



CelebrateChange.org

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## FIGHTING OR BITING? (PART 3)

*"Fight the good fight of faith..." 1 Timothy 6:12*

A big battle within our human spirit is the tendency to bite in our spiritual warfare using the fleshly weapon of pride. This inherent response is associated with a proud spirit. The word of God admonishes us in 1 Peter 5:5, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." As the Holy Spirit works to extract the fleshly ways and implement the divine nature of Christ in us, there will be many battles to fight.

When we are pressured in life due to whatever circumstances we are facing (personal relationships, finances, employment concerns, health issues, etc.) there is a tendency for our pride to kick in as we do not like how the situation makes us feel. Two bible personalities come to mind. Samson who was physically strong allowed his pride to lead him to destruction. When pressured by Delilah he eventually succumbed to her demands by making a faulty decision to reveal the source of his strength. Samson did not value the presence of God in his life to the fullest extent. His false self concept (pride) led to his demise. Then there is Job who was pressured in life losing everything, his family, resources, social influence, friends, and health. His pride kicked in as he saw himself as being righteous before God (God did, too) and therefore could not see why he was in this dilemma. Remember, pride is an inherent fleshly character with which we all have to reckon.

The contrast between Samson and Job: **Job** was determined to maintain his relationship with God by consistently communicating with God *throughout* his struggle. Therefore, pride (biting tool) did not cause him to make a foolish decision to handle his plight. **Samson** decided to communicate with God after making the wrong decision. God's mercy was revealed on his behalf and he was strengthened one last time. **Job's experience has a better ending**. First God creates a mind shift in Job as He manifests His omnipotence (Job 38-41). In Job 40:4, Job says to the Lord, "Behold, I am vile: What shall I answer You?" The bite of pride was being expelled by Job hearing from the Lord. Job's final words to God are, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear. But now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Our spiritual fights are really against the bites we use in battle. Job recovered all he lost and it was multiplied. We cannot pretend we do not bite, so take the biting weaponry and place it before God throughout the battle. He will reveal Himself to us in the battle. Our outcome is we will exit the battle gaining and multiplying in life!

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*Residing in Fort Worth, TX, Dr. Vanessa Dantzler Ussery is the Emeritus Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles and currently serves as its Chief Executive Officer. She is also the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures.*

Info@CelebrateChange.org / 866-232-8176