

Psalm 45:3

Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty.

In the military, soldiers are given a manual to read to prepare for battle, not as a travel brochure to get the warm fuzzies of where they are going to do battle. If only Christians would read the bible the same way. Yet how many read God's word looking for those warm fuzzies, then wonder why they fail in battle (when they are tempted), because they are so used to memorizing those make you feel good passages, but not knowing God's word in it's entirety.

Think of Jesus, Who battled satan in the wilderness. We know that Jesus responded with scripture, and the scriptures that He quoted were those that beat the enemy down, not ones that made Jesus feel good. What about King David who was a man after God's own heart, yet he was a mighty warrior in God's army. Yes, he wrote beautiful Psalms, but they were written while he was going through the battles, and after God got him through the them.

People spend a lot of time working on their physical body wanting to look buffed, but if you think about it, when something heavy hits, like a lose of a job, or a child is diagnosed with caner, how much will your buffed body help out, verses a buffed spiritual body?

I am getting married in less then two months, and yes, we both want to look good for one another on our wedding day. Yet, even though my fiancé is very beautiful, and for some reason she thinks I'm kind of good looking to, what I think we both find even more attractive about each other is how toned and cut we are spiritually, because Jesus is number one in both of our lives, even before we met each other. And the reason we both or so toned spiritually is because we both spend time reading the manual, God's word every day and seeking Him in prayer as well, and we have both been doing this for a long time, even before we ever met.

Now, don't get me wrong, there is a time and place for those awesome promises in God's word. I love them and highlight them in my bible all the time. But God's word is so much more then that, and if all you look for is those warm fuzzy scriptures, then you are missing out big time on Who God is, and how awesome His word is. Also when trials and temptations hit, a warm fuzzy verse won't fight them off.

† **James 1:2** *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials* (underlined for emphasis)

Notice that James says "**when**" not "if" *you fall into various trials*. James goes on to say:

† **James 1:3-4** *knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

And notice James doesn't say that you go through trials and the testing of your faith so that you can find a warm fuzzy verse to post on social media. No, we are to encourage others who will go through the same trials we have gone through, and that encouragement is in letting others know how we made it through because of God and His word.

So, go ahead and post those awesome promises from God's Word on social media. But also post scriptures that with strengthen and encourage other, or teaching others, or scripture that your lost friends and family need to hear to be saved, warning them what will happen if they continue to reject Jesus. The only way to find these other verses is to read the manual and study it, which is God's Word!!!!

† **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***