



1 - 7 Dec, 2019

Spiritual Warfare, part 2

**‘No weapon formed against you shall prosper,
and every tongue which rises against you in judgment
you shall condemn.**

**This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,
and their righteousness is from Me’ says the Lord**

Isaiah 54:17

The spiritual war

- † **Let us fight the battle knowing who our enemy is. *‘Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour’ 1 Pt 5:8a***
- † ***‘For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh’ 2 Cor 10:3***
- † ***‘The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds’ 2 Cor 10:4 NIV***
- † ***‘casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ’ 2 Cor 10:5***
- † **Screwtape says *‘What we want, if men become Christians at all, is to keep them in the state of mind I call ‘Christianity And’. You know—Christianity and the Crisis, Christianity and the New Psychology, Christianity and the New Order, Christianity and Faith Healing, Christianity and Psychological Research, Christianity and Vegetarianism, Christianity and Spelling Reform. If they must be Christians let them at least be Christians with a difference. Substitute for the faith itself some Fashion with a Christian coloring’ C S Lewis***

Abraham and the rich man (Gn 12:1-9; Mk 10:17-22)

- † **Abraham fought the battle and was crowned with glory**
- † **The rich man lost both Heaven and earth in an attempt to gain earth**

Strategy 1 'Resist him [the devil], steadfast in the faith' 1Pt 5:8b

- † Problems do not weaken us, the disciples of Christ
- † Saint Paul said, *'And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us'* Rom 5:3-5
- † *'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory'* 2 Cor 4:17
- † Abraham had victory because he had hope against hope and no doubt made him waver **(Rom 4:16-25)**

Strategy 2 'For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it' Mt 16:25

- † *'But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ'* 2 Cor 11:3
- † Compromise, even the slightest of it, leads to destruction
- † *'Pilate was merciful till it became risky'* C S Lewis (Jn 18:28-19:22)

Strategy 3 'knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world' 1Pt 5:8c

- † *'Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in Heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you'* Mt 5:11-12

Strategy 4 'Persevere'

- † Let our eyes be on the finish line, Who is Jesus Christ. Before reaching the end, moving our eyes away from Christ will make us lose the race
- † *'Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved'* Mt 24:9, 13

Strategy 5: 'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope'
Jer 29:11

✝ God's plan is unique and tailored for each one of us. Let us long for it and seek it

Bibliography

1. Lewis, C. S. *The Screwtape Letters*. Las Vegas, NV: FAB, 2016.
2. Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'For we walk by faith, not by sight' 2 Corinthians 5:7

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ God's promises are true always

My reaction

- ✝ Do I trust Him and overcome my obstacles with Joy boasting of them as Saint Paul taught me?
- ✝ Am I putting things into perspective aiming at gaining my life in Christ?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them

15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights

16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the unity of the Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية

قانون الايمان

أبانا الَّذِي فِي السَّمَوَاتِ
لِيَتَقَدَّسَ إِسْمُكَ
لِيَأْتِ مَلَكُوتُكَ
لِتَكُنْ مَشِيئَتُكَ
كَمَا فِي السَّمَاءِ
كَذَلِكَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ
خَبِرْنَا الضَّرُورِيَّ لِلْحَيَاةِ أَعْطِنَا
اليوم
وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا
كَمَا نَعْفِرُ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا
لِلْمُذْنِبِينَ إِلَيْنَا
وَلَا تُدْخِلْنَا فِي تَجْرِبَةٍ
لَكِنْ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّ
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمَلِكَ وَالْقُدْرَةَ وَالْمَجْدَ
إِلَى الْأَبَدِ
أَمِينَ

نُؤْمِنُ بِإِلَهٍ وَاحِدٍ
الْأَبِ ضَابِطِ الْكُلِّ، خَالِقِ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ
كُلِّ مَا يُرَى وَمَا لَا يُرَى
وَبِرَبِّ وَاحِدٍ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحَ، ابْنَ اللَّهِ الْوَحِيدِ
الْمَوْلُودِ مِنَ الْأَبِ قَبْلَ كُلِّ الدَّهْرِ، نُورٍ مِنْ نُورٍ
إِلَهٍ حَقٌّ مِنْ إِلَهٍ حَقٍّ، مَوْلُودٍ غَيْرِ مَخْلُوقٍ
لَهُ الْجَوْهَرُ نَفْسَهُ مَعَ الْأَبِ، الَّذِي بِهِ كَانَ شَيْءٌ
ذَلِكَ الَّذِي مِنْ أَجْلِنا نَحْنُ الْبَشَرِ
وَمِنْ أَجْلِ خَلَاصِنَا، نَزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَتَجَسَّدَ مَتَّاسًا بِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِّ مِنْ مَرْيَمَ الْعَذْرَاءِ
وَصُلِبَ عَنَّا
فِي عَهْدِ بِيلاطُسَ بَنْطِيُوسَ
وَتَأَلَّمَ وَقُبِرَ وَقَامَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ
كَمَا فِي الْكُتُبِ
وَصَعِدَ إِلَى السَّمَوَاتِ
وَجَلَسَ عَنِ يَمِينِ الْأَبِ وَيَجِيءُ بِمَجْدٍ
لِيُدِينَ الْأَحْيَاءَ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ
وَلَنْ يَكُونَ لِمَلِكِهِ نَهَايَةٌ
وَبِالرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِّ
الرَّبِّ الْمُحْيِي
الْمُنْتَبِقِ مِنَ الْأَبِ
الْمَسْجُودِ لَهُ وَالْمُجَدِّ
مَعَ الْأَبِ وَالْإِبْنِ
لِنَاطِقِ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ
وَبِكَنِيسَةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ مَقَدَّسَةٍ، جَامِعَةٍ، رَسُولِيَّةٍ
وَنَعْتَرِفُ بِمَعْمُودِيَّةٍ وَاحِدَةٍ
لِمَغْفَرَةِ الْخَطَايَا
وَنَنْتَظِرُ قِيَامَةَ الْمَوْتَى
وَحَيَاةَ الدَّهْرِ الْآتِي
أَمِينَ