

Dan18 – **The Spiritual Battle – Part 4 – John 10:10**

I **PROMISE YOU** – I am **going** to do **ALL** I can – to actually **GET**
to Our **PRIMARY** Spiritual Battle Text in **Eph Ch 6** – **NEXT WEEK**

But I know **FAR TOO MANY** Christians – Who **Know** (to some extent)
About the “**Armor of God**” in **Eph Ch 6**

& **STILL** – They are being “**Taken Out**” by the Enemy – **EVERY DAY**

I’ve **TAUGHT** the **Armor**
Every pastor **I Know** has **TAUGHT** the **Armor**
Most Every Christian I know has **HEARD** about the **Armor**

But **STILL** . . . we **CONTINUE** to get **TAKEN OUT** by the Enemy
Every Single **DAY** – *Like sitting ducks in a shooting gallery*

& so I’m **NOT** that **Anxious** to **GET** to the **Spiritual Armor**
UNTIL we do more to **Understand** the **Spiritual BATTLE**

& that is in **Sincere hope** that when we **DO** get to the **ARMOR** . . .

we will **have** sufficient **INFORMATION** & **MOTIVATION** –
to actually begin **APPLYING** the **ARMOR** to our lives

IN order to **REDUCE** the **Number of LOSSES** to the enemy
that we **MAY** be currently **Experiencing**

Does that **sound ok?**

Let’s Pray

IF you **BELONG** to **Jesus** Christ today – **Thru** your **faith** in Him for **Salvation** & putting yourself under His **Lordship**

Then your **FINAL** & **ULTIMATE VICTORY**
is **Complete** & **Guaranteed** – **IN CHRIST**

God has **SO IDENTIFIED YOU** with **Jesus Christ**

That **His** **ULTIMATE Victory** over the Enemy
Has become **YOUR ULTIMATE Victory** over the Enemy

& so – **pls hear** this again (& again)

You are **Not Fighting** **FOR** Victory –
You **are Fighting** **FROM a POSITION** of Victory

HOWEVER – **Knowing** full well - that **True Believers**
POSSESS the **FULL & ULTIMATE** Victory

Still – **Thru-Out** the **N.T.** – these **True BELIEVERS** are **encouraged**
& **WARNED** – to **NOT LET** the enemy **DESTROY** their **LIVES**

For **example** - We **ended** our **last msg** with this **statement**
that **Jesus made** Himself

John 10:10 (NLT)

10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

There is a **CLEAR Part** of this **CONTEXT (Jn 10)** that has to **do**
with our **DAILY LIFE HERE** – **Prior to our Eternal Life Victory**

Because - **Along** with our **Eternal Life** - **Jesus wants** to give us
a **Rich & Satisfying** Life - **HERE & NOW**

John 10:10 is saying – **“In Addition to”** our **Eternal Victory**

Jesus wants to **Give Us Blessing - In Our Daily Life - Here**
& **The Devil** wants to **Steal, Kill, & Destroy – In Our Daily Life - Here**

There are DOZENS of N.T. Scriptures that WARN us

We have a **Very Real Enemy**

Who can bring **Very Real Destruction** into our lives - **TODAY**

EVEN THO we **Possess** the **Ultimate Victory** in **Jesus Christ**

Again – 1 Peter 5:8–9 (NLT)

8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith . . .

NOTICE Closely – **The Enemy** is looking to **DEVOUR** –

someone who has **ALREADY put their Faith in Jesus Christ**

WHAT does that MEAN – that **the enemy** wants to **DEVOUR**

someone who has **already** put their **faith in Christ** ??

Think about the Battle in the Spiritual Realm for a minute

There are **Heavenly Forces** - & **Demonic Forces** –

in a **BATTLE** - That **INVOLVES** your Life

HOWEVER . . . They **CANNOT KILL** one another

or **END** one another’s **“Existence”** – to **WIN** that Battle

So **WHAT IS IT THEN** – that **“Marks a WIN”** for them –

in the **Spiritual Battle** that Involves **YOUR** Life??

They **MARK** a **WIN** or a **LOSS** in their Battle –
By Which Side **WINS** the **INFLUENCE** over **YOUR** Life

If the **Heavenly Forces WIN the Influence** over your life
(according to **God's Will & God's Plan** for You)

Then the **Heavenly** Forces **Mark a WIN** in that **particular battle**

If the **Demonic Forces WIN the Influence** over your life
(according to **Satan's Will & Satan's Plan** for You)

Then the **Demonic** Forces **Mark a WIN** in that **particular battle**

What Determines a **WIN or LOSS** in the **Spiritual Realm**
is **Which Side Wins Influence** in your life – in **that** particular Battle

We are **MOST OFTEN** - **CLUELESS** to this Truth

For the **Most Part** – we **DO NOT see** the **Circumstances** of our
Day to Day lives - as **WINS or LOSSES** in the **Spiritual Realm**

But **TRUST ME** – The **Angelic Beings** in The **Spiritual Realm**
see our **Day to Day** lives – **Exactly** in that way

So – **I want** to talk **More Today** - about the **Enemy's TACTICS**
- **AND** about Our **LOSSES** in these **Spiritual Battles**

So that **WHEN** we **DO** get to the **VICTORY PART** – we'll be
"**Ready**" to **Truly APPLY God's Word** to our lives

2 Msg's ago - We looked at Satan's First,
& most All-Encompassing Deception in Gen Ch 3

& we clearly saw – That Satan's most all-encompassing scheme
is to INFLUENCE our MINDS – thru DECEPTION –
to get us to Follow HIS WILL instead of GOD'S WILL

Let me just say that again – Because it's
a Critically Important Statement

Your enemy's OVERALL GAME PLAN - to destroy your life –

Is To Influence Your Mind – thru Deception –
to get you to Follow HIS Will instead of GOD'S WILL

That makes sense, doesn't it? – Because Satan was
Thrown out of heaven for WANTING to BE LIKE GOD

& his actual first deception was to get a 3rd of the Angels in Heaven
to Follow HIS WILL instead of GOD'S WILL

What I Mean by Influencing your Mind Thru Deception
Is getting you to Believe HIS LIE – Instead of GOD'S TRUTH

This can happen in SO MANY Ways – What we think about GOD,
or OURSELVES, or OTHERS, or THIS WORLD, etc, etc

Can I ask you to write this statement down please -
I'll put it on the Screen

My spiritual enemy wants to influence my mind, through
deception, to get me to follow HIS WILL instead of GOD'S WILL

My Prayer is - **MORE** of us would **STAND FIRM**
against this **Overall Tactic** of the **Enemy**

& **FEWER of US** – **would** be So Easily **TAKEN OUT** by it

If we will **GRASP** this **Massive truth** – **At least** we will
NOT BE IGNORANT of the enemy's **TACTICS** – (his **DESIGNS**)

as 2 Corinthians 2:11 says (ESV)

11 so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

You **ARE IN** a spiritual **battle**

You **HAVE** a spiritual **enemy**

& his **General Battle Plan** – to **destroy your life**

**is to Get You to Believe HIS LIE – Instead of GOD'S TRUTH
In ANY area of your life – that he can bring
Pain, Damage, or Destruction in**

& **Remember** – We **started today** by (AGAIN) **making it clear**

If you **belong** to Jesus Christ – then **HE** has **ALREADY WON**
your **Complete & Ultimate Victory** over the Enemy

& it is **That POSITIONAL Victory**

That **forces** your **Spiritual Enemy** to resort to

**Attempting to Influencing your mind – thru deception –
to get you to CHOOSE HIS LIE - over God's Truth**

So that he can **Bring Destruction INTO your life**

Because of this “Positional Victory in Christ”

We closed last week’s message with this truth

The ONLY INFLUENCE the Enemy has over you
is the influence YOU give him

The Only POWER the enemy has over you
Is the Power YOU give him

Now – there are some EXCEPTIONS to that

Such as when God grants the enemy LIMITED power in a situation
to ultimately bring about God’s GLORY

Which - Most notably in the Bible – is seen in the Book of JOB

But in MOST CASES . . .

The Only INFLUENCE the Enemy has over you
is the INFLUENCE you GIVE HIM

& DECEPTION is his Primary Weapon – to TRICK YOU
into GIVING HIM – Influence over your life

We’ll START NEXT WEEK (Promise) – looking at SIX Specific WAYS
that we can WALK in VICTORY in this Spiritual Battle

We’ll look at SIX Specific WAYS - That we can STAND FIRM -
& NOT ALLOW the Enemy to DECEIVE US

But for today – We are STILL ON this Foundational TRUTH

That our DAILY LIVES are Being Influenced –
Either - By God’s Kingdom – OR by the Enemy’s Kingdom

**Even tho we've already been RESCUED from the Enemy's Kingdom
& Transferred INTO the Kingdom of Jesus Christ**

as Colossians 1:13–14 says (NLT)

***13 For [God] has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and
transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,
14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.***

But we've GOT to Learn – to STAND FIRM
in the RESCUE (Victory) that Jesus Christ has Won FOR US

& in Order to Stand Firm in that Victory – We've Got to LEARN to
recognize the Enemy's Attempts at DECEIVING our Minds

So Let's LOOK at the TWO BIGGEST WEAPONS
that he USES to DO THAT

The TWO BIGGEST WEAPONS the Enemy USES
to GAIN INFLUENCE Over our MINDS & Our LIVES

The Bible calls - The FLESH - & The WORLD

**Guys - The Enemy KNOWS YOU
& he KNOWS Your Weaknesses**

AND - He KNOWS the Power of your FLESH

AND - He KNOWS the Power this WORLD SYSTEM we live in

& the Bible REPEATEDLY Addresses these TWO AREAS

**As the Enemy's Primary WEAPONS –
used to Influence your Mind - toward His Will**

Let's Start with the FLESH

THE FLESH is basically another term for your SIN NATURE

The FLESH is NOT that stuff stretched around your body

It's our OLD Nature – That is BENT toward Sin –

It DRAWS you Naturally (as in Sin Nature) - TOWARD Sin

& it is The NUMBER ONE WEAKNESS in your Life

that the Enemy Uses – to try to DEVOUR You

He will Appeal to - & Exploit – Your Sin Nature (in any area)

to bring destruction into your life

One of the Best Books I've read on the Flesh - (& the World)
is called *"Winning the War Within"* by Jay Adams

I've often said - for most of us – Our Spiritual Enemy doesn't really
have to WORK That HARD – to see us destroy our lives

Because our OWN FLESH does his work of destruction FOR HIM

Turn over to Rom Ch 8

In Rom Ch 8 – the NLT uses the Phrase "SINFUL NATURE"

in PLACE of the word "Flesh" (*cause that's what it means*)

Romans 8:5–13 (NLT)

5 Those who are dominated by the sinful nature (flesh) think about sinful things (notice the role of the mind), but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit (again, it starts in the mind).

6 So letting your sinful nature (flesh) **control your mind** leads to **death** (again see the role of the mind). **But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace** (again, starts in the mind).

7 For the sinful nature (flesh) **is always hostile to** (at war) **God . . .**

8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature (flesh) **can never please God.**

. . . - & then wrapping up this idea in vs.13

Rom 8:13 For if you live by its dictates (the flesh), **you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature** (the flesh), **you will live.**

Now – **understanding** that just a **LITTLE BIT** –

About **How DAMAGING** our **FLESH is** – to our **Life with God**

HOW HARD do you think the **ENEMY is WORKING**

to **Keep** You **THINKING** in **the Flesh** - & **WALKING** in **the Flesh**
Instead of **Thinking About & Walking IN THE SPIRIT ?**

Your **Spiritual Enemy** - is constantly trying to **EXPLOIT**
your **Sin Nature** (your flesh) – to bring **Destruction**

He is constantly trying

to **TEMPT** your **SIN** Nature

to **LURE** your **SIN** Nature

to **ENFLAME** your **SIN** Nature

& **Mostly** - we just **continue** to “**SET OUR MIND**” on our **FLESH**
& to **ACT in Our FLESH**

Not realizing that the Enemy is **CAPITALIZING** on **our Flesh** –
in order to **Bring Destruction** into our lives

Now again - “The Flesh” is a General Term for our Sinful Nature

But - - **EACH** of us have specific **WEAKNESSES**
in our Own **“Particular FLESH”**

& **it is THESE Particular Weaknesses**
that **the Enemy** is looking to **Capitalize on**

It is these **Particular Weaknesses**
In our **Particular Flesh**
That the Enemy is **Particularly Looking** to **EXPLOIT**
To our **own Destruction**

This is **SO IMPORTANT** to **HEAR** - & Far **Too Often IGNORED**
in **discussions** about the **Spiritual Battle**

Tony Evans uses the **illustration** of a **Football Team**
watching the **Game Films** of their **OPPONENT** . . .

in order to **LOOK** for **Specific Weaknesses**
in their **Opponents DEFENSES**

In case you’re NOT Familiar with it – Here’s HOW it Works

The **coaches** of one team – will **watch** the **GAME FILMS**
of the **opposing** team . . .

in order **to look** for **Very Specific & Repetitive Weaknesses**

& if they **SEE a Weakness** occurring **over & over** again –
they **will focus** their **ATTACK** – **ON** That **Specific Weakness**

At times they will **go back YEARS** in **watching** these films
to see if that **other team** has **developed**
a **Consistent Weakness** that they can **exploit** For **VICTORY**

Now – Lstn very carefully to me please

You enemy has been watching your GAME FILM for years
MAYBE since you were a CHILD

& he has watched your film enough – to KNOW
YOUR Particular Weakness – in YOUR Particular Flesh

This is NOT because he is Omniscient or Omnipresent
but because he is good at doing his homework

He knows SOME of what you have experienced -
What has influenced your PARTICULAR Sin Nature

He KNOWS of TRAUMA in Your Past

& he KNOWS how he can EXPLOIT that Trauma
to CONTINUE to Do Damage in your life today

He knows your Personality Weaknesses

He knows what OTHERS have done to YOU

He knows what YOU have done to OTHERS

He Knows HOW all of this - Impacts YOUR Particular Flesh

And . . . your Spiritual Enemy DOES NOT play fair !!

He will to STICK his finger in that OLD WOUND

He will STIR UP that OLD TRAUMA

He will FOCUS his attack on YOUR "Particular Weakness"
in order to STEAL, KILL, & DESTROY In Your Life

No One's Life is DESTROYED Overnight

We can always LOOK BACK - & SEE a long series of choices that led to that destruction

& often – **those choices originally began - as a response to a TRAUMA – to ABUSE – to EMOTIONAL PAIN**

& our **Enemy** (in All his **EVILNESS**) **TRIES** Everything he can To **FEED the FIRE** of those **WOUNDS** –

Hoping to BURN Our Life - to the Ground !!

We've got to **UNDERSTAND** – that the Enemy **SPECIALIZES** In **Fueling the Fire** of our own flesh

Until we make enough POOR Choices that our life is DESTROYED !!

Now - **The WORLD** holds a **SIMILAR USE** by the Enemy as far as **The Spiritual Battle** is **concerned**

When **the Bible** uses this term – **THE WORLD**

It is **most often** talking about the **SYSTEM of OPERATION** of this **Sinful, Fallen AGE**

It's **talking** about the "**World System**" - Whose **Ruler-Ship** was **GIVEN** to Satan - by **Adam**

1 John 2:15–16 (NLT) → → →

1 John 2:15–16 (NLT)

15 Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

ALONG WITH the Flesh - the Love of the World

KEEPS you from LOVING GOD - (like a double barrel weapon)

& So Again – How **HARD** do you think **the Enemy** is **working** to **KEEP** You **IN LOVE** - with the **WORLD??**

Your **spiritual enemy** holds significant **SWAY** over the **World System** – because **Satan is its Ruler**

& he **can** easily **PRESENT** to You – **Specific Things** in This World That are **Particularly Attractive** – to your **Particular FLESH**

Easily **leading you** down - The Broad **Road to Destruction**

If you like STUFF – He will constantly **tempt** you with **STUFF** – until you **DESTROY** your life trying to get more **STUFF**

If you like to PARTY – He'll constantly **tempt** you into **Partying** – until your **partying** destroys your **life**

If you like to DULL the Pain – He'll constantly **tempt** you w/ **drugs** & **alcohol** – until you are **SO DULLED** that your life is **destroyed**

& Apparently EVERYBODY Likes SEX – Because he **tempts** us with **SEX** at **EVERY Turn** – In **EVERY PLACE** – & on **EVERY DEVICE**

& in his **Extreme Evilness** – **Satan** has **Taken** - what **God Designed** to **be one** of the **HIGHEST PLEASURES** in this life (Sex)

& he has **Commandeered** it - to do **More Damage** (probably) than **ALL** of his other **Schemes** & **Devices combined**

“THE WORLD” – Is the **“System”** of **this Fallen Age**

The Enemy Greatly influences IT

in order to **INFLUENCE YOU**

in order to **BRING DESTRUCTION** into Your Life

Now - Let me **END** with some **Strong Encouragement**

to all of us who are **carrying** the **SCARS** (the Effects) of Sins of **The FLESH** & **The WORLD**

Maybe Sins **WE Committed**

Maybe Sins **Committed AGAINST US**

Here me when **I tell you** please

Jesus Christ DIED – to **WASH AWAY the EFFECTS** of those Sins **Both** the **SINS we Committed** & the **SINS Committed Against us**

Jesus Christ **DIED** - to Pay the **FULL PRICE** to **HEAL US** from the **EFFECTS** of those **sins** in our lives

He Died – **IN our Place** –

In **order** to Give us **NEW LIFE in HIM**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

If you are **IN Jesus Christ Today** – You are a **NEW CREATION**
the **OLD** has **Passed Away** – & The **NEW has Come**

& **THREE TIMES** we will read in our **KEY Eph 6 Passage**
Stand FIRM, Stand FIRM, Stand FIRM

It means: **DO NOT Give Up Ground** - that has
already been WON on your behalf

Jesus Christ has **MADE** you a **New Creation**
He has **WASHED YOU** - & **CLEANSED YOU**

He has **Given** you **HIS OWN New Life**

STAND FIRM in the **New Creation**
that **Jesus Christ HAS MADE YOU**

The **Enemy** will Throw **FIERY DARTS** at you
& He will **AIM** at **OLD WOUNDS**

& **one** of his **MOST COMMON Deceptions**
is **trying** to **convince** you that you are **NOT A NEW CREATION**

That you **CANNOT OVERCOME** Your **Past**

That you **CANNOT LIVE** In **Peace & Victory**

That you **CANNOT BE Transformed**

But God's Word Exhorts You;

STAND FIRM – In the **New Life Jesus** Christ has **Given You**

STAND FIRM – When the **Enemy** Stirs Up **Old Wounds** - or **Sins**

STAND FIRM – in the **Victory** that you **Have IN CHRIST**

& - As we **prepare** for **Communion**
Pls HEAR ME when I tell you

Your **ONLY VICTORY** Comes thru your
Complete Identification - & **Communion** with **Jesus Christ**

Let's Pray