

This Day We Fight: Breaking the Bondage of the Passive Spirit

Based on the book by Francis Frangipane

1. Introduction

The enemy's number one goal is to prevent people from being saved

- That's the job of the anti-Christ spirit

For those who are saved, Satan's strategy is to render you ineffective, inoperable, etc.

- It is the job of the passive spirit to get you to give up – or never start

Let's see how the passive spirit works by seeing how it worked on King David:

➤ *Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel and they destroyed the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. (2Samuel 11:1)*

- For the first time, David decided to stay at home when kings typically led their armies
- We can see that this was the result of giving into a passive spirit, because he was lying in bed during the daytime:
 - *Now when evening came, David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. (2Samuel 11:2)*
- A passive spirit opened the door to David's eventual sins

2. Time to War

We ourselves are in a time of war. The Spirit of God is calling us to fight for our souls as well as for our families, cities and nations.

➤ *The Lord will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies. (Isaiah 42:13)*

Is that holy fight in you? Is there a war cry in your spirit? If you are born again, that cry is within you, even if it has been muted by lethargy – i.e. the passive spirit

- We will never succeed as overcomers without carrying in our spirits the war cry of God
- We must stop resisting the call to prayer; we must embrace the reality of spiritual warfare; and we must fight with the weapons of warfare that God has given us, both for our own progress and also on behalf of those we love.
- Know, however, that the moment you accept a passive spirit, you should anticipate that a temptation appropriate to your weakness will soon follow. It may not be a Bathsheba, but whatever the area of weakness in your life, Satan will attack that area
- It will likely not be a bold, frontal assault, but rather get you to first drop your guard and relax your fight; he will disarm you with the passive spirit

3. Overcoming Discouragement

The number one cohort of the passive spirit is discouragement

- Discouragement is an enemy that is both subtle in its attack and powerful in its ability to paralyze our progress.
- When discouragement approaches our hearts, we must be able to discern it and then refuse to accommodate its influence when it speaks.

Whether we call this demon a spirit of heaviness, lethargy, fainting or passivity, it is what keeps people from exercising their spiritual strengths

- Indeed, it often sits on the upper chest, seeking to smother our spiritual energy and godly heart initiatives

We become discouraged whenever we start evaluating our negative circumstances based upon information supplied by our senses and processed by our rational minds

- The antidote, therefore, is to form our opinion of life based upon the promises and goodness of God
- This does not mean we become oblivious to our problems or the negative situations we may be fighting, but it does mean that in spite of circumstances, we stand and put our faith in God – not in ourselves
- Faith requires courage which is the opposite of discouragement – bind up the passive spirit of discouragement and loose the gifts of faith and courage that are available to every believer from the throne of God through His Holy Spirit
- Discouragement causes us to withdraw into unbelief
 - *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. (Hebrews 10:37-38)*
- The Holy Spirit will not descend and rest in power upon someone who is fearful and controlled by external circumstances

4. Worn Down and Wore Out

Another strategy of the passive spirit is to wear us out through many tactics, such as getting us caught up in pointless activities – many of which come through the spirits of fear and worry

- *And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. (Daniel 7:25)*
- Satan also seeks to wear us out through delays (“*change times*”) and in compromises of God’s Word (“*change... laws*”)
- As a result of satanic spiritual resistance (i.e. to prayer, to reading God’s Word, to becoming active in God’s Army), many Christians incrementally accept this resistance until a quiet, but weighty, oppression rests on their souls

The enemy also wears us out by stealing our joy which is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10)

- Satan seeks to resist the fulfillment of God’s plans for our lives until we grow weary and quit
- Weariness of soul leads to fleshly reactions or overreactions because we lose patience and begin to seek relief in worldly ways rather than victory in the spiritual realm
 - *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.(Galatians 6:9)*

5. Overcoming Fear

Fear is another cohort of the passive spirit, causing us to focus our time and energy on what we fear instead of on what God has for us

- Remember that Job realized it was his fears that opened the door to the devil to plague him
 - *For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, and what I dreaded has happened to me.(Job 3:25)*
- Fear acts like a magnet to attract the very things we fear
- Likewise, faith acts like a polar opposite to attract the promises of God into our lives

Fear will play upon our own sense of inadequacies making us feel that we are of no use to God

- But that is exactly when He wants to use us, so that we know it's not by our might or power, but *"by My Spirit, saith the Lord."*
 - *For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; (1Corinthians 1:26-28)*

Paul further notes that *"when I am weak, then I am strong."*(2Cor. 12:10)

- In addition, God tells us that He desires to operate through our weaknesses
 - *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* (2Cor. 12:9)
- So the very weaknesses that discourage us or cause us to fear, are the very attributes through which God desires to work so that He gets the glory, not us

Fear leads to oppression and torment

- *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.*
- Oppression abides with us because we have been afraid to confront our demonic enemies – however, we have power and authority over them all
 - *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Luke 10:19)*
- Study the life of Gideon to see how someone oppressed by fear can rise above it through God working through him (Judges 6-8)
- He too didn't respond at first to the call of God because he saw himself as weak and inferior – but God used him anyway and later reduced the size of his army from 32,000 to 300 just so that they (and us) would see that God is only looking for someone who is available, not for those who are capable.

Many of us carry the oppression of the passive spirit because we have learned early on in life to accept the dominance of this spiritual, life-sucking enemy

- If the Lord calls us to do something that we feel we cannot do, know that He will gift us, empower us and/or work through us to accomplish His plans – it does not depend on us – the battle is the Lord's

6. Perseverance is the Answer

Jesus recognized this vulnerability and taught His disciples a parable to show that *"at all times they ought to pray and not lose heart"* (Luke 18:1)

- Read the parable of the determined widow who refused to get discouraged in Luke 18:1-8
- Perseverance in spite of obstacles is what God wants from us
 - *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces **perseverance**; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Rom. 5:3-5)*
 - *But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with **perseverance**. (Romans 8:25)*
 - *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all **perseverance** and supplication for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)*
 - *Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the **perseverance** of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. (James 5:11)*

- The Book of Revelation mentions **perseverance** seven times in connection with becoming overcomers
- James says the testing of our faith produces perseverance
 - *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops **perseverance**. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4, NIV)*
- Only by persevering against Satanic resistance and through our various trials do we develop the ability to persevere – and, thereby, become “*mature... complete... not lacking anything*”

7. Power is the Result

If you are born-again, there is a power accompanying your life that is greater than great

- It is not human power, but God’s “resurrection power”
 - *...that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (Ephesians 1:18-21)*

As we allow that power to work through us, two things will happen

- First, faith will increase
- Second, the enemy will resist harder
 - However, “*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*” (1John 4:4)

Jesus is the “*author and perfecter of our faith*” (Hebrews 12:2, NIV)

- In order for faith to be perfected, it must be tested (James 1:2)
 - *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, (1Peter 1:6-7)*

How will we respond to the adversities and fires? Like the disciples in the boat during the storm?

- *But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. (Matthew 8:26)*

If the Jesus you are following is not leading you into the realm of the impossible to make changes in your world, you are probably following the wrong one – the passive spirit

- The passive spirit works closely with the religious spirit (see separate paper) to counterfeit the Holy Spirit and cause us to believe lies that immobilize us in one way or another

Overcoming faith also comes through God’s rhema word – i.e. his personal word spoken to each of us

- *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)*
- Whose voice are you listening to? If it is giving you reasons to lie down and do nothing, it is not God’s
 - “*All things are possible to him who believes.*” (Mark 9:23)
 - *Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. (Matthew 17:20)*

Let's look at another example of King David, this time where he acted in faith

- When David finally became King (which also required perseverance and faith), he knew that God had promised that the Israelites would push out the Jebusites who still occupied Salem, the area we now know as Jerusalem
- However, Israel's greatest heroes from Joshua to the judges had tried and failed to conquer the Jebusites

However, David was not conditioned nor immobilized by the conditions of the past

- Rather he believed God's promises and was led of the Lord to once again attack Salem

The enemy taunted David and felt secure in their fortified city that had never been defeated

➤ *And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here." ⁷Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David). (2Samuel 5:6-7)*

- The enemy of our souls will also torment us with similar words of discouragement
- In fact, he will often speak those words through fellow believers who also are "*the blind and the lame*"
- Just because they are blind and lame, does not mean we should heed their mistaken advice
- If we heed the warnings of the lame, it will only be matter of time before their woundedness depletes our strength and motivation

But God has given us His unalterable, immutable word. He promises:

➤ *For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith. (Habakkuk 2:3-4)*

Reach down in prayer into your own soul to see and hear the visions God has given you for your life

- Though they tarry, they will "*surely come*" if you seek after them
- Even if you have delayed for years, God will spring into action the moment you start living in obedient faith to give life to those God-given visions
- To "*live by faith*" is to believe God until the vision He gave comes to pass

For David must have had a vision about Jerusalem long before he eventually was led to conquer it

- For after he killed Goliath, he "*took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem*" (1Samuel 17:54)
- This was many years before he conquered the Jebusites; it wasn't even called Jerusalem then

Why did he bring Goliath's head there? Because God had placed a vision in his heart

- That vision remained in his heart even when he was running from Saul and living as a fugitive
- David must also have faced the spirit of discouragement and passivity many times along his path
- But, in the end, he didn't give up on the anointing and the vision
- And along the way, he found how to strengthen himself in the Lord

➤ *Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.*

- And then David was able to go and take back all the people and provisions that the enemy had taken from them.