



WALK AND FIGHT!

by Dr Fred Gollasch



INTRODUCTION

"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Eph. 6:12)

We live in the middle of a great spiritual battleground and we are called by God to fight as men of the Kingdom. Our problem is that we don't know how to fight, we feel alone in this battle, we would rather hide, we have been softened by the church, or all of the above.

This booklet gives you five tools or weapons that God has given to help you walk with Him each day, to fight against the enemy, and to free you for the work of the Kingdom of God. This is far from an exhaustive list but it will prove to be a help to you as you carry it with you and use it. As you grow in your walk with God you will learn to use other weapons in the fight as a man of the Kingdom of God.

WEAPON #1 - SURRENDER AND SUBMIT DAILY

We start the fight by surrendering all that we are and have to Jesus the Christ! Jesus is Saviour and Lord!

(Don't be surprised that you need to start by surrendering. Life with Jesus is often the opposite of life in the world!)

- **Kick your day off on the right note. Pray out loud each morning one of the following prayers. Let it be known in the spirit world where you stand:**

"You are Holy Lord Jesus and you are King! I submit my life to you as Lord and Saviour. I accept your sacrifice for me on the cross. I choose to walk with you this day and I renounce the devil and his evil works and ways. I choose life, not death!"

OR

"Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I submit myself to you this day body, soul and spirit. I want to walk with you and I ask you to give me your Holy Spirit and lead me in your pathways!"

WARNING: *: If you try to fight in the strength of your own flesh you will fail every time. It is essential to submit and walk and talk with God throughout your day. Ask Him to lead. He is your strength and your guide!*

WEAPON #2 – KNOW GOD

This is an essential weapon! Unless we know God we cannot know His purposes and plans. Our goal should be to get to know God so well that our lives merge into His life and His plans and we don't ever want to be apart from Him BECAUSE WE TRUST HIM LIKE A LITTLE CHILD.

Here are a few hot tips on how to know God and walk with Him each day:

A. FIGHT TO BE FED – “Plow the Word into your Life!”

Find a way to get into the Word of God regularly. Without knowing the Word, it is almost impossible to get to know God and His amazing love and grace. God speaks to us through the Bible and what is said there has more authority than anything else. Be intentional about this and you will be rewarded greatly!

- The Bible is a complex book and you need help. Find a good Bible reading program. Ask for help.
- Pray before and after reading. Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight parts that He wants you to note. Ask God to help you see how amazing He is and how great is His love and His patience towards you.
- Know the Word of Truth and you will much better be able to discern lies which can lead you astray

B. LEARN TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

Our God is a Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We worship and follow all three. They are three, but they are one God. When Jesus returned to The Father after His resurrection, the Holy Spirit was sent to be our teacher and guide. He is powerful but gentle with us. Do not neglect the Holy Spirit. We go the wrong way without Him. You can know the Bible backwards (like the Pharisees) and end up not knowing God.

- Talk to the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to speak to you and lead you. Learn to recognise His voice. His voice usually comes through our thoughts. That's why you need to test any leading that comes to you against the truth of the Bible. For many of us this walk with the Spirit is new and difficult. A good book to read or study together is John Eldridge's "Walking With God". Learning to be led by the Spirit will lead to fruit in the work of the Kingdom of God. Trying to do God's word in your own strength leads to no fruit.

C. WALK AND TALK WITH GOD

If you don't you will walk and talk with some other because we are made to walk and talk with someone, and they will lead us astray!

- Spill your heart to God. Chat to Him day by day as you would to a close mate. Tell him how you feel.
- Learn to praise and thank God, not just ask Him for things. Praise honours God, it can fill our heart with joy and puts us in a rightful place with God. (e.g. See David's prayers in 1 Chron. 29:10-13)
- Use T.P.A. prayers: THANK God; PRAISE Jesus; ASK the Holy Spirit.
- Pray key Scriptures into your life. This is powerful - e.g. from David's repentance prayer in Psalm 51:10 – *“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”*

D. LEARN THE BALANCE BETWEEN DOING AND BEING

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

We get sucked into trying TO DO more and more to please God (and make ourselves feel good). It doesn't work! We can't do anything to gain God's favour. JESUS HAS ALREADY DONE IT ALL! This is the secret of salvation. What God wants most of all for us is to BE with Him (in heart, mind and spirit) and to learn to let Him love us without working at it. We find this hard, but there are great rewards and a whole lot of peace if we learn a godly balance between BEING and doing.

- Go sit on a log or go for a prayer walk – around the garden, down the park, anywhere.
- Take time out to do things with family or friends that are relaxing especially out in God's creation. Praise Him quietly while you are out there.
- Make time to be still, to reflect on where you are with Him. Find something that works for you.

E. LEARN THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us” (The prayer Jesus taught us.)

Choosing to pray a prayer to forgive someone who has hurt you is a powerful prayer of healing that leads to freedom. However there is a lot of misunderstanding about forgiveness.

- FORGIVENESS IS NOT: based on feelings; pretending you weren't hurt; saying it was OK; trusting again; forgetting OR taking away consequences.
- FORGIVENESS IS: a command of God; a decision of the will; a lifestyle; transferring judgement from us to God.
- FORGIVENESS is giving up my right to want to hurt you for hurting me.

A POWERFUL EXERCISE:

Make a list of people you need to forgive after asking leading from the Holy Spirit.

Choose to forgive those people on your list – release them from your unforgiveness. Ask God to heal both of you.

WARNING: BE AWARE OF THE DANGER OF DRIFT – *Most people don't suddenly decide to walk away from God, they drift away bit by bit. Stop worshipping, stop reading the Word, stop praying, put other things before God and you will soon drift away and often not even realise it. BE ALERT AS A MAN OF THE KINGDOM!*

WEAPON #3 – KNOW THE ENEMY

THE DEVIL IS A REBEL AND A LIAR – His aim is to interfere with the work of God's Kingdom in any way he can. Jesus called him "the father of lies". His attacks are strongest against those he sees as dangerous followers of Jesus. *"The flack is heaviest when we are over the target."*

Remember that our own flesh is selfish and is at war against the Spirit. We can't always blame the devil.

WARNING: BEWARE OF THE FIRST COMPROMISE – *When tempted - flee! Don't dwell on the thought or take the first step towards the temptation – this leads to the second and third compromise and you a caught in the trap.*

THE KEY HOWEVER is to resist the devil under the authority of Jesus Christ and to know that he has no power over you and cannot hurt you as long as you stay submitted to God.

"Submit yourselves then to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you". (James 4:7)

Below are three areas to work on each day to thwart the enemy:

A. PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF GOD

“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” (Ephesians 6:10-11)

PUT ON:

- a) THE BELT OF TRUTH – Character, not brute force wins the battle.
- b) THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS – Again character is the key.
- c) YOUR FEET THE COVERING OF READINESS - to go out in peace.

TAKE UP:

- d) THE SHIELD OF FAITH – to put out the enemy’s arrows.
- e) THE HELMUT OF SALVATION – Knowing you are saved is a great protection & a symbol of victory.
- f) THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT & PRAY IN THE SPIRIT – Getting into the Word of God and learning to walk and talk in the Spirit are vital as this is a spiritual battle.

Put on this armour each day and you will be amazed at what a difference it makes. THE EMPHASIS HERE IS ON STANDING FIRM IN YOUR ARMOUR

When it becomes more familiar use this list as a check list to guard against becoming slack.

B. GUARD YOUR MOUTH

Above all brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’; or you will be condemned.” (James 5:12) (Also Matthew 5:33-37).

- Because the devil is limited he does not see into our hearts like God does. Do not give him the opportunity to see your weaknesses. WATCH WHAT COMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.
- If you curse, swear, call yourself a fool or say anything negative that is not from God, own up, confess it to God as sin and ask Him to forgive you and cleanse you. (1 John 1:9)
- Try to discern more and more what is TRUTH and what is LIES. We can unknowingly build our life on lies that cut across God’s truth and God’s promises to us, and lead us astray.

C. BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS IN JUDGEMENT

Jesus called the devil “the accuser of God’s people”. When we accuse others (enter into judgement over them) we are doing the devil’s work. Try to become aware of when you are entering into judgement. God warns us about the severe consequences of judging others:

“Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Matthew 7:1-2)

- If you find yourself passing judgement on others, be quick to confess it to God, ask Him to forgive and cleanse you, and ask the Holy Spirit for a heart of love towards others especially those who are different to you.

WEAPON # 4 – COME CLEAN WITH GOD

SORT STUFF OUT WITH GOD QUICKLY: Don’t muck about! This is great advice. If you sin, cough up to God quickly. Confess it! Renounce it, and get on with walking with God! He will pick you up again and again. He makes us clean and gives us the power and the heart to keep on walking with Him. He gives us second chances over and over.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1John 1:9)

WEAPON # 5 – STAND TOGETHER

‘The enemy loves the lone sheep.’

Our walk with God is a battle and a journey and it is one that we can’t do solo. We need each other.

- Be involved in a small group of men of God you can trust. Watch each other’s backs. Be accountable.
- Get into the Word together. Pray for each other.
- Come clean with others. Confess and ask forgiveness if you have wronged someone. This open confession is powerful.
- Don’t hide and pretend about how your life is going! Be real! Have the guts to ‘tell it like it is’. The blokes who have the heart to open up and share their battles in life find healing and help. Shed Nights are great for this.

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” (James 5:16)

FINALLY

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1:9)

Don't accept doubts and fears and the lies of the enemy! Look to the Lord who made the heavens and the earth. He is mighty! He made you! He loves you! He longs for you to spend time with Him and for you to let Him love you! And then you will be better able to love others as He loves you!

WALK ON AND LEARN HOW TO FIGHT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING!



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