

## **Lesson 23 Win in Spiritual Warfare**

### **Reflection**

What is our favorite sport? What do we do to win when we play?

### **Inspiration from the Holy Bible**

Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. (Ephesians 6:10-12)

### **Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an**

"O you who have believed, do not follow the footsteps of Satan. And whoever follows the footsteps of Satan - indeed, he enjoins immorality and wrongdoing. And if not for the favor of Allah upon you and His mercy, not one of you would have been pure, ever, but Allah purifies whom He wills, and Allah is Hearing and Knowing." (Surah An-Nur 24:21)

### **Hadith**

Abu Sa'id al-Khudri reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "Satan (evil) said: By your might, O Lord, I will continue to mislead the children of Adam, as long as their souls are in their bodies. The Lord said: By my might and majesty, I will continue to forgive them, as long as they seek my forgiveness." (Musnad Ahmad)

What does spiritual warfare look like?

- a. The devil uses many ways to mislead us into committing sins. He attacks us through temptation, especially at a time when we are emotionally, mentally or physically drained, or when we worry about our finances or material comforts.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." (Matthew 4:1-3)

- b. The enemy attacks us through accusations. He makes us feel guilty about our past sins which God has forgiven. He accuses us of being unworthy of God's forgiveness and love. He does this to draw us away from God.

This great dragon - the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world was thrown down to the earth with all his angels... For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth the one who accuses them before our God day and night. (Revelation 12:9-10)

- c. The enemy attacks us through deception. The Bible says that Satan is the father of lies, able to portray evil as good. He exploits our human weaknesses by using movies, television, magazines, music and the internet to promote deception. He makes drinking alcohol or taking drugs look harmless and enjoyable. He deceives us about what beauty is and makes us feel envious of people who have fair skin and slim bodies. He makes immorality look pleasurable.

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)

### **How do we prepare for battle?**

Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the

fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:14-17)

### **Challenge**

What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own life?

### **Prayer**

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests; let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: Grant us Lord the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.