



A PUBLICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

Greetings to our precious leaders around the globe! This quarter has seen many triumphs in the United Pentecostal Church International. We are victorious through the power of our mighty God.

At fifteen years of age I preached my first message in the church pastored by Rev. R. K. Rodenbush. Years have passed and today Brother Rodenbush serves as the Regional Director for Europe and the Middle East. The Rodenbushes have faithfully served in the Foreign Missions Division for more than thirty-eight years. This *Global Connection* features excerpts from two messages; one from Brother Rodenbush; the other from his precious wife.

WE ARE VICTORIOUS!

“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong” (Joel 3:9-10).

In every battle, knowing the enemy is important. The Mayan Indians fought valiantly against their Spanish invaders. The only problem – they were shooting the horses instead of the men with guns who were riding the horses!

We are in a fight to the finish against three enemies:

- 1) Our flesh (Matthew 26:41; Romans 8:1-8; 2 Corinthians 10:3)

- 2) Our worldly system of life (1 Corinthians 7:33-34)
- 3) The Devil (god of this worldly system) – (2 Corinthians 4:4)

The Devil (god of this world) uses our fleshly selfish nature to defeat us. Knowing who the enemy is, and the weapons he uses, gives us the advantage (Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 2:11).

According to Mark 3:27 and Matthew 12:29, there are three aspects to our fight against the devil:

- 1) Declare war against him – not each other.
- 2) Storm his house (anywhere he has a stronghold).
- 3) Take his property – set all captives free.

Now we know how to fight and this is our strategy:

Get everyone involved (Deuteronomy 31:12-13) – fathers and mothers, children and youth, grandmothers and grandfathers – all ages need to know and fight the enemy.

Fight the enemy in unity (Genesis 11:6) – at the same time (NOW) and for the same reason (we must defeat the devil).

Never turn aside for the easier path (Luke 9:61) – Naomi and her family went just a few miles away to Moab, trying to escape famine and hardship at home (Ruth 1:1-2). They joined

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themselves to God's enemies (Numbers 22-25). Naomi lost her loved ones in this "easier" place (Ruth 1:3-5). It is never "easier" in the enemy camp.

When we turn aside from God's plan, taking an easier path, we expose ourselves to God's enemies. Like Naomi's family, we will suffer and possibly die in that easier place (spiritually, if not physically).

Use every available weapon. When David was running from King Saul, he went to the house of God and asked the priest for a weapon (1 Samuel 21:8-9). The only weapon available was Goliath's sword that David had used to cut off the giant's head. It still worked. What proven weapons do we have?

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

- 1) **The Word of God** – our "sword of the spirit" (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Acts 4:31; 8:4)
- 2) **Prayer** – our direct line to our commander-in-chief (Acts 1:14; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Corinthians 7:5; Colossians 4:2).
- 3) **Fasting** – our weapon against this selfish flesh (Matthew 6:16; 17:21; Acts 10:30; 13:2-3; 1 Corinthians 7:5; Isaiah 58:5-6; Esther 4:16).
- 4) **The Blood of Jesus** – our cover in the battle (Acts 20:28; 1 John 1:7).
- 5) **The Name of Jesus** – our strong tower of defense (Acts 4:12; Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 61:3).
- 6) **Personal Testimony** – our overcoming hope (Revelation 12:11).

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- 7) **Praise & Worship** – our ticket to God's presence (Acts 16:25; Psalm 100:4; 116:17-19; Joshua 6:2; 2 Chronicles 20:19-22).
- 8) **Ministering Spirits (angels)** – our secret agents in battle (Hebrews 1:14; Exodus 33:2; Psalm 103:20).
- 9) **Boldness** – our determination to stand for the right (Ephesians 6:19; Proverbs 28:1; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 4:16).
- 10) **The Holy Ghost** – our promise of power (Acts 1:8; Isaiah 59:19; Acts 8:5-7; 1 Corinthians 12-14).

Never give up. The devil is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). He roams around trying to make people afraid of him (1 Peter 5:8). No matter what the devil does, God wins in the end (Revelation 20-21). God gives us the grace and strength to defeat the devil (Romans 8:37). There is no reason to give up or grow weary in fighting well (Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13). Wait on the Lord, trust in Him, and He will give you all the strength you need (Isaiah 40:28-31; Proverbs 3:5-6).

We are victorious! God's enemies were defeated – their five kings hidden in a cave (Joshua 10:1-27). When captured and brought to Joshua, he called his captains to come put their feet on the necks of the enemy. This tradition symbolized victory, and Joshua gave this authority to his fighting leaders.

Jesus has given this authority to us (Genesis 3:15; Romans 16:20; Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 6:10-11). With His power within us, using His trusted weapons, we are victorious!

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).



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