

Wrestling to Win

Scripture:

Ephesians 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints”

Introduction:

We, as Christians are engaged in a great conflict. These aren't games we're playing. It's not wrestle mania where everything is well scripted and a show is put on for the benefit of the spectators. This war we're engaged in is a true life and death struggle for spiritual life.

The term “wrestle” in our scripture in biblical usage literally means a contest between two in which each endeavors to throw the other, and which is decided when the victor is able to hold his opponent down with his hand upon his neck. I would call that a breakthrough into victorious living. These scriptures show the Christian how to have this kind of breakthrough when it comes down to the warfare we're all engaged in.

I. We can only wrestle to win as we stay strong in the Lord.

- A. God has promised to come to the aid of those who have just about given up.
Isaiah 35:4 “Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you.”
- B. Wrestling to win means that we get the attitude of a winner.
II Timothy 2:1-5 “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.
- C. A combatant with the attitude of the winner knows his equipment that will ensure the victory.
- D. The warrior with the attitude of a winner will properly prepare himself for the battle. We wrestle to win by putting on the armor of God.

II. We wrestle to win by girding our waist with truth.

- A. Our waist speaks to us of our internal organs, reproductive system etc.
- B. We cannot expect to win the battle for the souls of men if we are not men and women of truth.
- C. We are being conformed into the image of Christ and He is very truth itself.
John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- D. Victory can only be ours as we gird our waist with truth every day.
Proverbs 12:17-19 “He who speaks truth declares righteousness, but a false witness, deceit. ¹⁸There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise

promotes health. ¹⁹The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment."

III. We wrestle to win by putting on the breastplate of righteousness.

- A. Although there is an imputed righteousness for the child of God we must establish the righteous lifestyle in our lives.

Hosea 10:12 *"Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you."*

- B. How can we say that we live in the Kingdom of God if we don't dwell in righteousness?

Romans 14:17-18 *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men."* (KJV)

- C. It's time to make a choice to pin the devil and win.

Romans 6:13-14a *"And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you,..."*

IV. We wrestle to win by becoming men and women of peace.

- A. We're done with warfare with brothers and sisters and even people in the world. Our conflict is with principalities and powers.

Psalms 34:14 *"Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it."*

- B. God leads us in the ways of peace if we will only listen to Him.

Psalms 85:8 *"I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly."*

- C. As we minister peace to those around us we will find those who are ready to receive.

Matthew 10:11-13 *"Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. ¹²And when you go into a household, greet it. ¹³If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you."*

- D. God is looking for men and women who will wrestle to win by preaching a message that brings captives out of the hold of the enemy.

Romans 10:13-15 *"For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." ¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

V. We wrestle to win by taking up the shield of faith.

- A. We are constantly under the barrage of fiery darts that can only be turned aside by a stand of faith.

1. Faith assures us of victory.

II Chronicles 20:20 *"Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."*

2. Faith pleases God and assures His intervention in each and every battle.

Hebrews 11:6 *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*

- B. We must make a daily confession of our faith and stand it for continued victory.

I John 5:4 *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”*

1. My confession – I am born of God, therefore I can live in victory.
2. My confession – Because I am born of God, I am a man of faith. Therefore victory is mine.

VI. We wrestle to win by putting on the helmet of salvation.

- A. The helmet covers our head, or our mind.
- B. The greatest battle we ever face is the battle for the mind.
- C. Because of the helmet of salvation, my thoughts can be pure, holy and righteous.

Philippians 4:8-9 *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. ⁹The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”*

VII. We wrestle to win as we engage the enemy with the sword of the spirit.

- A. Since this is a spiritual battle we must have spiritual weapons.

II Corinthians 10:3-5 *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”*

- B. Life comes from the spirit and spirit proceeds from the true word of God.

John 6:63 *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”*

- C. A word of spirit will expose flesh and give us the power to experience transformation.

Hebrews 4:12 *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

Conclusion:

Start every day by putting on the whole armor of God and you will be wrestling to win.