

ARMED AND STRONG IN THE LORD

1. The Word of God

***A concise explanation from the Lord:**

The Word of God—The Word of God is not bound. God’s words can be bound in a book for reading, but that is not in any way the totality of the Words that the Living God can and has and will yet pour out. His Living words can be bottled to bring refreshing, but though the bottle contains 100% pure living water, it’s not all God has said; it’s not the 100% of His mind encased in that bottle. It’s breathing all the time; flowing all the time. You can have sips from a pool of water, where the rain of God’s fresh Word has gathered. But there is always more ready to fall and be poured out on you. Can you contain the clouds of the sky? Or capture every drop of rain that has and will ever yet fall? So can no human captivate or hold within their tiny hands all the Words of the Living God. But you must have it to survive. Walk on and find new and fresh pools to sustain you and to refresh you as you journey through this wilderness to the promise land. And if “water” is nowhere to be found (the water of His Word), then speak to the rock, to Jesus, that waters may be poured out of the rock in gushes that are too fast and flowing to be contained, merely to be drunken down as much as the vessel of your heart can manage, according to need and desire.

***Keys to claim in prayer, to receive empowerment to fight with these new weapons and stop the enemy’s attempts to hinder our using them:**

1. The Word of God

There is nothing more important to your life and service to Me than taking time with Me. Claim the power of the keys of resolve and urgency as you read, absorb, and study My Word. Your spiritual life depends on it. (KP)

Some specifics that help explain more:

- The Scriptures (Bible)--Reading, study, listening to, teaching, memorizing.
- Be open to receive fresh words from Jesus, on a daily or hourly basis, listening to His guidance and admonition and love in word form. It’s the way to survive and stay alive and keep our head up in battle.
- *“Shield of faith”*—Words from Jesus through angelic messengers who protect and shield us from the enemy.
- *“Sword of the Spirit”*—Words from Jesus and His Warriors, at the time of battling, that help us fight and drive the enemy away and hurt his plans.
- *“Loins girt about with truth”*—The Word of God, written (scripture), or memorized (the Word in our heart), or freshly received (in prophecy) that teach us in our heart what is right; and it helps the words we say to reflect the light of truth that has been placed in us.
- *“Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace”*—Preparing God’s Word and testimonies of the truth to be given out to others; actively delivering the message of the Gospel and Jesus’ words to others.
- Listen to songs that declare the Word of God (scripture or fresh words from Jesus)

***True stories of victory, showing these fighting methods in practice:**

1. The Word of God

(True story, selected parts, by Virginia Brandt Berg:) I can never forget that day when it dawned upon my consciousness a reality, a FACT, that the promises of the Bible were practical; could actually be applied to my everyday needs. It was a revelation to me. ... I knew now that God meant exactly what He said in the numerous promises given in His Word and that He would fulfill every one of them to the letter, if faith would reach out and claim them in a definite manner.

God's Word said, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2Pet.1:4).

So after all it is a very serious matter to either overlook or look lightly at the promises of God, because by these we become "partakers of the divine nature." I would never dared to have taken a promise and stepped out on it expecting God to really meet me, for to my limited faith-knowledge they were only beautiful Scripture-language, never meant to be taken seriously or for practical applications.

But now this was all different. It seemed strange to me that I had never taken God's Word literally before. Why He meant exactly what He said! How could I have ever thought anything else! How blind I had been! How blind we all had been! Here God had put at our disposal unlimited resources and we were not claiming any of them, but acting exactly as if these promises were just so many words that did not mean a thing.

That night when a helper in the home was reading aloud to me, (having opened the Bible at random) she read, amongst other passages, the following: "This sickness is not unto death, but that God might be glorified." That verse struck my heart as if God Himself had spoken to me. For hours it rang through my heart until at last I said: "Oh, Lord I have said I would gladly die for You, but instead I will gladly live for You; now give me the faith for life-- the faith to claim Your promises, and raise me up from this death bed."

...

I was resting quietly, almost sleeping, when suddenly there came to me a verse of Scripture in the most peculiar and unexpected way; I say peculiar because it was in an entirely different manner than any Scripture had ever come to me before; it was not like a verse; it was a voice, and it did not seem to speak to my mind at all, but from within my heart. God's Word tells of the "still small voice" that speaks within us and I surely heard that voice.

It was only a verse of Scripture and I had heard it for years, but it instantly became a new verse as if I had never heard it before, I have, since that time, had very consecrated Christians tell me that they have had Scripture illumined for them in the same manner; Scripture verses which had never particularly appealed to them, would, after seasons of prayer, open like a book to their understanding, and be ingrained into their consciousness as if written in lines of fire, making the message as personal to them as if it had come directly to the individual from the Throne of God.

How this verse came to me so illumined, poignant, and personal, is one of the hardest things of my experience to explain. As I look back over those days of God's dealings with me, there is still the lingering, deep impression that the way in which that verse came was just as miraculous, as that moment when I was raised instantly from that bed.

As I have said, it was not so much a verse as a voice, and clearly, tenderly, but authoritatively it spoke to my heart these words: "Whatsoever things ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mk.11:24). The words "Believe that ye receive" stood out above the rest, as if the verse contained only that one thought, "believe that ye receive." Instantly it gripped me; I saw exactly what the Lord wanted me to see. I had not believed that I had received! Surely I had positively believed that He had heard our prayer, that He was concerned about my suffering, and that it was His Will to give me the desire of my heart, but I certainly had not believed that I had RECEIVED it.

...

Now I saw plainly that the Lord expected me to believe Him, whether I saw a particle of change in my condition or not; He expected me to walk by faith and not by sight; to believe that what He said was true, just because He said it, even if there was not a particle of evidence in sight--He said so and that was enough. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." It came like a mighty revelation, and my heart cried aloud as I grasped exactly what He was saying to me and the lesson He wanted me to learn. "Oh, Lord, I see; I understand; You want me to believe just because You said so, not because I feel it or see it. I do believe Your Word, just because it is Your Word; I believe it above everything else; it cannot fail. I do believe, Lord, that the very hour they prayed for me--at that very minute You gave me exactly what I asked for, but I did not receive it, for I was expecting to receive it some time in the future. Now I see, Your Word says that 'WHEN YE PRAY believe that ye receive it,' but I

didn't receive it when we prayed. I just waited, hoping You would give it to me at some future time, when it would suit Your good pleasure. But now I know I did receive it back there, when they prayed, but I did not believe it because I did not see any evidence. Now, Lord, that I understand, I am willing to trust just Thy Word alone. Thank you, dear Lord, for revealing it to me, and forgive me my lack of faith."

At that moment there was perfect wonderment in my heart that I could have been so blind as to have wanted some evidence before I believed--which is really wanting to walk by sight and not by faith; wonderment that I did not see before that it was simply so because God had said so and that was enough. My heart leaped with joy and there was born something in my soul then, which has never changed one fraction from that day to this--an abiding, unshakable confidence in the Word of God.

Again and again I whispered aloud: "It is the Word of God; it cannot fail. It is God's Word; He cannot lie." I seemed to see this marvelous Word of God marching down the centuries of time, indestructible, though so often assailed; torn by critics and burned by enemies, yet standing the test of time and persecution, still unchanged--indestructible, infallible, inexhaustible, wonderful Word of God. What a joy came into my heart--an ecstasy unspeakable, for I was healed, so far as God was concerned--and it had to be so, because He said so.

Oh, it was unmistakable; I could not, would not, doubt His Word. He said, "Believe that ye receive it and ye shall have it," and I did that very thing--I believed that I had received it and I did have it! Nothing could make me believe otherwise! At that moment it did not strike me strange at all that I could neither move nor see; that I was utterly helpless, dying, yet I was rejoicing that the Lord had restored my life and health and made me every whit whole. Then the thought came to me according to the passage in Romans: "Abraham gave glory to God, knowing that He was able to perform that which He had promised." I would do likewise.

This seemed to be, according to the Scripture, the next thing that I ought to do--just simply praise God for His wonderful answer to prayer, and the marvelous gift He had given me. So I whispered: "Glory to God; glory to God." Over and over again I repeated this phrase. This is what Abraham had done. The familiar phrase, "Praise the Lord," never entered my mind. If you received a telegram saying that you had fallen heir to a vast fortune, which would solve your many problems and the needs of your loved ones, you would hold that telegram to your heart and rejoice beyond words.

Well, I had received such a telegram, and I held those promises of Scripture to my heart and rejoiced with a "joy unspeakable and full of glory." Then--wonder of wonders! I suddenly noticed that both my arms were lifted! That arm that had been helpless was really raised, praising the Lord; raised to its full length up in the air! I looked at it as you would look at some strange thing; felt it with the other hand; put it up and then down, back and forth. It was just as good as the other arm! And I could see perfectly! The dimness had vanished from my eyes! I was turning my head from side to side without thinking! I also moved on the bed without any one to help me! I was laughing and crying at the same time--weeping with joy!

...

I knew that my fight was "not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world," but there was in my heart such a deep settled confidence in the veracity of God's Word that nothing in the world could shake it. To every temptation, every test, every fear, my heart answered: "It is God's Word; it cannot fail." And when the thought came to me at last, as though from the very pit of hell, (the testing had become so severe), "Just how long are you going to believe God's Word without seeing any evidence?" I answered in substance: "It is the Word of God and I will believe it--even though I never see any evidence. I will believe it simply because God said so, and that's enough."

I could not help but think of that verse of Scripture where Jesus said to Peter: "Satan hath asked that he might sift thee, but I have prayed that thy faith will not fail thee." AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT I WAS HEALED! At that very moment the Lord let me SEE that for which I had been believing. The paralysis had gone from my body! I felt cool and rested and sat upright in the bed!

... NOTE: Mr. Berg makes the following statement: "Within three weeks after the closing day that Mrs. Berg mentions in the last chapter of this book she was doing all of her own housework, making sick calls, and ministering continually to others. In about two months she was out in definite Christian service. I can truly say that since that

time, which has been many years go, she has done the work of two people and today is far more active and bearing far more responsibility than the average person."--H.E. Berg. (Selections from her book: The Hem of His Garment)

The second most important heavenly event that brought me closer to Jesus happened when I was around nine years old. During Ramadan (the Muslim fast month), there is a special night called "night of destiny" or "night of power" (Sourate AL-QADR- 47, *The Koran*). Usually most Muslims don't sleep that night; they spend it praying and singing and praising God.

During that night, however, everybody was asleep in my home. Suddenly a fantastic light appeared in my bedroom. I could discern an angel. My mother came from her bedroom and saw everything with me. The angel said that I could ask anything I wanted and it would be done. My mother urged me to ask for riches and money. But I, led by God's Spirit, said to the angel, "I want wisdom and knowledge."

The angel answered before disappearing, "It will be done!"

Then another important event that led me to Jesus was at school when I was around 11 or 12 years old. Our teacher wrote a sentence on the blackboard: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." He didn't say anything about Jesus or God, from what I remember, but those words became the standard of my life in most situations where I had to decide between caring for others or caring for myself.

...

I decided to leave the possessions I had behind, anything that could be a link with this world, and I began to walk through the mountains and the woods alone, searching for the true God. It was a hopeless time. I was physically sick, mentally insane, seeing demons most of the time, hearing strange voices, incapable of having a normal conversation, spacing out all the time, and scared to death. I had been forsaken by my sweet girlfriend, by my friends, and by my relatives. I started to roam as a beggar in the countryside.

One day I found a river in a peaceful wood, with a little waterfall, and I heard a voice telling me to baptize myself in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. I did it without hesitation! This is when my real life began. My mind became clear, and my eyes opened to the beauty of God's creation. My heart started beating peacefully and my body began functioning properly. The miracle was that I really could feel all these beautiful emotions, thank God! I had found Him, at last!

Then things began to move faster in my life. After my experience in the woods, I went down to the city of St. Etienne, France, and started to look for people who had given their life wholly and completely to God...

I've seen firsthand the power of the Word in my life and in some Muslim friends' lives also. The Word of God has a powerful impact on the Arabs, especially the Muslims. I have witnessed many instantaneous changes in Muslims, and for me it has been the most beautiful thing in the world--to watch a Muslim read the Word...

When I [began fulltime service for the Lord] I was still spacing out sometimes because of my past with heavy drugs. But the Lord gave me a prescription: Read the book of Psalms as much as possible. Every day without fail I read them for months, and I can truly declare that the book of Psalms is the best psychoanalyst or psychiatrist you can find. I got my spirit and my mind back again! (FSM413)

Messages others received on these ways to fight and win in the Spirit

1. The Word of God

***(Jesus speaking:)* As My Father's Word to Me had to dictate My every action, so My Word to you must dictate all your actions.**

My Word is alive, it's action, it's powerful! It's sharper than any two-edged sword. It can divide the soul and spirit, and discern the thoughts and intents of every heart. My Word is live power!

Nothing can stand against My Word! Nothing can stand against the keys to the Kingdom! Love is the greatest force; My Word is the greatest force; the power of the keys to the Kingdom is the greatest force in the world, in the heavens, in the universe!

If you are to focus on the power of the keys, if you are to allow the words I speak to you to dictate your life, you must rid yourselves of all that stands in the way of this. Detach yourselves from other things that clutter your life--

the cares of the world, the pride of life, anything that opposes My Word.

Do this, My loves, and you will discover the full power of the keys. Focus on the power! Do it now! Today the keys rule! My Word rules! And the people who focus on the power of the keys will rule and reign with Me in the power and might of the Kingdom of God! (*End of message from Jesus.*) [#3433])

(Jesus speaking:) Please consider the following regarding My Word:

- * The Word is Me. It is My Spirit, it is My life. I am the Word.
- * The Word is the most powerful truth on Earth and throughout the universe.
- * The Word keeps you in tune with Me; it keeps you going My way.
- * My Word is the source of all true strength.
- * My Word is food for your soul and health to your flesh.
- * You can't have faith without My Word.
- * My Word cleanses; it makes new.
- * My Word liberates; it is freedom.
- * My Word keeps you from falling.
- * My Word gives you peace.
- * My Word is wisdom; it makes the simple wise.
- * My Word gives understanding.
- * My Word is the discerner of all things, of every thought and every intent of every heart.
- * Through My Word, you partake of My divine nature; you become like Me.
- * Through My Word, you escape the corruption that is in the world.
- * My Word never fails.
- * My Word will stand forever.
- * My Word is the secret to power and victory, the secret to overcoming and fruitfulness, the secret to leadership, the secret to everything!
- * My Word is your link to My mind.
- * Living in My Word is the first step to receiving heavenly thought power.
- * Absorbing and applying My Word in your lives is the first step to focusing on the power.
- * Absorbing and applying My Word opens the door for Me to fully possess you.
- * Absorbing and applying My Word to your lives daily and following the Word is the most important thing you can do! [#3433])

Quotes from Jesus:

Being an instant doer of My Word is directly linked with your ability to access the power of the keys.

If you are to focus on the power, you must look to the power of the keys; you must look to the power of the Words I speak to you; you must be instant doers of the Words I give you.

Now being a doer of the Word must be your aim, your goal, and a central point in your life. If you are to focus on the power of the keys, if you are to allow the words I speak to you to dictate your life, you must rid yourselves of all that stands in the way of this. Detach yourselves from other things that clutter your life--the cares of the world, the pride of life, anything that opposes My Word. (#3374)

Quotes from Jesus and Bible verses to memorize:

1. The Word of God

Call on the keys and they will unlock the mysteries of My Word.

Psalm 119:11—Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

John 17:16-17—They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word

is truth.

The Word is ... a spiritual substance that needs to run through your being continuously. If not, you won't make it through the days ahead. (#3433)

As My Father's Word to Me had to dictate My every action, so My Word to you must dictate all your actions. (#3433)

Absorbing and applying My Word to your lives daily and following the Word is the most important thing you can do! (#3433)

The Word of God

MAT.4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

MAT.4:2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

MAT.4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

MAT.4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

MAT.4:5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

MAT.4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

MAT.4:7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

MAT.4:8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

MAT.4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

MAT.4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

MAT.4:11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.