

Spiritual Warfare 2-Jim Logan: The Lord Will Rescue Me - Spiritual Warfare and Grace

“The Lord Will Rescue Me”

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Scripture Focus and Opening Framing

- Highlighted Scripture: **2 Timothy 4:18**
 - King James Version: “The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever.”
 - NIV: “The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever.”
- The pastor seeks to offer a “positive verse” even while addressing the sobering topic of the enemy and spiritual warfare.
- Reference to vigilance: allusion to **2 Corinthians 2:11** — “In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”
- Sermon Theme:
 - Spiritual Warfare: Understanding the reality of the enemy, avoiding ignorance of his schemes, and resting in God’s promise to rescue and preserve His people.
 - Emphasis on God’s character: God is powerful, protective, and faithful; He rescues from evil attacks and brings His people into His heavenly kingdom.

Who God Is (Doctrine of God)

- God is Deliverer and Rescuer: He actively intervenes to protect His people from evil schemes (anchored in **2 Timothy 4:18**).
- God is Sovereign and Powerful: His authority surpasses all spiritual powers, including sorcery and animistic practices.

- God is Faithful: He keeps His promises over years—sometimes protecting in ways believers only discover much later.
- God is Holy: He vindicates His name and power, especially in contested spiritual environments.
- God Gives “More Grace”: From **James 4:6** — “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’”
 - Grace is always sufficient and available; no matter how much we draw, there is always more.

Who You Are in God (Identity in Christ)

- Protected and Preserved in Christ: Under God’s care, even unknown attacks cannot ultimately triumph (**2 Timothy 4:18**).
- Secure from the Evil One: **1 John 5:18b** (paraphrased emphasis) — “He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.”
- Called to Vigilance: Not ignorant of Satan’s devices; discerning and wise in spiritual matters (**2 Corinthians 2:11**).
- Witnesses to God’s Power: Your protection and endurance testify to the reality of God’s kingdom in a skeptical world.
- Empowered by Grace: From **Philippians 2:13** — “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”
 - Practical definition of grace: “the desire and the power to live a godly life.”

How to Live (Practice of the Christian Life)

- Live with awareness of spiritual warfare: Recognize doubts, deceptive influences, and attacks as part of the battle.
- Exercise discernment: Gut-level hesitation may align with spiritual insight; weigh decisions carefully in the church community.
- Practice gratitude: Acknowledge unseen deliverances and thank God for interventions you may only discover later.
- Lean on Scripture: Anchor confidence in promises like **2 Timothy 4:18**; use the Word in moments of attack or doubt.
- Submit and Resist: **James 4:7** — “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

- Submission: Get under God’s authority; we cannot resist the enemy if we are resisting God.
- Resistance: Actively stand against the devil once submitted to God.
- Draw Near, Cleanse, Purify, Humble: Post-temptation directives from **James 4:8–10**:
 - “Draw near to God...; cleanse your hands...; purify your hearts...; humble yourselves... and He will lift you up.”
- Prepare with the Armor: **Ephesians 6:10–13** — Be strong in the Lord, put on the whole armor of God, and stand against the wiles of the devil.
- Support and pray for missionaries: Understand the intensity of their battles and partner in prayer and practical help.

Illustrations and Testimonies

- Rebecca Duberry (Missionary in Gabon, Africa):
 - Background: Studied at Moody; took a course in spiritual warfare (Fred Dickerson). Faced unexpected battles, especially doubts about God’s Word —identified as attacks from the enemy.
 - Translation Ministry: Assisted at a West African, French-speaking spiritual warfare conference after Easter, translating counseling sessions; she wept hearing leaders’ stories of spiritual attacks.
 - Protection from Poison:
 - Early Ministry: Three years serving in a church affiliated with Christian Missionary Alliance.
 - Hidden Threat: A deaconess, secretly a practicing sorceress, repeatedly brought meals laced with poison.
 - Outcome: They ate poisoned meals unknowingly; God rescued them from every evil attack. Discovery came eight years later.
 - Application: God’s protection is often unseen; cultivate deep gratitude for deliverances discovered later.
- Easter Incident in Gabon:
 - Church Practice: Membership received at Christmas and Easter through baptism, followed by communion.
 - Unfamiliar Woman: An older woman testified to being Christian. The pastor sensed something was wrong and initially refused baptism at Christmas.

- Pressure and Decision: At Easter, under a deacon's challenge to fairness, the pastor proceeded with baptism and communion.
 - Immediate Aftermath: The woman became ill, went to the pastor's home, collapsed, and died. She refused to disclose what she was hiding.
 - Revelation: Her community identified her as the most powerful sorceress in their region. She had vowed, "I will taste of the Christian's power before I die."
 - Interpretation: "God struck her dead." After this, the gospel was preached with heightened sobriety. Communion prompted soul-searching and repentance.
 - Cultural Insight: Animistic communities need to see that the Christian God is real and more powerful than the spirits they fear. This incident underscored God's superior power and protection.
- Missionary Tech Team (Brief Mention):
 - Mission: Technical professionals (architects/designers) serve missions worldwide, designing buildings at minimal cost; sometimes partner with "Hard Hats for Christ."
 - Leadership: President Bernie Wiley and family.
 - Context: The pastor spoke on spiritual warfare to a gathering of home missions personnel where children were present—emphasizing the need for all ages to understand spiritual realities.
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Resisting the Enemy, Embracing Humility

Introduction: Resisting the Enemy

- Personal Encounter:
 - While driving back from visiting his grandchild, the pastor heard a CBS radio broadcast in St. Louis where a man taught people to "channel spirits."
 - The pastor, with missionary experience, recognized the spirit's voice as demonic.
- The Deceptive Invitation:
 - The demon offered companionship to lonely people—a counterfeit of God's promise to never leave or forsake us. The pastor prayed that lonely listeners would not fall for this lie.
- A Child's Experience:

- During a missionary refresher course, a seven-and-a-half-year-old boy named Caleb (missionary family in Alaska) heard a voice: “If you ask me in, I’ll come in.”
- Counseling Caleb:
 - The pastor prayed for guidance; **1 John 5:18b** came to mind — “He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.”
- Jesus is the Glass:
 - Zoo analogy: Caleb wasn’t afraid of poisonous snakes because “there’s glass.” Caleb concluded: “Jesus is the glass, isn’t He?” Jesus stands between us and the enemy, protecting us.
- The Lion in the Cage:
 - Another analogy: A roaring lion behind bars does not inspire fear. The enemy is a defeated foe; he can roar, but he is caged.
- Caleb’s Victory:
 - Caleb saw a hooded face with malevolent eyes in a light fixture in their motor home. He commanded it to leave in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it left.
- Important Truth:
 - Children need not fear the enemy; they are often more believing and trusting than adults. The pastor encouraged Caleb: attacks can be a sign God has a purpose—Caleb later sensed it might be singing for God.

Resisting Pride: The Dynamics of a Fall

- Morning Session Recap:
 - Pride as the sin that caused Satan’s fall; Proverbs themes: “Pride comes before a fall” and “Pride is always first, then destruction.”

James 4: The Source of Grace and Humility

- **James 4:6** — “But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: ‘God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.’”
 - God Gives “More Grace”: Grace is always sufficient and available.
 - Author’s Humility: James, likely Jesus’ half-brother, introduces himself as “a servant,” modeling humility.

- Early Book: James may be the first New Testament book written; it deals directly with spiritual warfare.

Philippians 2: The Working Definition of Grace

- **Philippians 1:6** — “Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”
 - **Philippians 2:13** — “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.”
 - Two Actions of Grace:
 - a. To Will (Desire): God produces the desire to do what pleases Him.
 - b. To Do (Empowering): God gives the power to carry out that desire.
 - Practical Definition: Grace is “the desire and the power to live a godly life.”
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Sermon Summary: Why Are There So Many Losers on the Winning Team?

Introduction: The Promise of God’s Grace

- Illustration: Fear of Flying:
 - The pastor shared fear of small airplanes: even in “white-knuckle” moments, God’s “more grace” is available.
- Key Theological Statement:
 - “God will not allow anything to come into your life, which is beyond your control, which will ruin or hinder God’s purpose for your life.”
 - Therefore, “in everything give thanks.”
- Example: John Peyton, Missionary to Cannibals:
 - A tomahawk narrowly missed; his son said, “Oh Dad, isn’t God wonderful?”
 - With a musket pointed at him, Peyton continued weeding, reasoning that if his work was not done, God would not allow him to be shot—trusting God’s sovereign timing and grace.
- Application:

- We may not know future trials (e.g., difficult counseling cases), but God will provide “more grace” for the moment.

The Central Question: Defeat on the Winning Team

- Title: “Why Are There So Many Losers on the Winning Team?”
- Paradox:
 - Christians have access to all of God’s power for victorious living, yet many live defeated lives. Why?

The Key to Victory: Humility vs. Pride

- **James 4:6** — “But God gives more grace. Wherefore He saith, ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’”
- The Danger of Pride:
 - If God resists you, it doesn’t matter who is for you.
 - Pride says, “I can do it myself.” God removes His power; a fall is inevitable —“Pride precedes a fall.”
- The Power of Humility:
 - Humble confession: “Lord, without Your empowering, I can’t do it.”
 - God is not seeking better methods but better men—those dependent on Him.

The Progression of Spiritual Warfare

- **James 4:7** — “Submit yourselves, therefore, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
 - i. Submit to God:
 - Get under His authority; you cannot resist the enemy while resisting God.
 - Submission may feel like a wrestle, but it is non-negotiable for victory.
 - ii. Resist the Devil:
 - Many have never consciously resisted the devil. Recognition precedes resistance.

Understanding Temptation and the Tempter

- Illustration: Two Missionaries:
 - Scenario A (Money): One tempted to keep a found wallet; another seeks to return it.
 - Scenario B (Pornography): The “righteous” one is tempted to look; the “unrighteous” one resolves to destroy it.
 - Point: We judge others’ temptations and justify our own; “Every sin is justified in the heart before it is committed.”
- James 1:12–15:
 - **James 1:12** — “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation... he shall receive the crown of life.”
 - Victory evidences love for God; true victory is by the Spirit, not fleshly grit.
 - **James 1:13** — “Let no man say... I am tempted of God... neither tempteth he any man.”
 - Test vs. Temptation: Satan tempts to draw us away; God tests to draw us nearer, revealing His character.
 - Deception of Temptation:
 - The enemy highlights sin’s pleasure, hiding its bondage (like Israel remembering Egypt’s food, not slavery).
 - **James 1:14** — “Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”
 - Temptation appeals to internal desires; recognition of this pull exposes the tempter’s work.

Conclusion: The Real Source of Temptation

- Wrong Focus:
 - We are never told to “resist temptation”; focusing on the temptation itself increases its pull.
- Right Focus:
 - We are told to “resist the tempter.”
- Foundational Truth:
 - “Satan only tempts you to do what you secretly would do anyway.”

Sermon Summary: Resisting the Enemy

Introduction: The Nature of Temptation

- Strategy:
 - Satan exploits existing weaknesses and desires; temptation only has power when it aligns with our vulnerabilities.
 - Because it feels “normal,” we may not recognize the enemy’s voice behind it.
- Example:
 - Public indecency tempts only those disposed to it; theft tempts those with that weakness—finding a wallet may be framed as “an answer to prayer.”

The Believer’s Response to Temptation

- Three-Step Preparation:
 - i. Self-Examination: Ask God to reveal specific areas of weakness.
 - ii. Arm Yourself with Scripture: Use a concordance to find verses addressing those weaknesses.
 - iii. Resist with God’s Word: Apply specific truths to counter specific temptations.

The Example of Jesus: Temptation in the Wilderness

- **Matthew 4; Luke 4:**
 - Context: Jesus, led by the Spirit, was taken into the wilderness for the purpose of being tempted. Being tempted is not itself sin.
 - **Luke 4:1** — Jesus is “full of the Holy Spirit” before temptation.
 - **Luke 4:14** — He returns “in the power of the Spirit” after resisting.
 - Application: Properly handled temptation strengthens rather than diminishes.

Understanding and Wielding the Sword of the Spirit

- Conscious Battle:
 - Jesus heard wrong thoughts; sin lies in what we do with them.
- Use Specific Scripture:

- Jesus countered each temptation with specific verses—not random texts.
- Rhema vs. Logos:
 - The “sword of the Spirit” is the rhema—the applied truth of God’s Word (cf. **Ephesians 6**). Power lies in applying truth, not perfect recitation.
 - Pastoral Example:
 - In counseling a demonized person, the enemy tried to dismiss pastoral authority over a misquoted verse. The pastor learned to stand on the truth rather than be tripped by exact wording.

Instructions for Post-Temptation Life

- Resist Outward Attacks:
 - Resistance drives the enemy away, though sometimes only “for a while”; God allows further wrestling to build strength.
- God’s Commands Often Counter-Intuitive:
 - For example, husbands to love, wives to submit—calling us against natural inclinations.
- Draw Near to God:
 - After temptation, don’t hide in shame—draw close, and He will draw close (**James 4:8**).
- Cleanse and Purify:
 - “Cleanse your hands” by Christ’s blood; “purify your hearts” to end double-mindedness (**James 4:8**).
- Humble Yourself:
 - “Be afflicted and mourn and weep... humble yourselves... and He will lift you up” (**James 4:9–10**).

The Armor of God and the Wrestling Match

- **Ephesians 6:10–13**:
 - “Be strong in the Lord... put on the whole armor of God... we wrestle not against flesh and blood...”
- The “We” in the Battle:

- Paul includes himself—everyone is engaged in this fight against unseen forces.
 - **Stakes of Wrestling:**
 - Historical illustration: a slave’s final match ended with the victor placing a foot on the loser’s neck and putting out his eyes, consigning him to darkness.
 - Application: Losing spiritual wrestling leads to walking in darkness—“If the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”
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Scriptural Context and Application

- **2 Timothy 4:18:**
 - Context: Paul’s closing testimony of faithfulness amid opposition and impending departure; God will rescue and bring him safely to His heavenly kingdom.
 - Application:
 - Personal Assurance: Trust God’s promise of rescue against spiritual attacks—doubt, deception, persecution, and occult hostility.
 - Missional Confidence: Missionaries and leaders can minister courageously, knowing God’s superior power and protection.
 - Worship Response: “To Him be glory forever and ever”—respond to deliverance with worship and gratitude.
- **2 Corinthians 2:11:**
 - Application: Stay informed and vigilant; spiritual ignorance increases vulnerability. Understand tactics—lies, doubts, discouragement, and hidden malice.
- **James 4:6–10:**
 - Application: Embrace humility, submit to God, resist the devil, draw near to God, cleanse and purify, and be lifted up.
- **James 1:12–15:**
 - Application: Endure temptation by the Spirit; distinguish tests (to draw us nearer to God) from temptations (to lure us away).
- **Philippians 1:6; 2:13:**

- Application: Rely on God’s active work in you—He supplies both desire and power to live a godly life.
 - **Ephesians 6:10–13:**
 - Application: Engage the wrestling match with the full armor of God; stand firm in His might.
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Practical Takeaways (Numbered Key Points from the Pastor)

1. God’s promise in **2 Timothy 4:18** assures rescue from every evil attack and safe passage into His kingdom.
 2. Spiritual warfare is real; ignorance of the enemy’s schemes leads to vulnerability (**2 Corinthians 2:11**).
 3. God’s protection can be unseen and long-term; practice gratitude for deliverances you may only learn about later.
 4. Discernment in church leadership is vital; spiritual intuition should be tested but not ignored.
 5. The power of God must be visible in spiritually contested contexts; His authority surpasses sorcery and animistic fears.
 6. Support missionaries practically and prayerfully; their contexts often involve intense spiritual opposition.
 7. Grace is “the desire and the power to live a godly life” (**Philippians 2:13**), and God gives “more grace” to the humble (**James 4:6**).
 8. Submission precedes resistance: **James 4:7** calls us to submit to God, then resist the devil.
 9. Focus on resisting the tempter, not the temptation (**James 1:14**); temptation appeals to our internal desires.
 10. After the battle, draw near to God, cleanse and purify, and humble yourself—He will lift you up (**James 4:8–10**).
 11. Put on the full armor and stand; we wrestle against spiritual forces, not flesh and blood (**Ephesians 6:10–13**).
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Exhortation for the American Context (Modern Application)

- Though American culture differs from biblical times and African animistic settings, the same spiritual realities persist:
 - Doubt and deception are common tactics of the enemy in a secular environment.
 - Anchor faith in Scripture, cultivate discernment, and expect God's active protection and "more grace."
 - Create space for testimonies of God's deliverance to strengthen faith and resilience across the congregation.
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Closing Note

- Worshipful Response: Give glory to God for His rescue and preservation.
- Call to Vigilance and Gratitude: Recognize the seriousness of spiritual warfare and thank God for His powerful, faithful care.
- Pastoral Prayer Emphasis: Become serious about your walk, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal vulnerabilities, and find specific Scriptures needed to do battle—so you may stand firm and place your foot on the neck of the enemy.