

Beloved friend in CHRIST. I pray that you are REJOICING in the LORD (Phil. 4:4) & are living VALIANTLY for the faith. These days in which we find ourselves DEMANDS such a COMMITMENT. I trust it is WELL WITH YOUR SOUL & as a consequence, you are seeking to ACTIVELY OCCUPY until our LORD JESUS returns.

August was not only a BLESSED month of ministry, it was also a joyful time that I spent with my daughters Nikol & Lea, and my almost 3-yr old grandchild Elijah. (Before I left, in the last couple days of July & the beginning of August, I ministered at eight services in four days). We spent six days together (Beaverton, Oregon) & had a wonderful time. Had some super bonding time with Elijah, P.T.L.

There were no services missed, as I traded the first Wednesday to Sunday the 10th at the Long Beach Rescue Mission. Had a really nice harvest. From that Sunday to the 21st, I had thirteen services, so between the four Skid Row Missions, L.A. Cty. Jail, Jacobs Well, Hurting Women Under Hat & pinch hit for Pastor Don Bruzer at Grace Bible Church(Bible study & service). There were nineteen services & over 250 gave their lives to Jesus Christ or rededicated.

It is disheartening to see so many young kids at the L.A. Cty. Jail on their way to 25 to life or life without parole. So many wrong CHOICES in life. At one of the penitentiaries that I've been ministering for years, I see attitudes that make & keep a heart hard & cold. (Ez. 36:26 & Luke 16:15) The Women's Prisons are also jam packed. When I started out in prison ministry, there were 750,000 men & women imprisoned, more than anywhere in the world. Today there are 2.1 million, & 1.75 million on parole. GOD says "My people PERISH for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). It's BIBLE KNOWLEDGE. When there's a fork in the road & a CHOICE to be made, the devil will ALWAYS whisper to go the wrong way. There are so many in prisons who tell me "They don't have time to PRAY, PRAISE, put on the ARSENAL PRAYER or read GOD'S WORD. "I'm too busy brother Mel". CHOICES! I say MAKE TIME!!! We NEED to spend time with GOD. PRAYERLESS is POWERLESSNESS.

Have you PRAYED & discovered how GOD wants you to invest your life? (See Matt. 20:28 & Mark 10:45). When you find out in what area HE WANTS YOU TO SERVE, then OBEDIENCE to HIS PLAN will become your HEARTS desire (Ps. 37:4). Open GOD'S WORD to Ps. 32:8 & lay your hand on the BIBLE & say, "LORD, what do YOU want?"

Our enemies are satan & his army of evil spirits. He has NO AUTHORITY or POWER over a believer, but his MAJOR OBJECTIVE is to render the CHRISTIAN useless to the KINGDOM OF GOD. The BIBLE describes the devil as a thief, a murderer & the father of lies (John 10:10 & 8:44). The evil one never tires in tempting (Jas. 1:13,14-GOD never tempts) & harassing the saints. One of his most effective battlegrounds is the BELIEVER'S MIND. (II Cor. 10:5; I Peter 4:1; Phil 2:5; Rom. 12:2 .Satan wants us to DOUBT the WORD OF GOD. He knows if we DOUBT what GOD says in HIS WORD, he will have a foothold in our lives. It's a lying, seducing & deceiving spirit.(I Tim. 4:1)

That was his strategy in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Eve. Now Adam was NOT deceived

(I Tim. 2:14). He made a CHOICE. If the devil can undermine our confidence in SCRIPTURE, he has achieved a major victory, destabilizing our faith & severely weakening our defenses. Everywhere I preach, I see the spirit of deception working, so I expose that old dragon wherever I go, IN THE NAME OF JESUS (Phil 2:9-11 & Eph. 1:20-23). Another of satan's objectives is to distract us from spiritual things & serving God. He directs our focus to MATERIAL, SENSUAL & SELFISH DESIRES, DISTRACTING US WITH ENTICEMENTS THAT ALLURE US AWAY FROM GOD. A FULL SCHEDULE OF trivial PURSUITS usually leaves LITTLE time for GOD. CHOICES! The devil's primary STRATEGY is wrapped up in one word: DECEPTION. As the father of lies, his principle form of attack is to DECEIVE the BELIEVER. In Genesis 3:13, Eve told GOD: "The serpent DECEIVED me, & I ate." How did satan DECEIVE EVE? He misled her by giving her false information. He said to her, "You will be like GOD, knowing good & evil" (Gen. 3:5).

The devil continues the same strategy today. Each time we are tempted, satan tries to DECEIVE us with MISINFORMATION. PRAISE GOD, no matter how crafty satan is, we can ALWAYS come against him with the TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD, a MIGHTY WEAPON against him. First John 4:4 says, "You are from GOD, little children, & have OVERCOME them, because GREATER is HE who is in you than he who is in the world." First Corinthians 10:13 tells us that, "No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man, and GOD IS FAITHFUL who will NOT allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it." Can I hear an AMEN?

Still, as ALWAYS, GOD limits satan. GOD is ALL POWERFUL.

The devil & his demonic forces are NOT OMNIPRESENT, OMNIPOTENT or OMNISCIENT. ONLY GOD has these ATTRIBUTES. When we are aware of the devil's methods, we can identify those misplaced feelings of doubt, fear or discouragement, bring them to GOD in PRAYER & CLAIM HIS HEALING POWER BY faith. God be with you as you fight the good fight (II Tim. 4:7). Until next month, may our LORD BLESS YOU. To you who sent a LOVE offering, I PRAISE HIM & THANK YOU.

In His Majesty's Service,

Mel Novak