

God's Calling Requirements Part 26

The Church in Spiritual Battle

“1 A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. 4 Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. 6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. 7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brethren, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” 13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. 15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. 16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. 17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.” (Revelation 12:1-17)

The spiritual battle of the church against Satan is a real and serious matter. The Scripture that we will tackle is so informative in describing this matter.

The woman in the chosen passage of ***Revelation 12***, it can be Mary who gave birth to Jesus, ***“5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.”*** Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords of all the nations, He died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and then He rise from the dead, ascended to heaven and now He is in the right hand of God the Father.

Also the woman in the chosen passage of ***Revelation 12***, it can be the woman in ***Genesis 3***, as we know when the woman fall in sin, the Lord put this curse on the serpent, ***“14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.” (Genesis 3:14)*** Not only had put that but the Lord added the following, ***“15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush***

your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:15) The Lord promised enmity between the woman and the serpent and between its offspring and the offspring of the woman, as the Lord made it clear when He said, ***“he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*** The one who crushed the head of the serpent (the devil) is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and ***Genesis 3:15*** can be considered the first message of the Gospel and the first prophecy about the birth of Jesus Christ. ***Genesis 3:15*** speaks also about enmity between the devil and the woman, between his offspring and her offspring. Therefore as you want to follow Christ then there is enmity between you and devil and its demons.

Also the woman in the chosen passage of ***Revelation 12***, it can be any woman who is giving birth to children, or any parents who raise up Godly children. They are attacked by the devil who want to take their children to serve him, ***“The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born.” (Revelation 12:4b)*** Every new baby or new born he is a candidate to be attacked by the devil. As you determined to raise up your children in a Godly way then there is enmity between you and the devil with its demons. ***“The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” (Revelation 12:9)***

Also the woman in the chosen passage of ***Revelation 12***, it can be the church, as we know that the Scripture speaks figuratively about the church as the wife of Jesus who is the husband, as we can read in these Scriptures: ***“23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:23-27)*** ***“7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.” (Revelation 19:7-9)***

The Church of God, the Bride of Jesus, composed of the saints and their righteous deeds. The Church of God is adorned with spiritual gifts and bestowed with honor and authority as described in ***Revelation 12:1***, ***“A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.”*** The spiritual gifts and the authority will all be used by the church to nurture the new disciples and to raise them up in a godly way. All these spiritual gifts that are given to the church, the purpose of them is to fight a good fight against devil, its army of demons, and their power.

Devil and its angels have power and you cannot underestimate the power of Satan, as we read, ***“3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. 4 Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.” (Revelation 12:3-4)*** Also put in your mind that you cannot avoid the conflict between you and Satan. Once you want to follow God then devil is there to fight

against you. Once you receive Christ as your Savior and Lord, you need to arm yourself and understand that you are in a spiritual warfare and you need to move and go in the direction that God is preparing for you to move, as the woman in the book of Revelation 12 did, ***“6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.” (Revelation 12:6 KJV)*** The woman fled into the wilderness, away from worldliness, and that is the place that God had prepared for you to take care of you. Friends, trips, journeys, parties, feasts and festivals, TV, U tubes, are the places that you are exposed to devil and its work. Living in wilderness is to live away from Friends, trips, journeys, parties, games, feasts and festivals, TV, U tubes, and that will be the correct atmosphere that you need to put yourself in.

The spiritual battle against the devil and its angels the demons are real and serious battle and you cannot avoid it or put yourself away from it. The Lord allowed Apostle John to see the battle and he wrote it in the book of Revelation, ***“7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.” (Revelation 12:7 KJV)*** And that what is written to us is to help us to belief that there is a spiritual warfare and we are getting involved in it. One more thing, Devil was thrown to the earth, the place that we live, so the earth is the battle ground. ***“9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” (Revelation 12:9)*** Therefore you need to accept the situation and get work with God against the devil, and work out your salvation.

“10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brethren, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.” (Revelation 12:10) We praise the Lord for the salvation of Jesus, and His grace that He gave to us when Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus when he crushed the head of the serpent on the cross, we received authority from Him to live a victorious life and to fight against the devil that is hurled to the earth that we live on.

Salvation plan is unfold, and Jesus won the war, but what is still going on is the spiritual battle and warfare against our enemy, the devil, the one who keep accusing us and causing us troubles. But the Bible teaches us how to overcome: ***“11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” (Revelation 12:11)***

- A. ***By the blood of Jesus:*** Without the blood of Jesus there is no salvation. Jesus is the grace of God to us to save us.
- B. ***By the word of their testimony:*** Your life testimony is very important. Your repentance, the way you live, your new life in Christ, your stewardship and how you manage your resources and how you serve God and how you show your love to others are all important facts that is clearly speaks about your testimony. The way you raise up your disciples and your children is your life testimony. Your testimony either would glorify Christ or promote the evil work of the devil. So it is in your hand; the way you live your life and your testimony will determine clearly the outcome of the battle between you and the devil.

- C. ***They did not love their lives to death:*** When you deny yourself or hate yourself then you are not allowing yourself to live in a way that will bring death and destruction into your life. Worldliness, selfish ambition, the love of pleasures, the lust of the eyes are all high way to death. Humble down, live holy and simple life, don't love the world, move away from worldliness, and move toward wilderness to be safe. Therefore let us go more to prayer and fasting, let us read more of God's Word and meditate what he is saying to us.

The style of life on earth cannot be at peace all the time, because devil is on earth. ***“12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” (Revelation 12:12)*** Devil is filled of fury. On the First Century John wrote this letter and he mentioned about devil ***that his time is short.*** How much then now? The time is shorter. If Satan at the time were the book of Revelation was written was furious because the time is short, then how much furious now because the time is shorter. ***“13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.” (Revelation 12:13)*** The devil from that time, continue to pursue the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman here represents the church that is making new disciples, and the parents who are raising up Godly children. The devil pursues and persecutes the woman, the church, the parents, and me and you who are determined to follow God and obey Him in raising our children and disciples according to His will and in the fear of the Lord.

“14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.” (Revelation 12:14) The wings God gave to the woman were to help her to flee in the safe direction. The Lord always provides supernatural things, miracles and wonders, that He will provide and do to serve His purpose; to enable us to flee and fly in the direction of the wilderness that God preparing to us in order to protect us and would help us. Fleeing and flying in the direction toward the place that God had prepared for us, means, God would take care of us and nourish us till He comes and take us with Him to heaven.

The devil, however would not give up, but will continue to pursue us, ***“15 Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent.” (Revelation 12:15)*** The river of water that comes out from the mouth of the devil it might be considered by the people who are in the wilderness as good or even a blessing; and that what the devil is doing in certain occasion that he may give something or do certain miracle in order to deceive you. He may give you material things to trick you. Therefore you need to be alert and discern about it. You need to accept the following facts: Not everything is from God: Not every material thing is a blessing: Satan can do various miracles, and can give you various things in order to deceive you, but he cannot give you salvation and he cannot raise you from the death.

Therefore certain things are from devil and are harmful, these material things Devil will send to you, in order to sweep you. Therefore as you discern the harmful effects of these things from the devil, then you need to reject, and God will help you and will take them away from you. ***“16 But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.” (Revelation 12:16)*** God will make a way for you not to be swallowed by devil, and He will remove the thing that devil will offer. You need to desire it

in your heart and allow God to remove these things that devil is giving you. Putting in your mind, certain things when God is removing from your life, He is blessing you indeed.

The battle will continue, ***“17 Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.” (Revelation 12:17)*** When the devil will know that he cannot penetrate and cannot do anything with you to pull you in its net, then he will leave you, but he will continue the battle against your children, disciples and your offsprings that you are raising to fear God and to walk in His ways. The devil will continue the battle against the remnant, those who are holding unto the testimony of Jesus and those who are diligent and desiring to keep the commands of God.

My dear and beloved: “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.” (Proverbs 3:7) Fear God, obey His word to you in this message, discard evil, move away from sin and worldliness, and move in the direction toward the place that God had prepared for you to nourish you and care for you. Further more, let us put on the full armor of God:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breast-plate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.” (Ephesians 6:10-20)

The Lord Jesus Christ commissioned His disciples with this command, ***“All authority in heaven and on the earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Mathew 28: 18-20)*** This commission is also for us to obey and follow in our lives; to go and preach the gospel and to make disciples who would follow the Lord. The Lord Jesus is sending us today to preach the gospel, to heal the sick and to drive out demons He gives us power and authority. He is not sending us empty handed, but He filled us with power and authority as He said, ***“I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.” (Luke 10:19)***

The Lord Jesus Christ giving us today the armor of God to stand firm in faith in Him, and to fight the powers of darkness, which are devil and his demons, ***“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”***

Stand firm; His Word is clear to us, ‘Stand firm.’

- 1) ***Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist:*** The belt of truth is the Word of God. Pants without belt will be drag down. In the same way a Christian without the Word of God is a shaky Christian; he cannot stand firm against Satan in this world if he does not know the Word of God well.
- 2) ***Stand firm then, with the breast plate of righteousness in place:*** This is the holiness that God commanded every believer to live in. If we live in sin we cannot fight Satan; we would be defeated. Because how we can say that we are fighting Satan if we are doing the same evil he is doing.
- 3) ***Stand firm then, with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace:*** Every one of us should use his feet to bring him to places to preach the gospel, and where God would be glorified. If you go with your feet to wrong places or where God did not ask you to go, as if you are going and moving bare foot. Everyone of us should use his feet to bring others to Christ.
- 4) ***In addition to all this take up the shield of faith:*** Faith in God and in His power, as well as fixing our eyes on Jesus will build our faith on Him. As we listen and obey His Word our faith will be strengthened, and this faith you can use to stand and fight against Satan. By our faith in God we can distinguish the flaming arrows that Satan would shoot against us.
- 5) ***Take the helmet of salvation:*** This is to protect your head and mind. If we are wounded in the head we cannot continue to fight the enemy. Covering the head with the helmet imply also our submission to God, to His Son Jesus Christ, to His Word, to His church and to the leaders whom God had placed over us in the Lord. Submission to the above authorities will protect us.
- 6) ***Take the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God:*** The Holy Spirit will go before us as long as we carry the Word of God to the people. As we open our mouths the Holy Spirit will give us the Word that cannot be resist or opposed, as He promised, ***“For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.” (Luke 21:15 KJV)***
- 7) ***And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints:*** The back of the soldier will be given to the peer soldier of the same army in order for him to be protected. As we pray for one another in the Spirit we are protecting one another. The prayer is to protect the missing part of the armor of God and that is the back of the soldier.

Today, check yourself, and check your armor. Are all parts there, are all parts intact? If there are things need to be repaired do it today. Remember you are a soldier and God had called you

to serve Him, fighting the good fight, preaching the gospel and making disciples.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Thank you for opening my eyes toward spiritual things. Lord I understood your word. Lord I repent of being friendly with the world. Lord I commit myself to live according to your will and move forward in the direction of the wilderness toward the place that you had prepared for me to continue to live and to continue the good fight and to serve you. Lord cleanses me and builds me according to your will. Lord takes away from my life whatever things of the devil that bringing destruction into my life. Here am I Lord, I am putting the full armour and go forward to serve you. Lord sustains me with your grace and provides all my needs for I trust that you can do that. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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