

WINNING YOUR EVERYDAY SPIRITUAL BATTLES

SESSION 2

Engaging in the Battle

Three things we are instructed to do in Scripture:

- **PRAY in the Spirit**

- Ephesians 6:18 (NLT)* – *Pray in the Spirit at **all times** and on **every occasion**. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*

- **SPEAK in the Spirit**

- EPHESIANS 6:19 – *And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.*

- **LIVE in the Spirit**

- EPHESIANS 5:18 – *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit...*

Pray | Speak | Live in the Spirit

Remove Hindrances

- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:19 – *Do not stifle the Holy Spirit.*
- EPHESIANS 4:30 – *And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.*
- Unbelief, fear, disobedience

Yield Yourself

- Submit to God
- Come under His Authority with your life

Be led by the Spirit

- God can and will lead you if you ask and are willing to hear the answer.
- God's desire is to lead us
- We are led by the Spirit more than we think.

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Allow the Holy Spirit to Energize/Empower your life

- We need to stir things up
 - What happens to the air when we turn the fan on – the air is already in the room – it energizes it
 - We need it to combat the hurricane of sin and violence that is happening around us
 - Doesn't have to be loud, it can be a whisper
- Praying in tongues is super helpful – takes care of a bunch of these things
 - Ephesians 6:18 says *“Pray in the Spirit at **all times** and on **every occasion**”*
 - Clearly not all prayer is in tongues so it is not the only way to pray in the spirit (it includes it but is not exclusive)

ACTIVATION – Ask the Holy Spirit to energize and empower your life

Balance in the Battle

We tend to be out of balance

- It is part of human nature; we camp around what is meaningful to us.
- Balance comes from community and varying perspectives
 - God allows things to keep us dependent on Him and one another.
 - We need the other perspective because it balances us—it is by God's design (within the framework of truth)

TWO CAMPS	
OVER-emphasis of demons	UNDER-emphasis of the devil
• Ignorance of victory • Spiritual pride • Elitism • Exclusiveness • Fear – giving them more place than they actually have • Wrong focus • Everything that is negative is a demon	• Ignorance of the devil • Fear – powerless to do anything • The attacks in life are just life • God is sovereign and there is nothing we can do about it • Reluctant to acknowledge

- PSALM 23:1-4 – *The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*
- Even though we see trouble and fearful things, we can have confidence in Him

To Help Find Balance ...

Only participate in spiritual battles to meet people's needs

Ask God if this is a battle you need to be involved with

- Look for combinations—how much is of the enemy and how much is not?
 - I have heard stories about people who were epileptic going to meetings and stopped taking their meds in faith – then they have seizures in the meeting and some people wanted to pray the demon out of them ...
 - Someone might get prayer and still need to see a counselor ... that's ok ... that's balanced
 - We have human weaknesses – I wear glasses, its not a demon
 - Depression – maybe chemical imbalance?
 - Satan will work with your natural weaknesses – that's why we need to look for combinations

Be aware of but never impressed with the devil

- The 12 Israelite Spies – in their survey of the land, they gave a true report but did not include the power of God. They were too impressed with the enemy and did not recognize the power of their God.

Nature of Attack

Everyone comes under attack sometime.

There are people, places and times when the attack is greater.

Resist the devil

- The devil intends for you to give in – you have to convince him that you are convinced.

- Check the windows
- Develop spiritual muscle
 - He allows us to have an opponent – how can you be an overcomer if you have never overcome anything?
- Don't let the attack have its ultimate effect – don't give up on God

Persistence in Prayer—Never give up!

- Far too often we pray a few times, don't get the answer we hoped for, and then stop praying for that thing.
 - It is not about the results.
 - Even if we pray 100 times and don't get the answer, that doesn't change that this is the way we are supposed to pray.

LUKE 2:36–39

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel (pronounce fanuel) from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. ³⁷ Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. ³⁸ She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee.

LUKE 18:1–8

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. ² "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. ³ A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' ⁴ The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, ⁵ but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

⁶ Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. ⁷ Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

- When we are in battle, we continue to pray and ask for justice, no matter how long it takes.
- Never give up!

ACTIVATION – Persistence in Prayer

What is something that you have given up on? Let's take some time and pray for it right now.