

RUSS' REFLECTIONS #12

ENOUGH!

SEPTEMBER 2021



Quietly over the years and with stealth-like moves, the forces of evil have invaded the foundations of nations around the world and have entered through the back doors of our own country including our schools, our government, various places of leadership and in a number of our homes.

Our country is littered with people who have been blinded by the lies and propaganda spread by our enemy and swallowed by people convincing them that our country would be best served by becoming a godless society and is the answer to this journey we call life.

In order to accomplish their goals they must first convince people to stop believing in God and all references to God must be eliminated. Bibles and prayer that are currently banned in public schools and many other places must be totally eliminated from our society as in the minds of those anti-god individuals they are worthless, misleading and are in conflict with modern day thinking and beliefs.

Following their success in turning a number of people away from God, the forces of evil are now getting set to fire their missiles of hate at all references to our Creator seeking to destroy and eliminate those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Early targets for elimination in their next attack include the following:

1. "In God we Trust" as stated on our currency.
2. "So help me God" used in the swearing-in of witnesses in our courts of law.
3. "One Nation Under God" as found in the Pledge of Allegiance to our country.

In addition a court order approved by a liberal judge recently stated that all crosses in military and other public cemeteries must be removed. Although crosses on churches and on private land are still permitted, they are to be discouraged and there are some who want to seek other ways to have all crosses removed.

ENOUGH!!

It is time for all true followers of Christ to wake up, pick up 3 weapons that are available to all believers, dust these weapons off, oil them, fine tune them and prepare for a counter attack to drive the forces of evil in full retreat.

So what are these weapons that we have? They are simple, easy to use and very effective. They are available to all believers and can be put to use by all soldiers of the cross... young and old, healthy and sick, strong and weak and everyone who has embraced the greatest commandment: "Love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind". (Matthew 22:37 NIV)

The three weapons available to those who are willing to be part of God's Special Forces include the following:

1. LOVE Jesus commanded each believer: "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12 NIV) "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44 NIV) Paul, the Apostle, spells out some of these elements in 1 Corinthians chapter 13:4-8 (NIV) "Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Romans Chapter 12:9-21 further defines love, one of our most powerful weapons: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty, give him something to drink, in doing this you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

2. PRAYER IS ALSO A POWERFUL WEAPON

James 5:16 puts it this way:

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” As you take a stroll through the scriptures you will be staggered by the incredible power of prayer. For example, the Red Sea parted for God’s people as they left Egypt to head to the land promised them by the Lord. They crossed on dry land but as the Egyptian army pursued them, the Red Sea collapsed on them and the Egyptian army was destroyed.

Later when God’s people had to cross the Jordan River during the flood stage, they prayed and the water backed up in a heap and the people crossed over on dry land once again. Then consider Hezekiah’s prayer and that of Isaiah when surrounded by the Assyrian army who clearly were more powerful and totally outnumbered God’s people. II Kings, chapter 9:35,36 describes what happened: “That night the Angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning – there were all the dead bodies! So the king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew.

As we move into the New Testament we see numerous answers to prayer. Jesus took 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread, and prayed and over 5,000 were fed. On other occasions Jesus prayed and raised a number of people who had died. He also healed the sick, the blind and the suffering from an assortment of diseases as well as driving out demons in possessed people.

Closer to home in today's world we have watched as God has answered prayers time and time again. For example, while visiting Jimmy Kalyango and his work in one of Uganda's larger slums, a visiting team from the U.S. were invited to help feed a large group of children. After the children were finishing their meal, several additional children showed up to find something to eat; for most it would be their only meal for the day. My daughter, Alyssa, looked at Jimmy and shook her head.

There was a small amount left in the serving pot, perhaps barely enough for one person to have something to eat. Jimmy told Alyssa to go ahead and start serving. In amazement, all of those who arrived late received a full bowl of food. Alyssa couldn't believe her eyes. Jimmy told Alyssa that it happens all the time. God answers prayer!

Several years ago when we were conducting a football (soccer) crusade in Jinja, Uganda's second largest city, storm clouds began appearing just moments before our outreach was to begin. People began to leave the stadium seeking shelter. The skies darkened as torrents of rain began pouring down in the street and hills less than a mile away. Our entire outreach was in jeopardy of being cancelled.

Quickly we gathered several of our leaders together knelt on the ground and asked the Lord to intervene. As we concluded praying, we looked up and less than 100 meters away from the stadium, the storm stopped, made a left turn and moved out onto Lake Victoria and then disappeared as the sun came out.

Shortly thereafter the stadium began filling up with spectators and when the football crusade in Jinja ended, several hundred people gave their lives to the Lord and were now a part of God's kingdom. As one of our Ugandan leaders once said, "God is impossible!"

3. THE SWORD ... GOD'S WORD

A third powerful weapon is God's word, our Bible. Those individuals actively working to rid our country of even the mention of God succeeded in the banning of the Bible from our schools and numerous other public places but have found it difficult to destroy many of the Bibles placed in hotel rooms, private schools, prisons and other places put there by the Gideon organization. At one time the Gideon's were able to freely distribute pocket New Testaments in most public schools. In fact I have a copy of one I received as a student in elementary school.

Now check out the following story about a Bible and how, after prayer, ended up in the hands of a president. A few years ago, Vernon Brewer, former Dean at Liberty University and currently the founder and President of World Help, gave me a special leather bound Bible and asked me to pray about the individual to whom I should give this special edition of God's word.

For approximately 2 years I carried this special Bible with me asking the Lord to show me to whom I should present this copy of God's word.

On several occasions I thought I might have someone to whom I should give this beautiful Bible. However, after additional praying I did not have peace about that particular individual. Finally on a day I was to meet with the Archbishop of Rwanda, I was overwhelmed by the thought that I should take this special Bible to our meeting. Our time together was all about developing a strategy to host a football crusade in Rwanda. In attendance were pastors from a number of churches representing several denominations.

When the meeting concluded, Archbishop Kolini mentioned that he would soon be meeting with the President of Rwanda about the crusade. At this point the Holy Spirit sent me a wake-up call. "Give the Bible to Archbishop Kolini and ask him to give the Bible to the president," I did so and Kolini gave the president this beautiful Bible.

A few weeks later the President of Rwanda called the Archbishop to thank him once again for the Bible and to let him know that he reads the Bible every day!

One simply doesn't know what might happen when you pray and give a copy of God's word to an individual whose life could be changed for eternity when reading about the Lord's love letter to them.

GSSM wants to help to get God's word into the hands of those who are searching for answers to a world sailing on a ship that has lost its rudder along with its moral compass.

All hope for a meaningful life and the possibility of a personal relationship with our Lord seems to have vanished as the storms of this world leave them confused, fearful and without hope of being rescued from the hurricane of uncertainty.

It is our prayer that as we distribute God's word and put Bibles in the hands of those who are willing to pray and be a part of God's search and rescue team, that many will be pulled from this dark and sin-infested world and will, at last, experience the real and refreshing love of God as they are welcomed into the Lord's family and can now set their sights on the road that will ultimately lead them to the very doorstep of heaven.

Action Needed

GSSM is offering free Bibles to all who would be willing to obey Christ's command to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19 NIV).

...And here is the great part: you can "go" without leaving your home. We are talking about rescuing people for eternity...people who will be forever grateful for those who cared enough to share with them God's love story...and the map that would lead them to God's Son who willingly paid a horrific price required to pay the entrance fee to God's kingdom that they could not possibly pay or earn. But there is more. Included in this book we call the Bible, is the path that leads us to the steps one must take to become a faithful and productive child of the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Action Plan

GSSM is anxious to put into the hands of all who are serious followers of Christ one of 3 indestructible weapons available to every believer. It is time to say ENOUGH!

Simply request one or more Bibles from the following list with a commitment to the Lord that you will seek His guidance as to when you should distribute these powerful "swords". It is time to stop the enemy's advance and force them to retreat. Remember, you don't even have to leave your home. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, sick or strong, in a wheelchair or using a walker...everyone can use all 3 weapons to fight the enemy and defeat them.

Free Bibles That Will Be Available Include

1. Sports New Testaments produced by FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). Note: The print is a bit small for older adults who might require a large or giant print.
2. Sports New Testaments with medium print size. These are an older version produced by the Bible Society for use during a series of major sports events held in the U.S.
3. New Testaments with large print
4. Children's Bible
5. Full Bibles with Old and New Testaments. Some new, some slightly used but in good condition.
6. Special requests. We will do our best to provide Bibles not listed.

Suggestions for Distribution

1. Give copies of God's word to friends who are committed followers of Christ and ask them to help you to distribute God's word to those to whom the Holy Spirit would direct.

Before distributing the Bibles, I usually place my hand on the Bibles, pray and ask God to direct me to an individual or group of people that are in need of this powerful book. Then I proceed to pray for those receiving this precious gift that could very well change their lives for all eternity.

2. Give thought to the possibility of your Sunday school class, Bible study group, or other church groups who would be willing to join you in distributing God's word. Consider giving copies to neighbors, delivery people, garbage collectors, the postman, a sick friend, a colleague at work, or any number of other people.

3. Also give to family members, grandchildren, relatives, childhood friends, teammates. Use as gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, Easter, and gifts for special events, as prizes, for those in the hospital or senior homes. Just be creative and ask God to direct you.

4. Remember to pray first...then distribute...and then pray some more. God answers prayer. The scriptures state that God's word will not return void.

The Reward

I often think of my wife, Sue, when we were holding a sports day in Kabale, Uganda. A little girl, Christina, came running up to Sue as we were wrapping up an outreach and excitedly told my wife that she went home after she accepted Christ and told her parents all about Jesus.

As she knelt on the ground to hug this little girl, Christina asked if Sue could give her a Bible for her parents for they wanted to learn more about Jesus, too.

Sue reached into her bag, gave this precious little child a Bible and off Christina ran to take God's Good News to her family.

Earlier, Pat Mendoza, a dear friend and part of the team from the U.S. had shared Christ with Christina and this little girl accepted Christ as her Lord and Saviour. Christina just couldn't wait to tell her parents and family about her newest best friend.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support as we stand together and say, **ENOUGH!** May each of us be willing to grab our weapons of love, prayer and our sword, the word of God, and together mount a counterattack that will drive the forces of evil into a full retreat.

It is time to stop those who are attempting to hijack our nation and force us to become a godless country. **ENOUGH!**

As true Christ-followers we will never surrender, we must never bow to the forces of evil in their attempt to destroy soldiers of the cross and lock others in the prison camps of Satan. No, we will, with the Lord's help, put on our Armour, grab our weapons and chase the enemy out of every hiding place and every position of authority until the victory is won and we can bow before the King of kings and Lord of lords and wait patiently for our Saviour to say to each of us, "well done my good and faithful servants enter into my rest". With that, we will lift our heads and look into the face of our Lord and finally say with confidence, "Lord, it is finally enough".

Blessings!

Russ Carr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russ Carr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'R' and 'C'.