

Personal Spiritual Warfare

Part 2

Chapter 6b

6.4 Spiritual Warfare with Other people

The enemy is very tricky as we have been saying. He has been teaching us in school and in non-Christian social life various lies that we have come to live by.

As we said, he will use other people to entice us away from God, make us doubt our faith, and push us into a position that causes us to sin even if we are in the right.

We have been taught that if we do not tell the whole thing when asked a question, then we are lying. Did God say that you have to tell everything you know or it is a lie, NO!!

You do not have to tell them everything, they are just trying to get you to tell them something that they can then twist and use against you.

Listen to the Holy Spirit in your heart and let Him guide you as to what to say. God says that you should not worry about what you are to say, but let Him speak for you.

MT 10:17 "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. [18] On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. [19] But when they arrest you, **do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, [20] for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.**

MK 13:9 "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. [10] And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. [11] **Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.**"

Do not fall into the enemy's trap. Even Jesus did not answer them knowing that they were trying to trap Him.

MT 21:21 "Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. [22] If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

MT 21:23 “Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

MT 21:24 “Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. [25] John's baptism--where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn't you believe him?’ [26] But if we say, ‘From men’--we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

MT 21:27 “So they answered Jesus, “We don't know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

This is warfare, not a game. You play this game by God's rules not those of the world made by our enemy.

You are not subject to this world and our enemy, but to God. So let God handle it through you.

These same evil people will try to get you to compete with them, or put you in the position of defending God. But do not let them entice you into it. Listen to your small still voice and follow the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit leads you into these conversations and gives you the power and authority over them, then it will not be an argument but warfare and He will give you the victory, but if you are not sure if He is leading you into it, then stop and or leave.

EPH 5:15 “Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. [18] Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. [19] Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, [20] always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1TI 6:3 “If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, [4] he is conceited and understands nothing. **He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions [5] and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.**”

1TI 6:6 “But godliness with contentment is great gain. [7] For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. [8] But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. [9] People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. [10] For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

1TI 6:11 “*But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.* [12] Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. [13] In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you [14] to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [15] which God will bring about in his own time--God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, [16] who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.”

1TI 6:17 “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. [18] Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. [19] In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

1TI 6:20 “Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. **Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, [21] which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith.**

Grace be with you.”

So do not get carried away in futile and worthless conversations and arguments because you cannot convince someone who is arguing to cause you stress and frustration, because you cannot convince them of something that they refuse to believe. It is like trying to talk a suicide bomber out of doing what they have set themselves out to do. You can only save your life and that of the others by killing them. That is the ultimate futile conversation.

Only by the power and authority of God can that conversation come out happy.

They use the deception that they are interested in your faith, when they are really trying to lure you into a position that will allow them to kill you. If you live by the Spirit

and He tells you to do, then by all means you better go, but on the other hand, if He does not tell you to do, then do not presume to do, you will die.

Look at what happened when these Jews were be presumptuous.

AC 19:13 “Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." [14] Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. [15] One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" [16] Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.”

They presumed that anyone could do this, but God did not tell them to do it and they were severely beaten.

DO NOT PRESUME. This is not a game it is a serious matter and people get hurt and even die.

6.5 How do We fight?

We start back with Ephesians 6

EPH 6:10 “**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.** [11] Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. [12] For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. [13] Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. [14] Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. [18] And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

We start, we fight and we finish with one truth, GOD. Actually He does all of the fighting. We just let Him use us. It is His power, His authority, it is His armor, it is His strength and it is His blood that makes is all happen. The only thing we bring into this situation or equation is FAITH. And even that comes from Him.

RO 12:3 “For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with

sober judgment, **in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.**

[4] Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5] so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6] We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. [7] If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; [8] if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

RO 12:9 “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. [10] Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. [11] Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. [12] Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. [13] Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

RO 12:14 “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

God has given you a measure of faith to start with, but I believe that He expects us to always build our faith. See chapter 1.3.3 on faith as a review. Building of faith is not making it one big faith, but lots and lots of small faith put together. We have to learn to believe God for all things, we have to learn to trust God for all things and then we have to act on this belief and trust in all things. That is a lot of learning.

You have to learn to live in His Holy Spirit. It does not come over night.

Lets continue with Ephesians 6, which is to put on and use the Armor of God.

6.6 Full Armor of God

This armor is to protect you, it is not really the weapon to fight. It does include the Sword, which is His word, but most of it is for protection, and the sword is too. Beware here is another deception, in that the enemy knows the scripture better then we do and so do not be deceived the just because a person knows the scripture that he is a Christian.

MT 4:1 “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. [2] After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. [3] The tempter came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

MT 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written: `Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

MT 4:5 Then the devil took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. [6] "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

**" `He will command His angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "**

MT 4:7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: `Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

MT 4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. [9] "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

MT 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Away from Me, Satan! For it is written: `Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

This shows how the Scripture Word of God is powerful.

I love watching an old movie called "The Black Shield of Falworth." It is a classic example of knights in training like us, the warriors of God.

In the movie, above, our star and hero was required to wear his armor at all times except when he was sleeping or eating a formal meal. As he was standing in his new armor trying to keep his balance he asked his teacher "Why?" The teacher answered him by touching him with his finger and he fell; and then like a turtle he floundered on his back trying to get up but he could not because it was too heavy, for he had not learned how to control it and he was not strong enough to move it by himself. If he were in battle, the enemy would easily kill him.

The point of this movie is that it took years and years become proficient in fighting in the heavy armor. They were required to live in their armor at all times, except during meals and while sleeping because the armor weighted between 70 to 150 lbs depending on the size of the knight. He had to run, ride his horse, sword fight and fist fight in that armor. If he fell, he had to get up quick. If you were not strong enough or did not have the skill of how to move in it, he could be stuck on the ground and at the mercy of his enemy.

It protected him, but it was very burdensome and hard to move.

So like him, we need to always put on this armor of God and constantly practicing. That way when we go to war, we can use it and not have its weight hold us down allowing the enemy to easily kill us.

This is what the Lord is constantly doing with us. Putting us in a position to where are always practicing our armor, until we are proficient with it making it our friend to protect us and so that we can fight back.

EPH 6:10 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [11] Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. [12] For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. [13] Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. [14] **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.** [18] And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

So the full armor of God is the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, your feet fitted with boots of the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit.

As you know, the belt of truth is what holds all the protection armor in place, it is the truth of God: the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. The breastplate of righteousness is what protects our vital organs by showing our love for God through obedience—if you love Me you will follow My commands. Then the boots that not only cover your feet but all of your legs up to the breastplate and this is done by the Peace that surpasses understanding, that helps keep you from running in fear of the enemy. Peace of the Spirit is the power that helps you walk through the valley of death with God and know that He will keep you safe. The belt of truth holds all of this together. The truth of what God will do to help you fight in His strength.

Then the shield of faith is the faith in God to protect you in His strength. The helmet of salvation is to protect your mind and to help it remember God's covenant of salvation.

Then finally, He has given us a massive weapon to fight with, the sword of the Spirit. He tells us in this same paragraph how that works:

There are many ways to protect yourself along with putting on the full armor of God.

6.7 Prayer

EPH 6:18 “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

See the Volume I Chapter 9 for review on prayer.

You must read and understand prayer, for prayer is not magic. Prayer is a request of God our Father. It is a request. It is up to Him to do it or not. It is His authority, power and strength. We are being obedient when we pray. It is not a special chant or spell. You do not control God. It is a request. He has indicated the best way to get results while communicating with Him: John 14, 15, and 16 among others. But is it communication. The best way to think of this is the communication results you get with your human parents. How do you communicate with them?

God has His timing and His way of doing things. It is best when we put our faith along with what He wants to do, but God will not be mocked, He will do what He will, He will have mercy on who He will have mercy and if it is not what you want then He will have His way.

EX 33:18 “Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

EX 33:19 “And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. [20] But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

RO 9:14 “What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! [15] For he says to Moses,

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

RO 9:16 “It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. [17] For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." [18] Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

RO 9:19 “One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" [20] But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, `Why did you make me like this?' " [21] Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

RO 9:22 “What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath--prepared for destruction? [23] What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory-- [24] even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? [25] As he says in Hosea:

"I will call them 'my people' who are not my people;
and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one,"

Prayer is a very important part of warfare, and so we must continuously pray.

1TH 3:6 “But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. [7] Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. [8] For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. [9] How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? [10] **Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.**”

1TH 5:12 “Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. [13] Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. [14] And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. [15] Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.”

1TH 5:16 “**Be joyful always; [17] pray continually;** [18] give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1TH 5:19 “Do not put out the Spirit's fire; [20] do not treat prophecies with contempt. [21] Test everything. Hold on to the good. [22] Avoid every kind of evil.”

6.8 Power of Love

In praying for others, show your obedience to God's first rule: Love others as I have loved you.

For love is an action:

1CO 13:1 “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] **If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.**”

1CO 13:4 “**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. [5] It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. [6] Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. [7] It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.**”

1CO 13:8 “**Love never fails.** But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. [9] For we know in part and we prophesy in part, [10] but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. [11] When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. [12] Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

1CO 13:13 “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

Love is patient, love is kind, love is... Love is not a feeling. Love is doing for others. Love is obedient—Jesus says that if you love Me, you will follow My commands. Love is battling the devil.

1JN 2:3 “**We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands.** [4] The man who says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. [5] But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him: [6] Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.”

1JN 2:7 “Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. [8] Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in Him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true Light is already shining.”

1JN 2:9 “Anyone who claims to be in the Light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. [10] Whoever loves his brother lives in the Light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. [11] But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.”

1PE 4:1 “Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. [2] As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. [3] For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. [4] They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. [5] But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. [6] For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to men in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.”

1PE 4:7 “The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. [8] **Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.** [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

6.9 Power in the Lord's Promises and Prophecy

There is power in the Lord's promises, and in His prophecies. There is power in obeying His commands. There is power in Praise and in showing your faith. This power is what destroys the enemy. It is this power that defeats our enemy.

2CO 10:1 “By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you--I, Paul, who am "timid" when face to face with you, but "bold" when away! [2] I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. [3] For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. [4] **The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.** [5] **We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** [6] **And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.”**

1TI 1:18 “Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, **so that by following them you may fight the good fight, [19] holding on to faith and a good conscience.** Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. [20] Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.”

Please note: Prophecy is an important part of daily life with God, but it must be given and so received like the following or it is not prophecy:

1CO 14:1 "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy. [2] For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. [3] **But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.** [4] He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. [5] I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified."

In short it is for edification if it does not edify, then it is not prophesy and so it then follows in the Deuteronomy 18 which says:

DT 18:17 "The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. [18] I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. [19] If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account. [20] **But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.**"

DT 18:21 "You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the LORD?" [22] If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the LORD does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. **That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.**"

In short, the power comes from God but it is based on our faith. We must have faith in His promises, and His prophecies. We must have faith in Him to obey Him. In doing so, He will provide you will all the power you need to do the task at hand and to fight a good fight. Remember, faith moves mountains.

6.10 There is power in Praise and in showing your faith

However, everyone needs to know that there is tremendous power in praise. So what is praise? Praise it showing your love for God. It establishes you position with God. He takes a humble person to praise some one. It shows your humbleness to God and the enemy. It shows your faith in God. How can you praise some one, if you to not believe in them, if you do not trust them, so praise is the action/doing part of faith. It shows your faith in the One who truly deserves our praise.

To praise God in all situations shows you faith in God that He will fulfill His promises, and that He is always faithful regardless if we deserve it or not. He is faithful

because of His character, not because of ours. When you are sad and we all know that He wants us to be joyful always, then praise will show our faith and obedience in being joyful by showing our praise for Him.

Praise also drives the enemy away. They cannot stand some one praising the Lord, because they want your praise. So they will keep trying to turn you away from God, but praise will cause them to quit and leave. Praise is very painful to them.

We praise God not because He is an egotistical megalomaniac or so selfish that if we do not praise Him, He will condemn us to hell, but He knows that there is power in praise and so He is showing us this power and freedom. Praising God sets us free from the enemy. He knows this, so He shows it and asks to praise Him.

Praising God shows our surrender to Him, remember, he who tries to save it will loose it, but he who gives up his life for God will save it. Praising God is loosing your life for Him, hence we save it through praise.

Next is showing your faith in God. The easiest way is by thanking God. When we thank God for what He has done, it shows our faith in Him to fulfill His promise. For why do you thank someone? You thank them for doing something for you. You thank them because you believe that you have received your request of them. So it is with God. When you thank Him, you are showing your faith in Him.

MK 11:22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. [23] "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. [24] Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe that you have received it**, and it will be yours. [25] And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins. "

Giving thanks is showing that you believe that you have received it. The giving of thanks, also shows faith that God has forgiven you and him. For prayers will never be hear if sin is in the way preventing the prayer from going to Heaven.

To further understand this concept of praise, there are several good books by Mel Carothers, called Power in Praise, Walking and Leaping, More Power To You and a couple of other. They are all great.

6.11 Prepare to fight; the Process

You must first be aware of what you are getting in for as He says in:

LK 14:28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? [29] For

if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, [30] saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

Or

LK 14:31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? [32] If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. [33] In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

There is a process to Personal spiritual warfare. It uses all of these methods of love, forbearance, resistance, the blood of Christ, taking authority, resting in God. In all and all though, He must be in control and you must be obedient to what He is guiding you to do, for every battle is different, with different forces, and different people. When the fight is over, we the children of God must survive. We cannot loose the weak children in the battle. We cannot kill the children of God when destroying the enemy. We cannot loose anyone by being lazy, stupid or negligent.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (be obedient).

He gives us a problem, we seek to find out what it is, then we do what He asks us to do, which is usually to find out (seek) what He wants us to do, then we obey what He wants us to do, which is usually, to find out (seek) Him to find out how we are to do it.

In summary

1. We seek Him to find out what the problem is;
2. We seek Him to find out what we are to do about the problem
3. We seek Him to find out how we are to fight, fix, or handle the problem.

We do not fight, fix or try to handle the problem until we know what the true problem is, until we know what He wants us to do about the problem and we do not do anything until we know how to do it. Then we do it.

Many of us get a inkling about a problem and because we are used to doing everything ourselves, we rush off to do it with what little information of training or education we have. And we fail. Why, because, God gave us the information to start this process and not to panic and run off like a chicken with its head cut off, trying this and then trying that, and then getting discouraged because it did not happen as we thought it should.

If He wanted it to be done earlier, He would have told us earlier. But because we are doing what He has taught us, then He knows what process we are going to use, and that it takes a certain amount of time. He knows how long we will take to do it. His timing is perfect, so do not panic, rush or worry because we think there is not enough

time. There is enough time. He said so. Faith in Him. We are to be righteous. We are to obey Him or we will die in this warfare.

AC 19:11 “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, [12] so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”

AC 19:13 “Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.” [14] Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. [15] **One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?” [16] Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.”**

This warfare is for real. It is the battle for the world, for God. But remember when we are in warfare, the Lord is with us.

We must not rush into anything or we will be rushing to our death. This is serious warfare.

So warfare is fought by the Lord’s strength, not ours, it is fought by His wisdom, not ours, it is fought by the Spirit of the Lord not ours.

Make sure to understand that this is not all, or even a lot on Spiritual warfare, it is just a beginning. The whole bible is how. That is way it is so important that you study it everyday as the Lord leads. You must allow Him to teach you or it will be useless to do.

So now you ask, when is the Personal Spiritual battle over? The Lord said today, that the battle is over when you decide to follow Jesus. When you decide to take your cross and follow Him. And that you decide to keep that decision. When you decide that you are willing to keep that decision not matter what.

God said it, I believe it, and that settles it. It is that simple. The battle continues even if you cannot, will not or do not whole heartily decide to follow Jesus no matter what.

JAS 1:2 “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, [3] because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. [5] If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. [6] But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. [7] That man should not

think he will receive anything from the Lord; [8] **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.**”

JAS 4:4 “You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. [5] Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? [6] But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud
but gives grace to the humble."

JAS 4:7 “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and he will come near to you. **Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** [9] Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. [10] Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”

REV 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. [15] **I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! [16] So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.** [17] You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. [18] I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.”

REV 3:19 “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. **So be earnest, and repent.** [20] Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

They are **lukewarm** because they cannot decide to follow God, so be earnest and repent.

JOS 24:11 " `Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did also the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I gave them into your hands. [12] I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove them out before you--also the two Amorite kings. You did not do it with your own sword and bow. [13] So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.'

JOS 24:14 "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. [15] But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**"

1KI 18:18 "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. [19] Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

1KI 18:20 "So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. [21] **Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."**

But the people said nothing.

1KI 18:22 "Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. [23] Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. [24] Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire--he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

MT 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

MT 6:22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. [23] But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

MT 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

MT 6:25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? [26] Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father

feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? [27] Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? “

The purpose of the Bible, these writings, prophecies, and Godly messages is to help you decide: to decide to believe God, to decide to trust God and to act on your decision.

Once you have wholeheartedly made your decision and have decided to keep that decision and not be double minded, remember, reserving the right to reevaluate your decision is not a decision. Be like Joshua in that who made the decision, “**But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD**”. That decision granted him and his household the right to go into the new covenant land.

