DEALING

with the

ARCHERS

by

DAN DUKE

DEDICATION

TO MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS

AMONG THE NATIONS

PREFACE

This booklet is a transcription of a teaching series that I produced on cassette. The sermons were transcribed and reproduced in booklet form with minimal editing to maintain the integrity of the message and the spirit of the sermon itself. I hope that what the booklet lacks in literary excellence will be superseded by the anointing emanating from the words of its message.

The purpose of this booklet is not to impress the reader with a flowery array of literarily significant prose, but rather to challenge him with a message that I believe is critically relevant to this prophetic generation and to the coming time of revival that God is preparing for His church. I pray that God will bless you, touch you, fill you with His fire, fill you with His glory, and rub you down with His anointing today as you enjoy this booklet on Dealing with the Archers.

Dan Duke

INTRODUCTION

As you already know, there is a war going on in the heavenlies. In this booklet, I'm going to explain to you that this war is being fought over *the wells*. What do I mean by a war over *the wells*? I encourage you to read carefully and give me the opportunity to explain important insight into God's strategy concerning dealing with the enemy.

Isaiah 12:3 says, *"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."* I'm sure that many of you can testify that it's a joyful experience to draw drinking water from the wells of the salvation of your soul. Do you remember that day? Do you remember what a joy it was in your life when you first drank from the well of salvation? Sure you do. I do. It was about 9:30 in the evening on Saturday, February 20, 1971 when I first drank from the well. I can also remember the twenty-seven years of warfare that preceded that drink of water from the well of salvation and how the enemy tried to prevent me from ever coming to drink from that well.

Friends, America today is so thirsty for a drink of water, for something to believe in, and for someone to trust—so much so that they're willing to compromise and embrace a philosophy that says character is not an issue, when it's a major issue. What does that say to us as believers? We must have ears to hear the cry of a nation saying, "Somebody come help us! Bring us a drink of water from the well of salvation!" I understand that my readers are not an evangelistic crowd. You have already been evangelized. Even though you may already be Christians, there are more wells than the well of salvation.

There is more to this Christian life than just having your name written in heaven. There are other wells. There are wells of refreshing, wells of anointing, wells of harmony in the home, and wells of prosperity to name but a few. All of these have become the focal point of spiritual warfare in the heavenlies because if you get a drink from the well, something's going to happen to you.

There's an interesting thing about the water of life. It's the only water we know of that's combustible. The water of life is 100 octane. It's the only water you can pour inside of you that ignites into a fire of God when it hits your belly and it hits your spirit. As that fire explodes out of you, you'll run devils out of your entire county. You've got to get to the well!

THE WELLS AND THE ARCHERS

My foundational text for this message is found in the book of Judges. I'd like to invite you to turn with me there to Judges 5:6-11. "*In the days of Shamgar the son of Anath,* (Shamgar means a destroyer) *in the days of Jael, the highways were unoccupied, and the travellers walked through byways."* That speaks of a generation of people that's off course. They're off the right way, and they're wandering through the byways. I believe that's indicative of the condition that we face today in America. It amazes me how mixed up our priorities have become as a nation. It seems that we too are off the highways, wandering around through the byways.

Verse 7, *"The inhabitants of the villages ceased."* The margin of my Bible reads a little differently. It says that the leadership of the villages ceased. *"They ceased in Israel, until I Deborah arose, that I arose a mother in Israel."* That's the condition that leads to wandering in the byways and being off the highway that God has laid out for us. I think that's a condition of lack of leadership in our nation, both political leadership and spiritual leadership.

Verse 8 says, *"They chose new gods; then was war in the gates."* This speaks of an idolatrous nation that had wandered off the way of their founding fathers, wandering about in the byways, seeking satisfaction in all the things that don't satisfy, suffering and

struggling for leadership. Whom can you trust? Preachers have fallen. Politicians have fallen. Whom can you trust anymore?

Where I live, in Jacksonville, Florida, the overall divorce rate is 76%. Sadly, that rate is 55% even among the evangelical Christian community. Well over half our children in Jacksonville live in one-parent homes or live with a stepfather or stepmother, wondering whom they can trust. Our nation has wandered in the byways and become an idolatrous nation. It pains me to say that. I find no sense of satisfaction in saying that at all. It hurts me to say that we have become an idolatrous nation, but there's a reason for it. It's the result of something.

When Israel became idolatrous, verse 8 says, "*Then was war in the gates. Was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel?"* To make matters worse, during that whole time, they found themselves disarmed. There was war in the gates. They were off in the byways struggling for leadership, and at the same time, they were disarmed. I'd like to submit to you that right now is probably the least conducive time in the history of America or the history of the church to be disarmed. We need to be armed with the full armor of God, taking the sword of the Spirit in our hand because we are at war. We don't have the privilege of choosing whether or not we are at war. **We are at war!** We can't control that, but we can control the outcome of the war.

"My heart is toward the governors of the people," Deborah says in verse 9, *"that offered themselves willingly among the people."* That's where my heart is today and where the heart of God's people must remain. It's with the governors and the leaders, those that offer themselves willingly.

Deborah says something here in verse 10, *"Speak ye that ride on white asses, ye that sit in judgment, and walk by the way."* Evidently, that's a cynical kind of statement that says those who should have the answers don't. Those that are saying the most are actually saying the least.

Let's look now at verse 11. *"They that are delivered from the noise of archers in the places of drawing water, there shall they rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord, even the righteous acts toward the inhabitants of his villages in Israel: then shall the people of the Lord go down to the gates."* **They that are delivered from the noise of the archers . . .** Envision with me for a moment in ancient Israel when it was the custom of the day to build fortified cities, cities with great walls and watchtowers around them. Some people would live inside the cities, but most of the people lived out in the surrounding villages. The agriculture and the flocks were outside the city. Every day, the people that lived in the city would go out through the city gates to tend their flocks and till their ground.

In the watchtowers on these massive walls around the fortified cities would be the watchmen of Israel. They were watching on the horizon as far as they could see in every direction. Their job was to spot an invading army coming to lay siege to the city. At first sight of an approaching army, they would blow their trumpets. The resounding blast of the trumpet alerted the people working in the fields and those working with their flocks. They knew that war was impending and that an invading army was coming, so they would come into the city and close the massive gates. The invading army would come and lay siege to the city. Then would be the big standoff.

One thing that the invading army always sought to do was fight their way up onto the walls of the city near the gates because just on the inside of the gates were the city wells. They were there by design. The wells were there so that they could be protected because once the people were inside the city and the gates were closed, they could ration their food and withstand a long siege inside the city. As long as they had a constant supply of water, the city could withstand the siege. The human body can survive a long time without food, but not without water. The invading army would seek to fight themselves up to a position on the walls above the gates. From there, they would position their archers so when the people of the city attempted to draw water from the well, the archers would shoot at them. That way they would bring the city to its knees.

As you can see, the warfare became a battle over the wells. I want to submit to you today that that's the focal point of the spiritual warfare that we're facing in our generation right now. There is a well of blessing, anointing, and life that's positioned for us. The problem is that the archers, the demons, the principalities and powers in high places have positioned themselves to keep you from the well and spring of life. I'd like to challenge you today. Make up your mind to rise up like Deborah did and pull down the archers from around the wells of your life so that you can once again drink of the wells of refreshing. Friends, drink all you want! You can jump in if you want to!

Wells can apply to anything that serves as a source of spiritual life for you. Whatever serves as a source of spiritual life and motivation for you can be a well, so you can make your own applications.

Have you experienced a decrease of spiritual motivation in your life lately? Perhaps you're not doing what you want to do, what you know you should be doing, what the Bible tells you to do, or perhaps even what you've done in the past. Many today are losing their motivation. Many today are not pressing into God with the same intensity that they did in the past. We need to be pressing in not only with the same intensity, but with a greater intensity than ever before.

Friends, Jesus has revival! Jesus is the personification of revival! There is revival today, and if you want it, Jesus has it! He's got new wine. That's not the problem. The problem is where to put it. Jesus is holding a handful of revival and all He wants to know today is *"Where can I put it?"* My response is "Here am I. Look no further! Put it here!" New wine has to have a new vessel, and when a new vessel is prepared, I promise you it will be filled with new wine.

In this booklet, I'm going to identify four wells for you to think about and ponder in your life. Obviously, there are more. These four wells are forces of spiritual life. Every time you attempt to come to these wells, the archers will position themselves to strike you with the fiery darts of the wicked one. You might as well know it. It's already happening.

THE WELL OF THE WORD

The first well I'd like to identify is the Word of God, the Bible. Is the Bible as precious to you today as it was at another time in your life? Never forget how much you need the Word of God. You need the *"it is written"* in your life. When the devil tempted Jesus after forty days in the wilderness, it came right up out of His well, *"Satan, it is written."* When Satan comes to challenge and tempt you, there's no time to dig out your favorite tape series on spiritual warfare. There won't be time to go digging through your library, "Where's that book on the name of Jesus." That's too late. You've got to have the Word already laid up in your heart so when he comes you can say "Devil, it is written, I just read it this morning." It's not written in the pages of a book, it's not written in a scripture on your wall, it's written in your heart.

There's a spirit at work today. It's the same spirit that Jesus dealt with, the spirit of the Pharisees that sought to keep the Word of God away from the people. Jesus said to them in Luke 11:52, *"Ye entered not in yourselves and them that were entering in ye hindered."* It is that same spirit of the Pharisees that is working today to keep Mom and Dad and America out of the Word of God. The Word of God saves you. It's an incorruptible seed. The Word of God heals you. It's the Word of God that's a source of life to you. It is your well of life.

Don't abandon your well even though the archers are there. The archers will be there to keep you out of the Word or to bring all kinds of things to cloud and confuse the Word of God. You've got to break through all of that and pull down the archers. The Word of God is your word, your book, your Bible, your message from God. It's God communicating with you. When you open your well of the Word of God, it waters you, it feeds you, and it washes you.

Is the Word of God alive to you or is it dead to you? Is it a living book or is it a dead book. If it's a dead book to you, if it's just dry words on dry pages, then the archers have got you. It's time to rise up, grab the archers by the neck, and pull them down. Go to war over the well of the Word.

That Pharisaic spirit was and still is a spirit of python and of divination. It's the same spirit that the apostle Paul dealt with in the damsel of Acts 16:16. The Bible says it was a spirit of divination, a spirit of a python. A python is an interesting and unusual snake in the way that it takes its prey. First of all, it's huge. Second of all, it does not have a strong bite nor does it have any poison. The python will lie camouflaged on a

limb or a ledge above its prey, concealed until some unsuspecting person or animal walks underneath. Then the python falls from its high place, wrapping and coiling itself around its victim. It looks right into the face of its prey while it squeezes the life out of it. It kills by suffocating.

In a time that we ought to be freer, more radical, more full of the Holy Spirit, and wilder than we've ever been in the history of our church, more people today are having the very life squeezed out of them. They're perishing. It's that same spirit. The archers have struck them.

THE WELL OF FAITH

Another place the archers have targeted is the well of your faith. In I Timothy 6:11, Paul told Timothy, *"Fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life."* The reason for a faith fight is so that you can lay hold of something. We're saved by faith, we learn by faith, we grow by faith, we prosper by faith, we come in by faith, we go out by faith, and we live by faith. Your personal faith is one of the wells around which the archers want to position themselves. They want to keep you from operating in faith.

You need faith in your life. We all do. We live, move, prosper, and progress by faith. You've got to have faith. Somehow, in many circles, the message of faith has become an unpopular message. Even if you don't like some facets of the faith message,

don't throw out the baby with the bath water. Don't abandon your faith! Use your faith! Live by faith! Appropriate your faith! Go into God's presence by faith! Do everything you do by faith!

I learned a long time ago that the Lord is not motivated or moved by need. If you don't know that, you need to know it. If God was motivated and moved by need, there wouldn't be any needs. God's motivation to need was Jesus. He supplied Jesus to meet needs. Now He's motivated by faith in Jesus. That meets needs.

All of us need to keep a faith focus. You need to be believing God for something right now, a focus for your faith. Focus for your faith is like the Word of God in your heart. When something comes your way, some tragedy, some trauma, some need, some challenge or some opportunity, that's no time to go and dig out your tape series on how to have faith. You've got to have it when you need it. You've got to have it right then. If you don't have it right then, it's too late. The opportunity passes or the archers hit you. Then they don't hit the shield of faith, they hit your heart.

Let me say that again. Every one of us should be able to stand up and say, "I am believing God actively and aggressively right now." If it's not for something you need, then believe God for something you want. Just keep your faith pumping, moving, and cooking inside of you. Then when the archers come, you can take up the shield of faith and say, "No you don't, Mr. Archer!"

There's nothing wrong with the faith message. As a matter of fact, Jude verse 3 says, *"Ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the*

saints." I John 5:4 says, *"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."* Friends, our faith needs to be working. Faith without works is **dead**. You need faith!

THE WELL OF YOUR SPIRIT

Let's talk about the well of your spirit. Your spirit is a well. John 7:38 says, *"Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."* Out of your belly it will flow. Did you know that when you got filled or baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit came to live inside you? Isn't that a wonderful experience? I'll never forget when He came to live in me. It happened about five minutes after I got saved. That was good for me because I didn't have time to come up with all the theological reasons that it had passed away. By

the time the theologians got to me with their ideas that tongues, miracles, apostles and all that had passed away, I had already spent a year praying in tongues every day. I said, "Sorry, you're too late." It was too late.

When the Holy Spirit came into you, He brought with Him precious gifts, gifts of the Spirit such as prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, gifts of miracles, healings, and discerning of spirits. All of those are resident in the Holy Spirit, who is resident in you. I believe all the ministry gifts, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, governments, helps, giving, and others are in you if the Holy Spirit is in you. What the Holy Spirit desires is that they be released in you and through you. Right now, behind the blue, green, and brown eyes reading this booklet, there are apostles, prophets, and evangelists that are going to shake the nations.

Others of you are potential millionaires because an emerging ministry in the last days is a ministry that's going to receive the wealth of the sinner that's been laid up for the just. (See Proverbs 13:22) There are huge resources out there, billions of dollars, even billions of dollars of drug money, and God knows where every dime of it is. They're still trying to figure out how much the president of the Philippines smuggled out, but God knows every dime of it. You can't hide it from God. He knows where every dime of it is, and some time in the last days, the Bible says that the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

We're going to see that wealth come to godly men and women. Maybe you're one of them. Would anyone like to volunteer? Maybe you're one of them, and the anointing of God will come upon you so that everything you do will turn into a hundred

thousand dollars, a million dollars, ten million dollars, and fifty million dollars—everything you do! That may sound strange to you, but I know people that are living like that today. The biggest decision they make every day is not how to get more money, but what to do with the money they have, to whom they can give a check for fifty thousand dollars. Do I have any more volunteers? I'm telling you today that God needs more people just like that. It can be you if the Holy Spirit is in you.

Revelation, end-time revelation is in you. It's in your spirit. So what are the archers going to do? They're going to position themselves around your spirit with their flaming arrows, trying to wound you every way they can. Their objective is to wound you and keep your water bucket empty and dry. That way, when you're next to a person with a need, next to a crippled or hurting person, and God wants to give them a miracle, there's nothing there but a dry well. There's no miracle. But if you can get to the archers, pull them down, and let the Holy Spirit flow not only in you, but out of you, every person that comes around you gets wet with the fresh water of God's blessing! Miracles happen. Miracles are the easiest things in the world. There's nothing you can do to work up a miracle, but there's nothing you can do to stop one when the Holy Spirit is flowing.

I remember standing in an open field in a remote part of Africa. It was our sixth day of preaching in the middle of war torn Mozambique. There were seventeen of us on the ministry team. As soon as I finished preaching, we had planned to crowd into a panel truck with no windows or ventilation and drive as fast as we could across the

Mozambique border. At that time, you didn't want to be in Mozambique at night, and the border was closed after dark.

A Portuguese family came to the crusade with their ten-year-old boy, who had been blind, deaf, and mute all of his life. His family heard that the missionaries were preaching in the village, and they brought him right through the war zone. They arrived on the opening day of the crusade, but there were no hotels, no restaurants, no comforts, no plumbing, or no showers for them to use. There was nothing there for them but the ground to sleep on and meetings all day under the hot African sun. Every day, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday they were there with their little boy.

On Sunday morning, the last opportunity to speak to those people, my heart was absolutely broken. I felt as challenged as I could be challenged. I'd been crying all week, not for the people, but crying, "Can I just go home?" God said to me, "No, you can't go home!" I said, "But God, I can't do anything for these people." He said, "I knew that when I brought you here. Let's talk about what **I** can do!" I said, "Well God, what can You do?" He said, "I can heal them, I can open their eyes, I can open their ears, I can make them walk, and I can help them. You just get up there on the platform and flow in Me."

My message that day wasn't full of theology or oratory skills, but the river of God began flowing right then. Standing in the middle of the crowd, that little boy opened his eyes for the first time in his life and saw people! The first sound he ever heard with his human ears was Dan Duke preaching the Gospel! His tongue had been closed so that he couldn't speak, but by the time the ministry team brought him up to the platform, they

had already taught him to say "Mama," and he was saying it, "Mama, Mama, Mama," as he looked at his mother. His mother was looking at him in astonishment, broken and weeping uncontrollably because she was seeing her son restored.

Producing a miracle took no effort on my part at all, only to be there, to flow with the Spirit of God, and to get the archers! All week long the archers had been there shooting me and filling me with darts of doubt, insecurity, and feelings of inadequacy. I was full of holes from the archers, but I finally said to God and to myself, "Bless God, I'm here and there's no way to get out! I might as well *really be here*." Do you know what it is to be somewhere but you're really not there? Some of you may know what it is to pastor a church but not really be there.

Friends, we need to be there! It's the archers that want to get you out of there. If God wants you out, He'll tell you, "Get out!" Believe me, He has no problem talking to you whatsoever. You and God are on speaking terms. Don't let the archers drive you out. Open your spirit. Praying in tongues is a good way to open your spirit. Fasting is a good way to open your spirit. You may say, "I fasted three days and my spirit didn't open." Try three weeks! Try this: "I'm not eating another bite until the Holy Ghost anointing falls on my life!" The archers want to close your spirit.

Prophets, the archers are after you. Pastors, the archers are after you. Evangelists, apostles, teachers, the archers are after you. They know that right in the midst of your community, right in your sleepy little town, there's a well. They know that if the most vile, deranged sinner in the state can just get to your well and get a drink of water, he'll become just like you and me!

You cannot imagine the condition of my life when I first drank of that well. The first real pastor I ever met was an Assembly of God man named Parson Carson. We were so radical, so mixed up, and so demonized that we would walk into any church in our city and intimidate everybody in the place. Not that we wanted to, I wanted to be invisible, I just couldn't. The Jacksonville Beach, Florida Ministerial Association called the police and said, "Please, will you do something with that guy and his band of hippies?" Traditional preachers didn't know what to do with us, but there was one little cinder block church called the First Assembly of God, which happened to be conveniently located within walking distance from my house. I remember there was nothing attractive about that little cinder block church except Parson, his wife, Elaine, and the few saints that gathered there.

At that time I didn't know anybody that had been filled with the Holy Spirit for more than six months. I found out Parson had been filled for about ten years, and I thought he was an angel! At the time I couldn't imagine what it was going to be like in even one year. It was already so wonderful and glorious. Parson and Elaine took us in, loved us, and put up with us as rough as we were. They let us flow even though everything that flowed out of us wasn't sweet and nice. There was still a lot of mixture in us, but they encouraged us and let us flow. Once in a while Parson would tell me, "Dan, you've got to be sweet." I'd say, "I'm trying. I don't know how to be sweet. Help me. I want to be. I don't know how to be. I've never been sweet in my life." The way I lived it was dangerous to be sweet. A guy could get killed for being sweet.

Now you can be sweet and be popular. You get to march in public, but I wasn't sweet. While I'm on the subject, we need to do some of our own marching. We need to show them what sweetness is. His name is Jesus, and He sets people free. The homosexuals and all the other militant rights groups are no challenge to the power of God. They're no challenge to the well, but the archers are working. The archers want to send them to hell and not let them get to the well. The war is over the well.

THE WELL OF FINANCES

Finances are another well that the archers are after in your life. Your financial resources are a well. Let me tell you something really practical. You can be the most anointed evangelist in America, but if you don't have any money, you're not going to be doing very much with your anointing. There's never been a time when the anointing was more expensive than today. It costs you money to be anointed today. The more anointed you are, the more money you're going to need. I'm sorry if that challenges you, but that's the way it is because your anointing is going to go somewhere. It's going to do something. It's going to set somebody free. You're going to be willing to pay for it to see that it gets done. It will cost you some money.

If you're anointed today, I'm going to tell you that just as much as Satan fights your faith and fights the release of your spirit, he's going to fight your financial resources. This is not a day when you can be indifferent or have some sanctimonious, theological attitude about money being the root of all evil. It is not! Money is whatever its owner is. If you're righteous, your money's righteous. If you're good, your money's good. If you're a millionaire, every one of your million dollars is good if you're good. If you're a drug dealer, every one of your dollars is evil because you're evil.

Your money is what you are. Satan knows that, and the archers know that so they'll attempt to dry up your wells of resources with little bits of information like "You know that right after the election a hundred banks are going to fail. One of them is probably yours." Let it fail! If it fails, you just turn around and go to the ATM machine

of heaven. Punch in your number, **F-A-I-T-H,** and draw it out. If you've got a true vision, it's going to be bigger than the money you have anyway. If your vision is from God, you're not going to be able to afford it no matter how much money you have.

Resources release ministry. The first time I ever heard the audible voice of God was a week or two after I got saved. I was living in a run-down shack with no furniture except mattresses on the floor. We cooked on an open fire in the back yard because we had no stove or refrigerator. I was driving a 1962 Plymouth Valiant station wagon that was painted pink with a paintbrush. If you've got one of those, that's fine. I have nothing against the Plymouth Valiant, I just think the guy could have done a better job painting it. As you can imagine, I was alone in the car. Nobody would ride in it but me. I'm not even sure I would ride in it today, but I did then.

The Lord said this to me, "Dan, if you will obey me, honor me, and do what I tell you to do, you will never have to scrimp again for the rest of your life." Oh, brother! I was a world class scrimper. I was raised as a scrimper. I don't mean frugal. Friends, I'm not talking discipline, I'm talking scrimper. The only qualification for the selection of any purchase was that it be the cheapest. God had the audacity to say to me that if I would do something as simple as obey Him, I wouldn't have to scrimp any more. Well, I did, and He did. He's blessed us. He wants to bless you. He wants to open up for you your well of financial resources.

It amazes me that so many Christians write their tithe check to the church every week, then walk right outside the doors and meet the devourer face to face. The Bible says that if you honor the Lord with your firstfruits and bring all of your tithes and

offerings into the storehouse so that there will be meat in His house, He will rebuke the devourer for your sake and open up for you the windows of heaven so there will be a great big blessing for you. (See Malachi 3:10-11) But if the archers can convince you it's okay to tithe, but it's not okay to receive, then you'll be devoured.

I remember some time ago taking my son, Jon, who was eleven at the time, to the optical shop to get new glasses. He was the cutest little guy you've ever seen with his flattop haircut and little round eyeglasses. Have you noticed that kids today know what's in style and what's out of style? When I took Jon to the optical shop, it was as though a magnet were drawing him to the most expensive frames, while I was trying to lead him to more realistic frames for an eleven-year-old. I said, "Jon, come over here. These are nice." He's obedient, so he came over and just looked at me. I said, "How about these, Jon?" He said, "How about not, Dad!" I don't need to prolong the story, but we bought him glasses that with his prescription cost over two hundred dollars. I didn't want to send him to school with some tacky glasses.

One day, Jon was out playing soccer with his buddies. He took off his glasses and laid them on the back of a car. Later, we called him in for dinner and about halfway through dinner he realized that he had left his glasses out on the back of a car. He ran outside, but the car was gone with his glasses. He came back inside and said, "Dad, my glasses are gone." I said, "Son, we'll find them tomorrow." The next morning at daybreak, I was outside in the street, wandering around looking for those glasses, praying in tongues, and believing God that they hadn't been run over by a car. The next thing I knew, my neighbor from across the street, who is a wonderful Southern Baptist pastor,

came out and asked, “What are you looking for?” I said, “My son lost his glasses last night.” He said, “I’ll help you look for them.” I wanted to tell him, I wanted to tell somebody, “I’m believing God to find these glasses.” We didn’t find the glasses, so I went back inside.

That morning, as Marti and I were praying with our team in our daily prayer meeting, this came up in my heart: “God, you said that you would rebuke the devourer for my sake. Lord, I’m not complaining, and I’ll take Jon after school today and buy him new glasses, but I’d rather send a two hundred dollar offering to some missionary than to buy new glasses. Lord, you said you’d rebuke the devourer. We’re about to be devoured out of two hundred bucks.”

A few days passed, and I had put off buying the glasses. Actually, I had given up on finding them and was believing God for two hundred dollars to buy new ones. We had some foreign ministers in our house at that time who were overweight, overworked, and stressed out. When they come to visit us, I require them to walk for exercise every day, and I even have to buy them walking shoes and outfits. A typical foreigner can lose twenty-five pounds just coming to stay at our house for a few weeks because we don’t feed them so much and we make them walk.

Three or four days after losing the glasses, these guys were ready to go for their afternoon walk. We all got outfitted and dressed up with our video camera (they film everything in America) and went out walking. Back in an area where I would ordinarily never be, we turned a corner six blocks from my house. Each house on that block had a brick mailbox out by the driveway at the curb. As we turned the block, talking about the

things of the Lord, I looked down to about the fourth mailbox. Right on top of the mailbox was something that looked like a pair of glasses. I said to myself, "Are you ready for this?" I answered, "No." These guys were still discussing the things of the Lord, but by then, I was thinking eyeglasses and had tuned them completely out. The closer we got, I realized that God had just saved me two hundred bucks and rebuked the devourer, because there were my son's eyeglasses, sitting on top of a mailbox six blocks from my house, without a scratch on them. The devourer was rebuked!

Resources release ministry. You need to set as a goal in your life and ministry that you are going to be a blessed person. Determine right now to be blessed spiritually, materially, and financially. Determine that you are going to be blessed in your ministry. You're going to be blessed in your basket and in your store. You're going to be blessed when you go out, you're going to be blessed when you come in. When your enemies come at you one way, they're going to flee before you seven ways. You're going to be blessed at everything you set your hand to do because you're connected with the blesser.

You must make it a goal to deal with the archers and pull them down so that any time you desire to do so, you can go and drink from your well of refreshing and your well of life. Not only that, but you can also open up the gates, and say to whosoever will, "You may come. My brothers and sisters down on the next street or block or down in the project, you can come. Our gates are open. Our doors are open. Our hearts are open. Our well is clean. All of the pollution is out of our well. All of the strife is out of our well. All of the archers are down off our walls. Are you thirsty? Come and drink!"

CONCLUSION

One of my favorite passages is found in II Samuel 23. This is one of my motivators. Read with me these three verses:

> *"David longed, and said, oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate! And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the Lord. And he said, be it far from me, o Lord, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? Therefore he would not drink of it. These things did the three mighty men."*
>
> *II Samuel 23:15-17*

David had his army with his captains in various ranks of authority. However, aside from the others, he had his three mighty men. I believe that among those reading this booklet are some mighty men and mighty women. There's only one thing that's keeping you out of your provision. There's only one thing that's keeping you out of the

fulfillment of your ministry. There's only one thing that's keeping you out of the resources and the finances that you legitimately need to do what God has put on your heart to do. The only thing that's holding you back is that every time you draw near to that well, the archers are there to strike you with the fiery darts of fear, confusion, criticism, debate, strife, or whatever they may be. The archers strike you, and you draw back from your well, but let me tell you, *America needs a drink of living water!* The nations need a drink of living water! Who will give them a drink? Will you? First, you have to drink from your well. The Holy Spirit's presence is right there with you right now to help you and anoint you.

I'm asking you today to consider the message of this booklet, and not the messenger. I ask you to look at the message, not the man. I'm asking you today, "Is the way clear to your well? Is there a well that you need to drink from today?" The purpose of this booklet is to help you pull down the archers from around your well. My brothers and sisters, please understand that we're to cast down every high thing. We're to cast down the principalities and powers. There is a war in the heavenlies. That war in the heavenlies is a personalized war over your life to keep you from succeeding in reaching your goals, to keep you from being a well of living water for yourself and others.

The archers have come to many today to strike you and quench you in your spirit. They've come to bind you in your spirit. Their job is to make you oblivious and insensitive to a world that's dying of thirst when you've got water for them to drink. I don't mean that to condemn you. I'm only saying that the archers have a strategy. We must pull them down by faith. The archers can be insecurities, a poor self-image, sin in

your life, or whatever prevents you from drawing from your well. Let me pray with you now at the conclusion of this booklet.

Lord Jesus, I call upon you today. You said that if I would ask the Father anything in Your name You would do it. Father, I'm asking You in the name of Jesus to deliver the readers of this booklet from the noise of the archers. Deliver them from the noise of unrighteousness, the noise of failure, the noise of condemnation, grief, and guilt. Lord, deliver them from the noise of the archers that say, "You never do enough, you never amount to enough, you've never succeeded, you'll never succeed." Deliver them today, Father, in Jesus' name from the noise of the archers that scream in their ears, "You can't do it, you'll never do it, you can't have it, you'll never have it." Father, deliver them from that noise. It's only noise! In Jesus' name. Amen.