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INTRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001

“Surely this is a movie. Spielberg must be behind it,” were honestly my first thoughts. Moments before, I had received a phone call from my hosts in Argentina. “Ron, Ron, there has been a great tragedy in America. You must turn on the radio…I am so sorry…” The radio, all in Spanish, would not have helped me, so I went to the Internet. Nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to see in large, red block letters.

UPDATE: A PLANE HAS JUST HIT THE SECOND TOWER

I was stunned; trapped in disbelief. Yet it was real. Terrorists had attacked my country in the most vile and vicious way.
Being separated from my wife and children only compounded my horror. Being abroad brought a sense of helplessness. I wanted to do something—I wanted to be in New York—I wanted to help. The young man with me, Brandon, and I even called Air Mexicana to look into the possibility of flying to Monterey, Mexico, and then renting a car to drive to Houston. From there, we would figure it out.

Fortunately my plane was the first to leave Argentina for the U.S. following the attack. For most of us on the plane, it was the first time we were able to express our grief with other Americans. We were mad. We were angry. You would not have wanted to be on that airplane if you had evil intentions. None of us were especially bold, but on that day I believe every one of us would have risked our lives to protect others.

After the shock and adrenaline wore off, Americans—in fact, all citizens of the free world—realized that the game had changed. Suddenly we were worried about anthrax and dirty bombs. People would get on planes wondering if the next Mohamed Atta or Richard Reid (shoe bomber) was sitting next to them. On Christmas
Day 2009 a young Nigerian showed us it is not just Middle Eastern men who are willing to blow up planes and kill hundreds of innocent people. We live in a new world, and this new world order did not usher in peace, but panic...not tranquility, but terror!

In this book, I will attempt to show you that none of this caught God off guard. He is not panicking. He is not pacing back and forth in heaven, wringing his hands, asking the angels for advice. And if He is not, then neither should we! Heaven lives inside of us. We can be strong in a scary world. As the subtitle for this book says, we can live a fear-free life, in a fear-filled world!

God’s Word gives us all the answers to live victoriously in this present age. The goal of this book is to teach you how to put those principles into action. The difference could be as different as life and death.

To the ends of the earth,
RON CANTOR, JANUARY 2010
7 KEYS TO OVERCOMING FEAR
CHAPTER 1

THE GOAL OF TERRORISM

Over the past decade years, most of us have returned to a somewhat normal life. The anger is still there, but many of us battle a new fear that those of us who live in Israel, where I live now, have had to deal with for decades: TERROR!

You see the goal of terrorism is not primarily to kill people, but to paralyze the survivors with fear, to the point that they will cave in to the terrorist’s demands. They call it terrorism because the aim is to terrorize! The goal of Bin Laden and his henchmen was to make you afraid to leave your home, to get on an airplane or to travel to a big city.

And yet as believers in Yeshua, we are not to submit to such spirits. The Bible tells us that we are not to be afraid. Of course we will battle the temptation to be frightened, but we have been given every tool to
overcome the emotions of the enemy and enter into the rest of Yeshua. Indeed, we have “everything we need for life and godliness.” (1 Peter 1:3)

911 OR 91:1

I landed in Chicago to a nightmare—thousands of people trying to get home. Lines so long, you didn’t know what line you were in. When I landed in Washington, DC, I didn’t want to wait all afternoon for a flight to Richmond, so I rented a car and drove home. When I finally arrived home from Buenos Aires, I asked the Lord if there was anything significant about the date of the attacks. Like others, I immediately thought of “911” as in “emergency.” The terrorists themselves may have chosen that date for that reason. But then I thought about the scriptures. Where is 911 in the scriptures?

Of course! Psalm 91:1!

He who dwells in the secret place of the most high will rest under the shadow of the Almighty!
The Lord was giving his children a sign in the midst of the horrible atrocity, that He was still in control and that He will protect us if we would make the secret place of the Most High our place of refuge!

REST

Ernest Casutto, a Messianic Jew who survived the Holocaust, was amazed when believers in Jesus, without regard for their own lives, sheltered Jewish people simply because it was the right thing to do. In the midst of Nazi persecution, these Gentiles baffled Ernest because they walked in the rest of God. Ernest eventually became a believer, in part because of their powerful, silent testimony.

I often like to read Psalm 91:1, leaving off everything after the word rest.

He who dwells in the secret place of the most high will rest...

You will rest! There is a promise of rest to those who walk with God—not fear, not terror—but rest. In the
same way, the world needs to see believers today as different; as those who are able to rest in the midst of unrest. If you read Psalm 91 in totality you will notice that the writer is under attack--arrows, pestilence, plagues, death. And yet God tells him that in the midst of it all he can rest.

We, too, can rest in the peace of Yeshua even as the world grows more insane by the moment. God has promised to protect us from:

- Fowler’s snare
- Deadly pestilence
- The terror of night
- The arrow that flies by day
- The pestilence that stalks in the darkness
- The plague that destroys at midday

“But Ron how can we survive a weapon of mass destruction or a plague?” I really don’t know, but God Almighty, who parted the Red Sea, says:
A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone...

“With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.” (Psalm 91:8-11,16)

Bethel Assembly of God deacon and Sunday school superintendent Stanley Praimnath of Elmont, Long Island can testify that a thousand fell at his side and it did not come near him. **He was on the 81st floor of the World Trade Center when he looked out the window and saw a jetliner coming straight at him.** The jet slammed through his window killing hundreds of people instantly. After realizing he was alive he saw a flaming wing of the airplane on his floor.
“Lord, you take control, this is your problem now,” he recalled praying. “I don't know where I got this power from, but the good Lord, He gave me so much power and strength in my body that I was able to shake everything off. I felt like I was the strongest man alive.”

He was trapped, but he continued to cry out to God.

“I got up, and I felt as if a power came over me,” said Stanley. “I felt goose bumps all over my body and I'm trembling, and I said to the wall, ‘You're going to be no match for me and my Lord.’

“Moments later, he punched his way through the wall and, with the help of the man on the other side [who discovered him], was able to squirm his way through the hole in the wall.

Stanley prayed his way down the eighty-one floors and just as he escaped he turned to see the building collapse.

Smith Wigglesworth, an English evangelist from the early 1900’s, used to say that God would move
heaven and earth to respond to the prayer prayed in faith. Did God keep that building standing just long enough for a man of faith to escape? I don’t know, but I would like to believe He would do it for me, or my family members! I know this sounds arrogant, knowing how many were not saved, but His Word does lead us to believe for supernatural protection. He would have spared Sodom for ten righteous men.

“But what about those believers who perished?” Far be it from any of us to pass judgment. They are with the Lord enjoying their reward. But you are here! Now is the time to build your faith in God! And besides, God has not told us to live our life based on our experiences or that of others, but based on His promises—based on His Word. While I don’t want to pass judgment on those who perished, neither do I want to pass judgment on God.
CHAPTER 2

THE SPIRIT OF TERROR, INTIMIDATION

As I stated earlier, the goal of a terrorist is to terrorize. The demonic stronghold that works through a terrorist is a spirit of intimidation. Young Timothy, who led the congregation in the city of Ephesus, had to deal with this spirit. I have been a young pastor and know what it is like to have to lead people twice your age. Strong people looking to get the new pastor on their side will often use a variety of methods to lure him. Any approach from flattery to downright seduction can be employed. However, the greatest of all these weapons is intimidation.

Paul, seeing Timothy struggle with some strong-willed congregants, encouraged Timothy with these words:

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on
of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. (2 Tim 1:6-7, emphasis mine)

The gift of God working through a believer is the exact opposite of the spirit of timidity, or intimidation. Intimidation will dampen, if not completely kill the gift of God in you. When we give in to the spirit of intimidation, we let go of the gift of God. John Bevere’s book, “Breaking Intimidation” deals with this issue powerfully and is highly recommended.

If God puts a burning word in a pastor, but he freezes in the pulpit because he is afraid of how certain strong-willed members will react, then the anointing to bring forth God’s Word in power has been robbed. Until he repents, he will not walk in the complete anointing that God has reserved for him. Jeremiah was a young prophet, but that was not an excuse to avoid sharing God’s Word with his people.
“Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them.” (Jer. 1:17)

Many years ago the Lord gave me a strong word for our congregation. As I was in the middle of preaching, I looked at the face of one of our other leaders—a man I respected. I could sense that he was not pleased with my message. I subtlety began to change my message to accommodate him. Immediately the Lord convicted me that I was being a man-pleaser. I repented and continued on with the message the Lord had given me. That leader came to me the next day to apologize for his attitude. He was a godly man and had the humility to admit that his attitude was wrong—and I almost changed the message because of it. Do you see my point? I was affected by his attitude and nearly missed God because of this spirit of intimidation. We cannot submit to the spirit of intimidation.

Goliath had the entire country of Israel in fear and trembling. Yet one young boy, who simply refused to acquiesce to intimidation, slew the giant. According
to the Scriptures, “Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified...on hearing the Philistine’s words.” (1 Sam 17:11) Yet David burned with holy zeal when he heard the mocking giant and said, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (1 Sam 17:26) Saul had the anointing to take Goliath down. He was called to be Israel’s protector. But his fear and lack of faith in God caused his anointing to leak out like air from a punctured tire.

Where did that anointing go? The bible teaches us that if someone will not use his or her gift for God, He will take it, and give it to another (Matt. 25:14-30).

Intimidation can be like a cold, wet blanket being thrown on your zeal. Have you ever had a plan or desire? You presented it only to have people mock your idea and show you why it will not work. You came in with excitement, but you left intimidated. That is the spirit of intimidation. There are some people who just love to rain on other’s parades—to poke holes at your goals and plans. By the time you
leave, you may be convinced that they are right—if you don’t recognize what is happening.

I remember when I was in eighth grade I got into a fight with Chucky McDonald. He was picking on an overweight kid and I felt compassion. I stuck up for the overweight kid—it was the right thing to do, and, more importantly to my ego, I felt I could take Chucky and it would make me look good. After days of my challenging him he finally agreed to fight me. He looked at me defiantly, stuck his finger in my face and said, “Alright, I will fight you, but I am going to kick your butt.” He said it with such confidence and authority that a cold chill went down my spine. Was there something about Chucky I didn’t know? Was he a secret black belt? He used intimidation to frighten me. Fortunately it was not enough to beat me.

“Ron, what does this have to do with terrorism?” I’ll tell you. Osama Bin Ladin issued videotape not long after September 11th. In it he boldly declared that he would bring America to its knees. I laughed, “Yeah, right pal.” But then he confidently spoke of their plans. He did so with such self-assurance that I suddenly felt
hopeless and terrified. Later that evening I recognized this as the spirit of intimidation. The fact is that his network was most likely in shambles. His assets had been frozen. His ability to communicate had been severely compromised (which is one reason why he released a video) and the entire world was looking for him. So what does he do? He turns to the age-old trick of intimidation. Why? Because lacking real power, he wanted westerners to be afraid to fly, to drive, to go outside. He wanted to terrify you!

And I am sure many were fearful. But the truth is, no matter how much noise he has made over the past decade, he has not been able to carry out even one attack on American soil.

Don’t give in to fear and intimidation! Enjoy your rest in God. Dear ones, “God has not given us a spirit of intimidation, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Tim 1:7 NKJ)
LOVE AND POWER

Love and power are the two great attributes of a well-balanced leader. Paul is telling Timothy to use love and power to conquer intimidation. Power alone is not sufficient. You end up hurting people when you confront in anger. King Saul is a good example of someone who had power, but not love. Love alone, on the other hand, will give you empathy for the one who is seeking to intimidate you, but you will not have the backbone to confront and govern.

Yet love and power together—both an intense love for the offender and yet the strength to deal with them—are a recipe for redemption. This is a description of God Himself:

One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, O Lord, are loving. (Ps 62:11-12, emphasis mine)

SOUND MIND

A sound mind speaks of knowing the truth. People whose minds are unsound believe all kinds of lies.
The truth overcomes intimidation, which is a lie. Goliath said, “I am going to kill you.” David rightly recognized that as a lie. The truth was that David “had killed both the lion and the bear” and he could say with boldness “this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God.”  
(1 Samuel 17:36, emphasis mine)

The enemy says, “If you get on that plane you will die in a high-jacking.” God says, “Go into all the world and preach the good news.” (Mark 16:15)

When we believe the lies of Bin Laden or any other fanatic, we are submitting to the enemy. I am not saying we should not use caution and wisdom. The Lord may warn you to stay away from a certain place. I am saying that the safest place to be in the world is in His will, about our Father’s business.

People wanted to kill Yeshua for three years, but were only able to do so when it was the right time. Paul was on the most-wanted list from the day he met Yeshua. Yet it was decades before he finally was
martyred for the gospel. Until that time he nearly
died many times (stoning, beaten with rods, jailed,
etc.), but God had a plan for him. As he said in
Philippians 1, he could have gone to be with Yeshua,
but chose to stay on earth. You see, it wasn’t up to
some Roman dictator or Jewish Chief Priest when
Paul would leave this world. This was a decision
between Paul and God. It was the same with Peter.
He was in jail, probably on the schedule to be
executed. He lived for almost an additional thirty
years because angels rescued him from prison.

These are the days we must believe for this type of
intervention. We must believe that, if need be, God
will send His angel to save us. Remember Joseph—his
brothers wanted him dead, but God had another plan.
Instead of fertilizer, he became the second most
powerful man in the known world. When he revealed
himself to his brothers he was able to say, “You
intended to harm me, but God intended it for good
to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of
many lives.” (Gen 50:20)
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo were as good as dead. Still, they said with boldness and holy defiance:

“O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (Dan 3:16-18)

Despite being thrown into the burning furnace, God rescued them. God can do the same today. I believe in the coming days we will hear more and more stories of miraculous rescues. Yet I also believe that we will be tested more intensely than we have yet to experience.
CHAPTER 3

OVERCOMING JEZEBEL

It takes a conscious decision to stand in the midst of this present evil. Even Elijah, the servant of God, became prey to this spirit of intimidation.

Elijah was in hiding for over three years. During that time it had not rained in Israel. Elijah had prophesied as much and the entire kingdom was searching for him. At the word of the Lord, Elijah goes to the wicked king Ahab. Fearlessly, he commands Ahab to bring forth all the prophets of Baal and Asherah for a confrontation.

You know the story. The next day two altars are formed and the false prophets spend the better part of the day asking their gods to consume the sacrifice by fire. Finally Elijah prays to Yahweh, the God of Israel.

Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that
you are turning their hearts back again. (I King 18:37)

Fire comes down out of heaven and consumes the sacrifice, the altar, the stones—everything! The false prophets are killed. Revival had begun! The great sign is followed by a massive thunderstorm—the first rain in over three years. Elijah must have felt incredible. God used him to usher in a great awakening.

The next day, the emboldened Elijah gets a visit from the FedEx guy. Queen Jezebel absolutely, positively had to get a message to the prophet the next day. He reads the message:

“May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.” (I King 19:2)

Now Elijah has a decision to make. Does he follow the powerful gift of God inside him—the same one that enabled him to killed hundreds of false prophets the day before? Or does he submit to the spirit of intimidation?
Plan A:

➢ Go into Jezreel and find Queen Jezebel and command her to repent before God. If she refuses, then execute her like one of those false prophets and continue to lead the national revival.

Plan B:

➢ Run for your life!

I wish I could tell you that Elijah opted for plan A, but in fact:

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, LORD,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” (I King 19:3-4)
The Prophet of God wants God to kill him! Do you see how powerful this spirit of intimidation is? It wasn’t based on reality. Elijah had just overseen the eradication of hundreds of false prophets—how hard could it have been to simply add one more? And yet we find the prophet of Yahweh cowering in the shadow of Jezebel.

Just the day before, Elijah was calling down fire from heaven—now he is calling down fire on himself. Overcome by the spirit of Jezebel, he wants to die. *Intimidation steals your strength, your zeal and your resolve.* It is the opposite of biblical faith.

**BIN LADEN’S LIE**

If you are like me you felt that spirit of fear and intimidation when Bin Laden came on T.V. nearly ten years ago. But the truth is, he was lying. He was lying to scare you—to intimidate you.

Beloved, as believers we cannot afford to tolerate the spirit of Jezebel in our lives. We are not called to cower under the threats of a Bin Laden, Arafat or
Saddam Hussein. We need to live victoriously and walk uprightly in these last days.
The question is not “What do we do about these weapons?” but rather, “Do we believe the Word of God?” Yeshua said, “[Believers] will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” (Mark 16:18)

I think it is safe to say that somewhere in that list, we are protected against these weapons.

John G. Lake was alive during a horrific bubonic plague that hit Africa. Because the disease was so contagious, there was no one to bury the dead. Lake offered his services. After weeks of burying corpses he was asked why he himself did not contract the plague. He replied that the disease was no match for the Spirit of Life.
Through Messiah Yeshua the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.
(Rom 8:2)

After a while a scientist was secured to test his theory. Bubonic plague foam was taken from the lungs of a corpse. The disease was put on Lake’s hand while the scientist viewed his hand through a microscope. The disease died instantly in Lake’s hand. Lake told the dumbfounded scientist it was the Spirit of Life at work. Life overcomes death.

The truth is that we have not had to exercise that kind of faith in America. We have insurance for sickness, credit cards for bills and over 500 cable channels to take our minds off of real life. We’ve hardly had any need for a miracle—until now! Now is the time to rouse yourself from slumber and begin to take hold of the Word of God in a new way. Read the stories of Yeshua and realize that He still desires to perform miracles today.

Despite all the excesses we have seen in the name of the word “faith”, the Bible still declares, “According
to your faith will it be done to you.” (Matthew 9:29)
God expects his children to trust Him and I imagine it breaks his heart when we don’t.
CHAPTER 5
How To Break the Stronghold of Fear

When one refers to breaking strongholds believers tend to think of breaking strongholds over cities or even nations, while ignoring the strongholds in their own lives. A stronghold over a city is only established because the individual people in that city have, at one time, given in to that sin. If it were so easy to break the stronghold over New York or Washington, we would have done it a long time ago. First of all, the people in that city have the authority to break the stronghold if they will collectively repent for that sin which allowed the stronghold.

I recently watched a video where a man prophesied over another man, giving him “the keys to Eastern Europe.” Everyone clapped and people on the stage were amen-ing, but it had no real power. Only apostolic leaders over a region could give another ministry that type of authority over their domain—and considering that Eastern Europe is made up of
many nations, I can’t see any situation where one person could release such authority. Looks great on stage, but lacks real authority. Why am I mentioning this? Because God always works through channels of proper authority.

When Paul speaks about pulling down strongholds he is referring to the individual taking control over his thought life and getting it to line up with the word of God. And this is an area where you DO have authority—over your own soul.

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Messiah. (2 Cor 10:3-5)

Paul says that we do not wage war as the world does. How does the world wage war? The first thing you
probably think of are machine guns, tanks, smart bombs and RPGs. However this is not the primary way the world fights. The primary weapon of the world is words—negative, intimidating, fear-filled words!

Before any gun is ever fired or any bomb is ever dropped there is a War of Words being waged. We all remember Saddam Hussein declaring boldly that the first Gulf War back in 1991 would be the “Mother of all Wars.” And how could anyone forget the Minister of Information, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf in Gulf War II? He confidently stated, “There are no American infidels in Baghdad. Never!” We had already taken the airport. Did he really think that the stomachs of US soldiers would roast in hell “at the hands of Iraqis.” Even if he did, his purpose in saying that, as well as Saddam’s a decade earlier was to try to make the U.S. think twice before attacking—to sow seeds of doubt. Before Chucky and I (from the earlier story) squared off, we taunted and challenged one another.

As one who both lives in the Middle East and has studied Middle Eastern culture, I can tell you this is
how wars are fought here—with words. A huge part of Arab culture is bravado. In addition, lying is often employed to put fear in their enemies. I remember driving my car in Baltimore in 1991, listening to CBS News on the radio. Reports came in that coalition forces from Egypt were claiming that they destroyed fifty Iraqi tanks! I laughed in my car because I knew it wasn’t true. I also knew that American journalists would simply assume that they were telling the truth, just as they would believe a U.S. general if he were to share such news at a news conference. It wasn’t a week before news reports came out that the “fifty Iraqi tanks” were never found.

Most people don’t know it, but the only reason Israel captured Jerusalem during the Six Day War was because Gamal Nasser, President of Egypt was telling the whole world that his forces were ready to march on Tel Aviv. In truth, his boys were being pushed out of the Sinai Desert by the Israelis. But the UN believed him (and since they didn’t care if Israel lost, they did nothing!) and so did the King of Jordan. From Jerusalem his forces entered the war and within
two days, to his utter shock, they were driven over the Jordan River.

And how does the enemy attack you? With cluster bombs? No, with cluster thoughts and cluster lies of fear, doubt and negativity.

As a pastor I have seen this in marriages many times. A husband and a wife are newly married. They are both jockeying for power in the relationship. In most cases, thank God, there is never a physical confrontation. But there is a war of words that begins: Not in my house are you going to...I am the head of this house...You can sleep on the couch if you think I am going to...You are going to submit to me...You don't deserve respect... And thus, instead of embracing biblical roles of love and respect, a war of words begins with the goal of one intimidating the other into submission.

We all know the cold hard words of a parent, an employer or friend piercing our heart. We all know the cold wave of fear that can envelope us when negative thoughts or words enter our soul. The Bible
tells us, “Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Proverbs 12:18)

Has someone you trusted ever betrayed you? Has someone ever unexpectedly come on so strong against you that you were left full of fear, being intimidated? Have you ever been scolded harshly for something you didn’t do? Have you ever been passed up for a promotion you were sure you deserved? It can be just like a sword piercing your soul. And if it is not dealt with, that sword can entrench itself in your soul, becoming a stronghold in your life—producing fear, anger, unforgiveness, or bitterness.

When we lived in Odessa, Ukraine in 1998-1999, water from our apartment leaked into the mafia-owned Reebok store below us. When the owner showed up at my door, I found myself looking up at a six-foot-three-inch image of intimidation. He pushed me aside as he made his way into my flat, yelling at me in Russian. He told me he was going to sue me for damages, turn my water off and have me thrown out of my apartment.
You see, this man did not need to shoot me. All he needed to do was yell and threaten me to produce his desired result of absolutely terrifying me. We tend to think of the mafia as those who indiscriminately kill. Not so. The mafia rarely needs to kill. It is the knowledge that they can and will kill that makes them so powerful. It is their negative words, producing fear and intimidation, which keeps them in business.

In my case, I had to take hold of God at a new level until I truly believed that the mafia fellow could not touch me without God’s permission. I had to face him and convince him to turn my water back on, which, thank God, he did.

Remember Elijah and Jezebel. Jezebel defeated the prophet without the aid of one soldier. All she used was a letter and a messenger. Her goal was to intimidate Elijah and it worked. The pen is indeed mightier than the sword.
OUR WEAPONS

Paul’s purpose in sharing this was to make the powerful point that believers do not fight as the world does, with negative words, with actuations or with lies. We fight with the opposite—the truth of God’s Word. It is by declaring and believing the truth that strongholds of fear, lust, greed and unforgiveness are broken. People who need inner healing need first and foremost an understanding of God’s Word. Someone who can’t believe God loves them because their father was an abusive scoundrel needs a revelation of who God really is. The one who can’t or won’t forgive simply needs to understand the volume of their personal debt towards God and His willingness to forgive them.

Many people have been beaten up by the weapons of this world—negative words spoken against them—and need to be healed with the truth of God’s Word.

THE BATTLE IS IN THE MIND

Now look at verse five:
We demolish *arguments* and every *pretension* that sets itself up against the *knowledge* of God, and we take captive every *thought* to make it obedient to Messiah. (2 Cor 10:5)

Notice the four words in italics all refer to the mind. The strongholds Paul says we can demolish are the strongholds of the mind. The arguments we demolish are the negative lies of the enemy that argue against the truth of God’s Word. The word *pretension* has to do with posturing, or taking a stand. A pretension is a claim, and in this context it is a claim from the enemy—an accusation against you. Paul says we can demolish anything that would take a stand against the *knowledge of God*. The *knowledge of God* is clearly the truth of His Word. And finally, we take captive every thought and make that thought conform to the word of God.

The enemy says, “*You are going to be abandoned by God.*” The powerful weapon that God has given to defeat this lie is the *truth*. I confront that thought and make it obedient to Messiah by declaring God’s
Word: “God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’” (Hebrews 13:5)

You have a dream of an old girlfriend or boyfriend in which you wake up missing him or her. You begin to have thoughts…oh, I wonder what life would have been like if…These are dangerous thoughts and the person in your dream is not real. It is an imaginary image of a real person that you knew ten, twenty, thirty years ago, but the person in the dream is not real. Yet your emotions seem to be in charge, not your reason, so like a man tiptoeing through a minefield, you look the person up on Facebook or you Google them. How many marriages have been damaged or destroyed like this!

Or maybe you don’t deal with it like that. Maybe you wake up, you immediately take captive those thoughts like escaped prisoners and you make those thoughts obedient to Yeshua. “Lord, I do not receive such thoughts against my spouse. I thank you for my spouse. I bless him/her. I am grateful to you for him/her. I will not seek another. My marriage is blessed of heaven!”
That declaration agrees with the Word of God and thus releases power for you to overcome the dream. And in the same way you can deal with any sin or temptation that comes your way.
CHAPTER 6

My Testimony of Victory

After six weeks of marriage we found out that Elana was pregnant. After a few more weeks, the weight of having to provide—not for a single man who can sleep on someone’s couch and eat at McDonalds every day if need be—but for a wife and child, hit me like a ton of bricks. The word of the enemy was having its way with me and I did not know how to confront it. For weeks I would wake up each morning with a weight of worry and fear consuming me. I became sure that I could not provide for my family. It was paralyzing. I couldn’t focus or think straight. I thought it was true and it became a stronghold in my soul.

After several weeks of this, the feeling subsided. I thought it was over. One thing you must understand about the enemy is that he is not going to leave unless you evict him. Sometimes he hides for a season, but he will come back stronger unless you overcome him.
When he returned he was stronger. No longer was my only concern that God would not provide, but now this youth pastor was struggling, wondering if there was even a God at all. I would lie awake at night having a panic attack. Fear would grip me and I would feel completely hopeless. I was unaware that I was allowing the enemy to build a stronghold in my soul.

Finally I began to pray. I did not know who or what I was fighting, but I knew I had to break through these negative thoughts that were imprisoning me and make them obedient to Messiah. I was on a business trip at a cell phone convention. That was when cell phones were as big as a brick and cost $1,000. I skipped a session to seek God. After intense prayer there was a huge breakthrough, but the battle wasn’t over.

Several months later, I took my youth group to a Christian music festival for several days. My wife and new baby would be leaving that night to return home. As I was saying goodbye I felt this cold wave of fear come over me saying, They are not going to make it.
They are going to get into a car wreck. It was back—that same enemy, that same voice—the fear, the terror. However this time instead of submitting to it, I felt the energy and anger of God rising through my spirit and I declared, “NO! You are not going to do this to me! You are a liar and God’s Word is true.” I went on to declare the truth His Word—His protection over my wife and baby. Needless to say, they arrived home safely. And they would have arrived home safely, I believe, even if I had not broken through. Like Bin Laden hiding in a cave, the enemy doesn’t have all that much power. But that will not keep him from trying to use his lies and intimidation to terrify you.

The stronghold, which was the negative thoughts from the enemy, was broken not through bullets and bombs, nor through the negative words of worldly weapons, but by declaring and applying the truth of God’s Word. There is power in the Word of God! The enemy is terrified that you will one day take hold of His Word. He wants to keep you imprisoned in lies, but Yeshua came to set you free!
IT WORKED FOR HIM!

Yeshua’s epic battle with Satan during his forty day fast was waged and won with the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit. The enemy would throw a temptation at the Messiah, and he would respond with Scripture.

The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world
and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Matt 4:3-11)

Like us, Yeshua found Himself being attacked with the most negative thoughts. He fought back and the enemy left Him. His weapon? The Word of God. Each time He confronted the temptations with these simple words, “It is written...” Is this how you respond when you are attacked by the enemy? Try it. You will be amazed at the results.

The most exciting part is in the last verse. After He defeated the enemy with the Word of God, the enemy left him alone. And better yet, angels came and attended to him. When we resist the enemy with the Word of God, not only does it drive him away, it also releases faith, hope, joy and the fruit of the Spirit in the believer, as well as the angels of God. In other
words, if the enemy is tempting you with fear, you will have strengthened faith. If he is tempting you with adultery, defeating him will leave you loving your spouse like never before. Angels will come and attend to you. But you must fight—and fight with the Word of God!

The Word of God is unlike any earthly weapon. The Bible says it is like a two-edged sword, but it isn’t. It is sharper!

_For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart._

_(Hebrews 4:12)_

Now in context, this passage speaks of the power of the Word of God to reveal the heart and bring conviction. Yet the principle applies that the Word of God goes beyond the flesh. A sword can only pierce your body, but the word of God goes beyond the flesh to your soul. It is truth, and even as it convicts and brings us to a place of repentance, it also builds us up
so “that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.” (Ephesians 6:11)

The weekend after 9/11, I was scheduled to fly to Fort Lauderdale to minister at a congregation. My parents happened to be on the same flight. They were going to a wedding the same weekend. When I arrived home on Thursday my wife told me my parents had canceled their trip and the President was about to speak to the nation. “They are expecting more terror attacks this weekend,” she told me. My parents didn’t feel it wise that all three of us would be on the same plane in case something happened. Great! You guys stay and send me to die!

Fear consumed me. Her words, which came from a loving wife, concerned for her husband, were as fiery darts of fear. The congregation will understand if I cancel. It is only wisdom, I reasoned. For a half hour I walked around the house, unable to concentrate, with a horrible foreboding in my soul. It was as if I knew something bad was going to happen.
Finally, I went to the Father. I prayed and asked, “God, what should I do.” Immediately I felt as if He said, “What are you speaking on tomorrow night?” The title of my message was the same as this book: Overcoming the Fear of Terrorism. I had already preached this message twice—even before 9/11—and I could see that many people were encouraged to be reminded that God is in control. Here I was, trembling in fear, trying to cancel my speaking engagement because I was succumbing to the fear of terrorism. It became clear in that moment that if I did not go, then not only would I be a hypocrite, but I would be disqualified from ever preaching this message again. I knew God wanted me to go and I did.

The Bible says that when we “resist the devil...he will flee” (James 4:7) In Yeshua’s case, we read above that after He resisted temptation, angels came and ministered to him. I believe the act of resisting the enemy releases grace and faith in the life of the believer. God is pleased when we resist. He knows that we cannot survive on our own strength and He sends grace.
As soon as I said I would go, my entire disposition changed. Suddenly faith filled my heart. I knew that God would take care of me. Even if terrorists were on my plane, I would be okay. I began to pray with such zeal and faith. I began to proclaim God’s promises over my life, over my wife and over my children:

In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? (Ps 56:11)

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? (Ps 27:1)

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. (Ps 91:7-8)

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.
(Proverbs 18:10)
I do not receive the lies of the enemy. I don’t receive your death threats. My God is in control and you will not intimidate me. I will not submit to your deceptions.

The next morning when I got on the plane, the same faith and excitement filled my heart. My attitude was, “Go ahead, make my day.” Don’t get me wrong—I was not being arrogant in my own strength. Let’s face it—I’m a coward! My strength is in the Lord. My protection comes not from a black belt, but from His red blood. He is protecting me. If God is with me, Bin Ladin, Ahmadinejad and the like, cannot stand against me!

When I was little my best friend was Jeff Webb. I was the smallest kid in class, but because my best friend was the biggest, the baddest and the toughest—nobody messed with me. It is even better today. I am still the smallest, but I know my best friend is the toughest in the universe and He is totally committed to my protection. He loves me. And what He will do for me, He will certainly do for you. Believe His Word and walk in it.
The Bible speaks in Ephesians 6 of a *shield of faith*.

> In addition to all this, take up the *shield of faith*, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (Eph 6:16)

The enemy shoots flaming arrows at God’s people. Those flaming arrows of the soul are far more powerful than the ones of the flesh, even as the Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword because it goes all the way to the heart. This refers to the negative words and thoughts, the lies, the intimidation, etc.

So we have a *shield of faith* able to put out the *flaming arrows* of the enemy. Sounds great, but how do we use this shield of faith?
Asher Intrater, who leads a congregation in Jerusalem, once taught me that the way to extinguish these fiery darts was through four simple words.

_I-don’t-receive-that!_

When the enemy plants a negative thought, whether fear, lust, temptation, greed, hate, etc., you simply say out loud: _Devil, I don’t receive that!_

When he says, “You’re going to die tonight,” you say, “I don’t receive that. ‘I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.’” (Ps 118:17)

When he says you will never fulfill God’s call on your life, you say, “I don’t receive that. It is written, ‘He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Messiah Yeshua.’” (Phil. 1:6)

If the lies of the enemy have no place to land in your soul, they won’t. If you choose not to receive them, they will have no power over you.
CONCLUSION
Putting it all into Practice

Beloved, no longer can we live with the lax attitudes we have had in the past. Every year since 2001 has brought more evil and insecurity in the natural. I can only guess the enemy knows his time is short. I believe that we are in the End Times. Most of the world doesn’t realize it.

President Obama’s election was supposed to bring with it an understanding with the Muslim world. Has anything changed? Has Iran laid down her nuclear ambitions? Has North Korea become less belligerent? No, it is only getting worse. But for those who believe, this means we are getting closer to our redemption. Do not fear dear ones, but stand strong in these last days and be a witness for the King.

WHAT TO DO?

1. **Read the word and meditate on the promises of God.** In a crisis situation, whatever is inside you comes out. When there is no time to think, only that which you have trained yourself to
do will work. Navy Seals and Army Rangers train over and over again until their actions become reflex. In a combat situation their training takes over. In the same way, if we spend our time in the Word, reminding ourselves of what we believe, then we will be ready when the test comes.

2. **Fall in love with Yeshua. Make Him your refuge.** Now is the time to get our eyes off competing affections and get totally focused on Him. Remember the promise of 911 (91:1) is to the one who *dwell* in the secret place of the Most High. There are many believers who merely stop by the secret place every now and then. This promise is for those who *dwell* (as in 'live') there.

3. **Share the good news.** Paul told Philemon that when we share our faith, our eyes are open to the fullness of who God is. “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every
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**good thing we have in Messiah.”** (Philemon 5)

4. **Get our eyes off this world.** One of phrases that continues to pop up is *our way of life.* Media personalities, celebrities and politicians continue to say that we will not let these terrorists take away “our way of life.” Of course the freedom that we have in America to believe what we want, say what we want and elect who we want is wonderful. And yet, *our way of life* could refer to the worship of mammon. Materialism takes our eyes off a Holy God and puts them on things. The worst thing about materialism is it is easy to justify. One could hardly compare owning a car or house with such sinful things like stealing or murder. But ‘*you shall have not idols*’ and ‘*you shall have no other gods before me*’ are commandment numbers one and two, while murder and stealing are six and eight, respectively.

*How do I know if I am worshipping mammon?*

Very simple, do your things get in the way of
your relationship with God. Maybe we need to alter our way of life for His way of life.

5. **Do not let your heart be dominated by negative thinking.** Take authority over these demonic thoughts and think on that which “is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—If anything is excellent or praiseworthy.” (Phil 4:8) The more you think His thoughts the more prepared you will be.

6. **Recognize the spirit of Intimidation** and cast it down. Whether it comes from your boss, the nightly news or your own thoughts, do not be dominated by intimidation. Show respect, honor authority, but do not tolerate intimidation. You have not received a spirit of timidity!

7. And lastly, incorporate those four words into your life: **I don’t receive that!** You will be able to extinguish every fiery dart of the enemy
through this faith-filled declaration.

Dear friends, we live in exciting times. Yeshua said concerning the ends times:

When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (Luke 21:28)

Now is not the time to be terrorized, but to be a light in a dark world, taking as many with us in our mission to crown Yeshua as King of Israel and the Nations.