

## The Fight Is On

1 Timothy 1:18

“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.”

**I hate Satan and I hate what he does in us.** But I know there is power in the Cross of Calvary to set us free.

**I am tired of the devil stealing our finances, stealing our joy, stealing our peace and stealing our prosperity.** I am tired of watching the body of Christ roll over and become a doormat for the devil. **I am tired of our families being lost!** **I am tired of God's precious children being tormented by illness.** Child of God, **do not allow the devil to deceive you into thinking that you have to be tormented in any area of your life.**

**Jesus Christ did not shed His blood on Calvary for us to submit to the devil.** Jesus did not rise in power from the dead for us to live in **bondage and fear.** Jesus did not declare, "I am He that lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:18) for the church to live in misery and defeat while the devil laughs.

**It seems to me, after years of reluctance, today's church is awakening to the fact of just how organized Satan is and how systematically he is working against us.** While most of us have been taught that it is every believer's task to be a witness of Jesus Christ, and even trained and encouraged to witness; at the same time we have not been schooled that it is also every believer's task to be a Christian soldier, active in spiritual warfare. **How many Christians have been trained in "the pulling down of strongholds" (2 Corinthians 10:4), or in how to "resist the devil" (James 4:7), or how to "wrestle against principalities... powers... rulers of the darkness of this world... and spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12)?**

**It is time for the church to become aware of the schemes of the devil.** It is time to recognize and expose them for what they are. And after we expose them, we must be determined to cast them out of our lives, our families, our cities, and our nation.

**Child of God, it is time for the church of Jesus Christ to march forward, not to be conquered but to conquer, in the name of Christ.** It is time to put on our armor and go forth in power to subdue kingdoms, dethrone powers, trample the devil and declare, "We are the church, against which the gates of hell will not prevail" (Matthew 16:18).

**As Christian soldiers we must acquire practical knowledge.** In Ephesians 6:10 we are exhorted to put on the whole armor of God and stand against the "schemes of the devil." The word translated "schemes" is translated "wiles" in the King James Version, and is the Greek word "methodeia" (meth-od-i-ah), and it means, "to follow up by method and a settled plan, using deceit, craft and trickery." **In other words, Satan has a method - a settled plan - to conquer each one of us, along with our family, church, community and nation.** God has provided **armor** for our **protection** and **weapons** for **offensive warfare**. Therefore, **we can withstand every assault against us and launch an attack that will overthrow the enemy!**

**The emphasis in your book, and in this series will be on personal deliverance.** Why? Because **personal deliverance** is the starting point for total warfare. **When we engage the enemy on the level of personal deliverance we are fighting Satan's front line troops.** His "top brass" is beyond, and we must get to them before the battle is over. The first objective in the warfare is to **free oneself**.

**Does everyone need deliverance?** I have no doubt in my mind that every one of us have walked in ignorance and darkness, and while we were just kind of wandering around, the enemy successfully made inroads into each of our lives. Therefore, **we must learn how to get him out and how to keep him out.**

Look with me as we begin to deal with personal deliverance, as it relates to one's self.

**First of all, talk out loud to the demons!** This may seem foolish and awkward until you have gotten accustomed to it, but it is an effective and necessary tactic in spiritual warfare. It is obvious that one must speak out *when expelling demons from within*. **We must also speak to demons assaulting us from without.** For example, suppose a demon has just spoken to your mind: "So-and-so failed to speak to you. They think they are too good to speak to you." **Demons talk to your minds like that.** It is the way they plant seeds of resentment and suspicion. You can soon learn to distinguish between what is of self, of God or of Satan. You might say something like this to the demon: "You are a liar, demon. I reject that thought about my friend. My mind is under the protection of the blood of Jesus. I bind you from my thoughts. I command you to leave me alone, in the name of Jesus."

**That is called "resisting" the devil.** Remember this truth, in whatever words you use, *vocalize your position in Jesus Christ and resist the demons by the use of the name and blood of Jesus*. The truth of the matter is that demons are trespassers and must "flee" when resisted in this way. **Do not stop at telling them once.** Demons can be stubborn, so *keep resisting until your mind is at peace*.

**Secondly, be honest with yourself.** Ask God to help you see *where* and *how* demons have invaded your thought life. Attitudes of resentment, hatred, malice, etc. are not from God, therefore, they must be from Satan.

**The key is being honest with yourself.** Listen very carefully right here: *as long as we can justify our feelings*, and *as long as we allow our feelings to dominate our lives*, we will never have any measure of success against demonic forces.

**Thirdly, begin to practice self-deliverance.** Pick out an area in your life where you know demons are troubling you, and command them to come out in Jesus' name. When the demons see that you are

absolutely renouncing them and are speaking in faith, they will respond. Child of God, do not allow demons to go unchallenged in your thought life another day!

Look also at personal deliverance as it relates to our *home*.

In many homes today, even though husband, wife and children may profess Christ, there is *strife, division, confusion and chaos*. It is time the devil took his share of the blame. And it is time families learn how to drive the devil out of their homes.

The ideal starting point for victory is for each member of the family to commit himself anew to Jesus Christ.

But some homes have great obstacles other than just carnality. Not all members of the family are believers. Some may be too backslidden to have any interest in spiritual things. If only one in a family is burdened for the welfare of the home, what can be done? Walk and talk in your *authority*!

One of the great problems that we have in our churches is that we have been taught for years to pray for our lost family members to be saved. But, what do we mean by that? Are we asking God to be willing to save them? That is a foolish prayer, because 2 Peter 3:9 reminds us that it is already God's will to save the lost. Are we asking God to just "zap" them into salvation? That will never happen, because God has made every person and "free moral agent" to decide for himself.

What does the Bible have to say about this matter? The answer is found in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "But even if our gospel is veiled (hidden), it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this 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." When it comes to praying for our lost *family* and *friends*, we should pray that God would remove the "blinders" from their eyes that they might see their need to be saved.

**Let me stop here long enough to remind you of this truth - warfare is not prayer!** It is in addition to prayer. There is no point in asking God for something that He has already given you. **God has already given us power and authority over the devil.** He has already defeated Satan and given us the ability and responsibility to take care of ourselves. Ladies and gentlemen, we need to stop storming heaven for what has already been provided and start using what God has given us.

**We must understand that spiritual warfare in behalf of another does not control the will of that person, it simply binds the demon forces and releases the will and thought life to make decisions apart from demonic interference.** This type of warfare is in full accord with the Word of God, as seen in 2 Corinthians 10:35, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds), Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." Listen to me very carefully, **when a thought comes into your mind that you know is not from God, you must capture that thought, identify it as coming from the devil, and take authority over that thought before it lodges itself in your mind,** and cause the birth of some sin. This truth is seen in James 1:15, "Then when lust (desire) has conceived, it brings forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death." The grand child of "lust" is "death."

**It should be the aim of every home to maintain God's pattern of divine authority - wives submitting to husbands, husbands loving the wives as Christ loved the church, and children obeying their parents in the Lord.** This will reduce the devil's opportunities to a minimum in any home.

Look also at personal deliverance as it relates to the **church.**

**Satan has a special interest in the church.** We can rest assured that he will do everything in his power to sidetrack, hinder, weaken and destroy the church's ministry. The devil's organizational set up

calls for a *prince demon to be assigned to each local expression of the church*. Many churches have a history of certain types of problems. The prince spirit over that church can readily be identified by a church's specific type of problem.

In some churches you will find a spirit of strife member striving with member. This is one of Satan's chief weapons. He will stir up *jealousy* and *competition*. Christians will get puffed up with pride, thinking themselves better than others, and thinking of themselves more highly than they ought to think. As long as Christians are fighting among themselves they are certainly not fighting the devil. This is what the devil is after. He has won his battle in that *church*.

Some demons are specialists in getting a church to operate on human talents and abilities rather than upon the power of the Holy Spirit. This kind of church is referred to in 2 Timothy 3:5 as "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." Some are still blinded to the great outpouring of God's Spirit today and continue to operate on manpower.

Other churches are controlled by doctrinal demons. 1 Timothy 4:1 says, "Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons."

We need to be careful not to miss a great truth right here. The doctrinal demon might not just seek to get folks to follow after false doctrine, but the devil will cause a church to become to involved on some doctrine to the point that they neglect the person and the glory of Christ.

Satan's list for destroying churches goes on and one formalism, ritualism, control by some group, complacency, indifference, pessimism, discouragement, obsession with problems without solutions etc.

**Child of God, we must stand on the power of the Holy Spirit and the authority of the Word of God, as we claim our victory for the glory of God! God has given us the power to do so. Therefore, it is up to us to do it!**

If you are not saved, why not today?

**Please stand for prayer!**

Father,

Your Word is true. Give me the wisdom and courage to take an honest look at my own life before I become critical of others. I confess I am more than a conqueror through Christ Who loves me. I Jesus name. Amen.

