

## FIGHTING SPIRITUAL WARFARE (4/27/2015)

### OUR WEAPON - SPEAKING GOD'S WORD:

"...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:18 NLT

"[One like the son of man] held seven stars in his right hand, and **a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth**. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance." Revelation 1:16 NLT

**"For the word of God is living and active [alive and powerful]**, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from His [the word of God's] sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."  
Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV

"In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God Himself**." John 1:1 AMP

"Behold! I [Jesus] **have given you authority and power to trample ... over all the power that the enemy [possesses];** and nothing shall in any way harm you." Luke 10:19 AMP

"So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, **for [the word of God] has the power to save your souls**." James 1:21 NLT

"Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! *Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"*" Zechariah 3:1-2

### THIS PASSAGE IS A COMBINATION OF **MATTHEW 4: 1-11 (ESV) IN BLUE TEXT & LUKE 4: 1-13 (ESV) IN BLACK TEXT.**

"Then Jesus [full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and] **was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil**. And He ate nothing during those [forty days and forty nights]. And when they were ended, **he was hungry**. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But He answered, "**It is written**, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

*Jesus used the Word of God to fight Satan, so shouldn't we! And when the devil realized what weapon Jesus was using to fight him back, the devil tried to use that same weapon for his counter attack by manipulating the true meaning of God's word. Don't be deceived, the devil takes God's word out of context, for the devil is liar!*

***Notice how Jesus correctly applied God's word to the circumstance, and won the battle!***

“Then the devil took Him to the holy city [Jerusalem] and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down [from here], for **it is written**, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ Jesus said to him, “Again **it is written**, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

“And the devil took him up [to a very high mountain] and showed him all the kingdoms of the world [and their glory] in a moment of time, and [the devil] said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will [fall down and] worship me, it will all be yours.” Then Jesus said to him, “**Be gone, Satan! For it is written**, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

*This temptation was real, it was the ‘easy’ way out for Jesus to receive the authority man gave to Satan without having to endure the cross, which was God’s will for his life. In Matthew 26:39, Jesus prayed to God the Father that his cup of betrayal and death would pass from Him, but He submitted to God’s will, saying, ‘not as I will, but as you will.’ In John 18:11, didn’t Jesus say, “shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”*

“And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. [When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came. NLT] [Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.]”

*Just because you won the fight against the devil today, he will come back later at the next opportunity, so don’t give him one! And he might come back with reinforcements, see Matthew 12:43-45.*

“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it [goes into the desert and] passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, ‘I will return to my house [the person] from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation.” Matthew 12:43-45

*Notice, it didn’t say the house appeared to be empty, swept, and put in order, it actually was! But the devil and his evil spirits the demons, will wait patiently for the next opportunity [when you’re tired and weak] to tempt you, with the intent to take back [steal] control of your life which God had already saved and made new.*

## **WHO IS OUR ENEMY?:**

“Simon, Simon (Peter), **Satan** has asked [demanded - that you be given up to him] to sift each of you like wheat. **But I [Jesus] have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon (Peter), that your faith should not fail.** So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:31-32 NLT

“For we are not fighting [wrestling] against flesh-and-blood enemies [physical opponents], but against **evil rulers and authorities** of the unseen world, against **mighty powers** in this dark world, and against **evil spirits** in the heavenly (supernatural) places.” Ephesians 6:12 NLT

“And **the dragon [called the devil and Satan]** was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:17

“Therefore we wanted to come to you-even I, Paul, time and again- but **Satan** hindered us.”

1 Thessalonians 2:18

## **YOU, STAND AGAINST THE DEVIL!:**

“**[You] be sober-minded, [you] be vigilant [watchful and cautious];** because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **[You] resist [stand firm against] him, steadfast [strong] in the faith,** knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” 1 Peter 5:8-9

“**[Your enemy] who scatters [who dashes into pieces] has come up [against you] before your face [to crush you], [You] man the fort! [You] watch the road! [You] strengthen your flanks! [You] fortify your power mightily.** Even though the destroyer has destroyed Judah, the LORD will restore its honor. Israel’s vine has been stripped of branches, but [the Lord] will restore its splendor.” Nahum 2:1-2

“Don’t let evil conquer you, but **[You] conquer evil by doing good.**” Romans 12:21

“**[You] do not let sin control the way you live;** do not give in to sinful desires.” Romans 6:12

“**[You] resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.”

James 4:7-8

“**[You] be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; and [you] be strong in his mighty power [draw your strength from Him, that strength which His boundless might provides]. [You] put on all of God’s armor [which He supplies] so that you will be able to [successfully] stand firm against all the strategies [schemes, deceits] of the devil.**” Ephesians 6:10-11

## **HOW DO YOU RESIST THE DEVIL?**

“Therefore, **[you] put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist [withstand] the enemy** in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.” Ephesians 6:13

**Live in the TRUTH** - *put on the belt of truth,*

**Live with INTEGRITY** - *put on the body armor of integrity, moral rectitude, and right standing with God,*

**Live with PEACE** - *put on the shoes of peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability],*

**Live with FAITH in God's word** - *hold up the shield of **faith** to stop [all] the fiery arrows of the devil,*

**Live, recognizing you're SAVED from sin and death** - *put on **salvation** as your helmet,*

**Live, speaking GOD'S WORD** - *take the sword of the Spirit, which is the **word of God.***

Ephesians 6:13-18 NLT

## **AS GOD'S CHILD, THE ENEMY WILL NOT RULE YOU!**

"Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated *and* overcome [the agents of the antichrist], because **He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who is in the world.**"

1 John 4:4 AMP

"For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? **Only someone even stronger [and we are stronger, who have God's Spirit within us]**— [this] someone could tie [Satan] up and then plunder his house [of everything he has stolen]." Matthew 12:29 NLT

"**For sin will have no dominion over you [sin is no longer your master],** since you are not under law but under grace." Romans 6:14

"We know that God's children do not make a practice of sinning, for **God's Son holds [His children] securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.** We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one." 1 John 5:18-19 NLT

"You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! **Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.**"

Genesis 4:7 NLT

## **ESCAPE THE DEVIL'S TRAP!**

"Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth [God's word]. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. **For they have been held captive by him [the devil] to do whatever he wants.**" 2 Timothy 2:25-26 NLT

## **DON'T LET THE DEVIL HAVE A FOOTHOLD IN YOUR LIFE:**

"Leave no [such] room *or* foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him]." Ephesians 4:27 AMP

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6

"lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 2:11

## **KEEP YOURSELF FAR FROM EVIL:**

“A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident.” Proverbs 14:16

“Do not be wise in your own eyes; **fear the Lord and depart from evil**. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.” Proverbs 3:7-8

“Blessed are those who **fear to do wrong**, but the stubborn are headed for serious trouble.”  
Proverbs 28:14 NLT

“A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; the simple pass on and are punished.” Proverbs 27:12

“Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on.” Proverbs 4:14-15

“Israel has sinned and broken my covenant [God’s word]! ... That is why the Israelites are running from their enemies in defeat. ... **Get up! Command the people to purify themselves ... You will never defeat your enemies until you remove these things [accursed things] from among you.**”

Joshua 7:11a, 12a, 13a,c NLT

## **DON'T LET THE DEVIL IN YOUR HOME!:**

“He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.” Psalm 101:7 [*Isn't Satan the father of lies! John 8:44*]

“Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.” Deuteronomy 7:26

“For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. **Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, [let your lives be so in contrast as to] expose them.**” Ephesians 5:8-11 NLT

## **CLEANSE YOUR HEART FROM SIN - WHICH IS THE WORK OF THE DEVIL:**

“A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.” Proverbs 25:28 NLT

“Its walls are patrolled day and night against invaders, but the real danger is wickedness within the city.”  
Psalm 55:10 NLT

“When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily. But wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability.” Proverbs 28:2 NLT

“Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.” Matthew 7:17

“So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.” James 1:21 NLT

“Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” 1 Corinthians 5:6-7

“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:20-21

“I said, ‘Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.’” Hosea 10:12 NLT

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2 NLT

“Remove the impurities from silver, and the sterling will be ready for the silversmith.” Proverbs 25:4 NLT

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, **first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.**” Matthew 23:25-26 NKJ

## **DON'T BE ISOLATED, SEEK HELP:**

“A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.” Proverbs 18:1

## **HOW DOES SATAN TRY TO DESTROY US?**

### **LYING:**

“And the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘**The serpent deceived me**, and I ate.’” Genesis 3:13

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:9

“But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds **the god of the age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

“Why can’t you understand what I am saying? It’s because you can’t even hear me! For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. **[The devil] was a murderer from the beginning.** He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for **[the devil] is a liar and the father of lies.**” John 8:43-44

### **STEALING (GOD’S WORD, LIFE, HEALTH, HOPE, PEACE, CONTENTMENT):**

“The thief does not come except to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” John 10:10

“The sower [God] sows [His] word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word [of God] is sown: **when they hear [God’s word], Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.**” Mark 4:14-15

“The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the [word of God] and immediately receive it with joy. But since [God’s words within them] don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. Then, **when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word [because they believed God’s word],** immediately they fall away.” Mark 4:16-17

“The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out [choked] by the **worries of this life**, the **lure of wealth**, and the **desire for other things**, so no fruit is produced.” Mark 4:18-19

### **HOW DO WE KEEP GOD’S WORD IN OUR HEART, TO GROW AND PRODUCE FRUIT?**

“You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words [of God] which I command you today **shall be in your heart**. You shall **teach them** diligently to your children, and shall **talk of them** when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall **write them** on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:5-9

“And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who **hear and accept God’s word** and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” Mark 4:20 NLT

“Then [Jesus] added, ‘Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given —and you will receive even more. **To those who listen to my teaching [God’s word], more understanding will be given.** But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have [of God’s word] will be taken away from them.’” Mark 4:24-25 NLT

“Jesus also said, ‘The Kingdom [royal power] of God is like a farmer who scatters seed [the word] on the ground. Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, **the seed [word of God] sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens.** The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.” Mark 4:26-29 NLT

“Jesus said, ‘How can I describe the Kingdom [royal power] of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? [The power of God through His word] is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. **It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants;** it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.” Mark 4:30-32 NLT