

MCD Just Checking In 9/09/2007 **Pilgrims in Conflict**

Psalm 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O Lord... for I am a stranger (pilgrim) with You...”

“Life’s a battle.” It really is. The clash began in Eden and the combat will conclude only when our Victorious King puts all enemies under His feet. We see *not yet* all things put under Himí but we see Jesus crownedí ö (A prize to anyone who knows the reference without using a concordance!) In the mean time, we are called to life as *pilgrims in conflict*.

As servants of Christ, we must expect spiritual opposition. Certain places and cultures have their own unique brand of opposition. But there is no vocation or location where life will be safe. Our arch enemy declared war in the beginning against the image bearers of the KING. His weapons are words and his most successful tactics are doubt, deception and distraction.

Gen 3 It’s a matter of the mind

Doubt ó has God really said you cannot eat from every tree in the gardenö

Has God really called you? Are you sure? Was it just a big mistake? Are the churches really praying?

Are you really doing anything that matters? Is this really the right place, the right team, the right ministry?

Is it really worth it?

Deception ó you won’t dieö

Listening to lies leads to living a lie. The most powerful weapons of all are the weapons of words.

The only way to fight the battle of deceptive words is to be daily armed with Divine words.

Distraction ó she looked at the treeö

When you let your mind dwell where your body must not, the enemy scores a direct hit.

It’s a matter of the mind. It’s a battle that is unending in this life.

God impresses us with words of warning concerning the conflict we are engaged iní most of it is internal, not external!

Consider the following reminders under the heading... “beware” (a word that warns of danger)

Mt 7:15 "Beware of false prophetsö

Mr 8:15, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (hypocrisy) and the leaven of Herod. (power)"

Mr 12:38 "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes & love greetingsí . (arrogance)

Lu 12:15 "Take heed and beware of covetousnessö

1Co 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

Ga 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, (critical spirit) beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit according to the tradition of men

Heb 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God

2Pe 3:17 beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked

More with the word “take heed” (another word that that warns of danger)

Mt 6:1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.

Mt 18:10 "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones

Mr 4:24 "Take heed *what* you hearí ö

Lu 8:18 "Therefore take heed *how* you hear.

Mr 13:5 "Take heed that no one deceives you.

Mr 13:33 "Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

Lu 17:3 "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

Lu 21:34 "take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life

Ac 20:28 "take heed to yourselves and to all the flock

1Co 3:10 But let each one take heed how he buildsí

1Co 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Col 4:17 "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

1Ti 4:16 Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine.

For further study on Pilgrims in Conflict Word search: “watch” and “watching”

öLord, sometimes I feel so weak. I find my own heart not only the location of the battle but often the very source of it! I cry with the ancient apostleí Ö wretched man that I am.ö But I also believe with the ancient Apostle that I am victorious in Thee and was delivered, am being delivered and will be finally and fully delivered by Thy grace and presented faultless before Your presence with exceeding joy. O Battle King of Heaven, arm me with Thy truth that I may fight this good fight of faith and love in all humility and dependence on Thee alone. In Your victorious name I pray, Amen.

Remember, we love you and are praying for you continually. Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 Adios, Ron &Val

We see The Invisible, embrace The Unapproachable, declare The Unexplainable, are changed by The Immutable, run after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. This is the Pilgrim in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.