

LIFE IS LIKE
WRESTLING
WITH A
Grizzly Bear



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*A Classic Apostolic
Pentecostal Perspective*

Written by
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Introduction

Life can often feel like an intense struggle, much like wrestling with a grizzly bear. The challenges we face can seem insurmountable, and the battles we fight can leave us feeling exhausted and overwhelmed. Yet, as Apostolic Pentecostals, we understand that we are not alone in this fight. We are engaged in a spiritual battle against Satan and his fallen angels, and we have the power of God to help us overcome.

The Nature of Our Fight

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV) tells us, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Our struggle is not merely physical; it is a spiritual warfare that requires us to be vigilant and equipped with the armor of God.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (KJV) states, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”

- Hebrew Meaning: The term “weapons” (כֵּלִים, *kelim*) refers to tools or instruments for battle, emphasizing that our fight is fought with divine resources.
- Greek Meaning: The word “warfare” (στρατεία, *strateia*),

stratia) indicates a campaign or military expedition, highlighting the seriousness of our spiritual battles.

The Grizzly Bear Metaphor

Imagine life as a relentless pursuit by a grizzly bear—powerful, fierce, and unyielding. This bear represents the challenges, temptations, and spiritual warfare we encounter daily. It chases us, seeking to overpower us, and it embodies the struggles we face against our adversary, Satan.

Just as a grizzly bear is known for its strength and ferocity, so too are the battles we face. The bear is a symbol of our fears, doubts, and the sin that seeks to ensnare us. When we feel as though we are wrestling with a grizzly bear, we are in a fight for our lives—a fight that requires all our strength, courage, and reliance on God.

The “Don’t Poke the Bear” Principle

In life, we often encounter situations where we might feel tempted to “poke the bear”—to provoke or challenge the very struggles that threaten us. This metaphor serves as a cautionary reminder that some battles are best approached with wisdom and discernment.

Just as poking a grizzly bear could provoke an

aggressive response, engaging with our fears, doubts, and temptations without proper preparation can lead to dire consequences. Proverbs 4:23 (KJV) advises, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” This verse emphasizes the importance of guarding our hearts and minds against the very things that could lead us into unnecessary conflict.

When we “poke the bear” by entertaining sin or allowing ourselves to be drawn into conflicts that are not of God, we risk awakening the ferocity of our struggles. Instead, we should seek wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit, asking for discernment to know when to stand firm and when to step back.

The Inner and Outer Battles

We wrestle not only with external forces but also with our own sinful nature. Romans 7:15 (KJV) expresses this struggle: “For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.” Our fight within is just as fierce as the fight without.

The internal battle can often feel like a grizzly bear lurking within us, feeding on our insecurities, fears, and past mistakes. This bear represents our sinful nature, which seeks to pull us away from God and into despair. Galatians 5:17 (KJV) states, “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the

flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” This verse illustrates the constant struggle between our flesh and our spirit, emphasizing the need for divine intervention and strength.

2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV) reminds us, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

- This verse reassures us that fear does not come from God. Instead, He equips us with power, love, and self-discipline to face our grizzly bears.

The Power Within Us

1 John 4:4 (KJV) proclaims, “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

- This verse emphasizes that the Holy Spirit within us is greater than any external force we may face.

Luke 10:19 (KJV) states, “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

- We are given authority over the enemy, empowering

us to stand firm in our faith.

Acts 1:8 (KJV) affirms, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- The baptism of the Holy Ghost grants us the strength and boldness to face our battles.

Allegories of Men Fighting Grizzly Bears in Spiritual Warfare

Throughout history, men of faith have faced their own “grizzly bears” in spiritual warfare. Here are a few allegories that illustrate this struggle:

1. David and Goliath: Just as David faced the giant Goliath, we too confront formidable challenges that seem impossible to overcome. David’s faith and reliance on God remind us that we can defeat our grizzly bears through faith and trust in the Lord. David’s victory was not due to his size or strength but rather his unwavering faith in God, demonstrating that even the smallest among us can conquer the fiercest of foes.

2. Jacob Wrestling with the Angel: In Genesis 32, Jacob wrestles with an angel all night, refusing to let go

until he receives a blessing. This struggle symbolizes our own wrestling with God and our circumstances, illustrating the importance of persistence in prayer and faith. Jacob's determination to hold on, despite the pain, teaches us that our struggles can lead to transformation and blessings.

3. Job's Trials: Job faced immense suffering and loss, akin to battling a grizzly bear. His unwavering faith in God amidst his trials serves as a testament to enduring through life's fiercest challenges. Job's story reminds us that even in the darkest moments, maintaining our integrity and faith can lead to restoration and blessings beyond our understanding.

4. Jesus in the Wilderness: Jesus faced temptation and spiritual warfare in the wilderness, battling Satan himself. His reliance on Scripture and prayer illustrates how we can combat our own grizzly bears through the Word of God. Jesus' victory over temptation demonstrates that we can withstand the fiercest attacks when we are grounded in Scripture and prayer.

5. Peter Walking on Water: In Matthew 14:29, Peter steps out of the boat to walk on water toward Jesus. However, when he sees the wind and waves, he begins to sink. This moment symbolizes our own struggles when we take our eyes off Jesus and focus on the storms around us. Just like Peter, we can cry out to the

Lord, who is always ready to extend His hand and lift us from our struggles.

Overcoming the Grizzly Bear

To overcome the metaphorical grizzly bear in our lives, we must take several steps:

1. Prayer and Fasting: Just as Jesus prepared for His ministry with prayer and fasting, we too must seek God earnestly. These spiritual disciplines strengthen our relationship with God and sharpen our spiritual awareness, enabling us to face our challenges more effectively.

2. Reading and Meditating on Scripture: The Word of God is our sword in spiritual warfare. Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) states, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword.” By immersing ourselves in Scripture, we equip ourselves to combat the lies of the enemy.

3. Community and Fellowship: Engaging with fellow believers provides support and encouragement. Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV) encourages us: “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.” Together, we can bear each other’s burdens

and strengthen one another in the fight.

4. Worship and Praise: Worship is a powerful weapon against the enemy. Psalm 22:3 (KJV) tells us, “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.” When we worship, we invite God’s presence into our situations, reminding ourselves of His power and faithfulness.

5. Trusting in God’s Promises: Clinging to the promises of God can provide strength during our battles. Isaiah 41:10 (KJV) reminds us, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Conclusion

Life is indeed like wrestling with a grizzly bear. The struggle is real, and the fight can feel impossible. But as Apostolic Pentecostals, we are called to rise above our circumstances. We have the power of the Holy Spirit within us, equipping us to fight against Satan, our sinful nature, and the fears that seek to overwhelm us.

Embrace the power that God has given you. Stand firm in your faith, knowing that you are not fighting this battle alone. With God on your side, victory is not only

possible; it is promised.

Call to Action

Are you in the fight of your life? Remember, you have the tools and the power to overcome. Engage in prayer, seek the Holy Spirit, and lean on your community of faith. Together, we can wrestle with the grizzly bears of life and emerge victorious.

Let this metaphor of wrestling with a grizzly bear serve as a reminder that while the fight may be fierce, our God is greater, and through Him, we can conquer every challenge that comes our way. Stand strong, fight well, and remember: victory belongs to those who trust in the Lord!

And let us be wise enough to avoid poking the bear, choosing instead to engage our battles with discernment, prayer, and the armor of God. May we always seek His guidance as we navigate the challenges of life, ensuring that we are prepared for the fights that lie ahead.

Written by Elder Keith Joel Walker
Read and Obey Acts 2:38

