

WOUNDED WARRIORS

Today is Veteran's Day and we offer a special prayer to our military past, present and future.

(1 Tim.2:1-2) "First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."

We offer a special prayer to those wounded warriors engaged in our national wars.

Request: "I have friends that say they have been hurt by people in the church and now won't go to any church. How can we help them get over it and become active members in the church?"

Veteran's Day is appropriate day to offer a special lesson on the wounded warriors of the church engaged in the angelic conflict.

This lesson will study four aspects of the Wounded Warriors of the church and how to help them get spiritual treatment and healing.

1. There are at least four types of wounded warriors within the church of Jesus Christ that need healing.

The **First type** has been wounded but remains in the church but without proper healing (Euodia and Syntyche) (Phil.4:1-4).

The **Second type** has been wounded and has left one group and joined another without proper healing. (Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark) (Acts 13:13; 15:37-38; 2 Tim.4:10 - 11) [Demas]

The **Third type** has been wounded and has left the church and is unwilling to attend any church. (Wanderers from the faith) (1 Tim.6:20-21; Philemon 10-21).

The **Fourth type** has been wounded but sought proper spiritual healing by the ministry of the word of God and the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit and other ministering and praying believers (Peter) (Luke 22:31-34).

2. Warfare of the angelic conflict is normal but getting wounded is not because of Eph.6:10-18.

"Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might." (Eph.6:10; James 1:2-4)

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all saints." (Eph.6:18)

The word of God is our defense (5 pieces) and our protection (stand firm and resist in the evil day) as well as our offensive weapon (1 piece).

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies." (Eph.6:12; 1 Pet.5:6-9)

3. Pre-occupation with the wound and justification for the hurt rather than the word of God and the healing is walking in the flesh (OSN) and old man thinking (Col.3:1-3, 8-17; 1 Pet.2:21-23).

Withdrawal appeases the guilt and justification for the pain of being wounded but it doesn't offer proper spiritual healing.

As a kid I use to hear adults say, "To err is human and to forgive is divine." I later discovered that Paul believed this principle – "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Eph.4:31-32, 22-25)

The **first prescription for spiritual healing** is divine forgiveness (aphiemi) [it means to completely cancel the debt or offense] (Luke 17:3-6).

The **second prescription for spiritual healing** is unconditional divine love by the ministry of Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16, 22-23).

When you study 1 Cor.13:4-8a, you find 15 positive effects of God's love at work in, to, and through the Spirit-filled believer. Therefore, "**love never fails.**" (James 5:9)

4. Reconciliation is last key doctrine for spiritual healing of the wounded warrior.

The Greek word is katallasso. It means to exchange or to change from one thing to another - enmity to friendship.

It is a key doctrine in God's ambassador evangelism program (2 Cor.5:18-21). "Namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has **committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Cor.5:19-20)

"And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet he has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach." (Col.1:21-22)

"But if she does leave, let her remain unmarried, or else **be reconciled** to her husband, and that the husband should not send his wife away." (1 Cor.7:11)

"Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, **restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness**; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of God." (Gal.6:1-2)

A wise Sunday school teacher brought a hot plate with three burners and three small pots with water to class. In one pot, he put a carrot. In the second, he put an egg. In the third pot, he put some coffee beans. He let them all boil for several minutes while he taught on a similar lesson to our lesson.

First, he took out the carrot and asked the class to describe the difference in the carrot before and after the boiling. Then it did the same thing to the egg. He explained that the carrot was now soft and egg was now hard both had gone through different changes by the same boiling water.

Then the teacher reached into his bag brought out enough paper cups for everyone in the class and poured them each a cup of coffee. What was the difference? This is the message of reconciliation (**exchange**).