

Don't Let the Devil Steal What Is Yours

Jesus told us that **"in this world you shall have tribulations**, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We are not guaranteed a soft, smooth ride through this world as Christians. Instead, we are told to put on the full armor of God, and to stand and fight against the enemy, Satan (Ephesians 6:10-18). Although there are many wonderful promises in God's word concerning prayer and God's desire to answer our prayers, most Christians are ignorant of **spiritual warfare and how it relates to our prayers**. We think that prayer is only a two-way transaction between a loving Heavenly Father and one of His children, but we often are unaware of the spiritual forces that are arrayed against us and the receiving of the answer to our prayers (Daniel 10:2-13). Does that mean that God is not all powerful? No, of course not, but He has set up certain rules and laws of how things work in this messed up world that is still under the curse of sin and still under control of Satan, the "god of this world" and "ruler of this world" (John 12:31, II Corinthians 4:4, John 14:30). We also know that **Satan is a THIEF and a liar** (John 8:44), so we must be careful not to fall into the trap of assuming that because our prayers were not answered in "our timing" that it is somehow not God's will for us to have what we've asked for.

- **John 10:10** **"The THIEF comes only to STEAL, KILL and destroy**; I have come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly."
- **I John 3:8** "...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might DESTROY the works of the DEVIL."
- **I John 5:4** "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--**OUR FAITH**."
- **Luke 10:19** "Behold, **I give YOU the AUTHORITY** to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over **ALL the power of the enemy**, and NOTHING shall by any means hurt you."
- **Mark 9:23** "Jesus said unto him, 'If you can BELIEVE, **all things are possible to him who BELIEVES**.'"

Just as the Israelites had to go in and **fight for the Promised Land**, we have to go in and **fight for what belongs to us**. God PROMISED a certain area of land to the Israelites ("The Promised Land"), but He also told them in Joshua 1:3 that "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you." In other words, **whatever they would stand up and FIGHT for would be theirs**, but whatever territory they would not "set their feet upon" and fight for, would remain in the enemy's hands. Many Christians remain weak and defeated because they do not know what God's word promises them, and others may know the promises, but are ignorant of how to receive them. When we are "baby Christians" God will answer our prayers, many times even when we pray "wrongly" - He will honor our faith in Him, just because we're babies. However, when we grow to maturity, God expects us to put on the "whole armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-18) and go out to meet the enemy head-on in battle. He also expects us to discern what kind of prayers can just be, "Oh God, please supply my needs. Thank You, Lord" and which kind will need some wrestling with the enemy.

- **Ephesians 6:18** "Praying always with ALL kinds of prayer...."
- **Luke 13:12-13 & 16** "And when Jesus saw her He called her to Him, and said unto her, 'Woman, you are LOOSED from your infirmity (set FREE from your sickness). And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God..... And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, **whom SATAN HAS BOUND**, lo, these eighteen years, be LOOSED from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

In Luke 13, Jesus healed the woman who was bent over and could not straighten herself up. He called it a **"spirit of infirmity"** and said that **Satan had this woman bound** for over eighteen years! He called her a Daughter of Abraham, which means He was emphasizing the

fact that she was a Believer under the Old Covenant, with all of its promises of healing. **Healing BELONGED to that woman, but Satan had stolen it and kept it from her** for eighteen years! How many Christians, those who are under the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus (Luke 22:20) have their healing stolen from them and end up dying and going to heaven early, before their time should be up? Psalm 91:16 says, "**With long life I will satisfy him...**", and yet many of God's people have the length of life or the quality of life stolen from them, although it legally belongs to them because of what Jesus did on the cross.

Healing is not the only thing that we allow Satan to steal from us. For some it may be financial blessings or a job, it may be happiness in marriage, or the ability to have a child, or a child running away or being in rebellion, or any number of things. Now, I'm not saying that it is never God's will for us to go through suffering, because His word tells us that He will use suffering to refine us as gold and silver. I'm not saying that healing is always going to happen, and that you will never die. Of course, we all have a time when our life and purpose on earth is finished, but God does not have to make you sick to take you home when your time is finished. "Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15). When your time on earth is finished, and you have completed the work He has for you to do, He can take you home in a moment, usually quietly in your sleep. If you are not "satisfied" with the life that you've had so far, and you feel there is more that God has for you to do, then by all means PRAY and ask God for what belongs to you according to the promises in His word, and stand up against Satan.

- **James 1:2-4** "My brethren, **count it all JOY** when you fall into **various TRIALS**, knowing that the **TESTING of your faith produces PATIENCE**. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."
- **I Peter 1:6-7** "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved (distressed) by **various trials**, that the **genuineness** of your FAITH, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though **it is TESTED by fire**, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
- **Job 23:10** "But He knows the way I take; **when He has tried me**, I shall come forth as gold."
- **I Peter 4:13 & 19** "But **rejoice** to the extent that you partake (share) of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy." "Therefore, let those who **suffer according to the will of God** commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator."

Child of God, whatever you need in your life, if your regular prayers do not seem to be getting answered, it may be that you will need to do spiritual warfare, and **stand on the promises of God**, "having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore..." (Ephesians 6:13-14). Go through your Bible (your covenant with God) and **FIND all the promises** you can that relate to your situation. Then **come BOLDLY before the throne of grace** (Hebrews 4:16) with those promises, to ask for whatever you need, just as the woman in Matthew 15:28 **asked Jesus BOLDLY** for healing and deliverance for her daughter, and Rahab, who asked not only for her own life, but **BOLDLY asked** for the lives of ALL her family members and ALL that they had. We may need to pray like the widow in Luke 18 who kept coming to the judge saying, "Give me legal protection from my opponent." Jesus Himself says in Luke 18:7-8 that His "elect" (chosen ones) who cry day and night to Him will be avenged, and He calls that kind of praying faith!

- **Ephesians 6:10-11** "Finally, my brethren, **be STRONG in the LORD**, and in the **POWER of His MIGHT**. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand AGAINST the SCHEMES of the DEVIL."
- **Matthew 16:19** "And **I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever you shall bind (forbid) on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever you shall loose (permit, allow) on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
- **Mark 11:22b-24** "....Have faith in God. For assuredly I say to you, that **whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,'** and does not

doubt in his heart, but BELIEVES that those things which he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says."

- **Matthew 15:28** "Then Jesus answered and said to her, '**O woman, YOUR FAITH is great;** be it done for you as you wish'. And her daughter was HEALED at once."
- **Joshua 2:13** "And that you will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, **and all that they have**, and deliver our lives from death."
- **Luke 18:1-8** "Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, 'There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God, and did not respect man. And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, "**Give me legal protection from my opponent.**" And for a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, "Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out.'" And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, **who CRY to Him day and night**, and will He delay long over them? I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?'"
- **Psalms 107:19-20** "Then **they CRY unto the Lord** in their trouble, and He saves them out of their distresses. He sent His WORD, and HEALED them, and DELIVERED them from their destructions."

Last of all, and maybe most important of all, **don't let Satan steal your joy!** Galatians 5:22-23 lists JOY as one component of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and Jesus says that if we abide in Him, He produces this fruit in us. Jesus Himself tells us that **this FRUIT, of which JOY is a part**, comes from **ABIDING in Him**, and it is a gladness and peace welling up from within, but not from our own SELVES, but from His Spirit living in us. To ABIDE in Jesus means to remain in a close relationship and CONSTANT FELLOWSHIP with Jesus. Jesus Christ comes to live in our hearts when we receive Him by faith. He comes to dwell in us by His Spirit - the Holy Spirit. We have fellowship with Him through prayer (just talking to Him) and reading His word (He talks to us). God's kind of JOY is quite different than happiness. Happiness is an emotion and is based on circumstances in one's life (the word happiness comes from what "happens" to you). **The JOY that God gives to the Believer in Jesus is a supernatural quality that does not depend on circumstances or emotions**, and can even be experienced in the WORST of outward circumstances. This kind of JOY comes directly from God Himself. It is so important that you **do not allow yourself to get ANXIOUS** while praying or doing spiritual warfare. No matter where you are in **waiting for God to answer your prayers**, you can have this perfect joy that comes from trusting in the Lord Himself to take care of you and work out all your problems for good, in His perfect timing.

- **Galatians 5:22-23** "But **the FRUIT of the Spirit** is love, **JOY**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."
- **John 15:4-5 & 11** "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear FRUIT of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. **He who ABIDES in Me**, and I in him, **bears much FRUIT**; for without Me you can do nothing. These things I have spoken to you, that **My JOY may remain in you**, and that **your JOY may be full.**"

We are also commanded to REJOICE or be JOYFUL, and **to praise and thank God in all circumstances**. By an ACT of your WILL, you must ALLOW the Holy Spirit to control you, and **you must ALLOW His JOY to fill your heart**. That means you must adjust your thinking, and not LET fear and negative thoughts control you. This is a matter of TRUST. If you do not TRUST God to be working ALL THINGS together for your GOOD (Romans 8:28), then you will have a hard time giving Him thanks for EVERYTHING that is happening or has happened in your life. God LOVES YOU, and He promises to be with you in whatever trials or difficult situations may come up in your life, and He promises to work them out for your good.

- **I Thessalonians 5:16-18** "**REJOICE ALWAYS**, pray without ceasing, **in EVERYTHING give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
- **Philippians 4:4** "**REJOICE in the Lord ALWAYS**. Again I will say, REJOICE!"
- **Psalms 37:4-5** "**DELIGHT yourself (rejoice) also in the Lord**, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass (make it happen)."
- **Psalms 5:11-12** "But **LET all those REJOICE** who put their trust in You; **let them** ever shout for **JOY**, because You defend them; let those also who love Your name be **JOYFUL in You**."
- **Ephesians 5:17-20** "Therefore do not be UNWISE, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **BE FILLED with the Spirit**, speaking to one another psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **SINGING** and **making melody in your HEART** to the Lord. **Giving thanks ALWAYS** for ALL THINGS to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,"
- **Romans 8:28** "And we know that **ALL things WORK together for GOOD** to those who **LOVE GOD**, to those who are the **CALLED according to His PURPOSE**."
- **John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me** you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but **BE of good CHEER (be JOYFUL)**, I have overcome the world."

In fact, this brings us back full circle to doing spiritual warfare and standing against the enemy, because there is nothing **Satan hates** more than hearing us praise and worship God and give thanks to Him in the name of Jesus. Praising God is a powerful weapon in our spiritual battle with Satan and his demons. Rejoicing, giving thanks, praise and worship are a COMBINATION of two of the weapons of our warfare: speaking God's word out loud (the sword of the Spirit) and the **PRAYER of praise and worship** (Eph. 6:17-18). The Psalms are an excellent source of Scriptural ways to PRAISE and WORSHIP the Lord. Compare **Psalm 8:2 and Matthew 21:16** - Jesus Himself tells us here that praise is a weapon against the enemy. Satan HATES to hear you praise God, whether **you SING it or just SAY it**, so don't worry if you can't carry a tune. God's power is unleashed on our behalf as we praise Him, because He actually inhabits our praises! (see also II Chronicles 20:12-23)

- **Psalm 22:3** "But You are holy, **You who INHABIT the PRAISES** of Israel."

Also read [Testing & Trials](#), [How to Have God's Peace](#), [How to Have Joy](#), [Using Your Spiritual Authority - Parts 1 and 2](#) and [How to Stop Worrying](#).