his bait. They still considered themselves Christians. They still believe that they will go to Heaven when they die. They go to church regularly. They also go to Las Vegas on vacation, otherwise known as “sin city,” the modern day version of Sodom or Gomorrah. And they go to sleazy movies once in a while. And sometimes buy pornographic literature. I once knew a man like this. God had saved him from his sin but years later, he returned to it. He actually told me one day that “magazines like “Playboy” are not pornographic.” His wife disagreed! When you are so far from the light of Christ (John 8:12), you don’t have enough illumination to see the truth. And you still convince yourself that you have a reservation waiting for you in Heaven. After all, you are still a member of your church. Perhaps your pastor doesn’t see anything wrong with these things. Other members of the congregation don’t think there is anything wrong with living this way. So you feel that you are on solid ground. But you are on sinking sand spiritually (Matthew 7:24-27)!

Christ was also **speaking to His own disciples** when He said, *“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*

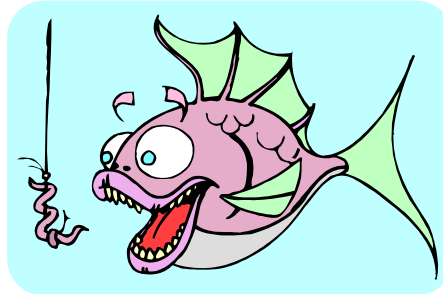
Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. “I am the Vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in Him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned” (John 15:3-6 NIV. Compare with Isaiah 64:6). I do

not see how the Lord could be any more specific than that! You simply cannot serve two masters (Luke 16:13).

The Apostle Paul said, *“I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to Him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough” (2 Corinthians 11:2-4 NIV).* And James said, *“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God” (James 4:4 NIV).*

Satan will dangle his shiny bait in front of you the way a fisherman dangles the worm. But if you bite into it there will always be a hook. And he will reel you in! Sometimes the fish might get a mouthful of juicy worm first and the second bite is the one with the hook. That’s just a ploy to get you to take a bigger bite. It’s like the gambler who wins a lot of money and keeps coming back for more until he loses everything, sometimes his life. Drugs work the same way. Someone might feel good from that first dose. But they will need a stronger dose next time because their body gets used to the drug. Eventually, if they continue to do so, it will kill them (see James 1:14-15).

Likewise, for the little lost sheep, there may be an initial pleasure traveling into forbidden pastures. But **(Continued On Page 4)**



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sheep are among the most stupid and vulnerable of animals. They need to depend upon their shepherd for all their needs! The Bible tells us that God sees us as foolish little lambs that have strayed away from their original Master (see Isaiah 53:6) He is a Master who loved and blessed them (John 10:11-12). He sees the danger and suffering they are in. And He knows that "...savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and **distort the truth** in order to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30 NIV). Like, Satan, their master, they are deceitful and crafty (2 Peter 2:20-22). They do not come as wolves. That would be too obvious. "...They come to you in **sheep's clothing**, but inwardly they are **ferocious wolves**" (Matthew 7:15 NIV). "For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness..." (2 Corinthians 11:14-15 NIV).

Like the Pharisees in the days of Christ, they are convinced of their own righteousness (Luke 18:9-14). It was the same with the teachers of the religious law. Jesus said, "...They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely" (Mark 12:38-40 NIV).

Why is this world, and the Christian church, in such a mess today? It is because people listen to the false prophets, who lead them away from Christ and into hypocrisy (Matthew 23:13-15)! The Lord is not deceived! He has said, "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in My name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget My name, just as their fathers forgot My name through Baal worship" (Jeremiah 23:25-27 NIV). Only God has the right to speak for God! And He does so through His Holy Spirit, who lives in the hearts of those who love (Mark 12:30) and obey Him (Luke 6:46-49)!

Do you say, "I have sacrificed much for the Lord." Well, so did Cain, and God rejected his sacrifice! His brother Abel obeyed God and "...brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering" (Genesis 4:4 NIV). Why? Because Abel listened to God and brought a blood sacrifice to Him. He had slain the firstborn of his sheep, symbolic of the sacrifice that God planned to make for us, "... the only begotten of the Father..." (John 3:16 KJV). As John the Baptist declared, when he "... saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29 NIV).

The problem with most organized churches today is that, like Cain, they want to do it their way! They want to preach what is "politically correct" and popular among their flock. They do not want to upset them by warning them of the sin in their lives (1 Timothy 2:5-6). They preach about those evil worldly people out there, the homosexuals, and the immorality of our society. However, Paul said, "What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. 'Expel the wicked man from among you'" (1 Corinthians 5:12-13 NIV). It is the sinners who need our compassion, not our judgment! For they are the ones who need Christ the most! As Jesus said, "...It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire

mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:12-13 NIV). It is not morality or your good works that will save us (see Ephesians 2:8-9). "Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, 'The righteous will live by faith'" (Galatians 3:11 NIV).

The secret to living by faith is to keep your eyes on Christ (Matthew 14:25-33). And keep in mind the fact that the weapons of our warfare are not the weapons the world fights with. They are **not** carnal. "...On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV). In other words, God's wisdom is so much greater than anything mankind can come up with that they will not know how to respond. Christ will give you peace and wisdom if you can stand the tests of faith and live for Him (Matthew 10:32-39). So "put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11 NIV).

When little David put his trust in God and chose to step out in faith, Saul suggested that David put on his armor. But God didn't need any human protection. And it didn't fit him (see 1 Samuel 17:38-40). All David needed was faith in the Rock of Christ. "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel'" (1 Samuel 17:45-46 NIV). The giant represented the weapons of this world. On the surface, they may seem formidable if you look at them through carnal eyes. But David was operating by faith! And he wasn't afraid. "As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground" (1 Samuel 17:48-49 NIV).

That reminds me of the words of Peter, "...See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame" (1 Peter 2:6 NIV). "...And that rock was Christ" (1 Corinthians 10:4 NIV). And here's another one of God's strategies. After David killed Goliath, he took the giant's own weapon and cut off his head! God used the Red Sea to destroy the entire Egyptian army (see Exodus 14:26-30). And He used the furnace that was supposed to kill Shadrach, Meshach; and, Abednego to kill the guards that put them in it.

God still works the same way today. Many years ago, I began receiving some frightening letters from a prison inmate here in New York State. They were salacious and threatening. He even sent me a drawing he did of the severed head of the woman he killed. And he had been a professional artist! That was bad enough. Then one day I received a letter from him telling me that he was getting a new trial and would soon be out of prison. I was terrified! He had threatened my life! Well, to make a long story short, the prison authorities found out about it and contacted the District Attorney. The inmate had expected that I would have destroyed those horrible letters. I didn't! And the District Attorney used those letters as the basis for proving he was guilty of the murder and to keep him in prison! God uses the very weapons Satan tries to use against us to destroy our enemies. All we have to do is trust Him and live by faith. Amen.

