

Christians Are In A Spiritual Battle

'Know this, in the last days stressful times will come, for people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of Godliness but deny the power thereof. Turn away from these people ... Yes, all who desire to live Godly lives in Jesus will suffer persecution but evil people and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived' (2 Timothy 3:1 to 13).

These verses are a very accurate description of the situation we find ourselves in today. Fifty years ago, people would line up at the door of a church waiting for the service to start. The streets were safe. Violent crime was extremely rare. Suicide bombers did not exist. From there the human race has degenerated to a world of selfishness, violence and Godlessness. The increasing unbelief in God the Father, Jesus and creation, is causing the degeneration of human character and that in turn causes stress for God-fearing Christians. What is more devastating is the fact Apostle Paul was writing about religious people who 'had a form of Godliness but denied the power'. They were people who had faith but not necessarily Christian faith. There are many false 'Christian' religions in the world and all their adherents have a form of religion but deny the Truth of the Gospel. They are impostors. We are told to turn away from such people. These religious people refuse to obey the Word of God so they can change to be like Jesus, as we are all to aspire to. The people referred to in these passages never learn the Truth. They choose to follow after false prophets, false teachings, false teachers and they turn away from the truth of the Gospel and follow after 'fables' or false religions.

Apostle Paul then tells his fellow believers he is about to be murdered (by Nero) and exhorts them to fight for the Gospel like he fought so they will receive the Crown of Righteousness. 'I command you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus, Who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom: preach the Word, be urgent in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke and exhort with all patience and teaching, for the time will come when people will not listen to sound doctrine, but having itching ears, will heap up for themselves (false) teachers after their own lusts and will turn away their ears from the Truth and will turn aside to fables. But you be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist and fulfil your ministry. I am already being offered as a sacrifice and the time of my departure from earth has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. From now on, there is stored up for me the Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will give to me on that day, and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved His appearing' (2 Timothy 4:1 to 8).

How do we fight this terrible daily spiritual battle? By putting on the Armour of Light (Romans 13:12). 'Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole Armour of God so you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Our spiritual wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the evil principalities, against the powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore, put on the whole armour of God so you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand and not fall' (Ephesians 6:10 to 13).

What is the whole armour of God? Truth, righteousness, the Gospel, peace, faith, salvation, the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, prayer, a thankful heart, praise and worship. 'Stand therefore, having the belt of Truth buckled around your waist. Put on the breastplate of righteousness, fit your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Holy Spirit, which is the spoken Word of God' (Ephesians 6:14 to 17). There are more weapons of warfare given to us to use against the evil one. 'Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Jesus toward you and do not quench the Holy Spirit' (1 Thessalonians 5:17 to 19). Jesus has given us, 'The oil (the Holy Spirit) of joy, the garment of praise (and worship)' (Isaiah 61:3). Having the whole armour of God protects us from deception (Ephesians 5:6), it gives us wisdom (Ephesians 3:10), knowledge and discernment (Philippians 1:9), it enables us to fulfil our ministry (2 Timothy 4:5) and keeps us from falling into temptation to sin (Jude 1:24). We still come under attack and may sometimes need prayer support from fellow believers (Galatians 6:2), but we know the Lord will deliver us from evil people that are driven by evil forces (2 Thessalonians 3:2). Many of us are vexed sore by the sin and evil around us.

Lawlessness, violence, theft, abortion, homosexuality, promiscuity and hundreds of other ungodly actions are taking place day and night all over the world. Like the Egyptians who had their 'gods' so many people in the world follow their religious gods and idols, but there are other idols people worship, like sporting 'heroes',

movie stars and rock bands. What is sad is when Christians are involved in this kind of idolatry. They do not realise the devil is behind the deception. The devil was once the worship leader of heaven able to play stringed and wind instruments and percussion (Isaiah 14:11; Ezekiel 28:13) and when he became puffed up with pride and sinned, he was cast out of the highest heaven but still maintained his musical gift and he uses that gift to deceive especially young people into idolatry by encouraging them to idolise rock bands and their satanic music. Music is one great spiritual battle and churches have to be careful not to allow so-called 'Christian' rock music. Many genuine, dedicated believers are being driven out of church because of the worldly music being played in the churches that is being passed off as 'Christian'. Music is one area where Christians need discernment.

We need to have discernment regarding spiritual manifestations. The Egyptians worshipped animals, birds and even insects. When Moses threw down his rod, it turned into a snake. Most monarchs would be impressed by that, but when the Pharaohs magicians threw their rods down, they also became snakes. We must understand, we need to be careful about the manifestation of the supernatural because good and evil manifestations can appear to be the same. Moses' rod/snake ate all the other snakes and the magicians were left without their rods. Moses turned water into blood and the magicians could do the same. When Moses called frogs out of the waters, the magicians could do the same, but when Moses turned dust into lice, the magicians could not do it and then they realised, God the Creator was involved, then Pharaoh asked Moses to pray for him. The Lord always wins His battles and humbles the wicked.

During these last days there may possibly be open confrontation between Christians and wicked people. Those who refuse to compromise will have to be prayerfully ready for the onslaught of evil spiritual power that is increasing the world over. Genuine believers will stand up for righteousness and not compromise, whereas lukewarm believers do tend to compromise. The final conflict will be between the 'superpowers' – God and the devil; God's people and the devil's people. It is one thing to sing, 'We are the people of power' but it is another thing to have the faith and the desire to use the power of God. God's servants need to be equipped with the whole armour of God to deal with the increase of sin and in the end, God's servants will be victorious when we demonstrate the supernatural power of God and take a stand against the evil around us. Believers who want to live Godly lives and who take a stand against unrighteousness will be persecuted by lukewarm Christians, evil non-believers, followers of false religions and sometimes their own families. We are in a spiritual battle. When we are faithfully walking with the Lord, sometimes demon possessed people will react strongly to us and hate us without cause, harassing us, swearing at us, threatening us, vexing us and mocking us. What we must do is pray for them. Jesus said, "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who mistreat and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). It is very hard to pray for someone who is openly threatening, persecuting and harassing us but Jesus prayed for the men who were in the process of murdering him (Luke 23:34), so did Stephen (Acts 7:60). When we are active in the deliverance ministry we must always stick closely to the scriptures and cover ourselves in prayer and keep ourselves under the blood covering of Jesus.

Many mainstream church leaders have watered down the scriptures regarding deliverance and demon possession so they will not upset the congregations by teaching hard sermons. The power of the Word of God has been undermined by the continual watering down of the scriptures and the denial of the power of the Holy Spirit to the point where many people do not know we have been given authority over all the power the enemy once had (Luke 10:19). He is a defeated enemy and we need to stand against him by quoting scripture just like Jesus did (Matthew 4:4, 7 & 10). If a person is to become a mature Christian, they need the whole Bible, even verses that are hard to bear, not just nice memory verses here and there. We are told to: Before God and the Lord Jesus who will judge the living and the dead, preach the Word of God (2 Timothy 4:2). That is the whole Word of God, not carefully selected verses or watered down words of power. We need to be ready at all times to give an account of the hope we have in Jesus (1 Peter 3:15). The Bible is sufficient for us. The information is boundless. We need to get people thoroughly grounded in the Word of God and we need to make the cross central to our lives and never push the truth of the cross to one side. The cross makes the Christian faith totally unique. No other religion has a Messiah who died for them and rose again and still lives. Our faith stands or falls at the cross. We cannot in any way combine that message with any other religion. They are totally incompatible. Jesus is the Son and He is also God our Creator (Titus 2:13; Colossians 1:16 & 17). He gave His life as a sacrifice. No other so-called 'prophet' ever did that. We must never back away from the whole message of the cross, as gory as it is, because through the cross of Jesus, He wrought eternal victory. People of the cross are permanently changed people. We are not asked to come up with a new message when we preach – we are asked to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom every time, throughout the entire earth before Jesus returns (Matthew 24:14).

Kingdom believers overcame the devil because the Word of God was abiding in them (1 John 2:14). The minute we are born-again, we go to war against the prince of darkness. We need to have the Word of God abiding in us to enable us to fight the devil and that is what Jesus used against the devil – the Word of God. He said, “It is written” then He quoted scripture and we must learn to do the same. We have the Word of God and the cross. The devil is not interested in what church we attend; he is interested in how we thrust at him with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Jesus never tried to impress the devil. He quoted the scriptures and He is our example, but if we do not know what is written, how can we quote verses we do not know? We need to study the whole Bible so we are able to use our weapons of warfare effectively. ‘The weapons of our warfare are not physical or of the flesh, but are mighty before God to the throwing down of satanic strongholds’ (2 Corinthians 10:4). The believers in Jesus, the cross and the blood, overcame the devil by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives even at the point of death (Revelation 12:11). They were totally committed. The devil is a religious being and he has no problem with church, or with uncommitted or lukewarm Christians who go through religious rituals. The devil knows those who are committed and he is afraid of them. Those who did not love their lives were more interested in serving God than staying alive. Just as a committed army soldier would never be guaranteed, never to be killed in the line of duty, so too a soldier in God’s army may be killed for their commitment. That thought may be alien to some, but it is very real for believers in some countries who are facing persecution and death every day. Believers in those countries where they are being persecuted are very committed people. We need to work with the people who really mean business with God and not waste time with the uncommitted, the people who have a form of Godliness but deny the power of God.

How to make spiritual warfare. We must recognise and honour intercessors. They are the backbone of Christianity. Intercession is a calling just like leadership and teaching are callings. Intercessors are essential to the welfare of the Body of Jesus worldwide. They are as essential to the Body as the heart and lungs are to the human body. Every believing person needs to pray, but there are people who are especially called to be intercessors and their lives evolve around their calling. Church leaderships need to cultivate, encourage, honour and support all their intercessors. We need to show them just how important they really are. Intercessors are set apart. They are closer to God than most people for the very reason they seek His face more than other people. They have to spend time alone with God because we cannot intercede effectively with people around us. We must separate ourselves even from our families to be able to intercede effectively. All that time alone plus the constant closeness to the Lord makes them seem different to others who do not spend as much time in prayer. All churches need to develop a ministry of intercession within their own congregations. It is intercessors who can turn away the judgements of God against a nation. One such intercessor lived in an area on the East Coast of Australia about to be hit with a devastating cyclone. This woman went out to the beach, faced the cyclone and commanded it in the name of Jesus, to go back out to sea and die and do no harm or damage. That is exactly what the cyclone did much to the amazement of the meteorologists. That is the power of God in action. Every God-fearing believer has the authority to calm weather storms. Jesus did that and He is our example. He gave us the authority so all we need to do is use the power we have had bestowed upon us.

Spiritual battles are won with different pieces of armoury. Praise and worship in song is a very strong weapon. It can render evil people powerless. When Jehoshaphat went into battle, he selected singers to praise God with a very loud voice and they won the battle (2 Chronicles 20:20 to 22). The Lord fights for us. The battle is His not ours but to gain victory, we have to do what He tells us in each individual battle. In this instance, the Lord called for praise and singers. The ordained strength of His people is sometimes perfect praise. ‘From the lips of babes and infants you have established strength because of your enemies and you will silence the enemy and the avenger’ (Psalm 8:2). When children began praising Jesus He said, ‘Out of the mouth of babes you have perfected praise’ (Matthew 21:15 & 16). The devil accuses us night and day (Revelation 12:10) so it is good to silence him by praising God and God has given us the power to silence him (Luke 9:1). There is power in praise. It is the key that releases God’s power to act, and with good Godly music it has even more power (Habakkuk 3:19). When Paul and Silas were imprisoned, their loud praises shook the ground and opened the prison doors (Acts 16:25). Worship, also called high praise can be as powerful as a spiritual two-edged sword (Psalm 149:6). Every congregation needs to have good worship leaders who can bring the people to a point of high praise and into the presence of God. Middling, watery praise is nice but lacks power. Real worship can change the life of a congregation. Worship in song brings us into a complete union and oneness with God (1 Corinthians 6:17), it causes spiritual growth and because we have been given the authority over all the powers of darkness, people have been delivered of evil spirits during collective worship.

When we take authority over evil spirits in people, it brings about a clash of the kingdoms and can result in a long spiritual battle. The two kingdoms are the Kingdom of God and of Light, and the other is the devil's kingdom of darkness and both kingdoms are being played out on earth amongst humanity. These kingdoms are clearly spoken of several times in scripture. The moment Jesus began His ministry He declared His Kingdom. The message of the Gospel is the message of the Kingdom to guide us to salvation. When Jesus first began preaching He said to repent and believe the Gospel for the Kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:15). When Jesus prepared to leave the earth He gave His disciples instructions and said, 'This Gospel of the Kingdom must be preached as a witness to all nations, then the end will come' (Matthew 24:14). The end cannot come until the whole earth in this generation has heard the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. There is more about the Kingdom in the Gospels than most people realise. God is now placing fresh emphasis on the Kingdom message, but as we look to the Kingdom of God, we need also to learn about the kingdom of darkness and how it operates, knowing full well we have been given authority over all the powers the devil and his demons once had. They have been stripped of their evil powers by the power of the blood of Jesus and the cross (Colossians 2:15). What Christians need to lay hold of, is the authority we have in Jesus. When we speak to a demon within a person and cast it out in the name of Jesus, the devil and his cohorts no longer have the strength to withstand our spoken word because we have been given the authority over all demonic power and demons must flee. The one major piece of knowledge the devil wants to keep concealed, is we believers, representing God's Kingdom have complete authority over the devil, if we apply it with a pure heart and in submission to the Lordship of Jesus.

Jesus very clearly said the devil has a kingdom and there is no division in that kingdom. The devil completely dominates his realm. God has His Kingdom but His Kingdom is not ruled by domination. God's Kingdom is ruled by voluntary submission to the Lordship of Jesus. Whenever there is domination it is the work of the devil. It is never the will of God for one person to dominate another. The devil's kingdom is ruled by compulsion and fear not by submission and love. Jesus said, "If I by the Spirit of God cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you" (Matthew 12:28). Here we can see the two kingdoms in open confrontation. Demons have to submit to the authority of Jesus and the major scriptural evidence of the Kingdom of God is the demonstration of Jesus and the power of His name over evil spirits. It is what the devil fears and opposes at every opportunity. When we take dominion over evil spirits we are showing the reality of the two kingdoms, the ongoing conflict between the two kingdoms and the supremacy of God over the devil. We do not need to fear the devil. He is only a created being. He has never been a god. He has only ever been an anointed cherub who became proud and sinned, but for any being that was in heaven and has fallen into sin, there is no redemption (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6). Certainly the devil roams around looking for people to devour (1 Peter 5:8), but that does not mean the Lord allows him to attack. The devil is utterly and completely under the control of God and we have the authority to resist him and get rid of him (James 4:7). Non-believers and unsaved people have no authority over the devil. While people are in darkness they are under the authority of the devil. God's authority only comes to us when we submit our lives to Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit.

The meeting point of this kingdom conflict is on earth and with humanity. 'Give thanks to the Father Who made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light and Who delivered us out of the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love in Whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins' (Colossians 1:12 to 14). Jesus declared His authority over the kingdom of darkness. 'All power has been given to Me in heaven and on earth' (Matthew 28:18). Why did Jesus say heaven? Many people think there is no opposing force in heaven but the devil can still go there. The headquarters of the devil's kingdom is in the second heaven. He is the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:1 & 2; 6:12). Some evil angels are confined to hell to await judgement but the devil's judgement has not happened yet so he is free to roam the earth looking for trouble and can still present himself to God. He is free to travel between heaven and earth – for now. He walks around the earth, but the seat of his kingdom is in heaven. Once the devil is tossed into the lake of fire, he will never again have any authority over any demon, fallen angel or person. In fact he will be mocked when people and fallen angels realise he has been stripped of all his power and he is as weak as them (Isaiah 14:10, 16 to 19). It is mankind's disobedience to God that opens the door to demonic influence and even possession. All believers need the whole armour of God because we will all have conflict with the kingdom of darkness at some time. The realm of his authority is in the air causing some of the world's leaders to rule by the influence of evil spirits.

We know there is a third heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2) so logically there is a first and a second heaven. The first heaven is where the sun, moon and stars are. The second heaven is where the devil lives and the devil is obviously not where God dwells. A major clash of the kingdoms is described in the book of Daniel, when a holy angel had to pass from the third heaven, through the devil's territory in the second heaven, during which

time he wrestled with a powerful demon he called 'the prince of Persia', then down to earth to speak to Daniel then he had to return to the third heaven and on the way wrestled with the same evil demonic ruler again (Daniel 10:13 & 20). The devil's kingdom is in the heavenly level where he can present himself to God and he comes to the earthly level where he causes trouble for mankind. He rules over two types of beings. On the heavenly level he rules over evil spirits and on the earthly level, he rules over the children of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2). According to the scriptures, the devil has the earth divided up and has authority in the unseen realm. The Persian Empire had its own evil ruler, just like the Greek Empire had its own evil ruler. There were four Gentile empires and each had its own evil ruler both on earth and in the heavenly realm; Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. God has committed to the church, the responsibility of dealing with evil beings to cast down the devil's kingdom from the heavenlies. Jesus said He saw the devil fall like a streak of lightning from heaven to earth (Luke 10:18). The church is called to conduct the spiritual battle on God's behalf. God still has to establish His government in the second heaven where the devil currently has his headquarters and rules the kingdom of darkness. He will eventually be cast out forever (Revelation 20:2 & 3). After one thousand years the devil will be released on earth for a short time to deceive nations but will never again be able to enter heaven (Revelation 20:7 & 8). After a short time the devil will be thrown into the lake of fire and the kingdom of darkness will be finished forever (Revelation 20:10).

Jesus spoke in parables about the earthly Kingdom from where dedicated and committed followers of Jesus inherit the heavenly Kingdom of God (Matthew 25:1 to 46). The obedience to God's Word is left to believers. Many times Christians ask Jesus to do something He has given us the authority to do. God will not do what He has commissioned us to do. Abraham had to chase the birds of the air away (Genesis 15:11), and birds are sometimes symbolic of evil whisperers. 'A bird of the air will tell the matter' (Ecclesiastes 10:20). We need to drive demons out and not ask Jesus to do it. Jesus told Christians to do that. He gave us the authority on His behalf and all we need to do is exercise that authority in His name. 'These signs will accompany those who believe. In My name they will cast out demons ...' (Mark 16:17). The devil and every demon are subject to Jesus' name. 'God raised Jesus from the dead and made Him to sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule, authority, power, dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age but in the age to come. God put all things in subjection under Jesus' feet and gave Him to be Head over all things for the assembly (church), which is His Body' (Ephesians 1:20 to 23). Jesus is far above all heavens, authorities and rulerships. God has put all things, everything under His feet, or under His Rulership. Jesus is the Head over all things in the church which is His Body. Jesus has all authority on earth, in the heavens and over the entire universe and He is the sole Head of the church. The only reason the church can fulfil its commission on earth is because our Head has all authority over everything, everywhere. We would find it hard to do the work of the church commissioned by God until we can fully appreciate our Head is also the Universal Ruler and there is no religion or government that can resist or withstand the Ruler and Head of the whole universe. Some church leaders are confused because they do not have a clear picture of where the church of God is headed or what its God-given commission really is. The church is headed for the heavenly Kingdom of God and our earthly commission is to be in authority over all demonic forces under the Headship and Rulership of Jesus. When we fully understand the Head of the church is the supremely exalted Messiah of God and all authority was given to Him, hopefully we will focus on eternity and obedience to God and not be lukewarm.

There are kingdoms and governments on earth that will not permit the preaching of the Gospel. We need to talk to Jesus our Head to change the hearts of the governments and rulers. Our task would be impossible if it were not for the authority of Jesus. As we read earlier in this Bible study, the devil has placed demons over every Gentile empire. That also includes smaller areas like villages, towns, cities, territories, countries, nations, kingdoms, royal principalities and duchies, and he has evil beings that seek to seduce people to do his will and they cause havoc in the areas where they rule. Although there is crime and sin the world over, here are a few examples of demonic rule over certain locations. Some cities have excessive violence, crime and lawlessness. Other areas have 'black spots' where there are many inexplicable road accidents. Other places have above average alcoholism. Some countries that should be prosperous are gripped with grinding poverty. Hollywood, with its promiscuity, divorce rate, bad parenting, violent or sexually explicit or demonic science fiction movies is a perfect example of a city under the power of demonic forces. The Middle East and many Arab nations have demonic oppression of women and girls. India should be a very prosperous nation but most of the population live in dreadful poverty. The war never ends in Kashmir. Many countries have a cruel dictator for a leader and the people are terribly oppressed, often tortured and murdered. After the devil has been removed from earth, the responsibility of leadership over various locations will be given to God's faithful redeemed servants. Jesus gave us a parable corresponding with the devil's current rule over cities that are later given to God's people to rule over. Jesus said, "A certain nobleman went into a far country to

receive for himself a kingdom and then to return. He called ten servants of his and gave them ten mina coins (roughly \$50), and told them to, 'Conduct business until I return.'

His citizens hated him and sent an envoy after him saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'

When the nobleman returned having received the kingdom, he commanded the ten servants to whom he had given the money, to be called to him so he might know what they had gained by conducting business on his behalf. The first servant came before him saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten more minas.'

The nobleman said, 'Well done you good servant! Because you were found faithful with very little, you will have authority over ten cities.'

The second servant came saying, 'Your mina, Lord, has made five minas.'

The nobleman said to him, 'And you are to rule over five cities' (Luke 19:12 to 19).

When Jesus returns, all evil rulers, both demons that rule over various locations and evil men that carry out the devil's work will be dislodged and be forced out of rulership. A vacancy will be created on earth and faithful followers of Jesus will fill that vacancy. We will be ruling and reigning with Jesus for one thousand years. 'He made us kings and priests to our God and we will reign on earth' (Revelation 5:10). That is why the devil hates God's people because we are going to take his place of authority over locations. That is why the devil wants to suppress that truth. That is why his primary objective is to keep the church ignorant of their divine role. The devil, the beast and the false prophet work as three utterly evil beings to deceive people and keep as many people out of the Kingdom of God as they can. The false prophet is a powerful evil being, fully in league with the devil to deceive people into believing the lies of false human prophets who start up false religions and thus deceive multitudes, dragging them into a lost eternity. Some such false religions are the 'Branch Davidians' who were almost all killed. Mormons, Scientology, followers of Islam, the 'Children of God' cult and many others are the successes of the false prophet. The beast, the false prophet and later, the devil and all evil people will be tossed into the lake of fire and out of the Lord's presence forever. 'The beast was taken and with him the false prophet ... These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulphur ... The devil who deceived people was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet are. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever ... If anyone's name was not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life, they were cast into the lake of fire ... The cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death' (Revelation 19:20; 20:10; 20:15; 21:8).

To get as far as kings and priests to God, we have to accept we are in a spiritual battle fighting alongside our Lord. Eventually, as we all know, the Lord will win the battle and we will all share in the glorious victory over everything evil. 'Thanks to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus' (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Amen and God bless you.

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