

Spiritual Training Part 3 Walking in Victory and Overcoming Strife

(Two perspectives)

Perspective #1

In the **journey** of spiritual growth, cultivating faith and understanding biblical principles are essential to living a victorious life. This teaching builds upon foundational truths to help us stay on the path of victory, honor God, live a godly life, and assist those in need.

By **revisiting** key scriptures and concepts, we can **deepen** our spiritual training and equip ourselves to overcome challenges with faith, hope, and love.

Faith Statements for Victory

Faith statements serve as **reminders** of God's promises and **empower** us to stand firm in our spiritual walk. These declarations **anchor** us in truth and provide hope amidst life's difficulties. **Below are faith statements that can guide us:**

- 1. Activation of the Armor of God:** "All areas of the armor of God activate in my life in Jesus' name." (Ephesians 6)
- 2. Covered by the Blood:** "I am covered by the blood through water baptism." (Romans 6)
- 3. Clothed with Power:** "I am clothed with power through the baptism in the Holy Spirit." (Luke 24:49)
- 4. Edification through Speaking in Tongues:** "I am edified through speaking in tongues." (1 Corinthians 14:4)
- 5. Binding Love in Harmony:** "I put on the love of God which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (Colossians 3:14)

These statements remind us of our identity in Christ and the spiritual resources available to us.

Understanding Ephesians 6:10-13

Ephesians 6:10-13 provides profound insights into spiritual warfare and highlights the importance of relying on God's strength, **not our own**. **Let us explore these verses in detail.**

Verse 10: Drawing Strength from God's Might

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." (**Ephesians 6:10**)

The term "**might**" reflects exceptional capability, strength, force, and energy—qualities inherent in God's nature. **By faith**, we operate in His capability, strength, ability, force, power, energy, and skill. The Amplified Bible emphasizes being empowered through union with Him and drawing strength from His boundless might.

This verse reminds us that our strength comes from God alone. **It is not by human effort** but by His divine power that we are equipped to face challenges.

Verse 11: Putting on the Whole Armor of God

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (**Ephesians 6:11**)

The armor of God is a **spiritual safeguard** against Satan's methods, which include trickery, deception, and *calculated plans* to undermine believers.

Three key truths emerge from this verse:

- 1. Satan's Methods:** The devil uses schemes to deceive and distract.
- 2. Our Responsibility:** We must actively put on the armor of God.
- 3. The Result:** Doing it God's way enables us to stand firm.

Equipping ourselves with the full armor ensures spiritual resilience and victory over the enemy's tactics.

Verse 12: Recognizing Our True Opponent

"For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, world rulers of this present darkness, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places." (**Ephesians 6:12**)

This verse **clarifies** that our battle is not against people but against spiritual forces.

Understanding this truth helps prevent strife with others. Strife often arises when we mistakenly view people as adversaries rather than recognizing the spiritual root of conflicts.

Jesus demonstrated this principle in **Mark 8:31-33** when He rebuked Peter but addressed Satan's influence behind Peter's words. By **first** addressing spiritual matters through **prayer and delegated authority**, we can avoid unnecessary conflict and maintain peace.

The Dangers of Strife

Strife is a destructive force that disrupts relationships and hinders spiritual growth. **James 3:16** warns, "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice." **Strife leads to confusion**, discord, and every form of evil work.

Definitions and Consequences

The **dictionary defines** strife as discord, conflict, or contention. Related terms include argument, controversy, dispute, quarrel, squabble, wrangle, brawl, and fight. These behaviors stem from selfish ambition and jealousy.

Strife contrasts sharply with **harmony and love**. **Colossians 3:14** reminds us to "put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." **Love fosters** unity and peace, while **strife breeds** division and chaos.

Preventing Strife

To overcome strife, we must adopt a spiritual approach:

- 1. Fight Spiritually First:** Address spiritual influences through prayer before engaging in physical or relational conflicts.
- 2. Operate in Love:** Choose love as a binding force that promotes harmony.
- 3. Recognize True Opponents:** Understand that our struggle is against spiritual forces, not people.

By **applying** these principles, we can maintain composure and avoid being drawn into **unnecessary** disputes.

Ambassadors for Christ

As believers, we are called to be ambassadors for Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:20**). This role requires us to reflect hope and love in a world plagued by strife.

Our goal is not to blend into worldly systems **but to stand out** as extraordinary people who embody godly values.

In a world filled with discord, believers have an opportunity to model peace and unity. Strife is a major issue even among Christians, but **through spiritual training and reliance on God's strength**, we can rise above it.

Conclusion

Spiritual training equips us to live victoriously by drawing strength from God's might, understanding the enemy's tactics, and fostering unity through love. **Ephesians 6:10-13** provides practical guidance for navigating spiritual warfare while avoiding strife with others.

Let us remember that our battle is not against flesh and blood **but against** spiritual forces. By putting on the armor of God and operating in faith, hope, and love, we can stand firm in the face of challenges and reflect Christ's light to those around us.

To be continued...

Perspective #2

Thanks for diving into **Part 3 of Spiritual Training** with me! I wanted to revisit some faith statements from the last lesson because someone suggested they're worth repeating—and honestly, I agree. These statements are powerful tools to help us stay grounded, walk in victory, and hold onto hope. **So here they are again:**

- All areas of the armor of God activate in my life in Jesus' name. (**Ephesians 6**)
- I am covered by the blood through water baptism. (**Romans 6**)
- I am clothed with power through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. (**Luke 24:49**)
- I am edified through speaking in tongues. (**1 Corinthians 14:4**)
- I put on the love of God, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (**Colossians 3:14**)

And let's not forget 1 Corinthians 13:13: "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." Such a **beautiful reminder** of what truly matters.

Now, let's jump into the next phase of spiritual training. Why do we do this? It's simple:

- 1. To live a godly life.**
- 2. To honor God.**
- 3. To help those in need.**

This part focuses on **Ephesians 6:10-13**, which is all about standing strong and putting on God's armor. **Let's break it down:**

Verse 10: Strength From His Might

It says, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." **The key here is His might—not ours.**

The **Greek definitions** for "**might**" point to exceptional capability, ability, force, and power. It's about tapping into God's limitless strength, not relying solely on what we can do ourselves.

Faith statements I make based on this verse:

- I operate in His capability, His strength, His ability, His power, His energy, and His skill.

Verse 11: Armor Up

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

This verse highlights three things:

- 1. Satan has methods**—trickery, deception, and calculated plans.
- 2. Our response?** Put on God's armor.
- 3. The result?** We'll be able to stand firm.

Verse 12: Know Your Real Enemy

This verse reminds us that our battle isn't against flesh and blood; it's against spiritual forces—powers, principalities, and wickedness in heavenly places. **Knowing this** can help us **avoid unnecessary strife** with people because **our fight isn't with them**.

Take Jesus as an example. In **Mark 8:31-33**, Peter rebuked Jesus, but Jesus didn't lash out at Peter; instead, He addressed Satan's influence behind Peter's words. This shows us that **prayer** and **spiritual authority** **should come first** when dealing with conflict—it helps prevent strife.

From one resource about Jesus' prayer life.

Here's a breakdown of Jesus's prayer life as depicted in the Gospels:

Regular, everyday prayer: Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray, including early mornings and late at night.

Before important decisions: He prayed before selecting his 12 apostles and other significant choices.

Before and after ministry: Jesus prayed before performing miracles and also expressed gratitude afterward.

Specific instances: He prayed on the cross, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and during his baptism.

In the midst of busy days: Even during his demanding ministry, **Jesus made time for prayer**.

The Bible doesn't give a specific count, **but** it emphasizes that prayer was an integral part of Jesus's life and ministry, **demonstrating a consistent and intimate relationship with God**.

Strife Is Dangerous

Speaking of strife, **James 3:16** warns us that where there's jealousy and strife, there's confusion and every evil work. Strife leads to disorder and opens the door to negative things—so it's something we need to actively avoid.

Here are some definitions for strife:

- Discord
- Conflict
- Contention

Related words include argument, quarrel, dispute, and brawl—basically all the stuff that pulls people apart instead of bringing them together.

On the flip side, **antonyms** like agreement, harmony, and accord remind us of what we're aiming for—unity through love (**Colossians 3:14**).

Our Role as Ambassadors

As believers, we're **called** to be ambassadors for Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:20**). That means **representing Him well** and being a source of hope in a world full of strife, among believers sometimes.

We have a choice: **blend** in with the world **or stand** out as extraordinary people who reflect God's love.

Let's keep striving for harmony and showing people the hope we have in Christ.

More to come soon—stay tuned!

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