

Wrestling to Win

As I have been reading, praying through and reflecting on the two w prophetic words – the Lord has given to WOWC, I would like to look at what the scriptures are instructing us to do so that the Lords will and not the will of the enemy is fulfilled.

Word from Aug. 31 “When the enemy thought he was winning, when he thought you were too exhausted from the battle, when he assumed you were giving up, you were repositioning.

You were finding firmer footing; you were stockpiling your arms for a major attack against the enemy.

You were gearing up for the offensive. You didn’t give up, you didn’t give in, you didn’t even faint.

You were shining your armor, you were straightening your headgear, you were strengthening your mind.”

I want to use a high school wrestling clip to show how in our wrestling against the powers of the enemy, we have to position ourselves, reaffirm our footing and shifting to counter balance the enemy to enforce the victory over him.

I chose to use high school wrestling due to it being actual wrestling than the fake WWE smack-down stuff.

Video: 1:45 time.

You noticed in this video that the strategy of both wrestlers was to have proper firm footing to be able to leverage their weight and strength to flip and pin their opponent. Different holds were used to bring the opponent to the place of his shoulders being pinned to the mat which equates in a win.

In Eph. 6:11-12, Paul uses the Roman sports world to illustrate how the believer must develop a mind set for victory over the enemy’s devices.

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you are able to stand against the wiles-methods-schemes of the devil. For we **wrestle** NOT against flesh and blood [humans], but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [heavenly] places.”

WRESTLING- “To combat an opposing tendency or force, to engage in or as if in a violent or determined struggle.”

There are actually two areas where we as believers will have to wrestle:

1. The first wrestling is with our own flesh – inner self-character – nature.

Jacob had to wrestle with the angel of God because of his flesh nature:

Gen. 32:22-28 “And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.

THEN JACOB WAS LEFT ALONE; and a **Man** wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

Now when He [the Man] saw that He did not prevail against him [Jacob], He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he [Jacob] said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”

So He said to him, “What is your name?” he [Jacob] said “Jacob.”

And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

The Man is identified as an angel by the prophet Hosea – Hos. 12:4.

- The importance of this story is Jacob’s willingness to contend with God at his time of desperate need.
- He knows God has willed to bless him and he will settle for nothing less than his **full inheritance**.
- His contending tenacity causes him to again prevail.
- The angel obviously knew Jacob’s name, yet Jacob had to say it because of its meaning – “Supplanter – Deceiver.”
He had to acknowledge his weakness before he could be transformed.

- **This is true for you and I. We must acknowledge our need of the Lord and our weakness without Him before we can be transformed and have a name-character change that will equip us to fulfill the destiny HE has for us.**
- Jacob’s name/character was changed so now when he faced his enemy, he would have the Lord’s blessing and favor to overcome and advance.
- **You and I must have our nature/character changed by a living relation with Jesus so He can bless us with His favor when we face our enemy.**
- **If you haven’t wrestled with yourself and brought yourself under His Lordship, you will be defeated by the devil every time.**

2. The second wrestling is with the enemy when he comes to knock you out – pin you to the mat and take victory over you.

- Please understand this truth: Jesus is the only One who can and did successfully defeat the devil. He has won that victory, not for Himself, but for us – to deliver us from the power of death, hell and the grave.

So if Jesus won the victory, where is the warfare or wrestling?

- **Our wrestling is in the daily **ENFORCEMENT** of the victory Jesus has already won over the enemy.**
- The enemy does not and will not quit until he is cast into the Lake of Fire. He will go down rebelling and fighting.
- That's why the battle is raging now – he knows his time is short and he's increasing the attacks to kill – steal – destroy.

So how do we wrestle against the forces of the enemy?

- Firstly, is against our own flesh and self - nature.
- But when it's against the enemy, how do we wrestle?

Satan battles against us because we are God's witnesses to the world.

- When the apostle Paul described peoples lost-ness, he framed it in terms of spiritual warfare.
- Non-believers follow the prince of the air (Eph. 2:2).
- They are blinded by the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:3–4),
- Bound in darkness (Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18),
- Caught in Satan's snare (2 Tim. 2:25–26).
- His goal is to keep us from proclaiming and living out the gospel that sets people free.

The offensive nature of this battle demands evangelism and discipleship.

- Evangelism requires intentionally taking the light into the darkness.
- Discipleship then requires teaching others to understand their position in Christ and to put on the full armor of God.
- If we don't evangelize, non-believers remain in Satan's kingdom.
- If we don't disciple, we send believers into the war unarmed. Both can result in tragedy.

One of Satan's subtle strategies is to entice us to operate in our own ability.

- David the shepherd boy took on the giant in faith and dependence, knowing that **the battle was not his in the first place but rather the Lord's** 1Sam. 17:47.
- When he became the king, though, David sought to know just how mighty his own forces were as he leaned more on himself than on God 1 Chron. 21:1-5 – numbered the troops.

The enemy delights when we go there—when we're more like David the king than David the shepherd boy.

Our stand as followers of Jesus Christ and making disciples in His name - places us in the sights of the enemy.

Because we are:

- Seeking to reach nonbelievers
- Develop strong disciples
- Send people out in His name to win others
- This is the how & where we are offensively engaging the enemy's territory [wrestling]
- We can know that the enemy will fight back – so we are prepared to stand with firm footing.

We needn't fear.

In the power of God, we must simply love Christ and live and speak for Him in such a way that God is glorified and an already-defeated Satan is threatened

Acts 19:11-16 “God was doing extraordinary miracles by Paul's hands, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that touched his skin were brought to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

But some traveling Jewish exorcists also tried to invoke the name of the Lord Yeshua, saying, I charge you by the Yeshua whom Paul preaches.

Seven sons of a Jewish ruling priest named Sceva were doing this

But the evil spirit answered them, I know Yeshua and I know about Paul, but who are you?

Then the man with the evil spirit sprang at them, subduing and overpowering all of them [7], so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.”

The rest of that prophetic word is this:

“Go get em!

You’ve got the army of God with you.

Be strong, be courageous, do not fear, no weapon formed against you will prosper.

What you are protecting is your legacy.

Your legacy of Grace, Gratitude, Faithfulness, Purity, Integrity, Intimacy and Fire.

Your legacy will stand – your legacy will stand firm.

You will see the greatness of God; you will see the glory of the Lord.

You will be amazed by His mighty acts and glorious deeds.

His goodness and His mercy is following after you and yours’s.

Stay strong

ROAR with victory.”