

Spiritual Warfare

Enter into the victory of Jesus

Lord Jesus, you have gained the victory over the world, the flesh and the devil, through your death and resurrection. Please, allow us to enter into your victory whenever people, devils or systems oppose you. Amen.

1. Prepare for spiritual warfare by knowing the Bible.

- Find in **Matthew 17:15-20** what to do in the face of *demonic* opposition. (Exorcism)
- Find in **Matthew 26:38-45** what to do in the face of *mortal* opposition. (Martyrdom)
- Find in **Acts 4:23-31** what to do in the face of *political* opposition. (Courage)
- Find in **Acts 13:6-12** what to do in the face of *religious* opposition. (Power encounter)
- Find in **Acts 16:16-26** what to do in the face of *economic* opposition. (Praise)
- Find in **Ephesians 6:10-13** what to do in the face of *spiritual* opposition. (Stand firm)
- Find in **James 4:1-7** what to do in the face of *internal* opposition. (Humility)
- Find in **1 Peter 5:8-11** what to do in the face of *legal* opposition. (Resist Satan)

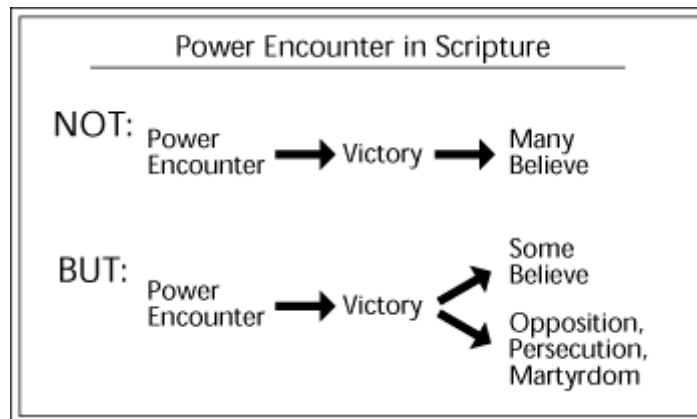


Chart adapted from <http://www.directionjournal.org/>

2. Enter into spiritual battles together with your co-workers.

When you come to realize that you are experiencing opposition to what Jesus has called you to do, take time with your co-workers to discern the kind of opposition and to **take action that the Bible recommends**.

This will often entail some of the following steps.

- Review Bible texts that relate to your situation, like those in section 1, above.
- Agree on which facets of the opposition are political, religious, economic, spiritual, internal, demonic and social.
- Agree to resist the devil—then do so.

- Examine your own actions whether they are biblical, Christ-honouring, righteous, ethical, culturally-sensitive, honourable ...
- Pray together, appealing to the Lord Jesus Christ who died to free people from the devil, rose to life to live with us believers and sent his Holy Spirit to give us holiness and power to obey his commandments.
- If attacks come from other believers, then ask their leaders whether they approve of their personnel's actions, citing only facts about what they have done.
- Proceed with your work, adjusting your plans where past actions have caused unnecessary offence.
- Show love to your enemies in ways that honour Jesus.
- Discern and avoid **non-biblical** myths and errors about spiritual warfare:
 - That naming local spirits will give you power over them.
 - That binding demons will make people become Christians.
 - That a placing of symbolic objects will weaken local spirits.
 - That by commanding Satan, spirits or angels, you will get the results that you want.

3. Conduct with your co-workers a time of worship, prayer and praise for yourselves and local believers.

- Read together some Bible stories that illustrate spiritual warfare. Both Old and New Testaments may be used.
- Review together biblical principles and promises of spiritual warfare, emphasizing that Jesus is Victor and our faith is the victory.
- Lead the believers in a time of questions and answers about spiritual warfare, not dwelling on popular, non-biblical ideas and opinions that some may express.
- Ask for testimonials about past victories in spiritual warfare, including those that led to suffering, persecution and martyrdom.
- Introduce the Lord's Supper with Hebrews 12:1-3.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
- Share with the believers any actions that you and your co-workers have decided on.
- Form small groups to pray for one another and about the present spiritual battle.
- Memorize together 1 Peter 5:8-9.