

LWT CAMP
LADIES TEA DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

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THE LIVING WORD: WARRIORS, WORKERS, & WORSHIPPERS

The four faces of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Man, the Lion, the Ox, and the Eagle as seen in the four living ones in Ezekiel chapter 1 and Revelation chapter 3 as well as in the cherubim upon the ark in Exodus are fascinating when shown against the backdrop of the tabernacle in the wilderness and its preparation, construction, and purpose. Our lives in the high calling are seen in the four faces of the Man Jesus Christ the Living Word, the Lion as Warriors, the Ox as Workers, and the Eagle as Worshipers. These four faces also align with Mind, Soul, Body, and Spirit.

THE MAN/JESUS: THE WORD (MIND)

We must start with The Man, Christ Jesus, The Word. John 1:1 **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** The Bible, the Word of God, is alive and living. It is like no other book. You can read the same passage over and over get new insights and revelations. The Word is living and gives us eternal life.

Jesus came to live as a human man. John 1:14 **“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”** Our tabernacle reference to the Man, the Word, is through the definition of the word ‘dwelt’ which means *to abide (or live) in a tabernacle (or tent)*. The tabernacle was the portable shelter for the Israelites on their desert wanderings for 40 years before they came to the Promised Land. It is likened to our earthly temporal wanderings before we are captured away to meet Christ in the air.

It is also a metaphor for our human bodies here on earth. 2 Corinthians 5:4 speaks of our human bodies as a tabernacle **“For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.”** Christ’s life as a human was lived in humility as he took on the form of man. He willingly did this for us – for the joy set before Him on Calvary. **“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”** (2 Cor. 4:7) The treasure in each of us is The Living Word, Jesus. He is the Seed that remains and lives in our hearts.

Mind = The mind of Christ is ours to have. Philippians 2:5 encourages us **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”** We must let, or allow, His mind to rule our lives. It is a choice we must make moment by moment. The next few verses reveal this mindset: **“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”**

It is through the renewing of our mind that **we may prove the good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.** That renewing comes through being in the Word daily. Paul wrote to the Corinthians of how he desired that they **all spoke the same thing, that there were no divisions among them; but that they would be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.** Paul noted to the Philippians race-runners **“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”**

The mind of Christ is a fruitful mind. Keeping our minds stayed on thoughts of our Lover and bridegroom will grow us up to His full stature. Those thoughts are echoes of His thoughts toward you. Jesus wants you to grow up to full maturity! He wants a bride and He wants it to be YOU!!!

THE LION: WARRIOR (SOUL)

The lion represents Christ as the conquering King. His life is victorious; He has overcome death and he grace and lives evermore. He will someday take a wife who will jointly rule and reign with him.

Psalm 144:1 “[A Psalm of David.] Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight:”

Blessed *be* the LORD my strength

“The LORD *my strength*” (Heb. *‘my rock’*). Psalm 18:2 tells us **“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower.”** He is all these things to us – and so much more. The rock, or cliff, comes first as the place of refuge, then the fortress sure and steady; a place carefully fortified. This Rock is our most personal deliverer, God our Savior, who rescues and saves us. Psalm 73:28 **“But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.”**

which teacheth my hands to war

The LORD...teacheth: and not as man teaches. To teach means *to instruct; to exercise in; to train, to chasten*. The Lord is set forth as a teacher in the arts of war. If we have strength we must also have skill.

Ecclesiastes 3:10 **“I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.”** Untrained force is often an injury to the man who possesses it. Hebrews 12:1 **“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”** Hebrews 5:14 **“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”**

David was a man of war, and he was successful in his battles. In humility he did not trace his victories to his good leadership or valor, but to being instructed and strengthened by the LORD for the war and the fight. The battles David fought by God’s grace prepared the way for his son Solomon to have a peaceful reign.

Hands = (fem. noun) *power (open hand), strength; tenons (in tabernacle)*

God’s hand is powerful and it is open to His children always. He gives to us in abundance and in love. We are the apple of His eye and He cherishes us.

Tenons are beautiful to consider. They are of the tabernacle specifically. A tenon is a projecting piece of wood left by cutting away the wood around it. It is made to insert into a socket of another piece of wood to secure together the parts of a frame; *especially, such a member when it passes entirely through the thickness of the piece in which the socket is cut, and shows on the other side*. This is the ‘to have and to hold’ tightly fit and compacted together mystical Body of Christ.

and my fingers to fight

The word fingers is a feminine noun. The bride of Christ is a lover but she’s also a fighter! The Song of Solomon begins with the plea of the Shulamite **“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth.”** The word ‘kiss’ means *to equip as with weapons*. The one who loved us and gave himself for us is the one who wants to kiss us many times through the Word of His grace.

He wants to equip us for every battle! Truly his kisses are the most wonderful weapons of our warfare. A kiss is a sign of love and affection, and love conquers all. He that ever liveth and maketh intercession for us is who wants to kiss us. He wants to cover us with the assurances of his love over and over.

We use our fingers to grasp things. The immediate reference here is to the use of the bow and of placing the arrow and drawing the string with the fingers. There is tension when you pull back the string of a bow. There is a saying that the distance the arrow will fly is proportional to how far back the arrow is drawn and how much tension is in the pull. How often do we feel the pull back of the arrow? The times of great trial and distress are most strenuous and tiring. Yet how the arrow flies when released, what praise ascends to the throne of God!

Soul = The soul is known as the seat of the feelings, desires, affections. It is the God-breathed life we have been given. It is separate from the physical body in that it surpasses physical death. There is the deep love of a soul mate, the One you were made for, the One you will fight for and that you want to give glory to, your King and your Husband, Jesus Christ the One and Only!

THE OX:WORKERS(BODY)

The ox (or calf) represents Christ as our once-for-all sacrifice and as a servant. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. Christ's blood shed freely for us breaks every chain of bondage and frees us to live in the fullness of glory. We are now as Paul – prisoners of Christ's most fervent love, bound to him in love. We are no longer chained to the law and the curse of sin. He who Jesus has made free is free indeed!

In consideration of the tabernacle, the people who gathered and brought materials for tabernacle had some traits that are worth noting that are in Exodus 35:21-29. These traits are all conditions of the HEART: 1) stirred up, 2) willing, and 3) wise. God's great heart is stirred for man in his weakness. He is more willing for us than we can comprehend. He is wise beyond our imagination. Yet He lavishes His love upon us and in us, His sons and daughters. He has invited us and called us to marry His Son! May our hearts be greatly stirred in love and willing to do what God has called us to do for His kingdom! May we seek and gain the wisdom God has for us in His Word that equips us for every situation.

There were primarily two individuals involved in the construction of the Tabernacle. The first man was **Bezaleel**. We read about him in Exodus 31:2 notes that he was "called by name." His name means *under the shadow/protection of God*. His father Uri's name means *light, splendor*. His grandfather's Hur's name means *noble, whiteness, free*. He was from the tribe of Judah, which means *praise*.

The second man involved in building the tabernacle was **Aholiab**, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. His name means *tent of my Father*. His father Ahisamach's name means *brother of support* – pointing to the ministry of the Holy Spirit who is our support and helper. Dan means *to judge* – and surely when Jesus comes He will rule in righteous judgment.

God was the Divine Architect. He gave the pattern for the tabernacle to Moses. All the people whose hearts were stirred, who were willing and wise, brought all the furnishings for the tabernacle and Bezaleel and Aholiab oversaw the building of it.

We are God's workmanship of grace. There is nothing we can do that is useful in ourselves. There must first be grace. And then love, the motivation for our work, or service as unto the Lord.

The word **workmanship** is beautiful as it means *a work of God the Creator; a fabric*. Our lives are a rich tapestry of grace and mercy. The inner underside may not be so pretty, but the outward manifestation is nothing short of glorious.

Creation itself is meant to showcase the glory of God, how much more so His sons and daughters? **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”** (Eph. 2:10)

Body = Christ as the ox bears the burdens of His precious Body. As Romans 12:1 tells us, as members of Christ’s Body we are called by the mercies of God to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God. This is called our “reasonable service.” For what really can we render to God after all He has given us in His blessed Son? We can offer the sacrifice of praise, the lifting up of holy hands, the joyous and most romantic dance with the Lover of our soul.

THE EAGLE: WORSHIPPERS (SPIRIT)

The eagle is a soaring one. Eagles are not afraid of storms – in fact, an eagle will fly INTO a storm to catch the updrafts that loft it even higher. Eagles embrace the trials and storms of life for they have vision to see the purpose: to rise higher.

This must be true in our lives as well if we want to win Christ as our bridegroom. God has placed the vision in your heart of winning His Son. While on earth we see with the eyes of FAITH. **We are saved through faith; and that not of ourselves: it is the gift of God.** We know that *without faith it is impossible to please God*. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. It is a victory that is ours for the taking as we see the full counsel of God with enlightened eyes of understanding.

One of the most prominent parts of an eagle are its wings that allow it to soar. In the tabernacle there were two winged cherubim atop the ark on the mercy seat within the Holy of Holies, the most intimate place in the tabernacle where only the high priest could enter once a year to atone for the sins of the people. Praise God for Jesus our High Priest who has entered within the veil for us and made a way for us to enter in as well!

The two cherubim are the first items mentioned after the dimensions of the mercy seat are given in Exodus chapter 25. They were made of **“beaten work”** – *hammered work* that is noted as *upright, rounded*. This is the work of God in our lives, to mold us and make us conformable to His Son. Christ as God first became conformable to us as a human. He suffered much to make atonement for us and redeem mankind all the way to salvation with eternal glory. Now we can be made conformable to His very image. There is a joyous joint suffering with Christ for those who desire to marry Jesus.

Exodus 25:20 tells us of the position of the cherubim’s wings, **“And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.”**

The wings of the two cherubims extended above the mercy seat, raised as if to take flight. How glorious that we wait in anticipation to take flight to be with Jesus when He comes to catch away his Bride! Their wings also covered the mercy seat, shadowing it.

Their faces **“[shall look] one to another.”** The word ‘one’ is a masculine pronoun that indicates a male – but specifically a *husband*. It is the same word in the Hebrew used to describe Adam as the first husband in Genesis 3:6. The phrase ‘to another’ refers to a *reciprocal relationship* – the height of which is marriage.

The faces of the cherubims also looked **“toward the mercy seat.”** The mercy seat is where Aaron sprinkled the blood of a sacrificial animal. Before Jesus, that was man’s way of atoning for sin. But God...and but Jesus – the one who died once for all, to save all who will accept the sacrifice of his perfect life.

The word 'seat' means a throne. Because of the precious blood of Jesus poured out to save mankind we have opportunity to accept the high calling of God in Christ Jesus to marry him. His shed blood that is the gateway to salvation with eternal glory where we will rule and reign with him forever!

Spirit = The eagle represents the true worshippers who worship God in Spirit and in truth. To worship means *to draw nigh in fervent love; to kiss*. Here once again are the kisses of our precious Lord's mouth, His Word, His life, breathed into us. The Holy Spirit is the one of the trinity who takes the things of Christ and makes them personally yours. He is the one who seals your heart to Jesus. Paul wrote to the Ephesians of the Holy Spirit: **"In Christ, whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."** The Holy Spirit is like the down payment of the full reward. The only way you will see the full reward is to be full of the Holy Spirit.

These four faces or facets of our Lord are marked with the perfection of weakness, four being the number of weakness and earthly things. Right now we dwell in tabernacles, portable earthen vessels that may appear dingy on the outside, but which hold the greatest treasure on the inside.

But there was also a temple Solomon built – a solid structure built of precious stone and wood overlaid with gold. Someday soon by God's grace we will be raptured and be the Holy City New Jerusalem descending from heaven having the glory of God. There will be no need for a temple in that city, **"for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."** (Rev. 22:21-22)

We began with the Man, Jesus Christ, who is the Living Word of God, who as a human man dwelt in an earthly tabernacle of flesh and who now sits at the right hand of God the Father, patiently awaiting the signal to go get his bride. We walk as Warriors in complete victory, equipped by the kisses of His mouth. We serve as willing Workers, laying our all on the altar in loving submission to Him who gave His very life for us. And we give all praise and glory to God as the true Worshippers who draw near to our bridegroom in fervent love to kiss him.