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17 AUG 2025


*Countdown to Labor Day
Get Ready to Rest!*

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Michael A. Guido, D.D.
Metter, Georgia

What happens when God's people do God's work? Is there any evidence to His mercy and grace? Can those around us actually see Him at work?

The Psalmist said that "Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, *that* His glory may dwell in our land."

In other words, when people become born again - accept God's salvation through faith in Christ - there will be evidence of God's Kingdom on earth. Christians will busy themselves in working with the needy, bring hope and help to those who are suffering, seek justice for those who are wronged and establish rules that are just and fair.

In Psalm 85:11 we read, "Faithfulness (to God's Word) will spring forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven." If we believe the Word of God, we are to live the Word of God and that means we are to do whatever is within our power to establish His Kingdom on earth.

Whenever people's hearts are right with God, we see God-things happen. The abolition of slavery and the end of child labor followed a resurgence of faith in God. The Salvation Army came to life when General Booth was convicted that God called him to bring God's love to the needy. Seeing children, who were neglected, ignorant and hungry burdened Robert Raikes to start "Sunday" school. Many educational and charitable institutions came into existence because God's people saw God's children in need and were convicted by His Spirit to do something about it. Evidence that righteousness on earth comes from Heaven!

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Which One Are We?

More Than Conquerors or More Than Conquered?

The will of God is found in Romans 8:37: "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." It's our choice, guided by these scriptures:

- Romans 12:21: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."
- 1 John 4:4-5: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"
- 2 Corinthians 2:14: "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place."
- 1 Corinthians 15:57: "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Matthew 16:18b: "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- Leviticus 26:7-8: "And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword."
- James 4:7: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
- Revelation 12:11: "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."
- Exodus 23:22: "But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries."
- Ephesians 6:17: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
- 2 Corinthians 10:4: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."
- 1 Corinthians (implied context): "We, the church, have the mind of Christ, not the mind of the defeated."

The Castillo de San Marcos Fort in Saint Augustine, Florida, is more than 300 years old and was never defeated or conquered in battle. One of the main reasons was the building material used—cannonballs had no conquering power when they hit the fort. Nine wooden forts were built before the present one, but none survived due to the chosen material (wood). Psalm 127:1 echoes this: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Jesus repeated this truth in Luke 6:46-49. If we face a Goliath-caliber situation today, it was not God's will back then for Goliath to defeat His children, and it still isn't His will today—Hebrews 13:8 and Malachi 3:6 affirm His unchanging nature.

By Pastor Glen Fussell - Harvest Time Church of God, Douglas, Ga (912) 309-9692

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ON GUARD

Be on guard! I think that goes without saying in the day and age in which we all live. If you are reading this, chances are you are in a league of your own these days. Most people don't hold physical books, photographs, or news papers. They'd rather have the digital stuff. Not that there is anything wrong with the new digital fluff, but with it comes something that we did not have to be concerned with in the days gone by. SCAMS! HACKERS! These backdoor thieves are at an all time high in recent activities. It's no wonder with everything at such easy access. This is why we must be on guard, daily! If you skip monitoring your accounts then you are opening yourself up to a world of hurt.

With all that being said, what about your spiritual life. Are you guarding it? Are you watchful, daily? If not, then chances are again, you are opening yourself up to an even greater world of hurt. Guard your thoughts. Guard your hearts. Guard your lips. BE ON GUARD! It's something we can't emphasize enough. The Bible warns us about being on guard. As a Christian this is a must. We have a real enemy. We might not see him in the natural, but let me warn you... he is very real! Your prayer time and Bible time is vital, but so is your community time with other believers. Let me end with this again... BE ON GUARD!

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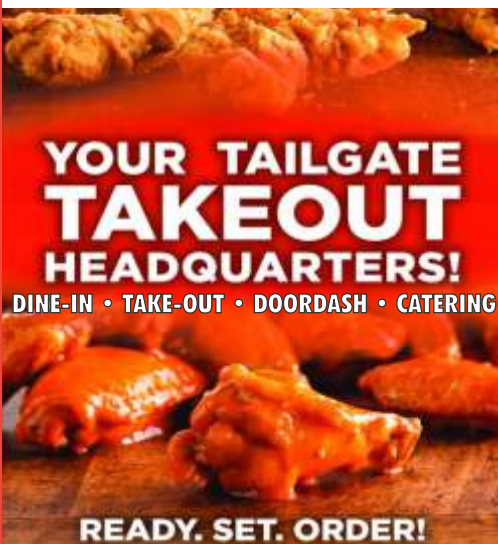
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Get Ready to Rest

Three Day Weekend Just Ahead!

As we countdown to Labor Day, imagine yourself unwinding in a serene lakeside cabin, surrounded by towering pines and the gentle crackle of a campfire. This peaceful scene reminds us of the importance of taking time to recharge.

Three key points to prepare for this well-deserved break:

1. Mark Your Calendar: Labor Day Falls on the First Monday in September each year. It is observed annually on the first Monday of September, honoring the contributions of American workers and signals the unofficial end of summer. In 2025, this holiday lands on September 1st, giving everyone a perfect excuse to extend the weekend and embrace some downtime.

2. Seize the Opportunity for a Three-Day Weekend of Rejuvenation With Labor Day just ahead—with less than two weeks away—anticipate a refreshing three-day weekend from Saturday, August 30th, through Monday, September 1st.

This is your chance to step away from the daily grind, whether that means family gatherings, outdoor adventures, or simply lounging with a good book. Use this time to rest and reset, emerging more energized for the fall season.

3. Draw Inspiration from Scripture on the Value of Rest The Bible emphasizes rest as essential for both body and soul, reflecting God's own design. In Genesis 2:2-3, we read that "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work." Similarly, Jesus invites us in Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." As you prepare for Labor Day, let these verses guide you to find true rest not just in leisure, but in spiritual renewal.

*"May the Lord bless you and keep you
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