

## THE FIGHT OF OUR LIFE!

I am sure that everyone reading these words has used or heard, "I'm in the fight of my life." In fact every saved person is in the fight of his or her life. This battle is found in II Corinthians 10:2-6. Let's examine this "fight":

### 1. This is a spiritual fight.

The Bible says, *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh"* (II Corinthians 10:3). A truth we often quote is: "We are to be in the world, but not of the world." These exact words are not found in the Bible, however the principle is clearly defined as stated by our Lord in John 17:13-16: *"And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."*

Since we are not of this world, our battle must be waged with weaponry that transcends this world. *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds"* (II Corinthians 10:4). "Carnal" is referring to the physical and fleshly side of life. To go into this battle with carnal weapons is like taking a peashooter to bring down an elephant or an airsoft pistol to shoot a lion. A listing of our arsenal is found in Ephesians 6. In Ephesians 6:12 the Bible says, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* Paul reaffirms the fact that this is not a fleshly or carnal battle. He goes on to point out that we must be armed with the (1) Truth: *"...having your loins girt about with truth..."* (Ephesians 6:14a); (2) Hearts that are righteous: *"...having on the breastplate of righteousness..."* (Ephesians 6:14b); (3) A surrendered will: *"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace"* (Ephesians 6:15); (4) Faith in God: *"Above all, taking the shield of faith..."* (Ephesians 6:16a); (5) The mind of Christ: *"And take the helmet of salvation..."* (Ephesians 6:17a); (6) The Bible: *"...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God";* (7) Prayer: *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit..."* (Ephesians 6:18a).

### 2. The fight has the potential of bringing down fortresses of evil.

*“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds” (II Corinthians 10:4). I emphasize the phrase, “...mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.” Strongholds are castles, forts or fortresses. An entire city can be enclosed within a fortress much like the city of ancient Jericho, which was surrounded by walls. Here’s the situation: “Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in” (Joshua 6:1). God gave the command to Joshua and the children of Israel to compass the city once each day for six days and finally on the seventh day they were to get up early and go around the city seven times. On the seventh time, the priests were to sound the trumpets and the people were to give a shout. Here’s the recorded result: “So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city” (Joshua 6; 20).*

### **3. The fight is won in the minds and hearts of the people of God.**

Paul revealed the battlefield: *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Corinthians 10:5).*

A stronghold is built stone by stone, brick by brick. A spiritual stronghold in a person’s life is built the same way, sin-by-sin, step-by-step until, like walls of a castle, one is enclosed and entrapped within a fortress that will require the might and power of Almighty God to break down. As a rule, no one ever leaps into sin suddenly; they usually get there by small comprises. The deliverance is dramatically different. It can happen in a moment of time, much like the walls of Jericho. II Corinthians 10:5 tells us to cast down, as if you are throwing something overboard off a sinking ship. Cast down those imaginations -- wayward thoughts -- lest our proverbial boat is sunk into the mire of a wasted life. Every high thing is any arrogant obstacle that rises up against God. Sometimes it is our own self that rises up to affront God. Paul said that we are to *“...grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).* Recently Oprah Winfrey spoke of recent decisions she made based from the vantage point *“...as you grow up into yourself.”* This is diametrically opposed to the goal of the Gospel. Again Paul put it like this: *“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you” (Galatians 4:19).* The fight is on the inside. We need to let Jesus, Who is within the believer via the Holy Spirit, be formed and then rule and reign in our lives as Romans 5:17 says, *“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”*

### **4. Our personal obedience in the fight becomes the harbinger to a life of winning.**

*“And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled”* (II Corinthians 10:6). This verse is telling us to be quick and thorough in dealing with our own sin, for then all paths to other sins will be cut off and dealt with not only in your life but also in your sphere of influence.

Paul said, *“I have fought a good fight...”* (I Timothy 4:7). The reason this is a good fight is because we are on the winning side! I think we often do not see the value of one life surrendered to God. D. L. Moody overheard someone who was dying say, “It is yet to be seen what God can do with one life totally, wholly surrendered to Christ.” After hearing this, Moody said, “By the grace of God, I’ll be that man!” Yet at the end of Moody’s life, after he had been personally responsible to the glory of God for witnessing over two million souls come to Christ, said at the end of his life, “It is yet to be seen what God can do with one life totally, wholly surrendered to Christ.” Will you be that man or woman who will totally, wholly committed to God? When we deal with our sin and live right, victory after victory is won. *“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”* (II Corinthians 3:18). This is the victorious Christian life, going from glory to glory! This is winning the fight of your life.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.