神的軍隊在動員, Part 9

神的軍隊其中一個最棒與最獨特的特性即是:每一個士兵都可以與總指揮官有最親近與個人的關係。事實上,任何士兵都可以成為祂最好的朋友。祂甚至會與最低階的士兵分享祂的終極策略與計畫,比這更好的是,連最低階的士兵都可以隨時大膽來到祂的座前並且受到歡迎!

那真是能成為神的軍隊最棒的部分;然而,還有更棒的!在神軍隊中的同伴情誼是無法在其他地方找到的。那也是我們生命中需要的一真正的朋友。記得,當主創造亞當時,亞當僅有的同伴就是神,所以神自己才說這樣還不夠好,人也需要人的同伴。事實上,神所說第一件不好的事就是孤獨:『那人獨居不好』(參考創世記 2:18)。與別人成為同伴對我們的屬靈與心理健康非常重要,而神尋求給祂的子民最好的。

正如我常常重申:直到我們與神的關係恢復了,否則在我們生命中不會感到滿足或擁有平安。 沒有任何事能比與祂的關係更爲滿足,因爲我們受造就是爲此目的,沒有其他的東西可以塡補 那空缺。神也創造我們彼此需要,沒有合適的同伴關係,我們的生命就會有空缺。神的軍隊預 計成爲,也將成爲地上人類的終極社會,其意味是建造在家庭的地位上,但一個家庭若沒有與 神和教會有正確的關係,就永遠無法全然成就神對家庭的呼召。

當然,我們訓練的一部份可能包括被呼召單獨一段時間,好與神發展更親密的關係,或是家庭被呼召離群爲了更親近神與彼此親近。但最終,一個活躍的教會關係對我們的成熟是不可或缺的,那即是三股合成的繩子不容易折斷(參考傳道書 4:12),但在每一個關係中,我們都能更親近神是非常重要的。

現在,讓我們來看在我們這時候的一些基本要素與策略。你可能聽過一種說法:『少數激情者將支配多數中立者』。這是一個歷史的事實;少數人支配全世界,不管是好的或壞的支配。

讓我們想一下:我們可能都曾目睹過五歲的孩子支配一整個家庭,決定要去哪與做什麼。倘若我們在教會很長的時間,我們可能經歷過小團體興起嘗試支配整個教會,而且往往成功了。當此發生在一個家庭或教會時,它設立了一個非常不好的氣氛,沒有人是快樂或平安的。這些情況就算沒有總是,也常常會導致家庭、教會或其他組織的破碎。

現在在美國和歐洲,最不屬神的力量已經掌管與支配大多數中立者。才不過幾十年的時間,掌管文化的高層單位,例如教育、媒體與政府幾乎全被敵視基督教、撤換基督徒的力量所接管。單單這幾十年,我們已經到達鄙視或攻擊基督教的地步,這在西方世界是難以想像的,現在不攻擊基督徒反倒被認爲政治性不正確。我們很快會從**『後基督教時代』**跨越到**『敵基督教時代』**,至少在西方是如此。

有一群極端團體大肆提議要摧毀基督教,並把基督徒趕到地下,他們只是少數,卻因爲大眾保持中立,包括基督徒,這群小小的敵基督教團體反而支配了議程。這即是敵基督的靈的本質,在歷史與在現在都非常有效。它可以被擊敗並使整個過程翻轉,要如何做?只需要基督徒不再保持中立或不冷不熱,大膽勇敢的堅定立場,成爲他們所蒙召的信仰捍衛者。根據啓示錄三章 14-16 節,發生在基督徒身上一個最糟的事莫過於保持中立或不冷不熱:

你要寫信給老底嘉教會的使者,說:那爲阿們的,爲誠信真實見證的,在神創造萬物之上爲元首的,說:

我知道你的行爲,你也不冷也不熱;我巴不得你或冷或熱。

你既如溫水,也不冷也不熱,所以我必從我口中把你吐出去。

怎麼會有任何人遇見又真又活,如烈火般的神,還能對祂不冷不熱呢?此產生了終極之門或開啓,使地獄得以進入我們生命。關上此地獄之門是我們必須打的最重要戰役,我們若贏了這場戰役,更多的勝利將很快接踵而來。

我們也必須謹記在心: 膽怯絕不是基督徒的選擇, 膽怯的與殺人的和其他不敬虔的人一起被列在無法承受神的國的行列中。正如主在馬太福音十六章 24-26 節勸誡我們的:

於是耶穌對門徒說:若有人要跟從我,就當捨己,背起他的十字架來跟從我。

因爲,凡要救自己生命的,必喪掉生命;凡爲我喪掉生命的,必得著生命。

人若賺得全世界,賠上自己的生命,有什麼益處呢?人還能拿什麼換生命呢?

我們別無選擇,只要憑信心而行,拒絕讓懼怕成爲引導我們生命的工具。倘若我們願意打信心 美好的仗,我們不可能會輸。倘若我們不想打這場戰役,我們不可能會贏。讓我們打贏仗吧!

(摘自 喬納 word for the week, 2008 #9)

神的军队在动员, Part 9

神的军队其中一个最棒与最独特的特性即是:每一个士兵都可以与总指挥官有最亲近与个人的关系。事实上,任何士兵都可以成为祂最好的朋友。祂甚至会与最低阶的士兵分享祂的终极策略与计划,比这更好的是,连最低阶的士兵都可以随时大胆来到祂的座前并且受到欢迎!

那真是能成为神的军队最棒的部分;然而,还有更棒的!在神军队中的同伴情谊是无法在其它地方找到的。那也是我们生命中需要的 真正的朋友。记得,当主创造亚当时,亚当仅有的同伴就是神,所以神自己才说这样还不够好,人也需要人的同伴。事实上,神所说第一件不好的事就是孤独:『那人独居不好』(参考创世记2:18)。与别人成为同伴对我们的属灵与心理健康非常重要,而神寻求给祂的子民最好的。

正如我常常重申:直到我们与神的关系恢复了,否则在我们生命中不会感到满足或拥有平安。 没有任何事能比与祂的关系更为满足,因为我们受造就是为此目的,没有其它的东西可以填补 那空缺。神也创造我们彼此需要,没有合适的同伴关系,我们的生命就会有空缺。神的军队预 计成为,也将成为地上人类的终极社会,其意味是建造在家庭的地位上,但一个家庭若没有与 神和教会有正确的关系,就永远无法全然成就神对家庭的呼召。

当然,我们训练的一部份可能包括被呼召单独一段时间,好与神发展更亲密的关系,或是家庭被呼召离群为了更亲近神与彼此亲近。但最终,一个活跃的教会关系对我们的成熟是不可或缺的,那即是三股合成的绳子不容易折断(参考传道书4:12),但在每一个关系中,我们都能更亲近神是非常重要的。

现在,让我们来看在我们这时候的一些基本要素与策略。你可能听过一种说法:『少数激情者将支配多数中立者』。这是一个历史的事实;少数人支配全世界,不管是好的或坏的支配。

让我们想一下:我们可能都曾目睹过五岁的孩子支配一整个家庭,决定要去哪与做什么。倘若我们在教会很长的时间,我们可能经历过小团体兴起尝试支配整个教会,而且往往成功了。当此发生在一个家庭或教会时,它设立了一个非常不好的气氛,没有人是快乐或平安的。这些情况就算没有总是,也常常会导致家庭、教会或其它组织的破碎。

现在在美国和欧洲,最不属神的力量已经掌管与支配大多数中立者。才不过几十年的时间,掌管文化的高层单位,例如教育、媒体与政府几乎全被敌视基督教、撤换基督徒的力量所接管。单单这几十年,我们已经到达鄙视或攻击基督教的地步,这在西方世界是难以想象的,现在不攻击基督徒反倒被认为政治性不正确。我们很快会从**"后基督教时代』**跨越到**"敌基督教时代』**,至少在西方是如此。

有一群极端团体大肆提议要摧毁基督教,并把基督徒赶到地下,他们只是少数,却因为大众保持中立,包括基督徒,这群小小的敌基督教团体反而支配了议程。这即是敌基督的灵的本质,在历史与在现在都非常有效。它可以被击败并使整个过程翻转,要如何做?只需要基督徒不再保持中立或不冷不热,大胆勇敢的坚定立场,成为他们所蒙召的信仰捍卫者。根据启示录三章14-16节,发生在基督徒身上一个最糟的事莫过于保持中立或不冷不热:

你要写信给老底嘉教会的使者,说:那为阿们的,为诚信真实见证的,在神创造万物之上为 元首的,说:

我知道你的行为,你也不冷也不热;我巴不得你或冷或热。

你既如温水,也不冷也不热,所以我必从我口中把你吐出去。

怎么会有任何人遇见又真又活,如烈火般的神,还能对祂不冷不热呢?此产生了终极之门或开启,使地狱得以进入我们生命。关上此地狱之门是我们必须打的最重要战役,我们若赢了这场战役,更多的胜利将很快接踵而来。

我们也必须谨记在心:胆怯绝不是基督徒的选择,胆怯的与杀人的和其它不敬虔的人一起被列在无法承受神的国的行列中。正如主在马太福音十六章 24-26 节劝诫我们的:

于是耶稣对门徒说:若有人要跟从我,就当舍己,背起他的十字架来跟从我。

因为,凡要救自己生命的,必丧掉生命;凡为我丧掉生命的,必得着生命。

人若赚得全世界,赔上自己的生命,有什么益处呢?人还能拿什么换生命呢?

我们别无选择,只要凭信心而行,拒绝让惧怕成为引导我们生命的工具。倘若我们愿意打信心 美好的仗,我们不可能会输。倘若我们不想打这场战役,我们不可能会赢。让我们打赢仗吧!

(摘自 乔纳 word for the week, 2008 #9)

The Army of God Mobilizes, Part 9

One of the best and most unique characteristics about the army of God is that every private can have a close, personal relationship with the Commander-in-Chief. In fact, any private can become His very best friend. He will even share with the lowest private His ultimate strategies and plans, but even better than that, even the lowest private can come boldly into His very throne room at any time and be most welcome!

That really is one of the best parts about being in God's army. However, there is even more! There is a comradeship in the army of God that cannot be found any place else. That, too, is needed in our life—true friends. Remember, when the Lord made Adam, all Adam had for companionship was God, so God Himself said that this was not good enough, but that man needed human companionship also. In fact, the very first thing that God said was not good was loneliness: "It is not good for the man to be alone" (see Genesis 2:18). Companionship with others is crucial to our spiritual and mental health, and God seeks to give His people the very best.

As I have and will reiterate often we can never be fulfilled or have peace in our lives until our relationship to God has been restored. There is nothing as fulfilling as our relationship to Him because we were created for this purpose, and nothing else can fill that void. He also created us to need each other, and there will be a void in our lives without proper human companionship. The army of God is intended to be, and will be, the ultimate human society on the earth. It is meant to be built upon the place of the family, but a family can never be all that it is called to be without also having a right relationship to God and the church.

Of course, a part of our training can include being called away to be alone for a while to develop a closer relationship to God, or families being called away to be alone to get closer to God and one another. But ultimately, a vital local church relationship is essential for our maturity. This is the cord of three strands that is not easily broken (see Ecclesiastes 4:12), but in every relationship getting closer to God is essential.

Now let's look at some basic factors and strategies for our times. You may have heard the statement, "The impassioned few will control the neutral masses." This is a historic fact. A tiny percentage of people have controlled the world for good or evil.

Let's consider this for just a moment. We have probably all witnessed a dominant five-year-old controlling a whole family, determining where they go and what they do. If we have been in the church for long, we have probably experienced small groups arising that are seeking to control the whole church and are often successful. When this happens, in a family or in a church, it establishes a very bad atmosphere in which no one is happy or at peace. These situations often, if not always, lead to a breakup of the family, church, or other organization.

Right now in America and Europe, the most ungodly forces have been taking over and controlling the neutral masses. In just the last few decades, the high places that control a culture, such as education, the media, and government have almost all been taken over by forces hostile to Christianity, displacing Christians. In just a few decades, we have gone from the place where it was considered almost unthinkable in the West to belittle or attack Christianity, where it is now considered politically incorrect not to attack Christians. We are quickly crossing from what has been called "the post-Christian era" to "the anti-Christian era," at least in the West.

There are extreme groups who have been quite vocal about their agenda to destroy Christianity and are driving any remaining Christians underground. A very tiny percentage has this agenda, but because the rest of the population is so neutral, including the Christians, the agenda is easily controlled by this tiny group of anti-Christians. This is the nature of the antichrist spirit, and it has been very effective in history and in the present. It can be defeated and this whole process reversed. How? All it will take is for Christians to not be neutral or lukewarm, but to take their stand as bold, courageous, defenders of the faith that they are called to be. To be neutral or lukewarm is one of the worst things that could happen to a Christian according to Revelation 3:14-15:

"The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:

'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot.

'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.'"

How could anyone who has met the living God, the all-consuming fire, become lukewarm about Him? The cause of this is one of the ultimate gates or openings

through which hell gains access into our lives. Shutting this one gate of hell is one of the most important battles that we must fight. If we win this one, many more victories will soon follow.

We must also keep in mind that cowardice is never an option for a Christian. Cowards are listed along with murderers and the other ungodly ones who will not inherit the kingdom of God. As the Lord Jesus exhorts us in Matthew 16:24-26:

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

"For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it.

"For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

We have no option but to walk by faith, rejecting fear as any means of guidance in our life. If we will fight the good fight of faith, we cannot lose. If we do not want to fight this fight, we cannot win. Let's play to win!