

*Winning the War against your Soul*

**WINNING THE WAR  
AGAINST  
YOUR SOUL**

*How To Preserve Your Spirit, Soul And Body  
Blameless Unto The Coming Of Our  
Lord Jesus Christ*

**Pastor A. O. Asabor**

 **ENCORE**  
DIRECT TO PRINT

Copyright © 2017 Pastor A. O. Asabor. All rights reserved.

Re-Published 2018 by Encore Direct to Print

PO Box 427, Enumclaw WA 98022

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—without the prior permission of the copyright holder, except as provided by USA copyright law.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Scripture references marked RSV are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture references marked TLB or The Living Bible are taken from The Living Bible [computer file] / Kenneth N. Taylor.® electronic ed.® Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1997, ©1971 by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture references marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

#### **AUTHOR'S CONTACT:**

Treasure of Wisdom and Knowledge Ministries (TWKM)

(A.K.A Divine Facts)

P.O. Box 51212, Falomo Post Office, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Tel: +234(0)8097027317; +234(0)7035006049

E-mail Address: [pastoraoasabor@gmail.com](mailto:pastoraoasabor@gmail.com), [aoasabor@yahoo.com](mailto:aoasabor@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.divinefacts.org](http://www.divinefacts.org)

ISBN-13: 978-1-68314-667-4 (paperback)

978-1-68314-668-1 (ePub)

978-1-68314-669-8 (mobi)

The Bible Says,

*“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”*

**1 Peter 2:11**

*“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* **James 4:7**

*“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith”* **1 John 5:4**

CONTENTS

Page

Contents . . . . . iv

Introduction: Winning The War Against Your Soul . . . . . v

**Section 1: OVERCOMING THE WORLD AND ITS GOD!**

*CHAPTER ONE* - Victory Through Jesus Christ . . . . . 1

*CHAPTER TWO* - The World is Evil . . . . . 7

*CHAPTER THREE* - The World has its own Wisdom . . . . . 19

*CHAPTER FOUR* - The World has its own god . . . . . 27

**Section 2: ARE YOU AT EASE IN ZION?**

*CHAPTER ONE* - Are You At Ease in Zion? . . . . . 49

*CHAPTER TWO* - The Major Evidence of the Influence of the Spirit of  
Ease . . . . . 65

*CHAPTER THREE* - Further Evidences of the Influence of the Spirit of  
Ease . . . . . 77

**Section 3: STANDING AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL -**

Introduction . . . . . 97

*CHAPTER ONE* - Putting on the Whole Armor Of God . . . . . 99

*CHAPTER TWO* - The Components of the Armor Part 1 . . . . . 111

The Components of the Armor Part 2 . . . . . 140

## **INTRODUCTION**

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”<sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 2:11. In this simple scripture, the apostle brings up a very serious reality about our lives that is being ignored today. The summary is that there is war against our souls. Sadly, not many Christians understand or appreciate the truth that there is war against our soul that we must win to succeed in our walk with God. Worst still, the Christianity of today neither recognize nor address this war against the soul. It is true that many talk about and actually embark on spiritual warfare but they too ignore the real war against the soul. The real war against the soul is not fought externally but internally because it has to do with fleshly lusts by which the enemy through the world seek to draw us back to himself. There is need to understand that the greatest attack of the enemy is not through witches and wizards, marine spirits, sicknesses and all other forms of spiritual attacks but through fleshly lusts. And because fleshly lusts actually employ or engage our flesh, we do not see their potency or the fact that they are actually warring against our souls. Consequently, we neglect the warnings against fleshly lusts submitting to them joyfully as if they enhance our spirituality. That is why all the warnings about the world fall on deaf ears in the Christianity of today. For example in 1 John 2:15-16 the Bible says, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world”. From this scripture it is clear that the reason we are not to love the

world is because all that is in the world can be summarized as fleshly lusts. Which means the world promotes the fleshly lusts that war against our soul.

The good news is that victory has already been won for us. However, we need to understand that though victory is already won for us, we must appropriate it to become ours or for its reality to manifest in our lives. That is why the Bible says, “But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:57. Though this is good news, it should both comfort as well as challenge us. It should comfort us because the victory has been won for us by Jesus Christ but it should challenge us because it is God Himself that gives or administer it to us. Which means, it is only available to those who submit to God, putting the responsibility for receiving and manifesting it on us.

The point we need to emphasize from the beginning is that true victory is only possible through our Lord Jesus Christ. Without Jesus or outside of Jesus no one can achieve true or real victory. One song writer rightly wrote, ‘no matter who you are without Jesus you are nothing but a worthless man’. I was attracted to this song because though it sounds harsh it actually re-echoes the words of Jesus in John 15:6 which says, “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned”. Thus without Jesus, mankind is not more than firewood no matter what he or she may have achieved on earth. The truth is, we all need Jesus to achieve true victory in our lives. True victory is primarily the victory in the war against the soul which is the only victory that will count or that has value both now and in eternity. This is the victory that keeps us standing in Christ. As a child of God, any victory that does not aid your preparation for

eternity is worthless because our present life can be summarized in three words ‘preparing for eternity’. Therefore, any victory, or anything for that matter, that does not enhance your preparation for eternity, after the new birth, is worthless. That is, such victory or thing will be of no value in the final analysis though it made you look very successful in and to this world. That is why Jesus said, ‘what shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and loose his soul’.

We need to also understand that though the victory has been won for us in Christ, it does not automatically begin to manifest in our lives. That means, as children of God, the condition or state of our souls or lives at any point in time is entirely our choice or depends on us. Because it is determined by our willingness to submit to God, resist the devil and contend with the world. That is why the Bible says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” James 4:7. Thus we have the responsibility to resist the devil and our willingness or unwillingness to resist the devil becomes the determining factor of the state of our lives. In the same way, concerning the world, the Bible also says, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” 1 John 5:4. Can you overcome what you are not contending with? The simple answer is no. Therefore, your willingness or unwillingness to contend with the world determines the condition or state of your soul. To contend simply means there are battles or conflicts between you on one side and the devil and the world on the other side. Sadly, though many Christians today have come to appreciate the need to resist the devil they only pay lip service to contending with the world. What they fail to realize is that resisting the devil without overcoming the world is exercise in futility because it is the agenda of the devil that the world actually

promotes. That is why the Bible says, “We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one” 1 John 5:19 (NKJV). That is, the whole world is under the control of the wicked one, the devil. That is why he is usually referred to as the god of this world, “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. That is also why Jesus often referred to the devil as the prince of this world, “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out” John 12:3. Thus, our victory comes through resisting the devil and overcoming the world by abstaining from worldly lusts. As a result, as Christians, we need to recognise and appreciate the fact that we have battles to fight and that we are either winning or losing them. Our victory is already assured in Christ Jesus but we need to get it to be victorious indeed but getting the victory is not cheap. That is why the Bible says, “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force” Matthew 11:12.

Naturally, you cannot desire victory if you don't think there is a battle. Therefore, understanding that you are at war and understanding the nature of the war is vital to your success in the Christian walk. In Amos 6:1 the Bible says, “Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came”. One would have expected that Zion should be a place of ease because of the grace of God but yet God says woe to those who are at ease in Zion. The point we get from this is, Christianity is not a call to ease and comfort but a call to battle though the battle is simply to be fought

and won by faith. One of the dangers of being at ease in Zion is that we will begin to put our trust in some other things instead of God. See the example of Israel in the scripture above; because they were at ease they put their trust in the mountain of Samaria instead of God. In the same manner, Christians who are at ease also begin to put their trust in other things such as government, the flesh, possessions and even men of God instead of God. It is being at ease that has led Christians into functioning as if our provision is dependent on government and other organizations or people. Which amounts to trusting in government or people rather than God. The Bible says it is God that gives power to make wealth. The fact that God needs to give power before we can make wealth means that there is battle to be won before wealth can come but how many understand or are willing to fight the battle for God's provision? God promised to give us power to make wealth and whether we make wealth or not depends on what we do with the promise.

The spirit of ease is also responsible for the current trend in Christianity where eyes are now on men including men of God rather than Jesus. Most of the things we attribute to God in Christianity today can be classified as products of the flesh. Many are unknowingly utilizing the power of the flesh in the name of Christianity. We need to understand that the flesh has its own power and that the power of the flesh is only limited when or where the power of God is at work. That is why king Hezekiah said, "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah" 2 Chronicles 32:7-8. Every time you see arm of flesh in the Bible it refers to the power of the flesh. Also see

Jeremiah 17:5 which says, “Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.” This is simply saying cursed is anyone who has a relationship with God but continue to operate in the power of the flesh. The question is why will God place a curse on those who make the flesh their arm if there was no power in it? The greatest disservice we can do to ourselves is to employ the power of the flesh in the service of God. Unfortunately that is what many are doing today. Many are relying on the power of education - science, technology, sociology, psychology; administration and others. The arm of flesh will fail you does not mean it will not produce results but that the results you get will be worthless and unacceptable to God. This is the danger of Christian motivational speaking which only stir and utilize the power of the flesh. That is why you do not need to be a pastor to be successful as a motivational speaker and you do not need to be born-again to benefit from motivational speakers. That is also the reason big organizations are utilizing motivational speakers (including pastors) to motivate their workers to greater performance and success. The truth is the founding fathers of motivational speaking and the real motivational speakers of today don't really believe in the gospel though they pick and use scriptures that serve their purpose. The reason is because motivational speaking is always based on the foundation that everyone is born into this world with the capacity to succeed. Or that everyone is born with a seed of greatness. This may be true about living according to the world but it contradicts the gospel as presented by Jesus and the early Apostles. The reason is because the gospel is founded on the new birth and the new birth simply means a new creation. Which is why the Bible says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” 2 Corinthians

5:17. The serious point in this scripture that is being omitted in the Christianity of today is that the old things are not renewed they pass away. Whatever you were born with becomes part of the old that must pass away for all things to become new or for you to become a new creature indeed. Christian motivational speaking gives the impression that though you are now a new creature in Christ you are still the same old you because it insists that you were born into this world with the capacity you need to succeed or be great. Don't misunderstand me, everyone born into this world has the natural capacity to succeed in this world without God or the devil simply by deploying the power of the flesh. And this is simply what the motivational speakers promote which is contrary to the gospel because it implies that we carry some things over from the physical birth to the spiritual rebirth in Christ. Which is not true because when we get born again we are expected to be completely dependent on the Holy Spirit who should become everything to us? That is why the Bible says, 'it is not by might nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord' (Zechariah 4:6b). Therefore to believe and deploy whatever you were born into this world with as a Christian is anti-gospel since it trivializes the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Whether you call it glory, destiny, greatness as long as it is linked to your old man or to your physical birth it is anti-gospel. The plan and purpose of God for us begins only when we come into Christ or in the new man. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" Ephesians 2:10. God has no use for you until you are recreated in Christ. Except in the case of those that God will use without any relationship just like using the donkey to speak to the prophet! The point here is that motivational speaking is dangerous to Christianity because it is anti-gospel and because it deploys the power of the

flesh trivializing the power of the Holy Spirit. And the power of the flesh will always end in departure from the Lord according to Jeremiah 17:5 because it leads to pride and grieves the Holy Spirit.

Again the spirit of ease is also the reason Christians are now looking for one word from God that will change their entire life as many have been made to believe. When I hear men declare this with so much assurance and conviction, I shiver because it is not supported by the word of God. Moreover, I am yet to see anyone whose entire life was transformed by one word. The truth is, no such word exists otherwise God will not have given us this big book called the Bible. See God's command to Joshua in Joshua 1:7-8 which says, "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success". Note that Joshua was required to observe to do all that is written in the book of the law. Also see God's command to the kings that became a snare to almost all the kings of Israel because they ignored it. "When thou art come unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt possess it, and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me; Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother. But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall

henceforth return no more that way. Neither shall he multiply wives to himself that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold. And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel” Deuteronomy 17:14-20. This was God’s simple command to the kings that they should keep a copy of the law and read from it all the days of their lives that they might succeed in their walk with God. But they missed it because they did not harken to the command, instead they depended only on the word through the prophets.

In the same way, we are required to adorn the doctrine of God in all things. “Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” Titus 2:9-10. The doctrines of God our savior simply refers to the body of truth God has spoken to us by His Son that we must believe to be saved. That is what the Bible means when it says, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” Hebrews 1:1-2. Whatever God has spoken to us by His Son constitutes the doctrine of God our savior Jesus Christ. That is why the Bible says, “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine,

for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” 2 Timothy 3:16. The point here is there is no truth in the one word fixes all doctrine. It only encourages people to put themselves in bondage to men of God from whom they expect to receive such word. These are a few of the things that make it dangerous to be at ease in Christianity. We need to understand that the spirit of ease is one of the means the devil war against our soul. We must deliver ourselves from the spirit of ease by arising and contending for the victory that is rightfully ours in Christ Jesus.

That is why the Bible says, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” Ephesians 6:10-12. Now you can see that though our victory is in Christ, the process of receiving it from God is not for the lazy. That is why we said at the beginning that it is challenging because it is not as easy as it seems. Therefore to attain the victory in Christ we cannot afford to be at ease in Zion and we must be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might putting on the whole armor of God.

In this book, we shall explore these three points separately because they are the key to winning the war against the soul. Consequently, the book has been split into three sections. Section 1 deals with ‘Victory over the world and the devil’ and section 2 deals with ‘Are you at ease in Zion?’ while section 3 deals with ‘Putting on the whole armor of God’. I pray that the Lord will anoint you afresh as you partake of this study and grant you understanding and refreshing beyond what is written, in Jesus’ name.

## SECTION ONE

# OVERCOMING THE WORLD

## AND ITS 'GOD'

“But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 15:57

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”

Romans 8:37

*Winning the War against your Soul*

# Chapter 1

## VICTORY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

My purpose in this chapter is to redirect your focus to the source of true victory which is Jesus Christ and to emphasize that without Him there is no true victory. Again, let's emphasize that we cannot talk about victory if there is no battle. Unfortunately, most Christians do not realise that just by becoming a Christian they have entered into battle. The truth is, anytime the devil or his agents confront us, it is to steal, kill and destroy. That is why the Bible says, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly" John 10:10. The devil has given himself a mandate which is to steal, to kill, and to destroy and he is pursuing it with utmost diligence. And whether you understand it or not, by becoming a Christian the devil and the world are in conflict with you. And you are expected to overcome them, that is, you are expected to come out victorious in the conflict. That is why we cannot begin to talk about victory or the source of victory without first talking about the warfare? If you do not appreciate the fact that you are involved in a battle you can never appreciate the victory.

We need to recognise and appreciate the fact that as Christians we have several battles to fight and the most critical is the battle over

our souls. Whether we understand it or not the devil and the world are at war with us. Understandably, the devil and the world have very good reasons to be at war with us because before we became children of God, we were totally under their control. “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” Ephesians 2:1-2. Trespasses and sin are the result of following the course of this world and the prince of the power of the air which refers to the devil. Before you became a child of God you were willingly subject to them without any resistance. And to become a child of God means that you have decamped from them. Now that you have decamped, do you expect them to rejoice with you? Anyone who is a child of God, should expect nothing but hatred from the world and the devil. If you are really a child of God, the world should hate you, “I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” John 17:14-16.

We were once of this world but as children of God we are no longer of this world because we now belong to another kingdom. That is, we were once citizens of this world but now our citizenship is in heaven, “For our citizenship is in Heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, *the Lord Jesus Christ*” Philippians 3:20 (NKJV). We need to understand that we no longer belong to this world even though the world is still trying to lay claim to us which is the reason for the conflict or battles. We also need to understand that we are in the world only because we have been sent. “As You

have sent Me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world” John 17:18. Thus we are only here in this world as trainee representatives of the kingdom of heaven where we actually belong. That is why the Bible refers to us as ambassadors of Christ. The problem is though many of us know this truth we cannot come to terms with the reality of God’s verdict about this world. That is, because our eyes tells us something different and as a result we cannot just accept the fact that something is wrong with this world or that the world is evil to the extent that we need to be delivered from it. “Grace *be* to you and peace from God the Father, and *from* our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” Galatians 1:3-4.

As far as God is concerned, this world is evil because what it does and promotes are contrary to God and his ways and we all need to be delivered from it. But as far as we are concerned, the world is a master piece creation of God that He has given mankind to enjoy. The result is, we unconsciously do not see the need to be delivered from the world and we are neglecting our deliverance from it. Until you begin to live like one who has been delivered from the world, you will continue to be subject to it. That is why we are warned not to conform to it, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. *And be not conformed to this world:* but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” Romans 12:1-2. After becoming a child of God, continuing to conform to this world makes you a spiritual adulterer and therefore an enemy of God. “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that

the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” James 4:4. It is sad that many of us as Christians are taking these warnings lightly or for granted. We treat them as if God doesn’t really mean them and yet we are always ready to say that God is not a son of man that He should lie. We must stop conforming to the world because the world does not know God and it is an obstacle to knowing God. “O righteous Father, indeed the world has not known You; but I have known You, and these have known that You have sent me” John 17:25. It is for this reason that Jesus says the world has been judged “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out” John 12:31. That is the same reason why overcoming the world is compulsory for everyone born of God. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1John 5:4-5! The truth is you can never overcome what you love, yield or submit to.

Strange as it may sound, the greatest problem of the church today is the world. The world has crept into the church unnoticed and the church is being made to conform to the world without knowing it. Yet we are warned not to conform to the world “*And be not conformed to this world:* but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” Romans 12:2. I therefore encourage you to examine your life and look at it from God’s perspective to determine whether you are conforming to this world or not. The sad truth is, the more you conform to this world, the less you conform to the word of God. Moreover, not conforming to this world is the proof that you are being transformed or that your mind is actually being renewed to enable you function in this world like a child of God. As children

of God we are expected to be exactly like Him in this world, “Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world” 1 John 4:17. To have boldness in the Day of Judgment, our love must be made perfect by our being as He is in this world.

The question is; why is it so critical that we do not conform to this world? Like I always say, if we understand why God is asking us to do or not to do something, it will be a lot easier for us to comply since complying require our free will. Thus, if we understand why God does not want us to conform to this world, we will be more committed to the process of transformation that will enable us not to conform to the world. We can summarize the reason God does not want us to conform to this world as; the world is evil or darkness; it has its own wisdom; and it has its own god. We shall examine them one after the other in the next three chapters.

