

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: COMPLAINING ~ You are never to complain of your birth, your training, your employments, your hardships; never to fancy that you could be something if only you had a different lot and sphere assigned you. God understands His own plan, and He knows what you want a great deal better than you do. The very things that you most deprecate, as fatal limitations or obstructions, are probably what you most want. What you call hindrances, obstacles, discouragements, are probably God's opportunities. Bring down your soul, or rather, bring it up to receive God's will and do His work, in your lot, in your sphere, under your cloud of obscurity, against your temptations, and then you shall find that your condition is never opposed to your good, but really consistent with it. ~ H. Bushnell

CHRISTIANS—SPIRITUAL WARFARE—SATAN

What exactly is spiritual warfare? Are Christians called to do spiritual battle against Satan and the powers of darkness? Why isn't it taught more in the churches? Are we supposed to talk about Satan, demons and the powers of darkness? Won't that just be asking for trouble? Isn't spiritual warfare something that only pastors and staff personal are called to do? After all, I'm just a member, and I get fearful even thinking about doing battle with the devil and evil beings; they scare me.

These are some of the questions [fearful thoughts] that have caused a stir among the Christian community for years. Many churches teach that ignoring him is the best way to overcome Satan. Sad to say, this has been taught down through the years to countless children of God. Let's talk briefly on what the Bible has to say on this subject?

God has given us sufficient knowledge regarding the devil in the Bible. We are to use that knowledge to help us in our attitude toward the enemy, and to know what weapons we are to use in conflict with him. Although talk of Satan, demons and spiritual warfare is not popular nor agreeable; God will hold the believer responsible for what He has revealed to us. If you read your Bible faithfully, you simply cannot claim ignorance about the subject regarding Satan, darkness, spiritual warfare and battles to come.

I can tell you too, that Satan doesn't care one little bit if you don't believe he exists; he thrives on this ignorance of the saints. He doesn't care about your zeal for *God things*, just as long as you leave him alone and don't talk to others about him. Light versus darkness; Jesus versus Satan is seen throughout the Bible. Satan is referred to as the prince of this world and this world belongs to Satan with demons and the powers of darkness under his command. That should be an alert (warning) to us. The light of truth is his undoing; his desire is to be left alone, unexposed and unchallenged to do his evil works.

The New Testament gives us some definite instructions on the devil. Peter tells us about the devil and what our attitude should be in 1 Peter 5:8-9. Like it or not, believe it or not—the truth is, he is *your adversary!* The book of Ephesians, chapter six, is *only one of the books in the Bible* that address the subject. Paul address the subject in Ephesians 6 as he talks about putting on the armor of God to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Jesus tells us in the book of John 12:31 that the prince of this world will be cast out. He told the people—while you have light, believe in the light, that you may be the children of light. We are not children of darkness! There are also multiple scriptures on Jesus and God's light, but look up the word darkness in the concordance and you will see scripture after scripture about darkness; it is a reality to be dealt with in a believer's life, don't claim ignorance; read your Bible!

Unfortunately, we have heard more the traditional defining of Satan down through the church age than we have through reading the Word of God and it has colored the truth [as Satan intended it to do]. Saints, wake up! We are called to a holy war and especially in these last days, we *must be prepared!* God is the

God of balance, so our minds should not be filled with Satan, darkness and warfare, but we should be aware of what it involves for a believer and be prepared to do battle when we must. We don't rush into conflict, but await His leading. Our focus should always be first and foremost to deepen our relationship with God, reading the Word, being in prayer and about the Father's business.

So what can you do as a believer in this battle between light and darkness, between Satan and his army; and our Commander in Chief, Jesus, and his army [that's you]? Don't play the fool. Be prepared. Keep in right fellowship with Your God. Tune into the Holy Spirit daily; listen and obey. Study the Word. Pray and praise. Keep guard against fear, unbelief, doubt, lies and deception; keep your armor on. Understand, appropriate, and boldly proclaim Satan's defeat at Calvary. Don't be vague concerning spiritual warfare; be knowledgeable. Know your rights as a believer; don't let Satan usurp you in any area; Challenge him when necessary. Don't run from the battle; gather up your weapons and use them appropriately in your power and authority as a child of the King. You are an overcomer in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives within you and is your teacher, helper and comforter, so rise to the occasion, fear not and FIGHT!