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Series: This is War!

Sermon: 4 of 4

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CAN I WIN?

Hello and welcome to my final sermon in the "This is War!" series. There have been three sermons so far. The first one was an introduction on spiritual warfare. We compared spiritual warfare to physical warfare, and we understand the differences between these two types of war. In the second sermon on spiritual warfare, we focused on standing strong against the devil and resist his arrows. We talked about Daniel's testimony based on the book of Daniel in the third sermon. He was a man of prayer. Satan tried to stop him from praying, but he continued faithfully. We should desire to be like him.

Now, the title of this fourth sermon is "Can I Win?" Can I win this war? Can you win this war? This is the question we are going to discuss today.

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."* You see, we must use our faith in order to continue seeking after God. Faith says, "I believe in God. I believe in You. I believe You have something for me. I believe You're my Rewarder. I believe You're my Provider. I believe You're God. No matter what, I anxiously seek You."

Does faith mean, "You provide for me first, then I'll believe in You?" No way. Faith means taking a step and believing in Him. It means continuing to seek Him and praying. And, continuing to do the things He wants me to do. That's faith. That's why God rewarded Abraham. He is known as a "father of faith." He moved to another country when God told him to move. God didn't tell Abraham exactly where to move, but told him to go. Still, Abraham followed God. He walked by faith. It is this faith that pleases God. Faith inspires God. Satan does not like your faith in God. That's why he attacks you.

The Bible also says in Matthew 7:7-8...you see, many people...I mean, many Christians, are ready to quit. Many Christians are struggling. They're ready to give up. They're frustrated. "Why me?" they wonder, "Why is this happening to me...why...why?" They need the word of encouragement. We all do! It doesn't matter how many years you've been a Christian. You and I still need encouragement. Amen.

So, you and I need to remember that God does not leave us alone. He doesn't expect us to go through problems on our own. He doesn't expect us to learn on our own. God is not a God of "oops." God does not do that. God is always with you. God is with you right now, no matter

what you're going through. Some of you may be going through a death in your family. Some of you may be grieving. Some of you may be going through divorce. It's time we take a look at God's Word. Some of you may be experiencing depression.

We need to remember, when we seek God, the words that He will reward us. Remember that good things come from God.

Now, Matthew 7:7-8 says, *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."*

You may be seeking an answer to your prayer. You may be praying and know that something just isn't right. You feel like something's wrong and you're seeking an answer.

You remember Daniel? God gave him a dream. Daniel knew it was an important dream. He wanted to know what the dream meant. So, Daniel prayed and sought God. After one day of praying, he did not receive an answer from God. The next day, he went to work. He fulfilled his responsibilities at work. Then, he prayed and sought God again. Like I said before, he prayed for 21 days. For 21 days, he continued to pray and fast. An angel appeared to Daniel and told him that his prayer had been answered on the first day. But, the angel couldn't appear to Daniel until the 21st day because he was in battle with the King of Persia. The angel was going through spiritual warfare, a battle to give Daniel an answer to his prayer.

You see, it's the same with you. You can't stop praying. You can't afford to stop reading God's Word. You can't afford that. Satan will continue throwing negative thoughts at you. He wants you to give up...think reading God's Word does not work...think praying does not work...stop going to church...avoid problems at church and stay home alone...have church at home by yourself. All those things do not help you.

God wants you and me to fellowship with His people. That's why you need to pray for the Lord to show you which church to go to and which church will teach you the truth. Continue going to church to learn more about God's Word. Yes, church is not perfect. Yes, churches make mistakes. Still, you shouldn't decide not to go to church at all. Pray and ask the Lord to show you which church to go to.

It is very important to continue learning God's Word. Continue to fellowship and learn the truth. That will make you and me free.

Don't give up praying. Don't stop praying. This is very clear in I Thessalonians 5:17...I Thessalonians 5:17, *"Pray without ceasing."*

God has heard you. God is not trying to ignore you. He heard you. Maybe He's challenging you to pray a little more...encouraging you to pray a little more. Continue seeking Him. Continue...come on. Don't give up. Resist negative thoughts. Use God's Word as a sword against negative thoughts. Keep reading God's Word. Don't give up or let yourself

become weak. Romans 8:37 says, *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loves us."*

You are a winner. I am a winner. Yet, we are more than that. We are not just mere winners; we are awesome winners. Why? Because we have Christ's power in us. We receive that power through a relationship with Him. He gives us power so that no matter what happens we can stand strong. Of course, we will feel pain, but He can help us overcome that pain. You can do it! You can overcome. You can win this war. In fact, this war has already been won. Jesus already won the war for you.

You and I need to continue depending on God's Word. Remember what it says. Get your encouragement from God's Word. Remain encouraged by reading God's Word.

Continue in your faith and be persistent. Faith and persistence will help you through battles. Faith says, "I believe in You even though I'm hurting...even when I don't understand what is going on. But, I believe You will take care of me. I believe You'll provide for me. I believe You will give me an answer. I believe in You, Lord. I'll remain faithful in You. I'll continue to pray and read Your Word. I will continue going to church. I'll continue seeking Your forgiveness. I'll continue fellowship and seek forgiveness from those I've hurt. I'll still do the right thing. I'll still live right. I'll continue to resist sin and temptations. Lord, help me to resist temptations."

We know there are things in our hearts that are not right...things that are still there. We need to confess to the Lord. The Lord will bless us for that. Be persistent. Some situations you are going through may be tough, but it is not tough for Him. He can help you. Be consistent.

Wow! You and I are more than conquerors. It is important to read God's Word. Don't be ignorant about what is going on in the spiritual world. Read so you will know. Yes, Satan is attacking you, but he can't defeat you because you are strong. Yes, you can defeat Satan.

Amen. You can put a smile on your face. You can. This is your day. What do you need to do now? If you've gone astray from the Lord, you need to come back home. You need to repent. Change your ways. Change your thoughts.

Pray with me now. You may copy me. Heavenly Father...Lord, I need You right now. You see my situation I'm going through now. Lord...Lord, only You can help me overcome that situation. Your Word says that I am already more than a conqueror and I can succeed. I am more than a winner. Lord, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to teach me and show me whatever I need to know. Thank You for Your Word that encourages me. Thank You for helping me remain faithful to You. Thank You for forgiving my sins. I ask You to forgive me. I want to live right for you. Use me to share the Gospel. Thank You, again. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Let me tell you...God has already heard your prayer. He has read your heart. He has read your mind. Maybe you cannot find the right words to express, but God knows your heart. God is telling you, "I have heard you. I love you. You are mine. You are very special to me."

This is quite a war we are going through. It's a tough battle. But, you and I are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus.

God bless you. I hope you enjoyed learning God's Word with me today.



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