

FIGHT LIKE HELL

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Daniel 9:1-6, 17-20; 10:12-13

During the next 21 days of prayer, fight like hell.

This message is for regular church folks who have been through hell and are ready to declare to Satan that they aren't going to take it anymore. Satan has kicked you and messed with your health, finances, marriage, children, job, mind, and ministry. He has lied and deceived you but you aren't the only one being attacked. Satan has been making terrorist threats against all the people of God. Weapons of mass destruction have infiltrated the ranks of the church. Proof is listed in **Galatians 5:19-21**. If your particular poison is not listed in that scripture passage, know that it is covered under the words, "and the like."

What does it mean to fight like hell? It means that you have to fight with all you have and fight some more. That means a 'no ways tired' kind of fight. It means that giving up is not an option. It means to stay on your knees until we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Heaven is listening. It means not letting go of the church's vision until it comes to pass. It means fighting to win. As we stand on the threshold of the 21st Ray of Hope Christian Church Anniversary, Pastor is calling us to enter 21 days of prayer and discernment to seek clarity and guidance for the vision that has been placed in her heart, mind and soul for the church and the community at large. Satan would love to distract us from the message and the mission we have been given to impact and transform the present world into the kingdom of God. He would love to keep us focused on debt rather than deliverance, sensationalism rather than salvation, and fear rather than faith. The next 21 days of prayer is related to this message because for these 21 days we are going to fight like hell to stay focused and to defeat Satan who's only desire is to steal, kill, and destroy everything God has ordained for His people. He is not picking pieces; he wants to destroy everything.

Daniel had been praying about the return of his people and the release of those in captivity for the rebuilding of Jerusalem. He realized that God is the only one that could help. He began to pray and fast. He started his prayer, calling God awesome and confessing the sins of his people. **I John 1:9** He asked for mercy and pleaded for forgiveness. He ended his prayer by asking God to look upon his people with favor. He pleaded for God to listen, hear, and act. You need God not to just hear your prayer but you also need Him to act. You need somebody with power that can raise you. While Daniel was speaking and praying, Gabriel came to give him insight and understanding. Gabriel told Daniel that while he was speaking an answer was given. Although somebody might get an answer on the first day of the 21 days, they may not receive insight and understanding until 21 days later.

There was a mighty evil spirit ruling over the kingdom of Persia. When there are evil decisions made in our government, we have to do more than pray for the people who made the evil decisions. We have to pray for the evil spirits that helped make those evil decisions. In other words, there is more than flesh and blood at work when the government will find money to fund war and not health insurance. There is more than flesh and blood at work when the government will pay more money to house a black man in prison than to help him get an education. There is spiritual wickedness in high places. **Matthew 18:18-20** Let's bind the spiritual

darkness that is guiding their hearts and minds in making those evil decisions. How do you do that? If two persons come together to agree in the name of Jesus, then God will do it for you. During the next 21 days, you cannot become discouraged if you don't get the answer to your prayer in the first few days. Satan has a weapon called discouragement. He can get you to doubt that God hears you and/or that God will keep His promise to you.

Psalm 91:11-13 Just like He sent Gabriel to Daniel, He will send angels to guard us. God said that He would rescue and protect those who love Him. If we were bold and confident Christians, we wouldn't ask God to impress us or show us what He can do. If you read your bible, you would read that God hears you when you ask anything according to His Will. Satan knows the Word better than you. He also knows that God's Word is true. He knows that God is a covenantal God. God can't go back on His promises. **2 Chronicles 7:14** He knows that if we humble ourselves, pray, and turn from our wicked ways that God has to hear, forgive, and heal our land. So Satan talks to you all day Saturday to convince you stay home Sunday because you are too tired to come to church. He is afraid that all the Word that is delivered on Sunday from the pulpit would take root in you and that you are going to rise up and tear his kingdom down. If he doesn't get you on Saturday, he works on you really hard on Sunday morning; presenting you with all kinds of obstacles. If you manage to fend him off on Saturday and Sunday morning, he follows you into the sanctuary where he does his hardest work. Satan doesn't mind us coming to church; he just doesn't want us to get something out of it. He doesn't even mind us praying just as long as we don't have faith and confidence in the One to whom we are praying. He doesn't mind us singing along with the praise team and the choir just as long as we don't embrace the meaning of the words or escalate it to worship. Our enemy doesn't even mind if we read the bible just as long as we don't hide the Word in our heart and start walking in what we read. There are some difficult days ahead because Satan can't stop the answer from coming but he can delay it. He knows that if he blocks it long enough, that we will give up because he knows our history.

Ephesians 6:10-13 Be strong. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the devil's schemes. Our struggle is not against congressional members or the president, but against the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm. The guy that broke in your house is a helper. The woman at your job is a helper. It is not flesh and blood. Satan will keep you busy with flesh and blood so that you won't see the evil forces behind it. You won't ever get to the real villain behind the trouble. He will keep you busy with blaming people so that you won't see that it is really him behind it all. Put on the full armor of God so that you can fight like hell when evil comes your way. When you have done all you can do, stand. You have to make up your mind to fight rather than switch. Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for the saints.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be alert so that the weapons of mass destruction won't take you out. The enemy prowls around like a roaring lion. Lions aren't confrontational. They would rather scare you off with their roar so they don't have to come in contact with you. Satan makes enough noise to scare you off so that you never become a threat to him. Knowing our history, all he has to do is roar. The text says to resist Satan but it is too late to resist him when your clothes are already off, when the cork is already off the bottle, or when the drugs are already prepared for intake. You have to have a plan to resist him. Resist him standing firm in the faith. How do you fight? **2 Corinthians 10:3** The weapons of our warfare are praise, worship, prayer, gentleness, meekness, love and peace. What keeps us in the game? What keeps us praying even after the 19th day? If it gets difficult, get in a huddle and chant "fight like hell." Why do we want to continue to fight like hell? The answer is in **2 Corinthians 4:8**. Watch, Fight, and Pray.

Peace.

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