

Dear Partners,

March 2016

Never Settle With Your Enemy

There is one thing that every Christian has in common: Satan has waged a war against every believer on the face of the earth. **“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”** Ephesians 6:12 NLT

The Bible tells us that we are most definitely at war while we are here on this earth until the return of Jesus. We don't get a free “get out of jail” pass like in the game Monopoly because we are Christians. In fact, we are highly targeted by Satan **because** we bear the name of a Christian. Whether we like it or not, whether we agree to it or not, we are in the fight of our life every day so we must learn how to fight and **what to fight with** in our battle. Thank God He gave the Manual for fighting the good fight! The Bible has so many promises to stand on and very detailed instructions on how to be “able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil” (Eph 6:11).

Who are these powers in this world? Who are the evil rulers of the unseen world? Who are we actually wrestling against? **There are three main influences (enemies) that we must become aware of and watch over lest we become controlled by them:**

1. Our flesh (mind)

“...Because the carnal mind *is* enmity (hostile) against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” Romans 8:7 NKJV

2. Our environment

“And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed *and* progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind.” Romans 12:2 AMP

3. Satan

“The thief (Satan) comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy.” John 10:10

And “When he lies, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar and the father of lies *and* half- truths.” John 8:44 AMP

We now know that there are three critical areas that every believer must learn to master. If we don't learn to how master these “enemies” they will overtake us and we lose all control. Now let's look at how the Bible teaches us to conquer these three areas. Second Corinthians 10:3-4 tells us plainly, **“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God...”** NKJV Let's take a look at the 8 weapons of warfare:

“Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold

up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray

in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. Ephesians 6:13-18 NLT

You may be asking yourself, "How is my flesh an enemy to be conquered?" **The area where the MAJORITY of the warfare is waged is in our mind.** Our thoughts get us into trouble more than any other influence in the world. Isaiah 55:8 says, **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, declares the LORD"**. Whatever our thoughts are, God has written down His thoughts for us in the Bible. We must CHOOSE to examine our own thoughts, lining them up with God's Word and willing to submit them to His thoughts. ***The secret is learning how to master our thoughts by the renewing of our mind in the Word before they develop and mature into corrupt actions.***

"We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ." 2 Cor. 10:4-5 NLT

Secondly the environment around us has a great deal of influence on us and we must learn to discern (test) the spirits around us (1 John 4:1). Our environment includes our friends, work, school or even church. All of these can and will influence our thoughts if we allow them. ***We cannot allow the circumstances that surround us to shift our thinking away from the TRUTH of God.*** It is so easy for our mind to be influenced by the situations, trials and testings in our life when we are not daily washing our mind in the Word (see above #2 for Scripture). Another translation from 2 Cor. 10:5 tells us to, "take every thought captive to obey Christ."

And lastly it is ultimately Satan that is working behind the scenes of our mind, environment and circumstance. While we do not support that idea that "it's always Satan's fault" or the "Satan made me do it" mentality, we do know that he is the "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4) and we wrestle against the world forces of this present darkness. **But we have a choice; we can choose to listen to the voice of Satan, the voice of our situation or our friends or coworkers or we can choose to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit which reveals the Truth from the Word.**

"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!" Deuteronomy 30:19

Update:

Here at JMM, we are experiencing lives being transformed and renewed every day through the power of the Holy Spirit. The other day we received a phone call from a 42 year old young man and an 86 year old viewer of our programs. Both were in desperate need of a change and ready to commit their lives to Jesus. Both of these viewers had come to realize that life is not worth living without a Savior and we had the opportunity to lead them both to Christ! What a glorious moment in the heavens!! We receive daily reports from people all over the world including European countries that have been touched by the work of this Ministry. We could not do this without you precious partner! You are the reason we can continue to take the Good News through the airways and byways of television and other means of media. Thank you! And please consider your continued support for JMM so we can keep taking the Gospel to the remote parts of the world for His glory!

We ask that you **meditate** on this Newsletter and especially on the Scriptures provided in it. They will keep your mind in line with the Word and bring healing for your body and strength for your bones (Prov 3:8)!

In Christ,

John & Alexandra

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