

## HOW we WIN the fight of our lives, Part 2



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*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

*KEY words: fight, battle, soldier, victory, war, overcome, overcomes, in Christ, in God.*

**Summary:** *Do we live each day deeply aware that we're in constant spirit battles? How are you doing with those battles? This sermon continues where Part 1 left off and shows WHY this topic is so important and then HOW we attain the victory and overcome our old sinful habits and any temptation displeasing to God. We've been called to win, not just fight.*

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**Most of us have never been in a real battle** with real bullets and mortars and bombs going off all around us, *except our beloved veterans*. My uncles – my father's brothers – all fought the Japanese in the Philippines in World War II. Vicious battles. The memories were so intense, even years later, that they were reluctant to go into too many details. When they did, tears would well up in their eyes as they recounted what happened to their Band of Brothers who gave their all for the rest of us.

**My uncles** talked about their buddies who lost arms and legs or were blinded or bled to death. They spoke of their own scars and wounds. You see, that's what it's like in real battles, I guess –you can come out bloodied and wounded. And so can we in our battle, but like them, you had to get back up and get back in the fight and take the fight to the enemy. They KNEW they were in a battle.

They asked me if I'd ever been in war, in a real battle. The closest I could tell them was a fierce game of laser tag I once had with my kids and their friends. They smiled and nodded as they realized, I'd never seen armed combat before.

But then again, we have faced SPIRITUAL warfare -- but many are not even aware of the battle. Hence part 1 of this sermon last time, on how aware we must be of our battles going on. Please hear part 1 if you missed it. Here's a bit of Part 1 review, but there was more:

- **We're called to fight *Satan* and demonic influences - *not* humans (Eph 6:10-12).** Verses 10-18 describes the "armor of God".
- **Paul** – at the end of his life said he had "**fought the good fight**" and a crown of righteousness awaited him (**2 Timothy 4:7-8**). He told Timothy to be a good soldier for Christ (2 Tim. 2:3)

- **Those who came before us were tough, tough fighters** – both in the flesh against armies and against spiritual war. I speak of Deborah, Jael, David, Abraham, Gideon and so many others – and of course Yeshua, Paul, Peter and early believers.
- **We've been called to WIN, not just fight.** We're called to be victors, winners, overcomers. To the overcomers go the rewards – as is said over and over to the seven churches of **Revelation 2-3**.

So that – and much more was in part 1.

***So hi everyone. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of Light on the Rock.org. Welcome to your free website, all of you from all over the world, where we seek to bring us all in a closer walk with God our Father and our Savior Yeshua – and a loving relationship with one another.***

***Remember you can click on the VIDEO – and watch the video format, or just click on the AUDIO and listen to it by audio when you select the sermon. It's up to you. Check out our thought-provoking blogs too. I will also be continuing to make just audio sermons, no video, from time to time – so scroll down on the home page to the AUDIO sermons section and see what's there. You can also check out all audio and video sermons at the very top of the Home page. The Search bar is on the home page to the right, below the graphic. Type in just 2-3 words max when using Search bar.***

***WHY do we NEED this topic, this sermon?***

- **The coming worst time the world has ever seen will be fraught with battles against Satanic spirits influencing people. We're called to be prepared and battle seasoned for that – before it happens.** That means being in the thick of battle day by day right now.

**Some believers will have to be willing to die, once more, if called for that.** God's children will be in the thick of at least *some* of super tough times coming. Some of God's children will be put into **the place of safety or refuge** by God, as is hinted at and even outright stated in **Luke 21:36; Rev. 3:10-12; Rev. 12:10-17**. But others will be left, who were NOT counted worthy to escape – and Satan goes after them extremely hard (**Revelation 12:17**). Look up "Place of Safety" in the Search bar ... and my sermon on the Place of Safety from 8-9 years ago will pop up. I may do a refresh of it in the next few months, God willing.

But I am sure that even those who are finally put into a place of safety – not a rapture, but protection on earth in a wilderness place as Rev. 12 states – even those, will *first* have to go through lots of spiritual battles where our love and loyalty to God will absolutely be tested and proven first.

Any commander would prefer, if given a choice, when going into the biggest battles, to have seasoned troops fighting alongside him -- instead of new recruits with no experience of war. We should be well seasoned spiritual warriors by then (against Satan and his spirits). But God will also accept those who come to him at the last minute and are willing to go the distance (Revelation 7).

- **2nd good reason on – "WHY this sermon": To the overcomers and victors go the prize.** God saves us by his grace, without our works as **Eph 2:8-10; Phil**

**3:9-11**, etc. clearly state. Eternal life is God's GIFT (**Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8**), not something we earn.

But **rewards** are somethings we earn by our works and by overcoming. *Don't confuse rewards with salvation* or eternal life. We're saved by grace, but given rewards based on our works. But also don't forget we've been created *for good works* (**Eph. 2:10**).

The Bible is non-apologetic about it being GREAT to go after full rewards.

**2 John 8**

"Look to yourselves, *that we do not lose those things we worked for*, but that we may **receive a FULL reward**".

Rewards are fine! **When Christ returns, he will reward each one according to his works** (**Matthew 16:27**). Moses looked forward to the reward (**Hebrews 11:26**.)

Those who fight the good fight of faith and overcome Satan by the Blood of the Lamb – will have great rewards. But we have to FIGHT the enemy (temptations, bad attitudes, bad habits, outright SIN, Satan's thoughts, etc.).

**So we must FIRST of all:**

- Be **recognizing there IS a war** going on between angelic and demonic forces all around the world and many times, YOU'RE the subject!
- **Then – if you can let me use the term – when in this war and battle, we have been called to fight like hell**, because the gates of hell will NOT stand against the all-out assault on hell by God's children. Jesus said so, in Matthew 16:18.

**Matthew 16:18**

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this Rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

*Gates don't attack.* They defend. That means *we're* the ones doing an all-out assault on the gates of Hades.

*But all too often you and I give in to temptations to do things we don't want to do – and all too often it's without much of any fight to resist the wrong. Time is too short to be playing games. That kind of passivity has to stop.*

In the meantime, Our Adversary (what "Satan" means) doesn't want us to even *realize* there's a war going on, so he cuddles up to us and speaks softly and seduces us into *forgetting that we've been called out of his kingdom* and chosen to become the very first of those who will make up the God's kingdom reigning on the earth and beyond when Christ returns.

We can see **the lack of awareness with Adam and Eve** and the first human sin. **Genesis 3:1** says Satan was more subtle, cunning, sneaky than any other creature – and he still is. Yeshua, the Son of God, said Satan is the father of all lies, and he lies constantly (**John 8:44**). So his thoughts are a dangerous cocktail of truth and deadly lies.

*So in this war you're in, remember that. You're going to be lied to, in Satan's temptations and the thoughts he puts into us:*

“Surely a little sin isn’t too bad. It’s just a *little* white lie; is that really also a lie? The sun has set and sabbath has begun, but surely God understands just a few more errands and work that needs to get done. Surely watching shows showing sexual sin and nudity can’t be all that bad?” \_ - this is all Satan.

He makes us feel like we just have to settle for our bad marriage, or settle for our kids being the way they are, or accept some of our ongoing sins instead of fighting them and winning.

He attacks and works on our MINDS, on our thoughts. That’s what he did to Eve – and Adam just stood there next to her (Genesis 3:6b). Uncontrolled thoughts become actions.

Watch what happened:

**Genesis 3:4-6**

“Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die [LIE]. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was **good for food**, that it was **pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree **desirable to make one wise**, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate”.

Eve made the mistake of conversing with SIN. But over and over we’re told to flee sin, to flee temptation, to flee sexual immorality or idolatry. Yeshua *had to* face and talk to Satan to defeat him – but it’s not wise for me or you to listen or converse with people, thoughts, ideas that go against God’s word!

She didn’t do what we’re taught by Paul – *demolish the thoughts* that are evil.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5 CJB**

“For although we do live in the world, we do not wage war in a worldly way; **because the weapons we use to wage war are not worldly.**

On the contrary, **our weapons have GOD’S power for demolishing strongholds.** We demolish arguments and every arrogance that raises itself up against the knowledge of God; ***we take EVERY THOUGHT captive and make it obey the Messiah.***”

We must never flirt with the enemy! Instead replace them with thoughts from **Philippians 4:8** – whatsoever things are true, noble, just, good report ...

Look at how the apostle John describes the process of sin and *notice the parallel with what we just read about Eve in Genesis 3:6.*

**1 John 2:15-16**

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world – **the lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and **the pride of life** – is not of the Father but is of the world”.

**Lust of the Flesh:** Eve was probably hungry. “tree was good for food”. Think of “lust of flesh” as including gorging, over-drinking, sexual sin and more.

**Lust of the Eyes:** “**that it was pleasant to the eyes**” (Genesis 3:6) The forbidden tree and its fruit looked good! This point includes lusting for expensive jewelry, pricey outfits or focusing on outward appearance. Or focusing too much on fancy new cars or homes you can't afford.

**Pride of Life** – “Desirable to make one WISE”...

This was a major battle, but Eve doesn't even seem *aware* of the battle! And we're no better a lot of times. *She didn't RESIST the wrong thoughts. She didn't fight. She WAS deceived, And Adam wasn't – and he didn't help her!*

Instead of calling out to her husband and to YHVH for help and leaving this cunning, lying serpent – she *flirted* with the sin.

And WE do – whether the sin is lack of self-control, or alcohol abuse, or over-eating, or enjoying and imagining things with that woman's breasts over there a bit too much, or letting ourselves feel abandoned by God – these are all wrong thoughts we have to overcome! Now notice the path Eve followed:

**James 1:12-15 ESV**

**“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.**

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

**14 But each one is tempted when he is *LURED away* and enticed by his own desires.**

15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

So we have to be aware of the fight and engage in battle instead of flirting with sin. By “flirting with sin” I mean times **we don't take decisive action** but continue playing with the tantalizing thoughts or acts of lack of self-control or whatever our tests are.

**Yeshua said take decisive action against sins!** He said if our eye offends us, pluck it out (**Matthew 18:9**) rather than miss God's kingdom. *His point is to take drastic action*, not to literally pluck it out. *What will YOU do to overcome the bad sinful ways you had before baptism and still have?*

More than a few children of God have had problems with illicit sex or internet porn, for example– and it's easy to hide this terrible sin and excuse ourselves because “we're not hurting anyone”. We're fools to think like that. It hurts us, hurts our marriage, hurts future marriage if you're single, and it is all-out LUST – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes. We've got to fight and not go there.

**Story of ten Christian men** on the way to a men's spiritual retreat, and on the way stopped for the night at a motel. They tried to lead the motel owner to Christ. He said he'd sleep on it. Next morning they asked what he had decided. He said he realized most of them were married men but said to them all – "Every single one of you men watched a porn movie in your motel room last night". So the motel owner decided by their example not to accept Christ.

**When "nobody will know"**: Sometimes the battles to reveal who each of us really are – and I preach very much to myself too – are revealed by what kind of person we are when we think we are all alone and think nobody sees. How we behave when we're alone, or when we're low on sleep, or when someone falsely accuses us, or how we fight (or not) when the pleasurable sin for the moment is available – tells our God a lot about us. "Nobody will know, nobody will see" we say to ourselves:

...except God, Yeshua our Savior and the Son of God, the 4 living creatures around God's throne, the 24 elders, the seraphim 6-winged angels, and hundreds of millions of angels and – Satan and his demons – all watch us, moment by moment. We have to be aware of this more. You're never alone!

So, we're in a FIGHT. And the really big, big battles are coming that will end with us having to stand up for Christ or be beaten and even beheaded – and we must win those battles coming, if God so allows some of us to be martyrs for his name's sake.

**So LET'S LOOK AT *HOW* we go about WINNING OUR BATTLES!**

- 1. WE MUST BE "IN Christ"**. I gave a sermon in 2008 about the "Blessing of being in Christ, in God." **PLEASE STUDY Ephesians 1 and 2 and notice all the places it speaks of "in Him" and "in Christ" and what that does! We must stay so close that Yeshua used the mental picture of "as close as a branch is to the tree... attached! Never not attached."** We'll see that soon...

HE is now our life; he is our victory. Yeshua has overcome Satan, sin temptations and the world (**John 16:33**) – and IN HIM, we also overcome Satan. Yeshua said there's nothing of Satan in him (**John 14:30**).

If we are truly in Christ, his love and power should be all over us. Satan can't do anything beyond what God allows. Our confidence of defeating Satan and his wiles should be 100% if we know we are in Messiah and he in us. This is where the battle starts and is won ultimately.

If we truly are in him, part of his life, we're ONE with him, part of him. Since he had the victory, we TOO, have victory – but only if we look to him and ABIDE in him. When we are IN Christ actively, we'll find temptations have much less pull and allure to us.

*The Son of God is our Commander and Lord. Joshua 5 – story of the Battle of Jericho.*

**Joshua 5:13-15**

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

14 So He said, "No, but **as Commander** of the army of YHVH I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord (Adonai) say to His servant?"

15 Then the Commander of YHVH'S army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so."

The next couple verses – Joshua 6:2 – (no chapter breaks), say this was YHVH. Nothing's changed. YHVH is still our LORD and commander.

**When you just can't seem to beat some sins:**

*Sometimes we feel WE can't seem to completely defeat every sinful habit, or ongoing temptations to sin – **but you know Yeshua can!** I've found strength in praising him in prayer and admitting my failings in some areas, and then saying "Lord, I can't seem to get on top of this, but you can. You in me, can. I in you, can. I cast this burden to you and look to you, for I can do all things through you, my Savior." And amazingly, I start experiencing more victory.*

And God gives us some encouragement: You and I will never have to face a trial we can't defeat, but with the trial we'll be shown a way of escape.

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13**

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, **who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able**, but with the temptation will also *make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*"

King Yeshua is our salvation – not just when we accepted him out loud, as our Savior – but now even minute by minute. USE his power, his life, his love, his victory! ***He saved us for eternity when we accepted him as our Savior and king, but he continues to help and save us from temptations and sin day by day – if we call out to him.***

**We too must overcome Satan – and we do it by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony (Rev. 12:11).** Satan no longer has any hold or claim to us. The blood of Jesus paid the ransom price, redeemed us, cleansed us, and made us acceptable to come boldly before the throne of grace. And his blood *continues to cleanse* and protect us when we call out to him.

But Yeshua clearly said we have to "abide" IN HIM and that we can do nothing of spiritual portent without abiding in him.

**John 15:5**

"I am the Vine; you are the branches. He **who abides IN Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do NOTHING**".

**What does "abide in me" mean to you?** In Yeshua's mind, "abiding" means so close that it's like a branch is to its tree... *can't get any closer! You're PART of the Vine, PART of him. Are you there yet? I still am striving to make that my success each day. This comes from constantly touching base with him.*

**THAT is frankly our main work in our life: staying attached to the Messiah and HIM, HIS life. That takes effort because Satan is constantly trying to get us unattached from Christ, who is our strength and our victory.**

It means hanging with Christ every day, all throughout the day in frequent contact, in prayer, in thought, in love, in loyalty, in obedience, in submission to his will. He's *there* all day long with you and you with him.

***And what does “without me you can do NOTHING” mean to you? But Paul gives the contrast – that WITH him, you can do ALL things, “I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13) EVERYTHING, anything, is now possible! Back to John 15, verse 6 now.***

**John 15:6**

**“If anyone does NOT abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”**

***Abiding in Christ results in Christ living through us the way He lived on the earth before – obediently. WE in him live obediently.***

**First, we abide – then we can properly DO, we can now obey fully, because now it is Jesus' life living obediently and not our own life.** Being in Him is what lets us WIN. Being in Him produces fruit by Christ (**Philippians 1:11**), causes obedience, causes us to keep His word. Don't get the cart before the horse. First, we seek and abide, then we can live obediently.

A man I respect a lot – when I asked him about something and what I should do., answered with 3 one-word sentences. He said: **Pray. Listen. Do.**

I love that. Ponder that. **Pray. Listen. DO.** The listen and doing part are the hardest. But be sure to start – by abiding in prayer. Be sure you DO listen when you pray. Have a notepad handy. And then do—obey – get in synch with the will of God.

**2. Connected to first point: PRAY often, in the SPIRIT, and STAY in CONSTANT CONTACT with our Supreme Commander.**

In any war, the first target is often the enemy's communications abilities. Then they go after the enemy's abilities to strike back – their ammunition dumps, fighter jets, bombers, airports, oil refineries, tanks and bases.

**What are our communications called? PRAYER.** OFTEN, regular, constant, clear, fervent prayer. Prayer of praise. Prayer of adoration. Prayer conveying our love for God and gratitude for all he does. But HE – our GOD – is the one who defeats our present enemies, sins, our temptations.

**Psalms 44:2-6**

*“You drove out the nations with Your hand,  
But them You planted;  
You afflicted the peoples and cast them out.*



3 For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword,  
Nor did their own arm save them;

*But it was **Your right hand, Your arm**, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them.*

4 **You** are my King, O God; command victories for Jacob.

5 **Through YOU we will push down our enemies;**

Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.

6 For **I will not trust in my bow, nor shall my sword save me.**”

That hasn't changed. Our victory over the Adversary (Satan) is by the same approach: looking to GOD for victory even as *we* engage in the fight as well. David faced Goliath – but the victory was from God. Same with us.

GOD gives us the strength, but WE must engage in the battle.

**Psalms 18:39**

“For **You** have armed ME **with strength for the battle;**

You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.”

***When Satan sees us on our knees in prayer, he shakes in fear!*** That's the best way to fight fear, worry, sin, temptation – fill your mind with God, with his presence, with his word.

### **Praying in the spirit**

Paul calls it being strong in the power of HIS might. But WE have to put on God's armor. And after putting on the armor, Paul says to **PRAY ALWAYS**. Now we're armed and protected by armor and our shield of faith – so now we activate it all through **PRAYER** and receive *his* strength.

**Ephesians 6:16-18**

“**above all, taking the shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

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,**

being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints —”

So abiding in Christ means we've got to be in frequent prayer daily, throughout the day, in the SPIRIT. Not even just once or 3x a day – but throughout. Paul says – Praying always. But doing so in the spirit.

**Praying in the flesh means we have our set prayer list**, things we want to get done, and we push through. That's not wrong, but it's us praying, rather than the spirit of God. Frankly most of my prayers are a combination of my own needs and thoughts and lists – as well as praying in the spirit.

“**Praying in the spirit**” means we feel God's presence and feel He's right there with us.

**We're in God's very presence!** We speak – but we also listen. *We let God's spirit propel our prayer to God and even HOW we pray.* Sometimes it feels ecstatic, with joyful arms

raised up high like a small child running to his daddy, so ecstatic “Daddy’s home, daddy’s home...!”

**Galatians 4:6**

“And *because* you are sons, God has sent forth ***the Spirit of His SON*** into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

“DADDY”, we say to God Most High, as we pray in Yeshua’s own spirit!

Other times praying in the spirit feels like groaning, but it’s the spirit of God at work. You may be prostrate, flat out, on your floor crying out to him. This was Hannah’s prayer for a son, though she stood ... her lips moved, but she was praying from her *heart* (**read Hannah’s account in 1 Samuel 1:9-18**).

**Romans 8:26-27 CJB**

“Similarly, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; *for we don’t know how to pray the way we should. But the Spirit himself pleads on our behalf with groanings too deep for words*;

27 and the one who searches hearts knows exactly what the Spirit is thinking, because his pleadings for God’s people are in accord with God’s will”.

**Praying in the spirit** is not set, defined prayer. It’s submitting to whatever God’s SPIRIT wants from your heart. God’s spirit even *interprets* what we’re really trying to say. I’ll give a sermon on prayer sometime... but for now, my point is: *we won’t abide in Christ without constant prayer in the spirit*. Don’t fear it. If you feel God’s presence, welcome Him. If you feel like crying – CRY. If you feel like a loud “hallelujah” – let praise burst forth! *Don’t quench the Spirit, that’s for sure!*

Communicate by prayer with God often. Minimum 3x a day. But don’t make it a chore, or a to-do list. And having short, frequent prayers is better than no prayer.

***But I must say this: If we still miss days without STARTING the day in prayer, and during the day be in prayer, and end of the day in prayer – then we’re idiots!*** I wanted that to be clear, if a bit direct. When we skip prayer, we’ve gone solo, rogue and we’re not communicating. That’s really foolish. I’m not going to soften that. And we’ll be far more likely to end up in sin when we miss prayer. I’ve made that mistake countless times and am trying to remedy that!

It is while in prayer that God’s GLORY shines in us. It was **as he prayed that our Messiah’s visage was transfigured** at another time. Had you noticed that before? That it was while he prayed?

**Luke 9:28-29**

“Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

29 **AS He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered**, and His robe became white and glistening”.

Just like Moses after 40 days in God's presence, talking (praying) with God, he came down like a bright light bulb, full of God's brilliant glory (Ex. 34:29-35).

At Gethsemane – in Yeshua's most pressing time of trial before his most serious battles fully began, what did he do? HE PRAYED! And prayed and prayed! He said he was so distressed, he felt he could just die (**Matthew 26:38**)! But in prayer he rose up over that and faced his attackers in peace.

Look what he said to his sleeping disciples who were to watch with him in prayer in gethsemane:

**Matthew 26:40-41**

Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

*41 **Watch and pray, LEST you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.***

When we don't pray – we're telling God we just don't get how serious this is, or that we don't *need* him OR even want him; he's not that important to us. Part of our daily prayer should include "Save us today, Savior". Not praying is an absolute blindness to our NEED for constant contact.

**James 4:7-8**

**"Therefore submit to God. RESIST the devil and he will flee from you. 8 DRAW NEAR to God and He will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded".

**We draw near by prayer. Satan is terrified when God's children call on God in prayer!**

**PRAYER is so important that even the son of God as flesh and blood claimed he could do NOTHING without his Father's help (John 5:19)! If Jesus needed to pray, you better believe you and I need to pray a lot.**

**Jude 20-21**

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Spirit**, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life".

**3. FIGHT TEMPTATION BY THE WORD OF GOD, which is your SWORD OF THE SPIRIT! Eph 6:17**

What did Jesus do when tempted by the Devil? In every single case, he came back with "God's WORD says..." This point is worthy of a whole sermon itself.

**Matthew 4:4, 7, 10** – each time he replied, "It is WRITTEN...." From God's word.

Satan will constantly make you doubt God, make you feel he's forgotten you, abandoned you, and that you're all alone. Don't buy into that. He also makes us feel we're not really God's children... "IF you be the son of God...." – Satan used the same thing while Christ was

on the cross. "IF you be the son of God, come down off that cross." (Mark 15:29-32). Questioning our relationship with our Father.

He'll attack you the same way. So you've got to know God's mind. You know God will never ever forsake you or leave you (Hebrews 13:5). This takes knowing God's word and spending lots of time in God's word. Daily. It's your spiritual FOOD, your daily bread. "Give us this day our daily bread." An army, a soldier needs food!

### **Audio Bibles as an added source**

Study daily and start in prayer asking for God's guidance. Add to your intense study by listening to an audio Bible. I do that. I have an audio Bible playing while I brush my teeth, make my bed, clean up, ready for bed... not as my main form of study, but additional. I am reminded of so many things! Instead of music or talk shows or the news, why not play an audio Bible while you do things around the house or even while you drive. You will hear so many things you haven't read in a long time.

Fighting sin is about fighting anything, any thought, any will – that posts itself against what you know is God's stated will and way of life. We know God's will because we have a sharp sword of the word of God in our hands (Hebrews 4:12). We study like crazy.

God's Word is our sword, being worked by the Spirit (**Eph 6:17**). **Take up your sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** How can we fight anything – let alone Satan – without God's sword in our hand, but too many of us skip days of Bible study to our own hurt! That's like going into combat with no sword, no helmet, no shield – just our underwear. Good luck.

FILL your heart and mind, soak them, in God's word. Let this mind be in you which was in Jesus – **Philippians 2:5** – he's the LIVING WORD. Every chance you get. Yeshua said God's spirit will bring these words and lessons to mind when you need them.

SO promise yourself: "Starting now, I'm going to spend daily time in God's word, daily time praying, daily time aware of my battles."

#### **4. Now we have to DO what he says. We must UNDERSTAND AND OBEY OUR ORDERS (also known as God's commandments)**

**Do you remember "Pray. Listen. Do"? This is the "DO" part.**

**BAPTISM pledge:** *I WAS ASKED – "Have you repented of your sins, which is the breaking of God's law the commandments, and have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and LORD of your life?"*

I don't know if I even understood back then fully what it means to have Yeshua be the LORD of my life. Now I understand it is to **be a total unconditional surrender** and whatever My Lord's will is, I am supposed to say, "yes sir" and do it.

KNOW and write down your weak points. Then DO Bible STUDIES on your weak points. See what God's word says. It says an awful lot about every human issue. And when we DO our Bible studies, let's be sure to take notes on what we just learned – and then DO SOMETHING about it, rather than being like someone who sees dirt on their face when they look into the mirror and do nothing about it. Jesus said to be extremely AGGRESSIVE

against our weak points. “If your eye offends you, pluck it out” (**Matthew 18:9**) – he’s making his POINT. Don’t tolerate ongoing same old sins in your life.

**James 1:22-25**

**“But be DOERS of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

23 For if anyone **is a hearer of the word and not a doer**, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and **is NOT A FORGETFUL HEARER but a DOER of the work, this one will be blessed** in what he does.”

So the Word of God exposes what we are, and where we need some work. Too many of us do some Bible study or listen to the scriptures in sermons – but we don’t change.

Remember our Lord said “If you love me, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS” – **John 14:12; John 15:10** – **says we will abide in his love if we keep his** commandments. So we have to DO God’s word.

**WRAP UP**

We could go on and on ... so much one could say about war and battles – know your enemy, know yourself, know your weak spots, know Satan’s tactics. Sometime read **2 Corinthians 2:3-11**, especially verses 10-11.

But let’s end it here. Our victory is BY, IN, through Christ – and ABIDING in him, listening to what he says by his Word the Bible, and by prayer. When we pray – learn to be quiet and listen. Pray in the SPIRIT -- and then DO what he says. God does still talk to us in strong thoughts. Know his word. Know your armor.

And PLEASE, *REALIZE we’re in the fight of our lives* and do *fight* sin, fight temptations, fight weaknesses in your life – like a poor marriage or poor children relationship, and fight as if your life depends on it. I think this constant contact and fighting sin will increase your odds also of being counted worthy to escape the things coming on the earth. (**Luke 21:36**).

And whether you’re chosen to be protected in a place of safety or not, when the super tough battles come, you’ll be battle-ready in Christ anyway.

With Paul, let’s be able to say,

**2 Timothy 4:7-8**

**“I have fought the good fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Finally, **there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

And then we can look forward to hearing those wonderful words from our Beloved Messiah, King, and Husband:

“Come, you blessed of my Father, Come and inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (**Matthew 25:34**).

*CLOSING PRAYER.*

