

BE STRONG IN THE LORD

Dear friend and partner,

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. (3 John 2)

... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10: 10)

It's our Father God's desire that each one of His children be protected, healthy, and prosperous. It's also His desire for His children to grow and develop spiritually. Unfortunately, many of God's children are not experiencing the fullness of the inheritance that belongs to them in and through Christ Jesus. This is usually caused because of a lack of knowledge of God's Word or a lack of applying God's Word in their life, and/ or they may be simply experiencing an attack in some area of their life, from Satan, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10: 10).

None of us can afford to procrastinate when it comes to spending time in the God's Word and in prayer. It's easy to let time slip by when we become preoccupied with daily activities. Soon, our spiritual resistance is not where it should be. We cannot become complacent in our Christian life, for when we do, we're putting ourselves in a very dangerous position.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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 *p/aces* 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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; (Ephesians 6: 10-18)

Fight the good fight of faith... (1 Timothy 6:12)

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 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; (2 Corinthians 10: 4, 5)

As long as we're on this earth, we're always going to have to fight the good fight of faith, for we have an enemy, the devil, who's always going to contest and harass us in any way he can. He uses worry, fear, stress, anxiety and persecution to bring on oppression and depression. He comes to our mind with all kinds of imaginations to try to persuade us to quit and give up. All of his tactics are just ploys to intimidate, confuse, and ultimately, to cause us to blame God for what we're going through.

But the good news is that Jesus defeated Satan for us and has given us His Name, which is above every name (Philippians 2:9-11). We are to use the Name of Jesus against the attacks of the devil. It is our responsibility as believers to cast down every thought and imagination that comes to our mind which is contrary to the written Word of God. It's very important to our spiritual welfare that we constantly speak the Word to our problem, our mountain, our mind, and to the devil.

In those times when you cannot sleep because of anxiety, instead of lying in bed or turning on the TV, make yourself plead the promises of God instead. Either do it lying there in bed, quoting scriptures until you fall asleep, or get up and walk around the house, thanking and praising God while quoting scriptures. You cannot afford to let day after day go by and not deal with a problem. We do not ignore tests, trials, problems, or bad situations, nor do we **cope** with them. We are to rise to the occasion and exercise our spiritual authority. Every test has to be passed in order for us to be in God's perfect will. The scriptures say, "**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you**" (James 4: 7).

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. (1 Peter 5: 8, 9)

Neither give place to the devil. (Ephesians 4: 27)

Standing and fighting the good fight of faith is not easy to do, nor is it enjoyable. But it is rewarding to you, and to your family and loved ones. Little do we realize it when we are standing and fighting the good fight of faith, but the experience we're gaining not only helps us now, but will help us in the days to come.

Before David faced Goliath, he faced the lion and the bear. So apparently, what he used to defeat them was exactly what he used to defeat Goliath. As one minister once said, "*Great victories come out of great battles.*" None of us likes tests and trials, but we sure enjoy the testimony. Testimonies are not just a blessing and an encouragement to the body of Christ, but are also a witness to the world of the goodness of God.

I don't know what you are faced with right now, but I guarantee you that if you're obeying God and walking in His perfect will, the enemy is doing everything he can to discourage you in your pursuit of God and His will. I can remember when the Lord led me to go to Bible school. I was so zealous to step out and head in that direction. Looking back at it, I can see the enemy was doing everything he could, and was using

all the tactics he had at his disposal to discourage me so I'd quit and go back to where I came from.

If Satan can't get you to go back to the world of sin that you were delivered from, his next ploy is to cause you become cold and lukewarm in your Christian walk. It is disappointing to see your brother or sister in the Lord backsliding and going back to the world. And, it can be almost as discouraging to see someone who's been saved for years no longer "*on fire*" for God, or to see someone who's lost their zeal, enthusiasm and expectation of what God can do.

Do you remember how proud you were of your first Bible when you just got saved? I remember when I couldn't wait to receive a set of faith tapes in the mail that I had ordered! I waited with the anticipation of a little child who's been promised a trip to the toy store. We must never lose that faith-edge of believing in the promises of God!

Thank God every day for the Bible that He gave you and let Him know that you appreciate all He's done for you. Let Him see you boldly stand in on His promises and declaring who you are in Christ Jesus. And, let the devil listen to you quote God's Word in Jesus' Name. And together, let's stand and fight the good fight of faith, in Jesus' Name.

Your partner in faith,

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