

Receiving and Taking (Asserting) Weapons of Faith!

It's not just receiving it is **taking** the things of God too.

By B. D. Tate

Receiving is passive in that we are accepting something coming to us. Receiving and accepting means we are not turning it down or refusing it; it also strongly refers to grasping as in understanding revelation. Even acknowledging something that is true doesn't mean we are trusting in it. ***There is often the need to do more...***

The Slaves

When the slaves were emancipated by President Lincoln's proclamation back during the Civil War, that didn't mean that all were immediately set free, ***there was more to do***. The war was still raging and in the balance; furthermore, there were many who resisted it and kept people enslaved even after the war ended. In time, the black people may have been declared free but freedom had stages. Equal access, equal pay, and equal opportunity were not just given they had to fight for them. In truth, ***they had to take their freedom*** now that they had the right to it. **What is "taking?" It is being assertive.** Passive receiving only works for half of the issue; assertiveness is required to make the rest come to pass.

We live in a fallen world with fallen circumstances and conditions. The curse of the law dominates everyone until they become born again and ***assert themselves over it*** (Gal. 3:13). When I became born again I received the Spirit of Christ into my life and became a new creation (II Cor. 5:17). I received what God had promised in salvation. I am now in a new position; I am no longer under the law and bound to sin (Rom.

6:14). I am under grace and am a joint heir with Jesus Christ (Gal. 4:7). In this position of righteousness and as I continue to receive grace, I am to rule in life (Rom. 5:17)! **The receiving part began and it continues in this way.** First, I received my salvation—Jesus came into my life. Second, I continue to receive insight, enlightenment, and understanding in the knowledge of that salvation. Paul the apostle prayed for the Ephesians (and all of us) to be enlightened, receiving understanding in the will and wisdom of God’s will in these things:

Eph 1:17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,**
18 **the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know** what is the hope of His calling, **what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,**
19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us **who believe,** according to the working of His mighty power
20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

This prayer is about us receiving (growing in it) insight and enlightenment in **what are already given** as “the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” It’s like buying a computer and taking it home (the receiving part); then beginning to actually use it, learn what’s in it, and take advantage of it (the assertive part).

The assertive part is major!

It is the part that is **walking** fully in God’s grace. In short, it is the taking part...

Gal 5:25 **If we live in the Spirit** (received the Spirit of His Son), **let us also walk in the Spirit** (assert and take our position of authority).

The scripture calls it “*walking in the Spirit*” again and again. This walking business has everything to do with being assertive in the Lord. When I fully accept and receive in my heart the truth that I am now a son of God ***I am ready to exercise it. Receiving is passive; exercising it is assertive.*** This means I begin to act on what the Word of God says I have and the authority given to me to use in Jesus’ name (John 15:16).

It is like a policeman. A policeman receives the position by being trained and hired. Once he receives his position and accepts it; ***there is more to do.*** The police don’t work all day receiving they exercise their authority and begin to keep the peace. To keep the peace they ***enforce the law.*** To enforce the law they must ***take their authority and assert it.*** A policeman who wants to stop traffic doesn’t stand by the road and receive or accept stopped traffic—he’d wait all day. He asserts himself and takes his authority by raising his hand, blowing a whistle, and walking out into the road. ***He is taking control not receiving it.***

When the scriptures teach us this:

Phm 1:6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective ***by the acknowledgment*** of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

This is a vital first step. We must understand who we are in Christ; what God has done in the atonement and what authority we have in Jesus’ name. Knowing this in our heart produces in us ***faith in God’s grace*** (Heb. 13:9); however, this is not the end of it. We must ***take that knowing*** in our heart and act upon it to make things happen. James is telling us that *just receiving and accepting faith* without *asserting it* is dead. It is a two part endeavor...two sides of a coin.

Jas 2:20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that ***faith without works is dead?***

Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so ***faith without works is dead also.***

How do we then assert ourselves in faith?

Once we have received the truth and become established (convinced) in His grace, we are armed for battle (Col. 2:7). The battle to be won is overcoming the world (and the devil--Jas. 4:7), the fallen circumstances, and the sin conditions. We overcome the curse of the law through the blood of Christ. We begin to “arrest” those things that are not in agreement or alignment with God’s will in our life. Soldiers who have received and accepted training then going into battle with armed weapons are expected to use their training and shoot their weapons.

We assert ourselves by shooting our weapons. We take our weapons and use them! What are our weapons?

Our weapons Derive From and Are the Word of God!

Eph. 6: 10 Finally, **my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**

11 **Put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (tricks) of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, **but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 **Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 above all, **taking the shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

18 **praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

I'm breaking down this passage in a short list in order to explain and expand upon our position and authority to wage war against the enemies of God's will.

Our Weapons and Warfare

1) We put on our armor which is to say that we put on Christ!

Ro 13:14 **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Ga 3:27 For as many of you as **were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

This means we embrace (believe the right things) and stand in the truth (take our place) of our born again life that Jesus is in us always and forever. We stand in the *precious blood* of the atonement on our behalf (I Pet. 1:2). This position means we know that we are never, ever, alone. The Lord will never leave us nor forsake us and is with us to deliver us (II Cor. 1:10). When we know we are in Jesus we are putting on the armor of God—through the *blood of Christ*.

(See Booklet entitled "Put On Christ!")

2) We don't wrestle against flesh and blood but "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

The battle is not against people (whom God loves), but against sin, darkness, evil, and overcoming the curse of the law. Much of our personal struggling consists with us *wrestling against the law*. We have lived under its judgment, condemnation, and guilt. A guilty conscience is weak in battle because it is conflicted within and unable to be clear and focused on the real enemy. Cast away the law, we are no longer under its tutelage (Gal.4:30); we are no longer bound to its judgments because Christ redeemed us from it (Gal. 3:13). We do not let sin have dominion

over us because we have been cleansed from all our sins—through the *blood of Christ* (I John 1:7).

(See Booklet entitled “What Does the Law Look Like? So, that I Might Cast it Away?”)

3) **We are to put on the breastplate of righteousness!**

We don’t earn righteousness with God it is a gift given to us through the *blood of Jesus!* We need a revelation of this truth so that we walk in its fullness:

Ro 5:17 For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the **gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

This is a faith fact based solely in the glorious grace of God. This means that we accept fully our redemption and put away *consciousness of sins* (Heb. 10:2) to stand in God’s righteousness without fear, doubt, or unbelief. We stand boldly because we see ourselves the way God sees us (II Cor. 3:18).

(See booklet entitled “Holiness and Righteousness”)

4) **We walk and step in the preparation of the gospel of peace!**

We have peace with God through Jesus our Lord. This peace guides us, leads us, and rules our heart. When we remain in peace we remain in grace. When we remain in peace there is God’s unlimited power manifesting in our lives. Jesus is the Prince of peace and His authority to keep the peace works in us (John 14:12)!

Col 3:15 And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

(See booklet entitled “Peace is Power!”)

5) Above all, taking the shield of faith with which we will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

The shield of faith manifests as we believe the Word of God. As we understand His grace poured out on our behalf and what it means to be a new creation in Christ, faith destroys the fiery darts of the wicked one. *What are the fiery darts?* I have found them to be the fears of our heart. These fears may have been planted when we were young; but all of them represent “weeds” of things we don’t want to believe and have happen. We can identify them (because they penetrate into us) and we need to address them with “weed killer” which are the promises of God’s word. It is the Word of God and His grace towards us that shield us. This armor works according to our *heart’s believing* in Him.

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, **according to the power that works in us,**

(See Booklet entitled “Getting After the Weeds.”)

6) We take the helmet of salvation and put it on our head!

We must think, act and speak the language of faith! To do this we must transform our mind from carnal and worldly dependence to God dependence.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

It is vital that we understand that God has transferred us from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col. 1:13)! What this means is that God doesn’t want us ignorant of His will. God wants us in the light and this means knowing His word and receiving

revelation of His will. When we walk in His will and know it; we are in His grace and operating in faith!

Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask **that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

Paul's prayer is God's will for us as many other scriptures testify to...putting on the helmet of salvation means we think, act, and speak spiritually minded. It means we get *out of darkness* that is doubt and become single minded about God's will (James 1:5-8).

(See Booklets entitled "Think, Act and Speak Faith" and "God's Will Is Not a Mystery")

7) **We use the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

Our weapons are not weak but are the most powerful force of the universe. God's word created and upholds all things that exist. The Word of God penetrates deeper than any other possible source. There simply is no greater power that we could draw upon. God spoke and light came to be (Gen. 1:3). When Jesus performed all manner of signs, wonders, and miracles He did it through the spoken word under the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:18). The sword of the Spirit has been given to us. We received it when we became sons and daughters of God. We have been authorized to use the name of Jesus (John 14:14)!

Lu 10:19 "Behold, **I give you the authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

We have the Holy Spirit and the gift of His (Jesus) faith...

Ga 5:22 But the ***fruit of the Spirit*** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, **faith**,

1Jo 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. **And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**

We Have Our Testimony...

Re 12:11 "And they **overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony**, and they did not love their lives to the death.

We have the power to cast down...

2Co 10: 4 **For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty** in God for pulling down strongholds,
5 **casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,**

We are Authorized to Speak to the Mountain...

Mr 11:23 "For assuredly, **I say to you, whoever says to this mountain**, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, **but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.**

Authorized to speak to the mulberry tree...and do our duty!

Luke 17:5 And the apostles said to the Lord, "***Increase our faith.***"

6 So the Lord said, "**If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree**, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

7 "And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'?

8 "But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'?"

9 "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not.

10 **"So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"**

Faith is voice activated because by our words we take dominion! By our words we assert dominion. By our words, when we speak them in faith through grace, mountains move, trees are cast into waters, sickness leaves, demons are cast out, and deliverance from the curse of the law manifests.

(See Booklet entitled "Speak to the Mountain!")

Conclusion:

Our spiritual life (faith) has two parts to it that make it effective: the first is receiving and acknowledging everything that is good that is in us in Christ Jesus (Philemon 1:6); the second is taking our place of authority by acting upon what we believe. The first is to believe the right things in grace; the second, is to take and assert the truth against the rebellious circumstances and conditions we face. Just as James taught us that "*faith without works is dead*" so it is when believing is not applied and asserted into our lives.

We don't just sit around and receive the kingdom; we must exercise our dominion and bring God's will into the situation in Jesus' name. Receiving is the vital first step; but then, it is just as vital to speak faith, to assert God's truth over the temporary and lying "facts" of this world.

Our weapons are *a renewed mind* that is in agreement with spiritual truth and grace; and then *it is exercising it* like any trained policeman who enforces the law. Soldiers sent into battle have received their purpose but now they must take, assert, and complete the mission. **The first is to believe; the second is to take and act upon it. We are effective warriors of the kingdom of God when we apply both!**

At the core of our faith is the necessity to be established in these two truths. We must receive and accept then act upon, assert, and take our authority to the enemy.

Recommended Booklets:

Put On Christ

What is the Law that I Might Cast it Away?

Holiness and Righteousness

Peace is Power

Getting After the Weeds

Think, Act, and Speak God's Language

God's Will is Not a Mystery

Speak to the Mountain