



# THE WATCHMAN

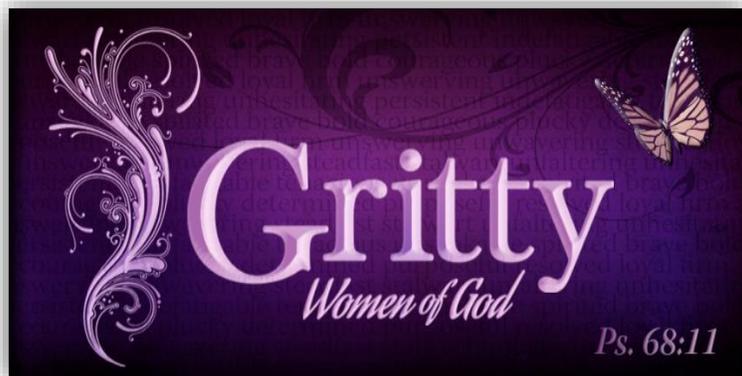
Prayer Newsletter

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## GRITTY WOMEN OF GOD, STILL MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF WOMEN



After 17 years, Gritty Women of God (GWOG) is still going strong and becoming more powerful with every conference. From its inception, Gritty Women has been life changing and women have been **released from** bondages and **released into** their God given purpose and destiny. GWOG is “impacting nations and establishing the kingdom of God.” Pastor Sheila and her team to date have had 40 GWOG conferences and have made a mark in the lives of women that cannot and will not ever be erased.

This year GWOG held not only a regional conferences, but an international conference in the Bahamas and lives were forever change. Not only was time effort, and hard work put forth, but as always, prayer went before the throne. Praise God for prayer warriors and intercessors standing in the gap. The following are words and visions that were released during a Tuesday morning prayer for the GWOG conference.

### Prophetic Words

**Tom Sarge:** “This is the time of gathering as well as the time of refreshing. Behold I add to the 20, 60 and 100 fold, the 7<sup>th</sup> part. The completion of My harvest. My workers are mighty in

strength and wisdom. Not your strength or your wisdom, but Mine.

It is harvest time and I am touching what I have started. It is refreshing and adequate because what I touch I will bring honor and glory to Myself. I anoint what I touch because My glory shall be revealed. It is harvest time and harvest season.

It is the greatest move of My grace and mercy. I fill My nets with those I am calling out of darkness. Listen, My people, I am moving and you shall you not know it.

**Wanda Carson:** saw a wall being broken down and a new wall was being built. This was to keep the forces of darkness out.

**Willie Bernthold:** prayed about the weather. She and **Lonnie Rose** both heard that a tidal wave of change is coming.

**Tom Sarge:** Saw a man digging up a grave. New life is being replaced on that which is dead and lifeless.

**Mary Sarge:** Saw an eagle’s nest on top of the hotel. The mother eagle was taking care of three baby eaglets. “Pastor Sheila your mother nurturing anointing will be released at the conference.”

Pastor Sheila and the team are gearing up for yet another Gritty Women of God Conference and preparations as well as prayer are already going forth. God will once again be faithful to His word and set at liberty those that are bound, bring restoration and refreshing to those that are weary, as He releases the spirit of an “Overcomer” over women of all nations.

As we do our part to continue to pray and intercede on behalf of these women and hold up our founder and leader, Pastor Sheila and her team we create an avenue and an atmosphere for God’s plan, purpose and will to be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.

## MATTAH STICKS OR RODS FOR WORSHIP AND WARFARE (WHAT IS A MATTAH?)

By Pastor Sheila Bowling

### The Staff

It's worship and warfare! The Hebrew word for Staff is 'matteh,' sometimes spelled 'mattah.' It is used as an instrument of worship and intercession. It's defined as a branch, tribe, rod, staff, or standard (4294). The Staff is another worship tool that can display in the physical sphere what is being proclaimed in the spiritual realm.

The Staff is also translated as the 'rod of God,' and as used by Moses in Exodus 4:2, 4:4, 4:17, and 17:9. The Staff sets forth to declare that we belong to the Lord; and that those who believe can receive the Lord's power (Isaiah 53:1). The arm of the Lord represents His power, His hand, His authority (Exodus 3:20, Psalm 98:1, Psalm 110:2). As with Moses, God used a rod, aka staff, to perform miracles. God's power and authority were at the right hand of Moses. In Exodus 17:9-11, when Moses held up his hands and the rod, Israel prevailed. That word rod in the above scripture is *matteh*. We are not ascribing glory to the staff, but to the One whose power was revealed through the staff. It was, in essence, the power of God effecting change! In the hands of rulers and kings, the staff was called a scepter, which, again, symbolizes power and authority.

When used correctly, over time these instruments of warfare will have markings of a warrior...in other words they should not remain "pretty," but should have chips, dents, etc.

I believe if there is anything that I can say that would sum up the intention of not only the *Mattah* Sticks or Rods, but all worship tools in general, it's what God asked Moses in Exodus 4:2, "And the Lord said unto him, What [is] that in thine hand? And he said, a rod." **Whatever you have in your hand, God can use it to invoke His power, His presence, and His anointing.** So take up your *Mattah* Stick or Rod; take up your Worship Banner; take up your Worship Flag; take up your harp. Whatever it is, use it for His Glory. It is an extension of the Truth that is inside of you. My prayer for you is may the arm of the Lord be revealed in your worship and warfare!

The Lord many times will do something in our midst and then explain it to us after we have begun to move in it. This is the case with the *Mattah*. At a conference six feet decorated poles were at the Wings of Worship Ministry table in the lobby. At the time, I didn't understand exactly what they were about but I started to notice that these poles were being used during the worship at this conference. Each pole seemed to have a theme and name tag on them, representing different facets of our Lord's character.

Different poles were being used at different times during the worship in an intercessory fashion that would exalt the Lord's many facets of His personality and Name like, "The Lion of Judah." Others may have the tag, "Joy" or "Gatekeeper" or "Bridegroom" and oh, so many more. We are in a season, it seems, when unique and unusual arts and instruments are coming forth in our intercessory worship. Ministry teaches about the use of flags in worship and even has produced a video, which explains the use,

history and Biblical precedence for flags and banners, but we had not heard much contemporary teaching about the use of a pole or rod in worship.

As she explains, the first banners or ensigns, or standards used by the Israelites were not the kind of flags that we see used in worship today. The original ensign, standards or banners were actually poles that may have had the name of the patriarchal father on it, or the Israelite Tribe name on it, or maybe something tied to the top of it to represent the authority of that Tribe. As curiosity began to stir me, I was very aware that we needed to bring forth some teaching on the use of the Rod or Staff in scripture. As I began to search the scriptures, many examples began to surface. Begin a word study on Moses' Rod and see how often it is spoken of in scripture. Even in the study of Moses, it is only one small part of how the rod or staff was used in scripture. There are many occasions and many characters in the Word of God who used a rod or staff, including our Lord Jesus Christ! Exodus 4:2-4 "Then the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied. The Lord said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake and he ran from it. The Lord said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand." The staff became a sign from the Lord to the Israelites and to Pharaoh of the authority by which Moses would be sent to lead them from their captivity in Egypt.

As I looked up definitions in my Holman Bible Dictionary, I saw that the Staff was used as a walking stick and it was used to denote authority of a household or Tribe. The terrain was difficult to walk on and especially when traveling through the wilderness and the Staff gave stability to the one using it. Exodus 4:20 Notice that the staff is no longer referred to as Moses' Staff, but it is now referred to as the "Staff of God!"

This is what happens when the Lord begins to use whatever is in your hand for His purposes. What was a simple walking stick is now the "Staff of God" because God's authority has been released upon it for His purposes in leading the Israelites out of captivity. As I studied these scriptures, the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "I will take that which is ordinary and it will become extraordinary in My Hands!" That is what the Lord does in your life and mine. He takes little ole us and we become the Rod of God in His hands in our worship and intercession! The Rod in and of itself had no power or authority, but under God's instruction to Moses, it was used for many purposes. It is the same for us. These rods are simply dowel rods from Home Depot that have been decorated with beads, strips of leather, feathers, ribbons or fur in order to express an attribute of God's nature. Of themselves they have no power, but in the hands of God's worshippers and intercessors in the midst of worship, the power of prayer and worship is of great power before the Lord. Just as Miriam worshiped with the timbrel when they had crossed the Red Sea, the Timbrel had no power of itself, but it was an instrument of worship in Miriam's hands. So it is when we worship with the *Mattah*, or Rod.

If you have a Thompson's Chain reference Bible, this writer would suggest that you follow the chain references on Moses' Staff. You will be surprised at all the ways God used it.

The rod was used to strike the Rock for the water to pour out for the people to drink. (Exodus 17:5,6). The Rod was used to touch the bitter waters and they were made sweet for the Israelites to drink. It was the tool that Moses had in his hand that God chose to use with great power and authority.

The Amalekites defeated in Exodus 17:9  
Moses held the Staff or Rod of God in his hands up over his head during this battle. When his hands grew tired the Amalekites began to defeat the Israelites, but as the intercessors or priests, Aaron and Hur held up Moses hands, the Israelites prevailed.

Our posture of worship many times is with uplifted hands. When Moses hands held the Rod of God up, they prevailed. Who knows what happens in the heavenly realm, when we have uplifted arms before the Lord, or hold up the Rod during worship with uplifted hands!

We don't see everything that happens in the spiritual realm, but when God says to do something, there is power in our obedience before Him.

### ***II Kings 13:15-19***

*"Elisha said, "Get a bow and some arrows," and he did so. Take the bow in your hands, he said to the King of Israel. When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. Open the east window, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot.*

*The Lord's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!" Elisha declared. "You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek." Then he said, "Take the arrows," and the King took them. Elisha told him, "Strike the ground." He struck it three times and stopped. The man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times."*

Do you see what happened?

The king struck the ground with the arrows that he shot! If he had only struck the ground five or six times, he would have completely destroyed his enemies!!

Striking the ground has the implication of staking a claim! Striking the ground says, "This far and no more!"

Striking the ground says this land has been bought and we are enforcing the Authority of the Kingdom of God!

Striking the ground says, we are free in His Name and no oppressor will place us back into bondage.

The arrows became the rod in the hands of the king, but for us we will strike the ground many more times than the king did and proclaim the Name of Jesus with every blow!!

The Rod or *Mattah* says His authority, rule and reign has now come!!

*(Some information adapted from Donna Kelly)*



### **Words from Intercessory Prayer**

*Tom Sarge*

I saw giant walls and the walls were being held back by the intercessors but there were not many intercessors, there were only a handful. God is also saying, "Where are My Intercessors and where are My watchman?" God is wanting people to rise up and pray.

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People have a tendency to separate the youth from the elderly. We have all been called to be one and support one another. God is calling us together so that we are walking together and working together being helpers of each other.

**To submit a prayer request email us**

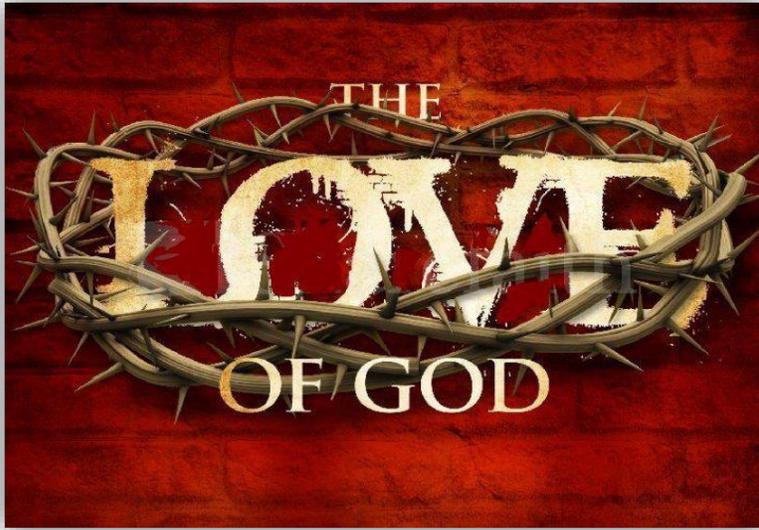
**@ [ercprayeralerts.org](mailto:ercprayeralerts.org)**

**or**

**[eaglerock.org/prayerrequests.html](http://eaglerock.org/prayerrequests.html)**

## PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

By Chinwe Okpalaoka



It is the evening before a big meeting at work and I remember that my meetings with this particular group of people usually bring up feelings of apprehension and discomfort about the dynamics of the interaction and the direction in which our discussions will go. And then the Holy Spirit brings to remembrance these words: *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love* (1 John 4:18).

In a passage that reminds us to love one another because of the love that God, himself, has for us, the Holy Spirit finds this nugget of truth and reminds me that there is no fear in love. Why should I be afraid when I am a certified child of the living God? *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us (me) that we (I) should be called the sons (daughter) of God* (1 John 3:1). I immediately thank God for the peace which comes from knowing that I can entrust God with this too. I am assured that He will give me the right words to say and that He will even direct the meeting himself. And He did just that. And guess what? I just sat back and watched God do what only He can do.

He took an ordinary meeting and directed it to the glory of His name. I did not have to fight. When Jehoshaphat was facing the invasion of a vast army, we are told that “the Spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly” (2 Chronicles 20:14). And what did he tell Jehoshaphat to calm his fears? “You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you” (2 Chronicles 20:17).

Beloved, whatever you are facing today- no matter how small or big it is- just rest in the assurance that God loves you; that He is on your side. And if He is for you, NO ONE can be against you.

## A TESTIMONY OF GOD’S LOVE

By Mary Sarge

About a year and a half ago the Lord spoke a word that the Intercessors needed to rise up in neighborhoods. I really took it serious and began to pray every day for my neighborhood.

Each morning as I prayed for my neighborhood, I would bind the spirit of murder, confusion, strife, theft, drug dealing and drug use, alcohol use, sexual perversion, and racism. Then I would ask the Holy Spirit to intervene in the lives of every person in my neighborhood. I asked Him to put the right laborer in their paths to speak about Jesus to them. I loosed clarity of mind of the people, love, joy, and peace, brotherly love, speaking to one another, being kind to one another, and racial harmony.

God began to move in such a powerful way in my neighborhood. Tom and I had a neighbor that had not spoken to us in 17 years. We had tried to reach out on several occasions but to no avail. About two weeks ago, Tom was mowing the lawn and our lawnmower broke. The same neighbor was mowing his yard and stopped and came over. He told Tom that he had an extra mower that he could use and brought it over. Tom thanked him for his generosity and as he was once again mowing, the neighbor came over again and told home. Praise God prayer works.

Tom to just keep that mower because he had another one at

Today in my neighborhood people are stopping and speaking to each other, there is no more strife, people are being kind, we have no more thefts, we haven’t had a window broken, people are keeping better lawns, taking better care of their houses and I have not seen a racial issue. God is true to His word when we are obedient.

Praise God for His love flowing through this neighborhood. He deserves all the glory. Prayer works and prayer changes things. Isaiah 1:19-20 King James Version (KJV). If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

Thank You God for Your faithfulness.

