

Spiritual Warfare?

Don Pickney

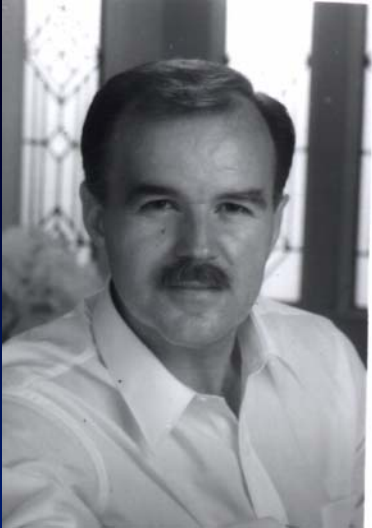
- God's Children ?



- God's Army?



Some Questions For You...



- Spiritual Warfare?
- Was Prayer Designed For Warfare or Fellowship?
- Are We God's Family or God's Army?

■ **Pastor Don Pickney**
Answers These Questions
in Precise Terms From The
Scriptures

Here Is What We Will Be Sharing...

- What About Spiritual Warfare?
- We Are Not God's Army
- Fighting Was Never In God's Plan
- Prayer Was Made For Fellowship With God

Spiritual Warfare?

- Did you know that we do not have to defeat the devil to get God's benefits of healing, deliverance or provision? Faith in God's Word is the Key.
- What Paul was saying in Ephesians 6:10-13 was, *"Instead of constantly wrestling with the devil, enter into a place (once and for all) where God's own power will protect you, allowing you to live in safety in a place of victory."*
- The analogy of **"God's armor"** is a picture of a believer going to God's covenant and entering into a place of faith and rest. There we find the great avenues prepared for us to receive whatever God has promised. It is not your **"armor."** It is **God's Armor**...It fights for you so that you may live in victory, peace and joy!

We Are Not God's Army



Would You Send Your Children Out To Fight For You – Or Would You Fight For Them?

- I grew up in Sunday School singing, “*I’m in the Lord’s army.*” It may come as a shock to some, but **we are not God’s army!** God’s **Angelic hosts** are his great army. **We are God’s family.** We are His son’s and daughters. He does not need his family to go out and fight for Him. **God would never willfully send his children out to defend or fight His battles.**

- Heb 1:14 “*Are they [angelic armies] not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for [the] heirs of salvation.*”

The Good Fight Of Faith

- There is a fight of faith that describes the somewhat difficult time Christians have entering into the life of a believer. It is found in 1Ti 6:12 *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.”* Weymouth’s translation states, *“Exert all your strength in the honourable struggle for the faith.”*
- Many years ago, I heard Kenneth Hagin, Sr. say, *“Some Christian folks greet you with, ‘How goes the battle?’ I always reply, ‘It’s victory that I’m in!’”* For him, the devil is defeated. The battle was won by Jesus, and he is secure in a life of victory in God’s Word.
- Brother Hagin was not suggesting that the flesh never struggles with how to enter into faith’s promises and receive them.

Diligence, Discipline & Determination

- The fight of faith involves overcoming the arena of our thoughts and feelings. The only battle to be won is within our thinking and believing.
- It takes **diligence**, **discipline** and **determination** to overcome **doubt**, **discouragement** and **dismay**. We keep our faith focused on God's Word when our senses see contradictory evidence. That is what is meant by "*fighting the good fight of faith.*"
- Overcoming faith's obstacles within our minds is the real revelation exposed in II Corinthians 10:4-5, "*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal...pulling down strongholds: casting down imaginations [reasoning]...and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*"

Fighting Was Never In God's Plan For His People

- Exo 14:13:14 “Fear ye not, **stand still**, and see the salvation of the Lord...**The Lord shall fight for you**, and ye shall hold your peace.”
- Exo 14:25 “...the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for **the Lord fighteth for them** against the Egyptians.
- Exo 23:27 “I will send my fear before thee, and... **I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto you.**”
- Deut 1:30 “The Lord your God which goeth before you, **He shall fight for you**, according to all that he did for you in Egypt.”
- Deut3:22 “Ye shall not fear them: **For the Lord your God he shall fight for you.**”

Our Spiritual Enemies Subdued

- Deu 20:1-4 *“Be not afraid of them...For the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, **to fight for you** against your enemies, **to save you.**”*
- 2 Chron 20:29-30 *“And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms... when they had heard that **the Lord fought** against the enemies of Israel. (30) So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his **God gave him rest.**”*
- 2 Chron 32:8 *“With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God **to help us, and to fight our battles.**”*

God Promises A speedy Deliverance

- Psa 81:13-14 *“Oh that my people had hearkened unto me, and Israel had walked in my ways! (14) I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned my hand against their adversaries.”*

Prayer Was Made For Fellowship With God

- Ever heard the term, ***“Prayer Warriors?”*** Did you know that prayer was not made for what some call ***“spiritual warfare?”***
- Jesus did not say, ***“When ye pray, say, ‘Satan...’*** He said, ***“When ye pray, say, ‘Our Father which art in Heaven...’***
- Within the Church it is popular to use illustrations from the Old Testament regarding Israel as the pattern for the Christian prayer life.
- Israel had to fight a lot of battles. But why? Some would rather fight the devil than to use faith’s principles to believe God’s Word.
- I Sam 8:19-20 ***“Nevertheless the people refused to obey...they said, Nay; but...that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.”***

So What About Satan?

- 1Pe 5:8 *“Be vigilant, watch. Your adversary **the devil** as a roaring lion walks about seeking whom he may devour.”*
- Satan is our spiritual enemy. He is the trouble-maker. God is neither permitting nor allowing the problems which often crop up.
- 1Jo 5:18 *“...he that is begotten of God **keepeth himself**, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”*

Learn To Resist The Devil!

- God's Word promises that *if you resist Satan's attempts, "he will flee from you."* James 4:7
- Many believers do not know how to apply this principle of faith. They think that the way you resist is to enter into the arena of prayer. There they throw out many **rebukes** at Satan. They shout, **"Satan, I rebuke you. I command you to flee from this situation!"** Then they become confused when the circumstance does not change. They are attempting to be **"Prayer Warriors."**

There Is A Better Way To Get Satan To Flee

- 1Pe 5:9 “*Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, having known the same sufferings to your brotherhood in the world to be accomplished.*”
- God promised that, *if we resist*, Satan will flee from us. Here we are told how to successfully resist. We are to remain “*steadfast in the faith.*”
- For most believers, ***faith*** is a very mysterious thing. Therefore, they do not know how to use ***faith*** to *resist the devil.*

Faith Is Certain

- God designed ***faith*** to be the surest thing in the life of the believer. There is no force in our lives that makes God's promises *as certain as faith's principles in action.*
- Rom 4:16 “*Therefore it is of **faith**, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might **be sure** to all the seed.*”
- ***Faith*** is able to guarantee the promise to be *certain for every one who believes.*

Can You Recognize Faith?

- If we are to live by *faith*, receive God's promises by *faith*, and resist the devil through *faith*, then we need to learn how to know what *faith* looks like.
- 2Co 4:13 “We having the same *spirit [character] of faith*, according as it is written, *I believed, and therefore have I spoken*; we also believe, and *therefore speak*.”
- *Faith* is always released through *words*! *Faith* is not some kind of feeling. It is *the result of a decision* to trust in a promise, then confirmed by the *words of our mouth*.

So What Is *Steadfast Faith*?

- Since Faith always *speaks what it believes*, then *steadfast faith* is a faith that *always believes God's promises* to be the truth and, therefore, *always says what God's Word says*.
- We are to resist Satan by remaining *steadfast* in faith. 1Pe 5:9 “*Whom resist stedfast in the faith.*”
- Instead of attempting to do spiritual battle against Satan, rest in your confidence in your confession of faith, then allow God's Word to work for you and those for whom you are standing in the gap as an intercessor. Instead of trying to be “*a warrior*,” take hold of God's promise and rest in “*it is written.*”

God's Angelic Armies Hearken To God's Word

- Psa 103:20 *“Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.”*
- As we rest in God's promises, speaking and acting on what He has said in His Word, we release God's angelic armies into action to bring to pass what God has said – what we are believing and speaking!

God's Angelic Armies Will Work In Your Behalf

- You can see that Israel chose to fight their own battles. Much like Israel, the Body of Christ chooses to fight spiritual battles. They insist on developing their prayer life as **a battleground**.
- Learn to fellowship with God. **Remain steadfast** in your confidence in what He has promised. **He will fight all of your battles for you**. Then, you too may enjoy a tableland of faith's blessings, and live in the rest and benefits afforded God's great family.
- *“Bless ye the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His Word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts [Angelic Armies]...” Psalms 102:20-21*

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