

The "Oh Yeah!" Letter

THIS IS NOW, BELOVED, THE SECOND LETTER I AM WRITING TO YOU IN WHICH I AM STIRRING UP YOUR SINCERE MIND BY WAY OF REMINDER, THAT YOU SHOULD REMEMBER THE WORDS SPOKEN BEFOREHAND... "2 PETER 3:1-2A

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IS YOUR ARMOR ON?

We are in a battle. Our children are in a battle. Ephesians 6:11-18 tells us we are in a battle and that we need armor. What scripture is saying seems simple enough, we can see the challenges around us and we can accept the analogy that there are battles in life. Everyone agrees on that. We may hear, "It's a jungle out there" or "I had to claw my way to the top." Is that what God is talking about in Ephesians 6? I don't think so. I think the battle is for our hearts and minds, our beliefs and our behavior.

I like the reference to armor in Romans 13:12, "The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." I believe that part of our "armor

of light" is the standards we set for ourselves. Standards that define to us and our family what we will and won't do. Standards on modest dress, movies we will see, music we will listen to, activities we will participate in. God's word is where we should derive our standards and consequently our standards do not match the standards of the world.

Armor is designed to protect you in battle. In the same way, I believe strong standards protect us from the attempts of evil in the world to injure us. I believe that a lot of Christians are running around without their armor or with an incomplete set of armor. There are several reasons for this: the armor is heavy, the battle isn't recognized, and some

armor is not commonly accepted as needed by others in the army.

Yes, armor is heavy. Armor keeps us from moving freely and quickly. It requires us to think. Standards can be heavy also. It is a heavy standard to require first time obedience. It is a heavy standard to say "no" to ourselves or our children about certain movies, music or types of clothing. It takes effort sometimes to tell the whole truth and accept the consequences. It takes self discipline to not flirt with a co-worker. But standards are the armor that protects us from temptation, from untold hurt and devastation of our families, from disgracing God.

A second excuse given for not wearing

(Continued on page 2)



A Parenting Treasure from the Word

"Keep His decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land." Deut 4:40

Marriage

As long as we're talking about armor, perhaps it's a good idea to do a chink-check on the armor that protects your marriage. Too often as our busyness or our comfort level increases, we subconsciously allow the most dependable things in our lives to coast—to their detriment. Though we know our marriage relationship is second in importance only to our relationship with God, we put it on the back burner.

Find an opportunity with your spouse this week to evaluate areas of vulnerability that need reinforcing. Here are some thoughts to get your conversation going: Are you doing couchtime at least 5 times per week? Are you talking beyond the essential facts and sharing your hearts? Do you have a weekly date? Are you pushing yourself to grow in romance and intimacy? Are you harboring any offense that could turn into bitterness? Do you know how one another is coping with their personal weaknesses? Are you supporting one another in prayer? Should you make plans to attend a marriage conference? Make every effort to keep growing! Don't allow stagnation to produce a dead marriage.

Fun Idea of the Quarter

I love fall! All the anticipation, excitement, activities and coziness of it thrills me. But I have to admit there is one part of fall that I could really do without ~ Halloween. What a drag! On the other hand there's the candy! So when our daughters were little (and with the help of a book called Family Celebrations at Thanksgiving and Halloween) we came up with an alternative. We celebrate All Saints' Day! The week

preceding All Saints' Day, we read about different saints and martyrs who will inspire us in our walk of faith. When Nov 1st arrives, we have a fun (and way-too-big) dinner of fondue. Then we take our own walk of faith. In turn, each child is blindfolded and must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit (as voiced by Mom) and ignore the voice of the enemy (as voiced by Dad). When they obey and listen closely, a bag of candy awaits their groping hands!

Reminders

* GRADES ARE OUT FOR YOUR CHILD! ARE YOU GIVING THEM THE FREEDOM TO FAIL? REMEMBER: FAILURE WITH EFFORT IS ACCEPTABLE. FAILURE WITHOUT EFFORT IS NOT.

Quotes Worth Remembering

"One of the great illusions of our time is that love is self-sustaining. It is not. Love must be fed and nurtured, constantly renewed. That demands ingenuity and consideration, but first and foremost, it demands time." ~David R. Mace

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the armor is that it is simply unnecessary because there is no danger. To say this or to believe this is to believe that there is no battle out there, no risk to be averted, no danger to our spirits or danger to our Christian witness.

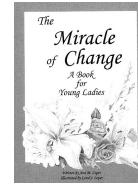
Then there is peer pressure that causes us to leave our armor in the closet, the standards put away or never defined at all. We may live in fami-

lies or fellowship with those who bought into the belief system that there is no spiritual warfare, that there is no battle for our souls and minds or the souls of our children.

Whether we choose to recognize or acknowledge the battle raging in us and around us or not is not relevant. It makes the battle no less real. God's purpose in giving us standards is not to make life difficult - His

purpose is to bless and protect.

Consider His words in Deut 6:20-21, 24: "In the future, when your son asks you, 'What is the meaning of the...laws the Lord our God has commanded you?' tell him.. 'The Lord commanded us to obey all the decrees and fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper...'"



Coming
Soon!

The Miracle of Life has a sequel! It is called *The Miracle of Change: A Book for Young Ladies*. As the title indicates, Ami has written this book for your daughters who are approaching puberty (ages 8-14). This book is due out this December, so check our website to get your copy! It will be an excellent resource for your family.

<http://members.cox.net/miracle-books/>



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