



# Stronghold Ministry's Monthly Newsletter

## The Exchanger

June 2010

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How to ace your tests of faith.

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For any woman who wants to tune into the voice and "life" of the True Vine.

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Prayer is not an after-thought, but a major tool in our support. Please pray with us for the healing of many.

Tell us your story.  
We want to be  
"in your corner."

877-230-7674 (toll free)  
jfor@mystronghold.org

### Coming Events

\***Grace Seminar**-Joe Fornear with Exchanged Life Ministry  
Sat., June 26th 9a.m.- 4p.m.  
-The Hope Center, Dallas  
Call 214-221-7007

\***Abiding Prayer - Women**  
Fridays - 9:00-10:30a.m.

## Acing Your Tests

-Joe Fornear

I like to watch kids at the end of the school year. Naturally, they have an extra bounce in their step. Were you ever sorry that school was out for the summer? No more classes, homework or TESTS? It was the mother of all no-brainers for me to trade tests for fishing, wiffle ball and bike rides. Yet James asks maturing adults to have a different perspective on tests. We are to "consider it all joy" when our faith is tested:

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (James 1:2-3).*

Tests of faith can reveal how little we know of the subject matter. Tests can hurt too, and their timing is never convenient. If applied to very rough trials, like cancer and natural catastrophes, James' view of tests may even disturb some people. Is it even possible to mix joy with tears? Can we have a positive attitude as our world seems to crumble at our feet? Can anyone crack a smile when their body is wracked with pain of chemo or tumors, or both? James not only believes it's possible, He says God can help us "ace" these tests. Trials have a simple goal: endurance. Why endurance? Children only want to play, laugh and have fun. They have zero patience for adversity. Mature adults accept and patiently work through hard times, and their character becomes fully developed. They ultimately become truly happy, as circumstances don't dictate their moods.

Thank God, a permanent break from tests will come at our graduation. In the meantime, we are not left to our own resources to pass these tests:

- 1) The Lord provides *supernatural* strength so we can patiently endure the unbearable. This is how we "*Let endurance have its perfect work, so that we may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing*" (James 1:4).
- 2) The Lord allows us to lean over to check His paper to see the right answers during tests of faith. He gives wisdom to lead us through dark times (James 1:5-8).
- 3) Our teacher is the tested and tried one, Jesus Christ, Who is "*the author and perfecter of faith*" (Hebrews 12:2).
- 4) The Lord offers unlimited retakes. A very good thing for me. How about you?

## Abiding Prayer Group - For Women

*"Abide in Me, and my words abide IN you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you"* (John 15:7).

God has gathered a group of women who desire to do Abiding Prayer together . . . We are learning to gaze at Jesus, opening our hearts to receive from Him, as we learn to sit in silence and meditate on Him. We then share with each other His Word given to each one, and watch Him take our burdens as we lay them in His hands. We are experiencing His peace, healing and unconditional, loving Presence.



Friday mornings - 9-10:30 a.m.

Dallas Bible Church - 15765 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, TX 75248

Call Terri Fornear at 214-221-7007 *No child care currently provided.*

## Testimony Time

We are featuring the stories of warriors and caretakers we serve. This month we share the story of **Joanne M.** The Lord touched her with a supernatural peace that sustained her while fighting breast cancer that had spread to her liver. Joanne is pictured here with her husband, three daughters and son-in-law.



This is my journey, my walk with cancer. In July of 2008, I went for a mammogram, which was soon followed by a sonogram and biopsy. These tests changed my life, hearing "You have cancer." A few days later the Lord came to me and gave me strength. I was standing in our front yard speaking with our daughter, Allie, about my cancer. As I stood watching her drive off, I felt a flush of warmth go through my body from head to toe as the wind blew through the trees. I knew at that very moment, the Lord had literally touched me and spoken to me, filling me with a peace I had never known. In a split second, a miracle had occurred that released me from the grasps of fear.

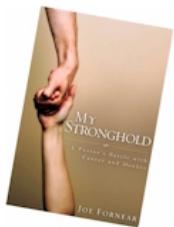
Many tests followed the original diagnosis and I received news my malignant breast cancer had metastasized and spread to my liver, so I had Stage IV cancer. Unfortunately, my liver tumor was in an inoperable location. I was sent to "the best liver specialist in Dallas," who told me of a new procedure called Cyberknife. Through technology I was given the equivalent of 6 weeks of radiation in a 3-day period. I waited 3 months to do an MRI to see if the procedure worked. I am happy to say that Cyberknife was a success! I still have MRI's every 3 months and am currently clear of cancer in my liver. Praise the Lord!

Throughout this time, I had been undergoing chemotherapy for my breast cancer. I would spend one day every three weeks receiving four chemotherapy medications. In March of 2009, I took a break from chemo and had a double mastectomy including removal of lymph nodes on my left side. I resumed chemotherapy a month later and underwent eight weeks of radiation therapy. My chemotherapy sessions ended in September of 2009, exactly one year from the time I started.

There have been some bumps in the road along my journey; however nothing that we haven't been able to handle. Anytime I begin to get down or feel the "poor-pitiful-me" mantra trying to weasel its way into my mind, I think back to that warm, summer afternoon when the Lord filled me with peace. It is that one moment that has truly sustained me throughout this journey! The Lord was standing next to me on that day. And it may sound odd, but other than the fear and sadness it caused my children, I can honestly say that having cancer has been a gift to me. I am a better person for having had cancer. I have received so many gifts, spiritual and emotional, that I would never trade. And by having cancer, I have been able to help others whose journeys have begun recently. God Bless to each and every one of you as you walk your journey. I pray that you too will see and receive the gifts the Lord has for you. Even if it means in order to see those gifts, you have to walk, hand-in-hand, with cancer.

-Joanne M.

## My Stronghold - The book



Visit our website for more on Joe Fornear's book on his cancer battle, called *My Stronghold, A Pastor's Battle with Cancer and Doubts* - [www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html](http://www.mystronghold.org/My-Stronghold.html).

If you're a cancer patient, or caretaker, we'll send the book to you at no cost. Simply write and tell us your story. We want to share your burden.

# Stronghold Prayer Wall

## Please join us in prayer for these warriors

Stronghold has reached out to this list of individuals who are fighting cancer or have fought cancer (a few have other serious illnesses). We don't want to neglect the centrality of prayer for healing. Will you take a moment to intercede with us for these warriors? It is motivating to know our prayers are like a sweet incense to the Lord (Revelation 5:8).

*Lord, please bring  
complete healing,  
strength and  
comfort to each of  
these You love  
so much.*

## Sign up for "In His Grip"

*In His Grip is a weekly devotional e-mail intended to encourage and inspire those fighting cancer and those in crisis.*

To subscribe to In His Grip go to -

<http://www.mystronghold.org>

*In His Grip Archives are at Joe's blog - just click on the "Blog" link.*

## Revelation 5:8

The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb,  
each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense,  
which are the prayers of the saints.

Mike D	Edward	Ruth	Kaye	Virginia	Holly
Brisy	Dianne	Sam	Lois	Linda	Rachel
Mr. W	Vicky	Pete	Gracie	Prudence	Steve
John	Rachel	Gina	Tom	Tracy	Kim
Bill	Stephanie	Duke	Cristina	Vicky	Mary Jane
Jon N	Judy	Don	Johnnie	Inez	Carol
Rich	Terri	Jack	Linda	Kate	Grant
Gloria	Megan	John	Maurice	Tom	Rob
Claudia	Ruth	Richard	Gary	Debbie	Andre
Jeff	Hank	Lori	Pat	Sara	John David
Carolyn	Vivian	Sheila	Dylan	Ethan	Linda
Laura	Tony	Betty	Carolyn	Myrna	Steve
Mary Sue	Melody	Beverly	Rusty	Don	Scott
Ed	Michael	Darlene	Bernard	Will	Dorcas
Milton	Susan	Cheryl	Cindy	Ric	Ivan
Sara	Joseph	Karon	Lisa	Randy	Nancy
Rex	Emily	Jacob	Brian	Carlos	Jessica
Monette	Michael	Rebecca	Nisha	Mike	Emily
Joan	Robert	Susan	Sherri	Tina	Bob
Brian	Mike	Ms. M	Ted	Les	Quentin
Joanne	Debra	Bill	Darcelle	Traci	Donna
Kathy	Michael S.	Sharon	Alan	Trista	Christian
Sue	Debbie	Luke	Jennifer	Timi	Kathy
Garrett	Barb	Nancy	Agnes	Jordan	Toni
Kathy	Kent	Bill	Fred	Scott	Silas
Peggy	Ted	Holly	Dave	Maria	Gloria
Mr. L	Andy	Diane	Mary	Jack	Althea
Becky	Steve	Allison	Joanne	Naomi	Cathy
Frank	Lois	Randy	Marilynn	Matthew	Grace
Randy	Karen	Nelia	Johnny	Lori	James Earl
Sue	Pat	Rick	Pat	Kristen	Pam
Mr. S	Jodie	Linda	Mary	John	Sandra
Susan	Matt	Akadrianna	Charles	Leonard	Steve
Mrs. L	Susan	Janet	Bill	Penny	Sabrina
Priscilla	Hudson	Julie	Karen	Betty	Cathy
Stephanie	David	Delora	Betty	Lisa	Donna
Lynne	Darlene	Clayton	Mr. H	Mechas	Bonnie
Althea	Lynda	Kathy	Manuel	Phyllis	
Robbin	Yvette	Sherry	Bob	Mike	
Correy	Sean	Adair	Nick	Hal	
David	Frank	Matt	Bonnie	Frank	
Angela	Larry	Mike	Misti	Evelyn	
Maryann	Lori	Mildred	Kristine	Mary	
Bill	Katrina	Anne	Alfredo	Tina	
Tina	Gregg	Fred	Sandi	Marty	

We try to maintain a balance of privacy and personalization. If your name or a loved one's name appears here and you do not wish to be listed for any reason, please write and ask us to remove - jfor@mystronghold.org.