

APRIL 17

“YOU CAN NOT BE SPIRITUALLY VICTORIOUS UNLESS YOU READ AND PRAY.”

READ

1 Peter 4:1-2, Ephesians 6:10-18

The Bible is a battle guide. Much of Scripture tells us how to fight and against whom we are fighting. Paul calls it wrestling. Life is an intense one-on-one struggle, a constant strain against this enemy who wants to destroy you. That is why you have to put on the whole armor of God and then take a stand. This is the Lord's battle, and He gives us the victory when we fight. You cannot be spiritually victorious unless you read the Bible and pray. In order to overcome the devil and the flesh, you have to hide His Word in your heart, so that you might not sin against God. You have to read God's Word whether you understand it or not, whether it's fun or not. It's food for your soul and strength for the battle. When you pray and talk to God, but it seems nothing is getting through, you still have to persevere. When you do, and the enemy comes at you, suddenly the Spirit of the Lord will rise up inside of you. You can resist the devil, and he will run from you.

PRAY

Jesus, remind me daily that I am not fighting against flesh and blood. David said to his enemy, “You come to me with a sword, a spear, a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts. ... This day the Lord will conquer you and the whole world will know there's a God in Israel.” I say the same.

From October 14, 2007