

KINGDOM NEWS

The Kingdom is Yours; the power is Yours and the glory is Yours, forever.... (Matt. 6:13)

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Motto for the year of 2014

Let us be exhorted to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
(Jude 3 KJV Adapted)

The Chief Cornerstone



Wars and Rumors of Wars

All scripture is KJV paraphrased.

There is war and fighting all around us; near and far; within and without. War is expensive and fraught with casualties. We look at the *enemy* in an effort to determine the origin of these wars. We then say that the cause of the war is that "they have something that we want ... or ... something that we believe belongs to us." We hypothesize about *this*; and postulate about *that*; but the scriptures don't deliberate long in answering this question. The scripture answers this inquiry with another question (*as is typical of our Lord*). The question is: "Is it not the case that the wars *without* come from the wars *within*?"

There are wars and discord *within*.

James calls this war, a fight amongst our members. "What members?" you ask. The members that are at war *within* are the *mind*, the *will* and the *emotions*. The *emotions* war against the *mind* (feelings seek to usurp authority over what is known to be right). The lusts of the *senses* (*emotions*) seek preeminence over the lusts of the *mind*; each in an effort to

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The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

2014 – The "Game Changer"

All scripture is KJV paraphrased.

Where has the time all gone? It has been several months since the last time we connected with you. A lot of good things have happened during 2013. Some of it was, quite frankly, overwhelming. But, God is good. We are back on track and appreciate the grace of god for being the consistent cover He has always been.

Now is the time of year where we take some time to reflect on the current year, tie up any loose ends, and open our hearts to what God has in store for the coming year. Are you ready? Okay, here we go.

In January 2013 God told us He would do two things that year. First, He said He would establish us. He put in place some infrastructure so we would be able to do what He planned. Second, God said He would grow us. He brought just the right resources to get us moving in the direction He had predetermined.

Now, there is a new word for 2014. God told me that 2014 will be the "Game-Changer." This means God has determined He will enlarge our territory during this new season.

Hear the word of the Lord.

In years past, we worked diligently behind closed doors. We may have done the work and someone else got the credit. We had to be faithful when circumstances seemed unfair. We had to hold our heads up when deep inside we were about to crumble. We may have lost relationships or opportunities we

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gain control over the *will*. The *will* serves the victor.

Quick sidebar: I submit for your contemplation; that the *will* neither *thinks* nor *feels*; it simply executes according to what is thought or felt.

The *will* is often caught in a tug-of-war between the *mind* and the *emotions*. The desire to do what "feels" good is at war with the desire to do what "is known" to be good. You see how it can be difficult (spelled i-m-p-o-s-s-i-b-l-e) to get anything done with this inner warfare.

Indeed, the wars *without* come from the wars *within*.

Jesus didn't war *without*; because there were no wars *within*. When asked to give a defense of the accusations against Him, Pilate asked Jesus "aren't you going to say something? Aren't you going to fight back?"

^{162]} *And the high priest arose, and said to Jesus, "Answer thou nothing? What is it which these witness against You?"* ^{163]} *But Jesus held his peace ..."* (Matthew 26:62-63a)

On another occasion Jesus said, "It is not necessary for Me to fight, *My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, then would My servants go to war.*" (John 18:36) Because then "you" would be seeking to take something that *belongs to Me*. Now, because My Kingdom is not of this world, you don't have anything that I want. There is, therefore, nothing to go to war over.

Again, the wars *without* come from the wars *within*.

James says, *You lust, and have not ... you fight and war, yet you have not ... because ye ask not. You ask, and receive not ...* (James 4:2-3)

What a minute James ... Jesus said "Ask and it shall be given you ..." He even went on to say: "Everyone that asks receives..." (Luke 11:9-10a) Father, how do we reconcile *within ourselves*, the seeming discrepancy between the words of Jesus and the words of James? Or are both of these the words of Jesus; as contrary as they may seem? I mean the scriptures are the inspired work of the Spirit of God, aren't they. What's happening here? It is enough that there are wars *without* (all around us); we cannot bear wars *within* the Word of God, too. Oh, I get it, one of them is right and the other must be wrong. Right?! But how could this be? If we cannot trust the Word of God, we have no recourse. Help, Lord!!

In the words of Job: "Oh, that there were a *daysman*" (Job 9:32-33) ... Oh, that there were a mediator ... an attorney ... someone to translate between the words of James and the words of Jesus.

Wait ... I see ... I think I see ...

Jesus' words "Everyone that asks, receives..." are couched

between the response of a friend fulfilling a need; and the goodness of a Father's heart towards the needs of His children. (Luke 11:8-13)

Please allow me to walk yet a few paces down this particular road, as my curiosity is urging me on. On the one hand, we have the parable of the friend who would not be awoken to his friend's request based on their *friendship*. But the resting friend would, however, be moved to action on the basis of the petitioning friend's *need*. And on the other hand, we have a Father who is more than ready to give us what we need. And He has identified these needs as: *bread, fish, an egg* and the *Holy Ghost*. All of these are symbols of life or life-giving ability. *Fish and loaves* are symbolic of the ability to sustain the natural life. Whereas, we hear Jesus say to his disciples (prior to feeding the multitudes) if we turn them away without "fish and loaves" they will faint by the way. An *egg* is symbolic of man's ability to recreate the natural life or to "bring forth after his own kind." And of course, the Holy Spirit is indicative of God's ability to produce in our spiritual life. Said otherwise to "... bring forth after His own kind." Interesting huh?! And so in this way, everyone who asks receives.

And James' words "You ask, and receive not ..." are couched between the internal turmoil within our members (*in terms of what is right to ask or desire*) and the selfish motive (*consumption*) for our petitions. (James 4:2-3)

Certainly I cannot turn aside there, and walk past this "burning bush." On the one hand, we have James 4 pointing at Romans 7:

^{11]} *From whence come wars and fighting among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?* (James 4:1)

^{122]} *For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:* ^{123]} *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.* (Romans 7:22-23) Oh wretched man that I am ... where is the exit door? Where is the white flag?!

On the other hand, we see that these wars *within* manifest themselves in prayers that cannot be answered ... petitions that do not meet the criteria for answered prayer.

^{14]} *And this is the confidence that we have in Him that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He hears us:* ^{15]} *And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.* (1 John 5:14-15)

The difference between the words of Jesus and the words of James is ... that which is *asked* on the basis of our need; and that which is *asked* based on our desire to satiate our lusts.

- "Asks" that satisfy *need* edify and builds up. They

encourage our faith in God, as Father.

- "Asks" that satisfy *lusts* are consumables; they are as wood, hay and stubble. They are unintelligent, and heartless; they do not seek to serve the purposes of God.

The heart of the Father is predisposed to respond to our needs, and on the other hand, cannot in all good conscience support our lusts. And so we see that both of these are the words of Jesus.

The wars *within* create the wars *without*. We, in our minds, know what is right and that which is required of us by God. But this reality is at war with the lusts of the flesh *within*. We lust and desire to have, but cannot obtain. This is because the laws of God in the earth and in our relationships serve the purpose of God. The purpose of God, in one sense, amounts to a preeminent love for God and a right and proper love for our neighbors. When the lusts of the flesh, govern the acts of the will, our thoughts, words and deeds bring the wars *within* out into our environment and into our relationships. Our actions that are produced by the lusts of the flesh collide with the environmental and relational laws of God, producing chaos. Which we'd love to blame on our enemy (or our haters) but the word of God does not afford us this opportunity. In 2014 let's not seek solace in blaming our problems on others.

Quick aside: When the ceiling is leaking and we call for professional help. The first visit will be to learn the symptoms of the problem (i.e., there is water coming from the ceiling). The next visit will likely be to survey the environment in an effort to identify the cause of the problem(s). Afterwards, the professional is well on its way to the solution of the problem.

The old saying is that 50% of the solution is identifying the problem.

I believe that we've identified the problem. Now let's focus on the solution; which I believe we'll also find buried in the problem itself.

God speed, your way this New Year.

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, SMHG

**GREAT PEACE, HAVE
THEY WHICH LOVE THY
LAW AND NOTHING SHALL
OFFEND THEM.**

Psalm 100:165

never dreamed would happen. Now, God will reveal to us what He is doing in the background.

Let me share a story that is the pattern for what God allowed to happen last year (and in previous years) to get us ready for what He is going to do this year.

Some of us are familiar with the book of Ruth (May suggest we review it as a refresher?). The story goes like this. Naomi was married to a husband. They lived in Bethlehem-Judah during the time when judges ruled. There arose a famine in their homeland. They moved to Moab with their sons.

While in Moab, both sons married Moabite women. Over the course of several years Naomi's husband and both sons died. When this happened, Naomi was left with only her two daughter's-in-law. She decided to move back to her hometown and tried to send her daughter's-in-law back to their mothers. One went back, but the other, Ruth, stayed with Naomi. They journeyed back to Bethlehem-Judah where Ruth would work in fields to bring in food for her and Naomi.

As you can imagine, Naomi was devastated by the events that had taken place in her life while in Moab. When she came back home she told her friends that God had dealt very bitterly with her. She said she left home full, but came back empty. After all those (seemingly wasted) years, the only thing she had to show for her time away was a widowed daughter-in-law who would have to work like a slave so they could survive (because she was also a widow).

This is such an interesting story. Naomi spoke from her pain and her current knowledge base. What she didn't know was that God had sent her on a divine mission. What she brought back was so much more valuable to the nation of Israel than anything she could have imagined.

Are you ready for the revelation?

Naomi's directive (although unknown to her) was to go to Moab and bring back the great grandmother of King David. The nation of Israel would never be the same again because of Ruth.

Now, here are some interesting details of the story. When God brought Naomi and Ruth back to Bethlehem-Judah the scripture says it was the beginning of barley harvest (no coincidence). Once they arrived home, Ruth said she would go out to find a place to glean corn so they would have something to eat. Without any information, knowledge about the area, or suggestions from anyone, Ruth "happened" to glean in a field owned by Boaz, the near kinsman of Naomi (no coincidence).

To make a long story short, God brought Boaz and Ruth together during harvest season such that they were married shortly afterwards (no coincidence). This meant that the field

Ruth started out in as a poor gleaner, she now owned.

God had it in His plan long before any of the events happened that Naomi was to bring Ruth to the nation of Israel. It was also in His plan to use this set of events to raise up a "king after His own heart" way before the people of Israel cried out to the prophet Samuel to give them a king.

You see, God was at all times working out His plan. When the famine began, God was working His plan. When Naomi's family moved to Moab, God was working His plan. When Naomi's sons married Moabite women, God was working His plan. When Naomi's husband and sons passed, God was working His plan. Every step of the way God was faithful to His people and He was working according to His master plan.

This is what is happening for the people of God right now. The mix of events, circumstances, activities, and situations you and I have had to go through in 2013 (and before), was God putting the pieces together. Now, in 2014 God is saying this year is the "Game Changer."

It will be in this very year that God catapults us it what He has been working on behind the scenes. Ok, so this all sounds wonderful, right? But, what might it look like in each of our lives, and what is our part? Both are great questions.

God also let me know that we (His people) will have to release ourselves from our traditional thinking. Some of us have been used to doing things according to what other people expected of us (me included). Some of us celebrated the holidays in a way other people wanted us to celebrate (not how we really wanted to celebrate). Some of us have gotten into (or out of) relationships to please other people.

Some of us took (or stayed on) jobs because someone else thought it was a good idea. Others of us have made a variety of decisions at the beckoning of people, and not as a result of the directives God laid out for us. Well, going into this New Year, that all has to change.

In order to align ourselves with what God is doing, we have to get our instructions directly from God and follow them with all of our energy. This is our part.

Now, what will this "Game Change" look like on the ground? God will begin to bring us into the very things He has placed in our hearts. Think about what has been on your heart for the last two or more years. We are not talking about "whims." No, we are talking about the things that have stayed with us over time.

I have some profession and personal goals that have been on my heart for several years. God let me know that these are the things I will begin to experience this year. He also told me I have to watch Him carefully as He makes strategic changes in my world. I don't want to complain if He takes something (or someone) away when He is actually working out His plan.

So, here is what I want to suggest we do.

Get before God and go back over the two or three key things that have been on your heart for a long period of time. Allow Him to minister a personal (and possibly very specific) word to you about these things. Prepare yourself to agree with God when he brings and takes away things and people as he works His plan.

Finally, let's keep our eyes on God and our hearts resting firmly in His embrace. Why? Because this year everything changes.

2014 is ... the Game Changer!

Be blessed.

Joyce M. White, LMSW

Psalm 121

- [1] I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
 [2] My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.
 [3] He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keeps thee will not slumber.
 [4] Behold, he that keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
 [5] The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.
 [6] The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
 [7] The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
 [8] The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.



A Journey to Intimacy

Meditation

The Father and His Sons

Father, glorify Your sons, that Your sons also may glorify You.

Translation: Father cause us look like You (glory) so that we can show others what You look like (glory), in the various situations of life. (i.e., *the Father was quiet...the Son was quiet. The Father endured hardship as a good soldier, the Son endures. Like Father; like Son.*)

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; that the eyes of our understanding may be enlightened so that we may know what is the hope of His calling; and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saint. And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us, who believe; according to the working of His mighty power. Which He made manifest when He raised Christ from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavens. And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And in the ages to come He will show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness towards us through Christ Jesus.

Here we see a number of realities:

That God had elevated Christ to His right hand
That His servants have been made to sit in heavenly places in Christ
That there is a reason that God is being so nice to us

Here we also see a most beautiful answer to our Lord's prayer. He said, as He lifted up His eyes
Father, I thank You that You heard Me. And I know that You always hear me. (John 11:41-42)

Our Lord's petition was:
Father, I will that they also, whom You have given me, be with me where I am; so that they may behold My glory; the glory that I had with you before the foundation of the world.
Father, I want them to see how wonderful You are. (John 17:24)

Until next time. <ccc>

Sr. Editor, JoAnn C. White, sMHG

Psalm 123:2

Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden to the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the LORD our God, until that he have mercy upon us.

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May the Living God, richly bless you and your family this New Year.