

WAR – Part III (The Home)

Thank God for buildings in which we can assemble the body of Christ for worship and fellowship. Truly there is nothing like a church service filled with the Holy Ghost and fire. Assembling together is essential. Where we assemble may change, but gathering for prayer, praise, and preaching is irreplaceable.

As important as that “location” is, it cannot and is not meant to replace the home. The home is the most important place in our walk with God. (It is critical to our success in the war.) It is the one place that the child of God has total control over. Nothing gets in and stays in unless we allow it.

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

“enter into thy closet”

From the Greek Interlinear – enter into the private room of thee.

From the Amplified Bible – go into your (most) private room.

The church building is not our “private” place. That place is our home.

Closet – tameion – (from Strong's Concordance) – a chamber on the ground floor or interior of an Oriental house (generally used for storage or privacy, a spot for retirement): – secret chamber, closet, storehouse. A dispensary or magazine.

This is a place for privacy and retirement (rest or recovery). There is something special about the place we call home.

The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned. – Maya Angelou

The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home. – Confucius

I believe that being successful means having a balance of success stories across the many areas of your life. You can't truly be considered successful in your business life if your home life is in shambles. – Zig Ziglar

He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home. – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

When it comes to developing character strength, inner security and unique personal and interpersonal talents and skills in a child, no institution can or ever will compare with, or effectively substitute for, the home's potential for positive influence. – Stephen Covey

To be happy at home is the ultimate result of all ambition, the end to which every enterprise and labor tends, and of which every desire prompts the prosecution. – Samuel Johnson

In our home there was always prayer – aloud, proud and unapologetic. – Lyndon B. Johnson

There is nothing more important than a good, safe, secure home. – Rosalynn Carter

The condition of the home must be a priority. The home must be transformed into what God intended it to be.

Notice that the word for closet also translates dispensary and magazine.

Dispensary from the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary and Thesaurus:

a place where medicines are prepared and given out, often in a hospital or a school.

The home should be clean not contaminated. It is a place of healing not hurt. It is a place of “medicine” not poison.

Magazine (ibid.):

a building in which explosives, weapons, and supplies are kept.

This is a military building. It must be protected so we do not taint our supplies. It is a place of power.

There is an allusion to gunpowder which soldiers had to keep dry in order to be ready to fight when required. This advice is to have originated with Oliver Cromwell during his campaign in Ireland. In *Ballads of Ireland*, 1856, Edward Hayes writes:

"There is a well-authenticated anecdote of Cromwell. On a certain occasion, when his troops were about crossing a river to attack the enemy, he concluded an address, couched in the usual fanatic terms in use among them, with these words – 'put your trust in God; but mind to keep your powder dry.'"

Good advice – put your trust in God, but be fully prepared for battle.

Unfortunately for many people the home is the battlefield. These people come to church weary and wounded. Arriving to a church service ill-equipped and ill-prepared for their role in the church service.

During the early months of 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic many people were placed on "stay at home" orders. Many church services were via broadcast. The realization came or should have come as to how important the home is. Perhaps this was a wake-up call for Christians to make the home the place of safety, healing and power it is intended to be.

We are in a war.

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