

WEEK #5 *ENGAGE THE ENEMY*—“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...”

Introduction:

“Pastor I need your help!” was the frantic voice of a Christian realtor who just sold a house to an immigrant family. The family’s dream of a house of their own in Mississauga has turned into a nightmarish experience as they recounted the nightly visitation of a “white” person sitting in their living room and disappearing at will.

Immediately I gathered a team and asked them to fast for a day and arranged to “visit” this family. This family includes a young couple with two small children, a grandmother who just arrive a few weeks earlier and a weekend border. After exchanging names and a brief introduction to the purpose of our “visit,” my team got to “work” right away.

While praying, the Holy Spirit directed me to deal first with the grandmother. Her eyes became fierce and turned red like fire. It wasn’t very long for me to engage a demonic spirit, which had been her “companion” and “protector” since she was a child. The voice of the demon sounded like a young woman who claimed absolute control over the grandmother. I instructed my team to be calmed, open their eyes while praying and sing songs of praise, worship and victory. Then I spoke directly to the demonic spirit and commanded “it” to leave the grandmother. When “it” left, the countenance of the grandmother changed instantaneously.

The following week, the new homeowners reported no sighting of this “white” person sitting in their living room!

This week, we will look at spiritual warfare and take up our battle positions. Our position is that we are children of God (1 John 3:1) and that our victory has already been guaranteed (1 John 3:8b) because of Christ’s death on the cross. Thus, we reign in the heavenly places with Jesus Christ and have authority over powers and principalities of this world (Ephesians 1:18-21). Your spiritual warfare may not be as dramatic as the story above, nevertheless you know and feel that you are in a battle.

Rev. Julius Tiangson

Week #5 Engage the enemy...

Day 1: Thanks be to God for he has given us victory through Jesus Christ our LORD!

*But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57 (NIV)*

*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome
the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes
that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:4-5 (NIV)*

1. Why thank God for the victory we have in Christ Jesus?

2. How would a proper understanding of our victory help us engage Satan and his schemes?

Thought for the Day:

Engaging the work of Satan and his cohorts is not in the hope of a future victory. It is proclaiming Christ's victory at the cross and the empty tomb; it is administering Christ's present reign over a defeated foe.

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Day 2: We are joint heirs with Jesus Christ, thus we reign with him in the heavenly places.

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:18-23 (NIV)

1. How would you expect to change if this prayer is prayed in your life everyday?

2. In light of the power made available through Jesus Christ, what is keeping you in operating in less than what is available?

Thought for the Day:

In warfare prayer, a believers exercises authority over the enemy. Our position as joint heirs with Jesus Christ gives us authority and power to command the enemy to leave in Jesus name!

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Day 3: Our daily victory has already been won through Jesus Christ who is LORD of all.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV)

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (NIV)

1. How do you best deal with a known enemy, like Satan? What does this text tell us he is doing every day?
2. How would being alert and self-controlled help us in resisting Satan daily? List a series of ways that you can “stand firm.” How do you resist him?
3. According to 1 John 4, who is bigger than Satan? What does this mean for us?

Thought for the Day:

As we pray, we are in instant connection with our Victorious Lord, who gives victory to those who daily depend on him for strength and grace. Through prayer, we entrust to him who rules and have dominion over all!

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Day 4: To a Christian, the best offence is a good defence. A good defence from the schemes of Satan is to put on the full armour of God.

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” Mark 14:38 (NIV)

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:11-12 (NIV)

1. Are there areas in your life that needs the protection of the full armour of God?
2. How would your life be affected if you fail to embrace the protection of the full armour of God?
3. Mark 14 implies that prayer is a means of defence against temptation. Are you stronger or weaker when you are regular in prayer?

Thought for the Day:

We have an enemy who tries relentlessly to destroy us. If we give in to his schemes and fall into sin, this becomes his tool to hurt God’s work and ultimately God himself. We need to consistently go to God and put on the full armour of God and provide no room for Satan to have even an inch in our lives.

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Day 6: Warfare prayer facilitates the efficient and effective communication of the gospel.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:18-20 (NIV)

1. What would happen if there were a group of people in our churches consistently praying for preachers of the Good News? (Just to compare, think of what happened in the ministry of Paul as the believers prayer for him).
2. How would this kind of commitment to prayer impact our communities across Canada?
3. Prayer in the Spirit is the summary of how all the pieces of the armour are used in this material. It is the ultimate weapon. How many different types and ways of prayer are mentioned here? List a number of ways that you pray. Would you commit to that?

Thought for the Day:

Preachers of the Good News need your partnership in prayer. This is a partnership that you can easily be involved in and encourage others to be involved in as well.

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Day 7: The church is God's instrument to engage Satan's domain.

His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:10-11 (NIV)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

1. Imagine for a moment what it would be like if churches across Canada and the world would begin to reign in the heavenly places with Jesus Christ?

2. This text implies that whatever you think of, God will do far and away more. What are you asking for?

3. How would our ministries, outreaches and missionary thrust be impacted when we have churches engaging Satan's domain through prayer?

Thought for the Day:

When a church prays and engages Satan's territory, she becomes what Christ intended her to be - an instrument for the redemption of the world!