

Chapter 15

What Then Must We Do?

I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

—II Timothy 4:7–8

Getting to the Kingdom

As we've mentioned, much of Spiritual Warfare is fought out in the mind. It's a tussle of ideologies and will. Scripture indicates that it is a lifelong struggle to bring our minds into subjection to His Word. For some of us, the battle may be more intense. For others, surrendering to His will and commands may be somewhat less demanding. But for all of us, it is worth it!

Scripture tells us in II Corinthians 10:4–5 that we are to pull down strongholds, imaginations and thoughts, and make them subject to Christ. Satan's strategy in trying to make you wilt in the heat of battle cannot succeed if you know the Word of God and are willing to follow it. The Bible indicates that it shouldn't surprise us when trials and afflictions come our way. Peter speaks to us about this in I Peter 4:12–13.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

When trials come our way, we need to remember who is on our side and what He has sent us here to accomplish. Here are some things to remember in times of spiritual struggle.

- The battle is not really yours but God's. You are but a willing conduit for His power to be manifested through. God knows every thought, every fear, and every strength. Nothing will take Him by surprise. It is under His protection that we serve! (Psalm 91.)
- The weapons for victory are not our own. They are made available and are empowered by God. None are more powerful than the knowledge of His word coupled with the blood of the Cross (Revelation 12:11)
- Worldly means will not bring spiritual victory. Our focus must be on His purpose and power. (II Corinthians 10:3-4)
- Make a cognizant, resolute decision that no ungodly communication shall flow into or out of us. Double-mindedness spells defeat. (II Corinthians 6:14-18, 7:1, James 1:8, Hebrews 11:6)

What if You or Your House is Under Attack?

Often we are asked questions such as, "What do I do if my family is under attack?" "What steps do I take if my children are seeing 'things' in their rooms?" "Demonic forces are assaulting my body and mind. How can I stop them?"

We're fairly sure that if you've read this book carefully you've come across some good practical information to help you win in these kinds of battles but let's review again anyway.

Perhaps the most important thing you can do is to guard your Christian walk. This gives you the advantage of having the close, personal faith that carries us through rough waters and helps bulletproof our lives leaving less room for the enemy to gain access. Once again, let us reiterate: there is NO victory in Spiritual Warfare without an ongoing, repentant relationship with Jesus Christ. Anything less and your easy pickins' for Satan.

- When you or your household come under attack—and you have no doubt of the spiritual origin of that attack—your first avenue of defense is to take your authority as a conquering ambassador in Jesus Christ.

- Meditate on and recite what Scripture says about you, your house, your situation, reminding the powers of darkness that “every knee is going to bow to the King of Kings!” Declare with your mouth the purposes of God, His plan and His power.

- Extol the power of the blood of Christ over all demonic forces and interference.

- Claim God's healing, protection and power in the circumstance. Declare and claim for yourself the Scriptures concerning God's angels being there to protect and minister to you or any family member being harassed by evil (Hebrews 1:14). When appropriate it is effective to emulate Hosea's prayer for God's covering and prevention that a loved one fall into Satan's traps (often referred to as the “Hosea's hedge of protection” found in Hosea 2:6). Another terrific image of God's ultimate victory is found in the Old Testament book of Zechariah.

For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

—Zechariah 2:5

About this potent verse *The Geneva Study Bible* (printed in 1599) states about the “wall of fire”:
“...to strike fear in the enemies, and to destroy them if they approach near.”

- Remember to always praise God and extol his goodness in praise and worship through every trial and attack - this is a backbreaker for the Evil One.

- Persevere for surely after every victory we must be aware that the enemy is regrouping and retooling for another assault.

- And lastly, perhaps the best tool in dealing with enemy assaults upon our home is “preventative” praying. We'll never know just how many things were *averted* and how many demonic and human intrusions were prevented because we took time to pray over our homes, families, finances and possessions, etc. Staying continually “in the Word and under the blood” in an attitude of readiness is where every soldier for Christ wants to be!

Words of Encouragement

As we move on toward heaven, there are two words of encouragement to hold near—longevity and again, perseverance.

God wants us to view the trials and battles of life in the light of eternity. Paul fought the “good fight.” So must we. Our struggle against the Adversary won't be over until we're in glory, face to face with the Lord. So we must simply persevere to the end.

Jesus said, “. . . the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matthew 11:12b). This tells us that those adamant about the Kingdom will achieve it and that nothing will stand in their way. No sin, no worldly desires, and no Devil will stop the Christian who has set his sights firmly on the prize. It’s an attitude that we mean business for God. This verse exhorts us to seize the opportunities presented for God and don’t let go! It is the knowing deep in your soul that truly “NO weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper . . .” (Isaiah 54:17a)!

A terrific picture is painted for us in II Samuel 23 as one of King David’s “Mighty Men” stands between the Philistines and the people.

And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. And the Philistines were gathered together into a troop, where was a piece of ground full of lentiles: and the people fled from the Philistines. But he stood in the midst of the ground, and defended it, and slew the Philistines: and the LORD wrought a great victory.

—II Samuel 23:11–12

Shammah wasn’t defending a dignitary, high royalty or a terribly valuable piece of real estate here. It was a farm field. But he stood there—between the representatives of tyranny and evil and the innocents—and defended the land. So must it be with us.

Once we train ourselves concerning Warfare, it is our duty to stand in the gap between those who don’t know how to wage war and the enemy who desires to destroy them.

The effective, obedient, God-led warfare of Shammah kept the Philistines (i.e., Satan) from victory! He was obviously a trained warrior—a mighty man—but take note; the Scripture declares that *God won a great victory*, not Shammah. As we engage the enemy, let’s never lose track of just where our victory comes from and why we are fighting. Yes, it’s for us and our physical, emotional, spiritual and financial good. But there is more. Through **our** diligent obedience in Spiritual Warfare, **others** are touched for His glory!

The GREATEST Reward

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 8:38

What a great joy it is to know that no matter what we face, nothing can separate us from His love and mercy! That is the good news that causes us to forge ahead in the face of spiritual opposition.

When we walk in His power and love, our life covered by His precious blood, something dynamic happens through us. As we operate in His compassion and His power, a faith-filled attitude of victory becomes obvious in our lives to those around us. It’s not an arrogance or pride but when we walk with victory, being directed by God in the middle of struggle, the Holy Spirit uses this display of His power in us to draw souls to Christ. You can be guaranteed a harvest of salvation and healing for those in need as God honors your efforts in Warfare. You won’t be perfect, but remember, God is just looking for your best effort. ***The supernatural result of Spiritual Warfare on our behalf is that the lost are drawn to the Cross!*** And isn’t

that why we're still here on earth anyway? So be busy about the Father's business; don't give up in times of struggle and take every opportunity to ***Disarm the Powers of Darkness!***

Our Last Word

It would be tragic to write this book, speaking of attaining the great victory that Christians have in Christ, and yet leave any reader with a question about the Lord's plan for personal salvation. There is NO winning in Spiritual Warfare without a personal relationship with Christ. It is paramount to every aspect of your victory.

Eternity is only a heartbeat away for all of us. Today, thousands of people around the world will enter eternity without Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives. The tragedy is that so many will never think about what an eternity without Jesus means. It is eternal death, suffering, loneliness, and pain. By not accepting God's tremendous offer of salvation, man is doomed. However, if you are still breathing, there is hope! Eternity with Jesus is peace, joy, rest, and love. It is a future that ALL Christians look forward to.

This eternal salvation is free to all, but does not come by merely claiming to be a Christian or by doing good works or observing the ordinances of the church such as membership, baptism, communion, or tithing. Christianity is not inherited either. No, it is an act of your personal will. The free gift of salvation can be obtained only through honest, heartfelt repentance.

Examine your life. Where would you be for all eternity if for you, that last heartbeat happened today? Not sure? You can be.

Romans 10:9–10 tells us:

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.

Not "might be" or "could be." You have God's promise on it. You ***will be*** saved.

Many people do not know how to pray, so here is a sample prayer to pray.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and I believe you died on the cross for me. I believe that you were buried and rose again as the Scripture says. The best I know how, I want to ask you to forgive me of all my sins and save me. Fill me with your Holy Spirit that I may serve you all the days of my life. I pray this prayer in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you have any doubts, stop right now and invite Jesus to come into your heart. Just simply ask Him to save you and then turn from sin and to the pages of the Bible instead. It will be the most important thing you will ever do.

—Eric Barger and David Benoit

Eric Barger

Eric Barger (Bar-jer) is a popular conference speaker, author and evangelist, with a no-nonsense message for today. His challenging, biblically based "Take A Stand!" Seminar series has been held in churches across North America since 1984.

Once lost in New Age mysticism and drug addiction as a secular rock musician and record producer, Eric is now a recognized author of several books including the Christian best seller, ***From Rock To Rock*** and the 2001 release ***Entertaining Spirits Unaware*** with coauthor David Benoit. He has written for *USA Today* and has been featured on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, "Point of View with Marlin Maddoux", and "Truths That Transform" with Dr. D. James Kennedy as well as in hundreds of other electronic and print media interviews.

His evangelical teaching and apologetics ministry concerning issues such as the New Age Movement, the Cults, Spiritual Warfare and Current Events in the light of Bible Prophecy is headquartered in the Dallas, Texas, area where he resides with his wife Melanie.

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David Benoit

David Benoit (Ben-wah) accepted Christ as Savior in 1972 after a rebellious teenage life had led him to reform school. He is a graduate of Liberty Baptist College (now Liberty University). In 1984, he founded Glory Ministries, an evangelistic ministry. His expertise in exposing the New Age Movement and the occult led him to author two books, ***Fourteen Things Witches Hope Parents Never Find Out*** and ***Who's Watching the Playpen?***

Having been the host of his own daily radio show, David has been interviewed on various Christian programs including the Inspirational Network, Trinity Broadcasting Network, Moody Broadcasting, "Point of View with Marlin Maddoux", Dr. D. James Kennedy, and Bob Larson Live. He is also a frequent guest host for the Southwest Radio Church program.

David has the rare ability to communicate his message to young people, as well as to parents, using humor and interesting facts. His goal is to strengthen the family and to give them the Biblical tools they need to live in these troubled times.

David resides in Lynchburg, Virginia, with his wife Debbie and children, Brandon and Lindsay.

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