

# **The Believer's Practical Guide to 21st Century Spiritual Warfare**

## **Week 7: Actively Choose to Believe God**

*"Multitudes sit at ease and give themselves no concern about the far greater part of their fellow sinners, who to this day, are lost in ignorance and idolatry."*

"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God!"

**In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Ephesians 6:16**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Agreement + Action = Activated Faith

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17

### **10 Fiery Darts of the Enemy**

1. Anxiety
2. Accusation
3. Shame
4. Doubt
5. Fear
6. Deception
7. Temptation
8. Pride
9. Hopelessness
10. Hard-heartedness

1 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.  
I am your shield,  
your very great reward.”

2 But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” 3 And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

4 Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” Genesis 15:1-4

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. Genesis 16:1-2

7 And the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. 8 Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'" Joshua 3:7-8

14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 15 Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, 16 the water from upstream stopped flowing. Joshua 3:14-16

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:1-11

## **10 WAYS TO ACTIVELY CHOOSE TO BELIEVE GOD**

1. Celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ in your past and present
2. \*Define your \_\_\_\_\_ and declare your \_\_\_\_\_
3. Get over yourself and rediscover \_\_\_\_\_
4. Sit under the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word
5. Cultivate \_\_\_\_\_ in your own life
6. Lean into the \_\_\_\_\_ around you
7. Leverage the \_\_\_\_\_ in your life
8. Use the faith you have now to take a \_\_\_\_\_
9. Start serving others through \_\_\_\_\_
10. Be someone's \_\_\_\_\_

Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Matthew 9:2

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Josh talked about faith being Agreement + Action = Activated Faith. Talk about the different ideas have about faith. Have you ever agreed with something but failed to follow through with action? Talk about a time where you exhibited activated faith about something. What was the result?
2. Reread the 10 Fiery Darts of the Enemy. In the past (and perhaps in the present), which ones have you sensed the enemy utilizing to try and destroy your confidence in God, others or yourself?
3. Walk through the list of ten ways to actively choose to believe God and discuss how they could affect your spiritual warfare. Which two can you focus on this week to begin to transform your family and world?