

The Spiritual Warfare by Charles Edward Borjas

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Many people misunderstand what Spiritual Warfare is all about. There are many concepts and many misconceptions about the war of the Spirit.

I hope to clear some of that up here, and uncover some hidden truths to the Spiritual War. Too much glory and power is attributed to Satan and his demons. Too many people go into agreement with him and exalt him above what he really is, nothing, dirt, worse than dirt, and grime and grease. The man of Sin. The thief and robber, who comes to kill and to steal, and destroy, that is all he is.

A roaring lion walking about like a wild beast to and fro, with no resting place, wandering about in torment looking for an open door to enter in and kill and destroy. when you fear Satan you are giving him worship, you are giving him power, you are exalting him above God; and that is what he likes.

This class will help you to see right from God's Word that Satan is a DEFEATED FOE. He has already LOST the War of the Spirit, but in his stubbornness and rebellion still tries to give God and his children as much trouble as possible, and also will kill and steal any place, anytime, anyone.

So what is our place in this spiritual war anyhow? What are we supposed to do to fight? How do people of flesh fight against wicked spiritual beings? What are UFO's, and Aliens?

Let us take a trip into the Spirit World, through the Word of God, which is Spirit and Truth. Jesus gave us an absolutely sharp statement when He said "it is the Spirit that quickens, the flesh profits nothing! The WORDS that I SPEAK unto you THEY are SPIRIT and THEY are TRUTH!"

So let us travel into the spirit World right now, through the Word of God. The ONLY way you can enter the spirit world in this life. Don't be fooled by these psychics who say they can hear spirits and they can see into the spirit world and see spirits. what they are seeing are evil spirits. Because they HAVE an evil spirit that shows them.

This spiritual war, this Holy Warfare we are destined to fight has to be done on the basis of the Truth in God's Word. It is a fight, a battle, to the finish, and yet, Jesus already said "it is finished". Just the same we are still in a battle for our minds and hearts and bodies.

Jesus has already done the heard part. He died for our sins, and so one third of our salvation is complete; our spirit.

After salvation, the born again experience, we feel much the same, and even have a lot of the same thoughts, habits and tendencies we did before. That is because the process is not complete. The next thing that has to happen is the renewing of the mind.

The war we are fighting, OUR spiritual battle is in the mind; that thing that sits between your ears. Spiritual battles come in many different forms. Many are not even recognizable, unless you have put on ALL the armor of God, and are sober, vigilant, praying, and looking out for the enemy. The Bible says we are not ignorant of his devices, so we have to be aware of what devices he uses to try to destroy us.

Many battles come in the form of trials of the mind and heart, testing our character day by day. There are physical battles too, such as sickness, accidents, persecution, and other afflictions, but the Lord can and will deliver us out of them all, if we honor Him and believe!

He wants us to be winners, and we come from a long line of champions. Just look at Hebrews 11 and you can see where we come from. We are the spiritual seed of those people. We have the DNA of God, and so we should learn how to wield the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, mixed with FAITH that will only work through LOVE. The weapons of the Spirit are much more powerful than any weapons that man can muster up. It says in God's Word that "no weapon that is formed against you will prosper". It may form, but it will not prosper if we don't let it. We were destined to overcome every obstacle and mountain that is thrown at us.

We are the conquerors, the victors and not victims. We are soldiers of the Spirit, in a way, honorary soldiers whose job is to "stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free" and not to get entangled again in the yoke of bondage. We are the honorary citizens of the kingdom, the heirs of the Kingdom of God, and although we are a part of this spiritual war, this holy war, and we wield the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, taking all the armor of God, in Faith and Love, and Peace, we are not on the front lines of the battle.

It may seem like it, by some of the things we face, but compared to what we face, the front line battle is much more fierce. WE are fighting the war of the spirit within our own territory. That's the only place we have authority to win and conquer right now, where we stand. The territory the Lord has given us on this earth.

We are to fight and even die for Jesus and the things pertaining to the Kingdom of Heaven, on this earth right now, in

our territory, where we have influence. Each one of us has a sphere of influence that we have authority over, and the sooner you find out what that sphere of influence is, the sooner you can start winning victories for Jesus.

If you get out of that sphere, the one you are assigned to by the Lord, you may suffer serious defeat and failure. The power of the Lord only works when you are using it WHERE and HOW He wants you to. That is where Faith and Love come in. If it is not out of LOVE and if it is not LOVE Where you FAITH comes from, then it is DEAD WORKS. It will not amount to much.

It is KNOWING the Love of God, knowing God loves you unconditionally, and that He is not angry at you for your mistakes. It is having the assurance and faith that you have the favor and blessing of God, and then and only then can you do ALL things through Christ who strengthens you. When you receive the revelation of God's unconditional love and grace, everything will change. There will be no more condemnation. There will be no more self pity, bitterness, anger, jealousy, hate, or awareness of your sins.

This is what Satan hates the most. Children of God discovering how free they really are! finding out that your past, present and future sins are forgiven unconditionally, and that it is not WORKS that God desires, or requires from you in order to earn His blessings and favor. You CAN'T possibly EARN anything from God. There is NOTHING you can possibly do that would be enough to earn even ONE blessing from God. He doesn't work on a performance basis.

God has already blessed us and made us His children through the blood of Jesus. That is ALL the sacrifice He needs, not our filthy "good" works. God has already paid the ultimate price, and Jesus has already made the ultimate sacrifice, His blood and His life, to bring us into eternal, and intimate relationship with God.

I tell you, once you get past that deep truth, and come to the realization of God's unconditional love and grace, your faith will go through the ceiling, and you will start to be able to receive more from God. Because you won't have the condemnation you had before, when you thought that God was judging you on a daily, performance basis. Good one day, bad the next. Who needs that kind of ROLLER COASTER FAITH? when you don't know what God is thinking about you from one day to the next? God's thoughts about His children are ALWAYS good. Consistently good toward us, His precious bride. God is not on an emotional roller coaster ride!

Well, I said above that we are not the ones who are fighting the main war. The REAL war has already been won. Jesus won the war 2000 years ago. It is finished as far as God is concerned. However the enemy will not concede defeat. In fact he still thinks he can win, which is totally ridiculous. That is why he still has his devils and demons going out looking for a weak spot, a way to get into God's kingdom to do as much damage as he can. But the enemy can only do as much damage as we will let him. He can only work through humans, and so that is why he attacks the MIND and HEART to get your will on his side.

This is OUR war, where WE have to fight. In our MINDS; our THOUGHTS; and daily, minute by minute, guard those thoughts!

As you can see by the Bible, the only ones who actually do hand to hand combat with the devil and his angels were Jesus, and his warrior angels.

We DO have the power to deal with them and cast them out if they invade our territory, but we are NOT to go into THEIR territory, into the heavenlies, or places that are centers of their power and try to do battle with them there. We do not have the authority to do that. As we see from the Bible, it was Michael the Archangel, and Gabriel, and also the heavenly armies of angels who did battle with Satan and his minions in hand to hand combat, in the areas where we are not allowed to go.

WE are not the REAL SOLDIERS called to go out to battle against Satan and his ilk. The WARRIOR ANGELS are the REAL SOLDIERS who are trained for hand to hand combat with the devil and his angels, not US!

We still need to be aware of the Spiritual War, as we are a part of it. We are citizens of the Kingdom, not its main warriors. We are like the reserves, or the people's army, called to stay by the stuff, and protect our interests in God's kingdom. So it is imperative that we learn how to fight this spiritual war in order that we can protect our territory and having done all "STAND" and stand fast against all of the wiles of the devil.

God, Jesus, and the angels will take care of the areas we have no jurisdiction over, but we still need to pray! We can still influence the wars going on in the spirit world dimensions by our prayers! That is how we fight in the spirit, we wrestle in prayer and in the Word! We stand before the throne of God boldly and Praise and Worship Him! We fellowship with The Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and are in ever constant communication to receive directions, inspiration, encouragement, guidance, leading, strength, power, and specific words of strategy and tactics from our commander in Chief, the Holy Spirit!

The weapons we use to live a victorious life are stronger than anything that Satan has or can muster up. We just need to believe in them and have faith that they will do the job. Our weapons are the gifts of the Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit, taking the nature of God, the mind of God, prayer, our positive action for the Lord, but one of the greatest weapons we can have is to be aware! Aware of who we are in the Spirit! When we can realize that we possess such a powerful weapon, a close

intimate and eternal relationship with Almighty God, and are constantly receiving His love, grace, blessings and favor, as well as all of His other gifts as well as virtues, then we can stop living a defeated life and start living a victorious one!

We can fight the enemy who tries to get in “some other way”. The thief who does not enter in by the door of the sheepfold but climbs up some other way.

Remember, the devil can only do as much damage as we will let him. It is not GOD who allows him access to hurt people, it is the people themselves agreeing with him and letting him in!

The following verses help to explain that and make it clear that we have FULL AUTHORITY over SATAN and ALL of his minions as long as we stay within our own territory, and protect our GARDENS, the sphere of influence God has given you! If you try to work outside of that sphere of influence, than you will fall flat on your face and fail! That is why the Bible says to enlarge your territory, if you want more. You can go out and claim the land, if you have the faith to take care of it, and protect it from the enemy.

remember it says, “when the enemy shall come in, LIKE A FLOOD the Lord will raise up a standard against him” there is a whole lot of difference where you put the comma! The enemy cannot come in like a flood unless we are like a city that is broken down and without walls. It is the LORD who raises up a standard like a FLOOD, to overwhelm the enemy when he tries to come in.

Jesus said he “climbs up some other way” he doesn’t come in like a flood. He is invading your territory, so you need to ask the Lord to raise up a FLOOD of a standard against him, to protect your GARDEN! Your territory!

Anyhow, I will start with Ephesians 6:12 which says in the ESV(English Standard Version) of the Bible, which is my Bible of choice now. And you will see why.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Well that whole passage says a mouth full. This shows us what kind of a war we are in. And we will go through this passage little by little, and bring out some details here that are relevant to our daily lives, relevant to the world situation, relevant to what is happening in the world today. There is no hocus-pocus here. There is no deception. There is only truth and what God says; His thoughts on the matter, and that is the only thing that counts.

This passage is OUR part and what we are responsible to do. This is the part of the spiritual war that we are allotted, and assigned, and lets see just what this is all talking about here ok? So I am going to attempt to take this verse, this passage of scripture apart piece by piece and see what we come up with here.

Ephesians 6:12:

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...We are wrestling, we are in a contest, like an athlete in the Olympics
1 Corinthians 9:25 Says: 25Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

From this verse it would seem that the warfare we are in is more like an Olympic contest of strength, rather than a war of life and death. Like running a race. An athlete who runs rejoices and has fun, he enjoys the race , enjoys the competition like it says in the verse in Psalms 19:

4 Their voice [2] goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,
5 which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

This is not talking about blood and guts war. This is talking about victory, and the fun and enjoyment of running the race, competing in the contest, to see who will come out on top. This is what the Olympic games are all about. Not about killing, but a peaceful way for people to compete in a physical contest.

Just the same, we are in a spiritual contest. The rules have been made clear in the Word of God, and the stakes are high, the winnings are more than Gold, more than silver, more precious than rubies or diamonds.

The so called war has already been won, but our daily lives can still be filled with many challenges and problems that can be likened to war time.

This is the spiritual war! It is spiritual, and already taken care of by the army. Who is the army? Let us read on and see what it says.

in Ephesians 1:21

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Now this verse doesn't sound like we are involved in any kind of a war that we are in danger of losing. With God there IS not losing. If people are losing it is because they are not fighting, they have given up. This is the easiest war to win! A war that is already won, all we have to do is keep fighting!

but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

This is not talking about politics, or fighting against the powers that be. That is against God's Word to do that. Revolutions are rebellions against the authority God has allowed to rule. If there is to be any change, it has to come from God, not the people. We are not to rebel against authority. Jesus obeyed the powers that be in his day and so did Paul. They didn't rebel against them and start a revolution. Jesus said "my kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight"

So we will cover this again in the study of the Gospels.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

Here we are admonished to take the armor of God This is spiritual armor, not physical. This is symbolic, and figurative because Satan is still busy attacking, killing, deceiving, devouring, destroying, and he is subtle about it. That is why we need spiritual protection.

The belt of truth.....so we will not be deceived.....the breastplate of righteousness.... so we will be able to protect our hearts....and shoes.... so we can walk around and bring that truth to others, and also have our own feet (steps) protected as we go....these shoes enable us to make steps in the right direction, and walk, even through the valley of death....walk through....and not get stuck there.

The shield of faith...(the Lord is a Sun and a Shield) He is our shield, to protect us from all harm and danger, both spiritual and physical. Even though this is a spiritual battle, Satan is busy trying to destroy and kill by trying to give us fear, make us get hasty, careless, depressed, confused, angry and hateful, envious, covetous, etc. So we need to keep that shield of faith up there so we can quench ALL of his fiery darts that try to destroy us

The helmet of salvation... to protect our minds and thoughts... to help us to always know and remember that we KNOW The Lord, we have a relationship with Jesus and keeping our minds on the Lord so we can have perfect peace and trust and faith. Knowing that we have eternal life, assured of our salvation beyond the shadow of any doubt, and the helmet protecting us from the doubts and deceptions of our spiritual enemy.

AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD... out of all of the armor, the only one we use for attacking and inflicting

damage on the enemy is the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. This is the most effective weapon of all, if you know how to use it properly. The Word of God spoken figuratively as a Sword of the Spirit, shows that this is a spiritual warfare, and what weapon we need to learn how to use. IT is no good just having a weapon and possessing it if you don't know how to use it properly and safely, in order to get the best possible use out of it, and be able to use it in the most effective way possible.

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

But even if you have all of the above armor and sword, it is still not going to work or be powerful enough unless you shoot straight, or are skillful with your armor and weapon. This honing of your weaponry skill and sharpening your ability to do warfare comes through praying always, with all prayer and supplication. At the same time being alert, not spiritually asleep, but AWAKE! Also boldly proclaiming the Gospel to others, in other words, sharing the Gospel with people God brings across your path.

There is a lot of Joy in my past and a whole lot of pain too. Love brings pain sometimes but most of the time brings surcease from pain.

The Joy and the Love keep telling me to forget the pain, it is not worth it to keep remembering.

It IS worth it to remember the good times and the good things and I think that Apostle Paul had the right idea when he said by the Holy Spirit;

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 1 Corinthians 9:25

25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. The Christian is also likened to an athlete who competes for a prize, ribbon or a gold medal. It takes focus, concentration, dedication, and perseverance. THEY do it for a corruptible crown that passes away. WE are doing it for an eternal reward, treasures in heaven.

Now I am going to start through the New Testament and start with the Gospels, the Jesus Teaching On in the Spiritual War.

What is looks like here, the beginning of Jesus' spiritual war with Satan, started right after he was born!

We can see this also depicted in Revelations 12, in a symbolic, revelatory figurative prophetic allegory, that already has happened, and also can be depicting the persecution of the church to come. Jesus said if they have persecuted me they will also persecute you.

The Flight to Egypt

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

The devil was obviously alerted somehow that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem. Before I go any further here, I would like to navigate through a few points about the Spiritual War. Jesus came to earth to enlighten us to the fact that there is a spiritual war going on. Did He not say "I came not to bring peace but a sword"? This sword He brings, in Revelations 1 is coming out of His mouth. It is His Word. Not a physical sword.

Through these next passages it is obvious that this war is not one of the flesh (2 Corinthians 10:3)
2 Corinthians 10:3 (English Stand 3) For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh.

Paul is also making a point here that this war is a GOOD warfare (1 Timothy 1:18,19)

Also it is called a GOOD fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12)

1 Timothy 1:18

18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

We do not fight our war according to the flesh, but the flesh does have its battles.

The flesh (Romans 7:23; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 2 Corinthians 12:7; Galatians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:11)

1 Timothy 6:12

Romans 7:23

23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

It's not getting the victory over sin. That is where we fail. One day good, another day bad. That's roller coaster religion. Trying to feel good one day, and then you wonder why it didn't continue in into the next day, when you are feeling bad again, because you yielded to that temptation.

Yes, the Lord can help us overcome anything, any addiction, and problem or sin.

But it is the initial approach that we misunderstand. It says to approach the throne of grace with CONFIDENCE and BOLDNESS, not with fear and doubt that God loves us.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.

27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Self discipline is one of the keys. Learning to control yourself and have moderation. That doesn't mean you have to cut yourself off from every pleasure there is. People misunderstand. Even too much of a good thing can be bad for you. It should be a joy, like a runner running a race. They do it because they LOVE running, and the competition, and the contest of their strength. It is not a chore to them. But to get to that point it takes self discipline to practice until perfect.

2 Corinthians 12:7

7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.

It is a real battle with pride sometimes. We have been given so much and can do so many things, and when we are successful there is that temptation to begin to think it was US instead of the blessings and favor of God. So it says “let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he falls” A messenger of Satan of some sort, probably in the form of the afflictions Paul suffered, was sent to him to keep him humble and remind him that what he was accomplishing was not in his own strength or power, but could not be accomplished except by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

This messenger, also can be translated as “angel” as they mean the same thing. So it could have been an actual evil spirit, one of Satan’s top angels sent to “buffet” Paul, or persecute him by stirring up the local people. As you can see by reading the book of Acts, Paul the Apostle was persecuted and suffered terribly at the hands of the enemies of God, who were inspired by Satan.

This is part of the physical battles we face as ambassadors of the Kingdom of God. We WILL meet with resistance and opposition.

So that is why it says to:

12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Fight the GOOD fight of Faith! It is a GOOD fight and we were called to fight it. I don’t doubt that the good fight of faith Paul is talking about here is the battle he had to fight in his mind, all the things going through his mind after he was beaten, persecuted, left for dead, and how after the physical attack, the devil comes in with mental attacks to try to get us to doubt God’s love for us.

But we need that assurance. We need to understand and have a revelation of God’s love for us, to know that whatever happens, it is not God who is doing it, and pray for His deliverance and trust Him no matter what. Praise your way through! Rise up above all negative circumstances in your mind and heart, like the eagle!

(Psalms 38:19;56:2;59:3)

Psalm 38:19

But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

King David has a lot of enemies who hated him, including the King of Israel, Saul, who he called his father. Many hated him wrongfully. So how do you deal with that? Do you hate back? retaliate? There might be a temptation to do so, but Jesus said to LOVE your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, bless those who speak against you wrongly. He said to forgive them, not hate them. That takes a lot of focus and discipline, and LOVE of God, the kind of love that only God can give.

The world (John 16:33; 1 John 5:4,5)

33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Jesus said we can expect tribulation and trouble, trials from the world. But are we to worry about it? NO! He said to not let our hearts be bothered by it, don’t be discouraged, take heart, because He has already OVERCOME the world! Awesome!

1 John 5:4,5

4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith.

5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Those who are born again have already overcome the world. Your spirits have already gotten the victory. That truth of our spiritual victory just needs to be translated into our minds and hearts. It needs to take root, and grow inside into a tree with branches that the birds (blessings of God) can come and nest in it.

This is where faith comes in. You become what you believe you are. If you don’t believe you have the victory by faith then you won’t have it. It is a spiritual thing, you have to take hold of and grasp with your mind and heart. “Take hold of eternal life” We have to grasp and take hold of what that means, and when you do, the magnitude of it will be astounding!

(1 Corinthians 15:26; with Hebrews 2:14,15)

1 Corinthians 15:26 (26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Jesus conquered death, so why fear it? Why fear men? Jesus rose from the dead and gave us the power to do the same.

(Micah 7:6; Matthew 10:35,36)

Micah 7:6 for the son treats the father with contempt,
the daughter rises up against her mother,
the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

Yes, this is part of the battle sometimes. even those who are the closest to us; our family and loved ones. Sometimes they're the ones who understand the least, and try to control our lives. The scripture says to stand strong in the power of His might, so you have to tactfully let people know, even your family, where you stand. That is one of the greatest battles some people face is explaining their faith to their families.

There is a real spiritual war going on there too, because Satan not only wants to divide and conquer, but he doesn't want you to influence your relatives in a positive way, so he tries to still up their fears and get them to panic.

Fear is one of Satan's strongest weapons, or might I say tactics. He can't GIVE you fear or MAKE you become afraid, but he can STIR UP the fear you already have on the inside of you, that you have been harboring all these years. That is why we need to get cleansed by the Word of God (John 15:3) and need to get our minds renewed.

Matthew 10:35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

Matthew 10:36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

Hebrews 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

This is the Gospel, the Good News, in fact as the Greek translation states, the "almost too good to be true Good News". That Jesus suffered the hard part. He went through what we don't HAVE to go through. Most of the suffering we experience in our emotions, our mind, the trauma, fear, hate, jealousy, doubts, depression, are only because we have agreed to allow ourselves to suffer this way. We make an agreement with the devil, and sit down with him and have a cup of coffee, and a little chat, and agree with him that we are not a very good Christian, and we failed, and others are right, and maybe a lot of it is true. But if you start listening to him there will be no end to it. He will have you down at the bottom of the deepest pit of depression before you know it, adding to the truths his lies to boot.

It is true that many people DO suffer, and the experiences they go through are real, and there are things that can be learned and gleaned from them, but it doesn't HAVE to be that way! God HAS made a way to ESCAPE for those who honor Him and seek His goodness and favor!

We are under the Lord's banner (Psalms 60:4)

You have set up a banner for those who fear you,
that they may flee to it from the bow.

Selah

1 Corinthians 16:13 Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

Not act like a child! We need to be mature and act like the grown ups that we are. (unless you are still a child) but 1

Corinthians 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

(1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

There are certain things the Lord wants to say to us. His is always speaking to us, always broadcasting like a radio station and we are always receiving His signals. But there are also many other signals in there battling against the Lord's signals. Our spirits are busy trying to translate the Lord's messages to our souls, and then it gets unscrambled so our minds can understand it, and we still have to let it sink deep down deep into our hearts before it can be fully effective. We have to believe it! But these special tailored made instructions are how God wants us to fight this spiritual war. He sends the instructions, the words of love, encouragement, and directions. How we interpret it is up to us How we want to take it and apply, or brush it off is our choice.

We are to wage war with steadfastness in the faith and contend for the faith discerning false teachers (1 Corinthians 1; 1 Peter 5:9; with Hebrews 10:23)

Jude 1:3

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

This is all part of the spiritual war. You can really feel it when you are withstanding false teachers and preachers. You know there is a real spiritual war going on.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

With watchfulness 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 5:8

1 Thessalonians 5:6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

With soberness (1 Thessalonians 5:6; 1 Peter 5:8)

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. With endurance of hardness (2 Timothy 2:3,10)
2 Timothy 2:3

3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

With self-denial 1 Corinthians 9:25-27
Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.
27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
With confidence in God (Psalms 27:1-3)
Psalm 27:1-3

Psalm 27
The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation
Of David.
1 The LORD is my(A) light and my(B) salvation;
(C) whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me
to(D) eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.

3(E) Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet[b] I will be confident.

20.» With prayer (Psalms 35:1-3; Ephesians 6:18)
Psalm 35:1-3

Psalm 35
Great Is the LORD
Of David.
1 Contend, O LORD, with those who(A) contend with me;
(B) fight against those who fight against me!
2 Take hold of(C) shield and buckler
and rise for my help!
3 Draw the spear and javelin
against my pursuers!
Say to my soul,
“I am your salvation!”

Ephesians 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
Without earthly entanglements
2 Timothy 2:4 No soldier(A) gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.
Mere professors do not maintain (Jeremiah 9:3)
Jeremiah 9:3 (English Standard Version)

They bend their tongue like a bow;
falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land;
for they proceed from evil to evil,
and they do not know me, declares the LORD.

Saints are all engaged in (Philippians 1:30)
engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Must stand firm in (Ephesians 6:13,14)
Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Exhorted to diligence in (1 Timothy 6:12; Jude 1:3)

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

IN CONCLUSION:

There IS no conclusion actually. The spiritual war keeps going on, and we have to be diligent to read, study, memorize and meditate on the word of God. Find those jewels that help you live a victorious life. Get rid of old mindsets that keep dictating to you why you can't do this or that and why you are like this and will never accomplish what you want to.

You don't have to let your stinkin' thinkin' dictate your destiny. The spiritual war, after you get born again, is learning how to live a victorious life and not live like you are defeated. That is the battle you have right now. With people telling you negative things all the time, speaking out of their fears and doubtful imaginations, with all the negative news you see on TV and read in the newspapers, and then what the doctor told you, it is understandable why not too many people have faith to live a victorious life, let alone listening to what the devil tells you.

Positiveness is not enough. You have to make it a habit, change your habits of thinking. Change the mindsets and strongholds that have taken hold of your being and keep telling you "no, no, no".

We need to learn to think for ourselves with the Word of God as our standard of thinking, because the Bible contains the words and thoughts of almighty God, and if we can think like the Bible, that is the best we could ever think, and that would be very beneficial for us

The armor of God is also called armour of light (Romans 13:12) Because without it we will be in the dark and will not know the truth.

The WHOLE armor is required and not just part of it. (Ephesians 6:13)

Armor MUST be WORN; you have got to PUT it ON in order for it to work. (Romans 13:12; Ephesians 6:11)

The armor of God is to be on the right hand and left, covering all sides and angles for full protection and effect. (2 Corinthians 6:7)

Our warfare IS AGAINST The devil and not against other humans (Genesis 3:15; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelations)

This spiritual war is against The flesh, and what IT wants to do. Don't let it be your boss. (Romans 7:23; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 2 Corinthians 12:7; Galatians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:11)

The spiritual war IS AGAINST spiritual Enemies not physical ones. we are in a war of the spirit and not flesh. Whatever ideology or philosophy is contrary to the Bible, is an enemy of God designed to throw down the truth and spread lies. (Psalms 38:19;56:2;59:3)

The spiritual war IS AGAINST » The world and the things of the world, the spirit of the world, but not against the people.(John 16:33; 1 John 5:4,5)

IT'S AGAINST » Death (1 Corinthians 15:26; Hebrews 2:14,15) Because Satan is a murderer and thief, the destroyer and is against life.

THE SAINTS are all engaged in (Philippians 1:30), Must stand firm in (Ephesians 6:13,14), Exhorted to diligence (1 Timothy 6:12; Jude 1:3)

Encouraged in it (Isaiah 41:11,12;51:12; Micah 7:8; 1 John 4:4) Helped by God in it (Psalms 118:13; Isaiah 41:13,14) Protected by God in it (Psalms 140:7), Comforted by God in it (2 Corinthians 7:5,6),

Strengthened by God in it (Psalms 20:2;27:14; Isaiah 41:10), Strengthened by Christ in it (2 Corinthians 12:9; 2 Timothy 4:17) Delivered by Christ in it (2 Timothy 4:18) Thank God for victory over it (Romans 7:25; 1 Corinthians 15:57)

THEY WHO OVERCOME IN IT WILL: Eat of the hidden manna (Revelations 2:17), Eat of the tree of life (Revelations 2:7), Be clothed in white raiment (Revelations 3:5), Be pillars in the temple of God (Revelations 3:12), Sit with Christ in his throne (Revelations 3:21), Have a white stone, and, in it a new name written (Revelations 2:17), Have power over the nations (Revelations 2:26), Have the name of God written upon them by Christ (Revelations 3:12), Have God as their God (Revelations 21:7), Have the morning-star (Revelations 2:28), Inherit all things (Revelations 21:7) Be confessed by Christ before God the Father (Revelations 3:5), Be sons of God (Revelations 21:7), Not have their names blotted out of the book of life (Revelations 3:5)

THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS TO BE FOUGHT: Under Christ, as our captain (Hebrews 2:10), Under the Lord's banner (Psalms 60:4), With faith (1 Timothy 1:18,19), With a good conscience (1 Timothy 1:18,19), With steadfastness in the faith (1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 5:9; Hebrews 10:23)

THE VICTORY IS From God (1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14), Through Christ (Romans 7:25; 1 Corinthians 15:27; 2 Corinthians 12:9), Over, Over the world (1 John 5:4,5), Over all that exalts itself (2 Corinthians 10:5), Over death and

the grave (Isaiah 25:8;26:19; Hosea 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:54,55), Triumphant (Romans 8:37; 2 Corinthians 10:5)

YOU NEED FAITH IN THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE; IT IS IMPERATIVE AND ESSENTIAL in the Christian warfare (1 Timothy 1:18,19;6:12)

GOD HAS BLESSED YOU AND GIVEN YOU HIS FAVOR. DON'T LET THE THIEF AND DESTROYER STEAL IT AWAY FROM YOU.