



“Fighting to Win in Spiritual Warfare”

Bishop Frank and JoeNell Summerfield

Texts: Revelation 12:1-17, Ephesians 6:10-18, II Corinth 10:3-5, I Peter 4:1-2, Luke 10:19, James 4:7-8, I Peter 5:8-11, Matthew 11:11-12, Matthew 17:14-21, Mark 9:14-29

Many times we fail to realize that many of the tests, trials, circumstances, and oppositions we face or experience even though physical, financial, or even emotional come from a spiritual origin and are attacks from our enemy: the devil. Even John 10:10 says the thief which is the devil only comes to steal, kill, and destroy us and those close to us.

In fact, his spiritual attacks are designed to kill our joy, peace, health, wealth, divine destiny and anything God has divinely ordained for our lives.

We must literally rise up, and take a bold stand against Satan’s attacks and **Fight the Good Fight of Faith** as I Timothy 6:12 tells us.

Sometimes our children and other adults close to us aren’t able to Fight off the enemy’s attacks alone. Therefore we must fight for ourselves and them to gain victory over the lies and deceptive devices of the devil.

The devil knows if he can hinder or block our Faith he can imprison us to his attack devices of fear, doubt, worry, depression, confusion, hopelessness, etc. He knows if we believe and

hold firmly to our belief all things are possible according to Mark 9:23, and nothing is impossible according to Matthew 17:20. We must **Fight the Good Fight of Faith** no matter what demonic forces or devices he brings against us, and we must never stop believing God will deliver us and those we are fighting for. For strength and encouragement read Psalm 34:17-20, and Psalm 33:18-19.

I Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Hearing God’s word constantly enables you to **Fight the Good Fight of Faith** because **Faith Comes by Hearing** according to Romans 10:17.

A careful look at the word Fight shows us that it comes originally from the Greek word *agonidzomahee* and means: to compete for a prize, to contend with adversaries that are contrary to the gospel, to endeavor to accomplish something, to labor fervently by, to strive, the task of faith in preserving amid temptation, trials, tests, and opposition; also implies hindrances in the development of the Christian life.

Even though our enemy’s power is inferior to the authority God’s given us according to Luke 10:19 he does operate very effectively by deception, his main weapon if we don’t know

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and apply Gods’ word as we should. In fact, his attack devices are of a deceptive nature at all times, especially in our minds.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

The devil knows that if we ever realize and assert the authority we have over his deceptive powers he has to let go, flee, back off, STOP!! That’s why he continually attacks our minds to deceive us out of knowing we have authority over all he’s trying to do to us.

In Revelation 12:7-9, and 17 we can see how he was cast to the earth to deceive the whole world, and to make war with God’s remnant last day seed of the church which is us God’s kingdom heirs and kings and priests as we are declared to be in Romans 8:17, and Revelation 5:10.

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8: And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9: And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and

Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

10: And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

11: And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Jesus did His job by dying sacrificially to provide **The Blood of The Lamb**. It’s our job to provide the words of our testimony by actively and radically maintaining our words of confession, declaration, and testimony of what God says about our life, health, wealth, deliverance, victory, etc. no matter what the challenge. It’s tough but with God’s grace, mercy, and love we can do it.

II Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

We can clearly see in II Corinthians 10:3-5 that the main focal attack place the devil hits is our minds. He knows Proverbs 23:7 says, as we think, so are we. He knows if we’re carnal it

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can kill us according to Romans 8:5-7. Carnality opens the door to the attacks of the devil, allowing fear, doubt, worry and discouragement to set in. We must get a firm grip on our minds no matter what. We must develop and maintain a sober and sound mind that processes God's life changing word more than the carnal thoughts of fear, doubt, worry, depression, discouragement, defeat, and death. See even victory over death in Job 33:18-25, Psalm 9:13, Psalm 30:1-3, Psalm 49:15, Psalm 56:13, Psalm 116:8, Hosea 13:14, Habakkuk 1:12.

I Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

We must exercise mind discipline and control at all times no matter what. Our mind is the devil's attack point because everything we ever do, be, have, or create and master is there. It's the headquarters for our life.

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Please note that the devil is counting on you not using your spiritual weapon of The Mind of Christ that Philippians 2:5 and I Corinthians 2:16 say you have. He's counting on you being carnally minded, ruled by your flesh, and killing yourself as Romans 8:5-7 says. Therefore you must feed your mind the word of God constantly so that you'll be armed with God's armor to defend against the wicked devices and attacks by the devil of deception.

II Corinthians 10 continued.

5: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Remember, man's knowledge and the natural data and facts it produces are inferior to God's divine, eternal, supernatural thoughts contained in and expressed by His word because according to John 1:1 God is His word and His word is Him.

Notice how Peter declares we must actually arm ourselves against the devil with the same mind Jesus has in order to Fight and win in spiritual warfare.

I Peter 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm

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yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

In **Fighting to Win in Spiritual Warfare** we must realize the importance of resistance. In fact one of the most important weapons we are equipped with in spiritual warfare is the power to resist in our minds. With **The Mind of Christ, The Holy Ghost, and God’s Word** stored in our mind and spirit we can stand and resist the devil’s deceptive attacks to our minds of fear, doubt, worry, discouragement, depression, confusion, negativity, or hopelessness. We must do what Hebrews 10:23 says and hold fast to our confession of faith without wavering or doubting because God is faithful and will watch over His word to perform it, and make a way out of no way for us to escape. Please see I Corinthians 10:13 and Jeremiah 1:12.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8: Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

It should be noted that the term double minded comes from the Greek word *dip-soo-khas*, and means: two spirited, vacillating in

opinion or purpose, doubting, waverer, unstable person.

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

A very powerful but unrealized weapon for **Fighting To Win in Spiritual Warfare** is **Divine Love** even though it may not seem like a weapon at all. Many times the devil attacks our emotions in our mind with bitterness, resentment, anger, unforgiveness, strife, selfishness, etc.

When we walk in divine love we can prevent those negative emotions from influencing how we relate to and treat people. The spiritual wickedness, principalities, and rulers of the darkness found in Ephesians 6:10-18 constantly attack relationships between husbands and wives, parents and children, fellow laborers in the kingdom and local church, and others. Meditating on and maintaining the characteristics of divine love found in I Corinthians 13:1-13 will enable you to stand against Satan’s attacks in your mind that will generate ill feelings toward others that

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can block your faith for victory and deliverance because our Faith has to work by love according to Galatians 5:6.

Fighting to Win in Spiritual Warfare requires **self-denial**, **self-discipline** and **self-sacrifice**, but can yield big results. Jesus told his disciples when He cast the evil spirit out of the boy in Matthew 17:14-21, and Mark 9:14-29, that that kind of demonic attack comes out only by adequate prayer and fasting. Please read carefully and study these verses carefully.

Another very powerful weapon in **Fighting to Win in Spiritual Warfare** is corporate praise and worship at the House of God. A good example of this truth is found in II Chronicles 20:1-25. God supernaturally caused all the demonically empowered enemies coming against the king and all Judah to destroy each other and leave all their wealth and victory spoils to Jehoshaphat and the whole congregation. It was the supernatural anointing and power of corporate prayer and fasting, and praise and worship that caused miracle destruction of the enemy and miracle victory, deliverance, and prosperity.

In Ephesians 6:10-18, Paul writes and teaches very clearly about the high-ranking demonic forces that we must wrestle with in spiritual warfare. He also gives clear insight on what

our defense position weapons are as well as what we do offensively.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

We must rely on the supernatural strength that Colossians 1:11 declares we have been empowered with. This strength is the very strength of God Himself.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

The armor of God is His Holy word that we should saturate our life with to have a defense system against the deceptive tricks of the devil. When Jesus had to confront the devil with major temptation, He prepared Himself prior to the confrontation with extensive fasting and prayer. Then, when the devil tried to tempt Him, He countered his efforts with the spoken word. We too must be empowered and armed with the spoken word to counter the devil's attacks with the strength and power of the word. You can see times when Jesus was confronted in Matthew 4:1-11, and Luke 4:1-13. Notice also in Luke 4:1 that it says Jesus was full of the Holy Ghost. That makes it clear that we need to be filled with the same Holy Ghost as declared in Acts 1:8 because it's

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also a Vital Weapon in Spiritual Warfare.

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

As can clearly be seen in this verse the enemy is attacking with high-ranking demonic entities in the spiritual warfare he brings against us. For this reason, it is essential that we know, have, and use the Vital Weapons for Spiritual Warfare.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

You must know and stand in God’s truth to successfully counter the attacks of the devil. He wants to make you bound but John 8:32 says God’s truth will make you free from his attempts to put you in bondage.

Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
16 Above all, taking the shield of faith,

wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

You must keep your faith alive and active by hearing the spoken word of God. (Romans 10:17).

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

As we come to the closing of this teaching, we must stress the importance of not letting the devil deceive you into disobedience to God. He knows that disobedience will bring curses and cancel the blessings God intends for us to have. When the devil can deceive you enough to disobey God, he can cause you to fall and fail because you’ll be cursed instead of blessed. See Deuteronomy 28:1-68, Deuteronomy 30:1-10, Deuteronomy 11:26-28, and Job 36:10-11.

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