



Defeat This World

“And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.”

1 John 5:5 NLT

The battle that is against the world is the battle against flesh, and it is a battle that cannot be fought with flesh (Ephesians 6:12). Flesh will always fail. That’s why those who are under the rule and reign of Christ will always emerge victorious in this battle that we fight. We have the Spirit of the living God, and we live different, we live transformed, and we live free indeed! The most wonderful thing about this battle is that it’s not us who fight on our behalf, but Jesus on ours. Our flesh cannot handle the evil desires of the world.

We’ve already won the battle if we walk with He who has already won. He loves us so much. Walk with Him if you want freedom. Walk with Him if you want life after physical death. Walk with Him if you want to defeat your flesh. Walk with Him if you want to trample on the enemy and the world which is full of wickedness. Walk with Him if you want strength. Walk with Him if you want love. And walk with Him if you want to be a victor over everything.

Reflect

Are you fighting a battle against the world that you cannot win, or are you walking with the One who’s already defeated the world?



Darkness Consumed

*“This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: **God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all .**”*

1 John 1:5 NLT

Darkness does not exist in Him because He is so completely and utterly pure. It is not as simple as saying “there is no darkness in Him.” No. He shines so infinitely bright throughout all time, across all generations, and all of eternity, that darkness just becomes light when He arrives. Darkness in all forms fears our Lord. Darkness simply cannot survive when He is in the room. It’s an impossibility for it to have power, life, or purpose in the midst of His greatness. What does this mean for you and me? It means we get to cast out demons, every form of evil, and sin, all of which are born of darkness.

As the believer, you are able to shine His light into every dark corner (Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Corinthians 6:19). This is the God who pulled us out of darkness. Every spiritual rut you’ve ever been in, every time you’ve been tempted and fled from sin, every time you had self-control, every time you showed the love of Jesus to someone, He was there, shining His light through you. Without Him there would only be darkness in every one of those scenarios. Let His light shine!

Reflect

Are you going to light up the world?



Father, Forgive Them

“ So don’t be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you .”

1 John 3:13 NLT

Take a look at what happened to Jesus. Not only did the world hate Him, but He was killed by His own people. His own chosen people rejected Him because of their pride. No matter what the Jews were capable of doing to Him physically, they could never hinder the promises of God. In the end, Jesus wins. They thought He would just die and go away, but it turns out He died for them and their sin as well. Everything they did against the will of God, and all the evil they committed, will be for our good in the end. He died for the same people who killed Him. Willingly! And they were, and still are, too blind to see it. It should not surprise us, because it is the same today as it was when they crucified Him.

Anyone who follows Him will be hated too. There is nothing different. So what must we do? Let God have His way. In the end, it is not for us to fight. Their sin will testify against them, and they will be done away with, and all the evil they commit will make their lives a waste. This is why we must always be finding a way to be more like Him, because even in their wickedness, Jesus was still willing to forgive. “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do’” (Luke 23:34). The One who took all that hatred first was Jesus, and of course those who hate Jesus will hate His children. And as His children, we must remain humble and ready to die for our faith.

Reflect

Does it surprise you when the world hates you for following Christ, or have you come to expect it?



Hatred Kills

*“If we love our brothers and sisters who are believers, it proves that we have passed from death to life. But a person who has no love is still dead. **Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart** . And you know that murderers don’t have eternal life within them.”*

1 John 3:14-15 NLT

Love for another believer is the evidence that you have crossed the great chasm. Once you were lost, and you did not have the love of God in you, because you were not part of the family of God. But now you are, and that is proven by His love shining in and through you. What is this great love that you get to share with brothers and sisters? It is gathering together in the name of Jesus to praise His name, to bring others who are lost into His presence, to spur each other on day by day while drawing closer day by day, and to lay your life down for your fellow believer. This is what the love of God looks like. Having no love is already bad enough if you call yourself a believer, because you are called to a higher standard. Having a form of hatred mixed in is an even worse place to be.

Hatred for another person who you’re supposed to call brother or sister will completely devoid your soul of love, because if you can’t love somebody who was created in the image of God, that begs the question: do you really love God? The way that you love determines how strong your relationship is with Him, which is why this question has to be raised: do you really love Him? Hatred for another brother or sister doesn’t only mean you say you hate that person, it’s how you treat them. Do you treat them with selfless love, like you are commanded to, or do you treat them unkindly and selfishly? Do you hold resentment for something they did? Do you completely steamroll this other person? Do you actually know how to love like Christ?

Reflect

If somebody looked at your life and the way you show love, would they see a strong, Spirit-filled love, a lukewarm love, or just straight-up hatred?



He Who Owns Victory

“For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith .”

1 John 5:4 NLT

If you are a child of God, evil already lost. You are no longer part of this world. You belong to God now, and that changes everything. This isn't about how mature you are in your faith, it's not a rank you climb. Being His child means the enemy has already been crushed under your feet. The moment you reject the world and grab hold of Christ, the war is over and you won. You are standing in relationship with the One who owns victory itself, who has never lost, who never will. Heaven erupts when one soul comes to Christ. And somewhere, the devil is losing his mind, because he just lost another one.

No matter how young you are in the faith, do not shrink back. You already won (Romans 8:37). Faith is the evidence of victory. Jesus is the reason for your victory, not how much you've progressed in your faith. Yes, you will continue to become more victorious in your walk with Christ, but the ultimate victory is escaping the enemy's grasp at the very start. This freedom is found in relationship with Him. As soon as you give your life to Him, and as you continue to get to know Him more and cut your flesh right off the bone, you will live in victory. This is real faith.

Reflect

Are you trying to climb the ladder to heaven, or are you letting Jesus take you to the top?



Burn the Hate

*“If anyone claims, ‘I am living in the light,’ but hates a fellow believer, **that person is still living in darkness** .”*

1 John 2:9 NLT

How can you claim to live in His light if you have hate in your heart? You are stuck in a place where you have come into the family of God, but you don't really see it as part of who you are, and for whatever reason, there's resentment, unforgiveness, or a grudge you cannot shake with another believer. If you cannot have fellowship under the union of Christ with a fellow believer, like Christ wills, because you hate them, then you are living in absolute darkness. Whatever they have done to you, whether they ignored you, said something mean, or simply annoyed you, it must be overcome with love. Remember, Christ died for people who hate Him. Keep in mind that Christ is the standard, and what He did on the cross is expected of us as believers, especially if we claim to know Him. Living out Christ's standard will prove, furthermore, who we belong to.

He has given you the strength to present this love, completely and unconditionally. Lay your desires down. Lay your needs down. Lay your inconveniences down. Lay your life down. All for the glory of Christ. And if you claim to be in union with Christ, but hate is still part of who you are and it consumes your identity, then you are worse off than an unbeliever who has hate. On top of that, you are distorting the image of God that you are supposed to bear. How can you hate what God has created? If you hate a fellow believer, this means you hate the fellowship that God has so clearly created for believers who say they love and know Him. So let the name above all names destroy this hatred you hold so near and dear when two or more gather in His name. Share in this great love, and kill the hate.

Reflect

Are you letting hatred keep you in the darkness, or are you letting His love light up every dark corner?



Father of Victory

*“But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. **Those who have been born into God’s family do not make a practice of sinning, because God’s life is in them . So they can’t keep on sinning, because they are children of God.**”*

1 John 3:8-9 NLT

Jesus did not come only so we could have an easier way to obtain forgiveness. He came to destroy every work that Satan has planned since the beginning. When Satan was cast to the earth, sin was created. When Satan fell, sin was born. Satan is the father of sin. But even before the evil plans of Satan began, there was Jesus. The father of victory. He is God in the flesh, prepared for the ultimate battle, taking on the full weight of our sin, not as a punishment but as a willful act of love, for all humanity, past, present, and future. Satan created the bane of every human’s existence, the very thing that will send most of humanity to hell, but Jesus still had the victory despite this. The victory is that He loved us so much that He gave His life for everyone, no matter who you are. It created a road to heaven, a very narrow path, but obtainable through the power of the Holy Spirit. This victory is free for anyone who wants to do away with the works of the devil. We are free to walk in pursuit of God and, by faith, work toward becoming like Christ. Instead of sin being your intention, you now walk freely in the power of Christ, and you can’t keep on sinning, because you are part of the family of God (Romans 8:2), and His light dwells in you, darkness is not found where the light shines.

Satan will now be crushed under your feet (Romans 16:20). He isn’t anything to be afraid of, he is a coward inside and out, and he once had you chained, but now you are full of the Holy Spirit. Since God dwells in you, as you continue to walk by the power of His Spirit, seeing everything with His eyes, letting Him transform your thoughts, and changing your habits, suddenly you will find that God has so much for you that sin isn’t even a thought. It’s a thing of the dead. Sin’s power, where is it? Gone. You are in Christ, so walk like Him, and don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t, because He gave you the power to do so. If you say otherwise, then you lack faith, you lack the ability to understand the point of the cross. It was never just about forgiveness, it was always about sin being destroyed by the Father of victory.

Reflect

Are you claiming that you follow Christ, yet you still make a practice of sinning, or do you truly believe that your old habits and desires can actually disappear?



Jesus, the Fire

*“So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. **Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God.**”*

1 John 3:10 NLT

When you live set apart and holy, the veil is lifted, and you can discern the evils of this world. Since you are now a child of God, evil is apparent when you see it. This is one of the greatest gifts given to believers, the ability to see evil for what it is, before it ever gets a foothold in what you watch, what you buy, or what you practice in secret. If you claim to be God’s child and you recognize any evil habits in your own life, cut them off. Ask for His grace, which gives you the power to break free, because that is what He wants for you. When our lives are for Him and only Him, the evil things that were once part of you are no longer. We are set apart and above reproach when the Son is seen within the believer. The things of the devil should disgust you, and the knowledge of God and closeness to Him will reveal to you the dirtiness of the world. But this doesn’t mean you should live in a state of judgment, expecting others to live like you, because they wander blindly.

You must be a shining example of truth to the world if you claim that Jesus lives in you and He is your whole life. Lead by example, not by participating in the things that are evil, but by pursuing holiness and chasing the original design of creation, to live like you are actually made in His image. Never condone evil if it is in your face, rather confront it with the intention of building up and not tearing down. Let the fiery flame of holy passion burn away evil. When you see evil, let God steer the ship. Walk in love like Jesus would, and when you see evil, take away its oxygen. Evil does not thrive in the all-consuming fire who is Jesus Christ. The light of God should shine so brightly through you that darkness has no chance of surviving. The darkness cannot exist in the light. Let the light of God shine.

Reflect

Are you numb to the evil in the world because you think you can’t do anything about it, that it’s just not possible for you to have an effect because there is so much evil?



Hated for Righteousness

*“This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another. **We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother** . And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous.”*

1 John 3:11-12 NLT

This is not only a call to be righteous, but to be loving. It’s also a reminder that persecution is a real thing. You will be persecuted in many ways when you live out a Christian lifestyle. Cain, who murdered Abel, had no love in him because he belonged to Satan. He did what was evil, which made him an enemy of God. He was full of demonic jealousy. In a world full of Cains, be Abel. In a world full of devils, be like Jesus, and be watchful of Cains. The reason the world wants to persecute Christians, and all forms of objective good, is because the world does not recognize what true good, love, and true righteousness actually are. Evildoers are enemies of God unless brought to full repentance.

Since the love of God is contrary to what the world thinks is good, the world is going to persecute what it can’t recognize. The Cains of the world are jealous, and at the root of this jealousy, they deeply lack the belief that they can be righteous like we are called to be. This is why they persecute, driven by demons who sit in their own shame. Those who follow God do what is actually good, driven by the righteousness of God. Do not be surprised when evil tries to shoot you down. Certainly don’t become offended by it. Jesus tells us this will happen. The devil has been sinning since the beginning, and there is nothing new under the sun.

Reflect

Is there jealousy in your own heart toward someone else’s righteousness?



Be Apart From the Problem

*“Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world’s viewpoint, and the world listens to them. But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. **That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception .**”*

1 John 4:5-6 NLT

“Those people” mentioned are pastors, mentors, or so-called evangelists who deliver false messages to people. We are told that the world listens to them because their messages are sugarcoated and propagated in certain ways to lead astray certain groups of people, even some grounded believers. But thank God we have an assurance so great, and a discerning factor that God has built into us, so that if we belong to Him, we have the ability to counter these types of false teachings and even help others who have been deceived. When we go to help people who have been deceived or led astray, and if they listen, remain humble, and repent, then they truly belong to God, and somewhere along the way they were simply deceived. God can use you, He can use anybody, as a tool of conviction to bring back His beloved children. He is so loving, He will break down every wall, leave the ninety-nine to save the one. As a believer, if you are filled with His love, you will want to chase down the people who listen to “those people.” Your tendency toward those who are lost and deceived should always be to first plant a seed and wait to see growth before you even think of condemnation.

You will always have people who are not willing to listen and have really outright rejected the truth of the gospel for something that sounds better, fits their lifestyle more conveniently, or plain and simply, they have been deceived. But this is no excuse not to present the gospel to a deceived world. We have to be so careful as believers, and remember that condemning people like this feels right at first, it feels comfortable, like justice is being served. Comfort, especially emotional comfort, feels logical to the flesh, but being Christlike is rarely logical to the flesh. And this is how you know who “those people” belong to: if they reject the truth while claiming to know it, the truth was never really in them to begin with.

Reflect

When someone wanders, is your first instinct to condemn or to pursue?



Hate in Disguise

*“But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. **Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness .**”*

1 John 2:11 NLT

The enemy’s ultimate tool of division among believers is hate. The tool of hate is used among believers in stupid things, like a difference in theology that you think determines someone’s salvation, or maybe it’s something deeper, like unforgiveness. Unforgiveness is fueled by hate. This is another tool of deception that the enemy uses: we think our hate, that we disguise as a dislike, is justified toward another member of the family of God. Sometimes this hate is made right in our heads by saying something like, “Well, they’re not a real believer anyway.” How can you be so sure? How can you be so sure that you aren’t the fake believer? He knows the heart better than we ever will. So don’t let your feelings rule your life and make you hateful toward God’s children. We can have our thoughts, our rebukes, our opinions, but don’t esteem yourself in a way that makes your judgment of another believer turn into hate.

Some believers are more divided in their hearts than they could ever realize, because they have allowed the darkness to blind them. Do not be one of them. Do not be deceived by feelings and hurts and emotions that Adam and Eve gave you. So what is the opposite of seeing someone with love? Hate, whether you like it or not. What is the opposite of seeing someone with the eyes of Christ? It is seeing them through the flesh. The only thing the flesh was ever good for is death. So kill it every day. We live in a world where it’s so easy to hate, so our guards must be so strong, so fortified, always pouring out love before wrath.

Reflect

Have you let mere human mistakes distort how you see other believers, or are you looking through the lens that Jesus Christ has designed for His people?



Evil Abolished

*“Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this we know that the last hour has come. **These people left our churches, but they never really belonged with us; otherwise they would have stayed with us** . When they left, it proved that they did not belong with us.”*

1 John 2:18-19 NLT

Since Christ came, the last hour began, because He is coming again. Everything since the resurrection has been the last hour. This is why we must remain watchful and on guard, as though He could return at any moment. The term “antichrist” is not some modern label describing a figure destined to rebuild the third temple. It is a New Testament reality that began the moment Jesus rose from the grave. From that point on, antichrists emerged to distort the truth of who Jesus is, to lie about Him, to deceive others, and to present themselves as truth when there is only one truth. Anyone who denies who Christ is carries the spirit of antichrist. Anything that stands against what Christ came to fulfill is antichrist, and it will be abolished when He comes again. That same spirit is present even among those who attend church, go to Bible studies, and sing praises. How is this possible? Because they never truly belonged to Him. These false believers were convinced they had it all together, yet when their faith was finally tested, they buckled beneath the pressure, and their sin prevailed. They did all the churchy things, they showed up, they served, some even selflessly.

But when temptation came, when persecution came, it was over for them. This is a common problem within the church, because so many have been deceived into believing that true righteousness is entirely, utterly impossible. This lie must be rebuked, because the very Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now lives within us. So why do so many act as though this is not true, as though Jesus did not mean exactly what He said? We were bought with a price, and we are called to receive this gift and take our faith seriously. Our faith is not a formality that simply clears a guilty conscience. His life, which is in you, carries the same victory He secured when He entered death and defeated it from within, because He loved the world so much. When you taste what that victory actually looks like, as you press into Him, whatever your old desires were, whatever your old habits were, the Lord Jesus will replace them with new ones. But you must believe it is genuinely possible, and you must carry the deepest respect and humility, because He accomplished it for you.

Reflect

Would your faith survive under the pressure of real temptation and prove where your faith stands, or would you buckle?



The Sword

“And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God’s Son does not have life .”

1 John 5:11-12 NLT

The wages of sin is death, and the consequence of sin and wickedness is death. This is the reality of sin. In its nature, its only purpose is to endlessly enslave you. It manifests in you physically, mentally, and spiritually. The ultimate goal as a Christ follower is to reject sin, relying on the life Jesus has given you through knowing Him and the ability He provides to reject it. Christ has given you a sword, a sword to cut off sin from the flesh. Remain cautious before you think of the sword as something that you alone wield. It is He who lives in you that gives you the sword and defeats death from within, so that you can lead a holy life. The sword holds all life, all victory, all knowledge, all virtue, and all glory and power, so that you can be free from sin and its consequences. You can have eternal life in Christ, or you can have eternal death if you choose sin. Since the life of Christ is the opposite of death, and since the life of Christ is death’s demise, then how can we say we are still bound to sin in some way, yet claim to be in a relationship with Him?

If sin is dead, then why are you still letting it have power over you? If you have truly let Him take control of your entire life, then who are you to deny the work of the empty tomb? The same way He emptied His own tomb, He came into your heart and has emptied yours. If you still live in sin but claim Christ, then you don’t actually believe in the work of the cross, and you fail to understand its true purpose. The purpose of the cross wasn’t just to simply blanket your sin, but rather to expose it, and let it be put to death by the all-consuming fire of Christ, so it could be no more. Don’t let sin kill you. Let Christ kill the sin within you so that you can stand before a righteous God and be known by Him.

Reflect

Have you let the Holy Spirit come in and empty the tomb, commanding sin to die, or have you let sin command you?



Thy Kingdom

*“We know that we are children of God and that **the world around us is under the control of the evil one** .”*

1 John 5:19 NLT

If Jesus is your Lord, your confidence, your assurance, and your only hope, then you are surely a child of God. Our hope should be found in none other than Jesus Christ, who died and rose again so that you could be called His child. There is a clear distinction when you are a child of God. Your life should look different, transformed. It shouldn't look like the rest of the world, because the world is under the sway of the evil one, whose only purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy the image of God. He only gives death and condemnation. The children of God are under the authority of Jesus Christ, who came to exemplify what it really means to live a Christian life. He laid His life down and gave everything He had. He never asked for a single thing in return, never complained, and put the whole world before Himself. He is the One who gives life, and life eternally.

Even though the world is under the sway of the enemy, this is not an excuse to have fear, or even to condemn and judge. Yes, evil must be fought. But following the calling of the Lord Jesus Himself means stepping into a victory Jesus already claimed, one where evil is already defeated. So go into the world, evil and corrupt as it is, and make disciples of all nations, uniting people together to bring about the destruction of hell and the arrival of heaven. If you call yourself a child of God, you must die to yourself every single day. Say no to your flesh. Say no to temptation. Cut off sin. Since you are a child of God, obey like one, so that when the world looks at you, it sees something different, holy and above reproach, never conformed to the ways the world runs.

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Reflect

Are you actively bringing heaven down, making disciples, or just staying safe on the sidelines?



Strength, Joy, & Gratitude

*“We also pray that **you will be strengthened with all his glorious power** so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.”*

Colossians 1:11-12 NLT

Paul now also prays for the Colossians' strength and endurance under pressure so that they can withstand the hardships coming their way. He isn't praying that they find an easy escape or comfort. He's praying that they have strength to fight back against their adversaries. In the midst of this, Paul also prays for them to have joy in this hour. Why is that? Possessing strength and endurance often looks like you must clench your fists and grit your teeth, or kick and scream, but spiritually speaking it means quite the opposite. Real strength produced during hard times comes from the ability to find joy no matter the circumstances. The reason you're even able to stand against the enemy is because of Christ's victory. Christ's victory is our gratitude, our strength in the midst of battle, our resting place.

Your ability to oppose the enemy doesn't come from your own strength, built up by how many hardships you've faced. It comes from the endurance the Lord has already given you. He is the reason you're able to endure at all. Since we are children of the light, this is something we have already inherited, not something we earned or gained through hard work. It is ours because Jesus says it is and the work of the cross says that it is. Embrace it. Having gratitude is the greatest weapon against the enemy because gratitude also reminds us of where our identity lies. Our identity isn't found in how hard we can fight against the devil. It's found in how much we believe in Christ, and in the truth that there is no battle we face that He hasn't already died for. The enemy can't throw anything at you to hinder what Christ has already promised you. Be grateful and find joy in every circumstance because Christ is your God.

Reflect

Is Christ your sword in battle, or are you trying to use your own?



Christ the Victor

*“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, **to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight** ”*

Colossians 1:21-22 NKJV

How can there be victory in death? Only if the One dying wasn't bound by it in the first place. That's exactly who Christ is, the Author of life, choosing to die. His life was not taken from Him, and He was not killed. Jesus giveth and taketh as He wills. He gave His own life to reveal the victory found in the resurrection. He proclaims authority over death, and we have that same power. Death of your sinful flesh means you gain Him as a direct result, curing the sickness of sin. Sin is death, but the death of the flesh is life. The very reason He gave up His life was to show you and me that sin and death weren't the end. It revealed that death has no authority over Christ. And for those who live in Him, death also has no power. He rewrote the law of death itself. He died so that we could have the means to defeat it through the power of His resurrection. The power of the resurrection lives in you. He overcame the works of the darkness that you were once a part of by descending into the darkness and defeating it from within.

He tore the gates of hell down just for you, thus turning the power of hell into dust, and now Jesus lives in anyone who calls upon Him. Since Jesus is your Lord, you are seen as holy, blameless, and above reproach in the eyes of the Father. So don't let anybody lie to you about who you are. If Christ has saved you, your life is undoubtedly different; you are no longer under the darkness. Jesus didn't die just so that you would become a better version of yourself. He died so that you could have power over the enemy. Your identity is no longer set in the ways of the darkness. Wickedness has turned into righteousness. Darkness into light. Evil into good. You were once too blemished to enter in by means of the law, but now, because Christ fulfilled the law, you stand before a holy God, and He tells you exactly how He sees you. You are His and His alone. Christ is your life. Your atonement. Your righteousness. Your holiness. Your everything. Praise God, we are no longer alienated! We have become part of the family of God, and we sit at the table with Him feasting on the fruits of righteousness and purity. Behold all things made new! Behold all things made righteous! Behold the Lord Jesus, the Victor of our lives.

Reflect

Jesus didn't die just to make you a better version of yourself, He died to give you power over the enemy. Are you living in that power?