

# REAL**Truth**. REAL**Love**. REAL**Hope**.

A quarterly newsletter from Pastor Jeff Schreve and *From His Heart Ministries*

Spring 2017

## Three keys to becoming a true prayer warrior

By Jeff Schreve

I heard of a survey conducted by a large Christian ministry. They wanted to see the type of homes their staff members were raised in. The results were very interesting. The study revealed that most of the staff came from either a strong Christian family or a non-Christian family. Very few of them came from a marginal Christian family.

Do you know why? It's because when kids grow up in a home where mom and dad are spiritual compromisers, they view Christianity as hypocritical and unimportant. Listen, nobody is attracted to fake!

And one of the greatest marks of a truly authentic faith is a passionate prayer life. Studies show that when mom and dad are prayer warriors in the home, it makes a powerful difference in the family.

The Old Testament prophet Daniel was a true prayer warrior. As we look at how he prayed, we discover three elements in his life that show us how we can become strong prayer warriors as well.

**First, find *strength* in prayer by making it your go-to in hard times.**

Daniel prayed in the morning, at lunch, and in the evening. The Bible tells us that even after the king had made a law outlawing prayer for 30 days, "[Daniel] continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously" (Daniel 6:10).

(continued on p 2)

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**GET BATTLE-READY  
WITH THESE  
NEW TEACHING  
RESOURCES!**

See page 3 for details ...

### INSIDE >

- Q&A with Jeff, p. 2
- Your Gifts at Work! p. 4
- From Debbie's Heart, p. 3
- A Note to You from Jeff, p. 4



Daniel didn't put his prayer life on hold just because the king outlawed it. Daniel found strength in prayer. He knew that to put the kibosh on his thrice-daily prayer time would be a tremendous compromise of his faith. So he continued in prayer, even if it jeopardized his life. Prayer was his first response in times of trouble, just as it should be with us. Prayer connects us to God, the Source of comfort and strength.

**Second, find joy in prayer through consistency.**

Prayer was the rhythm of Daniel's life. He was a guy who was serious about connecting with the Lord throughout the day. To Daniel, prayer wasn't something he *had* to do. It was something he *got* to do. It was a privilege, not a burden. He found great joy in connecting with God through prayer.

Being consistent in prayer is huge in the Christian life because it's in seeking the Lord continually that we'll find joy. Psalm 40:16 says, "Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let those who love Your salvation say continually, 'The LORD be magnified!'" Seek the Lord consistently—then you'll rejoice and be glad in Him!

**Third, find peace in prayer by having the right attitude.**

You know one of the things that distinguished Daniel? His godly attitude. He had an attitude of serenity that reflected the fact that his God was in control, regardless of the circumstances. Daniel could face the lions' den with perfect peace because he knew his God was greater.

A friend of mine was on the mission field in Central Asia for 13 years. This experience gave him a refreshing perspective on life. Whenever he hears someone talking fearfully about the state of the world, he stops them and says, "Hey, God's still on His throne. He's still in charge. We don't need to be afraid."

When you truly see that God is in control, it changes your attitude ... and it changes how you pray. No longer do you call upon the Lord from a worried, fearful, faithless heart. You understand that even if things don't go the way you'd like, God's still got it. He promises to work all things together for good. We can bring our needs to Him and confidently trust Him with the outcome.

Do you want to move out of the ordinary in your prayer life and become a true prayer warrior? Find your strength, your joy, and your peace in prayer. It'll transform your life, your faith, and your family!

## Q&A WITH JEFF



**Q: Jeff, I really struggle in prayer. I can't go a minute without getting distracted. How can I ever become the prayer warrior God wants me to be?**

**A:** *One of the best ways to beat distractions is to picture yourself before the throne of Almighty God. (The imagery in Isaiah 6 is helpful here.) In your mind's eye, see God high and lifted up. You are coming before Him with your requests and intercession. See His face of love, forgiveness, and acceptance. See Him listening intently to your voice (Psalm 116:1-2). As you begin to visualize your prayers going directly to the King, your mind will stay occupied and engaged.*

**Q: I prayed God would spare me from a really tough situation, but He didn't. Why didn't He answer my prayer?**

**A:** *Prayer is not a guarantee that we get what we want. God is not a heavenly genie. We don't rub His lamp through prayer and see Him appear, saying, "Yes, master?" On the contrary, He is the Master. When we pray, we ask Him for the things that are in accordance with His will. He promises to answer those prayers (see 1 John 5:14-15). If we ask for things we desire but have no direct promise in Scripture that He will grant these requests, we leave the results with Him. True faith is not necessarily getting what you want, but joyfully receiving what He gives. The Father knows best. You can trust Him, no matter what.*

## GET BATTLE-READY WITH THESE NEW TEACHING RESOURCES!



Dear Friend,

The Bible makes it clear: we are soldiers in the Lord's army. So how are we to act? What are we to do? How can we be good soldiers of the Lord?

I want to give you the answers to these questions and more in my NEW 5-message series, *We Are Soldiers*, and my new booklet titled *The Lord's Army*. They're yours as my thanks for your donation this month!

Your support is invaluable as we work together to reach more people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. So thank you for your generosity. I pray these resources help you get battle-ready for whatever challenges come your way!

*Pastor Jeff*

FROM DEBBIE'S HEART:

## Peacekeeper or Peacemaker — Which Are You? By Debbie Schreve



Have you ever been around someone who cringed at the very thought of confrontation—or someone who wanted to experience peace in every relationship at all times? These "peacekeepers" try to keep conflict to a minimum and will often do whatever is necessary to ensure things are peaceful.

I grew up with several peacekeepers. My mother absolutely hated conflict. Growing up as a pastor's kid, I can remember many times when a deacon would get upset with my father. The moment my mother found out about it, she was an emotional wreck and fear would completely take over. She would be fearful that Dad would lose his job or there would be tension at church. She would immediately want my dad to do whatever was necessary to settle this person down, even if it meant compromising his principles.

"Peace at any cost" is often the cry of the peacekeeper.

But here's the truth: We are not called to be peacekeepers ... but peacemakers. I ran across this definition of a peacemaker, and I love it:

*A peacemaker is someone who experiences the peace of God (Philippians 4:7) because he is at peace (Romans 5:1) with the God of peace (Philippians 4:9) through the Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6), who, indeed, is our peace (Ephesians 2:14), and who therefore seeks to live at peace with all others (Romans 12:18) and proclaims the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15) so that others might have joy and peace in believing (Romans 15:13).*

As believers, we are in a battle. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:12 that our battle isn't a physical fight, but a spiritual one. Behind every conflict, Satan is at work using people to accomplish his agenda. So, we need to use the weapons God has provided for us to fight this battle: His Word (our sword), the shield of faith, and prayer!

We should never compromise the Word of God. We should always speak the truth in love. We discipline ourselves to LEARN the Word, to LIVE by faith, and to PRAY at all times.

Ask the Lord to empower you to be the peacemaker He desires you to be. And allow Him to fill your heart with His perfect peace and love.



## A NOTE TO YOU FROM JEFF

Dear Friend,

Charles Jones was an insurance salesman who eventually became one of the greatest motivational speakers who ever lived. He made millions of dollars speaking around the country, and he received numerous awards and accolades for his work—which he kept in the basement of his house.

One day, a big flood hit his town. His basement was inundated with water and mud. When the water subsided, Charles inspected the damage and found everything covered in muddy scum. His letters from presidents, his trophies, and his certificates were all completely destroyed. He was sick over the loss.

As he was looking at the devastation, the Lord whispered to him, “Charles, don’t worry about these things. I was going to burn them up anyway.”

At that moment, Charles realized that he had gotten way too attached to “stuff” that really didn’t matter.

Listen, a good soldier doesn’t get attached to things that don’t matter. His mission is all-encompassing—and his job is to stay focused and faithful when it comes to that mission.

How tragic that so many Christian soldiers go AWOL because they’re focused on things that don’t really matter. Their hearts and minds aren’t in the fight because they’re distracted by the things of this world.

Friend, don’t let that be you. Be a good soldier of the Lord by keeping your mind on the mission God has given you!

As you’ve read this edition of our ministry newsletter, I pray you’ve been encouraged to be the good soldier God wants you to be. And I hope you’ll let me encourage you even more, by sending you my NEW 5-message series, *We Are Soldiers*, and my new booklet titled *The Lord’s Army* as my way of saying thanks for your gift this month.

The spiritual battle is real. But in Christ, we have all we need to fight well and win. Thank you for your support to help push back the enemy’s battle lines and advance the gospel of Jesus Christ, as we speak the truth in love to a lost and hurting world.

You’re a blessing!

Love,

*Pastor Jeff*

## MEET THE FROM HIS HEART TEAM!



**Lana Camp**  
Customer Service Coordinator

Lana serves as the customer service coordinator at *From His Heart*. She sends out all the resources requested by phone, mail, and online—earning her the nickname “Shipping and Handling.”

While she was raised in a Christian home and baptized in church, she realized in her early twenties that she was lacking a real relationship with God. One night, the new pastor in the church where she and her husband attended shared the gospel with her, and she received Christ as her Lord and Savior!

Lana and her husband have 4 children and 6 grandchildren from ages “not yet born” to 23.

## YOUR GIFTS AT WORK!

Thank you for helping make the following testimonies possible through your support of *From His Heart Ministries*!

*“Before I heard today’s message, I had huge doubts about my life after death—about heaven and my soul. What powerful words. Everything you teach is so easy for me to comprehend. You showed me the right path, and I thank you. I prayed for someone like you to help me, and God answered my prayer and gave me the desire of my heart. This day I am now a child of God.” — Serena*

*“I desperately need God in my life. This morning, I watched your TV program. Your words captured me in such a way that tears filled my eyes. What a great feeling! It’s time for me to take a good look at the things I feel I need to change and make them right with the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks for pointing me to Jesus.” — Teana*