

jul 11

pressing in

"and from the days of john the baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." matt 11:12

scripture says the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and force must be used. i'm not talking about physical violence, but the spiritual, continual battle of good against evil. the sword of our weapon cannot cut off an ear, but it "is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
heb 4:12

we must press into God, laying hold of His arsenal. it is not a weak hearted, double-minded person that will yield these weapons. remember jacob who wrestled with God, refusing to let go and said, "i will not let you go unless you bless me." gen 32:26 only the one who presses in and is determined will know the victory that faith can truly bring. it doesn't matter what it looks like, feels like, smell like or tastes like. faith sees beyond the temporal into the transcendent.

that loved one you hold precious or the neighbor who ridicules you, their deliverance and freedom may only be won by those pressing in and refusing to let go; to the forceful who know their God and His will. the word of God can withstand the assaults and ambushes laid for it. "Jesus said, 'did I not tell you that if you

believe, you will see the glory of God?" john 11:40

"now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." heb 11:1 what eyes are looking at your mountain of obstacles; faith or reason? "who are you, o great mountain? before zerubbabel you shall become a plain! and he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of 'grace, grace to it!'" zech 4:7

press in! let the fire purify and burn off all the dross. the fire is not meant to hurt you but refine you; to make you pliable in the Master's hand. the closer you press in to God, the more the flesh will scream and say "enough." do not listen to it but instead to your heart's desire. if it is not totally God's, it is not enough. salvation is free, intimacy will cost you everything. "he who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." matt 10:37 certainly that discounts the worth of anything else in this world.

press in and you will begin to inherit the kingdom now, in this life. "then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" matt 25:34

the victors take booty with them. our booty are the souls we touch and the influence we yield in the lives of others. these are our treasures to cast before His feet as we worship in adoration. this is the lasting treasure which cannot be broken into or stolen. these are the righteous acts prepared to adorn His bride.

press in! for the sake of the God you love, for the people you love, for the country you love. the kingdom of heaven suffers violence. take back by force what the enemy has stolen. and remember - the battle is not won by carnal means. it is won in prayer. pressing will not mean a victory just for others; it will be a victory for you. and your reward? "well done good and faithful servant ... enter into the joy of your Lord."
matt 25:23