

BE STRONG
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**SEPTEMBER
DAILY
DEVOTIONALS**

BY MIKE KEYES, SR



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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SEPTEMBER 01 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Acts 12:5 - WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FAIL TO PRAY?

When fighting spiritual battles, you must use spiritual weapons, and prayer is one of the best spiritual weapons in our arsenal. Prayer is one of the greatest exercises of spiritual dominion that there is. And in today's passage, we see how important it can be. Prayer can literally make the difference between life and death. If you take the time to read the whole passage in Acts 12, you can see that two of the most important church leaders had been arrested; James and Peter. King Herod had James killed with the sword, and when he saw how pleased the Jews were with that, he went and arrested Peter also, intending to do the same with him after the religious holiday. But it says that prayer was made for Peter by the church. Not just prayer in passing, but constant, intercessory prayer. The result? Peter was miraculously set free. Now why didn't God do the same thing for James? It's simple. If you read the chapter carefully, you'll see there is no mention of anyone praying for James. The church prayed for Peter, but they didn't pray for James. That's why James was killed, and Peter was set free. Why? Because prayer exercises and enforces our dominion on earth. If you pray like these people prayed for Peter, you'll see results like they did too!

Do you know why many tragedies happen the way they do? People aren't diligent to pray like they should, that's why. Of course, when you say that people get all indignant and defensive, but it's true whether people think it is or not. It wasn't God's will, plan or purpose for James to die in Acts 12. James was an influential leader, and a pillar of the early church. God needed people like James to help Him get the church off the ground. And Peter was no more important than James was, so why did one die while the other was miraculously set free? Simple. They prayed for the one, and didn't pray for the other. No doubt the church members realized that if they didn't want to lose Peter the way they had just lost James, they had better get busy in prayer. And it's interesting to note that after Peter had been set free, in the middle of the night, he went to a church member's house for shelter, and found them all up, PRAYING! Who were they praying for? Peter! When? In the middle of the night! Now guess what? That same angel that came down and opened the prison doors to set Peter free is still available today. He hasn't gone back to heaven and retired. He's still able to deliver saints-in-distress - when believers use their spiritual weapon of prayer, coupled with spiritual authority. How about you? Do you pray like you should, as often as you should? If not, it might be the reason why things haven't worked out for you like you wanted. Prayer! It's a powerful weapon, use it!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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SEPTEMBER 02 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Jude 20 - DO YOU PRAY IN TONGUES TO BUILD YOURSELF UP?

When fighting spiritual battles, you must use spiritual weapons, and prayer is one of the best spiritual weapons in our arsenal. Prayer is one of the greatest exercises of spiritual dominion that there is. And when you pray, be sure to devote a large percentage of that time to praying in the spirit, or what is otherwise referred to as "praying in other tongues". Jude tells us that when we pray in other tongues, we actually build ourselves up. In the Greek, that phrase means "to charge up", like when you charge your mobile phone, or charge your car battery. When the enemy is coming against you in some form of spiritual attack, you can use the powerful weapon of prayer in other tongues as one of the best ways to defeat the devil. The more you pray in the spirit, the stronger your spirit becomes, and the more sensitive it is to the voice of God within.

Paul set the example wherever he went, because he told the Corinthians that he prayed in tongues more than all of them combined! (1 Corinthians 14:18). Paul understood how powerful this spiritual weapon was, so he utilized it as often as possible. Yet sadly, many Christians choose not to take advantage of this marvelous weapon, and in fact, criticize and persecute those of us who do. If they only knew how edifying and uplifting it is to your spirit-man when you pray in tongues. Your spirit is refreshed and re-charged, and you become more and more sensitive to the leading of God, and the still-small voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to your spirit (see 1 Kings 19:12). And here's something else that makes praying in tongues so wonderful: you can do it almost anywhere, anytime. Unlike praying with your understanding, prayer in the spirit can be done while doing many other chores and tasks that don't require a lot of thinking. For example, while driving you can be praying in tongues. While at the gym working out, you can be praying in tongues. While watching TV, you can be praying in tongues. Take advantage of this wonderful weapon, and pray in tongues often! Romans 8:26 tells us that when we decide to pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit is right there to provide us with the words to speak, which create perfect prayers that please God, and which are prayed in accordance with His perfect will for our lives. What's not to like about this? Prayer is the first great spiritual weapon to use to prevail in spiritual fights, and praying in tongues takes it one step further. Do it today, and every day until Jesus comes!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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SEPTEMBER 03 DAILY DEVOTIONAL 1 Corinthians 14:18 - DO YOU SET THE EXAMPLE?

Prayer is the first, great spiritual weapon which God has provided us. When the enemy attacks us, we can only defeat him using spiritual weapons because he is a spirit, and the attack always originates in the spirit realm. Paul told his disciples at Corinth that he prayed IN TONGUES more than they all. In other words, he not only taught them the importance of praying in other tongues, he demonstrated it before them every day. He prayed in tongues more than all of them combined! Do you set that kind of example before those who look up to you spiritually? If you're the head of your house, do those in your house see and hear you praying in tongues daily? If you're a parent, do your kids see and hear you praying in tongues daily? When everybody is in the car driving to the supermarket, are you praying in tongues in such a way whereby all can see and hear? If you really want to stay sharp spiritually, you're going to have to pray in tongues every day, and you're going to have to set an example for those who may not yet know how powerful this weapon is.

Kenneth E. Hagin, who went home to be with Jesus in September of 2003, was a great man of prayer. I consider him to be my spiritual Grandfather, and have learned so much from his ministry and teachings over the years. In a 1997 edition of his ministry's magazine, he talked about a message he had received from the Lord about the importance of praying in tongues. This is what he said he was told by the Lord: "There is a move of the Spirit that is going to be lost to this generation unless you teach them. Today there are others who can teach faith as well as you can. Now I want you to teach about the move of the Holy Spirit. Teach people to flow with the Holy Spirit. I have given you a demonstration of the Spirit, demonstrating how you can pray in the Spirit and pray out mysteries and secrets. FOR THOSE THINGS WILL NOT COME TO PASS UNTIL YOU PRAY THEM OUT IN YOUR FAMILY, IN YOUR LIFE, IN YOUR CHURCH. FOR THEY MUST BE PRAYED OUT IN THE SPIRIT." I used uppercase to emphasize the last part of this teaching from the Lord. Praying in tongues, many times, enables us to pray things out to victory that otherwise couldn't be prayed through successfully. Why? Because when you decide to pray in tongues, it's the Holy Spirit that's actually giving you the words to speak, according to God's perfect will for you, and for others you may be praying about. So set the example. Pray in tongues, and do so in such a way that others see it, and are encouraged to do the same in their lives as well.



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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SEPTEMBER 04 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Philippians 2:9 - THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES IS YOUR NAME TOO!

The first great spiritual weapon to use against our enemies is prayer. The second great spiritual weapon to use is the Name of Jesus. Being born-again on September 21, 1978, and being in full-time missionary ministry since September, 1980, I'm well persuaded through personal observation that most believers know nothing about the power in the Name of Jesus. If they did, they would be using His holy Name much more often when engaged in spiritual combat. It is the Name above EVERY Name. EVERY knee bows at the mention of that Name, in heaven, earth and under the earth. When you use the Name of Jesus in faith, according to the Word of God, the devil MUST obey your commands. He doesn't want to of course, but he has no choice because Jesus Himself will enforce the usage of His Name when we speak it in faith.

How often to you use the Name of Jesus? You should make His Name a regular part of your daily conversation, and especially when you're being attacked by the enemy. Have you ever noticed something? Unbelievers will talk all day about God, and many of them will even talk about Christ, but if you mention the Name of Jesus, suddenly they get nervous, upset, and defensive! Why? Because that's the Name of our Lord's humanity, and that's the Name that has been made the Name above every other Name. Go through the book of Acts, and check out how often the early church used the Name, talked about the Name, and taught about the Name of Jesus. They understood far more about the power in that Name than the church does today. But if ever you come to the place in your life when you realize what kind of spiritual weapon the Name of Jesus really is, you'll actually be looking for ways to use His Name as often as possible! The Name of Jesus is the Name the devil fears, and you can see that in the book of Acts. Read chapters 3 and 4, and see what great miracles were wrought by the Name of Jesus, and how the religious leaders sought to stamp out the usage of that Name. It was the Name of Jesus they were afraid of! Every time the devil comes against you, hit him with the Name of Jesus! Over and over! When you give faith commands, finish the command by using the Name of Jesus. It's the Name over every Name, and in Christ, it becomes your Name to use, so use it!



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SEPTEMBER 05 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Acts 3:16 - DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN JESUS' NAME?

Spiritual battles are won with spiritual weapons, and the Name of Jesus is one of those weapons given to us by Jesus Himself. It is the Name above every Name, but you have to have faith in that Name before the power behind that Name can go to work for you. Notice this truth from our passage today. When the crippled man got healed miraculously, Peter said it was not only the Name of Jesus that had done the work, but FAITH IN THAT NAME. Now obviously, the crippled man didn't have the faith because he didn't know who Jesus was. But Peter and John knew, and they used that Name in faith, believing that when they spoke, the power behind that Name would manifest on behalf of that crippled man. The same is true today!

The Name of Jesus is not some kind of magic talisman, or magic charm. It's not like a magic wand, made to be waved over people whenever they need Cinderella's help. It's the Name that is now above every Name, and everything Jesus is, is now incorporated into His Name for us to use. Peter and John had faith in that truth, and so when they ministered to the crippled man, their faith in that Name caused the power behind that Name to manifest, and the man was miraculously healed as a result. Read Acts. Acts 3:16 and 4:12 says faith in His Name brings salvation. Acts 4:10 says healing is in His Name. Acts 4:17,18 and Acts 5:28 show us it's the Name of Jesus that the devil fears. Acts 5:41 says persecution comes against the Name. Acts 9:15 says we minister His Name to the world. Acts 15:16 and 21:13 says we should be risking our lives for the Name of Jesus. And then Philippians 2:9 says it all, it's the Name above EVERY name. So when you're facing your spiritual enemies, use the Name of Jesus against them. It's powerful, anointed, always available, and it's your Name to use! Jesus is the Head of the church (Ephesians 1:17-23), and we're the body. The head and the body have the same name. He's the Head, and we're His body, so His Name is our Name to use! So use it! Today, every day, and as often as the devil comes around!



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SEPTEMBER 06 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Acts 4:17 - WHAT NAME IS THE DEVIL AFRAID OF?

In the early days of the early church, the devil tried to use his religious puppets (aka: the Sanhedrin – comprised of Pharisees and Sadducees) to stop the preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus. It was that Name that the devil was afraid of, and he tried his best to stamp it out before any spiritual momentum was created. But his efforts failed then, and they're failing now all over the world too! What were the Pharisees and Sadducees afraid of? They were afraid of the Name of Jesus. What did they command people to stop doing? They commanded them to stop using THAT NAME! Notice they wouldn't even say the name of "Jesus"! They hated that Name so much, and were so afraid of it, that they wouldn't even say the name out loud! Imagine that! And you know, that's still true today in many circles. People will engage you in conversation if you want to talk about God, or even about Christ, but mention the Name of Jesus, and suddenly they get nervous, irritated, defensive and sometimes, downright hostile! Why?

I'll tell you why. It's because the Name of Jesus is the Name above every name, and it's that Name that enforces the devil's defeat every time someone uses that Name in faith. Every time somebody speaks, prays or exercises authority by using the Name of Jesus, Satan is reminded once again of his defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus over 2,000 years ago! For him, it's humiliating and embarrassing all over again! So when it comes to identifying and using spiritual weapons to fight spiritual battles, remember the power and majesty of the Name of Jesus. Use it, and keep on using it! God never gets tired of honoring the usage of the Name of His Son Jesus. It glorifies Him, honors Jesus, and enforces the devil's defeat! You can't beat that, can you? What name is the devil fearful of? JESUS! It's not just our Lord's Name, but it's YOUR NAME now too, because you're in Christ, a member of the body of Christ, seated in Him in Heavenly places at God's right hand. You have a right to use our Lord's Name because He gave you that right, and that authority. So don't be afraid to speak in His Name. Colossians 3:17 says that whatever you do, do it in His Name! Amen!



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SEPTEMBER 07 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 John 3:23 - **ORDERS ARE: BELIEVE ON HIS NAME!**

We're looking at the different spiritual weapons needed to successfully fight our spiritual battles. The first spiritual weapon we looked at was prayer. The second one is what we're currently examining, which is the Name of Jesus. Here in today's passage, John tells us that we're **COMMANDED** to believe on the Name of Jesus. Now if God is commanding us to believe in the Name of Jesus, that leaves no room for excuses of any kind. To believe on His Name is to understand the power behind it, and the authority given to use it. Never be hesitant to speak or do in the Name of Jesus. Colossians 3:17 tells us that whatever we do or say, it must be done in the Name of Jesus. We are His official ambassadors here on earth, and as such, it's our job to live and reach out with a constant awareness of Who it is we're serving.

God is not giving us a choice here. He's not suggesting we believe in the Name of Jesus, He's **COMMANDING** us to do so. That should tell you how important it is to know and use this particular piece of spiritual weaponry. The devil and all his demons tremble in fear when you use the Name of Jesus in faith and love. And anything the devil tries to bring against you must yield and give way when you use the Name of Jesus against it. So whenever you give your faith command, and you're exerting your authority in Christ, be sure to include your declaration coupled with the Name of Jesus. That's the name that empowers and validates your prayers, and your declarations of faith! Without the use of that Name, our prayers are basically a waste of time. But when you use our Lord's Name, all of Heaven stands at attention, and we immediately have the ear of Almighty God. So believe! Believe in what the Name of Jesus can do for you, and through you.



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SEPTEMBER 08 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Colossians 3:17 - DO EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

Our verse today sums it all up when talking about the importance of the Name of Jesus as a spiritual weapon. Everything you say or do, do or say it in the Name of Jesus. That means your life is supposed to be one giant exercise in representing Jesus as the Ambassadors the Bible says we are (2 Corinthians 5:20). Not only do we use our Lord's Name when engaging the enemy in spiritual warfare, but we also live our lives in His Name, officially representing Him everywhere we go. That's a sobering thought, and one which more Christians need to meditate upon. Do you really live each day in the light of that truth?

When we come to the place where we walk with constant awareness that we're living, talking and walking in the Name of Jesus, it will have a marvelous effect on how we live each day. To think that wherever we go, we're representing Heaven! Just like an Ambassador for the United States represents our country to whatever country he's sent to, so to, we represent God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and all of Heaven wherever we go. When you understand that, you can begin to really order your day, and live it in a way that glorifies God, and constantly keeps the devil at bay. Look carefully at what this verse says. Do EVERYTHING in Jesus' Name. That means do everything as His official representative. In how you talk with people, plan your day, go to work or school, do everything as God's Ambassador! In doing that, you position yourself for all of Heaven's blessings, and insulate and protect yourself from the temptations of the enemy, his world-system, or your dead-to-sin flesh. The Name of Jesus. It's the Name above every name, so use it whenever you're being attacked, and live in the light of it every day!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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SEPTEMBER 09 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Deuteronomy 30:19 - THE POWER OF CHOICE!

The third spiritual weapon you need to know about is the power of choice! Or, as we commonly refer to it as: FREE WILL. If you decide the devil can't have any more place in your life, what can he do about it? Nothing! Your free will is a weapon that Satan has no answer for. He has no authority over your will. All he can do is try to stir up your flesh so that you CHOOSE to make the wrong decision, and thereby let him into your life. Think with me for a moment. The thing the devil works hardest against is people becoming born again, receiving eternal life through faith in the work of Jesus on the cross. But when you decided to give your heart and life to the Lord, what was the devil able to do to stop you? Nothing! Why? Because your free will is a gift from God, and a weapon to use when you're under attack.

When you get right down to it, everything in this life is a matter of choices. It's just like what God told the Jews in our verse today. God sets before us life and death, blessing and cursing. And then He tells us which way to choose, but we have to make the choice. He's not going to choose for us, and the devil can't force us to choose wrongly. Ultimately, it's up to us. So if things haven't been working out for you, you need to go back and see where the choices you've made have somehow opened the door for the enemy to come in. And then when you find out where you made wrong choices, go back and fix the problem by making right choices – ones that agree with God and His Word. In doing so, you effectively utilize one of the most powerful weapons we have at our disposal. How long have you put up with the devil's harassment? You can kick him out today, if you make the choice to do so! He can't stop you, so go to God in prayer, seek His face and His guidance, and then go out from there armed with the power of choice! The devil can't stop you, so don't be concerned about him. Choose LIFE! Choose HEALTH. Choose PROSPERITY. It's all about choices, so make the right ones today!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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SEPTEMBER 10 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Deuteronomy 28:1 - THE BIGGEST LITTLE WORD IN THE BIBLE!

As I said yesterday, your free will is one of the most powerful weapons you have in your fights of faith against the devil. Once you decide and CHOOSE to obey God and His Word, the battle is basically over. When you finally get serious about kicking the enemy out of your life, there is nothing the devil can do about it except LEAVE! And all the promises of God become available to you when you decide to CHOOSE LIFE, HEALTH, PROSPERITY, VICTORY, and anything else the Bible promises us. And with that truth in mind, look at today's verse. Its part of a great discourse found in Deuteronomy 28, going from verse 1 to verse 15. The key word in this list of promised blessings is the word "if". Notice what God says: It shall come to pass, IF you obey Me and My Word... So everything is tied to our decision, our choice, to obey God. That's your weapon - choice! Read Deuteronomy 11:26-28, and you'll see it there as well. Ultimately, the manifestation of God's blessings in our life is not up to Him, but us! Do you understand that?

Read all 15 verses, and you can see the word "if" is mentioned several times in key places. It's found in verses 1, 9, 13 and 15. Four times in this passage that talks about all the blessings God wants us to have, God tells us that all of this is conditional upon our decision to believe, obey and follow His commandments. So when you make that choice, your victory, as described in these verses, is guaranteed! That's when the devil knows his work in your life is over, and his plans to steal, kill and destroy are finished. "If" is the biggest little word in all the Bible, because ALL the promises of God in Christ are conditional. They're contingent upon us making the right decision, and choosing to obey God and keep His Word. Nothing happens for us from God until we choose correctly and wisely according to the Word of God. Many believers waste a lot of time confessing verses like these, because they fail to understand the key word: IF! But when you wake up and realize your free will is a gift, and a weapon from God, that's when things will begin turning around for you, and all of Heaven's blessings will be showered down on your behalf. "If". It's the biggest little word in the Bible. Understand that, and choose accordingly!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

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SEPTEMBER 11 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Ephesians 6:16 - USING THE SHIELD OF FAITH IS A CHOICE!

We're talking about the spiritual weapon of choice. When you go out to fight your enemy, the devil, you're going to have to fight him with the spiritual weapons which God has provided us. You can't fight spiritual battles with carnal weapons, or with good intentions. You have to know what your weapons are, and use them whenever and wherever the devil launches his attacks against you. One of those weapons is choice! "If" is the biggest little word in the Bible, because it reveals the necessity of choosing correctly BEFORE any of God's promised blessings will manifest in your life. That's why you have to choose to put on the shield of faith, by choosing to believe God and His Word, especially when the situation or circumstances in this world appear to contradict what God has said or promised to you.

Never forget this fact. BELIEVING GOD IS A CHOICE! Therefore, it takes no more effort to choose to believe God, than it does to choose to believe the lies of the enemy! Think about that for a moment. When the enemy presents his attack against you, you have a choice to make. You can choose to believe his lies, or those physical symptoms, or your empty wallet and rejected credit application, or, you can choose to believe God and take Him at His Word. Which will it be? The choice is up to you my friend. God won't choose for you, and the devil can't make you choose badly. And others, like me, can't choose for you either. In the end, the ball is in your court, and it's your play! So, realize it's all a matter of choice, and that it takes no more effort to say something that agrees with God than to say something that doesn't. That's what it means to put on the shield of faith. Are you wearing your shield today? If not, choose to do something about that! Never mind what lies the devil tries to tell you. Once you have decided to believe God and talk accordingly, the battle is over for all practical purposes. Choice! It's yours from God, and it's your weapon from God. Use it, and use it wisely every day!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 12 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Romans 4:20,21 - ABRAHAM'S WEAPON OF CHOICE!

There is a reason why the Bible calls Abraham the "Father of us all" (Romans 4:16). It's because he took God at His Word, and in spite of all the contrary evidence from what his five senses could tell him, He made the choice to believe God. That's why he's called the father of us all, and the father of our faith (Galatians 3:7). Faith is a noun, believing is a verb. Believing is the act of choosing to release your faith - putting it to work for you. This is one of your most potent spiritual weapons. Once you do like Abraham, and decide to take God's Word as final authority, there is nothing the devil can do to stop you. His place in your life is over. Today, we're part of the Abrahamic Covenant, simply because those many thousands of years ago, this one man decided to believe the promise of God. He was old, and his wife was old too, but even though he considered all of that, he decided to believe God anyway. You do the same and you'll get the same victorious results that he got!

If you read Romans 4:17-22, you'll see that in many translations, they say that Abraham did NOT consider his own body now dead, nor the deadness of Sarah's womb. Yet in the Greek, the word "not" is not there! Actually, what the Greek says is that Abraham DID consider his body, and his wife's body, but did NOT allow what he saw to convince him to forsake the promise of God about conceiving and giving birth to a baby - and what would happen after that. That's why the translators inserted the word "not". As I said to you in yesterday's devotional, it takes no more effort to choose to believe God, than it does not to believe God. Even if circumstances, feelings, symptoms and situations all appear to contradict God's promise to you, be like Abraham, and follow his example. Abraham took a good look at how old he and his wife were, but that didn't stop him from making the choice to believe God. That's how he used the weapon of choice, and that's how you're going to use it too. So be like your "father in faith". Choose to believe God!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 13 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Micah 7:8 - MICAH'S DECISION TO GET UP AND KEEP FIGHTING

We're looking at the spiritual weapons needed to win spiritual battles. The first weapon we looked at was prayer. The next was the Name of Jesus. Now we're looking at weapon #3, which is CHOICE! Choosing to stand your ground is a weapon the enemy has no answer for, even when it appears he has defeated you and gained the upper hand. This is how it appeared to Micah when he spoke these classic words. He told the enemy not to gloat or congratulate himself over the victory he seemingly had won against him. No! He said that even though he had fallen, he was getting up! He was choosing to continue the fight! He was not done, and wouldn't be done until the devil had been totally defeated. That is what we must do with our weapon of choice. I'm sure you know there are times when it looks like the devil has defeated you, but take heart! If you don't decide to quit, the battle goes on until you win! Why? Because Jesus has already purchased the victory for you, so all you have to do is stay in the fight long enough for the manifestation to come. You know, in baseball, when the home team fails to tie the game at the end of the ninth inning, the game is over. But not with God-ball! In God-ball, the game goes on until we win! Even if the devil is winning at the end of the ninth inning, that's okay! God is the league commissioner, Jesus is the head umpire, and the Holy Spirit is the team manager. In other words, the rules of this game stipulate that Christians can play until they win!

The ONLY time you're defeated is when you quit and ACCEPT your defeat. As long as you're willing to fight, the game goes on until you win! So don't be discouraged right now if things haven't yet turned out in your favor against the enemy. Be encouraged! Lift up your hands to God, and begin singing praises! Declare to the Lord, the devil and to yourself - you're getting up off that canvass, and the fight is going to go on! That's choice! That's your weapon of choice! Once you've decided to fight on, God will stand by your side every step of the way until victory is secured. So don't listen to the devil when he tells you you're defeated. In fact, laugh in his face! And the more he tries to tell you that you're defeated, laugh at him all the more! When he asks what you're laughing at, tell him you're laughing at him! Tell him you're laughing because you know the outcome, no matter how things look today! Victory! Use your free will! Exercise your free will! Don't just lay on the canvass while the devil stands over you, declaring himself to be the victor! No! A thousand times, no! Get up, let the Lord clean you up and dust you off - and get back in the fight! As long as you're willing to engage the enemy, God is right there to enforce your choice, and honor the authority you have in Jesus' Name. It's your choice, so choose!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 14 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Numbers 14:25 - BE PATIENT! VICTORY IS ON THE WAY!

12 spies were sent into the promised land to spy out the territory. 10 came back with an evil report of unbelief, and 2 came back with a good report of faith. Those two were named Joshua and Caleb. What happened to the 10 who gave the evil report? They died by the plague, and all those that believed them were sentenced to wander for 40 years in the desert, until everyone over the age of 20 had died off. At that moment, it would've been very tempting for Joshua and Caleb to become discouraged. When God told everyone to turn around and head back out into the desert, that included Joshua and Caleb! But, the difference was that God had already SAID those two would get to go in to the promised land because of their choice to believe God. The same holds true today. If God has SAID you're victorious, then that's what you are, no matter how many demons (or those people whom they control) tell you otherwise. And no matter how long it may take, if you don't choose to quit and give up on your faith, your faith will see you through to victory. If you're tempted to doubt that, just go back and see how God made sure his two faith men got rewarded for choosing to stand in faith and not doubt God's Word.

Once again, it all boils down to a matter of choice. Is your faith only good up to a point of time, and then you're going to decide to stop believing God? Many are like that. They set some kind of timetable in their own minds, and if things don't happen by then, they think the "faith message" doesn't work. Well, God is well aware of any deadlines you may be facing, such as rent due, or utility payments due, or what the doctor says about your physical condition, but wait! Doesn't God know these things too? God is well aware of your schedule, and your "timetable", so quit worrying about that and just decide to stand your ground in faith NO MATTER WHAT! If you're prepared to stand in faith forever, you probably won't have to stand that long! But if you're not prepared to stand forever, you will probably still be without your victory a long time from now! The choice is up to you. If you read from the book of Joshua, you'll see that when those 2 men finally went in to the promised land, Caleb could recite God's promise word for word to Joshua! He had held on to God's Word in his heart for 45 years, waiting for God to make good on His promise. Forty. Five. Years. Let that sink in! That's the kind of attitude God is looking for, and the one which He will always reward greatly. Whether it be 45 minutes, hours, days, weeks or years, CHOOSE to stand your ground in faith, and you will see the victory! God's Word guarantees it.



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 15 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Ephesians 6:17 - THE WEAPON OF THE WORD!

If you read Ephesians 6, you find a detailed listing of spiritual armor. The one piece which I want to highlight today is the Word of God, called the sword of the Spirit. Remember, if you want to win spiritual battles, you've got to use spiritual weapons, and the Word of God is the 4th weapon we're looking at in our Verse-A-Day devotionals. When the devil came against Jesus, our Lord used the written Word to defeat him. We must do exactly the same thing. In Hosea 4:6, God says His people (that's including you and me) perish for a lack of knowledge. Not knowing what the Word says will doom us to defeat because the Word is the ONLY offensive weapon listed in Ephesians 6. All the other weapons listed are defensive in nature, but the Word is called a sword, and a sword is primarily an offensive weapon, not a defensive one. So, when the devil comes to attack you with lies, symptoms or anything else contrary to God's Word, use that sword and stick him with it! Three times he came to Jesus, and three times Jesus used God's Word to drive him away. We must do the same!

John 17:17 says God's Word IS truth. And, John 8:32 says that if we know the truth, it will make us free. So, if we know God's Word, and use it as the sword it is called, then we can be free from Satanic attack because that sharp two-edged sword is the weapon Satan wants no part of! And when the devil himself tries to use the Word of God himself, as he did with Jesus, you must know the Word well enough to quote other verses that counter his efforts to twist and use the Word of God against you. Bottom line: you must KNOW the Word to USE the Word in spiritual combat. You can't quote the verses you don't know! So, take the time to learn the Word. Study to show yourself approved to God (2 Timothy 2:15). Fill your spirit with the Word, because not only is it spiritual food for our spirit man (1 Peter 2:2), it's the sword you are going to use to drive the devil out of your life, as many times as he comes against you!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 16 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 4:7 - LEARN HOW TO SAY, "IT IS ALSO WRITTEN!"

We're looking at the 4th spiritual weapon needed to win the spiritual fights we face. It is the Word of God. More specifically, it is the SPOKEN Word of God used against the lies of the devil. However, as we saw when Jesus was tempted by the devil himself, Satan knows the Word and will try to use it in his efforts to defeat you. When Jesus used the Word to resist the temptations of the enemy, the devil came back and tried to quote scripture in an effort to deceive and confuse Jesus. But, because our Lord was so well-versed in scripture, the devil's ploy was a failure. And so, it must be with us today. Don't be surprised when, after using God's Word to resist the devil successfully, he comes back and tries to use other verses against you the next time around. If he did it with Jesus, you can be sure he'll be looking to do the same with you and me.

Never forget this truth. Satan uses God's Word to deceive people! He knows the Bible, and if he can't just outright defeat you in his usual, conventional ways, he'll try to trick you and deceive you by quoting scripture. Of course, the verses he uses will be warped and mis-applied, so don't be fooled by the enemy. Just because somebody is quoting verses to you - doesn't mean its God at work to help you. It might be, and it might not be. Some of the most "religious" people around are also the most dependable puppets of Satan when it comes to things like this! Not everyone who comes alongside with Bible verses in your time of need is necessarily your friend from God! It could be the devil trying to deceive you through them, so beware! The only way to know is to know the Word of God thoroughly for yourself. Stand your ground with the Word, but if the devil tries to use the Word against you, then learn to say "It is also written", just like Jesus did. As an example, it shouldn't be a surprise to know that most false cults base much of their deception upon Bible verses. EVERYBODY says the scriptures support them, but of course, we know that's not true. That's why so many are sucked into these false cults, because they don't know enough of the Bible to discern the truth from the error. Don't be a victim like so many others have become! Know the Word, and use it to attack, and to counter-attack if the devil tries to use it against you.



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 17 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Jeremiah 1:12 - GOD IS READY TO PERFORM HIS WORD

Spiritual weapons are needed to win spiritual battles. When the enemy comes against you with lying thoughts, symptoms or circumstances, you need to use the weapons provided by God to prevail and gain the victory. The Word of God is one such weapon. In today's verse, we see God declaring that He is ever-ready to PERFORM His Word when we use it in faith. Get used to using the Bible as the weapon it is. Yes, its informational of course, but it's also much more than that. The Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12), and as such, is able to pierce to the division of soul and spirit, and can discern between the thoughts and intent of our heart. God's Word is truth (John 17:17), so learn to rely on it whenever you're under attack. Don't just think it, SAY IT! Over and over until the devil leaves. The Bible says that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7). How do you resist him? By quoting the Word of God to him in faith!

This is what Jesus did, and what you and I should do too. Taking the Word of God and using it as one of our spiritual weapons is one of the best ways to stay victorious day in and day out. And when we speak the Word in faith, God is actually watching over that spoken Word to perform it, or make it good in our lives. If God ever failed to perform His Word when you spoke it out in faith as a weapon in spiritual combat, He'd have to destroy Himself because He and His Word are ONE! You can't separate God from His Word, so if His Word is no good then He's no good! But thank God, we can declare God's Word with utmost certainty, KNOWING that what He has said - He will perform. Praise God! That's the kind of confident assurance you can't get anywhere else. Men will let you down, and fail to keep their word to you, but not God. Not God! His Word is good, and you can count on it to sustain you in the most intense of spiritual battles. Use it, rely on it, and depend on it, today and every day!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 18 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Romans 1:13 - THE ANNOUNCEMENT RELEASES THE POWER!

In today's verse, we see a wonderful truth that many Christians are unaware of. This verse tells us that the gospel of God IS the power of God unto salvation, which includes everything Jesus died to provide for us. The gospel IS the power! Let that truth sink in for a moment. The word "gospel" means "good news". So then, sharing the good news with others releases the power in that Word. I heard a great man of God, T.L. Osborne, say that years ago - and I've never forgotten it. When you announce, or declare God's Word, you're actually releasing the power that is in that Word! The announcement releases that power and puts it to work for the glory of God, and for the benefit of the ones hearing it in faith!

In Brother Osborne's crusades, and in mine as well over the years, I've seen this truth demonstrated time and again. When you declare God's Word, faith comes to those who are listening, and when that happens, they're in position to let that Word perform itself in their hearts and lives. For salvation, healing, deliverance, or anything else they need from God. That's why over and over, the Bible tells us to SPEAK the Word over our situations. Not just to know it, but to speak it, because the power that's contained in God's Word must be spoken in faith to be released and put to work. Faith COMES by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Why? Because when its being heard, that means someone is speaking it. You're either listening to others speak it, or you're speaking it yourself. One way or another, the power in God's Word is put to work when its spoken in simple faith. Remember this. The gospel (the announcement, or declaration of God's Word) IS the power of God unto.... Unto what? Anything you need from God that's promised in His Word. So, keep announcing God's Word - to yourself, to the devil, or to whoever needs to hear it. When you do, you release the power within it, and it is then put to work for you!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 19 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Acts 6:7 - SPREAD THE WORD!

In the early church, they knew how important the Word of God was. If you read through the Book of Acts, you'll find many references which illustrate the kind of emphasis Christians placed on knowing and spreading the Word of God. In our verse today, notice the terminology selected by the Holy Spirit. He says the Word of God SPREAD. The result? It says the number of disciples increased greatly. Why? Because the early church knew what we need to know today. God's Word is one of the most powerful spiritual weapons at our disposal, and nothing the devil has in his arsenal can stop the Word when it is preached and proclaimed in the Name of Jesus. In Acts 12:24, look at similar terminology used by the Holy Spirit to describe early church evangelism. It says there that the Word of God GREW and MULTIPLIED! In Acts 19:20, the Bible says the Word of God MIGHTILY PREVAILED! Notice that when describing the successful results of early church outreach, the emphasis was put on the spread of God's Word! In these 3 verses, we see that the Word of God GREW, MULTIPLIED and MIGHTILY PREVAILED.

Do you talk about the Word of God that way with your friends and fellow church workers? Most of the time we don't, if at all. When discussing community outreaches, or neighborhood outreach events, do we talk about the results like the Christians in the Book of Acts talks about their results? We should be, but we aren't! And why not? Because so many of us fail to recognize God's Word as the marvelous weapon that it is. When the devil tries to stop our efforts to evangelize, what's he really trying to stop? According to the Book of Acts, he's trying to stop the Word of God from being spread and proclaimed. Never forget this: Satan is not afraid of you per se as a Christian. But, he's very much afraid of the Word of God within you. That's what he is afraid of, and that's your ticket to victory whenever he comes to attack you with temptation to sin. Spread the Word! Use your mouth and cause it to grow and multiply wherever you are, and especially when you're under spiritual attack. Take the time to put the Word in your heart, and when you need it, you'll have it to use against the devil!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 20 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Mark 4:15 - WHAT IS THE FIGHT ALL ABOUT?

If you take the time to read all of Mark 4, you'll see that this classic parable about the sower sowing seeds is all about the Word of God. And when you engage the enemy in spiritual warfare, you're going to have to use God's spiritual weapons to defeat him. The Word of God is one such weapon. And when you study our Lord's teaching in this passage about the sower in Mark 4, you see what the spiritual fight is all about. Why is that important? Because one great step towards victory in any spiritual battle is realizing WHY the enemy has come against you. If you know why he's attacking you, you can better organize your defenses, and defeat him in the Name of Jesus. According to Jesus, Satan comes IMMEDIATELY after the Word of God has been given to a person. Why? For the express purpose of taking it out of their heart! So when he's tempting you, or attacking you in some way, are you aware of WHY he's attacking?

Yesterday I told you that the devil isn't really afraid of you. What he's really afraid of is the Word of God within you. That's what Jesus is teaching us here in this passage. When Satan comes against you, he's really after the Word of God that's in your heart and life. If he can stop you from spreading and proclaiming the Word of God, he's won the fight as far as he's concerned. If he can kill you, or in some way harm you physically, that's okay too, as far as he's concerned. But, if he can successfully steal God's Word from your heart, mind and mouth, then it's "mission accomplished" from his point of view. So, GUARD THE WORD! Don't let the devil steal it from you. It's one of your primary weapons against Satan, so don't let him take it out of your heart, or your mouth. A soldier can't fight the enemy if he has lost his rifle, can he? I mean, if the enemy has taken all of his weapons away, the soldier won't pose much of a threat, will he? Of course not! Well, don't let your enemy take the weapon of God's Word away from you! Guard it, protect it and keep it in your mouth at all times. By doing that, you ensure victory for yourself, no matter what the enemy throws against you.



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 21 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

1 Peter 1:23 - THE SEED THAT ALWAYS PRODUCES!

We're talking about the Word of God as one of our most potent and powerful weapons in our spiritual arsenal. To win spiritual battles you must use spiritual weapons; that's why God's Word is so important, and why the devil works so hard to take it from your heart and mouth. When Peter wrote his letter, he talked about the Word of God as an eternal SEED. What does that mean? It means the Word of God has the power within itself to reproduce after its own kind, in the same way seeds of the earth have within themselves the God-given power to reproduce after their own kind too. Recently, I read about a seed that germinated after hundreds of years. The seed had been imprisoned in a nutshell for 600 years, and was part of a rattle necklace taken from a tomb in a place called Santa Rosa de Tastil, in South America. The seed germinated in 1968, and has now grown to over 6 feet tall, and flowered! This is an earthly example of what the seed of God's Word can do in your life whenever you speak it forth in faith. It will lie dormant in your heart – sometimes for years - until you release the power within it by speaking it out!

When you speak God's Word in faith, the power in that word "germinates" so-to- speak, and the life within that Word re-produces or recreates in your life! What does it reproduce? Whatever you declare according to the promise you're quoting! What a weapon! Is the devil trying to put sickness or disease on you? Then speak the Word concerning Divine Healing, and that Word will become the seed that produces health where there is presently only sickness or disease. We get saved using this seed. We get healed using this seed. We get delivered from poverty, lack, confusion and demonic oppression using the same seed. And like the 600 year old seed that germinated in 1968, the Word of God will instantly come to life within you the moment you speak it out in faith. Your Bible may have sat on the shelf for 40 years, but the moment you pick it up, open it up and speak it forth in faith, whatever you're declaring comes to pass because you've just planted the living Word, and that Word is God's eternal seed designed to reproduce after its own kind! Apples produce apples. Oranges produce oranges. Grapes produce grapes. Everything reproduces after its own kind, right? Well, God's word is the original seed, designed to reproduce after its own kind too! Its full of life, healing, health, prosperity, victory and deliverance. That's why Satan is so afraid of it, and works so hard to stop in your life. So, use the Word, and let that eternal seed come to life for you!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 22 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Hebrews 11:6 - THE WEAPON OF HOPE!

Without faith you can't please God, and according to our verse today, faith is the substance of things you HOPE for. The fifth spiritual weapon I want to examine with you is the weapon of hope. If you want to be strong in faith, you've got to have a hope first. Without hope, your faith will have nothing to give substance to. According to Ephesians 6:17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:8, hope is the helmet of our salvation. Why is it called a helmet? Because hope always deals with the future. Specifically, hope frames a picture of victory in our imagination, and that's what our faith gives substance to. Hope is mental, that's why it's called a helmet, because helmets are designed as a weapon to protect our heads in combat. Hope is the helmet designed to protect our mind from the lies Satan tries to plant there.

A few years ago, God had me do an extensive study on the spiritual weapon of hope. I wrote and produced a book which you should get on the subject, called HOPE – the power to believe until you receive! Call our Tucson office to order it, or order it online. One way or another, get it! Why am I so emphatic about getting that book? Because it's full of insight and revelation about how important the weapon of hope really is. In yesterday's teaching, I told you that God's Word is an eternal seed. Well, when you plant that seed by declaring God's Word in faith, hope becomes the spiritual helmet designed to keep you patient until that seed comes up and you have your spiritual harvest. Hope is our God-given ability to create mental images which agree with God's Word. That's a weapon so powerful Satan can't touch it. All he can do is try to get you to replace Godly thoughts with ungodly thoughts, and only you can allow him to do that! So whenever he puts his lying thoughts in your mind, use the helmet of hope and cast those imaginations down in Jesus' Name. Don't let the devil convince you to take your helmet off! Keep it on at all times, and by doing so, you'll be utilizing one of your spiritual weapons to bring you to the place of spiritual victory!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 23 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 14:13 - WHERE DO YOU GO WITH BAD NEWS?

When Jesus heard about what happened to John the Baptist, He immediately withdrew to an isolated place to be alone with God. Do you do the same when bad news comes your way? Most of us don't. But if ever there was a time to go to God, it's when you've just been handed bad news of some kind. In the presence of the Lord there is fullness of joy, and in times of devastation, hurt, and bad news, we must always remember that THE place to go is into our prayer closets to commune with the Lord. Why? Because only there will you find the information, counsel, guidance and strength to face the difficulties, disappointments and challenges that come with bad news. God has your best interest at heart when you're going through hell on earth, so why waste time listening to others, when you could be listening to the God of the universe? Yes, the Bible says that in the multitude of counselors there is safety, but even so, at some point you're going to need to spend time with God in His presence. Jesus knew that, and you need to know that too.

John the Baptist was not only our Lord's cousin, but he was also a friend who, for the most part, understood the mission and ministry of Jesus. He had his moments of confusion to be sure, but nonetheless, he was our Lord's forerunner, and knew what the coming Messiah was supposed to do. So when Jesus got word that John had been beheaded in prison, you can imagine how devastated He was. And look at what He did. He left his staff, the people, the surroundings, and went off someplace to be alone with God. That's the example we're to follow. In times of duress, go TO God. Go TO Jesus. Go into your prayer closet, and let God be God for you! He knows what you should do, what you should say, and where you should go. You need God's strength in times when bad news surrounds you and threatens to rob you of your joy. The only place to get that strength is in His presence. Nowhere else can it be found. So when (not if) bad news finds you, do what Jesus did. Get alone with the Lord, and stay there until you have the peace, joy, strength and confident assurance that all is well, regardless of how things may seem in the natural.



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 24 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Matthew 14:23 - RE-CHARGE AFTER MINISTRY!

Jesus knew where His strength was to be found. After an extended period of intense ministry, His spiritual batteries needed to be recharged, so where did He go? Off to a solitary place to pray. Yesterday we saw that when Jesus was handed bad news about John the Baptist, He immediately went off to be alone with God in prayer. Now, after ministry to multitudes of needy people, we see Him doing exactly the same thing, going off to be alone with His Heavenly Father. We need to walk in this kind of awareness like He did. Whether it was to find the strength to overcome some sort of devastating news, or to recharge after intense and prolonged ministry, He knew where to go. He went to be alone with God in prayer. Do you do that like He did? Most of us do not, and by not doing that, we cheat ourselves out of the power, wisdom, impartation, insight and anointing to not only keep going, but to do so stronger than ever before.

Solitary prayer with God has a way of putting everything into perspective, no matter what it is that we're praying about. Yet, sadly, most of the time we just run around in a spiritual panic; stressed out, anxious, worried, impatient, irritated, confused and angry. If only we'd do what Jesus did. Go to God, and STAY THERE until we have the reassurance that all is well, and that NOTHING the enemy throws against us can prevail or prosper. I know by experience, that after a time of intense ministry, my spirit is exhausted, and my batteries need massive amounts of recharging. And it's in those times that we must go to God for the recharging necessary to stay strong, and keep the devil out of our lives. Why? Because it's in those times, just after we've successfully ministered for Jesus, that the devil will seek to launch a counter-attack. He knows that our spirits are tired, and that we're more susceptible to his temptations at that time. But if we immediately go to God in prayer AFTER successful ministry, like Jesus did, then we can recover much faster, and get ourselves back up to fighting trim quickly. We're all ministers, doing the work of ministry whenever and wherever Jesus calls, so AFTER you're done doing the Lord's business, make it a point to spend time with Him in prayer. You'll keep yourself strong if you do, and keep your walls of defense up and intact!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 25 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 15:30 - HAVE YOU CAST ALL YOUR CARES YET?

When this great multitude of sick people got to Jesus at the top of the mountain, the Bible says they laid the sick at the feet of Jesus, expecting Him to minister to them God's healing power. The word translated "laid" here in this verse could also be translated "thrown down". In fact, in the King James version, the translators used the word "cast". In other words, their translation said the people cast (which means to throw) the sick at the feet of Jesus. Are you getting a better picture of what was actually happening? The New Testament in Greek goes a bit farther. From the Greek, the word used here means TO THROW WITH A QUICK, SUDDEN MOTION.

Those people were desperate for healing that day, so they weren't hesitant or ashamed to just take their sick loved ones, and throw them down at Jesus' feet! Which begs the question for us today? How desperate and unashamed are we to just throw ALL our problems at the feet of Jesus? Most of us are, for whatever reason, reluctant to cast ALL our cares on God. We have conditions, or reservations about doing that. But those people on the mountain top didn't care! They were desperate. They WANTED help, and they weren't too picky about how they may have looked to others around them. Are we this way? Most of the time, we're not. That's the attitude we have to have today. Without any hesitation or reservation, we must just throw caution to the wind, and cast our cares at the feet of Jesus. Don't try to stay dignified, just do it! Don't be concerned about what others think, just do it! The people on that mountaintop got what they came for because they were willing to abandon all caution, and just trust God completely. Are you ready to do that?



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 26 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 13:56 - THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE!

When Jesus came to His home town for teaching and ministry, the people marveled at his depth of knowledge, understanding and wisdom concerning the scriptures. Their question was, "Where did He get all this knowledge and information?" Well, He got it all from the same place you and I can get it today. He got it from God and His Word. John 17:17 says that God's Word IS truth. It doesn't contain truth, it IS the truth. Jesus said He is the way the TRUTH and the life (John 14:6). Jesus and His Word are one, because John chapter 1 says that Jesus is the Word made flesh. Put all that together and you see that if you're interested in finding the truth, the Bible has all your answers. Don't waste your time going anywhere else if you're interested in finding the truth about ANYTHING. Whatever you're searching for, the truth of it will be found in the Bible. Nowhere else my friend!

Not long ago there was a popular TV series called "The X-Files". You can still watch it on syndication in many TV markets today. Their catch-all phrase for each episode was this statement: THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE! Well, it IS out there, and if you want to find it, just go to your Bible, pick it up and start reading it! There you'll find out everything you'll ever need to know about truth. You'll find out what it is, and more accurately, Who it is. Jesus! He is the truth. He is the light. He is the way. There are not many versions of the truth my friend. There is only one truth, and that's why there is only one way to God, and His name is Jesus. If confusion is prevalent within you now, and any subject, go to God's Word and start digging. Ask for help from the Holy Spirit, and you'll get it! He wrote the book, so He knows where the truth can be found to help you in your time of need. Everyone is searching for the truth, and it's right in front of us all. The Word of God. The Bible. Jesus. Never mind the intellectuals and educated buffoons who claim to know so much. Without a knowledge of Jesus and His Word, you have no truth whatsoever! You just have a head full of facts and figures. What a relief, and what a comfort to know that the truth is out there! And, I can tap into that truth anytime, anywhere, whenever I need to or choose to.



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 27 DAILY DEVOTIONAL Matthew 16:17 - REVELATION KNOWLEDGE!

To stand strong in faith in this world that's full of doubt, unbelief, cynicism and pessimism, you need more than just an intellectual acceptance of Christianity. You need revelation knowledge, just like the kind Peter received from God in our verse today. For all that Peter did and said that was wrong, this was one of his most shining moments. Direct from the Holy Spirit, Peter received a supernatural impartation of KNOWLEDGE. It was an awareness of something profound - that in a split second of time, he KNEW it was the truth! Revelation knowledge! It's a term Charismatics throw around often, but don't let that diminish in any way the power and necessity of it in your life. It's absolutely the foundation of all you believe, and all you'll ever stand your ground for in faith. Without it, you'll wither under the constant pressure of those around you who lack the revelation knowledge that God is God, Jesus is the Savior, and the Bible is the last word on what is and what isn't truth. Ask yourself this question; how much revelation knowledge am I operating with right now in my life?

When we finally come to a place where God can impart revelation knowledge to our spirits, the information becomes as valuable and as precious as all the fine diamonds and gems of the earth. Nothing can compare to it in terms of value. It's not that God is holding it back from us, because He wants ALL His children to have the revelation knowledge needed to take the world by storm. However, we are the ones that block God's Spirit from imparting the knowledge we need to stand tall and strong in faith. We need to take the time to open our hearts, listen to God, and LET Him impart to us all the revealed knowledge we need to succeed in life. Jesus had told His disciples many times that He was the Son of God, and the Messiah. But it took that moment of insight called revelation knowledge that caused the "light" to come on in Peter's spirit. Suddenly, in a moment of time, he KNEW what Jesus was talking about during all those sermons and parables. It would be like a man stumbling around to find the light switch in a dark room. The moment he finds the switch and turns on the light, he can clearly see everything in the room. That's what revelation knowledge is - the light from heaven that gets turned on deep down in your spirit! That's why you need it, now and forever. Seek it. Pray for it. Stand in faith for it. It forms the foundation for everything you believe in, and stand for in faith.



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 28 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 16:18 - REVELATION KNOWLEDGE BUILDS THE CHURCH

In yesterday's devotional, we talked about the importance of having revelation knowledge. In today's verse, we see that it is revelation knowledge that Jesus uses to build and expand His church on earth. Men and women going out fearlessly, preaching the truth of the gospel, no matter what the devil tries to do to stop them. Church history is full of stories of Christians enduring terrible persecution at the hands of godless men, yet, in spite of that, the church continued to grow. In fact, even today around the world, growth is taking place in some of the most restricted and hostile parts of the planet. How can that be? Because of revelation knowledge. Once you KNOW the truth, nothing can dissuade you from your primary task, which is to spread that knowledge to all the earth, wherever the Spirit of God sends you. And no matter what men may say to you, or try to get you to renounce, you stand your ground boldly, firmly and fearlessly, because you KNOW that what you believe is the truth.

When people make fun of Christians, as if we're a bunch of pathetic people who need religion as a crutch to lean on, I just shake my head and laugh. They don't bother me one bit. They didn't bother Jesus, so why should they bother me? Would you allow yourself to get into a heated debate with some person - about whether or not the sun will rise tomorrow morning? Of course not. Why? Because you KNOW it will, no matter what anyone says to the contrary. From the beginning of my walk with Jesus, God was able to impart certain truths to my spirit that gave me a level of revelation knowledge I've used as the foundation for my ministry ever since. People can laugh about Christianity all they want, but I don't care. I KNOW in whom I have believed, and KNOW that He's in me, living big and coming back soon! No one can take that from me - ever! Its revelation knowledge, and I use that knowledge as the platform to go into all the world and win souls for Jesus. How about you? What kind of platform are you standing on today? Do you KNOW healing is for you today, and for ALL who choose to believe? Well then, don't let anyone or anything cause you to waver in that conviction. Even if people die sick and say they were "believing" God for healing, that doesn't change the fact that God wanted them healed. Something they did, or didn't do, blocked the healing power of God. It's that simple. To say otherwise makes God a liar, and His Word not truth, and we know that can never be. No, we don't have all the answers for all our unanswered questions down here, but someday we will in heaven. Until then, stand your ground, and let revelation knowledge be the sure foundation you stand on today, and every day in Jesus.



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 29 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Luke 21:5,6 - **DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ANYTHING TEMPORAL**

When the disciples told Jesus how impressive they thought the temple was, Jesus simply said there would come a time when nothing of what they saw that day would be left standing. History is full of examples of this kind of erroneous mentality towards the temporal things of this world. How many wars have been fought, and how many lives lost, over the conquest of more land, more gold, and more power? And where are those kings, those dictators, those tyrants today? Gone and forgotten, except for perhaps a footnote, or a few paragraphs in some history textbook. The point should be well taken for us today, and we should not fall prey to the same kind of mentality. As Christians, we are NEVER to be deceived by the allure of the temporal. Ever! Yet, how many times do we hear Christians talking about how much they LOVE their house, their car, their clothing, their time-share properties, their work or their business? That's the wrong kind of thinking my friend, and if that's the way you're looking at the things you "own" in this world, you better wake up and change the way you relate to your earthly possessions.

As for what Jesus was referring to, He was referring to the fact that in about 70 years, the Roman army would come through and totally level Jerusalem, including the marvelous temple the disciples were so enamored with. National and International disasters which we've all seen on TV, and even experienced in person, testify once again to the futility of putting your love, your affection and your attention towards the things of this world. Jesus predicted that prior to His return, the earth would be reeling like a woman in labor, about to give birth to her baby (Matthew 24 & 25). Well, you know that as the baby's delivery gets closer and closer, the birth pangs get closer and closer as well. So it is on the earth today. We're seeing more natural disasters now than ever before. Tsunami destruction. Earthquakes in many places. Volcanic eruptions. Tornadoes. Hurricanes and Typhoons. Widespread flooding. And as I view all the wreckage, carnage and destroyed property, and as I look into the faces on TV or social media of those who have lost everything, I'm again reminded of the word of our Lord here in this passage today. Friend, you're a fool if you think ANYTHING you own or have in this life offers you any sense of security or protection. Stocks, bonds, investment properties, savings, businesses, all of it, can be lost in the blink of an eye. Things may look impressive today with your investment "portfolio", but something unforeseen could happen tomorrow, something beyond your control, and you could lose everything. So the lesson for today is this: **KEEP YOUR AFFECTIONS ON THINGS ABOVE** (Colossians 3:1-6), not on things of this earth. In Christ, spiritual things are secure, earthly things are not. Never forget that!



SEPTEMBER DAILY DEVOTIONALS

BY MIKE KEYES, SR

SEPTEMBER 30 DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Colossians 3:1 - WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING AFTER?

In this life, everybody is looking for someone, or something. People are always seeking for something they want and don't yet have. Rich people seek more money. Single people seek the right person to marry. Children seek friendship, love and a stable home to grow up in. Married couples seek financial security for themselves and their kids. Workers are seeking a better job or a career change. People are always seeking, or looking, for something that they think will make their lives better. Well, in our verse today, God tells us frankly what all of us should be seeking after. It's the things ABOVE, not the things down here. That means we're to be looking to acquire the promises of God as they relate to the life to come, and never mind about the seeking of things which are temporary in nature, the things of this world and this life. Is that what you've been seeking after, the things above?

Everything down here is temporary. It can only last, at best, the duration of your natural life. After that, whatever you've worked so hard to obtain is gone forever - left behind for the next generation to have and fight over. But if you are seeking the things above, spiritual things connected to worshipping and serving God through Christ, then you are truly seeking after the things that really matter! You're no longer wasting time in the pursuit of money, or what you think money can buy for you. You're no longer chasing after things of this world which you think might make life "better" for you here. Truth is: NOTHING of this world has the ability or power to make your life "better". Things of this world can make your life more comfortable perhaps, but not better. Only Jesus can truly improve your lot in life, and only He can put you on the road to true success, in this life or the next. So ask yourself today this question. Just how much "seeking" am I doing for the things of God, versus the things of this natural life? Where are your priorities? To find out, just look at where you're spending or putting your money, because Jesus said that where your treasure is, there is where you'll find your heart (Matthew 6:21). Look at how you're spending your money, and you'll know exactly where your heart is. Think about that!



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