

Walking Wise in Spiritual Warfare

Way down in a swamp of the deep South lives a wide mouth frog. She makes her rounds among the tree roots along the banks of a lazy waterway. In her sweetest and friendliest southern draw, she approaches the other living creatures with this introduction.

“Hi! I’m a wide-mouth frog. My babies eat flies and mosquitoes. What do your babies eat?” And we can only guess what all the other critters might dine on for their meals.

However, one day she came upon a rather large creature with an elongated mouth stocked full of razor sharp teeth. In her unassuming manner she spoke to the crock with the same friendly greeting flowing from her WIDE mouth.

“Hi! I’m a wide-mouth frog. My babies eat flies and mosquitoes. What do your babies eat?”

In a deep throaty voice, the crocodile opened his WIDE mouth and pronounced,
“My babies eat wide-mouth frogs.”

Holding back an initial fear, the mama frog brought the parameters of her mouth into a tight circle and voiced a small, *“Oh.”* (Anonymous)

We have an enemy, brothers and sisters. The enemy is not another brother or sister or one who has not yet become a brother and sister. The enemy is Christ’s enemy. If we are in Christ, he becomes our enemy.

We have to remember that the Lord does not leave us alone. Neither does He leave us defenseless. Let’s look at how we are to be properly dressed for the “swamp” and what is to be coming forth from our mouths because our warfare is not against flesh and blood. Furthermore, we are not to go on our own sweetness or our own power or devices.

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

Know who you are in Christ. Know that the enemy who speaks the language of lies, appeals to our weakness and seeks to tear down our resolve.

Stand strong on the firm foundation of God’s Word. Tie God’s truth around you; freeing you up from assumptions and deceptions that will entangle your feet.

Put off your own good works and receive the righteousness of Christ for
“He became sin who knew no sin that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” II Cor. 5:21 This will guard your heart.

Your feet need to be protected when you walk in enemy territory. Prepare them by keeping in step with the rhythm of Good News. This is the peace with God and the peace of God.

See to it that the fiery dart coming your way is met with the shield of faith as you hold it out in front of you. Exercise the faith that God gives you, little as it might seem. It is *Who* you are placing that faith in that makes the difference.

And for our heads that swim with problem solving strategies and doubts, let’s stop. Remember who you are in Christ. You are bought with a price, cleansed by His blood and sealed in the Redeemer with His Holy Spirit. Put on His helmet of salvation.

Answer with the Word. It’s the sword that cuts through the lies of the opposition.

And what are you and I supposed to be doing with all this divine protection?

Praying! Not in the way we see things, but in the Spirit.
Persevere in being watchful, interceding for all the ones set
apart for God's purpose.

Pray for God's messengers that they may speak boldly, making
known the mystery of the Gospel. For they represent Christ in
the face of many limitations, even though Christ's message is
never limited or bound.

Be on the Alert

The Bible tells us that we can expect temptation to come from
three different directions. God also gives us instruction as to
what to do about it.

<u>Source of Temptation</u>	<u>Response</u>
The flesh	Run - Flee youthful lusts II Tim. 2:22
The Devil	Resist – stand firm with the whole armor of God Eph. 6:11-13
The World	Renew – be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Do not be conformed to this world. Rom. 12:1-2

Now for a Ephesians 6:10-20 rap for the swamp:

Be strong and courageous, the Lord is on your side.

Be strong and courageous, it was for you He died.

Don't try to fight the battle with weapons known to man,

You need the mighty power of God, in His armor you can stand.

First take the belt of truth to put down every lie.

The breastplate of righteousness, right choices at your side.

Your feet fit with readiness, bring news of peace

through God's Son,

And the shield of faith, put out arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of salvation, you are a child of God.

The sword of the Spirit, it is the Word of God.

Now pray in the Spirit, with this you keep in mind,

Be alert, stand firm, put away fear,

in Him you'll conquer every time.

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