

Training for the Fight of Your Life:

Taking Every Thought Captive

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6

1. Your Appointed Battle (verse 3).
2. Your God-given Weapons (verse 4).
3. How You Must Wage War (verse 5).
4. Your Warfare Leads to Obedience (verse 6).

"He that would stand in the hour of temptation must plead with Christ, '*It is written.*' He that would triumph over temptations must plead still, '*It is written.*'" ~Thomas Brooks

"May I this day get nearer to heaven. May I feel at its close that I have done something for You, God—something to promote the great end for which existence was given me—the glory of Your holy name." ~John MacDuff

"Gospel provisions will do this work; that is, keep the heart full of a sense of the love of God in Christ. *This is the greatest preservative against the power of temptation in the world.*" ~John Owen

"But store the heart with a sense of the love of God in Christ, with the eternal design of his grace, with a taste of the blood of Christ, and his love in the shedding of it; get a relish of the privileges we have thereby,—our adoption, justification, acceptance with God; fill the heart with thoughts of the beauty of holiness, as it is designed by Christ for the end, issue, and effect of his death;—and thou wilt, in an ordinary course of walking with God, have great peace and security as to the disturbance of temptations. When men can live and plod on in their profession, and not be able to say when they had any living sense of the love of God or of the privileges which we have in the blood of Christ, I know not what they can have to keep them from falling into snares." ~John Owen

"You are to win these battles by the use of the proper weapons, the weapons of truth found in the Scriptures alone. Like any good soldier, you must know your weapons. You must spend your time keeping your weapons in proper shape and you must learn how to use them effectively. The sword of the Spirit is the mightiest weapon ever devised; you must learn to use it well. Actually, it is the only weapon that God gave you." ~Jay Adams

On this day: 13th May 1940, Churchill entered the House of Common as the newly appointed Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and delivered to parliament his first and well-known speech in which he said, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."

"I would say to the House as I said to those who have joined this government: I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask, what is our policy? I will say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory. Victory at all costs—Victory in spite of all terror—Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival." ~Winston Churchill

"Consider what absolute need there is to stir ourselves up to holy duties. With respect to the sluggishness of our hearts to that which is spiritual, blunt tools need whetting and a dull creature needs spurs. Our hearts are dull and heavy in the things of God, therefore we have need to spur them on and provoke them to that which is good. The flesh hinders from duty. When we would pray, the flesh resists. When we should suffer, the flesh draws back. How hard it is sometimes to get the consent of our hearts to seek God! Jesus Christ went more willingly to the cross than we do to the throne of grace." ~Thomas Watson

"Every sin strikes at the honour of God, the being of God, the glory of God, the heart of Christ, the joy of the Spirit, and the peace of a man's conscience; and therefore a soul truly penitent strikes at all, hates all, conflicts with all, and will labour to draw strength from a crucified Christ to crucify all." ~Thomas Brooks

"We can hold a correct view of truth only by daring to believe everything God has said about Himself." A. W. Tozer

"In all temptations go to God by prayer. 'Lord, teach me to use every piece of the spiritual armor—how to hold the shield, how to wear the helmet, how to use the sword of the Spirit. Lord, strengthen me in the battle; let me rather die a conqueror than be taken prisoner and led by Satan in triumph.'" ~Thomas Watson