

# Spiritual Warfare

## Chapter #1



Danielle Carter

*...for we are not ignorant of his devices. 2 Corinthians 2:11*

*Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle – Psalm 144:1*

*The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. Exodus 15:3*

*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. 1 John 5:4*

## Introduction

I never imagined I would write a book. In fact, no one is more surprised than I am that you're holding this one in your hands. My prayer is that what you read in these pages will encourage you, strengthen your faith, and equip you to walk in victory after victory through the power of Jesus Christ.

I realize that some people will be uncomfortable with a book that places such a strong emphasis on spiritual warfare and confronting the forces of darkness. Believe me, I would much rather spend every page simply marveling at the beauty of Jesus. There is no greater subject. Yet the more I have studied Scripture and observed the condition of the Church, the more convinced I have become that many believers—especially in the American church—have grown comfortable, complacent, and have largely forgotten how to fight.

At the time of this writing (2026), Christianity in America continues to enjoy freedoms that many believers around the world do not have. While cultural pressures certainly exist, outright persecution remains relatively limited. That comfort, however, carries a hidden danger. When one generation sees little need to fight, the next generation is never taught how to fight. As a result, spiritual warfare has become a neglected discipline. Although there are faithful warriors scattered throughout the Church, many believers view spiritual warfare as strange, extreme, or even embarrassing.

To be fair, some of that skepticism is understandable. Much of what is promoted today under the banner of "spiritual warfare" is sensational, unbalanced, and unsupported by Scripture. That has caused many Christians to reject not only unhealthy practices, but the biblical reality of spiritual warfare itself. My desire is not to promote extremes, but to bring us back to what the Word of God actually teaches.

Others may object for an entirely different reason. They would argue that because Jesus has already won the victory through His death and resurrection, there is nothing left for believers to fight. There is certainly

truth in the fact that Christ's victory is complete and final. However, the question is not whether Jesus has won the victory, but how we are called to live in light of that victory. This subject will be introduced in the first chapter and explored more fully throughout the book. I hope you'll continue reading with an open Bible and an open heart.

For many years of my own Christian walk, I depended heavily on the prayers of spiritually mature friends whenever I faced difficult battles. Their prayers were a tremendous blessing, but eventually the Lord began teaching me something that transformed my life: through Christ, I had been given authority to enforce the victory He had already purchased. Learning how to stand in that authority has enabled me not only to fight my own battles with greater confidence, but also to help others experience freedom and victory.

Let me also make something very clear. I am not suggesting that Christians can somehow avoid every hardship or difficulty. We live in a fallen world, and Jesus Himself told us, "In this world you will have trouble." But He immediately followed those words with this promise: "Take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Some trials are part of God's refining work in our lives. He uses them to shape our character, deepen our faith, and make us more like Christ. Those are battles we endure through His sustaining grace. But there are other struggles that are direct assaults from the enemy—attacks designed to discourage us, distract us, enslave us, or keep us from fulfilling God's purposes. For those battles, God has not left us defenseless. He has given us spiritual weapons that are "mighty through God."

Think about that for a moment. Why would God provide His children with armor, weapons, and repeated instructions to stand, resist, and fight if there were no battles to face? It would make no sense. It is equally unthinkable that God would give us such powerful spiritual weapons, only for us to leave them unused and live beneath the victory Christ has already secured for us.

Throughout the writing, editing, and publishing of this book, I have continually prayed for every person who would one day read it. There have

been moments in my own life when the Holy Spirit used a single sentence from a book, a sermon, or a conversation to permanently change the direction of my thinking. My prayer is that somewhere in these pages the Holy Spirit will do the same for you. Perhaps it will be one chapter, one paragraph, or even one sentence that becomes a turning point in your own walk with God.

As often as possible, I have included practical tools to help you move beyond simply gaining knowledge. Throughout the book you'll find "Nuggets," practical action steps, and questions for reflection designed to help you apply what you're learning rather than merely reading about it.

My prayer is that when you finish this book, you will not simply know more about spiritual warfare, but that you will become a warrior who knows how to stand, how to fight, and how to help others walk in the freedom Christ died to give us all.

## CHAPTER 1 – SPIRITUAL WARFARE OVERVIEW

Is spiritual warfare necessary?

Before we can explore how to engage in spiritual warfare, we must first answer a more fundamental question: **Is it necessary?**

This question matters because if we fail to understand the necessity and purpose of spiritual warfare, we may spend our entire Christian lives living beneath the victory and freedom that Christ has purchased for us. We may accept all struggles as unavoidable, never realizing that God has provided us with spiritual weapons and authority to overcome them.

Many believers either ignore spiritual warfare altogether or assume it is only for a select group of especially gifted Christians. Others dismiss it because of the extremes and unbiblical practices they have witnessed. But our opinions, experiences, or assumptions are not the standard. Scripture is.

So before considering anyone's teaching or personal testimony—including mine—we must allow God's Word to answer this question. If the Bible teaches that spiritual warfare is necessary, then we should embrace it. If it does not, we should reject it. Let's begin by allowing Scripture to speak for itself.

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:11-13*

Many of us have approached this passage with the mindset that putting on the armor of God is something we must do simply so the devil "doesn't get us." We recite the passage each morning almost as a ritual, afraid that if we fail to say the right words or follow the right routine, we will somehow be left exposed to the enemy. In doing so, we can unknowingly reduce the armor of God to something resembling a spiritual superstition rather than a biblical reality.

We often treat the armor of God the way we treat sunscreen. We apply it because we are afraid of what might happen if we don't. Our focus becomes avoiding harm rather than advancing God's kingdom. Spiritual warfare is viewed primarily as a defensive strategy—a means of protecting ourselves from Satan's attacks.

There is certainly a defensive aspect to the armor of God. Paul instructs believers to "put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of

the devil" (Ephesians 6:11). God's armor enables us to withstand the enemy's deception, temptation, and opposition.

But that is not the whole picture.

Just one verse later, Paul tells us, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood" (Ephesians 6:12). Wrestling is not a passive activity. It requires engagement. It involves movement, resistance, and intentional effort from both participants. If only one person is active, it is no longer a wrestling match—it is simply a beating.

Paul's choice of words is significant. He did not describe the Christian life as hiding from the enemy or merely surviving his attacks. He described it as wrestling. That tells us spiritual warfare is more than enduring assaults from the kingdom of darkness; it is actively resisting the enemy and standing our ground with the authority Christ has given us. We are not called to live in fear, hoping to escape the devil's advances. We are called to stand firm, engage the battle, and enforce the victory that Jesus has already won.

To fully appreciate the urgency of spiritual warfare, it helps to understand the imagery Paul chose when he described our conflict as a wrestling match. In the Greek world, wrestling was not merely a sport of entertainment—it could be brutal. Historical accounts describe certain forms of ancient combat in which the consequences of defeat were severe, even including the blinding of the loser. Whether or not Paul had a specific practice in mind, his audience would have immediately associated wrestling with an intense, all-consuming struggle in which the stakes were extraordinarily high.

Imagine competing in a contest where losing could cost you your eyesight. How seriously would you train? How much time would you spend strengthening your body, mastering your technique, and preparing for every possible scenario? You would never approach such a contest casually because the consequences of neglect would be far too great.

The same principle applies to the Christian life. Paul did not describe our conflict as a friendly game or a casual exercise. He described it as wrestling because spiritual warfare demands preparation, vigilance, and wholehearted engagement. The enemy is relentless, and believers who neglect spiritual growth, biblical truth, prayer, and obedience place themselves at a serious disadvantage.

God has not called us to live in fear of the battle, but neither has He called us to ignore it. He has equipped us with everything we need to stand firm and overcome. Our responsibility is to train ourselves in His Word, learn to use the spiritual weapons He has provided, and engage the battle with confidence, knowing that the victory has already been secured through Jesus Christ.

## KNOW WHO YOUR ENEMY IS....AND ISN'T

If we can agree that Scripture clearly teaches we are engaged in a spiritual wrestling match, the next question is obvious: **Who are we wrestling against?**

The answer to that question is critical because many believers spend enormous amounts of time, energy, and emotion fighting the wrong enemy. As a result, they exhaust themselves while accomplishing very little.

When we view our lives only through a natural, human perspective, it is almost inevitable that we will see people as our primary problem. We blame coworkers, spouses, family members, political leaders, neighbors, or those who oppose us. Our battles become arguments to win, relationships to control, or people to defeat. In doing so, we find ourselves fighting on the wrong battlefield.

Paul could not have been clearer. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood" (Ephesians 6:12). The people around us are not our true enemy. They may oppose us, wound us, betray us, or even persecute us, but they are not the source of the conflict. Behind the visible world lies an invisible spiritual reality. There are forces of darkness actively working to deceive, divide, destroy, and oppose the purposes of God, and they often seek to accomplish those purposes through people.

Recognizing this changes everything.

This shift in perspective does not excuse sinful behavior or remove personal responsibility. People are still accountable for the choices they make. But it does change how we respond. Instead of directing our warfare against people, we direct it against the spiritual forces influencing the conflict. We learn to love people while resisting the enemy who seeks to use them.

The moment we begin to see life through this biblical perspective, our battles become clearer, our prayers become more effective, and our focus shifts from fighting people to standing against the real enemy. Only then can we wage the kind of warfare God has called us to fight.

Ephesians 6:12 leaves no room for confusion about the identity of our true enemy. Paul writes that we wrestle "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." He does **not** say that we wrestle against people.

This distinction is essential. Our war is not against flesh and blood. No matter how corrupt, hostile, or morally depraved a person may be, they remain someone Christ died to save. Every person, regardless of their past or present condition, is a candidate for the grace of God. They are a potential brother or sister in Christ, not an enemy.

Jesus made His mission unmistakably clear. He came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10), and "the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). Notice the difference: Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and to free people from his power, while calling them to turn from sin and walk in the freedom. As His followers, our mission must remain aligned with His. We must be careful not to create a distorted version of Christianity that seeks to destroy people who oppose God—or who oppose us.

This does not mean we ignore sin or remain silent in the face of evil. There are times when we must courageously confront unrighteousness, defend the truth, and protect the vulnerable. But even then, we must remember where the real battle is being fought. When we lose sight of this truth, we often direct our energy toward defeating people. Even if we succeed in overcoming a human opponent, the spiritual influence fueling that person's bondage may remain untouched.

But when we wage war against the true enemy, the outcome can be entirely different. As we stand in the authority of Christ, and resist the powers of darkness, we are not merely trying to win a conflict—we are seeking to see people delivered from the deception and bondage that have held them captive.

That is the kind of victory Jesus came to accomplish. And that is the kind of victory He has called us to pursue.

## **RUN INTO THE BATTLE**

Paul tells us that we are wrestling against these spiritual forces. The word he uses for "against" is the Greek word **pros**, which carries the idea of movement toward something or moving in the direction of an object. This gives us an important picture of how we should view spiritual warfare. It is not merely a matter of standing back, hoping to avoid the enemy's attacks. There is an element of intentional engagement.

Think about the story of David and Goliath. When David faced the giant, he did not wait for Goliath to come charging toward him. He did not remain safely behind the battle lines hoping someone else would deal with the threat. Instead, David ran toward Goliath. He moved toward the battle to engage the enemy before him. That is the picture of **pros**.

This should encourage us to come out of hiding, push past fear, and step into the battles God has called us to fight. Spiritual warfare is not something we should approach with dread or avoidance. It is an opportunity to see the authority and power of Jesus demonstrated through the lives of His followers – US!!

When you experience the authority of Jesus actively working through your life, you are never the same. Fear is replaced with faith. Hesitation is replaced with confidence. Instead of constantly trying to avoid spiritual battles, you begin recognizing opportunities to see God's power bring freedom, breakthrough, and victory. You begin to realize that spiritual warfare is not about seeking conflict—it is about advancing the kingdom of God and helping people experience the freedom that Jesus came to provide.

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 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 Corinthians 10:3-5*

Paul tells us in verse 3 that "though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh." As we have already discussed, this means our battles are not fought using natural, human methods. But it also implies something equally important: if we do not wage war according to the flesh, then it must mean that we must wage war according to another reality.

Notice what Paul says in verse 4: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God..." The fact that Paul refers to our weapons tells us something significant—God has equipped us for a battle that requires engagement.

A soldier is not issued a weapon as a decoration or a symbol of status. No military gives a soldier a rifle and says, "Here, keep this on your shelf as a reminder that you are part of the army." These tools exist for a purpose. They are provided because the soldier is expected to encounter an enemy and use what has been given to him.

In the same way, God has not given us spiritual weapons simply to make us feel secure or to add another religious practice to our lives. He has equipped us because we are engaged in a real spiritual conflict.

We will examine these weapons more thoroughly later in this book and explore what they are and how they function. But for now, we must establish this foundational truth: spiritual warfare is not an unusual experience reserved for a select few believers. It is a normal and expected part of the Christian life.

God has not called us merely to survive the attacks of the enemy the best we can. He has equipped us to stand, resist, overcome, and advance His kingdom.

## WE ARE SOLDIERS

*You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. 2 Timothy 2:3-4*

This truth is unmistakable: you are a soldier.

While Paul does not provide every detail of what that calling involves in this particular passage, Scripture is clear about the fundamental purpose of a soldier—the soldier is trained, equipped, and prepared to engage the enemy. A soldier does not live an undisciplined or distracted life. He trains with purpose. He remains alert. He maintains readiness because he understands that at any moment he may be called upon to step into battle.

The same principle applies to the believer. We have been enlisted into the kingdom of God, equipped with spiritual weapons, and called to stand ready. We are called to a life of discipline, focus, and a willingness to engage when God calls us into the battle. But I do not want us to overlook the most powerful motivation Paul gives us in this passage: **the desire to please the One who enlisted us.**

This truth changes everything.

Our pursuit of spiritual warfare is not driven by a desire for power, recognition, or a fascination with the supernatural. It is driven by love and devotion to the One who called us. When we walk in the authority Jesus has given to His people, we bring pleasure to Him. When we stand against the works of darkness, resist the enemy, and see captives set free, we are participating in the mission of our King.

If nothing else motivates us to pick up our weapons and engage the battle, this should: our obedience and faithfulness bring joy to the heart of the One who enlisted us.

These are just a few New Testament passages that establish the reality of spiritual warfare in the believer's life. Scripture is clear that this battle is real, that our enemy is real, and that God has equipped His people to stand.

Now we will continue by looking at the Old Testament and examining how God has historically worked through His people, the battles they faced, and the role warfare played throughout God's redemptive plan.

## OLD TESTAMENT WARFARE

As I was recently reading through the Old Testament, I found myself returning to the story of Israel—their deliverance from Egypt, their journey through the wilderness, and

the inheritance of the land God had promised to give them. For much of my life, I had viewed these events primarily as historical accounts of God's dealings with a specific people at a specific time.

But as I studied this story again, I began to see something much deeper. I began to recognize that this was not merely a historical narrative—it was a revelation of principles that carry profound significance for the Church today and for every individual believer.

The journey of Israel from slavery to promise reveals patterns that speak directly to our spiritual lives. Their story is not simply about what God did for them thousands of years ago; it reveals truths about what God desires to do in and through His people today.

I began reading these accounts through a different lens—not simply asking, "What happened?" but also asking, "What is God revealing about His ways, His purposes, and our journey with Him?"

The more I examined this story, the more convinced I became that it carries an urgent message for the body of Christ. The battles Israel faced, the enemies they encountered, the victories they experienced, and even the struggles that delayed their progress all reveal important spiritual realities that are still relevant for believers today. Scripture testifies of this:

*1 Corinthians 10:11 says "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."*

Every portion of Scripture contains lessons, warnings, encouragement, and revelations of God's character that are valuable for us today. However, when we examine the context of this passage in 1 Corinthians, we discover something especially significant.

The ten verses preceding this statement recount the experiences of the children of Israel after their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Paul reminds the Corinthians of God's faithfulness, His provision, and His guidance, but he also highlights Israel's failure. In verse 5, he writes, "But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness."

Why did this happen? Because when it was time to enter and possess the Promised Land, they refused to go. They saw the obstacles, focused on the strength of their enemies, and allowed fear to override their faith in what God had spoken. They ran from the battle rather than stepping into the inheritance God had prepared for them. The consequences were devastating.

This account is not simply a record of Israel's failure—it is an admonition to us. It is both an exhortation to choose a better path and a warning that there are consequences

when we refuse to walk in faith and obedience. God had already promised them the land, but they still had to step forward and possess what He had given. Their failure was not because God's promise was insufficient; it was because their faith was inadequate.

I believe we can greatly benefit from taking a closer look at this story and drawing out the spiritual lessons God has preserved for us. The journey of Israel reveals truths about deliverance, faith, obedience, spiritual opposition, and the inheritance God desires His people to experience.

So, let's begin by looking at the backstory.

When God called Abraham out of the land of Ur of the Chaldeans, He made a covenant promise to him—a promise that included a specific land that would become the inheritance of his descendants. That promise was passed from Abraham to Isaac and then to Jacob. Generation after generation carried the hope of what God had spoken. But between the promise and the possession came a season of suffering and bondage.

The descendants of Abraham found themselves enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. Yet even in their captivity, God had not forgotten His covenant. When He sent Moses to deliver Israel from Egypt, He came not only with power to break their chains but also with a renewed declaration of the promise He had made to their fathers:

*Exodus 3:8 "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites."*

When God brought Israel out of Egypt, He did not lead them directly into the Promised Land. Their journey took more than a year, with approximately eleven months spent at Mount Sinai, where God gave them His law, established instructions for worship, and revealed how they were to live as His covenant people. During this time, the tabernacle and its furnishings were constructed, and God faithfully provided for their every need. The Israelites needed this season. They needed to experience the faithfulness of God. For generations, all they had known was slavery—a life controlled by others, marked by oppression, and defined by limitations. They needed to learn that the God who delivered them was also the God who would sustain them.

Eventually, they arrived at the border of the Promised Land. At God's instruction, twelve spies were sent to explore the land and bring back a report. When they returned, this was part of their testimony:

"We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey...."  
Numbers 13:27

The land was exactly as God had promised. It **was** a land flowing with milk and honey. But it was also a land filled with giants.

Did God forget to mention the giants? That seems like quite a significant detail to leave out. Yet we see throughout Scripture that this is often God's way, and understanding this principle is essential.

If we look back at Luke 1:30-33, which records the words of the angel announcing to Mary that she had been chosen to bring the Messiah into the world, the angel spoke of thrones and kingdoms, but there was no mention of the cross. Once again, it appears to be a glaring omission.

But consider what that knowledge would have meant for Mary. How would knowing the details of Jesus' suffering have affected the way she embraced her role as His mother? How would it have impacted the way she raised Him as a child? Who could willingly surrender their child to God while knowing the suffering He would endure?

God, in His wisdom, knows that we cannot always handle every detail of the journey ahead. Often, for our own good, He reveals the destination without revealing every obstacle we will encounter along the way. He gives us enough light to take the next step, but not always enough information to see the entire path.

Had Israel known about the giants before they ever left Egypt, they may have never begun the journey. But God was preparing them along the way. Through every miracle, every provision, and every demonstration of His power, He was building their faith for the battle ahead.

They were fully capable of possessing the land, just as Joshua and Caleb declared. The issue was not the size of the giants—it was the size of their faith in the promise of God. They allowed what they saw with their natural eyes to become greater than what God had spoken. They chose to flee rather than fight.

The consequences were tragic. Israel would not have another opportunity to enter the Promised Land for forty years. Forty additional years of wandering. Forty additional years in which the enemies of God continued to occupy the land that had been promised to His people because His people were unwilling to engage the battle required to possess it.

God's original intention was for everyone who came out of Egypt to enter the Promised Land. Yet not everyone did. In fact, sadly, most of them never experienced the inheritance God had prepared for them.

What a tragedy—the very deliverance that was intended to bring them into a place of abundance became a journey of wilderness wandering. God had prepared a dwelling place where they could live, thrive, and experience His goodness, but because of fear and unbelief, they never enjoyed even one day of it.

The promise was real. The land was available. The victory was possible. But they had to believe God enough to fight for what He had promised.

## **THIS IS WHY IT MATTERS**

Just as the Lord promised Israel a land, He has also promised believers in Jesus an inheritance. Theirs was a physical possession—a land they could see, inhabit, and cultivate. Ours is a spiritual possession—an inheritance found in Christ and made available through Him. But there is a striking parallel between their journey and ours: just as Israel faced enemies standing between them and the fullness of what God had promised, we also face spiritual adversaries who seek to prevent us from walking in the fullness of our inheritance.

And just as Israel was commanded to overcome those enemies and possess the land, we are also called to stand, resist, and overcome the spiritual forces that oppose the purposes of God in our lives.

Many believers assume that the moment they come to Christ for salvation, they automatically experience the complete reality of everything that belongs to them as children of God. While salvation immediately brings us into covenant relationship with God and gives us access to His promises, Scripture reveals that there is a process of possessing, growing, overcoming, and walking in the fullness of what Christ has provided.

Our allegiance to Christ has brought us into conflict with the kingdom of darkness. The enemy's purpose (if he can't lead us to hell) is to keep us from experiencing the abundant life Jesus came to give us. He accomplishes this by lulling us into spiritual complacency, encouraging passivity and laziness, or deceiving us into believing that a powerless, defeated Christian life is normal simply because we see many other believers experiencing the same thing. Can I encourage you with this truth? It may be common but it is not normal.

For those of us who have been too passive, too comfortable, or too afraid to engage the enemy—those who have settled for a life without risk, without resistance, and without victory—this is not what we were created for. We were not delivered from bondage only to wander aimlessly in the wilderness. We were called to enter into the inheritance God has prepared for us. And we must understand this: our failure to fight does not only affect us. When we refuse to engage the battles God has called us to

fight, we often experience loss that extends beyond our own lives and can impact future generations.

Numbers 14:33 'And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness.

Their refusal to enter the Promised Land affected more than just their own lives. The children they were trying to protect were the very ones who suffered because of their unbelief. The generation that should have grown up enjoying the blessings of the land instead spent their childhood and youth wandering through the wilderness because of the fear and disobedience of those who came before them. Your refusal to confront every enemy and receive everything God has made available to you affects more than just you.

Perhaps the most tragic part is that the battle they feared was not even as impossible as they imagined. The very people they were afraid to fight—the inhabitants of the land they were called to possess—were already terrified of them.

God had already gone before them.

Deuteronomy 2:25 'This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the nations under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you, and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.'

Joshua 2:24 And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."

Consider the words of Rahab:

Joshua 2:8-11 Now before they lay down, she (Rahab) came up to them on the roof, and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

Notice something remarkable: all of this fear existed before Israel had ever won a single battle in the Promised Land. The enemy was already intimidated by the people of God because of what He had done in Egypt.

The same principle applies today. The enemy is more aware of who we are in Christ than many believers are. Hell trembles when God's people awaken to their identity, take

hold of His promises, and begin walking in the authority He has given them. Why? Because the resources of heaven stand behind a people who are surrendered to God and committed to His purposes. Hell knows this.

Would to God that we did too.

When we consider the Old Testament stories as types and shadows, we see powerful spiritual parallels. Israel's deliverance from Egypt is a picture of salvation—the believer being brought out of bondage and set free by the power of God.

But if the Promised Land represented heaven, there would be no enemies to conquer. There would be no battles to fight. There would be no opposition to overcome. Heaven is not a place of warfare or struggle.

The Promised Land, therefore, is a picture of something else: the believer's life on this earth—the life God intends us to experience as we walk in His promises.

A land flowing with milk and honey.  
A land of blessing and provision.  
A land of inheritance.  
And yes...  
A land with giants.

So, now we begin to see an Old Testament picture revealing a New Testament reality. Israel had a land to possess—a place God had promised, prepared, and intended for them to inhabit. But they had to believe His promise, overcome their enemies, and step into what God had already made available.

The same principle applies to us today. Through Christ, God has given believers an inheritance. There are spiritual realities, promises, and blessings that are ours because we belong to Him. Yet, just as Israel had enemies standing between them and their inheritance, we also face opposition that seeks to keep us from experiencing the fullness of what God has provided.

## **THE DEVIL HAS NO RIGHTS—AND YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE HE KNOWS IT**

We must remember that everything God has given us as an inheritance belongs to us because He has freely provided it through Christ. The enemy has no legitimate claim to these things. Yet that does not stop him from attempting to steal, hinder, or intimidate us out of experiencing them. He will challenge our understanding of what belongs to us and see whether we resist or retreat.

Think about the account in Jude where Michael the archangel contended with the devil over the body of Moses. The devil had no rightful claim to Moses' body, yet he still made an attempt. Why? Because the enemy will often challenge what he has no right to possess, hoping that someone will fail to resist.

Consider what could have happened if the enemy had succeeded. Imagine the potential for deception if Israel had possessed the physical remains of Moses and turned them into an object of worship. The one who sought to destroy Moses could have used even Moses' legacy to lead God's people into idolatry.

This is the enemy's strategy. He attempts to convince us that we cannot truly possess what God has clearly promised. He whispers that freedom, victory, authority, intimacy with God, and spiritual effectiveness are not really available to us. His hope is that we will believe the lie, stop pressing forward, and surrender ground that God has already given us.

But we must understand this: the enemy's challenge does not establish his right. The enemy is contesting our possession of the abundant spiritual life God has provided, but we are called to contend for it.

I love that word: contend.

It sounds like a warrior's word because it is. To contend means "to endeavor with strenuous zeal" and "to strive to obtain something." It carries the idea of determined effort, persistence, and refusing to surrender what God has promised.

The Christian life is not intended to be passive. If we refuse to stand and resist the enemy, we will inevitably drift into a life of spiritual mediocrity. We will be governed by our natural, fleshly thinking and influenced by those around us who do not recognize spiritual realities. Instead of living as sons and daughters of the Kingdom, we will live as though we are mere men.

Paul warned the Corinthians about this very thing:

*"For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?"* (1 Corinthians 3:3)

God has called us to something higher.

Joshua gives us a powerful picture of what it looks like to walk in victory over defeated enemies:

Joshua 10:24-25 So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went

with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks. Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

Notice what Joshua did not say: he did not tell them to ignore the enemy, pretend the enemy did not exist, or hope the enemy would simply disappear. He brought them close enough to see that their enemies had been defeated, and he commanded them to take their position of authority over them.

There is no victory over an enemy you refuse to confront.

It is time for God's people to stop surrendering ground that Christ has already purchased.

It is time to recognize what belongs to us, resist what opposes us, and stand confidently in the authority given to us through Jesus.

It is time to put our foot on the enemy's neck.