



Prayer
Is
Our
Spiritual
Warfare

Spiritual warfare is not a theological doctrine to be understood intellectually but left alone. Dealing with the enemy is not an option we can choose or reject. We deal with the enemy of our souls every day. The question is how will we deal with him. Will we ignore him and allow him to run roughshod over us and our loved ones, or will we stand firmly against his advances. You are either in the trenches fighting for Christ or you are laying wounded on the battlefield, or sitting defeated in the enemy's prison.

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Spiritual Warfare Prayers

I get nervous around people that are too aggressive. I mean the people who are always on a rampage about something. They become Christians and suddenly they are in a perpetual state of war. Their thoughts, demeanor, actions, and attitudes are war like. They are crusaders hell bent on smashing something. These well-meaning Christians have become spiritual warmongers. They see the enemy in every shadow, behind every tree, and operative in every negative thing that happens.

When we speak of "spiritual warfare" we are not talking about a perpetual rampage. Spiritual war is a reality. We are in a fight. The enemy is real. Demons are real. Attacks of the enemy are real. But we must be careful not to give the devil too much credit. He is not in charge - God is!

Satan is not god-like

He cannot read our minds. He is not omnipresent. He is not all powerful. He is not sovereign. He does not own the universe, or the earth for that matter. He is a created being, a fallen angel, whose end is certain, and his defeat final at the cross. (Hebrews 2:14)

Extremes

We grant that there are extremes in the realm of today's teachings regarding the authority of the believer. But the doctrine and teaching is not a present day phenomenon. Throughout the history of the church God has demonstrated His power and truth that Jesus Christ is able to do "*exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according His power that works in us.*"

But because there are extremes does not mean that there is no truth to the authority of the believer. On the contrary, because there are counterfeit \$20 bills does not preclude that there are no real \$20 bills. God's word teaches us to "*despise not prophecies, prove all things, hold fast to that which is good.*" It is the spiritually immature who would rather not discern between true from the counterfeit but prefer to throw out all evidence of miraculous power. We acknowledge the existence of many extremes in Charismatic and Pentecostal churches. These errors do not mean that all teaching of the authority of the believer are wrong. Paul exhorts the church "*despise not prophecies. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*" (I Thes. 5:20-21)

Jesus Is The Same

We believe that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) Jesus told his disciples that miracles would continue through believers and that "*he who believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works shall he do because I go to the Father.*" (John 14:12) We do not believe that miracles and miraculous gifts ended with the apostles. In fact the history of the church proves otherwise. The promises of God for all ages proves otherwise. The promises, commands and instructions of Jesus are not just for the apostles. Peter instructs us on this that "*No scripture is of any private interpretation.*" (2 Peter 1:20) We believe that God is still able to do what He has always done. We affirm that God "*is able to exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.*" (Eph. 3:20)

Examples in Scripture

When it comes to spiritual warfare and the authority of the believer we again believe Scriptures and the example of Christ and his promises to the church. "*The weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.*" (2 Cor. 10:4) "*For*

we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and power, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in heavenlies.” (Eph. 6:12)

Notice that Paul says “WE wrestle with principalities.” Others today would like us to believe that we have nothing to do with this heavenly warfare yet that does not agree with Scripture. (Rev. 12:10-12) In Ephesians Paul makes it clear that “*Christ has raised us up together and made us to sit together with Christ in the heavenlies.*”

OUR BATTLE

Get it right!

"No weapon that is formed against you will prosper, and every tongue that rises against you will be put to silence." You are bought with the precious blood of Jesus, kept by the power of God, translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son, your name is written in heaven, you can never perish, and no man can pluck you out of God's hand. Satan is not on the throne, never was, and never will be! It is time for believers to stop acting like Satan is God's negative counterpart. He is not!

We are simply put tools in the hand of our all-victorious God to announce to fallen spiritual authorities that God is indeed still in charge. God chooses to use us, frail human creatures, to embarrass the enemy with the fact that even the weakest saint, in Christ, is stronger than he. Why? So that the excellency of the power might be of God, and not of us.

"We wrestle not against flesh and blood."

Our wrestling is not with God in prayer, but with "*ideologies*" (2 Cor 10:3-4), that is, wrong thinking, that proceeds from the pit of hell. We are those who set the record straight in the name of Jesus. We do not kill demons, and we cannot even wound the devil. It is not that kind of fight. That kind of thinking is "flesh and blood" thinking.

This is a thinking battle.

"Casting down imaginations ... and everything that exalts itself above the knowledge of God." It's not about mighty arguments or strong wrestling arms. It is about thinking right. It is about believing God and thinking his thoughts about the battle. The battle is the Lord's.

OUR POWER

The Difference Between "Power" and "Authority"

There is a difference you know. A very important difference too I might add. There are people, well meaning sincere Christian people, who fail to see that truth clearly and that failure leads to many errors in doctrine and practice. Authority is one thing and power is quite another.

POWER: in the Greek is the word "dunamis" from which we get our word for dynamite. It means energetic power, explosive power, or a demonstrative power.

AUTHORITY: on the other hand is a completely different word in the Greek "exousia". It is a shame that in English we make no such distinction. Even in the translations which should have known better use the translation of the two words interchangeably even arbitrarily so that the truth conveyed in the original language is lost. Authority means right, privilege given to someone by another. It refers not to power but to position!

A policeman cannot say that he has power (dunamis) to stop traffic. He would have to be incredibly strong to stop even the smallest of cars by his own strength. Though he has not the physical or personal strength to stop traffic he is given authority under the law to commandeer traffic. He can literally stop traffic by his power (exousia), that is his right and authority.

To be sure we do not have power (dunamis) over Satan. We can never by our effort or energy stop him. Yet we have been given authority (exousia) over him in Jesus name and by virtue of the testimony that we belong to Jesus. "And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony." Rev. 12:11

When we are given the promise of salvation in John 1:12 we are promised power (exousia) to become the sons of God. Does that mean that we are given some special power, strength, or "dynamo" by which we can muscle our way into becoming a son of God? No! Never! What we are given, according to the Greek, is "authority" to be called the sons of God. That means that we are given the right, honor, or privilege to be called sons of God.

Do You See The Difference?

It is then a very important difference for every believer to recognize and learn. Let's learn then what is our "authority" as believers, and what are our "powers"

It scares me to hear some believers claiming that we have no right to deal with the devil and quote Jude to prove we have not authority. They say, since Michael, the archangel, "*dared not bring against Satan a railing accusation but said 'The Lord rebuke you.'*" So we dare not bring any railing accusations or commands against the devil. This is not a passage that explains our authority, or limits to our authority. What it does show us is that Michael understood the difference between his "power" (dunamis) and his "authority." (exousia)

OUR AUTHORITY

Using Your Authority In Prayer

Jesus used two distinct words to express our "authority" over the powers of the Evil One. That authority is all-inclusive, unlimited, undiminished for all time. In both cases it is his authority and his alone to give to another as his representative. Christ gave us that legal representation before the throne when he said, "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it."

DUNAMIS: (Strong's numbering 1411) "Demonstrative Power" The first word is "dunamis" from which we get our word for dynamite. It speaks of actual power as in a wrestling match. It is physical or real strength, not figurative strength. It stands for his mighty works, as opposed to his mighty words. It is also this power that is referred to when miracles, signs and wonders are mentioned. It speaks of one's ability over the opponents strivings. It is explosive power. It is to that power our Lord refers when speaking of His coming "*in great power <1411> and glory.*"

Matthew 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power <1411> and great glory.

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (or the Evil One): For thine is the kingdom, and the power <1411>, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

EXOUSIA: (Strong's numbering 1849) "Authoritative Power" Jesus said, "All power (exousia) is given unto me in heaven and in earth..." The next word is important, "THEREFORE, go and make disciples..." It is this authoritative power that Jesus gave to his disciples when he sent them out into the world to heal and cast out demons.

- *Mark 3:15 And to have power <1849> to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:*
- *Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power<1849> over unclean spirits;*
- *Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power <1849>.*
- *Luke 4:36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority <1849> and power <1411> he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.*

Jesus joins both these words in the testimony of those who saw his mighty deeds, and the authority he had to command evil spirits.

- *Luke 4:36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority <1849> and power <1411> he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.*

One is Holy Spirit power (dunamis) working in us (sign and wonders), the other is the positional authority (exousia) of the believer who is seated with Christ in heavenly places. (Ephesians)

- *Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

- *Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*
- *Ephesians 2:6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*
- *Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

It is for this reason that Jesus told the rejoicing disciples, who had cast out demons in his name, and who were reveling in the fact that demons were subject to them in his name,

- *Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

It the authority of a name written in heaven that gives us rights and privileges above those of demons. That is what it means to *"Be seated with him in heavenly places."*

OUR POSITION

It Is The Authority of Our POSITION!

We are in Christ, seated with him far above all principalities, and powers, and dominions, and mights. We are God's police officers, given authority of his name and position to lay down the law! We don't make the law. We just declare it! The problem is most Christians aren't declaring it.

I have often been challenged on the idea of exercising authority in prayer. Perhaps that is good since in our day there are some dangerous doctrines of commanding God in the work of his hands. Authority of prayer has nothing to do with authority OVER GOD! It has everything to do with exercising our vested authority OVER THE ENEMY and his work. Our authority is in declaring God's glory. Fear of the enemy is a snare. Intimidation and insecurity are snares to our prayers. Equally a spiritual inferiority complex is a snare that paralyzes the Christian intercessor.

God has not given us the spirit of fear and intimidation. (2 Timothy 1:7) That should be a forgone and obvious conclusion because of our position IN CHRIST. Authority over the enemy has nothing to do with our spiritual muscles or years of experience.

Jesus told the disciples it was simply a matter of fact, because THEIR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN. In Acts 19 the Jewish exorcists tried using Jesus name as a formula against the devil only to find they were powerless. The devils responded, "Jesus we know, and Paul we know, but who are you!"

You and I are known in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, because our names are written in heaven. You are not known in heaven because you are a great preacher, or teacher, or prayer warrior. NO! You are known in heaven solely because of THE ONE WHOSE NAME YOU BEAR! You represent the name that is above every name! And at that name every knee shall bow, (demons included), and every tongue will confess (Satan as well!) that JESUS CHRIST IS – "KURIOS" – LORD, to the glory of God. (Kurios, means supreme Commander In-Chief. King of kings, and Lord of lords!)

So stop sniveling in prayer, and start rejoicing in your positional authority over Satan's reign. It is the heritage of every the child of God! My prayers are not about me and my prayer power (dunamis). It is about His authority through me, and in spite of me.

Believe in the Authority of Your Position

Your position in Christ gives you great authority in heavenly realms.

- Exodus 17:11-20 When Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed
- Judges 7:12 The Lord is with thee mighty man of valor.
- Judges 7:18-20 The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.
- 1Samuel 17:47 I come to you in the name of the Lord or hosts and the God of armies of Israel
- 2Chron 20:15 Be not afraid/dismayed by reason of the multitude: the battle is not yours but the Lord's
- Psalm 44:5-8 Through you we will push down our enemies...tread them under..I will not trust the bow
- Psalm 91:1- He shall deliver thee..cover thee...shield thee...hide thee...answer thee
- Isaiah 54:16-17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper;
- Isaiah 59:16 He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor:
- Isaiah 59:17 He put on righteousness as breastplate and helmet of salvation
- Isaiah 59:19 When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him
- Ezekiel 22:30 I sought for a man, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap
- Daniel 11:32b They that know their God shall be strong and do exploits.
- Zechariah 4:6 Not by might nor by power but by my spirit saith the Lord
- Matthew 4:10-11 Get out of here Satan! (get thee hence)
- Matthew 16:18-19 I will build my church and gates of hell will not prevail against it.
- Matthew 16:23 Get thee behind me Satan!
- Matthew 18:18-20 whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven:
- Matthew 28:18-20 All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
- Luke 4:18 Spirit anointed ...to declare liberty to the captives
- Luke 9:1-2 He gave them power and authority over all devils
- Luke 10:17-20 I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and all power of enemy
- Luke 11:20-22 A stronger than he is come...binds the enemy and spoils his goods.
- Acts 16:18 I command you in the name of Jesus...come out of her!
- Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.
- 2Cor 10:3-5 Weapons are not carnal but mighty through God to pulling down strongholds.
- Col 2:15 He...spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them
- Eph 1:19-23 Set Jesus far above all principalities, powers, might, dominion and every name...
- Eph 2:1-7 Seated with Christ in heavenly places.
- Eph 2:1-7 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus
- Eph 3:10-12 Through you...might be made known to powers in heaven...the wisdom of God.
- Eph 3:20 He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.
- Eph 6:10-20 Be strong in the Lord...Put on the whole armor of God.
- Philp 1:28 In nothing terrified by your adversaries.
- Philp 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.
- 1 Peter 5:8 Be vigilant...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seek to devour:
- 1John 2:12-13 The word of God is in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.
- 1John 3:8 For this purpose was the Son...manifested ...to destroy the work of the devil.
- 1John 4:4 Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world
- 1John 5:4 This is victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.
- 1John 5:18 He...keeps himself and the wicked one touches him not.
- Rev 12:10-11 They overcame him with the blood of the Lamb

Authority of the Intercessor

You have been given a name written in heaven and you are known before the throne of God. Therefore we come boldly to that throne to receive help and grace in our times of need.

- Psalm 2:8 Ask of me and I will give you the heathen...uttermost parts of the earth.
- Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I [am] God: I will be exalted among the heathen
- Psalm 37:4-5 Delight... trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass.
- Psalm 126:6 He that goes forth and weeping bearing precious seed shall come again rejoicing.
- Isaiah 65:24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer
- Jeremiah 33:3 Call on me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things
- Jeremiah 32:17-18 There is nothing too hard for thee:
- Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened
- Matthew 17:19-21 This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.
- Matthew 18:19 If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, ..be done
- Luke 10:2 Pray the Lord of the harvest that he would thrust forth laborers into his harvest.
- Luke 11:9-13 Every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh
- John 16:24 Hitherto you asked nothing, Ask, and you shall receive that your joy may be full.
- Philp 4:4-8 Rejoice always...in everything by prayer and supplication let request be made known
- James 5:16 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
- 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

OUR COMMISSION

Ephesians 6:10-18 / Is.59:16-17

Act Like A Soldier

Like it or not, you are in a war. We did not start it, and we are sure not going to finish it. Nonetheless, we are in it, and it affects us. We are soldiers in Christ's army. He has no civilian followers. All who follow him and live godly must suffer persecution, or shall we call it "attacks from the enemy." We have been given a uniform, and weapons, and skills with which to fight.

This is not a passive army. We cannot excuse ourselves from the fray by claiming we are conscientious objectors. The Lord makes it quite clear that his people are in the midst of the fray and are required to put on their armor and use it.

I. BE STRONG!...In the Lord and power of His might! (verse.10)

1. Strong in the Lord - Ephesians 1:19 and 6:10

"In the Lord" is the secret of the saints victory over the enemy. To be strong in the Lord means to cloth ourselves in Him, to take up our refuge in Him, and to stand complete in Him. Many words are used of "power" in New Testament Greek. Each of them has significant nuances of meaning for the believer.

- o Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power <2904> of his might.
- o Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power(dunamis) <1411> to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power (ischus) <2479>,

2. The Name of Jesus - Luke 10:17 / Acts 16:18

Daniel said, *"The people that know their God will be strong and do exploits."* (Daniel 11:32) Solomon said, *"The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and they are safe."* (Proverbs 18:10) The Lord through Malachi commends those who *"think on His name."* Jesus taught to ask anything "in his name" and it will be done for us. Jesus' name is a powerful name. It is a *"name above every name"* so that *"at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God."* (Philippians 2:9-11)

- o Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and are safe.
- o Acts 16:18 But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.
- o Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

3. The Blood of Christ - Rev. 12:11

“And they overcame him with the blood of the Lamb...”

The blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses us from all sin is the wonderful defensive shield of the saints. They stood before the throne in white garments washed in the blood.

- o Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
- o Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
- o Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,
- o 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
- o Revelation 12:11 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.

4. The Word our Testimony - Rev 12:11

“and the word of their testimony...” Your testimony is your verbal and audible expression of your commitment and surrender to the Lordship of Christ. It is not just your report of what God has done, but your report of whose side you are on.

- o Revelation 12:11 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.

5. The Authority of Christ - Matthew 28:18 / Luke 9:1-2/ Luke 10:19-20

The authority of Christ is his but he has transferred it to us. We are ambassadors for Christ, that is, his emissaries in the world to declare his authority over all.

- o Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
- o Luke 9:1-2 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.
- o Luke 10:19-20 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. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

6. The Word is our Sword - Eph 6:17

The word of God, that is, His promises and truth are our only offensive weapon though which we can attack the enemy. All other weapons are defensive. Learn the promises!

- o Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- o Matthew 4:1&4 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness

- to be tempted of the devil...But he answered and said, It is written
- o Zechariah 3:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?
 - o Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

7. The Prayers of Saints - praying always with all prayer... Eph 6:19

War is to waged on the enemy in the theater of prayer. It is only as we go forward on our knees that we are truly victorious.

- o Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
- o 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;
- o 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;

II. BE CLOTHED...Put on...whole armor of God! (verse. 11)

1. Full armor of God. - Zech. 4:6/ 2 Chron 20:15
2. Stand in the armor. - Is. 54:17
3. Helmet of salvation - Eph 2:8-9 / Ps 34:2
4. Vest of righteousness - Zech. 3:1-5
5. Belt of Truth - 1 Peter 1:13
6. Boots of Gospel - Romans 16:20 / Is 52:7/ Is 40:31
7. Sword of Spirit/Word of God - Hebrews 4:12
8. Shield of faith (Shield and Buckler) Psalm 91:4

III. BE AGGRESSIVE...Wrestle in prayer...(verse 12)

- Is.59:16-17 Wondered there was no intercessor
 Is 64:7 None that stirreth self to take hold of thee
 Ezekiel 22:30 He looked for an intercessor in the gap
 2 Chron. 20:21-22 Appointed singers to praise (until victory)
 Exodus 17:11-12 He lifted up rod and prevailed (JehovaNissi)
 Is 59:19 Spirit of Lord will lift up standard (banner)

IV. BE FIRM...Stand up to the devil! (verse 13)

Boldness is courage to stand up to those who would overpower you. We are to use boldness before the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need.

- See the strong man Eph 6:13 / 2 Kings 6:16-17
- Resist the strong man James 4:7
- Rebuke the strong man Jude 1:9/ Matt 17:18
- Bind the strong man Matthew 18:18-20/ 12:29
- Command the strong man Matthew 10:1/ 16:23

V. BE PERCEPTIVE...Pray down his strongholds (verse 14)

Don't be a shadow boxer who does not really fight at all. He just goes through the motions. Be a real fighter. Fight for real things. There are very real enemies around us in spiritual realms. God commands us not allow the hidden things of darkness to go unopposed. We are to expose the enemy's whereabouts and tactics.

- Thoughts & imaginations 2 Corinthians 10:4-5
- Angels of light 2 Corinthians 11:14:-15
- People ensnared & captive 2 Timothy 2:25-26
- Things/nature Mark 11:23-24 / Matt 8:26
- Diseases Luke 4:39 / 2 Corinthians 12:7

HIS STRONGHOLDS

What Are Strongholds?

Strongholds are areas of resistance to the will of God. They are areas that have been invaded and occupied by the enemy. They are places where Satan has been given his way through surrender of some area of life that rightfully belongs to God. Strongholds can infiltrate our personal lives, our churches, our families, and our organizations. Wherever Satan is allowed to play becomes a stronghold. If we allowed bees to nest in the walls of our house they would soon multiply and occupy the entire house. So it is with Satan. Give him an inch, and he will take a mile.

The enemy leaves behind some telltale signs. Jesus said the thief comes "The thief doesn't come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" - John 10:10 He always leaves destruction in his wake.

You cannot fight the enemy that you do not see. (Paul said, "So fight I, not as one that beats the air.") Identify his activities and target your praying specifically. There may be strongholds that are not listed here. Ask the Lord to reveal to you the enemy's strongholds by bringing these things to mind. Identify suspicious symptoms of the enemy's by his fingerprints on your life, your family, and your church. Remember the Lord says, "We are not ignorant of his devices."

(Obstacles, hindrances, sicknesses, oppression, fears, torments, etc.)

TRIALS Besieged by Enemy	TORMENTS Battered of the Enemy	TRAGEDIES Bondage to the Enemy
<p><u>People</u> - persecutors, blasphemers, interferers, antagonists, hinderers</p> <p><u>Finances</u> - devouring worm, waster, losses, leaky bag, persistent joblessness, persistent poverty</p> <p><u>Family</u> - disintegration of home, runaway children, wayward children, prolonged anger,</p> <p><u>Marriage</u> - disintegrating marriage, separation, divorce, arguments, jealousy, unfaithful spouse,</p> <p><u>Problems</u> - flood of misfortune, bad events, accidents, injuries, natural disasters,</p> <p><u>Physical</u> - health attacks "buffeting," nagging sicknesses, headaches, undiagnosed symptoms,</p>	<p><u>Depression</u> - prolonged emotional attacks, hopelessness, gloominess</p> <p><u>Physical</u> - spirit of infirmity, hypochondria, psychosomatic illnesses</p> <p><u>Fears</u> - unfounded fears, anxieties, panics, timidity, insecurity, inadequacy</p> <p><u>Anger</u> - hatred, bitterness, temper, rage, violence</p> <p><u>Moral</u> - repeated failures, obsessive temptations, lusts, obsessive thoughts</p> <p><u>Backsliders</u> - apostate deliberate willful turning away, prodigal sons and daughters</p>	<p><u>Drugs</u> - under the power of substances, alcohol, illegal drugs, prescription pills, cigarettes, etc.</p> <p><u>Sexual deviations</u> - addictions, porno, homosexuality, immorality behavior, etc.</p> <p><u>Abusive behavior</u> - destructive, assaults, language, self-mutilation, suicidal thoughts and attempts, physical abuse</p> <p><u>Insanity</u> - uncontrollable mind, psychosis, voices, visions, nightmares, etc.</p> <p><u>Occult involvement</u> - consulting psychics, palm readers, horoscopes, etc</p> <p><u>Cult involvement</u> - blinded to the truth, choose to believe a lie, doctrinal error concerning Christ</p>

Before we can pull down stronghold (footholds or nesting places of the enemy) we must identify those hidden things of darkness, and expose them. It is like shining a light into a dark place, the cockroaches will scatter at the presence of light.

The Enemy's Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 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;

Certainly Satan has strongholds. The devil took Jesus up onto a high mountain and showed Jesus the kingdoms of this world said he would give them to Jesus if he would bow and worship him - "for they are given unto me." Jesus did not contest that point. "Whoever sins is a slave of sin." Satan owns territory either because it was willingly given over to him, or he has usurped it.

1. We Must Be Able to Identify the Enemy's Strongholds. - Matt 16:23

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

- o Nesting places
- o Hiding places
- o Advantages
- o Occupation or prolonged torments

2. We Must Enlist Heavy Armor - Pea Shooters Won't Do. - Matt. 17:14-21

"14 And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, 15 Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. 16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

- o Power weapons of artillery barrages
- o Strong-holds require strong weapons
- o Strong man is armed and defending his own. Lk 11:21

3. We Must Concentrate the Attack on Enemies Fortifications. - Matt 18:18-20

18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it

shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

- o You must assault together, not alone.
- o You cannot attack many strongholds at once.
- o You must focus on one-at-a-time
- o You must prevail, prolong, laying siege
- o You must be willing to sacrifice - time / sleep / food

OUR WEAPONS

Understanding Our Weapons

How then shall we who are weak, finite, do battle with immortal, powerful forces in spiritual realms? The Scriptures tell us that *"The weapons of our warfare are, mighty to God to the pulling down of strongholds."* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

- Who has these weapons?
- To whom are they aimed?
- What are the weapons?
- How do they pull down strongholds?

Who Has These Weapons?

Jesus gives us some very important insights into Spiritual Warfare. *"Verily, I say unto you whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* (Matthew 18:18)

The context is speaking of spiritual authority in the church to execute church discipline, and specifically to declare anyone "anathema," or "cursed." The verses that follow however (18-20) apply to a broader scope. It is referring to spiritual authority in "heavenly places." (Eph 1:3, 2:6, 3:10) Jesus said, "All authority is given unto me in heaven and earth." He also declared to his disciples, "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." (Luke 10:19)

Who has this authority to tread on the enemy? Believers! Any two or three believers who agree as touching any issue they shall ask and it will be done.

Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 18:19)

To Whom Are They Aimed?

Luke further illuminates us to this spiritual authority in Luke 11:20-22.

"If I by the finger of God cast out devils (note the sp. authority), no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. When a strong man (the devil) armed keeps his palace, his goods are in peace. BUT when a stronger than he shall come upon him (that is Jesus) and overcome him, he takes from him all his armor (the stronghold) wherein he trusted, and divides his spoils."

Our weapons are mighty "through God," that is, they are stronger than the devil because Jesus has come and is stronger than Satan. And he has delegated to us that continuing authority, his authority, to bind the enemy and spoil his plans! Our prayer weapons are not aimed at God, but at the enemy.

What Are These Weapons?

Our weapons against the enemy's strongholds are...

1. Jesus - the Lord rebuke you - 1 John 4:4, Jude 1:9, Zech 3:2
2. Name of Jesus - Philippians 2:9
3. Prayer - 2 Cor. 10:4
4. Faith - 1 John 5:4
5. Word (God's promises) - Ephesians 6:17
6. The Blood of the Lamb - Revelation 12:11
7. Testimony - Revelation 12:11

How Do We Pull Down Strongholds?

Our weapons work through faith, that is, by declaring in prayer the authority and power of the Lord Jesus Christ over all spiritual powers. "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." (Ephesians 6:12) Our prayers are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. When we pray God moves by his mighty power. He sends out his angelic servants on missions of mercy. He stops the mouths of lions. He stills the storms with his word. He heals by his touch. God is at work on our behalf when we pray. We do not wrestle with God in prayer, but the wrestling is done with our own undisciplined minds, and with and against all the powers of the enemy.

Use the Weapons of Our Warfare

Prevailing Prayer

Urgency, intensity, burden, crying, fasting, staying until burden is lifted

Declarative Commands

Resist, rebuke, bind, cast out, silence, loose, agree in prayer, His blood

Prayer Partners

"Two are better than one" - If any two of you shall agree...ask..."

Claiming Promises

Quote, claim, apply, lay hold of, plead, take refuge in

Praises

Exalt Jesus name, worship, sing praises, declare his glory, extol his attributes and sovereignty

Trust the Eternal-Never-Failing Promises of God

- Jeremiah 23:29 Is not my Word is like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?
- Hebrews 4:12 The Word...is living, powerful, sharp, cutting, discerning..."
- Numbers 23:19 God is not a man that he should lie..hath he spoken, and shall he not make good?
- I Kings 8:56 ...According as He promised there hath not failed one word of all his good promises.
- II Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are 'YES' and 'AMEN'.
- Romans 4:20-21 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able to perform.
- Hebrews 6:11 It is impossible for God to lie."
- Hebrews 10:23 He is faithful that promised."
- II Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature...
- Matthew 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

Lay Hold Of The Promises

1. Receive them as of God - "to you..."
2. Believe them as of God - "Yes, and Amen today"
3. Apply them as from God - "For this situation..."
 1. Claim as own
 2. Quote to the enemy
 3. Stand on the Word
 4. Rest in the faithfulness of God

(see the Promise of God to use in prayer)

SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

(Do it, don't just think it! Check when you have done it)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. <u>BE STRONG IN THE LORD!</u> | _____ Eph. 6:10 |
| 2. <u>PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD</u> | _____ Eph. 6:11-18 |
| 3. <u>PRAY THE HEDGE OF PROTECTION</u> | _____ Ezekiel 22:30 |
| 4. <u>CLAIM THE BLOOD OF JESUS FOR COVERING</u> | _____ Rev. 12:11 |
| 5. <u>TAKE SHELTER IN SECRET PLACE OF GOD</u> | _____ Psalm 91:1-3 |
| 6. <u>AGREE TOGETHER BINDING THE ENEMY</u> | _____ Matt. 18:18-20 |
| 7. <u>RESIST THE DEVIL, STEDFASTLY</u> | _____ James 4:7/I Pet 5:8-9 |
| 8. <u>COMMAND HIM TO LEAVE</u> | _____ Matt. 10:1 |
| 9. <u>REBUKE HIM IN JESUS NAME</u> | _____ Matt. 17:18 |
| 10. <u>EXPOSE THE HIDDEN THINGS OF DARKNESS</u> | _____ Eph 5:11 |
| 11. <u>DECLARE LOOSING OF THE CAPTIVES</u> | _____ Luke 4:18 |
| 12. <u>PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS BY FAITH</u> | _____ II Cor. 10:3-5 |

It is only when we stand in our own righteousness that we should be afraid to stand before the enemy, for our righteousnesses are as "filthy rags" but the righteousness of Christ is called the armor of God.

Rejoice not that devils are subject to you in Jesus' name – BUT rejoice that your names are written in heaven. The power is not in us (ourselves) but in him who loved us and gave himself for us. We hide ourselves behind the cross.

OUR SHIELD

Clothe In His Armor

What is the first thing you do after taking a bath? Get dressed! I am so glad provision has been made for our nakedness! God commands us to "Put on", as elect of God. We are commanded to "put on the Lord Jesus," "Put on the new man," and to "Put on the whole armor of God." So put it on! That means dress in it. Reckon it to be so before the throne. Stand in Him complete.

Abraham believed God and it was "imputed" to him as righteousness. That word imputed means it was credited to his account. Though he was bankrupt himself, God applied it to his account because of his faith. Believe God and apply His provision for your nakedness.

The Old Testament book of Zechariah, chapter three contains a wonderful example of the need to put on, or to reckon ourselves clothed in the righteousness of God, and in the armor of the Lord. Joshua, the high priest, was standing before the Lord and Satan was at his right hand accusing him before the throne of God. Everything Satan brought against him was true except for one thing - God said, "I forgave him. I clothed him. Leave him alone!" Therefore God commanded the angel of the Lord to take off Joshua's dirty tattered garments and give him a robe of pure white, a turban on his head, and a scepter in his hand. Then God looks at him and says, "Is not this the brand plucked out of the fire?"

There Are Two Parts to Reckoning

1. Principle of Position - seeing yourself in heavenly places as God sees you.
2. Principle of Practice - exercising authority in Christ in heavenly places

I. Principle of Position

There is a "Principle of Position" that we all need to learn. It is the principle that though we all fall far short of the glory of God, God himself has made provision for us. His provision is that we can put on Christ. We wear his righteousness, his white robe, his crown, his authority. As God sees us in heaven he sees us through his perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ his Son. We are brands plucked out of the fire. Reckon it to be so! See yourself as God sees you... "and you are complete in him."(Colossians 2:10)

"To Reckon" is to appropriate God's invisible truth as our visible reality.

"To Believe" is to see the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith applies to our hearts the heavenly realities that God already sees.

- Put on the Lord Jesus Christ
- Put on His Righteousness
- Put on the Whole Armor of God

II. Principle of Practice

Using Your Authority

How do we exercise our God-given authority in Christ? How do we address the devil in our prayers? (We certainly don't pray to him.)

Weapons

God has clearly given us "Weapons of our Warfare" for the pulling down of strongholds. Our weapons (the word literally is "strategies") *are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself above the knowledge of God, and brings every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*" (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)

Words

The sword of the Spirit, is the Word of God. God's word is that which we use as our offense. It cuts, penetrates, convicts, declares, exposes, and casts out the enemies of God. Jesus said, "*All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*" That is why whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven. (Matt. 16:19, 18:18) That authority is in his word, his ultimate authoritative command. We simply wield the sword. Just point it in the right direction.

Prayers

"Be strong" or be bold, boldfaced, courageous, aggressive, un-intimidated - Eph 6:10

"A hand upon the throne" - Exodus 17:16

"A hedge of protection" - Ezekiel 22:30

"Boldly to the throne of grace" - Hebrews 4:16

OUR SHIELD AND BUCKLER

Ephesian 6:16 "Above all take the shield of faith"

Psalms 91:1-3 "His truth is your shield and buckler"

Israelites used two kinds of shields:

1. SHIELD:

A large 'door size' body shield known as "tsinnah" that was adapted to cover the whole body. The Greek word "thyreos" derived from the word door "tyra." This was carried by the heavily armed infantry soldiers and would protect them from the initial onslaught of arrows bombarded at the front lines. Goliath carried a shield of this type that was so heavy it required a shield bearer. 1 Samuel 17:7

2. BUCKLER:

A small shield (magen=buckler KJV) was carried by the archers. This shield was fitted on the arm so that the soldier could move about and still have the shield ready. These small shields were constructed of wicker or light wood and covered with either leather, or bronze. Unfortunately the KJV often confused the translation of these two weapons.

In the spiritual realm Paul enlightens our spiritual warfare by informing us that we are to use the "shield (thyreos) of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one." It is important to notice that the shield is not just one more piece of armor to be attached. He says, "ABOVE ALL take the shield of faith."

1. It is not our shield but GOD'S shield for us.

Psalm 3:3 "Thou art a shield for me."

Psalm 119:114 "Thou art my hiding place and my shield."

Psalm 5:12 "Thou wilt compass him as with a shield."

2. It is not a singular shield nor a small 'magen' it is both a body shield and an arm shield. He is our "Shield and Buckler."

Genesis 15:1 "Abram, I am thy shield and great reward."

Psalm 28:7 "He is our Strength and Shield"

Psalm 33:20 "He is my Help and Shield."

Psalm 84:11 "He is my Sun and Shield." *

Psalm 119:114 He is my Hiding Place and Shield."

3. What is the shield? It is not made by us of wood or stubble. It is God's Truth. It is composed of the promises of the word of God. It is by those promises that we must FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH.

Psalm 91:4 "His truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

** Often shields were polished to a bright shine so that the sun would reflect off of them blinding the enemy. In the same way the "brightness of His glory" or the Shekinah glory, so radiates from us as we pray that like Moses' whose face glowed, so we glow His presence into the enemy's eyes, thus blinding his attempts to aim fiery darts.*

It is with this shield of faith that we are able to QUENCH ALL the fiery darts of the wicked on. What are the fiery darts that the "devil" shoots at us when we pray? Are they not all the thoughts and distractions to keep us from looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (our shield).

Psalm 91

"He that dwelleth in the SECRET PLACE of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, He is my REFUGE and my FORTRESS: my God; in him will I trust. 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. 4 He shall COVER THEE with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy SHIELD AND BUCKLER."

Our Protection In Prayer *"Our Hiding Place"*

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" - Matthew 23:37 & Luke 13:34

Jesus spoke to the disciples about abiding in Him. He spoke to Israel and wept over her because she WOULD NOT nestle herself under his protective, caring wing. Restlessness will keep us from staying in the protective care of our Heavenly Father's strong wings. It is like choosing to take refuge under an umbrella, on a rock, in a rock, in a pavilion, in a fortified building, in a secret cave.

The winds of adversity, the attacks of the others and the fiery darts of the wicked one will come our way. In what we nestle for comfort and protection says where our hearts really are. We need to learn the nestling instinct by secret time or prayer, or in times of trouble His wing will be an unfamiliar place.

Observe the Scripture's use of synonyms for God's protective place of secret prayer. There is strength and safety abiding in Him. Study these Scriptures, there are many more. The first number you see indicates the Hebrew word, according to Strong's numbering system, that is being translated.

- (06738) Shadow of thy Wings - shade - Ps 17:8/ 36:7/57:1/61:4/63:7
- (04869) Refuge from floods - high place - Psalm 9:9 / 14:6/ 46:7,11
- (04268) Refuge from rain - shelter - Psalm 42:1 / 61:3
- (05521) Pavilion - royal canopy - Ps 27:5/ 31:20
- (04686) Fortress - stronghold, fort - Ps 18:2/ 31:3/ 71:3/ 144:2
- (05553) Rock - crag, cliff - Ps 18:2/ 31:3/ 40:2/ 42:9/ 71:3
- (06697) Rock - strength - Ps 18:31,46/ 27:5/ 28:1/ 31:2/ 62:2,6-7
- (05643) Hiding Place - shelter, secret place - Ps 32:71 / 119:114
- (04583) Strong Habitation - lair, refuge - Ps. 71:3
- (04020) High Tower - castle, elevated stage - Ps 61:3 / 144:2

Spiritual Warfare Issues

We grant that there are extremes in the realm of today's teachings regarding the authority of the believer. But the doctrine and teaching is not a present day phenomenon. Throughout the history of the church God has demonstrated His power and truth that Jesus Christ is able to do *"exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according His power that works in us."*

But because there are extremes does not mean that there is no truth to the authority of the believer. On the contrary, because there are counterfeit \$20 bills does not preclude that there are no real \$20 bills. God's word teaches us to *"despise not prophecies, prove all things, hold fast to that which is good."* It is the spiritually immature who would rather not discern between true from the counterfeit but prefer to throw out all evidence of miraculous power. We acknowledge the existence of many extremes in Charismatic and Pentecostal churches. These errors do not mean that all teaching of the authority of the believer are wrong. Paul exhorts the church *"despise not prophecies. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."* (I Thes. 5:20-21)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) Jesus told his disciples that miracles would continue through believers and that *"he who believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works shall he do because I go to the Father."* (John 14:12) We do not believe that miracles and miraculous gifts ended with the apostles. In fact the history of the church proves otherwise. The promises of God for all ages proves otherwise. The promises, commands and instructions of Jesus are not just for the apostles. Peter instructs us on this that *"No scripture is of any private interpretation."* (2 Peter 1:20) We believe that God is still able to do what He has always done. We affirm that God *"is able to exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us."* (Eph. 3:20)

When it comes to spiritual warfare and the authority of the believer we again believe Scriptures and the example of Christ and his promises to the church. *"The weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."* (2 Cor. 10:4) *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and power, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in heavenlies."* (Eph. 6:12) Notice that Paul says *"WE wrestle with principalities."* Others today would like us to believe that we have nothing to do with this heavenly warfare yet that does not agree with Scripture. (Rev. 12:10-12) In Ephesians Paul makes it clear that *"Christ has raised us up together and made us to sit together with Christ in the heavenlies."*

Issues

- Is Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever?
- Did miracles cease with the apostles?
- Did miraculous (sign gifts) cease with the apostles?
- Is the church to “cast our demons?” If not, when and why did that cease?

Authority Passages

(Each should be read and studied in its context and in light of the whole of God’s revelation.)

- Matthew 18:18-20 Bind and loosing on earth in prayer
- Ephesians 6:10-19 Armor of God, for we wrestle...against principalities, etc.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 Weapons of our warfare are mighty through God
- Rev 12:10-12 Overcame the devil with blood of the Lamb and word of testimony
- Luke 9:1-2 “Power over...the work of the enemy Mark 16:17-18, Mt 10:1, 7-8, Mt 28:18-20, ”
- Matthew 17:18-21 Jesus rebuked the devil, disciples could not cast our for doubts
- Matthew 16:23 Jesus spoke to the devil, “Get behind me Satan.”
- Luke 11:19-22 Spoiling the enemy, take way his armor
- Luke 10:1-21 (especially 9, 18-20) 7 disciples sent out with authority over all the work of the enemy - not limited to apostles

Errors - Denying the power of God and “unbelief”

- I Corinthians 2:4-5 My preaching was...in demonstration of the Spirit and power that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.
- Matthew 22:29 Condemnation of the Sadducees - You do err, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.
- 2 Timothy 3:5 Latter days, men shall have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof

Spiritual

Warfare

Workbook

=====

How to Use This List
"How To Reckon A Thing To Be So"

=====

What is the Benefit of this List?

Satan is a liar and the father of it. He deceives the nations and deceives Christians into thinking his lies are true. He is the accuser of the brethren, who accuses us before the throne of God. Zechariah 3 depicts the scene before the throne of God where the saint stands in tattered garments and Satan at his right hand making incessant accusations against him. The Lord steps in by commanding the angel of the Lord to clothe him in new garments clean and white, to put on him a turban. And the Lord declared:

"I have caused your iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with change of raiment."

The Revelation of Jesus Christ declares (Revelation 3:5, Revelation 3:18, Revelation 4:4) that the saints are clothed in white raiment that the shame of their nakedness does not appear.

· Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

· Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

· Revelation 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

· Revelation 12:10 declares that "the accuser of our brothers is cast down, who accused them before the throne day and night."

· Romans 8 is even more emphatic when it says, "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies. Who is he that condemns? It is Christ who died, rose again, and sits at the right hand of God making intercession for us."

Stop Believing Lies!

Too often believers believe the lies and accusations of the enemy. They either are ignorant of what God has said or they willingly disbelieve it based on their "feelings." We do not need to feel anything! God's truth is God's truth. "Let God be true and every man a liar." (Romans 3:4)

Reckon It To Be So

We need to learn who we are in Christ and confess the same out loud. I am what God says I am regardless of how I feel about myself. My feelings cannot change the absolute truth of God's word. We need to see ourselves in the light of God's word. Once we have heard and seen God's truth we are to RECKON it to be so. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves

to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." – Romans 6:11 The word reckon is "logizomai" in Greek, which means to calculate, count it up, logically sum it up as so. Sum up what God says as true and leave the rest.

Therefore...

I am what God says I am, not what I feel, and not what others think. Let God be true and every man a liar. Use this list as a coach for your heart during your prayer times. It is especially helpful when you are putting on the whole armor of God. Read it out loud. Let the devil hear your declaration. (He cannot read your thoughts you know.) Jesus said out loud, "Get thee behind me Satan!" How much more should we say it out loud.

Practical Use

Make these lists into 3x5 cards. (I Am, I Am God's, I Have Been, I Can, I Have) Put it into you pocket or purse for regular review and daily declaration. Make it so familiar that you eat, sleep and drink, the reality of who you are in Christ.

Who I Am In Christ

These are “truths” that God has declared. Jesus said, “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.” and again, “If the Son therefore shall set you free, you will be free indeed.” Believe God, not your feelings!

I AM GOD’S...

- possession Gen 17:8/ 1Cor 6:20
- child Jn 1:12
- workmanship Eph 2:10
- friend James 2:23
- temple 1 Cor 3:16/ 6:16
- vessel 2 Tim 2:2
- co-laborer 1 Tim 5:18
- witness Acts 1:8
- soldier 2 Tim 2:3
- ambassador 2 Cor 5:20
- building 1 Cor 3:9
- husbandry 1 Cor 3:9
- minister/instrument Acts 26:16 / 1 Tim 4:6
- chosen Eph 1:4
- beloved Rom 1:7/ 2 Thess 2:13
- precious jewel Mal 3:17
- heritage 1 Pet 5:3

I HAVE BEEN...

- redeemed by the blood Rev 5:9
- set free from sin /condemnation Rom 8:1-2
- set free from Satan’s control Col 1:13
- set free from Satan’s kingdom Eph 2
- chosen before foundation of world Eph 1:4
- predestined to be like Jesus Eph 1:11
- forgiven of all my trespasses Col 2:13
- washed in the blood of the Lamb Rev 1:5
- given a sound mind 2 Tim 1:7
- given the Holy Spirit 2 Cor 1:22
- adopted into God’s family Rom 8:15
- justified freely by his grace Rom 3:24
- given all things pertaining to life 2 Pet 1:3
- given great and precious promises 2 Pet 1:4
- given ministry of reconciliation 2 Cor 1:22
- given wisdom Eph 1:8

I AM...

- complete in him Colossians 2:10
- free forever from sin’s power Rom 6:14
- sanctified 1 Cor 6:11
- meet for the Master’s use 2 Tim 2:21
- loved eternally 1 Pet 1:5 /
- eternally kept in the palm of his hand
- kept from falling Jude 1:24
- kept by the power of God 1 Pet 1:5
- not condemned Rom 8:1-2
- on my way to heaven Jn 14:6
- quickened by his mighty power Eph 2:1

- seated in heavenly places Eph 1:3
- the head and not the tail Deut 28:13
- light in the darkness Mat 5:14
- candle in a dark place Mat 5:15
- city set on a hill Mat 5:14
- salt of the earth Mat 5:13
- his sheep Ps 23 / Ps 100:3/ Jn 10:14
- a citizen of heaven 1 Pet 2:11
- hidden with Christ in God Ps 32:7
- protected from the evil one 1 Jn 5:18
- kept by the power of God 1 Pet 1:5
- secure in Christ Jn 10:28-29
- set upon a Rock Ps 40:2
- more-than-a-conqueror Rom 8:37
- a victor, an overcomer 1 Jn 5:4
- healed by his strips Is 53:6
- hidden and sheltered under his wing Ps 91:4

I HAVE...

- access to the Father Rom 5:2 /Eph 3:12
- a home in heaven waiting for me Jn 14:1-2
- authority over the power of enemy Lk 10:19
- all things in Christ 2 Cor 5:17
- a living hope 1 Pet 1:3
- an anchor to my soul Heb 6:19
- a hope that is sure and steadfast Heb 6:19
- authority to tread on serpents Lk 10:19
- power to witness Acts 1:8
- the tongue of the learned Is 50:4
- the mind of Christ 1 Cor 2:16
- boldness and access Heb 10:19
- peace with God Rom 5:1
- faith as a grain of mustard seed Lk 17:6

I CAN...

- do all things through Christ Phil 4:13
- find mercy and grace to help Heb 4:16
- come boldly to the throne of grace Heb 4:16
- quench all the firey darts Eph 6:16
- tread on the serpent Lk 10:19
- declare liberty to captives Is 61:1
- pray always and everywhere Lk 21:36
- chase a thousand Joshua 23:10
- defeat the enemy

I CANNOT...

- be separated from God’s love Rom 8:35-39
- be lost Jn 10:28
- be moved Ps 16:8
- taken out of the Father’s hand Jn 10:29

What God Did With My Sin

1. They were paid in full – Romans 5:11. Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.
2. They were forgiven/pardoned – I John 1:9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
3. They were laid on Jesus – Is 53:6. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
4. They were washed whiter than snow – Is 1:18. "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.
5. They were covered – Ps 32:1. Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
6. They were cleansed by blood of Jesus – Heb 9:22. In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
7. They were blotted out (swept away) – Is 44:22. I have swept away (blotted out) your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." (Ps 51:1)
8. They were removed as far as east from west – Ps 103:12. as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
9. They were cast in depths of sea – Micah 7:19. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.
10. They were forever forgotten – Jeremiah 31:34. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Sing The Hymn

"It Is Well With My Soul"

My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

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Practical Disciplines Workbook

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BELIEVE GOD FOR YOUR POSITION IN CHRIST

I Am...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I Have Been ...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I Can...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I Have...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I Cannot...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

My Sins Have Been...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

(Now that you have confessed it, do you believe it?)

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HELPFUL HINTS

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ACTIONS IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Much of our warfare must be done **out loud**, not just in our minds. Be sure that you are not just thinking your resistance of the devil. He does not read your thoughts. He must be spoken to. The Gospel truths must be announced to him. His hiding places must be exposed **out loud**!

1. **PUT ON** THE ARMOR OF GOD Ephesians 6:11-18
2. **BE STRONG** IN THE LORD! Ephesians 6:10
3. **CLAIM** THE BLOOD Revelation 12:11
4. **RESIST** THE DEVIL James 4:7
5. **BIND** THE ENEMY Matthew 18:18-20
6. **LOOSE** THE CAPTIVES Luke 4:18
7. **PULL DOWN** STRONGHOLDS II Corinthians. 10:3-5
8. **PUT A HEDGE** OF PROTECTION Ezekiel 22:30
9. **COMMAND** HIM TO LEAVE Matthew 10:1
10. **REBUKE** HIM IN JESUS Matthew 17:18

It is only when we stand in our own righteousness that we should be afraid to stand before the enemy, for our righteousnesses are as "filthy rags" but the righteousness of Christ is called the armor of God.

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE CHECKLIST

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Much of our warfare must be done **out loud**, not just in our minds. Be sure that you are not just thinking your resistance of the devil. He does not read your thoughts. He must be spoken to. The Gospel truths must be announced to him. His hiding places must be exposed **out loud**!

(Do it ! Check when you have done it)

1. PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD ___ Eph. 6:11-18
2. BE STRONG IN THE LORD! ___ Eph. 6:10
3. CLAIM THE BLOOD ___ Rev. 12:11
4. RESIST THE DEVIL ___ James 4:7
5. BIND THE ENEMY ___ Matt. 18:18-20
6. LOOSE THE CAPTIVES ___ Luke 4:18
7. PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS ___ II Cor. 10:3-5
8. PUT A HEDGE OF PROTECTION ___ Ezekiel 22:30
9. COMMAND HIM TO LEAVE ___ Matt. 10:1
10. REBUKE HIM IN JESUS ___ Matt. 17:18

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IDENTIFY THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLDS

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You cannot fight the enemy that you do not see. (Paul said, “*So fight I, not as one that beats the air.*”) Identify his activities and target your praying specifically. There may be strongholds that are not listed here. Ask the Lord to reveal to you the enemy’s strongholds by bringing these things to mind.

(Obstacles, hindrances, sicknesses, oppression, fears, torments, etc.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

TRIALS Attacked & Besieged by enemy	TORMENTS Oppression of the enemy	TRAGEDIES Bondage to the enemy
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>People</u> - enemies persecutors, blasphemers, interferes 2. <u>Finances</u> - devouring worm, waster, losses 3. <u>Family</u> - disintegration, scatterer, anger 4. <u>Marriage</u> - destroyer, divorce, separation 5. <u>Problems</u> - flood of bad events 6. <u>Physical</u> - health attacks "buffeting" 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Depression</u> - prolonged emotional attacks 2. <u>Physical</u> - spirit of infirmity, hypochondriac 3. <u>Fears</u> - unfounded fears, anxieties, panics 4. <u>Anger</u> - hatred, bitterness, temper, rage, violence 5. <u>Moral</u> - repeated failures, obsessive temptations 6. <u>Backslider</u> - apostate deliberate willful turning away 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Drugs</u> - under the power of substances, alcohol, pills, etc. 2. <u>Sexual deviations</u> - addictions, porno, homosexuality, immorality 3. <u>Abusive behavior</u> - destructive, assaults, language 4. <u>Insanity</u> - uncontrollable mind, psychosis, voices, visions, etc. 5. <u>Occult involvement</u> - consulting psychics, palm readers etc 6. <u>Cults</u> - blinded to the truth, choose to believe a lie