

Spiritual Warfare ©

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Winning Against Our Sinful Nature

Sabi ni Paul sa Philippians 3:14, But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Kapag tayo ay nag-aaral ng Scripture, isang magandang principle na susundin natin sa ating interpretation of Scripture ay yaong tinatawag na analogy of faith. Ibig sabihin we allow the Scripture to interpret itself kaya ang Scripture ang sarili niyang interpreter.

What we're going to do today is to bring in other Scriptures to bear down on our topic which is fighting the Good fight.

First, dalhin natin ang 2 Timothy 4:6. Sinabi ni Paul kay Timothy toward the end of his journey, *The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

Mayroong tatlong bagay na hinabilin si Apostol Pablo para sa atin ngayon. 1. Fight the good fight. 2. Finish the race. 3. Keep the faith. Iisa-isahin natin iyan ngayong umaga.

Ang tanong ay: How do I fight? Ang sagot dito ay: We fight by faith. Pero huwag nating kalimutan na yung una which is Saving faith, has delivered us from the penalty of sin which is death. Death is no longer an issue, ang salvation natin is secured. Iyon ang sinasabi sa atin ng Scripture. Saving faith is final once and for all. Kaya nadeliver na tayo from the penalty of sin.

We fight by faith, huwag nating kalimutan yan. Second, mayroon tayong living faith. Ang saving faith ay nanganganak at ang bunga nito ay ang living faith. Living faith is delivering us from the power of sin.

And thirdly, mayroon tayong winning faith which will deliver us ultimately from the presence of sin.

Again, saving faith is hearing God's word and believing it, which is then counted by God as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)

Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness. Anong magdadala sa atin sa langit? It is righteousness pero paano natin nakuha ang righteousness na iyan? Hindi natin iyan na earn but only by faith in Lord Jesus Christ and in His works.

Living faith is acting on God's word day in and day out. As we practice obedience, we become more and more like Christ. Sabi ng Scripture Romans 1:17, the righteous shall live by faith. Ito yung on-going, day after day nating pamumuhay at kinakailangan yung living faith.

And then winning faith is defeating our enemies day in and day out. Sino ang mga enemies? Our sinful nature, the world, the devil and his army.

Balik tayo sa winning, we are fighting the good fight. And so when you are in a fight, what is the most important thing? It's winning.

Siguraduhin natin na day in and day out we are winning this fight. This is the good fight. Hindi ito isang beses lamang. Parang boxing after 12 rounds tapos na. No! Our fight, which is the good fight, is on-going. It goes on day in and day out.

We want to make sure that we are winning against our first enemy which is our own sinful nature.

So, let's bring in the Scripture. Una, tingnan natin kung paano nagsimula ang kasalanan. Mahalaga ito, siyasatin natin how this warfare began.

Sinasabi sa Genesis 2:9, And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Dumating ang tempter at tinukso si Eve. At ang sabi ng Genesis 3:6 ay, So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit and ate.

Tatlong bagay ang nangyari kay Eve. Una, sinabi na nakita niya that the tree was good for food. Totoo ba yun? Totoo yun! Good for food and sabi sa Scripture, ang mga ginawa ng Lord ay delight to the eyes. So far so good.

Subalit yung pangatlo, kung saan sinabi dito na nakita ni Eve that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, diyan siya nagkamali. Diyan nagsimula ang kasalanan. Ang kasalanan ay nagsisimula sa puso. Yun ang sabi ni James sa James 1:13-15, God cannot be tempted with evil, and He himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Ang natural desire na iyan is to satisfy one's self. Kaya ang battle ay sa puso ng tao sapagkat doon pa lamang ay naglalabanan na. Nakita ni Eve na maganda ang pinagbabawal na bunga. It will make me wise. So that was the temptation. She kept looking at the fruit and did not turn away.

Finally, sin was conceived at pumitas siya ng bunga at kumain at ang resulta ay kamatayan.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Lahat ay nagkasala, lahat ay mamamatay. Unless, maganap ang katulad ng nangyari kay Abraham. Iyon ang dapat nating gawin, that when we hear God's word, we believe Him. Iyon ang saving faith. Kapag na-save na tayo, the Lord clothes us with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

So, how do we win? Sinabi rin natin last time, Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh and these are opposed to each other.

Ano ang ginagawa nito? It prevents you from doing the things you want.

So, ang ating natural desires ay sinful. Our desires, they're always contrary to the will of God. Kaya kailangan natin to walk by the Spirit. Kung hindi, lagi tayong talo if we do not do that.

We're jumping ahead to chapter 4 now. Sabi ni Paul, Finally, brothers, whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, if there is any excellence or worthy of praise, think about these things.

Kanina yung puso, yung desires ang dapat nating pag-ingatan. Then here, ano ang labanan dito? Nasaan ang labanan ngayon? It is in our mind. Kaya sinabi ni Paul sa Romans chapter 12, Do not conform any longer to the ways of the world but be transformed in your mind by the renewing of your mind.

The battle is for the hearts and minds of you and me, of the people. Iyan ang laging sinasabi natin. Ang labanan is for the hearts and mind of man.

Ang ating mga iniisip ay mahalaga. Mayroon akong nabasa at ganito ang sinabi, we are not who we think we are, we are what we think.

At isa rin iyan sa principle ng Biblical Christian Worldview. Nagsisimula ang ating pamumuhay sa ating pinaniniwalaan, doon sa iniisip nating tama at mabuti. Kaya kinakailangan punuin natin ang ating isip ng katotohanan, ng honorable, just, pure, lovely, etc.

Ito ay training para sa atin. Tine-train natin ang ating sarili how to fight. So what shall we do day in and day out? Well, we walk by the Spirit. Meaning we start the day by praying to the Lord, then reading Scripture, meditating on Scripture, and then thinking about these things.

Ganyan ang pakikibaka natin sa ating sinful nature. And that is how we win day in and day out.

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