

+

Spiritual Theology

12- Spiritual Struggle

1. Introduction
2. **The nature of struggle of fight**
3. The Role of God (Grace) in the Struggle
4. My role in the Spiritual Struggle
5. The Legality of struggle
6. The Fields of Struggle
7. The Reward of Struggle

1. Introduction

1. The nature of the new being who is created in baptism (Gal.3:27 ; Col.3:10)
2. The Spiritual Struggle is a MUST. (2 Cor. 6:14)
3. The fight between God and devil (Ex. 17:16)

2. The nature of struggle or fight

- ◆ The fight between the 2 natures –the new and the old (2 Cor. 6:4 ; Rom. 7:18-24)
- ◆ Practical acceptance of the qualities of the new life which we were granted through faith in sacraments (Eph. 4:24)
- ◆ It is a fight with God against the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:17, Luke 13:24)
- ◆ It is a fight with God to grow in the aspects of the new life (Eph. 4:23-24)
- ◆ It is a fight with God to spread the kingdom of heaven (Rom. 15:30)
- ◆ To be rewarded (1Cor. 3:8)

3. The Role of God (Grace) in the Struggle

- ◆ Inspire us the will to struggle (Phil 2:13)
- ◆ Encourage us to struggle (2Pet. 1:10 ; 1Tim. 6:12 ; 2Pet. 3:14)
- ◆ Gives us victory (Luke 22:31; Is. 40:1-2)
- ◆ Promise us the Great reward (the kingdom) (John 16:33 , 14:2-3 ; 1Cor.9:24-25)

4. My role in the Spiritual Struggle

- ◆ Accept the concept of Struggle (Matt. 16:24)
- ◆ With all my abilities till blood shed (Heb.12:4 ; 1Cor. 9:24-27)
- ◆ It is a race
 2. Self control (1 Cor. 9:25-27)
 3. Subject my body
- ◆ Be Vigilant (Matt. 25:13)
- ◆ Be diligent (2Pet.1:10 , 3:14 ; Rom.12:11)

5. The Legality of struggle

Spiritual Struggle must be :

- ♦ According to the rule (2Tim. 2:5)
 1. the fight of Faith (1 Tim 6:12)
 2. the eternal life is the aim
- ♦ Till the end (2Tim. 4:7)
- ♦ Look for Jesus to endure (Heb. 12:1-3)

6. The Fields of Struggle

1. Fight against thoughts , desires , lusts . These sins which from started from inside the person or coming from outside. They are resulted from

- The old person with all his desires , lusts and thoughts (Rom. 7:18-24)
- The devil with all his snares(1Pe.5:8)
- The sinful world and his attractions (1John 5:19; Gal.1:4)

2. Fight with God to establish the Spiritual Virtues in the heart

3. Fight for the spread of Kingdom
(Col. 2:1 ; Phil. 4:3 ;1Thess. 2:20)

7. The Reward of Struggle

- ♦ The Crown (2Tim. 2:5 ; 1 Cor. 3:8 ; 15:58)