

Overcoming Affliction, Infliction and Persecution

TRAINING IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE



STEP Forward Life Institute



Fundamentals of the Faith



3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

5 But you be watchful in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

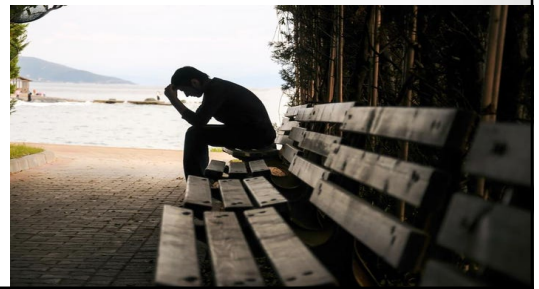
2 Timothy 4:3-5 (NKJV)

2 Timothy 4:3-5 AMPLIFIED

5 But as for you, be clear-headed in every situation [stay calm and cool and steady], endure every **hardship** [without flinching], do the work of an evangelist, fulfill [the duties of] your ministry.

Hardship is a situation in which your life is difficult or unpleasant, most often associated with not having enough money, but **hardships** can include living in the aftermath of

- Natural Disasters
- Accidental Disasters
- Intentional or Deliberate Disasters
- Incidents of loss
- Sustained or Repeated Events

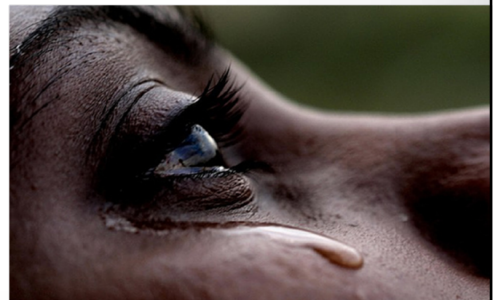


What's the difference between Afflictions and (Spiritual) Warfare?

Many (**afflictions**) hardships *and* perplexing circumstances confront the righteous, But the Lord rescues him from them all.

Psalms 34:19 Amplified Bible

Many **evils** confront the [consistently] righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.





The World (System, Order, Arrangement)

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you ^[b] will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.**"

- John 16:33 (NKJV)

I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace. **In the world you have tribulation and distress and suffering**, but be courageous [be confident, be undaunted, be filled with joy]; **I have overcome the world.**" [My conquest is accomplished, My victory abiding.]

- John 16:33 (AMP)

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

John 17:15-18 (NKJV)

"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but that You keep them and protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth [set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy]; Your word is truth. Just as You commissioned and sent Me into the world, I also have commissioned and sent them (believers) into the world.

John 17:15-18 (Amplified Bible)

John 17: 5-8

1. **Jesus prayed that the Father would not take us out of the world.**
(Our purpose is not to just hold on, suffer through hardships, and wait to go to heaven.)
2. **Jesus prayed that we would be kept from the evil one**
3. **We are *not* of this world**
4. **We are set apart in Truth**
5. **Set apart for the Father's purposes**
6. **The Father makes us holy**
7. **We have been commissioned into the world.**

"I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but that You keep them and protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth [set them apart for Your purposes, make them holy]; Your word is truth. Just as You commissioned and sent Me into the world, I also have commissioned and sent them (believers) into the world.

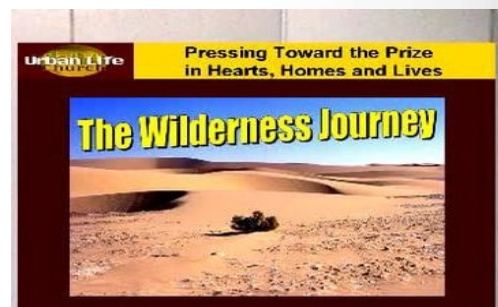
John 17:15-18 (Amplified Bible)

Opposition in Our Transitions to Promise

While we are in the midst of transition, we are tempted to

- rebel against God,
- return to our bondage,
- build our own gods (beliefs and philosophies)
- challenge or attempt to manipulate God

This is where a great deal of our warfare actually takes place.



Self- Inflictions

- Sometimes we yield to satan's tactics of temptation.
- Sometimes we're reaping what we sowed.
- Sometimes we're dealing with the consequences of the lack of knowledge.
- Sometimes we're violating the order and wisdom of God.
- Sometimes we have given access by opening doors.
- Sometimes we give access by regarding iniquity.
- Sometimes we're holding someone in unforgiveness.
- Sometimes we haven't been faithful with the little.



*“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels;
that the **excellence of the power** may be
of God and not of us.*

- *We are hard-pressed on every side,
yet not crushed;*
- *we are perplexed, but not in
despair;*
- *persecuted, but not forsaken;*
- *struck down, but not destroyed—*

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*We are hard-pressed,
yet not crushed*



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*We are perplexed,
but not in despair*



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*Persecuted,
but not forsaken*



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*Struck down,
but not destroyed*





Refuse the warfare lies...

That when you've been pressed,
you've been crushed.

That when you've been perplexed, you are
in despair (without hope).

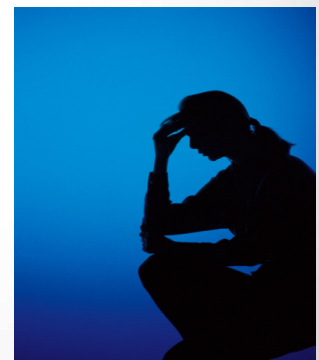
That when you've been persecuted, you've
been forsaken.

That when you've been struck down, you've
been destroyed.



*...always carrying about in the body the
dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of
Jesus also may be manifested...*

2 Corinthians 4:7-10



What's the difference between Afflictions and (Spiritual) Warfare?

Productive Impact of Afflictions and Inflictions

- 1.) Discernment
- 2.) Direction
- 3.) Discipline
- 4.) Diligence
- 5.) Determination
- 6.) Devotion
- 7.) Documentation
- 8.) Duplication

Rest, Retreats, Revival and Other Comedies

You are Success in Process



Chris and Carol Green

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Persecution (*Sharing in Christ's Sufferings*)

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal** which is taking place to test you [that is, to test the quality of your faith], as though something strange or unusual were happening to you.

13 But insofar as you are **sharing Christ's sufferings**, keep on rejoicing, so that when His glory [filled with His radiance and splendor] is revealed, you may rejoice with great joy.

14 If you are insulted and reviled for [bearing] the name of Christ, you are blessed [happy, with life-joy and comfort in God's salvation regardless of your circumstances], because the Spirit of glory and of God is resting on you [and indwelling you— He whom they curse, you glorify]. 1 Peter 4:11-16 Amplified Bible

1 Peter 4:11-16 Amplified Bible

Share the Sufferings of Christ

15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or a thief, or any sort of criminal [in response to persecution], or as a troublesome meddler interfering in the affairs of others;

16 but if anyone suffers [ill-treatment] as a Christian [because of his belief], he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God [because he is considered worthy to suffer] in this name.

What is (Spiritual) Warfare?

It is the spiritual fight that we are in, against the evil strategies, wiles and schemes of the evil one; that are employed to manipulate, intimidate and dominate a human being's mind, body, and soul (emotions and will).

These strategies are also employed to affect relationships, starting with the foundational family unit, which extends its affect on to every aspect of society including the highest levels of government and religion.

The evil one's goal is to stop, delay, detour and distract Believers from preaching the good news (or gospel) of the Kingdom of God; and prevent them from making disciples or followers of Christ.

What is (Spiritual) Warfare?

Warfare of Manipulation

(Deceptive Influencing of Thoughts and Behavior)

Warfare of Intimidation

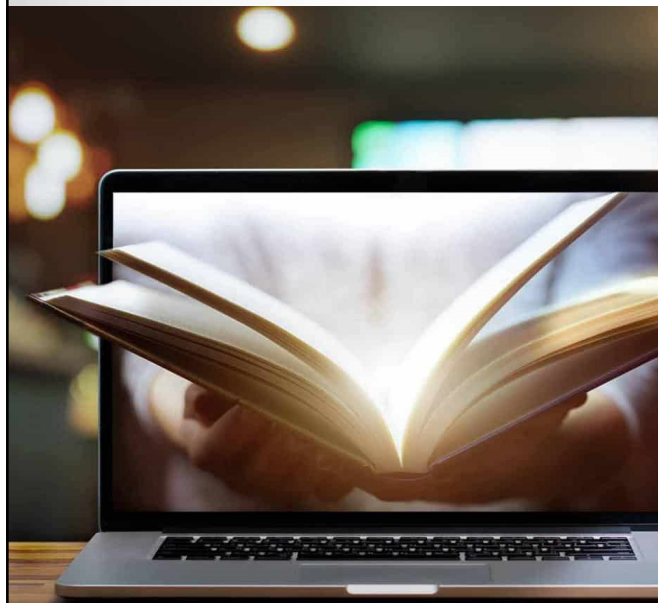
(Threats, attacks, through individuals, or taking advantage of situations and circumstances to inflict hurt, harm, confusion, doubt, and eventual rebellion and disobedience to God)

Warfare of Domination

(Forceful Opposition or Possession or Occupation of a human mind/ body/ soul)

(Forceful Opposition or Possession or Occupation of society: people groups, nations, etc.)

Fundamentals of the Faith



3 For though we walk in the flesh [as mortal men], we are not carrying on our [spiritual] warfare according to the flesh and using the weapons of man.

4 **The weapons of our warfare are not physical** [weapons of flesh and blood]. Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

5 We are **destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing** that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are **taking every thought and purpose captive** to the obedience of Christ,

- 2 Corinthians 10: 3-5



James 4:7-8a

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...



- **Helmet of Salvation** – delivers, protects and preserves our minds and our thoughts.
- **The sword of the Spirit** – the Word of God, the all powerful weapon of choice that inflicts damage on the wicked one and His influence in our hearts and homes.
- **Shield of Faith** – protects us against the poisonous accusations and attacks of the wicked one.
- **Breastplate of Righteousness** is protection against our vital organs (heart, lungs, stomach, liver, etc.; the commonly parts that keep us alive).
- **Belt of Truth** is protection against deception and lies.
- **Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace** – protects our daily walk, our everyday life with assurance and confidence that God is always with us and FOR us.

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I give God my senses:

Tasting, Seeing, Hearing, Smelling and Feeling.

So that God can rule over them.

I put myself under the care of God.

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I thank You for Your holy angels that are encamped around me to keep me in all my ways.

I thank You for goodness and mercy following me all the days of my life.

I thank You for Your love.

I thank You for Your plan.

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I thank You for Your provision.

I thank You that no weapon formed against me shall prosper.

I thank You that the gates of hell shall not prevail.

I thank You for grace.

I thank You for Your anointing.

I thank You for healing.

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I thank You for wisdom to navigate each day.

I thank You for wisdom to win souls; and that whatever comes out of my mouth would be for the glory and honor of God; and that my words would be a blessing to others.

I thank You that all things are working together for my good.

I thank You that You have given to me all things that pertain unto life and godliness.

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I thank You that I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

I thank You that I have the mind of Christ.

I thank You that I have a sound mind.

I thank You for the joy.

I thank You for peace.

Recognizing that my fight is not against flesh and blood, political parties, activist groups or social movements, I stand here in the gap for my family.

With the spiritual weapons of prayer, praise, worship and the Word of God, I declare that I am not afraid of spiritual enemies.

I remember the Lord, Great and Awesome, as I fight for my brothers and sisters, my sons and daughters, my spouse and my household.

According to the promise in Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against us will prosper; And every tongue that accuses us in judgment, we will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And our vindication is from the Lord.

So Father God, I receive Your grace, favor, protection and wisdom. And I thank You for giving Your angels charge over me and my family, to keep us in all of our ways. Amen