Cease Striving
- by Joe Fornear

If a tweet is made in the forest, and no one reads it... wait, is that even possible? This new technology and networking has been both curse and blessing. On one hand, we’ve reconnected with friends, family, and classmates who thought we were weird in high school. On the other hand, many have become helplessly attached to their digital feeds. Admittedly, I am one of the “many,” driven to capture as much information as my little eyes can absorb.

I have some down time at this red light; or during my lunch break; or while engaged in this rest room stop. I must leverage each moment. Check my email. Now Facebook. Keep up with latest world news. Reply to text. Quick game of Solitaire (OK don’t judge me, Mr. or Mrs. Words with Friends). Quit playing Solitaire (people will judge me), check email again. Repeat as above... until bedtime.

All my digital plates are full, and I’m keeping them all spinning. But does this constant activity bring a false sense of control to my life? Am I really on top of things?

I consider God’s timeless words from Psalm 46:10, “Cease striving, and know that I am God.” I don’t think He begrudges beneficial work tools and connectors, but I know He wants me to check my use of them. How do I know when I’m out of balance? Can I unplug in the evening and give quality time to my wife? Must I race to power up each morning before taking the incredible opportunity to spend time with my loving heavenly Father, and true source of power? Can I enjoy eating a sandwich without keeping one hand free to peck away at a keyboard? I wonder if the Lord can accomplish more through me than I can frantically accomplish alone. I must rest in God; I am not Him.

Healing Prayer Meeting—monthly in Dallas

God has power over our most difficult obstacles... even cancer. Come pray with us at our Healing Prayer Meeting. We don’t guarantee miracles, but we certainly believe we should ask for one! “You do not have because you do not ask” (James 4:2). Bring your loved ones to pray together with us, or come as a proxy for someone. Let’s just see what He will do!

Healing Prayer Meeting—Stronghold Ministry

3rd Tuesday of each month 7:00-8:00 p.m. @ Dallas Bible Church
15765 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, TX 75248
Call 214-221-7007 for more info.
Testimony Time

We are featuring stories of those we serve. This month we share the journey of Val P. Val is a brain cancer survivor, and now has a vital ministry to cancer patients and those in crisis in Brooklyn, NY. She has been an encouragement to Stronghold, and we have been an encouragement to her. Val writes:

My experience with Stronghold Ministry has been an awesome and wonderful journey. I tell everyone about my brother Joe and my sister Terri, who I have come to know and love. God has formed a beautiful tapestry of friendship between us and together we are revolutionizing our communities for Christ.

I am a cancer survivor. I was diagnosed with Brain Cancer in 1980 and given three months to live. I was devastated and I gave up hope. I was angry with God. After all, I thought, "I am only twenty one years old. I am too young to die." The more I became resentful, the weaker I became. Reluctantly, I did my chemotherapy and radiation treatments and those too seemed not to work. I had no choice in the dark nights of the soul but to reach out to God. Out of the depth of my heart I cried out, like David. God reached down and lifted my spirit with words from His Word. The words “I shall not die but live to declare the works of the Lord” (Psalm 118:17), resonated from every fiber of my being, and I repented before the Lord.

My healing process began the moment I gave my health and emotional issues to God. I promised Him to reach out to His hurting people and devote my life totally to Him. I am now deeply committed to the work of God. I started Tower of Life Cancer Ministry for this reason. Stronghold Ministry has been my strong arm. Joe's inspirational words soothe the emotional pains of not only the cancer patients, but even those who suffer from the cancer of loneliness and depression. Through the Stronghold newsletters, The Exchanger and In His Grip, many families have been strengthened and renewed. I feel secure knowing that we have an army of cancer survivors who are willing to give back to the work of God.

Strength and confidence have become our lives' foundations as we all discover the awesomeness of a marvelous God who heals, delivers, restores and saves. In January 2010, I reached out to Joe telling him about my sponsored daughter, Celine who was diagnosed with Sickle Cell Anemia. I was unemployed and a bit worried that I would not have been able to continue supporting her financially. Joe stepped in and reached out to my daughter in the Dominican Republic and sent her financial help. This made such a difference in her life.

I thank God for the opportunity of knowing Joe and Terri who are indeed "Keepers of the Flame." Together we will glorify God and provide useful service that will lift and encourage the Body of Christ and families in our communities and around the globe. “We will only pass this way but once, and if there is anything we could do, let us do it now, for we will not pass this way again.” Let us all discover the beauty within our souls and rise above our circumstances knowing that we are all overcomers. May God continue to bless Stronghold Ministry and all of its endeavors. “Grace be unto you.”

My Stronghold - The book
Visit our website for more on Joe Fornear’s story and book about his cancer battle, My Stronghold, A Pastor’s Battle with Cancer and Doubts.
www.mystonghold.org/My-Stronghold.html

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

Sign up for “In His Grip”
In His Grip is a weekly devotional e-mail to encourage and inspire those fighting cancer or in any crisis.
To subscribe go to our website - http://www.mystonghold.org
In His Grip archives are at Joe’s blog. Just click on the “Blog” link http://www.mystonghold.org/Blog/
Stronghold is reaching out to these individuals who are fighting cancer, or have fought cancer. A few have other serious illness. We believe in the centrality of prayer for healing. Will you take a moment to intercede with us for these whom Jesus loves?

Mike D  Megan  Rebecca  Pat  Mary  Kathy  Dennis  Barbara  Nina  Ann
Mr. W  Ruth  Susan  Mary  Tina  Sheryl Sue  Pamela  Mark  Rosalynn  Gwen
John Hank  Ms. M  Charles  Marty  Gipsy  Terry Joe  Gail  Kevin  Serenity
Bill Tony  Bill  Bill  Rachel Jo  Chuck  Eric  Mickey  David
Jon N  Melody  Sharon  Karen  Steve  Gino  Darcy  Yvonne  Nikki  Serenity
Gloria Joseph  Nancy  Mr. H  Mary Jane  Robert  Matilda Buny  Molly  David
Claudia Michael  Holly  Michael  Carol  Becky  Barbara Seth  Leslie  Tracy
Jeff Robert  Diane  Bob  Grant  Kellison  Jamie  Beverly  Michel  Bruce
Carolyn Mike  Allison  Nick  Bob  Linda  Jackie  Brenda  Buz  John
Laura Debra  Randy  Bonnie  Andre  Joyce  Vicki  Laura  Sheila  Marlene
Mary Sue Michael S. Nelia  Misti  John David  Molly  Maryellen  Deborah  John  Ben
Ed Debbie  Rick  Kristine  Linda  Louise  Sylvia  David  Stephen  Sherri
Milton Barb  Linda  Alfredo  Dorcas  Dee Ann  Brenda  Larry  Cindy  Audrey
Sara Kent  Akadrianna  Virginia  Ivan  John  Tina  Julie  Jeff  Linda
Rex Ted  Janet  Linda  Nancy  Maura  Leonard  Helga  Martha  Peggy
Monette Andy  Julie  Traey  Jessica  Leon  Jodi  Lisa  Robert  Jessica
Joan Steve  Delora  Vicky  Emily  Ann  Johnny  Adrienne  Florence  Isabella
Brian Lois  Kathy  Inez  Bob  Leona  Itai  Pat  Diana  Elaine
Joanne Karen  Sherry  Kate  Quentin  Cynthia  Ken  Fran  Sam  Joanie
Kathy Pat  Adair  Debbie  Donna  Dallas  Chris  Bryan  Jeff  Liz
Sue Jodie  Matt  Sara  Christian  Wayne  Tommy  Laurie  Mike  Susan
Garrett Matt  Mike  Ethan  Kathy  Danny  Charlie  Will  Mary
Kathy Susan  Mildred  Myrna  Toni  Taylor  Mimi  Lanette  Susan  Dick
Peggy Hudson  Anne  Don  Gloria  Keith  Joe  Bob  Joe  Diana
Mr. L  David  Fred  Will  Althea  Jon  Jimmy  Kevin  James  Mildred
Becky Darlene  Kaye  Ric  Cathy  Clark  Heidi  Gayle  Lacey
Frank Lynda  Lois  Randy  Grace  Don  Carol  Bob  Lacie  Lynette
Randy Yvette  Gracie  Carlos  James Earl  Joe  Michael  Judy  Elizabeth  Adrian
Sue Sean  Tom  Mike  Pam  Sheryl  Debbie  Philip  Tommy  Daniel
Mr. S  Frank  Johnnie  Tina  Sandra  Kenedy  Beth  Harry  David  Angela
Susan  Larry  Linda  Trista  Steve  Amy  Brenda  Ed  Lori  Karen
Wendy  Johnnie  Sherry  Don  Billy  Betsy  Susan  Sue  Karen
Mrs. L  Lori  Maurice  Timi  Cathy  Cindy  Julie  Mickey  Maria  Robert
Priscilla  Katrina  Gary  Jordan  Donna  Benji  Cheryl  Sue Ellen  Paula
Stephanie Gregg  Pat  Scott  Bonnie  Pearl  Sara  Margaret  Peck  Cole
Lynne  Ruth  Dylan  Maria  Amy  Dale  Terri  Lori  Tim  Will
Bubba  Sam  Carolyn  Jack  Debrah  Phil  Lilly  Bob  JoAnne  Claudes
Althea  Pete  Rusty  Naomi  Fred  William  George  Susan  Glenzine  Mary
Robbin  Gina  Cindy  Matthew  JL  Bill  Martha  Gail  Wendy  Marci
Correy  Duke  Brian  Lori  Betty  Meg  Susan  Suzan  Lucretia  Christi
David  Don  Nisha  Kristen  Will  Tim  Rita  Lin  Sherrill  Darlene
Angela  Jack  Sherri  John  Celine  Michael  Peter  Shalundria  Karen  Jim
Maryann  John  Darcelle  Leonard  Donna  Vicky  Kay  Becky  Clayton  Mark
Bill  Richard  Alan  Penny  Phil  Harold  Junie  Danny  Jim
Tina  Lori  Jennifer  Betty  Fred  John  Bob  Simone  Nancy
Edward  Sheila  Agnes  Lisa  Cosme  Joan  Carolyn  Angela  Kathy
Dianne  Betty  Fred  Mechas  Anna  George  Helga  Fern  Ben
Vicky  Beverley  Dave  Phyllis  Ava  Dewayne  Jim  Charles  Robin
Rachel Darlene  Mary  Mike  Evelyn  Richard  Mark  Randy  Suzanne
Stephanie  Cheryl  Joanne  Hal  Dave  Nicole  Lana  Tom  David
Judy  Karen  Marilynn  Frank  Bill  Susan  Sheryl  Kevin  Bryan
Terri  Jacob  Johnny  Evelyn  Lawrence  Toni  Seth  Mitch

Please join us in prayer for these warriors

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 we will remove - jfor@mystronghold.org.