

Words Of a Witness Ministries  
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Publication L1-018

*Ebenezer*

As the Israelites said after their defeat by the Philistines and the slaughter of some 4000 men, *“And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, wherefore hath the Lord smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.”* 1 Samuel 4:3. It **does not** matter how many good things you do, how big your church is, how much money you have, how many good deeds you do or your works you do; if you **do not have Jesus** or in the Israelites case, the God of the ark of the covenant, leading and directing you, you will be, say, **defeated, lost or bound for hell!!!!**

When the Ark of the Covenant arrived, *“And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.”* 1 Samuel 4:5. The material objects, and I will say that the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord is a material object as most of today’s icons in churches and synagogues and temples are, as unto even the church building itself. It doesn’t matter if it is in the type of structures, furnishings or programs; if there were ten or twenty arks, the people would still be lifting up material objects. **Unless God is the One being lifted up and He is the One you call upon, you still will be defeated!!! Your church building is not a ticket to your victory, which is of your own doing!!!!**

Oh, you might go to church and feel secure as the Israelites did when the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord was present; or your people around you, family, friends or enemies, they might see you go to church and say to themselves, *‘He will be saved and go to heaven.’* **But, again, a building is not victory!!!** Just as the Philistines said upon the arrival of the ark, for they said, *“And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! Who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? These are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.”* 1 Samuel 4:7,8. **Your enemy, Satan, the**

one who is always trying to defeat you, and I mean destroy you, sees you entering into your church, what does he say? Does he give up? **NO!** He tells his devils to, *“Be strong, and quit yourselves like men O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.”* 1 Samuel 4:9. Stop whining like men and act like the devils you are!

Now, this object, **WILL IT PROTECT YOU**, as the Israelites thought it would? **Will your church take all the enemy attacks from you and protect you? Will all your good works protect you from the attacks of your enemies, whether it be from husband, or wife, or father, or mother, or brother, or sister or anyone which is dear to you, or from your enemies????** Your victory is only with **GOD** and not with any and or all objects!!!! Individually, you, yourself and God, **YOU MUST CRY OUT TO GOD YOURSELF!!!!** Your enemies are the one, or ones, who do not, and have not, God as their Saviour; because, they are the ones Satan uses and will continue to use and strengthen to goad you from the Lord God Almighty!!!! *“And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.”* 1 Samuel 4:10.

Did you see this unfolding, their ark, your object, without God in either, fell, was defeated, ran into their own tents and houses, **BACKSLIDDEN, because of an object and a powerful foe, an adversary, the devil, an enemy, SATAN!!!!!!**

**MANY TODAY COME TO CHURCH AND WANT TO BE INSTANTLY CHANGED AND BECOME VICTORIOUS!!!** This is when I tell you, this witness does, **TO HOLD ON TIGHT!!!!!! FOR IT IS JUST STARTING!!!!!!** They come to church or you come to church and expect things to be instantly better or victorious over their or your foes!!! **Even as God lives within the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Spirit lives within you, They will not fight your battles for you just because you want Them to!!!!** This witness started to church, my wife and I, and was really doing well. God was using us then for His plans; doing many different things, as, home shelter, Sunday School, deacon, supporting with

tithes and offerings, leaving our home and all material things and ministering .....! **Using worldly talents for God's glory!!!!** Shortly after moving to a new church building, a larger one, up jumped the Philistines, the ones used by Satan. **AS SATAN TOLD THEM, ACT AS MEN OR THE DEVILS YOU ARE, AND FIGHT FOR ME!** Well, needless to say, the bottom fell out; we were kicked out of the church, deacon papers removed and disowned by the governing body. **Did we flee to our house or tent, did we become defeated, or backslidden???? NO! PRAISE GOD!!!** Because my wife and I were serving God, **not objects or anyone!!!** We could have been defeated, just left and never looked back, left God and His love, gone back into the worldly ways, and or accepted what the Philistines had to offer, **bondage, slavery and death!**

**I PRAISE GOD THAT WHEN I FINALLY DECIDED TO SERVE GOD, I SERVED GOD, AND NOT SOMEONE!** When I made my choice, and not someone else making it for me; I accepted the God Almighty as **MY** Saviour and let **Him** lead me, and not the Ark of the Covenant or a building or a man or a program or a religion; that when the Grace appeared for me that I might have salvation and victory through Jesus Christ, **I ACCEPTED HIM, GOD, JESUS CHRIST, AND NOT SOME OBJECT OR MAN!!!! PRAISE YOU JESUS, THANK YOU FATHER!!!**

Your walk with God is yours; but first, make sure it is with God, and not some object or man. Your walk with God will be tested, tried, run over and attempted to be destroyed; but, **NOT** defeated **PRAISE GOD**, “... *because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.*” 1 John 4:4. God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is in you, not an ark or an object!

The Ark of the Covenant was captured by the Philistines and taken away. Has God been taken away from you??? Have you let Him leave your life, your walk with Him? **YOU ARE THE ONE WHO LEAVES GOD! GOD DOES NOT LEAVE YOU!!!!** He is there always for you, waiting on, **GUESS WHO? YOU!** As you get tired of the Philistines, Satan's bondages and the worldly ways, as the Philistines were with the Ark of the Covenant, you have to ask God back into your heart. The Philistines had to ask the Israelites to come and get the Ark of the Covenant, **because God**

was there all the time. The Israelites and you, were the ones who left! God is there fighting for you in His way, for you, getting things prepared for you to come back to Him, for He is waiting! *“Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. And it came to pass, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekroniotes cried out, saying, they have brought about the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people. So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, send away the ark of God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place, that it slay us not, and our people: for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there. And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven.”* 1 Samuel 5:10-12.

**ARE YOU PART OF THE PHILISTINE PEOPLE, NOT KNOWING GOD, AND BEING SMITTEN, DESTROYED, PUT TUMORS UPON, JUST BECAUSE GOD IS GETTING SOMEONE ELSE PREPARED TO FINALLY ACCEPT HIM AS THEIR SAVIOUR AND LORD?????**

**This witness could have been a Philistine again, but I praise God that I was following and listening to Him!** If you continually have sicknesses, diseases, ‘tumors’ or deaths, you could be just a Philistine being used by God to get someone else’s attention!!!! **REPENT**, change from your Philistinian ways and follow God now, not this object. **Become one whom God is getting ready, and not one who is used by God to get someone else ready.** Do not be, just, *the example!!!!*

The Israelites received the Ark of the Covenant of God again; but, just listen to what they had to do, to get themselves where they needed to be for God. **It probably will not be instant and not without sacrifice;** but, God will fight your fights, He will lead you, He will meet your needs and He will hear your prayers. *“And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord. And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, if ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroh from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only: and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.”* 1 Samuel 7:2,3. **REMEMBER**, may not be instantly, 20 years with the children of Israel because of their disbelief, non-faith, and sinful ways.

Again, it is your choice, fall by the way side under God's hands by His plagues and death as upon the Philistines and those not serving Him; or, choose Him and do away with alllllllll your gods of the world and give them alllllllll up, *"Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroh, and served the Lord only."* 1 Samuel 7:4. **YOU MUST DO THE SAME ALSO! PUT AWAY ALLLLLLLL YOUR WORLDLY PLEASURES!!!** *"And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, we have sinned against the Lord. ..."* 1 Samuel 7:6.

Will you say this with me; I have sinned against You, Lord, forgive me; I repent, I want to change, I desire Your guidance, Your teachings, Your everlasting life!!!! I am tired of being a Philistine, one who is always under bondage. I want **VICTORY!!!!** *"Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, hitherto hath the Lord helped us. So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel."* 1 Samuel 7:12,13.

**REPENT, change. Write me, let us pray, let us ask God into your life, not just an object or building or religion; let us pray, together!!!! Amen.**

A witness, thankfully  
Words of a Witness Ministries  
Pastor Eddie

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