

How to Wage Spiritual Warfare

All scriptures are quoted from KJV unless otherwise indicated.

By Mitch Kuhn

What is Spiritual Warfare?

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: **but now is my kingdom not from hence (here)**.

Spiritual warfare is not to change the world around us, but rather to have God conquer and rule our beliefs, our thoughts, and our actions.

2Co 10:3 **For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh**:

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

G3794 - Strong holds

Gen 39:20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners *were* bound: and he was there in the **prison** (G3794).

Jos 19:29 And *then* the coast turneth to Ramah, and to the **strong city** (G3794) Tyre...

Jdg 6:2 And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: *and* because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which *are* in the mountains, and caves, and **strong holds** (G3794).

These "strong holds" are the very things that we overcome. We escape from the prison in Egypt like Joseph and we destroy the cities like Joshua. Let's now look at G3053 - logismos

2Co 10:5 **Casting down imaginations (G3053-thoughts)**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, **and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**;

Rom 2:15 (MKJV) who show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and the **thoughts (G3053)** between one another accusing or even excusing one another,

G2032 – epouranios - This word is most often translated as "heavenly".

Eph 6:12 **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** (G2032)

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought (worked) in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in **the heavenly places**, (G2032)

So this war is taking place in the "heavens". Where are the "Heavenly places"?

Act 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, **dwelleth not in temples made with hands**;

So where does he dwell?

Isa 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; **I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit**, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Joh 15:4 Abide in me, **and I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! For, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you**.

Isa 66:1 Thus saith the LORD, **The heaven is my throne**, and the earth *is* my footstool: where *is* the house that ye build unto me? And where *is* the place of my rest?

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, **and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you**?

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

This war is taking place inside of our hearts and minds. It is a battle of thoughts, desires and affections. When trials happen in our lives, whether it is a trial of our health, our jobs, our families, disappointments, frustrations, persecutions from others, etc., it is a battle with the thoughts and emotions created by those events. God causes these events in our lives to manifest what is in our hearts so he can conquer it all.

The source of these thoughts and emotions is often a false doctrine residing within our hearts and minds (our land). We do not know the truth and it causes all kinds of problems. Not knowing the truth leads to our destruction.

Hos 4:6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge**: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Truth is what sets us free.

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, **and the truth shall make you free**.

Here are examples of false doctrines that wreak havoc in our land.

- Free will** - produces arrogance, denies the power of God, blame others or ourselves for everything, produces guilt or anger.
- Hating our enemies** - fills our heart with anger, hatred, no forgiveness.
- Lack of temperance (self control)** - grace into lasciviousness, selling our birthright for pottage
- Pleasing man above God** - we become a slave to man and do not obey our Lord, no peace in our life
- No patience** - frustration, lack of gratefulness, impulsive, offend others, do not take the time to do things the right way.

Spiritual warfare is how we move from the works of the flesh to the fruit of the spirit.

Gal 5:19 Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest (openly known), which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
Gal 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations (jealousy), wrath, strife, seditions (divisions), heresies,
Gal 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings (rioting), and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

All of this can be summarized in one verse:

1Jn 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

The Lord has promised us that we will overcome our flesh and that he will give us rest. We are at rest when we have conquered the land and are enjoying the fruits of the land. This happens progressively as we conquer each city that dwells within us, it does not happen all at once.

Jos 1:13 Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, The LORD your God hath given **you rest, and hath given you this land.**

Gal 5:22 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Gal 5:24 And they that are **Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**

So now we know that spiritual warfare takes place within ourselves. It is a battle to conquer the beast within each of us.

When Does True Spiritual Warfare Begin?

It is important to understand all that God puts us through, before we come to the point where we have been converted and actually begin to fight spiritual battles. Being able to look behind and see how God has brought us to where we are, will give us greater patience and understanding with those who are at different stages in God's process of salvation.

When we still have a carnal mind, we have been blinded to the truth. At this stage, we can hear the truth with our physical ears, but are unable to understand or believe, let alone live according to the truth.

Mat 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Mat 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, **then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.** This is he which received seed by the way side.

Exo 4:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: **but I will harden his heart,** that he shall not let the people go.

Pharaoh heard the command "Let my people go", but God did not allow him to hear this with his heart. This happens to us as well. We hear God's commands long before we are given the ability to do what he says.

2Co 4:4 **In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Isa 44:18 They have not known nor understood: **for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand.**

When we are in the pagan world with no interest in really knowing God, anytime we do hear God's words, it is just snatched away by the evil one and we do not understand.

Mat 13:19 (NKJV) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

When God calls us out of Egypt (the world) we are baptized for the first time into the Law of Moses. Israel did not receive the Law of Moses until after they left Egypt.

1Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

1Co 10:2 **And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;**

The purpose of the Law of Moses is to show us that we sin by breaking God's commandments.

Rom 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

Rom 7:13 Did then that which is good become death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might be shown to be sin, by working death to me through that which is good; - **that through the commandment sin might become exceeding sinful.**

The knowledge of sin will produce repentance, which is typified by the Baptism of John.

Act 19:4 Then said Paul, **John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance**, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Baptism is the first step in coming to the truth; in fact it is the 1st of the milk doctrines in Hebrews 6:1.

Heb 6:1 Wherefore leaving the doctrine of the first principles of Christ, let us press on unto perfection; **not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, ...**

When we realize that we need to repent and change our ways, some of our behavior is changed, but that is only cleaning the outside of the cup when God is concerned with the heart.

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **for ye cleanse the outside of the cup and of the platter,** but within they are full from extortion and excess.

Mat 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,
Mat 15:8 **This people honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.**

When we leave the world and enter the church, this is our condition. We are Pharisees and do not even know it.

1Sa 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; **for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.**

When we are under the Law of Moses, still in the church, we can look good to the world and appear to be righteous, but God knows what is really in our hearts. At this point we are still carnal, the beast just appears to be tamed to some degree in the outward.

Let's look at what Christ says on the matter. When the scribes asked Christ what is the greatest commandment, here is his response:

Mar 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments *is*, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:
Mar 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God **with all thy heart,** and with **all thy soul,** and with **all thy mind,** and with all thy strength: this *is* the first commandment.

What does this mean? Here is the definition of love.

1Jn 5:3 **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:** and his commandments are not grievous.

So we are to keep his commandments in our hearts, our souls, our minds, and with our strength. How is this done? First we must believe all of his commandments.

Rom 10:10 **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness;**
and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The word for "soul" in the New Testament is G5590 (psuche). The word is used 105 times in the NT, 36 times it is translated as "life". We are being commanded to obey with our entire life, in every way possible.

Mat 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, take no thought **for your life**, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save **his life** shall lose it: and whosoever **will lose his life for my sake shall find it.**

Mar 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, **and to give his life a ransom for many.**

We are to give up our old life and live a new obedient life in Christ. We are also told to obey with our minds.

2Co 10:5 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;**

Christ makes it clear that outward obedience is no longer enough, he wants our every thought to be in obedience. It is not enough to simply restrain from killing our brothers, we must not even be angry with our brothers.

Mat 5:22 But I say unto you, That **whosoever is angry with his brother** without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Finally we are to obey with all of our strength.

1Pe 4:11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him **do it as of the ability (strength) which God giveth**: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ ...

All of this goes to show that repentance and cleaning the outside of the cup is not the end goal. God wants complete obedience in our beliefs, our minds, and our actions. It is necessary that we go through this first part of our walk on our way to completion.

1Co 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual [baptism], but that which is natural [baptism]; and afterward that which is spiritual.

Spiritual War Begins

Spiritual warfare begins when we hear the word and receive it. The battle is whether we can endure the persecution that comes along with receiving the word of God.

Mat 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon (immediately) with joy receiveth it;

Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for **when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.**

Mat 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; **and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.**

The vast majority of people who experience persecution because of the word respond just like Israel. They do not want to fight and prefer to remain in the world.

Jer 42:14 Saying, **No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war,** nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell:

The very same things happen to Demas in the New Testament.

2Ti 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, **having loved this present world,** and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

When we are in Egypt, there is no war, because we do whatever our slave master tells us to do. War is resistance, a rebellion that brings about change. Israel was in bondage in Egypt and could not get free. Demas loved the world and did not want to leave it at all.

Christ tells us that we will be hated, but he that wins the spiritual battle and endures, will be saved and inherits the promise land. We have to be willing to be hated and to fight.

Mat 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: **but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.**

In order to win the wars, we must desire to please God and not men.

Gal 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

If we are given to do this, we will bear much fruit, the fruit of the spirit.

Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Count the cost before you start

Luk 14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, **does not first sit down and consult (take counsel)** whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

Christ tells us what to expect, so let's go to him to get counsel.

Mat 10:34-37 **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.** ³⁵ For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. ³⁶ **And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.** ³⁷ He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Christ tells us quite plainly that he came to bring a sword and make war. There will be separation within our physical families as well as our spiritual family. We must love God and his word more than anyone in this world, including ourselves, our physical families, our friends, and our spiritual family.

We must correct and admonish one another within the body in order to win the war. There is always the chance that someone will not see the truth in the scriptures and from time to time we lose brothers and sisters. It is only the Faith of Christ in us that will give us the strength to stand for the truth, no matter the cost.

Joh 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

Joh 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it **die, it bringeth forth much fruit.**

Joh 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; **and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it** unto life eternal (aionios).

Are you willing to give up your life? What do you love more than Christ?

Luk 14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

Luk 14:32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, **he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.**

God does not want to make peace with the cities in the promise land, he commands us to kill everything that breathes.

Deu 20:16 But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee *for* an inheritance, thou **shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:**

Deu 20:17 **But thou shalt utterly destroy them ...**

Luk 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Christ makes this statement because the cities discussed in Deuteronomy dwell inside each of us. Therefore we must forsake everything we have, that we may be his disciple. This does not mean that we have to sell every one of our possessions and travel the world preaching the gospel in order to be faithful. It means that nothing can come before God, which may or may not mean the loss of some of our physical possessions.

Exo 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, **is a jealous God:**

Conquering the land is a process ...

Exo 23:28 And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you.

Exo 23:29 **I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you.**

Exo 23:30 **Little by little** I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land.

Here is why God does it this way.

Luk 11:24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

Luk 11:25 **And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished.**

Luk 11:26 Then goeth he, and taketh *to him* seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: **and the last state of that man is worse than the first.**

When we are born again in the spirit, we are babies. It takes time to learn and grow to the point that we can be a strong man and guard our house and live in peace.

When the Lord first drove out the false doctrine of Hell from my life, I turned it into lasciviousness and did things that I would never think of doing while in the Church. I lived this passage in Luke. I was not yet a strong spiritual man.

Luk 11:21 When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:

Luk 11:22 But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armor wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

1Co 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, **who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able;** but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

The Lord knows what we can deal with at any particular time in our walk. When Israel had just left Egypt, they were not ready for war, so God kept them from it.

Exo 13:17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near; for God said, **Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:**

Israel lost battles, but they kept pressing on. Many people died, but they continued as a people, they were never annihilated. We are the same way, we fall but we keep getting up. If the Lord has truly made us one of his faithful elect, then we will endure to the end.

Pro 24:16 For a just *man* falleth seven times, **and riseth up again:** but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

Php 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**

Php 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

When war is fought, there are many dead bodies. In order to win the war, you must leave the bodies behind and press on. We mourn for a moment then keep going. We cannot let the remorse over our sins or the loss of our brothers and sisters keep us from continuing to press on towards the prize.

God wins the battles

It is clear from the scriptures that God is the one who is winning the battles, yet he also has people put forth effort in the battles. We are commanded to take up our sword and fight as he instructs us to do.

1Co 9:27 (YLT) but **I chastise my body, and bring it into servitude,** lest by any means, having preached to others--I myself may become disapproved.

Php 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

Jas 2:26 (YLT) for as the body apart from the spirit is dead, **so also the faith apart from the works is dead.**

It is God who is ultimately doing it all.

Php 2:13 **for God it is who is working in you** both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

1Th 5:24 Faithful *is* he that calleth you, **who also will do it.**

Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, **that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

Jdg 7:9 And it happened on that night, Jehovah said to him, Arise, go down to the army, **for I have delivered it into your hand.**

Exo 14:13 And Moses said to the people, Do not fear. **Stand still and see the salvation of Jehovah, which He will prepare for you this day.** For the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall never see them anymore.

1Sa 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but **I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.**

Exo 14:14 **The LORD shall fight for you**, and ye shall hold your peace.

Jos 10:11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, *and* were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: **they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.**

There is a certain amount of progress that the Lord ordains we are to make by picking up our sword (the word) and judging ourselves and one another in the Body of Christ, yet it is when God opens our heavens (minds) and pours down hail (the word) into our minds himself that the real slaughter takes place.

Soldiers Wear the Armor of God

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the **wiles of the devil.**

Wiles **G3180** - methodeia - (cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery)

Eph 4:14 That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight (deception) of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they **lie in wait (G3180)** to deceive;

We must be on guard against the enemy's strategies to deceive us.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Job 2:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Spiritual Weapons for a Spiritual Battle

Eph 6:12-17 **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.** ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day,** and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith

ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Remember from earlier in the study that "high places" is where God dwells, which is in each one of us. This is where our spiritual weapons are to be used, within ourselves and with our spiritual family.

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you.

Loins girded with truth

Loins mean hips; **gird** - "to be dressed, with your belt on"
This phrase communicates the idea of "being ready".

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: **and be ready always** to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; **be ready in season and out of season**; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Exo 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; **with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand**; and ye shall eat it in haste: it *is* the LORD'S passover.

1Pe 1:13 **Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind**, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Luk 12:35-40 **Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning.** ³⁶ And you yourselves be like men who wait for their lord, whenever he shall return from the wedding, so that when he comes and knocks, they may open to him **immediately.** ³⁷ **Blessed are those servants whom the lord will find watching when he comes.** Truly I say to you that he shall gird himself and make them recline; and coming up he will serve them. ³⁸ And if he comes in the second watch, or comes in the third watch, and find *it* so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ And know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be dug through. ⁴⁰ **Therefore be ready also, for the Son of Man comes at an hour when you think not.**

Christ rebuked the disciples when they fell asleep, when they were to be praying. Spiritually this is saying that we need to be always vigilant; we obviously have to physically sleep, because our bodies of flesh are weak.

Luk 22:40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation.

Luk 22:45 And when He rose up from prayer and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping because of sorrow.

Luk 22:46 And He said to them, **Why do you sleep? Rise and pray lest you enter into temptation.**

Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate guards our heart, which is essential to life. We can lose a limb, but if we lose our heart the whole body is dead.

Pro 4:23 (YLT) Above every charge **keep (guard) thy heart**, for out of it are the outgoings of life.

Mat 12:34 (MKJV) Offspring of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? **For out of the abundance of the heart** the mouth speaks.

Our heart is so important, because it determines what will come out of our mouths. We must guard our heart, because it is the very source of our life, everything we do and say.

Jos 14:7 Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to spy out the land; and **I brought him word again as it was in mine heart.**

Joshua had been given the faith to bring back a good report about the promise land. He saw the giants just like the others, but he and Caleb believed in their hearts that God would give them the land as He had promised. His words were encouraging, while his unfaithful brother's words were destructive.

Num 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

Num 14:7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, **The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.**

Num 14:8 **If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land,** and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Jos 14:8 **Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt**; but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

The heart is the source of what causes us to be defiled.

Mat 15:11 Not that which goes into the mouth defiles a man; **but that which comes out of the mouth**, this defiles a man.

Jer 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things**, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

The heart is directly linked to the tongue.

Jas 3:8 **But the tongue can no man tame**; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

The Lord knows that the problem is not our outward behavior, it is far deeper, and our heart is hard and must be changed. This cleans the inside of the cup.

Eze 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And **I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.**

Here is what happens when we get a new heart:

1Th 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, **putting on the breastplate of faith and love**; ...

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead**, thou shalt be saved.

Our old unbelieving heart is replaced with a heart full of faith. All of our old worries, doubts, and unbelief are destroyed and we're made new. Believing that Christ is raised from the dead is the same thing as believing that God has given us the promise land.

We are the body of Christ and when we believe that He is risen to life and that He is doing the same thing to us, we, like Joshua, declare that the impossible is possible. We can overcome the giants in our lives and have peace and dominion in our minds, which leads to obedience in our lives. Joshua only saw physical victory, but we see the spiritual victory.

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace

3Jn 1:4 (MKJV) I have no greater joy than these things, **to hear that my children walk in the truth.**

"Our walk" in scripture is another way of saying what we do in our lives. Walking in the truth is being obedient to the truth.

2Jn 1:6 (MKJV) And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, as you heard from the beginning, **that you should walk in it.**

Rom 10:15 (MKJV) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "**How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace** and bring glad tidings of good things!"

What is the Gospel?

Rom 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you **according to my gospel,** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery,** which was kept secret since the world began,

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

The Gospel is the good news that Christ is within us and will lead us to a glorious overcoming of our beast and give us possession of the promise land (our bodies and minds).

Eph 3:9 And to make all *men* see **what is the fellowship of the mystery,** which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

Eph 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 the Church, the Body of Christ, who makes this mystery known. It is we who declare the Gospel which means Good News.

Christ prepares us to preach the good news by first taking over our lives and conquering our beast. Once He is ruling, we have been prepared to walk in obedience and demonstrate with our lives the good news of God's victory through Christ.

Shield of Faith

Eph 6:16 **Above all, taking the shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Heb 11:6 **But without faith it is impossible to please him:** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Paul says in Ephesians that we must have faith "above all", because without faith it is impossible to believe that God will give us victory. We cannot please him without faith.

Num 14:8 **If the LORD delight in us**, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

The Lord delights in us when we have faith that He will win the battles. In the gospels, Jesus is always impressed by faith and typically heals people after seeing their faith. It is when God manifests faith in our lives that we are "healed" and begin to overcome the giants in our land.

It is Christ who is our Faith. God gives us this faith, it is not of ourselves.

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, **but by the faith of Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live **by the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Joh 5:37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. **Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.**

A number of people saw and heard God in the Old Testament. So how can Christ say that no one has seen or heard the Father? It is because Christ is sent to reflect the Glory of God, He is an ambassador sent to us.

1Pe 1:9-12 Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls. ¹⁰ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: ¹¹ Searching what, **or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify**, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. ¹² Unto whom it was revealed,

that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

It was Christ that was revealing the will of the Father to the Old Testament prophets. Christ is the one who appeared to Abraham in his vision declaring that He is Abraham's shield. Paul and Abraham were both given the Faith of Jesus Christ; Abraham was given a shadow of the true faith and Paul received the true faith. Abraham believed God for a physical promise land and Paul believed for a spiritual promise land.

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: **I am thy shield**, and thy exceeding great reward.

Psa 3:3 **But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me**; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psa 28:7 **The LORD is my strength and my shield**; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psa 33:20 Our soul waiteth for the LORD: **he is our help and our shield**.

For more see "The Milk Doctrines: Faith toward God"
http://iswasandwillbe.com/Milk_faith.php

Helmet of Salvation

1Th 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, **the hope of salvation**.

Isa 59:17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, **and an helmet of salvation upon his head**; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

A helmet protects our head, which contains our brain, which runs our mind. We can suffer many battle wounds and still live, but damage to the brain and heart are deadly.

If we lose the hope of our salvation then we will be like the men in Israel who did not believe that God could give them the promise land. Hope and the faith to be certain that what we hope for will come to pass, are essential to our salvation.

Heb 11:1 (ASV) **Now faith is assurance of things hoped for,** a conviction of things not seen.

Rom 8:24 **For we are saved by hope:** but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

Eph 2:8 **For by grace are ye saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Eph 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Our hope is that God will conquer all of the giants in the promise land and allow us to dwell there in peace. This is accomplished through chastening, also called discipline. The ungodliness and worldly lusts are the many pagan people that dwell in the promise land that must be destroyed. When we hope that they will be destroyed, we are hoping for the destruction of our own carnality, that the Spirit may rule.

Tit 2:11 **For the grace of God that bringeth salvation** hath appeared to all men,

Tit 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Tit 2:13 **Looking for that blessed hope,** and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Choosing the right soldiers

God created the physical world to teach us the truth of the spiritual. We know from the physical world that in order to win a war you need an army. This is just common sense. The same is true spiritually; we will never conquer all the giants in our land fighting alone.

Heb 10:32 (MKJV) But call to memory the former days, in which (after you were illuminated) **you endured a great fight of afflictions,**

Heb 10:33 indeed being exposed both by reproaches and afflictions, **and while you became companions of those who lived so.**

We fight alongside others who are waging the same war, those who suffer of the same afflictions.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: **Michael and his angels fought against the dragon;** and the dragon fought and his angels,

An angel in scripture is essentially a messenger. There are messengers of God and messengers of Satan. The vast majority of the world is bringing the message of Satan, so we are greatly outnumbered. We need the faithful few to fight alongside us.

It is critical that our fellow soldiers be faithful and committed to winning the war. They cannot run away when the war gets tough. You do not send soldiers to fight major battles that have not proven themselves; this could have incredible destructive consequences.

Imagine that a part of your army is being assaulted and you are too overwhelmed fighting in your land to go and rescue the other soldiers in distress. Would you send them a new unproven soldier to reinforce them? No, you send the proven, the faithful. We welcome new soldiers into our rank, we are just careful to not send them into the heat of the battle too soon.

This exact situation plays out with Paul and the disciples as an example for us. This is teaching to not lay hands suddenly on any man.

Act 9:26-31 (ESV) And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. **And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.** ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, **and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.** ²⁸ **So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.** ²⁹ **And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.** ³⁰ And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea **and sent him off to Tarsus.** ³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

The disciples were rightfully fearful of Paul, who in his former days persecuted followers of Christ. He was on his way to persecute the disciples of Christ, when God knocked him down on the road to Damascus.

Act 9:1 **And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord,** went unto the high priest,
Act 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, **he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.**

It was the stories that Barnabas told of Paul preaching boldly and facing death that convinced them to trust him and send him to strengthen other brothers. We must do the same and wait until those new among us have withstood persecution from the world. A good indicator is how we handle our physical families, which often give us great persecution when we begin to withdraw from the ways of the world.

This is why Days, Months, Times and Years is so important, it is a key way that the Lord manifests what is in our hearts. It is fine for new soldiers to struggle with this initially, but before we lay hands on them, call them a fellow disciple, and send them off to strengthen others, we must see them stand up for the truth and wage war. If they seek conditions of peace then they are not a part of our mature army yet; they may need more time to grow into that role.

1Ti 5:22 **Lay hands suddenly on no man**, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

This is one of the milk doctrines of Hebrews 6; refer to "The Milk Doctrines: Laying on of Hands": http://iswasandwillbe.com/Milk_hands.php

When Paul and Barnabas decided to go check on the brothers in other cities to whom they preached, there was a dispute about which fellow soldiers to bring with them. Paul did not want to take Mark, because he withdrew in Pamphylia and showed himself to not be reliable.

Act 15:36-41 (ESV) And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "**Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.**" ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one **who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.** ³⁹ **And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.** Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Paul knew the persecutions that lay ahead, and he needed a proven soldier at his side. He did not want to bring along a brother who fled when he was needed to go to work.

Apparently Mark later proved to be faithful, and Paul asked for him specifically. We can be restored to ministry, but it takes time for us to prove our faith by our works.

2Ti 4:11 (ESV) Luke alone is with me. **Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.**

Second Timothy was written somewhere between 66 and 67 AD (this book is written at the end of Paul's life), after the sharp disagreement with Barnabas regarding Mark, which took place before his second missionary journey

around 49-50 AD. This is why I say that Mark later was proved to be faithful.

God's army is small.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, **but few are chosen.**

Even fewer are given the ability to remain faithful to the end.

1Sa 14:6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: **for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.**

When Gideon goes to fight the Midianites, they have a massive army. God is going to defeat the Midianites, and he wants Israel to be certain that God wins the war, not the size of their army.

Jdg 7:12 (MKJV) And the Midianites and the Amalekites, and all the sons of the east lay along in the valley like locusts for multitude, and their camels without number, **like the sand by the seaside for multitude.**

Jdg 7:2 (MKJV) And the LORD said to Gideon, **The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel boast themselves against Me, saying, My own hand has saved me.**

The army of Gideon starts off with 32,000. Let the winnowing begin.

Jdg 7:3 (MKJV) Now, therefore, speak in the ears of the people, saying, **Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and go away early from Mount Gilead.** And twenty-two thousand of the people returned. And there remained ten thousand.

Now we have 10,000, less than 1/3 of what we start with. The fearful do not make the first cut.

2Ti 1:7 (MKJV) For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Rev 21:8 (MKJV) **But the fearful, and the unbelieving,** and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, will have their part in the Lake burning with fire and brimstone, **which is the second death.**

Jos 1:9 (MKJV) Have I not commanded you? **Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid, neither be dismayed.** For Jehovah your God *is* with you in all places where you go.

It is not enough to just have some faith; God's army must also be vigilant.

Jdg 7:5 (MKJV) And he brought down the people to the water. And Jehovah said to Gideon, Everyone who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set him apart; also everyone who bows down upon his knees to drink.

Jdg 7:6 And the number of them who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, **was three hundred men. But all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.**

The men who dropped to one knee to put their faces near the water dropped their guard. The men who brought their hand to their mouth were vigilant, not relaxing completely. God wanted those who stayed ready to fight, the vigilant. There were only 300, less than 1/10th of the starting army. Be ready always! We can take a rest, but watch your thoughts, do not let your guard down, ever.

2Ti 4:2 (ESV) preach the word; **be ready in season and out of season;** reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Luk 12:35-40 (MKJV) **Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning.** ³⁶ And you yourselves **be like men who wait for their lord, whenever he shall return from the wedding,** so that when he comes and knocks, **they may open to him immediately.** ³⁷ **Blessed are those servants whom the lord will find watching when he comes.** Truly I say to you that he shall gird himself and make them recline; and coming up he will serve them. ³⁸ And if he comes in the second watch, or comes in the third watch, and find *it* so, blessed are those servants. ³⁹ And know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be dug through. ⁴⁰ **Therefore be ready also, for the Son of Man comes at an hour when you think not.**

Faithful Brothers to the Rescue

It is inevitable that we will stumble and fall. This is a part of the process that the Lord takes us through on our way to completion. We need faithful brothers who can rescue us when we are dragged away by the enemy. The story of Abraham rescuing his nephew Lot is a great example of this truth. Lot is Abraham's nephew, the son of Abraham's brother.

Gen 13:7-10 **And there was a strife between the herdmen of Abram's cattle and the herdmen of Lot's cattle:** and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. ⁸ And Abram said unto Lot, **Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee,** and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we *be* brethren. ⁹ *Is* not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if *thou wilt take* the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou depart* to the right hand, then I will go to the left. ¹⁰ **And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt,** as thou comest unto Zoar.

Abraham and Lot parted ways because of their disagreement. This is like when we spiritually separate from a brother, or at least do not listen to wise counsel. Abraham remained faithful to God while Lot went to dwell among the wicked in Sodom. Sodom looks good to the eye just like sin does, but in the end it works death.

Gen 13:12 **Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.**

Gen 13:13 **But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.**

It came to pass that the King of Sodom was attacked and Lot was captured.

Gen 14:12 **And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.**

2Pe 2:7 (ASV) and delivered righteous Lot, sore distressed by the lascivious life of the wicked

2Pe 2:8 (for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their lawless deeds):

Abraham heard of his nephew's capture and came to the rescue.

Gen 14:13-16 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these *were* confederate with Abram. ¹⁴ **And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.** ¹⁵ And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which *is* on the left hand of Damascus. ¹⁶

And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

We are to do the same thing for our brothers spiritually today.

2Pe 2:9 **The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations,** and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Gal 6:1 Brethren, **if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness;** considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Lot went back to Sodom.

Gen 19:1 **And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom;** and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

Lot dwelled in Sodom until God destroyed that city. God remembered Abraham's plea in Genesis 18 to save the city of Sodom and spared Lot.

Gen 19:28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

Gen 19:29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.

We are not obedient until the cities of sin in our life are destroyed.

The story of Sampson and Delilah is very similar to the story of Lot. Sampson dwelled with Delilah, who served the Philistines, and was betrayed by her and had his hair cut, which caused him to lose his supernatural strength.

Jdg 16:30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.

There are two key points here. First we are going to dwell with evil and be deceived and taken captive by it. This evil must be destroyed. Secondly, it is in our spiritual death, the loss of our life, that the cities in our land are destroyed and we are set free. Sampson was stronger in his death than he was in his life.

Notice that it is God that destroys Sodom and it is God that strengthens Sampson to destroy the Philistines.

Jdg 16:28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, **and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.**

Jdg 16:21 **But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes,** and brought Him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind **in the prison house.**

The Philistines gouged out Sampson's eyes, which show that we are spiritually blind when taken captive by sin. We will be both Sampson and Lot at our appointed time.

War Strategies

Prepare before battle:

Jos 1:11 (MKJV) Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, **Prepare food for yourselves,** for within three days you are crossing over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which Jehovah your God is giving you to possess it.

This is what happens when we do not prepare for battle, we are slaughtered.

Act 19:13-16 (MKJV) And certain from the strolling Jews, exorcists, undertook to name the name of the Lord Jesus over those having evil spirits, saying, **We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.** ¹⁴ And there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. ¹⁵ But answering the evil spirit said, **Jesus I know, and I comprehend Paul, but who are you?** ¹⁶ **And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them,** so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, **that if any would not work, neither should he eat.**

We must know Jesus Christ ourselves; because that is the only way we can be changed. We have to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Eating the flesh of Christ is to do what He commands. If we do not work out our own salvation, then we cannot do His commandments. We will be powerless against the enemy.

Here is the same truth stated another way:

Mat 25:1-13 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. ² And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴ But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶ And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. ⁷ Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ **And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.** ⁹ **But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.** ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹² But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³ **Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**

Oil in this parable is the Spirit. We must sell all we have and lose our life, in order to gain the Spirit. The wise virgins will be prepared while the foolish will be left out. Yet another admonition is to be in the first resurrection, the army of Gideon. Be prepared; sell your life now that you may obtain spiritual things. The time is at hand!

Said another way:

Heb 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, **who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.**
Heb 12:17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, **he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.**

Be patient.

1Sa 13:8-14 **And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.** ⁹ And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. ¹⁰ And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. ¹¹ And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and *that* thou camest not within the days appointed, and *that* the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; ¹² Therefore said

I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. ¹³ **And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God,** which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. ¹⁴ But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, **because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.**

King Saul shows us that our old man, the flesh, is not patient and does not wait upon the Lord. Saul had clear instructions about what to do and he took matters into his own hands when he started thinking that the Philistines would come and attack him. He did not have the faith to obey.

Luk 21:19 **In your patience possess ye your souls.**

Psa 27:14 **Wait on the LORD:** be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Psa 37:7 Rest in the LORD, **and wait patiently for him:** fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

We must be diligent to prepare, but not worry about tomorrow or concern ourselves when we see wicked men succeeding in disobedience. There are many giants to overcome and He will deal with them one day at a time. We must remember that it pays to be obedient in the long run.

Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Mat 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

Soldiers need rest.

Mar 14:38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly *is* ready (willing), but the flesh *is* weak.

Flesh gets tired; it's just a fact of life. We need to wait upon the Lord and rest our minds and bodies that we may be restored to fight again.

Isa 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

Isa 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

Isa 40:31 **But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Christ gives rest to our weary minds by giving us peace of mind. Worrying is hard work; it will utterly exhaust and discourage you. Even good spiritual work will wear us down, so we must take time to stop and rest.

Mat 11:28 (ASV) **Come unto me, all ye that labour** (be wearied) **and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

Mat 11:29 (ASV) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: **and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

Mat 11:30 (ASV) For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Php 4:6 (ASV) **In nothing be anxious**; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Php 4:7 (ASV) **And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding**, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

We need rest both physically and spiritually. Take care of your bodies or you will not be able to do any spiritual work. But care more for your spiritual life than your physical life.

1Ti 4:8 (ASV) **for bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things**, having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come.

Joshua was the first man to lead Israel to wage war in the promise land. He defeated many Kings and conquered many cities, but he did not finish the job. As far as we come in this life, we will never complete the job until we physically die and are given new spiritual bodies.

Jos 13:1 Now Joshua was old *and* stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old *and* stricken in years, **and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.**

Php 3:12 (ASV) **Not that I have already obtained**, or am already made perfect: but **I press on**, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus.

We just want to be like Joshua and be faithful to the end. He encouraged Israel to be faithful before he died in Joshua chapter 24. Paul does the same thing in 2 Timothy near the end of his life.

2Ti 4:5 (ASV) But be thou sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, **I have kept the faith:**

Most of us are just getting started.

Mat 24:3-8 (ASV) And as he sat on the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? **and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?** ⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man lead you astray. ⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall lead many astray. ⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for *these things* must needs come to pass; but the end is not yet. ⁷ **For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;** and there shall be famines and earthquakes in divers places. ⁸ **But all these things are the beginning of travail (sorrows).**

We must press on to win the war.

Mat 24:13 **But he that shall endure unto the end,** the same shall be saved.

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well-doing: **for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.**