

Persevering under trial

Fiery trials

- Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation....
- 1 Peter 4:12-13NASB

Supernatural struggle

- Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against **the schemes of the devil**. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places**. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm....Eph 6:11-13 NASB

Struggle – pale

- Thayer's Greek Lexicon
- STRONGS NT 3823: πάλη
- **a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able θλίβειν καί κατέχειν his prostrate antagonist, i. e. hold him down with his hand upon his neck; the term is transferred to the struggle of Christians with the powers of evil: Ephesians 6:12.**

Fighting from a place of rest!

- Knowing that God is on your side!
- He is not the author of evil but good – He gives good gifts to His children, however He will still use evil circumstances but turn them for your good.
- Knowing that you are worthy of His help and protection and to receive from Him because He has cancelled out every sin debt
- Knowing that you have what it takes for victory because you have His divine nature in You

The promised land is a land of rest

- The promised land is a **place** of resting from our “works” and receiving the blessings of God – land flowing with milk and honey
- The Israelites had to wander for forty years because of unbelief – psalm 95, Hebrews 3
- “I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter my rest” Heb 3:11, Psalm 95:11
- **Heb 4:3 “For we who have believed enter that rest”**

The place of rest

Strong's Concordance

menuchah: resting place, rest

Original Word: מְנוּחָה

Part of Speech: Noun Feminine

Short Definition: rest

because you have not yet arrived **at the place of rest**, the land the LORD your God is giving you as your special possession. Deut 12:9 NLT

Jesus has taken us out of slavery and into the promised land

- Jesus was baptised by John the baptist – the Israelites were baptised through the red sea
- 1 Cor 10v2
- Jesus was tested in the wilderness for 40days, the Israelites wandered for 40 years in the wilderness
- Jesus came out in the power of the Spirit and started to destroy the works of the enemy – Joshua took the Israelites into the promised land and began expelling the enemies

Our citizenship is in heaven

- We are already seated in heavenly places – Ephesians 2:6
- We are citizens of heaven - Philippians 3:20
- We draw near to the throne of grace with confidence – Hebrews 4:16
- We have been given power and authority - Luke 10:19
- We are a royal priesthood - 1 Peter 2:9

There are enemies to expel in the promised land

Our enemies – sickness, depression, poverty,
discord, hatred, unbelief, idolatry

Some battles are won instantly, others take time
and are won bit by bit, step by step

Know you will face resistance

- Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers and principalities of this dark world
- A lot of the resistance will be in order to put doubt in your mind about who you are – that's why the armour of God is there to protect you

Fighting from a place of rest!

- Knowing that God is on your side!
- He is not the author of evil but good – He gives good gifts to His children, however He will still use evil circumstances but turn them for your good.
- Knowing that you are worthy of His help and protection and to receive from Him because He has cancelled out every sin debt
- Knowing that you have what it takes for victory because you have His divine nature in You

What are we fighting?

- When He (Jesus) had **disarmed** the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. 2 Col 15
- apekduomai: to strip off from oneself
- Original Word: ἄπεκδύομαι
- Transliteration: apekduomai
- Phonetic Spelling: (ap-ek-doo'-om-ahee)
- Short Definition: I strip, divest, renounce

Helps word studies

- 554 apekdýomai (from 575 /apó, "away from," which intensifies 1562 /ekdýō "go down and completely away from") – "**completely strip off**," thoroughly renounce. The double prefixes (apo, ek) strongly emphasize the depth of the renouncing. This "renunciation (stripping right off) is very emphatic" (Nigel Turner, Christian Words, 366).
- 554 /apekdýomai ("stripping completely off") was "probably coined by Paul meaning, 'I put off' (as a garment), 'from myself, I throw off' " (Souter; note the prefix, apo).

2 Colossians 15

- And the hostile princes and rulers **He shook off from Himself**, and boldly displayed them as His conquests, when by the Cross He triumphed over them.
(Weymouth New Testament)
- having **put off from himself** the principalities and the powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.(English Revised Version)
- When He (Jesus) had **disarmed** the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (NASB)

Colossians 3:9

- Don't lie to each other, for you have **stripped off** your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.
NLT
- Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **put off** the old self with its practices ESV
- Do not lie to one another, since you **laid aside** the old self with its evil practices, NASB

What are we fighting?

- Disarmed means stripped
- He is defeated through the cross but he still roams around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour and we are told to be alert and resist him – 1Peter 5:8-9
- When he comes against us we can strip ourselves free of his schemes – don't wear the clothes he wants you to wear!

Resist

- **Resist the devil and he will flee from you** James 4:7
- anthistémi: to set against, i.e. withstand
- Original Word: ἀντίστημι
- Phonetic Spelling: (anth-is'-tay-mee)
- Short Definition: I take a stand against, oppose, resist
- Definition: I set against; I withstand, resist, oppose.

- 436 anthístēmi (from 473 /antí, "opposite/against" and 2476 /hístēmi, "to stand") – properly, **take a complete stand against, i.e. a "180 degree, contrary position"; (figuratively) to establish one's position publicly by conspicuously "holding one's ground," i.e. refusing to be moved ("pushed back").**
- 436 /anthístēmi ("**oppose fully**") means to forcefully declare one's personal conviction (where they unswervingly stand); to keep one's possession; ardently withstand, without giving up (letting go).
- [436 (anthístēmi) was a military term in classical Greek (used by Thucydides, etc.) meaning "**to strongly resist an opponent**" ("**take a firm stand against**").]

The enemy is like a squatter – squatters have no right in your house

- God is on your side. – there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Rom 8
- Squatters have no legal right in your house
- The enemy has no right to accuse you.
- Revelation 12:10
- Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. NASB

The LORD rebukes Satan

- Then he showed me **Joshua the high priest** standing before the angel of the LORD, and **Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.** **2**The LORD said to Satan, "**The LORD rebuke you, Satan!** Indeed, the LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" **3****Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel.** **4**He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, "**Remove the filthy garments from him.**" **Again he said to him, "See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes."** ...
Zechariah 3:1-4 NASB...

- Adversaries Oppose the Rebuilding

- EZRA 4:1-5 ESV

1 Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the Lord, the God of Israel, **2** they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here." **3** But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."
4 Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build **5** and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Nothing to accuse us for!

- When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, **having forgiven us all our transgressions,** ¹⁴ **having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us,** which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, **having nailed it to the cross.**
- Colossians 2: 12-14 (NASB)

Righteous apart from the Law!

- For through the Law I **died to the Law**, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for **if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly**. Gal 2:20

Do you remember who you are?

- ²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is **like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.**

²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

James1:22-25NIV

Who are you?

- You have **died with Christ** Rom6:6, Colossians3:3
- You have been buried with Christ in baptism and **raised again** in newness of life Rom 6:4
- You are a **new creation** 2 Cor 5:17
- Once you were darkness, now you are **light** in the Lord Eph 5:8
- You are a **saint** 1 Cor 6:2
- You are a **child of God** Eph 1:5, John1:12
- You are members of **Christ's body** Eph5:30
- You are **His bride** Eph 5:23-32

Who are you?

- You are **seated in heavenly places** Eph2:6
- You have the **mind of Christ** 1 Cor 2:16
- You have the **same Spirit** that raised Christ from the dead dwelling in you Rom 8:11
- You have **authority** over all the power of the evil one Luke 10:19, Mark 16:18
- You are **dead to sin** Rom 6:11

Philemon 1:6 – the knowledge of what is in you through Christ makes your faith effectual

- and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become **effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.** (NASB)
- that the fellowship of thy faith may become **working** in the **full knowledge of every good thing that is in you toward Christ Jesus;** (Youngs literal translation)
- that the fellowship of thy faith may become **effectual, in the knowledge of every good thing which is in you,** unto Christ. (English revised version)

The word of God works in you when you believe!

- For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, **the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.** 1 Thess 2:13

God's word needs to be mixed with faith Hebrews 4:2

For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but **the word they heard did not profit them**, because it was **not united by faith** in those who heard. NASB

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but **the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith** in them that heard *it*. KJB

You have what it takes for victory
because His divine nature is in you.

- seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the **true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may **become partakers of the divine nature, 2 Peter 1:3-4**

Born again of imperishable seed

- for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.
1 Peter 1:23 NASB

The Law of liberty – free access to God

You can approach the throne of grace with
boldness and confidence Hebrews 4:16

**Blessed are those whose transgressions are
forgiven, whose sins are covered.**

**Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never
count against them.**

Romans 4:7-8

Romans 8:2

because through Christ Jesus the **law of the Spirit** who gives life has **set you free from the law of sin and death.**

Galatians 5:18

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Romans 7:6

But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been **released from the law** so that we serve in the **new way of the Spirit**, and not in the old way of the written code.

The Law of liberty - adoption

- so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.**

Gal 4:6-7

The Law of liberty - adoption

- For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a **spirit of slavery** leading to fear again, but you have received a **spirit of adoption** as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" **The Spirit Himself testifies** with our spirit that we are **children of God**,
Rom 8:14-16 (NASB)

The Law of liberty is the Law of love

- The Law of love:
- so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to **know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God....Eph 3:17-19**
- Walk in love just as Christ also loved you Eph 5:2

The Law of liberty

- Now **the Lord is the Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, **there is liberty**. But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are **being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit**. 2 Cor 3:17-18