



Spiritual Warfare: Pulling Down Strongholds

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-9

LESSON 21 – RESISTANCE IS FUTILE

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Perilous Times

- ▶ 2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Resisting the Truth

- ▶ Having a form of godliness but denying its power. No power over sin or self. A slave to sin.
- ▶ Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Learning lies. Learning demonic wisdom. Learning, but not understanding.
- ▶ These also resist the truth:
- ▶ Men of corrupt minds – You should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness (Eph. 4:17-19).

Resisting the Truth

- ▶ Disapproved concerning the faith –
- ▶ 1) You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? (Matt. 7:16). “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit (Matt. 12:33).
- ▶ 2) For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also (James 2:26).
- ▶ They will progress no further – they will not get very far, as their deception will be obvious.

Continue in the Truth

- ▶ 10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Continue in the Truth

- ▶ Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- ▶ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.
- ▶ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- ▶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Continue When Persecuted

- ▶ Luke 22:14 Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death.
- ▶ Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

What if You Resist?

- ▶ Acts 7:51 51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always **resist the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers did, so do you.
- ▶ 1 Thess. 5:16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 **Do not quench the Spirit.** 20 **Do not despise prophecies.** 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

What if You Resist?

- ▶ Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another. 26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Can You Resist? Really?

- ▶ God's Will is sovereignly independent over everything outside Himself. His will will be done.
- ▶ He acts according to His own good pleasure – [Psa. 115:3; Prov. 21:1; Dan. 4:35](#)
- ▶ He does not give an account to anyone – [Job 33:13; Isa. 46:10; Mat. 20:15](#)
- ▶ He is the Potter, His creation is the clay – [Job 10:9; 33:6; Isa. 29:16; Jer. 18:1-10; Rom. 9:19-24](#)
- ▶ The nations are less than nothing before Him – [Isa. 40:15-17](#)
- ▶ No one can prevent Him from doing as He pleases – [Job 9:2-13; 11:10; Isa. 10:15; Dan. 4:35](#)
- ▶ He shows mercy or hardens solely according to His will – [Rom. 9:15-18](#)
- ▶ The Holy Spirit gives gifts according to His will – [1 Cor. 12:11](#)
- ▶ Man does not have the right to demand that God express His will in particular ways – [Matt. 20:13-16; Rom. 9:20-21](#)

Can You Resist? Really?

- ▶ God does as He pleases.
- ▶ Psalm 115:3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.
- ▶ Isaiah 14:24 The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, “Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand.
- ▶ Isaiah 14:27 For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?”
- ▶ Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,’
- ▶ Daniel 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”

Resistance is Rebellion

- ▶ If we resist God and try to “frustrate” His grace, we will fail. Our resistance is futile. Our resistance is rebellion and disobedience and if we grieve and quench the Spirit of God we will be convicted, chastised, and if we resist, we will be crushed.
- ▶ Hebrews 12:3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.” 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.
- ▶ Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
- ▶ Matt. 21:44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

The Potter and the Clay

- ▶ Romans 9:19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?
- ▶ Disobedience is a lack of love.
- ▶ Revelation 2:4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Fellowship

- ▶ Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
- ▶ 1 John 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Next Week

- ▶ Lesson 22 – The War is Won! – 1 Cor. 15:57