

Lifting Up The STANDARD

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 47 - December, 2014

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded."

(Philippians 3:13-15)

"Press Toward The Mark"

As we begin a new year one would need to have his head buried in the sand not to know we are facing troublesome days.

If you are troubled about the future you are in good company as Jesus also was troubled on occasion.

John 11:33,

"When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled."

John 11:33,

"Now is my soul troubled."

John 13:21,

"When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit."

Obviously it is not wrong to be troubled about the times we are living in, it would be wrong not to be troubled; however, in John chapter fourteen Jesus also said,

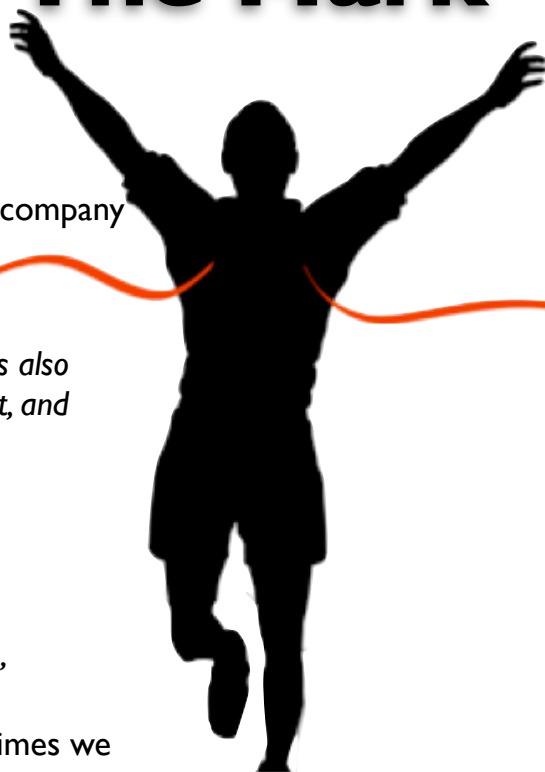
John 14:1,

"Let not your heart be troubled."

John 14:1,

"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

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"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course..."

(Second Timothy 4:7)



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The Context

**Jesus Had Just Told His Disciples That
He Was Leaving Them.**

John 13:33,

"Whither I go, ye cannot come."

John 13:36,

"Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now."

John 14:28,

*"I said unto you, I go away...If ye loved me, ye would rejoice,
because I said, I go unto the Father."*

Good Reason To Be Troubled

They had good reason to be troubled, however, they did not have any viable reason to remain troubled. Notice the words "let not." Jesus was saying they must not allow themselves to be controlled by their emotions. The disciples were troubled in their emotions; however, when Jesus was troubled we read in John 13:21 He was troubled in His "spirit."

Last summer we had a nest of bluejays outside our back door. I decided to get a ladder and get some pictures of the babies. The mother bird was not happy about that. She flew at me and attacked my head. I did not let her keep attacking.

We might not be able to keep a bird from landing in our hair but we can keep him from building a nest there. We may not be able to keep troublesome thoughts from entering our mind; however, we don't have to let them continue to control us.

The Lord Offers Peace

John 14:27,

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

"Only Believe"

Our peace will be in direct relationship to what we really believe and we may not know what we really believe until we face the storms of life.

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**"Make no
mistake...the fight
is on, and you can
be sure I'm not
going down without
a fight."**



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In the middle of a major life-threatening storm Paul said,
Acts 27:25,

"Sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."

As we face the possible storms of the new year we need to rest in the fact that we can be of good cheer. I have read the last chapter. It will all turn out according to His will.

1. Christ Offers Peace.

2. Christ Has Made The Provision.

It is all being done *"for you."*

John 14:2,

"I go to prepare a place for you."

John 14:3,

"I go to prepare a place for you."

John 16:7,

"I go to prepare a place for you."

John 16:26,

"I will pray the Father for you."

The phrase *"for you"* is in the Bible over 100 times. Below are a few verses.

Exodus 14:14,

"Lord shall fight for you."

Matthew 25:34,

"The kingdom prepared for you."

Luke 22:19,

"My body which is given for you."

Luke 22:20,

"My blood was shed for you."

Colossians 1:5,

"Hope laid up for you in heaven."

1. The Lord Offers Peace

2. The Lord Has Made All The Provisions

Philippians 4:12,

"My God shall supply all your need."

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Things Satan Will Use Against Us In The New Year If We Let Him

DISSAPPOINTMENT

Disappointment is a feeling of sadness or displeasure caused by the nonfulfillment of our hopes or our expectations.

Remember the two disciples in Luke twenty-four to whom Jesus said *"What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?"*

Their sadness was because they *"Trusted that it had been he (Jesus) which should have redeemed Israel."*

Some times our disappoints will come because we don't know what the Lord is doing, and sometimes our disappointments are for other reasons; however, we are all going to face some things in the new year that will be disappointing. If satan has his way the next step will be...

DISCOURAGEMENT

Discouragement is a loss of confidence and enthusiasm. Disappointments will come and they will go. We do not always have control over discouraging circumstances; however discouragement is a choice. No person or no circumstance can discourage me unless I allow it to. Discouragement is a choice.

Isaiah 40:31,

"They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."



1. The Lord Has Prepared A Place.

John 14:2,

"I go to prepare a place for you."

Not only has the Lord prepared a place for us in Heaven, He allows us to have a place of service here on earth. There is nothing in this world as rewarding and fulfilling as serving the Lord. Nothing! God has a plan for your life. Don't miss it!

2. The Lord Has Given Us A Promise.

John 14:3,

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

3. The Lord Has Given Us The Opportunity of Answered Prayer.

John 14:14,

"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

I was saved when I was twelve years old. When I read this verse I was thrilled. I wanted a Mercedes convertible. It says I can ask for "any thing." Would God give me a Mercedes?

I am now over seventy years old and still do not have that car. Why? Because the Bible says I must ask in "Jesus' Name." Not long after I was saved I heard John R Rice say if we can prove to God that Jesus wants something we can ask for it in Jesus' Name and be sure of getting it. Well, that was the end of my Mercedes dream. (We would do well to think carefully before closing our prayers in Jesus' Name.)

4. The Lord Has Given Us The Person of The Holy Spirit.

John 14:16,17,

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

As we face the new year we need to take the advice given to us.

John 14:27,

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

"A New Year, A New Beginning"

The old year ends, a new begins with pages clean and new; And what is written on each page will now depend on you.

You can't relive the year that's past, Erasing every wrong; For once a year - or day - is spent, It is forever gone.

But don't give up in dark despair If you have failed some test; Seek God's forgiveness and resolve Henceforth to do your best.

Resolve each precious day to do Things good and kind and pure; Though days and years may pass away, These things shall still endure.

You know not where your path may lead Nor what's beyond the hill; But know that God walks at your side, If you will do His will.

All things are possible with God, Though days be bright or dim; So do your best and know that you Can leave the rest to Him.

- Author Unknown