

Life Outside the Box! **Part 6: "Spiritual Warfare!"**

People inside the box say, "I can't do this!" And by rights we shouldn't have to – but we are here... The stories that stay with you are the ones that come from *outside the box*... From folks who had lots of chances to turn back... but didn't... They kept going...holding on to something... That there's some good in this world and it's worth fighting for!

Spiritual Warfare! Evil enemy who comes to take away our covenant with God... We have friends pulled under his influence who need us to stand firm and get in the way! Don't recognize who we are/what we're doing! Need us to restate/mission! **And to stay in the battle for the souls of mankind!**

Advertisement! Now is the time to brush up on Christian allegory! Lewis: The Screwtape Letters. Frank Perretti: This Present Darkness, Piercing the Darkness, Prophet, Visitation... Roger Elwood: The Christening, Angelwalk, The Wandering. Ethel Barrett: The Great Conflict, The War for Mansoul.

Outside the Box... Is the life God planned for us! Is the salvation Jesus gave us! Is the Holy Spirit who comes alongside us! Is where the fearless battle for men's souls awaits us! Is where the adventure begins!

Ephesians 6.10-12 Finally my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places!

Has anyone not noticed the "rising" spiritual strategies and the increase in dark spiritual activity in our day?

Dark activity... Rape gangs in India... Multiple sexual assaults of female protesters and Sonia Dridi on live TV in Cairo... Homeless woman set on fire/ man face bitten off/subway... Mass Shootings in our nation... National mindset change/ indifference/invitation to changes in morality...

National shift is taking place... Don't have to be republican or conservative to realize moving away from Biblical/American work ethics... A shift that will take away the "stand" that the lamp has stood on for 200+ years... The platform of America has been our prosperity and our prosperity came from our Biblical ethics!

Our nation is being fragmented more and more as people come here with the things they left their countries to escape... It's obviously their right... But it's not the best for the foundation of our nation that made us their attraction!

When *assimilation* gave way to *accommodation* we began losing the basic principle of America!

And the issue of assimilation has everything to do with the church being the church! If the church had continued outside the box, other "nations" would have been attracted to His kingdom! But inside our boxes we made way for other kingdoms to be established by default!

2Corinthians 10.3-4 "Though we walk in the realm of the flesh we do not war after the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but mighty thru God to the pulling down of strongholds!"

Spiritual warfare... Mighty enough for the pulling down of strongholds... Even big, solid, impossible to go back things... But Spiritual warfare begins in our private lives! Knowing who we are and who we are not! Reordering our lives and priorities... Being willing to bend our knees and our hearts...

And the bent knees and hearts must be "outside the box" kinds of prayer and holiness! These are not "give me" prayers and these are not "minimum" minded intercessors!

These are... "With God, nothing is impossible," pray-ers! "I'm not looking back, I'm plowing ahead," pray-ers! "I'm separated to the work that I'm called to do by God," pray-ers! "I will pick up my cross and die daily," pray-ers! "Set to destroy the works of the evil one," pray-ers! "Not seeking my own profit but the profit of others that they may be saved," pray-ers! "Casting all my care upon Him for He cares for me," pray-ers! "The sufferings of this life do not compare with the glory ahead of me," pray-ers! "Hell can't hold me, Heaven's waiting for me, so death cannot scare me," pray-ers! "No weapon formed against me is going to prosper," pray-ers! "Casting down imaginations and every thing that exalts itself against God," pray-ers! "Going to be found standing in evil days," pray-ers! "I'm not waiting on anyone else, I'm going to begin warming up my own heart," pray-ers!

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I am going to check my combat gear! Truth that keeps me from tripping! "Loins girt about w/truth!" "Made righteous by Him..." covering my heart... My righteousness is of the Lord! (humility!) Momentum/motivation/force/ fuel/success from the gospel... "Above all," Faith that shields from all assaults... The only quenching of hells fire! The security of my salvation that frees my mind deceptions/vain imaginations/condemnation... And the Word of God as my sword; slashing thru the bonds of slavery and death!

I am going to check my combat readiness! Fears quenched in the beauty of His nature and character! Belief that the kingdom of our God is the only way of mankind's salvation! Battle readiness from focused, effective training! **Belief in God's "end" for me!**

I am going to run spiritual raids on the realm of darkness! Unsaved: "HELL CANNOT KEEP YOU, HEAVEN IS OPEN TO YOU! COME TO THE LIGHT!" Marriages on the rocks... "HOLD ON, I AM COMING! WITH HEALING IN HIS LOVE!" Sickness/disease – "WHO ARE YOU TO DEFY THE LORD?" **We come running into every situation where darkness has ruled knowing that every situation has a tie in the spirit realm...**