

DON'T BE TRICKED

Ever feel like life is a series of one step forward and two steps backwards? I would imagine the answer to that question is a solid, "Yes!"

I woke this Friday morning feeling I had to communicate with the WellSpring family. This short encouragement is what the Lord put on my heart the last few days.

I have talked with a number of people who had a very hard week; unusually so. This past week following our 21 day Daniel Fast has been difficult for people at WellSpring. I too found this week particularly challenging. In some ways the most difficult I've experienced in a long time.

This is not coincidental. It is very often the case when you make personal and/or ministry growth that there comes a spiritual backlash.

It's something we see throughout the Bible. For instance, Elijah experienced one of his life's high points. He was full of courage, supernatural strength and the ability to be bold in the face of significant odds. He found great resolve even when being faced down by a multitude of people who opposed him. The concluding verses of 1 Kings 18 says, "the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, and he girded up his loins and outran Ahab to Jezreel."

But then the very next thing we read in chapter 19 is that he is fearful, running scared, exhausted, depressed, and wanting to die.

The enemy is quick to push back when you have taken ground in the Lord.

I want to encourage you not to be discouraged if you've experienced some of this kind of challenge this past week. In fact take courage — you're doing something right. So rather than shrink back from the advance in the Spirit, hold your ground. Be aware of the devil's tricks (1 Corinthians 2:11).

Consider that the struggles of this week may be designs of the evil one to derail what has taken place in your heart during the fast. Know that now is the time to stand!

In chapter 6 of Ephesians the Lord gives us help to know what to do in times like this. He tells us to do all that we can to prepare for battle. To put on the full armor of God. Then, having prepared through the Word, fellowship, service and prayer, stand and let the Lord fight your battle.

Someone who was struggling this past week was in the throws of considering whether to come to prayer on Wednesday night. She had lots to do and thought with the week she'd been having that she would skip it this week. But she felt the Lord challenge that direction and became determined to get to prayer and join with her spiritual family to call on the Lord. She shares how the Lord met her as she stood strong, while pressing through the easier choice of her flesh.

The Lord has already given you/us the victory. Stand in the already provided victory, lean into the strength of the Lord, and keep taking steps toward the Lord.

