

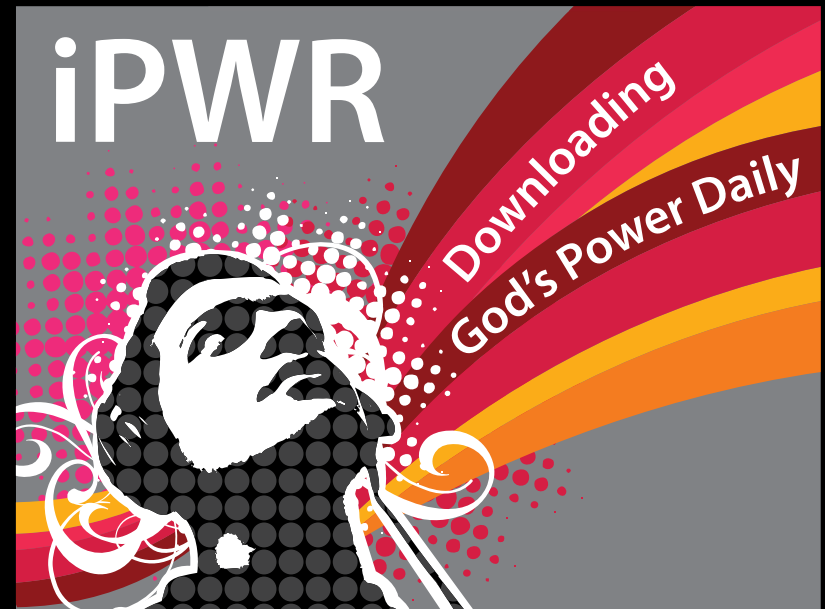
Spirit Strength for Spiritual Battles

Last week I was in Jerusalem and saw the places where Jesus battled with Satan for the souls of all humanity. I was deeply moved by being in the Garden of Gethsemane and imagining the battle Jesus went through to submit to being crucified for our sins. Then our guide pointed to the high point on the city wall where Satan supposedly took Jesus when he tempted Him in the wilderness after His baptism. Suddenly all the struggles Jesus went through became very real to me, and I was reminded how much spiritual battle goes on in the world we live in that we don't even see. Satan attacks believers like a lion seeking someone to devour and he deceives people about Christ so they don't believe in Him and receive the eternal life He alone gives. Everyone is in a battle with unseen forces, but we as beloved children of God have a protector and victor living in us—the Holy Spirit. Just as the Holy Spirit gave Jesus victory over Satan's temptations in the wilderness He can and will do the same thing for us in our battles. I John 4:4, "But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world." It is the Holy Spirit in us who is more powerful than the Devil. He gives us the power to resist him firm in our faith and not surrender to destructive temptation and sin. We're in a battle but we are not in it alone. Through dependence on the Holy Spirit we can be victorious and watch the Devil flee. That's the truth and Satan knows it. Do you?

iPWR Discussion Questions

- 1) Take time to read Luke 4:1-13. What can we learn from Jesus about resisting temptation? How does Satan tempt you personally? Let's be really honest so we can expose his attacks on us.
- 2) How effective are you in overcoming temptation? Do you believe victory is possible in every area of your life? What do you do when you are under attack or being tempted? Who do you call?
- 3) Do you know how to put on the full armor of God? Review about the two pieces we learned about this weekend. What do you need to do to suit up for the battles you are in? Now use your authority in Christ to pray effectively for one another and resist the enemy together. Victory comes as we fight together in His strength.

Week Eight Sermon Notes



Power Need and Fulfillment **April 19/20**

Power for Sharing Boldly **April 26/27**

Power for Practicing the Right Priorities **May 3/4**

Power for Loving Selflessly **May 10/11**

Power for Living Victoriously **May 17/18**

Power for Walking with Integrity **May 24/25**

Power for Overcoming Suffering **May 31/June 1**

► Power Over Demonic Forces **June 7/8**

iPWR Downloading God's Power Daily
June 7+8, 2008

Power Over Demonic Forces

1. The Holy Spirit has all the power we need to live the life Jesus wants us to live. He even has the power we need to overcome Satan's temptations and attacks on our lives. We see that in Jesus' life. Luke 4:1-13

Even in the face of physical depletion the Holy Spirit gave Jesus everything He needed to resist Satan's intense temptations.

Jesus Won By:

- 1) Relying on the Holy Spirit's strength in His weakness.**
- 2) Knowing His true identity and standing firm in it.**
- 3) Knowing the Word accurately and using it effectively.**
- 4) Resisting firmly until the Devil fled.**

James 4:7 - So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

2. Jesus also gave His authority to His disciples to defeat Satan's attack on their life and his control of others' lives. It was the Holy Spirit that gave them this critical victory also.

Acts 8:4-8 - But the believers who had fled Jerusalem went everywhere preaching the Good News about Jesus. Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. Crowds listened intently to what he had to say because of the miracles he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city. Acts 19:11-20

3. As believers today we too are in an invisible war with a vicious enemy who wants to destroy us. We must respect our foe but not fear him because Christ has defeated him.

1 Peter 5:8-9 - Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

1 John 3:8, Colossians 2:14-15, Revelation 12:11 - And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony. And they were not afraid to die.

We do not fight for victory, we fight from the victory Christ has secured on the cross.

4. The Holy Spirit can give us victory over all the temptations and attacks of Satan as we learn to use the full armor of God. Ephesians 6:10-14

Satan's Strategy: Lie, temptation, sin, condemnation, discouragement, pattern of defeat, then self-destruction.

God's Solution: Full Armor of God

1) Belt of Truth: Girding our lives with God's truth and living truthfully and openly before Him. That's what Jesus did and it worked powerfully when He needed it most. **Mark 14:32-36**

John 8:31-32 - Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Psalms 139:23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

2) Breastplate of Righteousness

Standing in your blood-bought righteousness in Christ against all the accusations of the Devil and giving no grounds for accusation by living righteously.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 John 1:9 - But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.

Romans 8:1 - So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

James 4:17 - Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.

Next week we will explain more aspects of God's armor but the Holy Spirit has all the power we need to overcome every temptation and attack by demonic forces. Are you relying on His strength and wisdom?

James 4:7 - So humble yourselves before God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.