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# CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

"NO MAN THAT WARRETH ENTANGLETH HIMSELF IN THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE, THAT HE MAY PLEASE HIM WHO HATH CHOSEN HIM TO BE A SOLDIER."

II TIMOTHY 2:4

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## RECESSION? NO PROBLEM FOR GOD - OR FOR YOU

**MATTHEW 11:12-13** AND FROM THE DAYS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST UNTIL NOW THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SUFFERS VIOLENCE, AND THE VIOLENT TAKE IT BY FORCE.

In my travels as an itinerant minister, I have opportunity to talk with many pastors, ministry leaders and church members. In short, people are being sorely tempted to worry about the future – and in particular, their future. I have to fight

these temptations myself, because from the natural perspective, things look very bleak, but I want to encourage you to set your eyes on "things above", and to remember the words of Jesus, Who said: Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God,

believe also in Me. (John 14:1). Guard your heart, and don't let the enemy, or this recession, steal your joy and peace. Remember Philippians 4:4-8!

**LUKE 21:25-28** "AND THERE WILL BE SIGNS IN THE SUN, IN THE MOON, AND IN THE STARS; AND ON THE EARTH DISTRESS OF NATIONS, WITH PERPLEXITY, THE SEA AND THE WAVES ROARING; MEN'S HEARTS FAILING THEM FROM FEAR AND THE EXPECTATION OF THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE COMING ON THE EARTH, FOR THE POWERS OF THE HEAVENS WILL BE SHAKEN. THEN THEY WILL SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY. NOW WHEN THESE THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN, LOOK UP AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, BECAUSE YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWS NEAR."

As this recession deepens, and daily reports from the media continue to spew forth more doom and gloom, its vitally important we keep our perspective, and stay strong in faith. If people fail to renew their minds to the promises of God, fear will have its way in their hearts and lives, exactly as Jesus said it would in the days just prior to His return.

This recession hasn't caught God by surprise, and His promises to bless His children who trust Him and cast their cares on Him remain the same. Malachi 3:6-12 is still in the Bible. Luke 6:38 is still in the Bible. Philippians 4:19 is still in the Bible. You can still do all things through Christ who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13). The Holy Spirit is still greater in you than the devil out there (1 John 4:4). We don't have a recession-version of the Bible, do

we? God is well able to take good care of you, and us, and everybody who places their trust in Him. Read Matthew 6:25-34 carefully and prayerfully. Let those words bring comfort to you if necessary, or reassurance if needed. Jesus is still on His throne, and He's still in love with you! If God be for you, no one can be against you (Romans 8:31).

Recessions like this one are just tools the devil uses to slow down the worldwide spread of the gospel. He wants Christians so paralyzed in fear that they basically take themselves off the court and out of the game. Remember to keep your spiritual perspective at all times. Everything is about winning souls, and having what it takes to do that. A job. Divine health. A secure dwelling place. Money to live on and sow with. Spiritual understanding of

authority and dominion – all of that plus more. When Christians become so fearful for their future that they pull back their resources and no longer fund the Great Commission, we're playing right into the hands of the enemy. You can't let that happen!

Whatever you need, take it, or take it back - by force! Satan is not going to just step aside and let you have whatever you want, or do whatever you want for God. We don't take what we take by diplomacy, appeasement, truce or compromise. We take what we take because as children of God, we've got authority and dominion on this earth. Therefore, have the ability to enforce the victory Jesus died to provide, no matter what kind of economic state we find ourselves in.

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:20** FOR ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD IN HIM ARE YES, AND IN HIM AMEN, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THROUGH US.



How many of the promises of God are yes and amen? All of them! All of them all the time! Whatever you need or want or desire – use your authority and dominion in Christ to take it by force – rip it right out

## YOU NEED TO QUIT LISTENING TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW GOD!

Instead of letting ungodly and unregenerate people dictate your day, you need to separate yourself and meditate in the verses I'm outlining here, as well as hundreds of others I don't have the space to give you in this one article. Greater is the Holy Spirit in you than the devil in the world (1 John

It doesn't matter what goes on in terms of the world's system. The banking system, the stock market, the economy, the housing market – they're all in the toilet – but the promises of God have never changed. God is still God, and wants you and I to act like it, talk like it and think like it. The fact is, you still have authority. You still have dominion. You still have the advantage over any and all enemies of the gospel. You can change what you don't want, and take what you don't have! God told us to command Him concerning the works of His hands (Isaiah 45:11), and Jesus told

When tempted to think your situation is *impossible*, take time to meditate on passages like these:

Job 38:6

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

"Who is this who darkens counsel  
By words without knowledge?

Now prepare yourself like a man;  
I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?

Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements?

of the hands of the devil or his world system. The unbelievers know nothing about things like this, so never mind them. They'll continue to talk fear, doubt and worry over the future, but it shouldn't be that way for

4:4). Greater means greater! Remember, Jesus said people's hearts would be failing them in these last days. People are falling over because of fear, stress is a buzz word for just about everybody, and the drug companies are making billions producing drugs for every conceivable problem, ache

## YOU STILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY!

us to go into all the world with His authority (Matthew 28:18-20). So let's do what He invites us to do, shall we? God knows where you live, doesn't He? Of course He does. Doesn't He love you? So much He sent Jesus to die for you. Hasn't He promised to never leave you or forsake you? He has. Then why worry about today, tomorrow or next year? Instead of caving in and having a big pity party for yourself, strap on your weapons and go out on the attack. You'll find that when you do, God will back you up 100%!

## HOW BIG IS GOD?

Surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened?

Or who laid its cornerstone,

NKJV

Isaiah 40:12-26

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who

Christians! Jesus said that all things are possible to him who believes (Mark 9:23). That means exactly what it says! All things.

or ailment. Depression, loose bowels, indigestion, cancer, high cholesterol, erectile dysfunction – you name it – they've got a drug they want you to take for it. The more you listen to them, the more fearful and confused you're going to be!

What should we do when we're attacked? Counter-attack! You block the best punch the devil throws your way, and you launch your counter-strike with jab after jab – driving him across the ring and pummeling him to the canvas in the corner. Show no mercy! Have you lost your job? Believe God and He'll give you a better job! Have you lost your home? Believe God and He'll not only provide and protect you and your family, but He'll give you a better home. All He wants is a little bit of cooperation with our faith!

taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?

Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from



the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.

“To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them

all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing. NKJV

Listen to how God talks here. Basically He’s telling us to remember Who He is, what He’s done, and how He’s so far above the problems of this planet. He who holds the universe in the palm of His hand - is surely able to protect you, provide for you and cause you to triumph during times like these! Think of the vastness of the

universe, and remember that God upholds all of that by the word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). The nations of the earth, He says, are as nothing to Him. Every star in the universe has been named by God – think of that! So relax, God’s got your back. When you engage the enemy, do so with these thoughts firmly implanted in your mind and heart, because you’re still going to have to fight and stand your ground in faith, exercising your authority and dominion.

**LUKE 16:16 THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS WERE UNTIL JOHN. SINCE THAT TIME THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS BEEN PREACHED, AND EVERYONE IS PRESSING INTO IT.**

When God tells us to “press into it”, He’s telling us there’s going to be a spiritual struggle. There will be temptations to fear, to worry, to compromise and give up. There will be times when it looks like defeat

is imminent. The devil will give us lie after lie, trying to convince us to back off and quit pressing in. Hebrews chapters 3 and 4 talk specifically about the work of entering God’s rest, and that’s exactly what

we need to do in a recession like this. The only work of a New Testament believer is the work of faith – entering into God’s rest – and staying there!

**1 CHRONICLES 29:11-13 YOURS, O LORD, IS THE GREATNESS, THE POWER AND THE GLORY, THE VICTORY AND THE MAJESTY; FOR ALL THAT IS IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH IS YOURS; YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, O LORD, AND YOU ARE EXALTED AS HEAD OVER ALL. BOTH RICHES AND HONOR COME FROM YOU, AND YOU REIGN OVER ALL. IN YOUR HAND IS POWER AND MIGHT; IN YOUR HAND IT IS TO MAKE GREAT AND TO GIVE STRENGTH TO ALL. “NOW THEREFORE, OUR GOD, WE THANK YOU AND PRAISE YOUR GLORIOUS NAME.**

Pick up your weapons, exercise your authority, and throw the devil out! No matter what you’re facing today – layoffs,

pink slips, foreclosure threats, bankruptcy notices, terminal sicknesses – whatever – remember who God is, and who you are

in Christ! As it says in Isaiah 54:17, no weapon formed against you can prosper – period!

