

Combating the Forces of Evil

Ephesians 6:12 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

We have all experienced struggles in our life. We have all been angry at a loved one or a stranger. We have all felt like we were treated unfairly. We have all been exposed to pain. We find ourselves fighting the same battles; over and over again. It's exhausting! We have all prayed for guidance & strength to overcome these struggles. We have all felt like God doesn't hear our prayers. But You need to remember that God doesn't wave a wand and miraculously remove your battle so you can win. God wants you to use your faith in him; to fight against that battle. God wants you to learn that your faith will give you the win against the forces of evil! When you are weary, God will give you the breakthrough that you need.

Evil wears many hats. There are so many varieties of hats and a diverse mixture of hats that it's mind-boggling. As you turn a 360° circle, you see so much despair. Last year the Texas floods killing innocent young children. Countless number of tornadoes leaving devastating destruction behind. And it's not just the natural disasters leaving us with broken hearts, it's man-made decisions of sinful ways.

Unfortunately, our world is broken. You are broken. I am broken. We are all targeted by evil and the jaggedness of this world. Evil wants us to be spiritually defective and weak. In John 16:33, Jesus told his disciples, "*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*"



Jesus is explaining to his disciples how the world will not embrace their teachings of the Bible. Jesus further explains that having Him in their hearts will give them peace, and they will overcome the forces of evil.

It is very difficult to get out of the mindset of being angry, stressed, hurt or depressed. The efforts of eliminating these feelings of being defeated grows tiresome. I, too, have had my own struggles. I pray and I pray. I ask God to give me the strength to deal with my battles.



Last year, during a trip, I was feeling low and weak. I was growing weary & tiresome. I was feeling like God was not hearing my prayers. Unexpectedly, I received a text message. I did not recognize the number. I do not know who sent the text message. The text message said this, "**Don't forget to take care of yourself**". Honestly, the text message took me by surprise, and I deleted it. I felt there were hidden eyes all around me, watching my every move.

Then it occurred to me, God answers prayers in many ways. When you least expect it. Yes, I think this text was a message from God. I suddenly felt God smiling down at me. This text message gave me the strength I needed to continue fighting my battles.

Take heart. Remember this, God is listening and he does hear your prayers. If we dig deep, we can find the strength to combat the forces of evil that bring all those dark moments into our day. You can win against the forces of evil if you find the love in Jesus.

Prayer & Thanks to God:

God,

As I continue to fight the earthly battles of sin, please don't leave my side. I need you my dear Lord. Thank you for the light you provide me in my heart and for all the blessings and grace you bestow upon me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.