



Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

Worship God in the Battles

“God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:24

God expects our worship but how do we do that during great battles in our lives and how do we worship God while battling ourselves in the wilderness before He gives us what He promised?

The Israelites learned the answers to these questions the hard way. Even though God freed them from slavery and they experienced repeated miracles, they still murmured, grumbled and complained. This teaches us that this kind of attitude is what keeps us from moving forward or to a new level with God or from defeated satan’s attacks against us. Complaining opens the doors for the devil and keeps us trapped in our own mental strongholds. The Israelites focused on complaining instead of worship and so faced death and destruction in the wilderness.

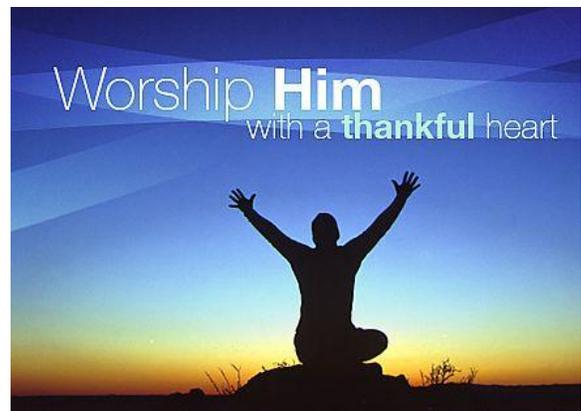
“We should not tempt the Lord [try His patience, become a trial to Him, critically appraise Him, and exploit His goodness] as some of them did—and were killed by poisonous serpents; Nor discontentedly complain as some of them did—and were put out of the way entirely by the destroyer.”
1 Corinthians 10:9-15

We should make a list of all the blessings that we can think of and confess them every day. We should be grateful to God that we have anything at all compared to so many Christians who are martyred around the world for their faith in Christ.

Let’s look at a testimony of a Mom and her daughter in Nigeria from Voice of the Martyrs: “Afanan and her daughter will never forget the final cries of her husband before his life was taken by militant Muslims in October 2010.

Six months prior to her husband’s death, Afanan’s family had decided to move to a different community where her husband had found employment. Her husband was the only Christian among the Muslims at work. The threats began three days before he was killed. Muslims barged into their home, locked Afanan and her daughter in a room and proceeded to torture her husband. For hours, she and her daughter were forced to listen to his heart-wrenching cries until they ended abruptly with the sound of a gunshot”.

Believers in Muslim countries are habitually persecuted, imprisoned or killed like this for their faith every day... yet despite this we hear and read testimonies of their continued worshipping and praising God!



Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 “For our light, momentary affliction (this slight distress of the passing hour) is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory [beyond all measure, excessively surpassing all comparisons and all calculations, a vast and transcendent glory and blessedness never to cease!], Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal (brief and fleeting), but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting”.

Worshipping God in the battles brings victory in our lives but having a complaining, critical faultfinding spirit brings spiritual death to our lives. **Ephesians 5:4** says, **“Let there be no filthiness (obscenity, indecency) nor foolish and sinful (silly and corrupt) talk, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting or becoming; but instead voice your thankfulness [to God]”**. Instead of vexing, offending and saddening the Holy Spirit, we need to voice our thankfulness to God.

Another great testimony is from a man who desperately needed a financial breakthrough and God told him, **“Worship me every day in your time with Me and I will do a miracle”**. The man not knowing what God was going to do, got up every day and started worshipping God. After 2 weeks he received a phone call from a business man offering him a proposal that would bring him a great deal of money. He received the exact amount of money that he was expecting. Praise God for this victory!

Yes it's hard to deal with that difficult boss, yes it's hard to deal with the wilderness, and yes it's hard to deal with those harassing people wherever they are but God is the one who repays. **“Vengeance is Mine says the Lord: I will repay” Romans 12:19**. God will give you a reward for your trouble. Just like in **Isaiah 61:7-11** **“Instead of your [former] shame you shall have a twofold recompense; instead of dishonor and reproach [your people] shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double [what they had forfeited]; everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong with violence or a burnt offering. And I will faithfully give them their recompense in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant or league with them. And their offspring shall be known among the nations and their descendants among the peoples. All who see them [in their prosperity] will recognize and acknowledge that they are the people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as [surely as] the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring forth, so [surely] the Lord God will cause rightness and justice and praise to spring forth before all the nations [through the self-fulfilling power of His word]”**.

Evil people will always be around us and attacking us in some way and we can't seek revenge or evil against them; God will repay. Remember that many of these people are being plagued by evil spirits that are treating them like puppets and they deserve our help if God leads us to strategy and victory with them. We can also do what **Proverbs 16:6** says to do, **“By mercy and love, truth and fidelity [to God and man—not by sacrificial offerings], iniquity is purged out of the heart, and by the reverent, worshipful fear of the Lord men depart from and avoid evil”**.

I will close with **Ephesians 4:29-31** that says **“Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [do not offend or vex or sadden Him], by whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God's own, secured) for the day of redemption (of final deliverance through Christ from evil and the consequences of sin). Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamor, contention) and slander (evil-speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice (spite, ill will, or baseness of any kind)”**.

Worship God in all things and at all times, especially when in the battles of life! Doing so will always bring victory!