

**Seek the Lord While He May Be Found** **Isaiah 55:6-11**

Read verse 11 again. Do we believe that this still holds true today?

That God's Word still speaks? That His Word is still His chosen instrument for accomplishing His ordained purposes? And that His Word is the very weapon, He Himself has provided, for the battle against strongholds in our world today?

Do we understand that there is more in play, in our day, than just political unrest, racial disunity, economic instability, a global pandemic, etc?

**"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."** Ephesians 6:12

This reminds me of Job, who could only see what was happening right in front of him. He couldn't see what was transpiring between God & Satan in the heavenly realms. He was limited by his own finite understanding!

All he could see was that He lost his loved ones in a tragic event, he lost his job/income all in a moment. He lost his own health & even the support of his closest friends, & his wife! But... what do we know that he did not?

There was a heavenly showdown taking place, without Job even knowing it!

Could it be that we are going through a Job like experience today? It may be on a much lesser scale for most of us, but is this the time of our testing?

Could it be that the evil one is pulling at the strings and bringing about these current conflicts & trials we are facing as well – all simply to try and cause us to reject God, throw away our faith, & place our confidence elsewhere?

If this is true, then we need to learn how to fight this battle the right way! For this is a different kind of battle, against a greater kind of enemy! With different weapons needed for this fight!

**2 Cor. 10:3-5 – "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments & every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, & take every thought captive to obey Christ."**

What weapons is Paul referring to that are needed for this kind of battle? And are these weapons even at our disposal, or are they out of our reach?

**Eph. 6:16-17 - In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

It is only faith, & the Word of God, that will be effective in the battle against the strongholds & advancements of the evil one in our world today!

But too often we get lost in our own finite understanding & focus too much on our own perception of the problem/enemy/remedy!

Perceived Problem	Perceived Enemy	Perceived Remedy
COVID 19	China, Trump, fools	science, vaccines, restrictions
Racism	supremacists, inciters	protests/violence/removal
Economic inequality	the rich, the entitled	A new economic plan
Elected officials	Republicans/Democrats	Our party gaining power

Where is God in the midst of all this? Absent? Ignorant? Powerless? Careless?  
Where was God in Job's situation? Present! Calculated! In charge! Loving!

Do I understand all the "why's" behind the issues of our day? No! But God never answered the "why" question for Job either, & he never had too!

Could it be that God is really the One orchestrating, & pulling at the strings, bringing about the things that are going on right now in our world today?

It may not make sense to us, His reasons may be beyond us (**vs.8-9**), but we can know His promises, & know that He is the one ultimately in control!

Maybe all our problems today are mere symptoms meant to reveal the real problem/enemy – sin! As well as the true remedy? – God's redemptive plan

**"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near"**

Treating the symptoms won't cure the disease! Only the "Great Physician" can cure the source of our problems today! Will we "seek"/"call upon" Him?

**"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts"**

Wickedness happens whenever we exchange the truth of God for a lie.

Unrighteousness occurs whenever we trust in the things of this world, rather than turning to/trusting in the One who holds this world in His hands!

Is God trying to get our attention right now, with the current mess we're in? May we look beyond what we can see, by making the Lord the one we seek!

**Seek the Lord While He May Be Found      Isaiah 55:6-11**

Read verse 11 again. Do we believe that this still holds true today?

That God's Word still \_\_\_\_\_? That His Word is still His chosen instrument for accomplishing His ordained purposes? And that His Word is the very weapon, He Himself has provided, for the battle against strongholds in our world today?

Do we understand that there is more in play, in our day, than just political unrest, racial disunity, economic instability, a global pandemic, etc?

***"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."* Ephesians 6:12**

This reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_, who could only see what was happening right in front of him. He couldn't see what was transpiring between God & Satan in the heavenly realms. He was limited by his own finite understanding!

All he could see was that He lost his loved ones in a tragic event, he lost his job/income all in a moment. He lost his own health & even the support of his closest friends, & his wife! But... what do we know that he did not?

There was a heavenly \_\_\_\_\_ taking place, without Job even knowing it!

Could it be that we are going through a Job like experience today? It may be on a much lesser scale for most of us, but is this the time of our \_\_\_\_\_

Could it be that the evil one is pulling at the strings and bringing about these current conflicts & trials we are facing as well – all simply to try and cause us to reject God, throw away our faith, & place our confidence elsewhere?

If this is true, then we need to learn how to fight this battle the \_\_\_\_\_!  
For this is a different kind of battle, against a greater kind of enemy! With different weapons needed for this fight!

**2 Cor. 10:3-5 – "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments & every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, & take every thought captive to obey Christ."**

What weapons is Paul referring to that are needed for this kind of battle?  
And are these weapons even at our disposal, or are they out of our reach?

**Eph. 6:16-17 - *In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

It is only \_\_\_\_\_, & the Word of God, that will be effective in the battle against the strongholds & advancements of the evil one in our world today!

But too often we get lost in our own finite understanding & focus too much on our own perception of the problem/enemy/remedy!

<b>Perceived Problem</b>	<b>Perceived Enemy</b>	<b>Perceived Remedy</b>
COVID 19	China, Trump, fools	science, vaccines, restrictions
Racism	supremacists, inciters	protests/violence/removal
Economic inequality	the rich, the entitled	A new economic plan
Elected officials	Republicans/Democrats	Our party gaining power

Where is \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of all this? Absent? Ignorant? Powerless? Careless?  
Where was \_\_\_\_\_ in Job's situation? Present! Calculated! In charge! Loving!

Do I understand all the "why's" behind the issues of our day? No! But God never answered the \_\_\_\_\_ question for Job either, & he never had too!

Could it be that God is really the One orchestrating, & pulling at the strings, bringing about the things that are going on right now in our world today?

It may not make sense to us, His reasons may be beyond us (**vs.8-9**), but we can know His promises, & know that He is the one ultimately in control!

Maybe all our problems today are mere symptoms meant to reveal the real problem/enemy – \_\_\_\_\_! As well as the true remedy? – God's \_\_\_\_\_ plan

***"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near"***  
Treating the symptoms won't cure the disease! Only the "Great Physician" can cure the source of our problems today! Will we "seek"/"call upon" Him?

***"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts"***  
\_\_\_\_\_ happens whenever we exchange the truth of God for a lie. Unrighteousness occurs whenever we trust in the things of this world, rather than turning to/trusting in the One who holds this world in His hands!

Is God trying to get our attention right now, with the current mess we're in?  
May we look beyond what we can see, by making the Lord the one we \_\_\_\_\_!