

The Watering Can

BIBLE AUTHORITY

Introduction.

Welcome to the first of my News Letters. As I was considering where to start with these letters, it dawned upon me that the best place to start would be with the Bible itself. In this letter I want to clarify to you why we can trust the Bible without failure. In future letters I will seek to present to you the following headings:

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| Fellowship | - | What is it? |
| | - | What does it mean to me? |
| | - | Why is it important? |
| Marriage | - | What the Bible says about it |
| | - | Sex |
| Women | - | Their role in meetings |
| | - | Why should they keep silent? |
| | - | Why should they cover their heads? |

I will also try to make it very clear why the Assemblies do what they do in a way that hopefully you will understand. To do all of the above, my sole research will be the Bible, so it is important that we cover this first.

What the Bible says about the Word of God.

1) The first place to turn to is 2 Timothy Chapter 3 and verses 14 to 17 *"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* This is the first portion of Scriptures that I thought of when I sought to undertake this writing. This is taken from the second letter of the Apostle Paul to Timothy. By this time, Paul was an older man and Timothy was a younger man and Paul was seeking to encourage Timothy and to strengthen him. Note from the portion that Paul urges Timothy to continue in the things that he has learnt, knowing from whom he learned them. Timothy learned all he knew from Paul but what we did not read is that Paul has just warned Timothy about the dangers of listening to evil men. *"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."* Now you may ask what has this to do with the authority of the Bible? What I want to get across to you is that in order to know whether men are evil and are deceiving us, we must know the truth and the only place that we find that truth is from the Bible. You see, Timothy knew the Scriptures from a child and that it made him wise to salvation. Here we have a gospel truth brought into it. It is not wise unto salvation through works or what you can do, it is "wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus" This is important because we learn of Christ and all that He did for us upon the cross in the Bible. Again, it is the only place where this is found. The world looks at the cross as the end of Christ. We look at it as the beginning of life in Him, forever. But I digress... The verse I thought of is verse 16, because we find here exactly what the Bible is profitable for. Notice it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Let's look at these separately. Before that though there is one thing even more important to consider. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. This book is above every other book and cannot be read in the same way as ordinary books. As we read the Word of God, it is through this that God speaks to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is therefore important that we read and

study the Bible prayerfully so that when error is taught to us, we will know because it is not the master's voice (Read John 10). The only way to combat error is know what is right, so that when we hear what is not right, it stands out straight away. Unlike most books, although the Bible has been written by men, it is given by the inspiration of God. This means that God used men to write the words that He gave. Remember that when you are questioned about what you believe. It is only through the Bible that we find what we believe in. If God says it, I believe it, that settles it. This little phrase has been used a few times down here and how true it is. On now to consider what it is profitable for. To get the meanings of words, I have used an Expository Dictionary of Bible Words by W.E. Vine and I would recommend that you get a good Bible Dictionary to aid in understanding the words of Scripture.

Doctrine: According to W.E. Vine, doctrine means teaching. So the Bible is profitable for teaching. When Paul the Apostle was here teaching Timothy and the many others, he only had the Old Testament to teach from. Even here, we can find many pictures of Christ. The most obvious is the Passover Lamb in Exodus. The people of God had to sacrifice a lamb and spread the blood upon the Lintel and Door Posts. This was so that when the Angel of Death came into the land of Egypt, he would pass over the houses where the blood stood. In other words, the blood covered the people, so that they were protected. In a very similar way, we are covered by the blood of Jesus, so that we may, like the Israelites, be clearly identified because of it.

CHALLENGE: DOES OUR LIFESTYLE IDENTIFY US AS BEING DIFFERENT? On Friday 15 March 2002, there was a meeting at the Welcome Gospel Hall in Winchester, England. The speaker spoke about the Love that we should have for the Bible. If our lives do not represent what we are seeking to share with others, then why should they change from what they do? Over the next few issues, I will be seeking to share some doctrine from the Bible for you and I am sure that it will also encourage my heart as I carry this out.

Reproof: This one caused a great amount of uncertainty. But, it appears that reproof means demonstration or evidence. This is interesting and relates to the challenge above. I am not going to repeat myself, but we must show forth in our lives what we believe. We have a wonderful example from Scriptures for this. Just look at the very life of Jesus. Everything He did was for God and He made no secret of it. We read often that He went off on His own into the mountain to pray. Every action of Christ was for the glory of God. What do our actions represent?

Correction: W.E. Vine says "a restoration to an upright state" or, to put it another way, he says (about the passage in question), "referring to improvement of life and character." Thinking about corrections, when I am at work I have to make corrections to documents. Now, one way of doing this is to cross through the old, and write the new word next to it. Another way, is to blot out the old word (using Tippex) and writing the new one over the top. When we came to Christ and He became our Lord, the old style of our lives was, in effect, Tippexed out and new life written in over the top. Our sins were blotted out (Isaiah 44 v 22-23). But this does not mean that we can never sin. We can and very often do, but the Lord has written in His word that He remembers our sins no more (Hebrews 8 v 12) and we must confess our sins to Him (1 John 1 v 9). However, we cannot correct one another unless we know that what they or we are doing is incorrect. The only sure way to know is by studying the truth contained in the Bible.

Instruction in Righteousness: Instruction is something that you know all about. When at school, the teacher will seek to instruct a student in order that the student may become proficient in the subject in question. So the Bible is a teacher. But notice it is a teacher of righteousness. Without the Bible, we would have no instructions for righteousness and we would unknowingly do that which we should not. Thank God that we have His divine instructions in this little book. Should we not therefore come to know it in the way that He would like us to?

I have considered the above but what is all this for? Verse 17 sums it up nicely. "*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*" The man of God mentioned in this verse is the idea of mankind, or humans. It is important that we realise that

it relates to both male and female. It is also important to notice that we are to be perfect and thoroughly (thoroughly) furnished for good works. The Bible states clearly that works cannot save us but because we are saved, we are to do good works. James 2 v 17 says, "*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*"

Examples of the Scriptures being used.

The first is found in Matthew Chapter 4 verses 1 to 11 "*Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to Him, he said If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But He answered and said IT IS WRITTEN, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh Him up into the Holy City, and setteth Him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto Him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for IT IS WRITTEN, He shall give His angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, IT IS WRITTEN again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto Him All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth Him, and behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.*" Notice that Christ uses the scriptures (it is written) to counteract the attack of the evil one. Satan knows very well the Scriptures and knows which verses work in his favour if taken out of their context. This is why he said cast thyself down. Notice also that each attack began with "if thou be the Son of God." Satan was trying to shake Christ by placing doubt in His mind. This is how he convinced Eve to take of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3, "Hath God said.") I want to look at each conversation and I want to see why the devil issued the statement and what Christ's answer to it was.

1) Attack "*If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*" Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights. I am not sure about you, but I would struggle if I was to fast for more than 24 hours. However, we read that Jesus was an hungred after His fasting. This shows the fact that Christ is man. God, the Almighty and Powerful One, became a man and was hungry. It was then that Satan attacked. Jesus had the power to change hard stone into soft and edible bread. Think of the feeding of the five thousand with just 5 loaves and 2 small fishes.

1) Defence "*It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*" Jesus, in His defence of the attack, quotes from Deuteronomy 8 v 3, where it is talking about the children of Israel when they were in the desert. Moses is saying about the commandments that they have been given and how the Lord humbled them and fed them with Manna to show that no man lives by bread etc. The same is true today. We need to feed on the Word of God (the Bible) and not on physical food alone. Not so long ago I heard a report that said that the men and women of the British Isles were getting fatter and fatter. This I would put down to gluttony on their part. Man is essentially a greedy lot and have sought to consume more than is strictly necessary to keep them alive or, to put it another way, they are living by bread alone and not on the words that proceed from the mouth of God. Most of the people are hostile towards the things of God. I have worked with some obese (very fat) people and all they talk about is food and more food. There is no room in their lives for God, only what the next meal will consist of. The challenge for us is to live in complete obedience to the Word of God and not to feed on the things of this world.

2) Attack "*If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*" Satan here is using Scripture against Jesus. Satan is very clever when it comes to the Scriptures. We must be ready for any attacks, for he is able to not only use our surroundings and trials against us, but if we are not careful he can use our study of the Scriptures against us. I pray that we might know the Scriptures more so that when an attack comes, we too can answer with Scriptures. Now this is not to say that the

Bible contradicts itself. It cannot. The verse quoted by Satan is found in Psalm 91 verse 12. While the above quotation is correct, I would like you to look with me at verse 13 of this Psalm. "*Thou shalt tread upon the lion and the adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.*" Satan knew what was contained here. Lion, adder and dragon are all names for Satan. The lion is used in 1 Peter 5 v 8. The adder is a snake or serpent, and the Serpent is used many times in Scripture. One such is found in Revelation 12 v 9, which also contains a reference for the Dragon.

2) Defence "*It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*" The words of Christ bring before us the fact that we must not tempt the Lord our God. The words themselves are found in Deuteronomy 6 v 16, and forms part of a recap that Moses in undertaking for the Israelites. The Israelites tempted the Lord in Massah (the account is found in Exodus 17. The people were thirsty and demanded water from Moses. Moses said Why do you tempt the Lord? The people continued and murmured against Moses and suggested amongst themselves that Moses had brought them into the wilderness so that they would die.) Therefore, we must always look to the Lord to provide but we must never say that the Lord is not with us and does not care. The Lord loves us so much that He gave His only beloved Son to die for us. How dare we say that the Lord does not love us? The Israelites were brought out from slavery by the Lord. The Lord heard their crying and saved them. This did not satisfy them. The Lord has taken our sins away. This should satisfy us. Does it?

3) Attack "*All these will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*" Here Satan offers Jesus glory and honour in the kingdoms of men. Today he offers these things to men and women. The price is the same, though. To worship the devil is to refuse the goodness that God offers freely. The price of this worship is eternal separation from God. That is a price that I do not want to pay. You may ask where do I get this from? Simple. Scriptures reveal quite a bit about the price of sin. Let's look at a couple of verses, very briefly.

a) "*For the wages of sin is death*" This verse is found in Romans 6 v 23. Notice it is the wages of sin. This is what we must be aware of. We know we are saved and cannot die for Christ has given life eternal. This body will perish and will cease to function, but when Christ returns, we will be given a new body. This one will never perish. The next half of this verse confirms what I have written "*but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" I have already considered that there are no works that will get us into heaven. This verse presents the idea of a ticket with no price, freely offered to all who will accept. What a tragedy that few will accept because they feel that they need to do something.

b) Isaiah 64 v 6 and 7 says "*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away and there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.*" Look how the writer starts by saying we are all as an unclean thing. We are so despicable that we are unclean in the sight of a Holy God. All our works on Earth are as filthy rags. This means that there are no works good enough to become our clothing in heaven. We cannot get there by works alone, but there is good news. Christ died at the cross (as previously mentioned) to enable us to enter heaven, where a new garment will be given to us. (Look at Matthew 22 v 1 to v 14). Isaiah continues in this way. Verse 8 says "*But now, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.*" These are truly wonderful words. They bring before us the fact that the Lord is our Father, and as such loves us very much as a Father loves his child. And also we have the potter and the clay. The clay is moulded into the shape which the potter requires. I want to ask you, are you thick clay that is difficult to mould? or are you soft and supple and easily moulded into the shape that the potter has in mind for you? We are all the work of His hands.

c) The last thing that I would like to bring before you is that of a man who lifted up his eyes while being in torment. This account is found in Luke 16. I will now transcribe the events. Verse 19 to verse 31 "*There was a certain rich man which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day. And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs that fell from*

the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." I know that this is a large portion to consider, and I would like to look at just a couple of things that stood out as I typed through it. First, notice memory. The rich man remembered Lazarus but did not consider him in life. The rich man knew comforts in his life. But, when he reached the point of death and went beyond, he was tormented in hell. Look at the contrast between the two people. Lazarus died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. The rich man died and was buried. This should give us an extra urge to share the gospel with men and women, boys and girls, because we will be carried into a better place than Lazarus. We will be with Jesus forever (Luke 23 v 43) and as such, we need the desire to see many people saved from sharing the torment of the rich man (he is not even given a name, in the passage.) Note also, that men have Moses and prophets to listen to. If they hear not, then they will not be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead and tell them everything. Knowing mankind, people would scoff and say that the person risen from the dead, was drunk or was mad. Something has just occurred to me. In the person of Christ, we have one who has risen from the dead, and people do not believe. How right were the words of Abraham in this story. God sent His Son, and man killed Him. He rose from the dead; they are not persuaded (Acts 28 v 27-28). This should not stop us from spreading the good news of the Gospel, but again I say that before we can talk to others about Christ, our lives must reflect Him. It is no good to talk about Christ while drinking the fifth pint of alcohol. This does not reflect the glory of Christ in our bodies. We should be separate; we should be noticeably different.

Now to return to our main point:

3) Defence "*Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.*" The Lord has spoken some very sharp words here. These words remind us that nothing can come between us and the Lord, in the way of Idol Worship. The words themselves are found in Deuteronomy Chapter 6 and verse 13, and it is interesting to note that the New Testament has worship and the Old Testament has fear. These two words have a very similar meaning. Fear means to stand in awe of something, and worship means to make obeisance (as to a king) or do reverence. This means that we are to stand in awe and be reverent to God and Him only. Satan wanted Christ's worship and offered the Kingdoms of the Earth as a reward for doing so. But in book of Revelation, we find that the Kingdoms of Earth are His anyway and He will reign over them (Revelation 20 v 1-4).

Now I would like to bring before you an account of the Word of God (or the Bible) being used in the Old Testament. For this, we turn to 2 Kings Chapter 22 v 1-20 "*Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left. And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, the scribe, to the house of the Lord, saying, Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may sum the silver which is brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the door have gathered of the people: And let them deliver it into the hand of the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD: and let them give it to the doers of the work which is in*

the house of the LORD, to repair the breaches of the house, unto carpenters, and builders, and masons, and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house. Howbeit there was no reckoning made with them of the money that was delivered into their hand, because they dealt faithfully. And Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the LORD. And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying, Go ye, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us. So Hilkiyah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her. And she said unto them Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell the man that sent you to me, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah hath read: Because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched. But to the king of Judah which sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall ye say to him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, As touching the words which thou hast heard; Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD. Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again." In this portion, we have brought before us a king who did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. Just a little bit of background information before I launch into the relevance of this passage with the subject matter. Before Josiah became king, his father Amon reigned. His reign was only two years long, because his loyal subjects arose and killed him and placed Josiah in his place. Amon did evil in the sight of the Lord. We do not read much about Amon but it is significant that we read that he forsook the Lord God of his fathers, and walked not in the way of the Lord. My young friends, I would strongly advise against forsaking the Lord and walking not in his paths. This man did, and the Lord removed him from office. Josiah, in comparison, did not follow his father's ways, but walked in the way that the Lord appointed. Now, to consider the Bible being used practically here, I want you to notice some points with me.

1) He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord and walked in all the way of David his father. Josiah knew what the Lord expected of him in a very small way, and sought to follow David's heart. David, you remember, was a man after God's own heart (Acts 13 v 22). Josiah knew that what his father had done was evil, and sought not to follow in the ways of Amon. I do not know where he got the instruction from so that he knew what was right in the Lord's eyes, so I will not speculate.

2) In his eighteenth year, he sought to have the temple (or house of the Lord) repaired. Notice how he went about this. He sought the silver brought into the house of the Lord, which the keepers of the door had gathered from the people. He sought the resources already available within the house which the people had brought and used that resource to purchase the necessary items to repair the temple. Please note that no account of the "doers of the work" regarding the money was needed because they acted faithfully. An interesting phrase, "doers of the work". I would commend any that are faithful "doers of the work" but please note what these doers were. They were overseers of the house of the Lord. "...the doers of the work, that have the oversight of the house of the Lord." To put this into modern language, they were the elders of an assembly (admittedly, there was only one temple at this time, but

they were the oversight). Young friends, please do not grieve the elders, or oversight. Here, they are called the doers of the work. They work for the Lord, and as such, demand the highest respect that a man can have. The highest respect of all, of course, belongs to God and His beloved Son.

3) So, Josiah did right in the sight of the Lord, and has sought to repair the temple. It is while the repairs are being carried out, that Hilkiah the high priest finds the book which has been lost, or hidden to avoid it being destroyed. He makes it known to the scribe (one who can read and write, as not all people could like they can now. A scribe was also used to read letters of national importance to the king and to write letters to various people, which is why the king had a seal, that he would place on the bottom of letters so that people knew that the king had indeed sent it) who reads it there and then. It is, of course, the book of the law (or the Bible as it was then. This was probably the first 5 books of our Bible, the books that Moses wrote.) Shaphan the scribe immediately brings word to the king about the work and the progress thereof. He also tells the king about the book which has been found and begins to read from it. When Josiah hears the words, he rends (or tears) his clothes and weeps before the Lord. These are the signs of a repentant heart. The words that were read had a profound effect upon Josiah, and we ought not to underestimate the power of these words. The Lord our God can use His word to speak directly into men's hearts. This is why it is important for us to know our Bibles better.

Closing remarks.

As I close this first newsletter, I urge you all to study whenever possible. The more you know, the less error can be taught to you because you know the truth. Think of David, as he faced the giant, Goliath. Now, King Saul sought to give David a suit of armour but David was not used to it. Instead, he took a sling and 5 stones into battle. David knew his weapon intimately. He knew how it operated and he knew that God was with him. As we study our weapon, we know that God is with us. Just as David defeated Goliath with a very puny looking weapon, to the world around us the Bible is puny. However, when lovingly utilized in a way to bring down the giant enemy in front of us, it stops being puny and becomes mighty. Just before I sign off, turn with me to Ephesians 6 v 11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD; Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." The words of Paul here are very powerful. I want you to notice what we wrestle against. It is not against our fellow man, or even the problems of this world. It is against Principalities. It is against the evil one. Please, my friends, do not be a David in the face of battle, with only your weapon. Although this is powerful in itself, but when battle comes, you should have your suit of armour shined, prepared and on. If you cannot operate in your suit of armour, then you will not be able to fight effectively. Prepare your hearts and practice with THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD. David was given the king's armour and he was unable to move. We have the whole armour of God given to us that we might practice now, ready for the day of battle. So when that day comes, we may be able to stand.

I thank you all for your patience in reading this letter, and pray that the Lord our God will use what you have read to help you grow and help you stand.

May God be glorified, not man.