

Rise Up And Take Your Place

(Sample Excerpt)

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Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible.

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Why This Book?

I am convinced that many of us Christians today are living very much below the level God intended for us to live at. Many Christians are not happy. They are not excited about life. Many feel like quitting. I am inspired by God to let you know that “Quitting” is not an option.

My goal is to encourage you with this mini-book. I want to exhort you as I would one of my own earthly family members. You are my Brother or Sister, you know? I want to remind you of who you are in Christ. I want you to know that you are very special. God paid an awesome price for you. He cares for you deeply. He wants you to have joy unspeakable and full of glory.

I pray that the fire of God's love will be rekindled in you as you read this book. There is a very exciting life of Victory in Christ waiting for you.

Regardless of what might have happened in your past, I want you to know that God has great plans for you. Even if you think your life is good today, I want you to know that there are higher heights that God can take you to. God is not through with you yet. God is patiently working with you and waiting for you to allow Him to take you higher.

Anytime you are feeling a little down, I will suggest you take this little book and read it all over again. You will be encouraged. You will be reminded of who you are in Christ. You will be reminded that the Greater One lives in you and that you are more than a conqueror through JESUS CHRIST.

Chapter 1

Your Faith Is On Trial

We know from **2 Corinthians 5:17** that *“Faith comes by hearing; and hearing by the Word of God.”* Satan does not want your faith to grow. He knows that when your faith grows, you will become more of a threat to him. That is why he comes immediately to steal the Word as soon as it is preached or sown into your heart.

If you feel like you are on trial today, please let me assure you that it is the Word that Satan is after. We shall see from the letter that Peter wrote to us that it is not you as a person who is on trial. It is your faith that is on trial. Satan is coming against you because of your faith. Satan hates God but he is not able to

get to God. Since you and I are made in the image of God, Satan attempts to fight the God that he sees in us. If you put on the whole armor of God, including your God-face plate, then when Satan looks at you, he only sees God. **Galatians 3:27** also says we should put on CHRIST.

Anytime Satan sees that you are getting ready to take your stand and grow in God, he comes to remind you of your past failures. He is described as the accuser of the brethren. He tries to dig up dirt on you just as we do sometimes against people who are in high places in public office.

“Peter, an apostle of JESUS CHRIST, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of

the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of JESUS CHRIST: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being

much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of JESUS CHRIST: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1: 1-9).

Peter says that your faith is much more precious than gold. But he says your faith will be tried with fire. The trial Peter is talking about here is not from God. God will not try your faith with fire. God will not burn your house down or kill one of your children or make you sick and poor in order to teach you anything or to keep you humble. Those are the works of Satan.

Sometimes, the way Satan tries your faith is to make you think that you are worthless. He will make you compare yourself to others who have higher education, drive nicer cars and live in bigger homes. He will convince you that you will never have any of those nice things in life.

When you are in the middle of those trials, it is important to hold on to your confession of faith. The Word says in **1 Peter 1:7** that our faith, *“might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of JESUS CHRIST.”*

When you hold fast to your confession of faith while being tried with fire, JESUS will show up. When JESUS shows up, you can be assured that the fight is over. The enemy wants you to think that you are struggling all by yourself. He doesn't want you to call upon the Name of

JESUS. 1 Peter 1:6 says, *“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.”*

Your trial is only for a season. I’ve heard a preacher say, “and it came to pass.” When you are faced with a trial, just say to yourself, “And it came to pass.” Everything is subject to change. Don’t think about quitting. Quitting is not an option to a child of God. If you did not settle that question when you were born again, then I encourage you to do it now. Settle it in your heart that you’re in this for the long haul.

Declare to the devil that there is no turning back or giving up in you. Your trials will not last for ever. There is always an end to everything. Don’t think God has abandoned you.

When Satan intensifies his attacks on your life, that is a sign that you are becoming a greater threat to him. Don't be discouraged. God gives us more grace when the burdens grow greater. For every test and trial, God has provided a way for us to escape.

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”

(1 Corinthians 10:13)

You must remember that Satan has a boundary that he cannot cross. He will push that boundary only as far as you allow him.

Satan knows, by the words of your mouth, how you act under

pressure. He will push you to your limit unless you stop him. He will poke around in your life until he discovers your weak spots. Once he finds your weak spots, he will concentrate his attacks in that area of your life.

If you notice that you are being attacked constantly in one area of your life, then maybe you have allowed a loop-hole to Satan. The Word tells us not to give any place to the devil. He has no place except the one that we give him. We need to close all the loop-holes that we have allowed Satan to slip through into our lives.

However, when you are under trial, don't always assume that there is something wrong with you. It is Okay to check yourself out. Check your love walk. If God reveals something to you which needs changing, change it. But don't go

demon hunting under every rock of your life. Don't put yourself down. God paid an awesome price for you to be up.

I have seen people who have a lot of anger inside them. They blame other people for their troubles. Don't blame your parents, your children, your relatives, your boss, your co-workers, your pastor your church members, or anyone else. Forget about what anyone did or did not do or even what you did or did not do. Remember what HE did. Remember what the LORD JESUS CHRIST did on the cross on your behalf.

It doesn't matter if people do not love you. There is ONE who loves you. He loved you so much that He died on the cross for you. He died for us even when we were ugly and sinful. If He can die for me, why can't I live for Him?

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ JESUS the LORD; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of JESUS CHRIST. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us”
(2 Corinthians 4:3-7).

Satan knows that if you know the truth, you will defeat him every time. He attempts to blind your eyes, “lest

the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto you”

(2 Corinthians 4:3).

Notice in the passage above that God has commanded the light to shine out of darkness. God has, *“shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of JESUS CHRIST”*

(2 Corinthians 4:6).

God’s Word has exposed the tricks and devices of the enemy. When we allow God’s light to shine on us, then when Satan sees us, we will look like JESUS to him. Let me remind you again that when you have the whole armor of God on, you need to keep the face plate down. The devil will not know who is behind the face plate. All he will see is JESUS.

Notice that the Word did not say we should put on part of the armor. It should not be a little of God and a little of us. It should be all of God. It is in Him that we should live and move and have our being. With the armor of God on us, when God Himself looks at us, He does not see what we used to be. He only sees His Son JESUS.

Don't ever let your past failures keep you down. God does not hold your past against you. Only Satan will try to remind you. But he cannot defeat you if you have the whole armor of God on. Keep the armor on. Don't ever take it down.

The passage in 2 Corinthians says we have God's treasure in us. We should be God-inside minded. *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us"* **(2 Corinthians 4:7).**

We should never get to the point where we depend on our own strength. We cannot do anything by our strength. The Bible says without God, we can do nothing. But we can do all things through CHRIST who strengthens us. You need to always remember that you are a walking powerhouse.

Don't ever walk with your head down. Lift up your head, square up your shoulders and walk tall like the king or queen that you are. Have you ever seen a king or a queen walking with his or her head down? No! Do you know why? His or her crown would fall off. Keep your head up high.

I can assure you that when you realize that you are protected by the whole armor of God, you will not back down or yield to the enemy when he attacks you. You will stand your ground and fight back. You will

not be easily intimidated by other people. You do not need to compare yourself with other people. We all have different callings and gifts. But we are all equally important in the sight of God. Every part fitly joined together works together. You should be encouraged by **Ephesians 4:6**:

“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love”
(Ephesians 4:6).

Let your light shine. Don't hide it. Don't put a bushel over your candle. Don't deny the world the opportunity to experience the light and life of God coming through you. Allow people to see that you are completely sold out to JESUS. Declare to yourself, “As for

me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Come hell or high water, I will serve the LORD. I know the LORD will always put me over when I put my trust in Him.”