

**STRONGMAN'S
HIS NAME...**



STRONGMAN'S HIS NAME...



by Drs.
Jerry & Carol
Robeson



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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STRONGMAN'S HIS NAME...II

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ISBN: 978-0-88368-603-4

eBook ISBN: 978-1-60374-489-8

Printed in the United States of America

© 1994 by Dr. Carol Robeson

Whitaker House
1030 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068
www.whitakerhouse.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (Pending)

Robeson, Jerry, 1938-1999.

Strongman's his name...II / by Jerry and Carol Robeson.

p. cm.

Originally published: Woodburn, OR: Shiloh Pub., 1994.

ISBN 0-88368-603-1 (pbk.: alk. paper)

I. Spiritual warfare—Biblical teaching. I. Title: Strongman's his name...two.

II. Robeson, Carol, 1939- III. Title.

BS680.S73 R63 2000

235'.4—dc21

00-020281

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CONTENTS

Preface.....	15
Introduction	17
1. Why Does It Seem that My Prayers Are Not Accomplishing Anything?	21
Who Will You Believe?	23
A Huge Key to Successful Spiritual Warfare	24
A Giant Surprise.....	25
How Long Will It Take?.....	26
General Jonathan Wainwright's Victory.....	27
2. Why Do I Have So Much Trouble with the Devil?	29
Bring the Devil Back to God's Word!.....	31
We're Not Devil Conscious	33
The Difference between "Victory" and "Triumphing"	33
God Won the War over the Devil.....	33
Deceptions and Delusions.....	35
We Still Wrestle.....	36

3. Despite Closing Doors to the Devil, the Situation Doesn't Get Any Better	37
Getting to the Root of the Problem?	38
What Do You Say About Your Problem?.....	39
What Are the "Wiles" of the Devil?	40
How do we Receive What God Promised in His Word?	41
"Pit Bull Prayers"	42
Going Through the Wall.....	43
The Three Hebrew Children	44
4. Will God Really Help Me if I Stand Against the Devil?.....	47
Our Sonship	48
Is the Devil a Lion?	49
Our Relationship to God	50
A Great Problem in the Body of Christ Today	51
Submission Brings Authority	52
Must We Suffer if We Teach Spiritual Warfare?	53
5. What Is the Difference Between God's Voice and the Devil's Voice?.....	54
The Content	55
The Location	55
Our Body and Emotions	56
A Test to Find Where Your Spirit Is Located.....	57
Terror at Tenerife.....	58
6. Can I Really Trust God the Father?	60
Who Is Doing What to Us?	60
Who Is God?	61
Who Is the Devil?	65
What Are the Works of the Flesh?.....	67
Two Reasons People Don't Trust God.....	68

When All Looks Lost—Do This!.....	69
7. Why Are There Such Extremes in Spiritual Warfare Today?	71
The Two Extreme Problems	71
Situational Spiritual Warfare.....	72
Act According to the Word and the Holy Spirit	74
8. Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed?	77
How Did Jesus Do Spiritual Warfare?	79
The Definitive Word Concerning Christians & Demon Possession.....	81
Experiences Versus God’s Word.....	81
The Requirements.....	83
The “Loose-Liver” Plague.....	84
The Case of Ananias and Sapphira.....	86
It’s Crunch Time in World History.....	88
Must Deliverance Have Sickening Manifestations?	88
Two Things That Will Stop a Deliverance	89
The Demon’s “Nest Theory” Dismantled.....	91
9. Are Some People Looking For Attention instead of Deliverance?.....	92
Do You Want to Be Healed?	93
The Pivotal Point of Deliverance.....	93
What if Nothing Happens?	95
10. Are Natural Disasters the Judgment of God?.....	97
The Real Destroyer	98
God Is Not a Child Abuser!	98
11. Am I Really Winning at Spiritual Warfare?.....	101
We Believe God’s Version of What Happened.....	102
I’m Going to Kill You!	103
How Do We Escape this Brainwashing of the Devil?	104
End of the Party!	106

12. Does Binding and Loosing Refer to Spiritual Warfare?	108
The Greek Translation Supports This Action	109
Shouldn't We Be More Respectful of the Devil?	111
Is Prayer Important in Spiritual Warfare?	113
13. Does "Pleading the Blood of Jesus" Protect Us?	115
14. Why Was the Vietnam War So Different?	120
Information about Post-Traumatic Stress	123
15. Spirit of Divination	127
Is It Acceptable for Our Children to Play Video Games?	127
Should Christians Be Involved in the Martial Arts?	128
Can Christians Interact with Demons?	130
Playing with Ouija Boards and Reading Horoscopes	131
Do Computers Have a Spirit of Divination?	132
How Do We Know Satan Can't Read Our Minds?	132
What Scriptures Forbid Water Witching?	133
Is All Magic Wrong?	134
Is Bio-feedback the Same as Bio-rhythms?	134
What about Jezebel, Ahab, or Leviathan Spirits?	135
Can Christians Have Curses Put on Them?	137
16. Familiar Spirit	141
What Is Hypnosis and What Does It Really Do?	141
Are There Different Degrees of Hypnotic Trances?	142
Can Hypnosis Take People Back to the Womb?	143
Is Hypnosis a Religion, Scientific, or Medical?	143
Is it OK When the Police Use a Psychic?	145
What if You're Asked to Submit to Hypnosis?	146
Can Demons Live in Buildings, Churches, Etc.?	147
What Is Hallucinatory?	148

Are There False Prayer Languages?	148
Can Evil Spirits Pass from Parents to Children?	149
What about Spirit Messages That Help People?	149
How Do We Cleanse Our House Spiritually?.....	149
What about Objects I Can't Remove from My House?	151
Can I Sell My Occult Objects?	151
Are Totem Poles Occultic?	151
Discerning a Word of Knowledge from ESP	151
Is TM a Religion or a Science?	152
Is Conversing with Demons Dangerous?	152
17. Spirit of Jealousy	154
Is There a Spirit of Bitterness?.....	154
Can Jealousy Have Secondary Effects in a Person's Life?	154
Is Jealousy Really a Serious Problem among Christians?	155
Why Is Anger under the Spirit of Jealousy?	158
Is Envy Normal?	159
18. Lying Spirit.....	160
What Causes Us to Doubt Our Salvation and Prayer Language?.....	160
What Causes People to Cheat?	161
Can a Lying Spirit Be Influencing Our Churches?	161
Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled	164
Why Do People Do Such Horrible Things?	164
Deception	165
Simulated Flights to the Moon	166
The Man Who almost Died of Nothing.....	167
The Moses Sole.....	169
Be Prepared for the Final Showdown!.....	171
Live in a Constant State of Faith.....	172
Treat the Devil like a Dog.....	173

Hallelujah!.....	173
Michelob Beer.....	174
19. Perverse Spirit	175
Is HIV/AIDS the Judgment of God?.....	175
How Does a Perverse Spirit Get Started?	176
What Is a Reprobate Mind Mentioned in Romans?	179
Are Homosexuals Trying to Take Over?	180
Does Homosexuality Effect Lifespan?	180
Do Sins of the Body Effect the Whole Being?	181
20. Spirit of Haughtiness (Pride)	183
Your Teaching on Spiritual Warfare Seems So Simple	183
Why is a Spirit of Pride So Hard to See in Ourselves?.....	184
What Does 1 John 2:16 Mean by “ <i>The Pride of Life?</i> ”	185
What Is Rebellious Pride?	185
21. Spirit of Heaviness	187
The Difference Between a Spirit of Heaviness and Grief	187
Is There a Spirit of Rejection?.....	188
Is Attempted Suicide Unforgivable?.....	188
At What Age are People Most Vulnerable to Depression?	189
Should We Experience Grief When a Loved One Dies?	190
How Can I Forgive People if I Don’t Feel Like It?	190
The Inverness Lady	192
22. Spirit of Prostitution	193
What Is a Critical Spirit?	193
Why Can’t I Overcome a Critical Spirit?	193
What Can I Do about a Husband Who Abuses Me?.....	194
How Does Fasting Help Us?	195
How Do I “Shut Doors” in My Life?	195

Your Ears Are Your Spiritual Mouth.....	196
23. Spirit of Infirmity	197
How Can I Be Sure It's God's Will to Heal Everyone?.....	197
Sin Isn't always the Cause	199
The Boy with No Ear!.....	199
Twenty Years Bent Over Double.....	200
Healed of Cancer.....	201
A Miracle I Was Happy to Hear About!.....	202
The Wheel-Bed Man	202
How to Keep Your Healing.....	205
Is There a Death Wish?.....	205
Hidden Desires to Be Sick.....	206
If There's Healing, Why Accept Headaches, Glasses, Etc.?.....	208
Can Demons Really Heal or Prosper People?.....	208
Our Daughter's Healing.....	209
24. Dumb and Deaf Spirit.....	210
How Did Jesus Do Spiritual Warfare?	210
How Does God Teach His Children?.....	212
Are Demon-Possessed Children Lost?	212
Are All Mentally Ill People Demon-Possessed?.....	213
Are the Words We Speak Really Important?	213
25. Spirit of Bondage.....	214
Can You Bind Spirits for Others?.....	214
Can You Bind when People Don't Cooperate?	214
Should You Tell People You Are Binding the Devil?	214
Must Christians Keep Binding the Same Spirits?	215
How Often Do You Bind and Loose for Others?.....	216
Can a Demon-Possessed Person Ask God for Help?	216
Why Don't I See Results in My Family?	216

Can We Bind the Spirits from a Distance?.....	217
Is Drug and Alcoholic Addiction a Disease?.....	217
Should Christians Drink Alcoholic Beverages?	218
26. Spirit of Fear	219
Can Fear Cause Negative Events in My Life?.....	219
Can Fear Kill?.....	220
Do Christians Have to Suffer Bad Luck?	221
Why Did My Mother Die in a Car Accident?	222
Do Ministers and Missionaries Battle Fear?	224
How Do We Dominate Fear in These Last Days?	225
Don't Look in the Snake's Eyes	226
What Are Some of the Power Tools God Has Given Us?	228
27. Seducing Spirits.....	229
Christian Rock Music in Our Churches Today	229
The Russian Letter.....	230
The Ann Landers Letter	231
Are My Family Prayers Effective Against Drugs, Etc.?	234
Will Satan Try to Attack Us Again?	234
Children	234
What Signs Indicate a Child May Be in to Satanism?	237
28. Spirit of Antichrist	239
Are All Out-of-Body Experiences Good?	239
Is <i>Embraced by the Light</i> a Good Book?	240
Are Satanists and New Agers Infiltrating Our Churches?.....	241
The Bigger They Are, the Harder They Fall!.....	242
I've Got to Get Out of Here!	243
How's God Treating You Today?.....	245
Do Miracles Happen Today?.....	246
There Is Nothing Impossible with God	246

29. Spirit of Error.....249
 Do We Send Demons to the Pit or Abyss?..... 249
 Unenlightened or on a Lower Spiritual Plane? 250
 What Is Gnosticism or a “Secret Knowledge” Religion?251
 What’s the Truth about Modern Bible Translations?..... 252
 The Lord’s Prayer: Luke 11:2..... 254
 What Are Subliminal Messages? 257
 What Is New Age Music? 258
 What Is the Luciferian Initiation? 259
 What Is the Worship of the Goddess Sophia?..... 260
30. Spirit of Death.....262
 How Can I Keep from Being Afraid of Death or Dying? 262
 Goodbye, World, Goodbye..... 264
 God’s Time-Table..... 265
 Martin Luther King..... 266
 “Pistol” Pete Maravich..... 266
 Listen to What Jesus Is Preparing for Us 267
 About the Authors 269

PREFACE

When we left the mission field after twenty years in the 1980s to teach spiritual warfare in the U.S., many of our friends and pastors, who had supported and encouraged us for years, thought we were either crazy or out of touch with reality. Their attitude suggested that all that “stuff” about demons only happens on the mission field so why bother them with it here in the U.S.?

We knew we had clearly heard from God so we took a gigantic step of faith, left people’s attitudes to the Lord and began teaching the people who were willing to listen to what we had to say about the subject.

We sent our *Strongman’s His Name What’s His Game* manuscript off to various publishing houses, but they seemed to be afraid of it. Spiritual warfare had been abused in so many ways over the years that there was a natural tendency for them to shy away from it.

One day the Holy Spirit spoke to my spirit as clearly as I’ve ever heard Him. He said, “Why don’t you publish the book yourself?”

The thought had never crossed my mind because we didn’t know anything about publishing, but the thought immediately excited me. “Hey, that’s a great idea!” I answered and that is how Shiloh Publishing House came into existence. God has led us every step of the way since then and we give Him all the glory.

Now, a number of years later the atmosphere has changed considerably. No one asks us anymore why we are teaching about things that only happen on the mission field—the mission field problems have come to our own cities and

communities. Spiritual warfare and binding the strongman are now common terms that we hear all the time.

Everywhere we go people thank us for being obedient to the Lord in making the Strongman book available to the body of Christ. The truth is, we are honored and thankful that the Lord entrusted us with this message and our greatest desire is to get it out to all the world—something which is happening now!

INTRODUCTION

The response to our book, *Strongman's His Name What's His Game*, has been phenomenal. We have received letters and phone calls from all over the world and talked with thousands of people in our seminars about the subject of spiritual warfare.

Most people asked questions about how to deal with their particular problems. From those questions we observed certain patterns developing which we could see needed to be addressed in a more formal context. So that is what we will do in this book.

The major discovery we made was that many Christians feel they are not adequately prepared to deal personally with the devil and their spiritual problems in an effective manner.

Our principle ministry for twenty years on the mission field was to take the new converts from the open-air crusades we had been involved with and mold them into the new church body that would carry on the ministry of the new church under the leadership of the new pastor. We quickly learned that we didn't have time to baby along two thousand to three thousand new converts. As the Holy Spirit led us, we developed methods of teaching the new ones to fend for themselves in spiritual matters much sooner than had been the pattern in the past.

For instance, after giving them thorough instruction concerning divine healing, we would instruct them, "If you get sick, don't call the pastor—you pray for

yourselves. Your faith is as effective as ours so just believe what God's Word says and receive it by faith." They were new converts and didn't know any different—so they did it—and were healed! When they realized the power and authority they had in God's Word they started looking for other sick people to pray for and God was faithful to heal them also as they believed and received by faith in God's Word.

That lifted a large load from our shoulders and we were freed to concentrate on other areas of ministry. Eventually the new converts were leading souls to Jesus, praying for the sick and doing spiritual warfare instead of expecting the pastor and other leaders to do it for them.

When we returned to the U.S., we felt led of the Holy Spirit to use that same approach in sharing the spiritual warfare principles He had given us with the rest of the world. So we wrote our *Strongman's His Name What's His Game* book from the perspective of giving people a simple, effective tool to help them pinpoint their own spiritual needs, deal with them according to God's Word and find freedom in their life without having to rely on other people to do for them what they should be doing for themselves to receive their deliverance.

Great numbers of our readers used our book that way and reported tremendous victories in their lives for which we thank the Lord. That encouraged us to continue believing that this was what the Holy Spirit wanted to accomplish in His body. It was time for the laity, all members who are not "formal leaders" of the church, to share the battle with the enemy instead of depending on pastors and spiritual leaders to do it for them. Should the day ever come in America that Christians are persecuted to the point that they cannot openly worship God according to the dictates of their conscience and convictions, these teachings will also serve to help them do battle in the spirit realm so they can accomplish God's Will in their lives and live the overcoming life of a conqueror that Romans 8:37 promises believers, no matter what the situation may be.

But we were troubled by the small percentage of people who felt they could not break through to victory in their life without the help of others.

We understand that there are those who are so bound or even demon possessed that they are incapable of receiving freedom without assistance—their need for in-depth deliverance is understandable.

The underlying problem, we discovered for those who are overly dependent on others to receive deliverance, is a faith problem. For various reasons they

find it difficult to make a step of faith on their own and do what they know they should do. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God have usually spoken to them about it, but they either (1) don't recognize it as the Holy Spirit, (2) are fearful of the reactions of people around them if they follow the Holy Spirit's and the Word's direction, (3) feel unqualified to confront the devil, take authority over him in the Name of Jesus and boot him out of their lives, (4) really don't want to give up what has caused the problem to begin with and are looking for someone to tell them it is alright to continue living as they are, (5) have given in to discouragement and believe what the devil tells them about the situation, or (6) any number of other reasons which eventually reduce down to the simple fact that *they have not put into practice in their lives what God has to say about the situation*. The fact is that God has provided for our every need, but it is our responsibility to meet whatever conditions He demands in His Word so that we can receive His promises.

For instance, God has provided salvation for every individual on this earth. But in order for them to be saved, (1) they *have* to be told that salvation is necessary and possible, (2) they *must* repent of their sins and confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus, (3) they *must* believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and (4) they *must* receive the salvation from their sins by an act of faith in God's Word. (See Romans 10:9.)

We all know of people who feel those steps aren't necessary and as a result are not able to *receive* salvation. God wants them to receive and so do we, but until *they* actually *believe* God and *do* what is necessary to be saved, they will not be saved.

So the bottom line for Christians who have spiritual problem areas in their life is to understand that they must believe God's Word more than anything else if they truly desire to have victory in their lives. The problems will not disappear until they symbolically grab the "horns" of their problems by faith in God's Word and deal with them correctly. If they continue (1) wishing their problems would go away, (2) blaming others for them, (3) getting angry with God or people in the body of Christ, or (4) making excuses for them, etc., they will only get worse.

This is crunch time in world history. The devil is running loose in a last desperate attempt to deceive the inhabitants of this earth. The powers of heaven are being shaken. There is distress of nations, earthquakes, hurricanes, drought, famines, wars and rumors of wars, men's hearts failing them for fear. (See Luke 21:2, 26.)

We must stop playing games and get serious about serving God. When we do, God will do everything He has promised in His Word. We will be the more than conquerors that Romans 8:37 says we are. We will use these last, perilous days (see 2 Timothy 3:1–17) to show the power of God as it has never been shown before in history.

Don't be impatient like the people of this push-button generation. Spiritual warfare is just that—warfare conducted in the *spirit* realm. We would all rather see it happen instantly in the *physical* realm, but it usually takes time to manifest itself from the spirit realm so that it can be seen with our natural eyes. That involves faith in God and *that* is usually where the breakdown occurs when people have difficulty in spiritual warfare.

When a lifetime of faulty habit patterns collide with the way God says we must live, guess what has to change? That process of getting our habit patterns straightened out takes time. God does His part in the situation and then we must walk it out with the help of the Holy Spirit on a day-by-day basis, applying the Word of God *consistently* to the problem area of our life until the walls of our spiritual defense system are strong enough to withstand the battering ram of the devil's deception.

There is no place in spiritual warfare for laziness. We've had people call or write us about some major problem area in their life, who have either just skimmed through our book or else haven't even read it, although they have a copy in their possession. They expect us to wave a magic wand by praying a prayer over them that will change their life. That just doesn't happen. Each one of us must be faithful to do *our* part in the situation; pray, read our Bible, believe, resist the devil in the name of Jesus, loose or allow the Holy Spirit to do His will in our lives, live in obedience to the Word of God and receive His promises by faith, among other things. When we do, we will experience all the freedom, joy and power God has for His children.

Is that what you want? Read on because that is exactly what God wants you to have!

WHY DOES IT SEEM THAT MY PRAYERS ARE NOT ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING?

QUESTION: “Why does it seem like my prayers are not accomplishing anything? I pray and believe, but it doesn’t seem to work. It seems like heaven is welded shut and my prayers are not getting through to God.”

In natural warfare the soldier must have absolute confidence in his rifle and the manufacture’s handbook with the instructions on how to use and care for it, if he is going to confront and defeat the enemy.

When the soldier enters into combat, his rifle is the most important item in his life. It protects him, helps him drive back the enemy and actually becomes an extension of his body as he lives and even sleeps with it in his hands.

Your “rifle” in spiritual warfare is your faith in God’s Word, the Bible, “*the sword of the Spirit*” (Ephesians 6:17).

To conduct successful spiritual warfare you must have *absolute, unshakable, unwavering faith in the Word’s ability to stop the devil’s activities in your life whenever you use it on him correctly.*

One of the major differences between physical and spiritual warfare is that when you shoot a physical rifle you can usually see the damage that has been inflicted by the bullet. In spiritual warfare you must depend entirely on what the manufacturer’s handbook says the resulting damage will be when you shoot your spiritual rifle.

For instance, James 4:7 tells you, *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”* But because you can’t physically see the devil in the act of fleeing, you have to *believe with total faith and confidence* that when you resist the devil in the spirit realm, that is *exactly* what is taking place.

“But it doesn’t *feel* like he is fleeing,” you say. “The symptoms are still there, the problem is even worse now, my husband is drinking more than ever, my finances are in worse shape than before I prayed. How can the devil be fleeing if the circumstances are worse than before?”

The answer to your question is found in the manufacturer’s handbook—the Bible. Does it say you have to *feel* good, better or different to prove that your rifle worked and the devil is running away from you? No, it doesn’t say that.

The only condition James 4:7 emphasizes is that you have to be submitted to God when you resist the devil. *“Submit yourselves therefore to God.”* That condition *must* be met in your life if you ever expect the devil to flee from you.

Are you submitted to God? Are you staying free from sin and keeping your fleshly desires that aren’t pleasing to God under control by the power of the Holy Spirit? Is Jesus the Lord of your life? Are you living according to His will, in humility and obedience?

If not, you have given the devil a foothold or open door in your life which gives the devil a right to not only hang around, but to also continue hassling you. *“Neither give place to the devil”* (Ephesians 4:27). You must repent of the sin in your life and get the door closed first, *before* you begin shooting your rifle again, or you are just wasting ammunition.

If you are submitted to God and your heart doesn’t condemn you, then you will have total confidence in your rifle and know that the bullet hit the target *exactly where you aimed* it and that the enemy is on the run. *“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight”* (1 John 3:21–22).

The devil will try to trick you because you are shooting blind physically. He will tell you that you missed, God’s Word didn’t work for you this time, God doesn’t really like you so He gave you a rifle that misfired, your ammunition was all wet, you are too fanatical, *anything to make you doubt God and His promises in His Word.*

WHO WILL YOU BELIEVE?

What you decide at this critical moment will determine whether you experience victory or defeat in your life. Are you going to believe the circumstances and tricks of the devil or are you going to believe God's Word?

Ephesians 6:11 says that the armor of the Lord is for just such an occasion as this. *"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (tricks, deception, schemes, illusions) of the devil."*

People who are victorious in God's family live by faith in what God's Word tells them. *"The just shall live by faith"* (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38).

If your faith is weak, then you must get God's Word so deeply implanted in your heart or spirit, by listening to what it says about the situation, that you can *override* whatever your mind or flesh tells you when the battle is raging in your life.

The devil will use your mind and body to trick you into doubting God, so Paul tells you in Romans 12:1–2 that you must make your body a living sacrifice, or actually take away its "vote" in any spiritual matter. Then you transform or change the way your mind thinks by filling it with the Word of God. *"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10:17).

As faith floods your heart, the instruction handbook (God's Word) becomes so engraved on your heart that you *know without a doubt* that when you follow its instructions, your rifle will work perfectly and will do *exactly* what the manufacturer (God) says it is capable of doing. After that you follow what God tells you in your *spirit* instead of following your body, mind, and emotions. You *know* that what God says about the situation is absolutely true no matter how out-of-control it may appear in the physical, natural realm. *"For we walk by faith, not by sight"* (2 Corinthians 5:7).

It doesn't matter if you are in the middle of an earthquake or forest fire or financial depression or divorce or medical crisis or an atomic bomb attack, *first establish what God's Word says about the situation*, then make *that* your point-of-reference as to what you truly believe and how you will act or react from that point on.

Paul assures us after a life filled with spiritual warfare, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or*

nakedness, or peril, or sword?...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:35, 37). Nothing can defeat you if you truly put God and His Word first in your life!

It is important also for you to note that *God wants the devil to be powerless over you* or Jesus would never have defeated the devil and then given you a rifle and handbook to keep the devil in that continued state of defeat as you use them correctly.

Neither are you to become overly concerned with the devil or what he tries to do. You simply have a quiet confidence in your rifle and manufacturer. "*And having done all, to stand*" (Ephesians 6:13). You are not moved by the physical realm, but by what God says.

Your attention and thoughts are on Jesus—you live for Jesus—then when the devil starts doing things he has no right to do to a child of God, you command him to stop in the name of Jesus, just as Jesus commanded the wind and waves. Then you go on living for Jesus

Let me warn you though, one of the great signs of the end-time is a lack of faith (even in Christians) in God and His Word. "*Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*" (Luke 18:8).

A HUGE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL SPIRITUAL WARFARE

So a huge key to successful spiritual warfare in your life is this important scripture: "***Have faith in God***" (Mark 11:22). *Do not, under any circumstances allow this world, the flesh, the devil, or even certain Christians to rob you of your faith in God and His Word in these last, perilous days!*

Whether the heavens seem welded shut has nothing to do with the situation. What God's Word has to say about it and whether you believe and act on what He says is what is important.

Let us look at a physical example of warfare to illustrate what we are talking about. The Israelites had just been delivered from Egypt by a stunning display of God's power. They had been freed from the enemy just as we have been freed from the devil when we accept Jesus as our personal Savior.

God had a beautiful future prepared for the Israelites, complete with their own land that flowed with milk and honey. All they had to do was *believe* God's

promise that the land was theirs. “*For I have given you the land to possess it*” (Numbers 33:53).

It is true that “*possessing the land*” meant that they had to fight for it, but as long as they obeyed God and believed what He said, they were promised total victory over the giants who lived in the Promised Land. That is our situation today in the spirit realm. After we accept Christ as our Savior we are promised total victory over the devil if we *believe* God’s promise: “*in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us*” (Romans 8:37).

So why do we have problems keeping the devil under our heel? For the same reason the Israelites had problems—we believe the enemy when he pulls his tricks on us and we let him wriggle away from the total dominion God has given us over him.

The Israelites did it by second-guessing God. They saw the circumstances that faced them, the giants that were in the Promised Land, and believed the devil’s lies that God had apparently not taken the giants into consideration when He promised them the land.

We do the same thing. When the giants in our life loom up on the horizon we think, “Why did God save me to let this happen in my life? These giants are too big for me to defeat” (which is true). We don’t have to defeat them because Jesus has already done it for us, and now we simply believe *that* more than what the giants say.

When we begin doubting God’s promises we fall into fear and fear causes us to forget who we are—the *conqueror* over the giants or problems. We stop thinking sensibly and become immobilized on the border of the Promised Land, paralyzed with fear.

A GIANT SURPRISE

Do you want to know something that will surprise you about all of this? *The enemy we are afraid of is actually afraid of us!* That’s right! The very people the Israelites were supposed to defeat in the Promised Land were *terrified* of the Israelites. Doesn’t James tell us that if we resist the devil he will flee from us, which alludes to the terror the devil feels when he realizes we aren’t tricked by his wiles anymore? (See James 4:7.)

Rahab, who lived in Jericho, the first walled city the Israelites encountered, shared this little tidbit with the spies she hid in her house when they were spying out the land. *“And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you...as soon as we heard these things, [the Red Sea incident and battles Israel had won en route] our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you”* (Joshua 2:9, 11).

Isn't that about the most ridiculous thing you've ever heard? Christians who are afraid of demons and the devil must really look pitiful in the spirit realm. All they have to do is believe God and stand on His Word and the enemy will run like a whipped dog. Instead, because they doubt God, *they* are the ones who run from a defeated, cowering foe!

Rahab reveals, with this brief glance into the kingdom of Satan, what the enemy feels when we wheel up to his borders with all the firepower of God at our disposal to drive him out of the land (victory over problems in our life) God has promised us.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The forces of evil *know* they are defeated in our life if we truly believe God and do what He says we can do in the name of Jesus. The amazing thing is that it took the Israelites forty years of wandering in the desert to finally realize that fact. The question is, *how long will it take us?*

How do you perceive yourself? The devil tells you that you are weak; that you have just had bad luck in your life and will have to live with it; that you aren't important to God; that everyone else will receive from God except you and on and on. But that isn't what God thinks about you. He says, *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ”* (Romans 8:16–17).

So we must stop listening to the enemy's lies and deception. We must stop looking at our failures and begin looking at God's victory. *“The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty before God to the pulling down of strongholds and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God”* (2 Corinthians 10:4).

When we really get this down in our heart and believe it, we'll wonder why we ever put up with the sand, dust, and heat of the “desert” when we could have

been enjoying our privileges as a child of God in the Promised Land of Victory that flows with milk and honey!

Instead of letting the devil beat on us, we beat on him now. We see the fear in his eyes when he feels the power of the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, flashing in our hand.

When the enemy attacks, use the Word of God like Jesus did. Live according to God's Word and believe God instead of the devil.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

GENERAL JONATHAN WAINWRIGHT'S VICTORY

On August 14, 1945, news didn't travel in seconds around the world as it does today by satellite communication. That was the date the Japanese emperor ordered a cease-fire of all military activity after Japan surrendered to the Allied armies.

The war was over—the enemy had been defeated. But because it took time for the order to reach isolated areas, thousands of Allied soldiers continued to suffer at the hands of the Japanese even though Japan had been defeated.

General Jonathan Wainwright was one of those cases. He suffered terrible hardships as a prisoner at a prison camp near Mukden, Manchuria along with other allied prisoners of war. Because of a lack of knowledge, they continued to obey authority figures who no longer had any authority. They obeyed rules that were no longer in force. They gave respect to a system that didn't exist anymore. They were prisoners of a foe who had been conquered.

Isn't that a picture of many Christians today? The devil was defeated by Jesus Christ two thousand years ago, but for a variety of reasons some of God's people are still prisoners of war, caving in to a satanic system that has no right to exert authority over them.

They look at the sinners around them and think they must pattern their life after that ungodly lifestyle. They believe they have to be fearful because everyone else is fearful in this world. *Not true!* We were set free from the bondage of fear when Jesus destroyed the works of the devil. (See 1 John 3:8.)

They think they have to dread death because everyone else does. *Not true!* Paul says that death can't get its stinger into us because Jesus rose from the dead and has the keys of hell and death. (See Revelation 1:18.)

They believe they must worry and fret about what the future holds for them like the sinners do. *Not true!* Jesus promises that if God takes care of the birds and the lilies He will surely provide for us if we put His kingdom first in our life. (See Matthew 6:25–34.)

One day a paratrooper handed a letter through the fence to one of the prisoners of war and told him to deliver it quickly to General Wainwright. That letter from General MacArthur forever broke the power of the Japanese over the Allied prisoners in that camp because it carried the good news that the Japanese army had been defeated.

General Wainwright took the letter to the commanding officer of the prison and demanded that the Japanese officer surrender his sword in a sign of surrender. The officer could do nothing but obey. What a great feeling that must have been for the hero of Corregidor! *The captive became the captor and immediately began exercising his authority over the defeated Japanese officer on the authority of the letter from headquarters.*

Have you read your letter (Bible) yet? Did you notice that paragraph in the letter that says, “Behold, I give unto you power [‘authority’ in the original Greek] to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over **all** the power of the enemy: and **nothing** shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19).

I suppose some of the prisoners doubted that the contents of the letter were really true. Perhaps they should just be quiet and not rile up the enemy by talking about how badly he was defeated. We’ve had Christians tell us that when we teach our seminar.

No! General Wainwright was tired of being in prison and having his rights violated. It was much more satisfying to be the victor instead of the victim.

When the devil comes around trying to intimidate you with fear, temptation, physical symptoms of sickness, and unbelief, just point out to him some of the choice paragraphs in your “letter” from your Commanding General, Jesus Christ.

Demand the devil's sword in the name of Jesus! Treat him as the loser that he is. We are more than conquerors because of the victory Jesus won for us two thousand years ago.

Now, live like a conqueror instead of a prisoner of war!