

*Jesus Christ,
Whose I am and
Whom I Serve*

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▶ 21 After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have followed my advice not to sail from Crete. Then you would have averted this disaster and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because you will not experience any loss of life, but only of the ship. 23 For just last night an angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve, stood beside me 24 and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And look, God has granted you the lives of all who sail with you.’ ...Acts 27:21-24.

▶ 1 Therefore I urge you, brothers, on account of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1, 2.

Whose are we; to whom do we belong?

- ▶ If in fact you have been saved by the grace of God, regenerated by the Holy Spirit, given eternal life as the Holy Spirit applies to you what Christ has accomplished on your behalf, you belong to Jesus Christ, who said that of all that the Father has given to Him, He will not lose one. And He said, “The prince/ruler of this world comes, and he has nothing in Me.” John 14:30.
- ▶ So every true believer can win spiritual battles with the kingdom of darkness by remembering and applying the following:

1. The Living God is with us

▶ God is a God of Covenant, a Covenant-keeping God, faithful and true and living. For example, God is with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, David, Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His people. In the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus promised, “**Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**” The Holy Spirit was sent to indwell, come alongside, be shed abroad in the hearts of believers, and to come upon believers to be witnesses to Christ to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit is with us, in us, on us, and working through us.

II. Whom will we serve?

▶ As believers in Christ, we choose every day whom we will serve. We serve what we worship. We obey what we believe. The spirit world is built on words. Jesus is the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. His Word is truth. Satan is a liar. We are called to follow the Christ, to follow the Lamb wherever He goes. But whenever we are proud, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Whenever we are friends of the world, we are the enemy of God. Whenever we drift, doubt, disbelieve, and disobey, we “die” and do not the truth. The wages of sin is death; therefore, we are called to die to sin and to die daily, meaning to obey Christ and live by the power of the Holy Spirit.

III. Remember God's place and your place

▶ Jesus has been given all authority over heaven and earth, enabling us IN HIM and IN HIS NAME to have delegated authority over the enemy. The true believer is given the power (*dunamis*) and authority (*exousia*) to overcome the world, the flesh, the devil, sin, selfishness, and the enemies of God. The true believer has been given power and delegated authority (*exousia*) over all demons, and to cure diseases, to trample and overcome over all the power (*dunamis*) of the enemy. Luke 9:1; 10:19.

IV. We must have a clearly defined enemy to do spiritual warfare

▶ War was declared when God put enmity between the Seed of the woman (Eve) and the seed of Satan. Once war is declared, it is a fight to the finish. Loyalties will be tested as the forces of evil gather against the forces of the Living and True God. God gave those in Christ a clearly defined enemy. God provides the rules, the ways and means, of our warfare. Ours is an obedience of faith. We must guard the anointing on our lives, stay within the jurisdiction of our authority, and step out in supreme loyalty and attachment to Jesus, knowing that God grants grace to obey through faith which works by love. God sits enthroned. His Name is Commander of the Armies, and His Banner over us is love.

V. The War within is the first battleground

▶ If we are not clear about when we become an enemy of God, we will be at risk of being a host body for Satan, even when we desire to serve Christ. This is our struggle. Romans 7. A believer cannot be possessed, which has to do with ownership, but can experience regression (move back), repression (held back), suppression (put down by force), depression (pressed down), and oppression (kept down by cruel, unjust use of authority). Choose Life. Choose Christ. Every day. Get very familiar with Romans 6-8.

- ▶ **We are enemies of God when we are friends of the world. James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17**
- ▶ **We are enemies of God when we operate in pride. James 4:6**
- ▶ **We are enemies of God when we engage in works of the devil. 1 John 3:8; 1 Peter 3:12 [when we do evil in the eyes of the Lord]**
- ▶ **We are enemies of God when we rebel. Isaiah 63:10**
- ▶ **We are enemies of God when we mind earthly things. Philippians 3:18, 19; Colossians 1:21**
- ▶ **We are enemies of God when we engage in the works of the flesh. Galatians 5**

VI. Live in the Abiding Presence of the Living God who is Holy

▶ True believers belong to Christ. They have been bought with a price and their life is not their own. Theirs is a separated life. They are set apart. Jesus wins the war in us when we stop rebelling and submit to His sovereignty and Lordship. He is the Sovereign Savior, King of kings and Lord of lords. We abide in Christ and His words abide in us. We need to be aware that the Holy Spirit indwells every true believer. The Holy Spirit is holy. We are called to be holy as God is holy. True believers are apostolic in that they are “sent” on a mission with a message, the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is to be taken to the ends of the earth, to all creation.

VII. Live in agreement with God's Word

- ▶ Align with the Word of God. Acknowledge the truth. Know the truth, especially of the atonement. We do not fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness; we fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3), and with the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. *Philippians 2:1-2*

VIII. Learn to hear and discern the true from the false

▶ God is Creator/Redeemer. The Father is spirit whose fatherhood distinguishes Him. Jesus Christ is a divine Person with a divine nature who took on a human nature in a human body. Sonship distinguishes Him; God the Son, Son of God, Sovereign Savior, King of kings and Lord of lords, Surety of the Covenant of Grace. The Holy Spirit is a Person, sent by the Father and Son, the Spirit of the Father, the Spirit of Christ, the Voice of the Almighty, the Promise of the Father.

IX. Know the Living God whose you are and whom you serve

▶ We obey what we believe.

Believe in Jesus. Believe Jesus.

Believe what Jesus believes. Walk by the faith OF Jesus, by what Jesus believes. So study the true and the lie will be exposed by the light that shines into the darkness.

X. Some final thoughts

▶ In conclusion, then, we must know whose we are and whom we serve. If in fact we are the servants of the Most High God, then God is with us. We remember whose we are. We remember God's place and our place. We have a clearly defined enemy to do spiritual warfare. The war within is the first battleground. We live in the abiding presence of the Living God who is holy. We live in agreement with God's Word. We learn to hear and discern the true from the false. We know the Living God Whose we are and Whom we serve.

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