

The Birth of Bulldog Faith  
Sunday, June 23, 2019

A. Luke 22:31,32 The Devil's Game Plan

1. (KJV) And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.
  - a. Sift (GK) Separate, break into pieces, shake, shatter and discourage.
  - b. An inward agitation to try one's faith to the verge of overthrow.
2. The devil's game plan is to drain, weaken and wear down our faith through continual pressure, disappointments and discouragement.
3. He wants us to back down from using our faith to take a strong stand for what belongs to us.
4. He wants us to live in a constant state of retreat.
5. I was in that condition some years ago.

B. "I Want You to Get More Aggressive About Your Faith!"

1. Our family had moved five times in 2002.
  - a. We sold our house.
  - b. We moved to an apartment for a month.
  - c. We moved to a rent house for a month.
  - d. We evacuated the rent house because of the faulty septic.
  - e. We moved in with Kenneth and Gloria for eight weeks.
  - f. We finally moved to another rent house while the house we bought with cash was being renovated with cash, far from being completed.
2. I was extremely discouraged the night we moved in with the Copelands.
  - a. I was laying in the bed fuming.
  - b. "I am 49 years old and living with my in-laws!"
3. My attitude and faith had seriously slipped and was spiraling downward.
4. Several days later, I sat down at the little desk in our room.
5. The Lord began to jolt me out of my complacency.
  - a. He really let me have it.
  - b. I took a little not pad and wrote down what He was saying.
  - c. "I want you to get more aggressive about your faith."

### C. God's Halftime Locker Room Talk with Pastor George

George, I'm going to get after you about your sorry attitude. You are letting the devil beat you up out there. Get a hold of yourself and get this straightened out. I want you to answer these questions right now:

- \* Are you maintaining or pursuing?
- \* Are you dry docked or launching out into the deep?
- \* Are you holding the fort or taking new ground?
- \* Are you settled into the status quo or reaching up to the next plateau?
- \* Are you throwing in the towel or going in for the next round?
- \* Are you waiting for the next attack or launching your own preemptive strike?
- \* Are you reactive or proactive?
- \* Are you passive or pressing?
- \* Are you surviving or thriving?
- \* Are you circling the wagons or leading the charge?
- \* Are you putting out fires or starting them?
- \* Are you behind the eight ball or are you staying ahead of the curve?
- \* Are you chasing after your dreams or are you letting them slip?
- \* Are you protecting what little you have or are you aggressively possessing all that is rightfully yours?

Well, what is it?

Are you going to cow down and quit?

Or, are you going to get back up on your Bulldog Faith and win?

- \* I want you to get more aggressive about taking what is rightfully yours in Christ.
- \* I want you to get more aggressive about exercising your faith to lay hold of and possess new territory.
- \* I want you to aggressively reach out with your faith and take what you need--command it to come. Demand it!
- \* See yourself as part of a mighty, stalwart, aggressive, pursuing, overtaking, fearless relentless army.
- \* I want you to get more aggressive about your faith.

1 Samuel 30:6,8 David encouraged himself in the Lord. And David inquired at the Lord saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

D. 1 John 5:4,5 This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our Bulldog Faith.

1. Verses 4,5 (AMPC) For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith. Who is it that is victorious over [that conquers] the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on that fact]?
2. Faith (GK) PISTIS
  - a. A force that is forward directed and aggressive.
  - b. It is never passive, retreating or backward.
  - c. It is always reaching to obtain a specific target or goal.
3. It is like a bulldog that bites down on a bone and won't let go.
4. A bulldog just won't quit.
5. Whatever is going on in our lives, we must bite down on the Word and not let go of it until we see the desired result.