



A WORD FROM

RICK JOYNER

The War Chronicles, Part VIII Truth Is Marching

It is easy to understand why so many are glad to see 2020 gone with all of the troubles that came upon the world in the past year. Even so, I hear far more testimonies of people who got their lives back during 2020, especially recovering their devotion to The Lord, to their families, and getting priorities in their life back in order. Let's keep the good momentum going and resolve that we will learn from all that has happened so that our trials are not wasted.

It is good to always keep hope that the future will be better, but we must also keep in mind that much of that will depend on us, not the conditions in the

world. As Proverbs 15:15 states, **“All the days of the afflicted are bad, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.”** For those who are abiding in the presence of The Lord where there is “fullness of joy,” even the worst of times can be a feast. If this is not the case with us we have drifted from Him, and the most important thing we can do is seek Him.

As some of the brilliant new schools of psychology have determined, we are not who we are because of our environment, or our experiences good or bad, but who we are is determined by how we react to these things. The Lord has promised that He will not allow us to go through anything that does not work out for our good, so it is basic faith to address every trial with confidence that it will work out for our good. To do anything less is to have more faith in the troubles to hurt us than in God to help us.

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The MorningStar® Journal

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2021 is beginning as the most intense year of our lifetime in some ways, and there is good evidence that this will increase. America has more division than it has had since The Civil War, and the American government is perhaps in its greatest Constitutional crisis yet.

We are told in Hebrews 12 that everything that can be shaken will be shaken, but we have a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Every part of our government that was not built on kingdom principles or has drifted from these will be shaken. What remains cannot be shaken. This is a good thing, as is all discipline from The Lord. If we are personally shaking because of this, perhaps we have put too much hope in our temporal government than we should. I'm just sayin'....

As we look to our government leadership, there does not seem to be a single solution that has been proposed for almost anything that will not lead to great and increasing discord in our country. As we have been saying for many years now, every major human problem is now beyond human remedy. We can expect more to surface for which there seems to be no solution—there is a solution to everyone that is not only workable, but perfect—they are beyond man, but nothing is impossible for God. He can fix anything we're facing very easily.

So, our job is to keep our attention on God, not the troubles. Like Peter, we can walk on the troubled waters if we keep focused on The Lord, and we will start to sink if we focus on the troubles. One of the most important ways we can do this is to turn off the news and pick up our Bibles.

A friend just sent me a quote by George Patton who said “Prepare for the unknown by studying how others in the past coped with the unforeseeable and unpredictable.” The greatest of these examples have already been compiled for us in one book—The Bible. The Bible has never been more relevant to the times than it is right now.

I wear a fitness tracker and one of the things it measures is stress. I have watched to see how certain activities affect the levels of stress, and watching the news is one of the things that can send it way up. Reading The Bible, or books about The Lord and faith, or just Christian living, sends it way down. Because I spend so much time in these my overall

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stress level is below average—which is very good. This is a key indicator that can have a profound impact on our overall health, so we should look at all of the time we spend in the Word or other edifying sources as important as any exercise or nutritional program we have.

One of the words for 2021 that General Boykin had for us at our recent Vision Conference was that we need to all get on a good Bible reading program this year. As we began 2021 with a twenty-one day fast, many chose to fast from watching the news and spend that time in The Bible. Since I have to write these articles for the *MSJ* over a month before they are distributed, our corporate fast is already over, but God is not limited by time and space, so you can join us now. If you have a stress monitor, watch the impact this has on you. Because unhealthy stress levels can damage our immune system, not to mention virtually all of our organs, in these days of pandemics and rising conflict, this can be an even more important thing for us to do.

As stress is directly related to fear, let us resolve that we are going to grow in faith and walk in faith, not fear. Bob Jones used to call the media the world's biggest terrorist organization because of the way it constantly sows fear. We need to be informed but not by sources that feed fear and doubt. We are building one now called “The MorningStar Journal News.” It is still in its formative stages, but even now you can get coverage of the most important things happen-

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ing from a faith-based perspective that sows vision, hope, and faith by including a sound biblical and kingdom perspective. Check it out at www.morningstarjournal.com.

These are some simple and basic things we can do that can have a major impact on our health, as well as our quality of life. If we are getting closer to The Lord then we should be growing in joy, not anxiety because **“In His presence is fullness of joy”** (see **Psalm 16:11**). Therefore, our level of joy is a good metric to determine how well we are abiding in Him.

This is also going to have a major impact in the harvest as those who have the peace and joy of The Lord are going to stand out much more in the increasing stress and darkness the world is going through. Now is the time to prepare so we can obey the biblical exhortation to be ready in season and out of season to give the reason for the hope that is within us. Many are going to want to know the One who is the Source of our peace and joy, so now is the time to memorize the message and Scriptures that testify of our King and His salvation.

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In Luke 19:42 The Lord chastises Jerusalem for not **“knowing the things that make for peace.”** What are those things? Let us now seek them for ourselves, but also for our communities and cities. Who knows if we might be the ones who God uses to spare our city from the trauma that others are now experiencing.

As we are told in Romans 14:19, **“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”** While the things of this world, even the most seemingly stable institutions and governments are crumbling, we are called to be building. We are called to build people, not just things. We can change our world by seeking to do something every day that would build someone else up. You can count on it multiplying because this is the leaven of the kingdom that will counter all of the darkness that is going on in the world.

The primary way that we will be used to build and help prepare the way for The Lord and His kingdom is to obey Matthew 6:33-34:

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“So, do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

The Lord promises that if we will keep Him and His kingdom first in our pursuits, He will take care of everything else we need. No one knows, or has the ability to take care of these better than Him, so ultimately this is the answer to all of our problems, as well as all of the world’s problems. How can we not be the biggest fools that every lived not to take this deal from God Almighty? 🙏

In His Service,



Rick Joyner

I Corinthians 15:58