



# Lesson 22

## Stand In Victory

### ENEMY WARFARE

The warfare, which Christians are to fight against Satan and his demons, is called the GOOD WARFARE (1 Tim. 1:18-20), the GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH (1 Tim. 6:11-14) and the GOOD RACE (Heb. 12:1, 1 Cor. 9:24).

Good warfare consists of a "never letting go" type of faith, a clean heart, and a sound mind.

In 1 Timothy 6:11-14, Paul encourages Timothy to fight the good fight of faith by not craving material things; to pursue after: righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and humility, and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

In Hebrews 12:1-2, we are called to run the race with PATIENCE, always looking to and leaning on Jesus to help us persevere to the end.

We may expect the enemy to attack if we:

1. Follow doctrine that does not line up with the Word,
2. Constantly strive for things of this world, choose to not love,
3. Do not trust Christ to come through,
4. Loose our patience,
5. Are not walking with a pure heart,
6. Do not have peace with those around us,
7. Are bitter or resentful or become rebellious toward God.

## GREATEST BATTLEFIELDS

### MIND

Our minds may be one of the greatest battlegrounds in today's culture. We have so much around us trying to define who we are. What we choose to listen to determines what we will believe about ourselves, our circumstances, and other people. We are instructed to "take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5) There are three sources from which our thoughts originate. First, our thoughts can come from ourselves. God gave each of us the ability to produce thoughts. Secondly, they can come from God. God reveals Himself by His small still voice, revelation, or guidance. When He speaks to our mind, it ALWAYS lines up with His Word. The last source is the enemy. Have you ever watched "Tom and Jerry" where Tom, the cat, has a devil on one side of his ear and an angel on the other side of his ear? Both were whispering thoughts into his mind- which one was he going to listen to? Satan and his crew work very similarly. He cannot read our minds but he and his demons have studied our moves and patterns. He is a quick learner who knows our weaknesses. The enemy weaves thoughts that contradict God and His Word. He seeks to steal, kill, and destroy us in all ways by suggesting thoughts, which results in us looking through a distorted lens. So, what do we do? You are the gatekeeper to your thoughts! Do your thoughts line up with The Word?

All of us want our lives to matter. But if we are honest, most days feel like we are not significant. We are not sure of ourselves. We cannot help but let our mistakes and our weaknesses define who we are. The enemy loves when we try to find our value in people, what we do, our appearance or any other temporary thing that will not be our solution. When we let these external things define us, our identity will always change. Depending on what we are feeling or what we perceive to be true at that moment will ultimately define who we are. This way always leads to discouragement, fear, failure, insecurity, and the list goes on. But, there is only one TRUE SOURCE who can point out who we are and who we are becoming. We have to look at ourselves through The One who created us. Romans 1:25 tells us that we have to stop listening to the lies of the enemy and exchange it for The Truth- who God's Word says we are. We have to look through the lens of Jesus and this is what He has to say about us...

**I AM A CHILD OF GOD!** SEE HOW VERY MUCH OUR FATHER LOVES US, FOR HE CALLS US HIS CHILDREN, AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE! 1 JOHN 3:1 (NLT)

**I AM FORGIVEN!** HE HAS NOT DEALT WITH US AS OUR SINS DESERVE OR REPAID US ACCORDING TO OUR OFFENSES. FOR AS HIGH AS THE HEAVENS ARE ABOVE THE EARTH, SO GREAT IS HIS FAITHFUL LOVE TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. AS FAR AS THE EAST IS FROM THE WEST, SO FAR HAS HE REMOVED OUR TRANSGRESSIONS FROM US. AS A FATHER HAS COMPASSION ON HIS CHILDREN, SO THE LORD HAS COMPASSION ON THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.  
PSALM 103:10-13 (HCSB)

**I AM FREE FROM GUILT AND SHAME!** THEREFORE, NO CONDEMNATION NOW EXISTS FOR THOSE IN CHRIST JESUS. ROMANS 8:1 (HCSB)

**I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE!** I WILL PRAISE YOU BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN REMARKABLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE. PSALM 139:14 (HCSB)

**I AM A NEW CREATION. THE OLD IS DEAD!** THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATION; OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY, AND LOOK, NEW THINGS HAVE COME. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (HCSB)

**I AM FREE!** THEREFORE, IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE, YOU REALLY WILL BE FREE. JOHN 8:36 (HCSB)

**I AM GOD'S FRIEND!** I DO NOT CALL YOU SLAVES ANYMORE, BECAUSE A SLAVE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HIS MASTER IS DOING. I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS, BECAUSE I HAVE MADE KNOWN TO YOU EVERYTHING I HAVE HEARD FROM MY FATHER. JOHN 15:15 (HCSB)

**I AM VICTORIOUS!** BUT YOU BELONG TO GOD, MY DEAR CHILDREN. YOU HAVE ALREADY WON A VICTORY OVER THOSE PEOPLE, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN YOU IS GREATER THAN THE SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN THE WORLD. 1 JOHN 4:4 (NLT)

**I AM A LIGHT!** FOR YOU ARE ALL SONS OF LIGHT AND SONS OF THE DAY. WE DO NOT BELONG TO THE NIGHT OR THE DARKNESS. 1 THESSALONIANS 5:5 (HCSB)

**I AM A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN** BUT OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH WE ALSO EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. PHILIPPIANS 3:20 (HCSB)

## HEART

Another battleground is our heart. The heart is so important to what we think, say, and do.

GUARD YOUR HEART ABOVE ALL ELSE, FOR IT IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE. PROVERBS 4:23 (HCSB)

When referring to the heart, we are talking about our desires, emotions, and attitudes. Remember the armor of God? The breastplate of righteousness and the helmet of salvation are two critical pieces of armor to keep us alive. We can lose a limb in battle, but if something happens to our head or heart, we are taken out. As we put on Christ's breastplate of righteousness, the truth has been revealed to our hearts and we act out of that truth. We are declaring to heaven and hell that we know whose we are and who we are! Below are just a few areas where there could be cracks in our breastplate:

**NEGATIVE ATTITUDES-** Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. Many of us have never learned to rejoice in the difficult times. We are always looking for the worst cases scenarios. We doubt and fear because we do not have faith. Jesus died for us so that we can experience unspeakable joy! Putting off the old-self and putting on the new-self (Eph. 4:22-24) means taking responsibility daily to deal with negativity and bad attitudes.

**NEGATIVE EMOTIONS-** God created you to have emotions. They were designed to be the gauge for your heart, not your guide to life. Many of us live our lives like our emotions are our boss. But, God intended your emotions to be a report on what is going on in our hearts. Remember, our battle is NOT against flesh and blood but against the evil unseen forces. The devil loves to inspire negative emotions. Our emotions reveal what our heart really trusts, loves, fears, and worships. When a negative emotion rises up, ask Holy Spirit to reveal truth in the situation and fight back the enemy with God's promises.

**WORRY-** When we worry, it promotes fear and unbelief. We cannot worry and trust God at the same time. It is impossible. George Mueller, a 19th century evangelist and a man known for his great faith, said, "The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety." When we fear, it basically says to God "I do not believe You will come through for me." The enemy instills fear by challenging the promises of God. But, God calls us to "cast all your anxiety on Him." (1 Peter 5:7) Why? Because He is faithful. He is good. He will come through! What promises of God is the enemy challenging and thus creating worry in you? Meditate on God's Word. Rebuke the enemy in the Name of Jesus and stand on God's Word.

**BITTERNESS / UNFORGIVENESS-** Every one of us has been hurt in some form or fashion. The enemy wants us to hold onto our pain. He wants us to fester over all things bad that have happened to us and, thus, planting deep roots of bitterness and unforgiveness against our offender.

WATCH OUT THAT NO POISONOUS ROOT OF BITTERNESS GROWS UP TO TROUBLE YOU, CORRUPTING MANY. HEBREWS 12:15 (NLT)

Bitterness is a spring of poison that not only affects you but all those around you. But we can defeat the enemy when our lives are not dictated by our circumstances but by how we choose to face them. No matter if we have been betrayed, disrespected, physically hurt, overlooked, or abandoned, God calls us to forgive. Forgiveness is not a feeling; it is a choice. As we forgive, bitterness cannot take root.

THEN PETER CAME TO HIM AND ASKED, "LORD, HOW OFTEN SHOULD I FORGIVE SOMEONE WHO SINS AGAINST ME? SEVEN TIMES?" "NO, NOT SEVEN TIMES," JESUS REPLIED, "BUT SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN!" MATTHEW 18:21-22(NLT)

Jesus was not implying to forgive that person 490 times and then on the 491th time we can go back to being bitter. No, He was implying that we are to forgive infinitely!

**Forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a choice**

**We will not experience victory every day if we do not deal with wrong attitudes in our hearts. Guard your heart. Act on the truth.**

## MOUTH

Our words bring life or death. Blessing or curse.

AND SO BLESSING AND CURSING COME POURING OUT OF THE SAME MOUTH.  
JAMES 3:10 (NLT)

If we believe that when we pray, the sick can be healed and the lost will be saved, what power is being released when we criticize, complain, and gossip? When times are challenging, are we loyal to the character of God with our mouths? Or are we partnering with Satan? If we are struggling with our mouths, ask The Lord for a supernatural muzzle. Ask Him to open your mouth when words are to be released, and shut it when we are to stay quiet.

## WARFARE RECAP:

STAY ALERT! WATCH OUT FOR YOUR GREAT ENEMY, THE DEVIL. HE PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR. 1 PETER 5:8 (NLT)

We are called to put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD so we can stand against the schemes of the enemy. (Eph. 6:12-13)

Direct attacks of the enemy (2 Cor. 2:11; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 12:17) may come as:

**Pain or suffering** (2 Cor. 12:7, 4:11-17; 1 Peter 5:10; Rev. 2:10) of the mind or body

**Through people** (Matt. 24:24; Mark 13:22; James 2:6; Ps. 38:19, 56:2, 59:3)

**Through the world** (John 16:33)

**Through friends and relatives** (Mic. 7:6; Matt. 10:35-36)

**Through death** (1 Cor. 15:26)

Another type of spiritual warfare happens when we partner with Satan (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:12-14; Rev. 2:20) or when someone in our family line (generational sin) has done so and we have not known how to fight or win. (Ex. 20:5-6, 34:7) This kind of warfare can be won only as we repent, seek God's face, and take authority He gives us in His Word to free ourselves. (Mark 6:13, 17-20)

## HOW DO WE AVOID ATTACKS FROM THE ENEMY?

### WHEN WE SIN, WE AVOID WARFARE BY:

Repenting

Listening to God's voice

Choosing NOT to sin

Never turning from God

Being moldable clay in God's hands and not rebelling

### WE AVOID WARFARE PRODUCED BY SATANIC ATTACK BY:

Resisting the devil or the people he is influencing against us

Standing firm. NEVER BACK DOWN!

Putting on the whole armor of God- KNOW Ephesians 6:13-18

### WEAPONS TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY:

The name of Jesus

The Word of God

Blood of Jesus

Praise

Putting on the armor of God (and keeping on humility)



## IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

The Word says we will all experience warfare in our lifetimes. But, we must stand firm and fight!

If we keep our hearts pure, our minds sound, and an unwavering faith, we walk in strength and victory no matter what warfare we encounter!

IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN EVER BE AGAINST US? SINCE HE DID NOT SPARE EVEN HIS OWN SON BUT GAVE HIM UP FOR US ALL, WON'T HE ALSO GIVE US EVERYTHING ELSE?... CAN ANYTHING EVER SEPARATE US FROM CHRIST'S LOVE? DOES IT MEAN HE NO LONGER LOVES US IF WE HAVE TROUBLE OR CALAMITY, OR ARE PERSECUTED, OR HUNGRY, OR DESTITUTE, OR IN DANGER, OR THREATENED WITH DEATH? (AS THE SCRIPTURES SAY, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED EVERY DAY; WE ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED LIKE SHEEP") NO, DESPITE ALL THESE THINGS, OVERWHELMING VICTORY IS OURS THROUGH CHRIST, WHO LOVED US. AND I AM CONVINCED THAT NOTHING CAN EVER SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE. NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE, NEITHER ANGELS OR DEMONS, NEITHER OUR FEARS FOR TODAY OR OUR WORRIES ABOUT TOMORROW- NOT EVEN THE POWERS OF HELL CAN SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S LOVE. NO POWER IN THE SKY ABOVE OR IN THE EARTH BELOW- INDEED, NOTHING IN ALL CREATION WILL EVER BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD THAT IS REVEALED IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. ROMANS 8:31-32, 35-39 (NLT)

**GOD IS ALWAYS ON OUR SIDE.  
WE ARE NEVER SEPARATED FROM HIM!**

### IN CONCLUSION:

GOD OPPOSES THE PROUD BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. SO HUMBLE YOURSELVES UNDER THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD, AND AT THE RIGHT TIME HE WILL LIFT YOU UP IN HONOR. GIVE ALL YOUR WORRIES AND CARES TO GOD, FOR HE CARES ABOUT YOU. STAY ALERT! WATCH OUT FOR YOUR GREAT ENEMY, THE DEVIL. HE PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION, LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR. STAND FIRM AGAINST HIM, AND BE STRONG IN YOUR FAITH. 1 PETER 5:5-9 (NLT)

When we take a stand against unbelief, fear, and pride, we disarm Satan and his entourage. How do we do so? When we experience fear and unbelief, it is "casting ALL of our anxieties on Him." The word "give" in 1 Peter 5:7 means to quickly throw something with great force. We are not meant to hold onto our worries and unbelief. Giving all our worries and cares is living a life with our palms up, surrendered, and trusting God in every single detail of our lives. Every time you are worried or doubting, quickly toss it into Jesus' hands. You were not designed to carry it! When it comes to pride, act in the opposite: walk in humility. Being humble is not just thinking less of ourselves. Walking in humility recognizes God for who He is: The Almighty, The Savior, The Creator, The Holy One. Humility is saying "I was being prideful; I am sorry." Satan roars and we move into action. He roars and we are angry, sad, worried, and the list goes on. Today, let's STAND FIRM against the roars of the enemy! When he roars, use the tools God has given to you.

## SUGGESTED MORNING PRAYER

Use this is a suggestion for prayer every morning as or before your feet hit the floor!

Father, I submit myself to You today for Your plans and purposes. I love You and I pledge allegiance to You and Your Kingdom. Forgive me of all my sins, known and unknown. I thank You for the blood of Jesus that washes me (us) from my (our) sins. (Rev. 1:5) I thank You that I am forgiven. (1 John 1:9) I forgive those who sin against me. (Matt. 6:12, 12, 15)

I resist you, Satan, and according to the Word of God, you must flee from me! (James 4:7)

I put on the whole armor of God: my helmet of salvation; my breastplate of righteousness. I gird my loins with the belt of truth. I shod my feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. I take up my shield of faith and my sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And I strike down every fiery dart Satan sends my way. I pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and request. I am alert. (Ephesians 6:10-18). I set my will to be obedient to everything You tell me to do. I appropriate the benefits of the blood of Jesus over myself (and my family) and all that concerns me (us). I receive all that was accomplished on the cross of Jesus Christ for me (and my family).

In the name of Jesus and in the authority He gives (Luke 10:19), I break every hex, vex, spell, incantation, all voodoo, black magic, white magic, prayers of witches and warlocks, all psychic and soul-ish prayers, all forms of witchcraft, all negative words and words curses, and all the negative soul ties sent out against me (us). I break your power, cancel your assignments and effects, and render you powerless in the mighty name of Jesus.

Father, I ask You to send out angels on my (our) behalf today, (Hebrews 1:14), to keep me (us) on the paths of righteousness for Your namesake and to go before me (us) to help me (us) accomplish everything You would have me (us) do today. I bind my (our) body, soul, and spirit to Your will, Lord Jesus. (Matthew 16:19) Order my (our) steps, Lord, and use me (us) for Your glory. May others see Jesus in my life today. **Amen.**