



Blood & Fireworks - Day 9

Consequences of Demonic Victory

This is a serious one, kids. If we don't receive the forgiveness of our sins, then we can't get into heaven. And that means that we end up in hell.

As you can see, it is a terrible, awful place to be. And as bad as it would be to get stuck there for a minute, it is millions of times worse to be stuck there forever.

Those demons and evils spirits and dragons are out to ruin your life and force you into hell. They will stop at nothing. There is no dirty trick too dirty for them to play. They will lie to you, curse you, condemn you, tempt you, distract you from Jesus, and much more in order to keep you from turning from your sins and trusting the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation.

Now, for the record, that demonic victory in the picture is horrible for the human being in the picture. But the demons do not win the final victory. The Lord Jesus Christ will crush all the demons and evil spirits and dragons and the devil himself and send them all to hell. Demons lose in the end.

But let's fight with everything we have and are so that no humans get stuck in hell!



Memory Verse:

"As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

Matthew 10:7-8





Blood & Fireworks - Day 10

God's Got Your Back

It's true. If you are a Christian and are following God, He's got your back. He'll protect you. He'll bless you.

When you are tempted, know that you won't be tempted beyond what you can bear. AND, when you are tempted, God will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

When you head into difficult situations, know that He's always with you. He'll never leave you or abandon you, even if other people do. He's got your back.

He promises that if you focus on Him and what He wants, He'll make sure that you never go without anything you need.

He'll take care of you, because He's got your back.



Memory Verse:

And surely I am with you
always, to the very end of the
age.

Matthew 28:20b





Blood & Fireworks - Day 11

Blueprint for Battle

This is a great battle plan to attack regions throughout Great Britain with the love of Jesus. Do you see how different brigades were sent to fight in different ways in different places? It all worked together to make the biggest impact.

We want God to give us a blueprint for battle so that we can join with others to win every single nation for Jesus. Wouldn't it be amazing to help win the whole world for Jesus before you get promoted to Glory and go to heaven? God can help you.

While we wait for the blueprint, let's all keep praying. Let's each keep reading the Bible. Let's obey the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's love one another. Let's evangelize our friends and classmates and neighbours and family members and even strangers! Let's get holy. Let's get trained up to defeat demons, strengthen Christians, and lead the great salvation war.



Memory Verse:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6





Blood & Fireworks - Day 12

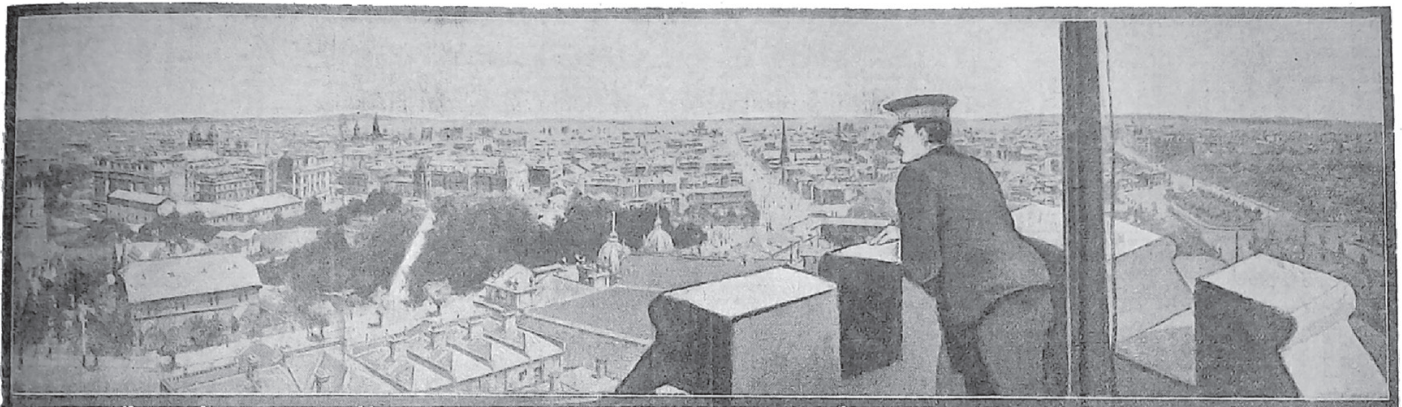
Bird's Eye View

Have you heard of the saying, 'he couldn't see the forest for all the trees'? It means that he got so caught up in the little distractions of daily life that he forgot the big picture, the purposes and mission. It is helpful to stop sometimes and remember why you are doing what you are doing, to see the forest, and not just a bunch of trees.

Going upstairs can help.

Spiritually, going upstairs involves praying. And praying involves both talking and listening. As you listen to God He will give you His take on the big picture. And when you act on what He shows you, that is called 'prophetic'. Prophetic includes revelation (what He shows/tells you); interpretation (what it means); and application (doing it).

God can give us good strategy here. Jesus said that He couldn't do anything by Himself; He could only do what He saw God the Father doing. In fact, whatever the Father did, Jesus the Son did. And so we pray, based on that verse, John 5:19, "help us to see what You're doing and do what we're seeing."



Memory Verse:

Jesus gave them this answer:
"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son does also".

John 5:19



Blood & Fireworks - Day 13

Jesus' Bias Towards the Poor

Jesus came to save everyone. It doesn't matter what your age or your ethnic group or your language or your nationality or your wealth or even your religion. He's the only way anyone can be saved and He came to save everyone.

But, do you know what? The Gospel is 'good news to the poor'. For people who are poor, the fact that Jesus came to rescue them is fantastic news. And Jesus has a bias to the poor.

There are billions of people in the world and most of them are poorer than you. So as you fight for Jesus you will find yourself in and amongst poor people – that's where Jesus likes to hang out.

And The Salvation Army specializes in saving the 'down and out' – the marginalized – the very poor.

Some people wonder if God is calling them to go to neighbourhoods and cities and countries that are very poor. That's good. But it is even better if we just assume we should go and only wait to ask if God calls us to stay.



Memory Verse:

All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

Galatians 2:10



Blood & Fireworks - Day 14

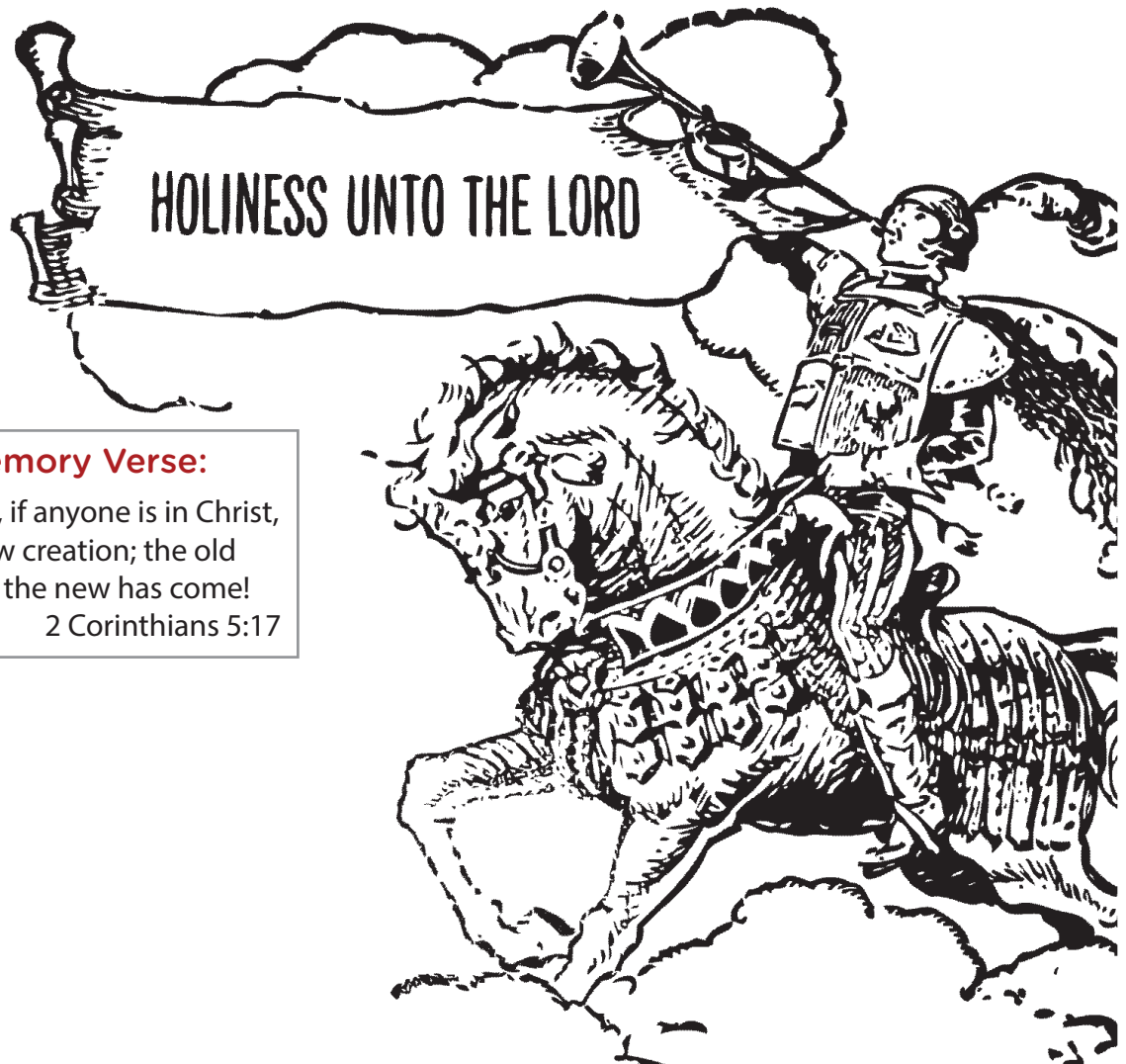
Holiness is the Solution to Every Problem

God created the world to be good. But people like you and me can make the world bad by wrong actions and words. When we are selfish or mean or greedy or hurtful – these things hurt God and hurt other people. And when lots of people act in those ways, big problems happen.

We make these bad choices because we have a spiritual disease called sin, and this disease separates us from God.

Jesus died to take the punishment we deserved for our wrong actions. But He came back to life to show that we can be healed from our sin. If we ask Him, He will take that disease out of us and make us new people by putting His Holy Spirit inside us. This is called Holiness, and being holy means belonging to God. And when we belong to God, all of our decisions and actions are done to please Him.

Can you imagine if everyone was holy and only did things that pleased God? All those problems in our world would go away. Holiness is the solution to every problem.



Memory Verse:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation; the old
has gone, the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17



Blood & Fireworks - Day 15

What is a testimony? How can I use it to help my friends get saved?

A testimony is when you tell another person what God has done for you. If you are saved by the Lord Jesus Christ then you can testify about it. You can tell someone what you were like before you got saved. Then you can explain how God saved you. Finally, you share how your life is different because you are forgiven by God the Father, empowered by the Holy Spirit and blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

How can that help save your friends? Simple. Tell them your testimony. Remember to include in the middle part - explanation - the basics of salvation. For example, throw in a few verses about sin (maybe Romans 3:23 and 6:23) and what Jesus' does in the whole thing (maybe 1 Peter 3:18 and Romans 5:8) and how you responded (maybe Acts 3:19 and John 1:12).

Now you can testify about more than your salvation. You can testify to how you are experiencing God right now. We recommend a lot of testifying about all kinds of God experiences to all types of people.



Memory Verse:

And this is the testimony:
God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:11





Blood & Fireworks - Day 16

The Power of Prayer

Prayer is important and really powerful. It's how we maintain communication between ourselves and God. Through it we talk to Him about what's going on in our lives, ask Him for the things we need, and pray for other people. Prayer also helps gain God's perspective on tough situations we might be facing.

Prayer is simply a conversation with God. In any conversation, everyone gets to both speak and listen. That means God always listens when you talk to Him. But it also means that God will speak to you in times of prayer, if you listen to Him. Do you take time every day to listen to what He's saying?

Prayer changes things. Problems that can seem impossible can suddenly be solved easily. People who hate Jesus can have a total change of heart. Sometimes people are even healed when we pray! Wow! Maybe you could get together with some friends regularly and pray for your corps and your unsaved friends.

The salvation soldiers below are praying in a group together and they have their hands raised, reaching up to the throne of God. There are many different ways to pray. You can pray by yourself or with friends, standing up or sitting or kneeling, through songs or poems, and silently or out loud (out loud is usually better because the demons freak out when they hear you talking to the Lord Jesus!).

The important thing is to pray every day (in fact, St Paul told us we should 'pray continually') because it's one of the best ways we maintain contact with Jesus Christ, our King and commander.



Memory Verse:

Pray continually.
1 Thessalonians 5:17



Blood & Fireworks - Day 17

With the Sword of the Spirit

In this war we don't fight against people, but against demons and unfairness and evil and sin. So it figures that we don't fight with guns and bullets, we fight with spiritual weapons (which are a bit like swords and shields).

Do you see the warrior in this picture wielding a sword? The Bible calls it 'the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God! When we read the Bible and understand it, we can use what we read as a weapon against evil. When we memorize scripture, we are sword-training. When we speak God's Word out loud, it is powerful to break down the enemy's fortresses! When we pray the Bible out loud, demons get scared!

That's why reading our Bible and memorizing scripture is such an important part of our battle training. They give us weapons to fight against the enemy, and help us know how to use them. How often do you read your Bible? Have you memorized the scripture in this book? Do you pray the Bible out loud?



Memory Verse:

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.

1 Thessalonians 5:17



Blood & Fireworks - Day 18

No Fear

Sometimes fighting in the salvation way is scary. Some people get frightened to tell their friends about Jesus. Other people get scared if they have to speak in public, or if they try to talk to strangers about God's love.

Sometimes this fear is caused by demons like the ones in the picture who try to tell us things will go wrong - we can't see them, but they cause trouble for us. But look at the angel - he's much bigger than the demon! And with Jesus, we always have victory over the devil and its demons!

We don't need to be afraid. And when we do become scared, we just need to trust God - He would not lead us to do something if He wasn't going to protect us and help us! He will always save us.

And you know what? God's love is perfect, and the Bible says that 'perfect love casts out all fear.' That's good news!



Memory Verse:

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.

1 John 4:18a



Blood & Fireworks - Day 19

Demons are Deadly

It's true. Demons are deadly. They hate God and they hate you because God loves you. They can absolutely ruin people's lives, and they do, for a lot of people.

They use all kinds of tactics to catch people up. They condemn them - telling people that they are bad or weak or ugly or useless. They shame them - making them feel guilt for things they have done, even though God wants to forgive them. They tempt people to sin - you know what we're talking about. Sometimes they try to get you to lie or cheat or swear or disobey your parents or steal.

The thing is, once you start on one of those types of things, it is hard to stop. And as a person weakens by sinning, the demons get stronger. The only solution is that they repent of their sins and trust Jesus, who is able to save them even in demons are controlling them.



Memory Verse:

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3:8





Blood & Fireworks - Day 20

Countering Demonic Attacks

This picture is from the story, Pilgrim's Progress, about a Christian who is journeying through life on his way to heaven. Even Christians are in danger of the attacks of demons. And if we are not careful, we will be vulnerable to such attacks.

One defense is the armour of God. There are several pieces of armour. You can put on the helmet of salvation when you get saved. The breastplate of righteousness protects your heart when you do what God wants you to do. The shield of faith protects you from the flaming arrows of the evil one (pictured). The sword of the Spirit is God's word to you. The belt of truth keeps everything in place. And the boots of the Gospel of peace allow you to walk in the opposite spirit of the enemy (see Ephesians 6 for the details).

The other tactic you want to use is as pictured – keep on the look out and avoid the attacks when you can. And if you are with other believers and warriors of Jesus they can help you out.



Memory Verse:

Finally be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Ephesians 6:10-11



Blood & Fireworks - Day 21

Angels

Maybe you have seen angels in movies or on the TV who are pretty ladies with wings. Well, guess what? Angels are real! Except they're not pretty ladies with wings, they are great big strong warriors, and most of the time they're invisible.

God sends angels to help Christians like you and me in the battle against sin and the devil. In this picture, you can see a salvation knight being helped by an angel. The angel is telling him what path to take on his mission.

The Bible says that God 'will command His angels to guard you in all your ways' (Psalm 91:10), and that 'angels are spiritual beings sent to serve people who are going to be saved.' (Hebrews 1:14). It's good to know that as we fight in spiritual wars for Jesus, there are spiritual warriors fighting alongside us and helping us!



Memory Verse:

Are not all angels
ministering spirits sent to
serve those who will inherit
salvation?

Hebrews 1:14

For He will command His
angels concerning you to
guard you in all your ways.

Psalm 91:11





Blood & Fireworks - Day 22

Salvomobile

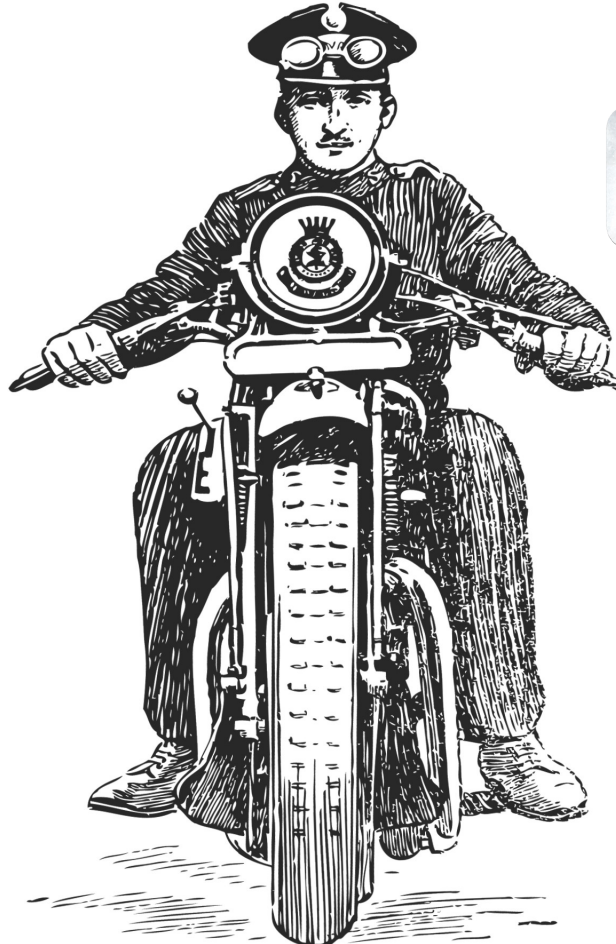
Nanananananananananananananananana Batman! Those are the words to the famous title track of the tv show 'Batman'. The feature of the show's introduction was the zooming batmobile, the way that the two heroes reached the bad guys.

The salvation soldier – the hero that each of us is called to be – travels in a salvomobile. It is the way that we reach our enemy, satan, and his demons.

Now, there are all kinds of ways to get around in the spiritual realms, but really, you want to travel by the Holy Spirit. You might remember in the Bible that Philip, in Acts 8, took a trip by the Holy Spirit from the desert to a city called Azotus. One minute he was in the desert, the next minute he just 'appeared' in Azotus! Some people called it 'Philip's Airways'!

Well, the salvomobile is like Philip's airways. When we are close to Jesus and obey His commands, God is free to do whatever He wants with us. That might include zipping us through the salvosphere to attack demons who are bothering our friends or binding up hurting people.

Does that make sense? Jump into the salvomobile today! (The Spirit of the Lord is our Salvomobile)



Memory Verse:

"I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

Acts 26:17b-18



Blood & Fireworks - Day 23

Officer Cadets

Every salvation soldier needs to be trained. If you are a junior soldier, you would have had preparatory classes before you were enrolled. Senior Soldiers get classes too, and all salvation soldiers need to continue to study the Bible and get more and better training so they become the best warriors they can be!

Salvation Army Officers need special training too, and while they are doing this training they are called cadets. Maybe you know someone who has gone to a Salvation Army Training College to become a cadet.

There was a mighty king in Israel, king David, who underwent training when he was a boy. He would mind his Father's flock of sheep, and whenever wolves or bears or lions would try to attack them, David would fight them off and save the sheep!

Later, when he had to fight against a giant named Goliath, he won because God was on his side, and because he had been trained up! He wasn't afraid because he knew that 'the battle is the Lord's' (1 Samuel 17:47).

David loved God and wrote many of the Psalms in the Bible. He was a valiant warrior and a great leader. Don't you think it would be great if all cadets were like king David – training hard, being confident in God's victory, loving God, being valiant warriors and great leaders?

As a salvation soldier in your corps, training is important and will help you to fight well in the battle. But maybe God is calling you to become an officer. Start training up now so you are ready when He calls.



Memory Verse:

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17





Blood & Fireworks - Day 24

Attacking the Enemy

There's our David again. He's a boy. But he's taking on a giant. And he wins, with God.

Even as a youngster, you probably run into giants. They aren't always people. Some problems are 'giant' problems. These giants might be difficulties at home or at school. Maybe they include getting bullied or being made fun of.

God doesn't just take care of big hairy giants with metal armour. He also specializes in fixing relationships, restoring trust, protecting children, giving honour, and helping you make friends.

Don't run away from your giants.

But don't run at them without God beside you, either.

Go with God into your battles. He will never let you down.



Memory Verse:

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's.

1 Samuel 17:47



Blood & Fireworks - Day 25

David and Goliath

David was young. But with God he defeated the most powerful champion in the whole Philistine country. He had amazing faith in God. And as a result he did what everyone thought was impossible.

You are young. But are you with Jesus? If you are saved, if your sins are forgiven, if you are obediently following Him, then you have the same power that David had. That means you can defeat powerful enemies. You can do what everyone thinks is impossible. Put your faith in our amazing God.

There is a caption to this picture. It reads; "David is a true type and forerunner of The Salvation Army Cadet". You should train hard so that when you finish school you can offer your corps officer to become a cadet. If God doesn't call you to do something else with your life, then train as a cadet to get commissioned as a Salvation Army officer.



Memory Verse:

I can do everything through
Him who gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13

