

Week 44

The Man-child, the War in Heaven, and the Overcoming Saints

Hymns: E893

Scripture Reading: Rev. 12:5, 7-11

- Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- Rev. 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels.
- Rev. 12:8 And they did not prevail, neither was their place found any longer in heaven.
- Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.
- Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.
- Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

§ Day 1

I. "She brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne"—Rev. 12:5:

A. Brought forth here signifies resurrection, as in Acts 13:33-34:

1. The man-child is composed of the overcoming saints who have died and been resurrected.

2. This is proved by the words unto death in Revelation 12:11.

B. In the Bible, woman signifies the weaker one and man the stronger one—1 Pet. 3:7:

1. The man-child in Revelation 12 signifies the stronger part of God's people.
2. That the man-child is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod indicates that the man-child consists of the overcomers, as mentioned in 2:26-27.

C. To be caught up is to be raptured:

1. The rapture of the man-child differs from that of the majority of the believers, which is mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.
2. There, the majority of the believers are raptured to the air, and at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16), which is the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15).
3. Here, the man-child is raptured to the throne of God, and before the one thousand two hundred and sixty days, which is the time of the great tribulation of three and a half years (forty-two months, 12:14; 13:5; 11:2), beginning from the sixth seal, before the fifth trumpet (9:1).

§ Day 2 & Day 3

II. "There was war in heaven"—12:7a:

A. Immediately after the man-child is raptured to heaven, Michael and his angels begin to war against Satan:

1. This indicates that the man-child, the stronger part of God's people, is always engaged in fighting God's enemy, Satan.
2. They have been fighting Satan continually on earth.
3. Heaven is waiting for them to arrive that a war may be waged to cast Satan out of heaven.

4. The Bible reveals the names of two angels—Michael and Gabriel.
5. Gabriel is a reporter bringing news to God's people (Dan. 8:16; 9:21-22; Luke 1:19, 26), whereas Michael is a fighter contending for God's people (Dan. 10:13, 21; 11:1; 12:1; Jude 9).

B. "The dragon warred and his angels" (Rev. 12:7b); these angels must be the fallen angels, who follow Satan to rebel against God (Matt. 25:41).

C. Satan, the enemy of God, was judged by the Lord Jesus on the cross—John 12:31; 16:11:

1. After that, the overcoming believers are needed for the carrying out of that judgment, for the executing of that sentence.
2. The war waged by the overcoming believers against Satan is actually the executing of the Lord's judgment upon him.
3. Eventually, through their fighting, he is cast out of heaven—Rev. 12:7-9.

§ Day 4

III. "Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him [the devil] because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death"—vv. 10-11:

A. They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb:

1. Satan may accuse us, but we can answer that the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from every sin—1 John 1:7.

2. Any apparent condemnation that does not stop after we have confessed and applied the blood is not God's enlightenment but Satan's accusation—v. 9.
3. We must not only reject the accusations which are without cause, but we must also reject all the accusations which have cause.
4. When we commit sin, we do not glorify God, but when we do not trust the precious blood, we dishonor Him all the more—Matt. 26:28; cf. Heb. 10:29.
5. We must always apply the blood, telling the devil that although we are not perfect, we are under the precious blood—1 Pet. 1:18-19; Acts 20:28.

§ Day 5

B. They overcame him because of the word of their testimony:

1. "Testimony" means to tell others what there is in Christ, and the word of testimony is something which must be spoken forth.
2. The overcomers must frequently proclaim the victory of Christ, testifying that the devil has been judged by the Lord—1 John 3:8; Heb. 2:14.
3. Satan does not fear when we try to reason with him, but he does fear when we proclaim the spiritual facts of Christ's victory—cf. 2 Chron. 20:20-22:
 - a. That the name of Jesus is above every name is a spiritual fact which we must declare in faith, not only to men but also to Satan—Phil. 2:9-11; 1 Cor. 12:3b.
 - b. We must proclaim to Satan and his demons that Jesus is Lord, that the Lord is victorious, and that Satan has been crushed under His feet—Gen. 3:15; John 14:30b; Rom. 16:20.

§ Day 6

C. They loved not their soul-life even unto death:

1. Due to Adam's fall, Satan joined himself to man's soul-life—man's self; to overcome him we must not love our soul-life; rather, we must hate it and deny it—Matt. 16:23-24; Luke 14:26; 9:23:
 - a. Satan wants us to act in our own strength and move in ourselves with the power of our soul, our natural ability.
 - b. Natural ability is the ability which we originally had and which has never been dealt with by the operation of the cross.
 - c. The failure of the church is due to man's bringing in his natural ability.
 - d. The purpose of the cross is to deal with our natural strength and ability so that we will not dare to move by ourselves, as seen in the cases of Moses and Peter—Acts 7:23-30; Luke 22:32-34; 1 Pet. 5:5-6.
 - e. We should have the attitude that we will not live by our self in any way; we will not value our own ability or have any self-confidence—1 Cor. 2:2-4; Phil. 3:3; cf. Isa. 11:2b.
2. We must be self-sacrificing persons, a drink offering, allowing Christ as the heavenly wine to fill us and cause us to become wine to God—Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6; Judg. 9:13:
 - a. The drink offering typifies Christ as the One poured out as the real wine before God for His satisfaction—Exo. 29:40-41.
 - b. The apostle Paul became a drink offering that was poured out upon the sacrifice and service of the saints' faith—Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6.
 - c. The drink offering typifies not only Christ Himself, but also Christ who saturates us with Himself as the heavenly wine until He and we become one to be poured out for God's enjoyment and satisfaction and for God's building—Matt. 9:17; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6.

WEEK 44 — DAY 1

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

2:26-27 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;...as I also have received from My Father.

Revelation 12:2 says that the woman was with child, and verse 5 says that “she brought forth a son, a man-child.” The child here, being a man-child, signifies the stronger part of God’s people...Man-child here does not indicate a baby. Rather, it indicates the stronger part within the woman. The woman represents the totality of God’s people. But throughout all generations there have been some stronger ones among God’s people. These are considered in the Bible as a collective unit fighting the battle for God and bringing God’s kingdom down to earth. (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 399-400)

Today’s Reading

History proves that not everyone among God’s people is a strong one... This was true during the time of the patriarchs...I believe that God had hundreds of people. Noah, however, was a strong one. During the time of Israel, there were hundreds of thousands who belonged to God, but only a few of them were strong. For example, Elijah and Jeremiah were strong ones. Undoubtedly, the majority of God’s people were genuine, but they were not strong. We find the same thing in the New Testament. Although there were thousands of Christians in the early days, not that many were truly strong. Even at present there are thousands, even millions, of Christians, but not many are strong. I encourage you all to be strong.

We should not only be part of the woman but also part of the man-child... The man-child consists of the resurrected overcomers. That the man-child “is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod” (Rev. 12:5) indicates that the man-child consists of the overcomers as mentioned in 2:26-27. These overcomers are those who have already died.

Revelation 12:5 says that the woman “brought forth” the man-child. Brought forth here signifies resurrection, as in Acts 13:33-34. The man-child is composed of the overcoming saints who have died and who have been resurrected. This is proved by the words unto death in Revelation 12:11. The Lord Jesus was brought forth in resurrection to be the firstborn Son of God. To Him that was a birth. Acts 13:33 and 34, a quotation of Psalm 2:7, reveal that when He was resurrected, He was begotten as the firstborn Son of God. Prior to that, He was the only begotten Son of God with divinity, but through His resurrection He was begotten as the firstborn Son of God with both divinity and humanity. All the overcomers who die will be part of the man-child. By resurrection the man-child will come into full existence...If you are an overcomer today and live until the Lord comes back, you will not be a part of the man-child. Instead, you may be among the firstfruits mentioned in Revelation 14. But if you are an overcomer and die before the Lord comes back, you will be resurrected to be part of the man-child.

Revelation 12:5 also says that the man-child “was caught up to God and to His throne.” To be caught up is to be raptured. The rapture of the man-child differs from that of the majority of the believers, which is mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:17. There, the majority of the believers are raptured to the air and at the last trumpet (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16), which is the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15). But here, the man-child is raptured to the throne of God and before the one thousand two hundred and sixty days, which is the time of the great tribulation of three and a half years (forty-two months, 12:14; 13:5; 11:2), beginning from the sixth seal, before the fifth trumpet (9:1). (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 400, 405-406, 412-413)

Further Reading: Life-study of Revelation, msgs. 34-36

WEEK 44 — DAY 2

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon warred and his angels. And they did not prevail, neither was their place found any longer in heaven. And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth...

Immediately after the man-child is raptured to heaven, a war commences with Michael and his angels against Satan [Rev. 12:7]. This indicates that the man-child, the stronger part of God's people, is always engaged in fighting God's enemy, Satan. The overcomers have been fighting Satan continually, even unto death, and have defeated him on earth. But heaven is still waiting for them to arrive there so that a war may be waged to cast Satan out of heaven. (Life-study of Revelation, p. 430)

Today's Reading

The Lord has shown us the most effective way to defeat the enemy. What we need to do is to take the covenant, the word of God, and preach to Satan regarding what the Lord has accomplished for us...When our temper is aroused, we should forget it and preach to Satan. Go to the source of the problem—Satan—and preach to him, saying, "Satan, you have been crucified on the cross." The more you preach to Satan, the more you will be released.

When the man-child is delivered and is raptured to the throne, he will say, "Satan, you were defeated by me on earth. Are you still here hiding in the heavens?"...Then the man-child will say, "Satan, you should no longer be here! Get out!" As soon as this word is uttered by the man-child, Michael the archangel will lead all his angels to war against the dragon...God is waiting in the heavens for this executor. Who will be the executor? We, the man-child, will be the executor. Let us go there to preach to Satan. Before we can do this,

however, we must first defeat him on earth. After defeating Satan on earth, we will fight upward to heaven, and eventually, we will fight downward to earth. Now as we confront Satan, we must give him many messages. Later, we will go to the heavens, meet him there, and preach to him again. Then after he has been cast down to earth to damage it, we will descend and say to him, "Satan, are you still here? Let me give you another sermon. Now is the time for you to go to the abyss." Then after the millennium there will be the fourth sermon given to Satan. At that time Satan will instigate mankind to rebel against God. But we will say, "Satan, listen to us. This is our last sermon. Now you must go to your destination—the lake of fire."

If you would be qualified to participate in this, you must fight now. Do not be indifferent. I hope...you will give a strong word to the enemy, saying, "Satan, you have deceived me for years...My eyes have been opened, and I see that I must no longer be indifferent. Satan, you are not only God's enemy—you are also my enemy. From now on, I will be absolute for my Lord, and I will never listen to you."...If you preach to Satan like this, you will become another person and will probably soon be included in the stronger part of the woman. Begin now to be qualified, equipped, and perfected to be among those who will be raptured to heaven to execute judgment upon Satan. We must tell the enemy, "Satan, I will preach to you on earth today. Later, I will also give you a message in the heavens. After that, I will see you on earth and preach to you once more. Finally, I will give you one more message, and then you will be cast into the lake of fire."

The rapture is not for our happiness; it is for God's purpose. Our God is waiting for the overcomers, the man-child, to go to heaven to execute His judgment upon the enemy. What a privilege it is to share in this! The angels are not positioned to share this privilege, but we are. Now we have the ground to say, "Praise the Lord that I am in the position to be an overcomer!" (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 430-431)

Further Reading: Life-study of Revelation, msg. 38

WEEK 44 — DAY 3

Morning Nourishment

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night.

As soon as the man-child is raptured to heaven, the war begins. When I was young, I sought to understand why this war will start immediately after the man-child is raptured to the throne. I also wanted to know why the man-child did not actually fight but that the fighting was done by Michael and his angels. The reason is that the man-child is the executor, and the executor does not need to fight. Rather, he simply gives the word. After we, the executor, give the word, the angels who serve us will fight for us...When we say, "Satan, go away," Michael will take the lead to fight against him...Are you willing to be in the stronger part of the woman? If you are, then you must learn to preach to Satan. Satan has constantly been troubling you, but after you decide to preach to him, he may run away, for he knows what you intend to do. Thus, you need to say, "Satan, don't go yet. You are not allowed to leave until I command you to do so. Stay here until I am through speaking to you." (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 431-432)

Today's Reading

The angels are ready to war against the dragon. Michael might even be saying, "Man-child, come up here and give us the word. We'll carry it out." But if we would be qualified to be there in the heavens to execute judgment upon Satan, we must begin to execute the judgment upon him now on earth. Say, "Satan, I will not let you go. I will bind and defeat you."

There will be war in heaven because of the man-child's rapture to heaven...The rapture is not only for us; it is for God's economy and for God's strategy. God's enemy is still in the heavens. This enemy has been judged, and his sentence has been pronounced, but during the past nineteen centuries God has not had those who could execute His sentence upon the enemy. Satan, the enemy of God, was judged by the Lord Jesus on the cross (John 12:31; 16:11)...The war waged by the overcoming believers against Satan is actually the executing of the Lord's judgment upon him. Eventually, through their fighting, he is cast out of heaven (Rev. 12:9). Who will go to heaven to execute God's judgment and command the condemned, judged, and sentenced enemy to depart?...The angels lack the position to do this because, being angels, they are on the same level as Satan who formerly was among them. God needs a man to accomplish this. This man has a Head—the man Jesus. He is the Head of the man-child, the Pioneer of all the overcomers. God needs such a man to execute His sentence upon Satan. God has been waiting a long time for this man.

We must be raptured to the heavens to fulfill God's need...Religion is for human happiness, for having a good life in a merry land after we die. This thought is devilish. But, alas, this concept has infiltrated all of Christianity...We need to be raptured to heaven not for our happiness but for the fulfilling of God's purpose. We must go there to execute God's judgment upon His enemy. God is waiting for this.

After the man-child has been resurrected and raptured to heaven, he will not tolerate to see Satan in the heavens. Even today we should not tolerate to see Satan in the church but should fight against him. If you fight against Satan today, you will be qualified to fight against him in the heavens. After we have been raptured to the throne of God, we will see Satan, and he will be terrified of us. When we see him, we will not tolerate his presence there, and we will say, "Satan, are you still in our God's sanctuary? This is not your place. Satan, you must go." (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 432, 428-429, 434)

Further Reading: Life-study of Revelation, msg. 36

WEEK 44 — DAY 4

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

1 John 1:7 ...The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

Any apparent condemnation that does not stop after we have confessed and applied the blood must be of the devil. Once we realize this, we should tell Satan, “Stop! I will not confess anymore...This is not God’s enlightenment—it is your accusation. I am not perfect, but you must realize that I am under the blood of the Lamb, and the blood is my perfection...I am one of the brothers who overcome you not because of my perfections but by the blood of my Redeemer.”

None of us knows how much the blood implies. Only God knows this. The devil also knows more of what the blood implies than we do...Through experience we have come to see the power and authority of the blood of the Lamb. We must always apply the blood, telling the devil that although we are not perfect, we are under the perfect blood...Whether or not we know all that the blood implies, as long as we apply it, we will have all that it implies. (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 408-409)

Today’s Reading

How can we overcome the accusations of Satan? The voice from heaven tells us, “They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb.” The blood is the basis of victory, and it is the instrument to overcome Satan. He may accuse us, but we can answer that the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanses us from every sin (1 John 1:7). “Every sin” means any sin, whether it is great or small. The blood of God’s Son cleanses us from all of them. Satan may tell us that we are wrong, but we have the blood of the Lord Jesus. The blood of the

Lord Jesus can cleanse us of our many sins. This is the Word of God.

We must not only reject the accusations which are without cause, but we must also reject all the accusations which have cause. When God’s children have done something wrong, we need only the blood of Jesus, His Son, not the accusations of Satan...God’s Word never speaks of the need for accusation after we have sinned...If we have confessed, then what more can be said? If we have sinned and do not confess, then we deserve to be accused. But where there is no sin, there is no cause for accusation.

We admit that we have sin. We do not say that we are without sin. But regardless of this, we do not accept the accusations of Satan. Before God we are clean because we have the precious blood. We should not believe in the accusations more than we believe in the precious blood...We must learn to trust in the blood of the Lamb.

“They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb” [Rev. 12:11]. How precious are these words! The brothers overcame him not because of their merit, their advancement, or their experience. They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb. Whenever accusations come from Satan, we need to deal with them by the blood. Once we accept the blood, Satan’s power will be nullified. All that we are depends on the blood, and we need the blood every day. Just as we depended upon the blood and trusted in the blood on the day we were saved, we must continue to depend upon the blood and trust in the blood from that day forward. The blood is our only foundation...We must never feel that we are being humble by receiving accusations day after day. We must learn to overcome these accusations...The overcomers must know the value of the blood. Although we do not know the immense value of the blood, we can still say to the Lord, “O Lord, apply the blood on my behalf according to Your evaluation of it.” We should deal with the power of Satan according to God’s valuation of the blood, not according to our valuation of the blood. (CWWN, vol. 34, “The Glorious Church,” pp. 86-87, 90)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 34, “The Glorious Church,” ch. 4

WEEK 44 — DAY 5

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony...

1 John 3:8 ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

They also overcame the enemy by “the word of their testimony” [Rev. 12:11]. This is their word testifying that the devil has been judged by the Lord. Whenever we sense the devil’s accusation, we should verbally testify how the Lord has already dealt with him...We need to testify not only to men but also to the demons, saying, “Demons, you must be reminded that Satan, your king, has been defeated by my Lord Jesus Christ. You should not be here troubling me.” Along with testifying to the demons, you need to preach to Satan, saying, “Satan, don’t you know that you have been crucified on the cross? You have been judged, and your destination is the lake of fire.” This is the testimony of your verbal word. Do not simply keep these thoughts in your mind—you must utter them to Satan...I have preached to the demons and to Satan. That preaching was not for their repentance; it was a repellent...The demons are not afraid of what I am, but they are afraid of what the blood is. We need to apply the blood. (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 409-410)

Today’s Reading

The second thing is that the brothers overcame him “because of the word of their testimony.” When our conscience is without offense, then our mouth can give testimony. When there is an accusation in our conscience, we can utter nothing. It seems that the more we speak, the lower our voice becomes. The meaning of testimony here is to testify to others, not to one’s self. When you have the blood before God, you will have boldness before God, and you will have a testimony before man. Not only will you testify that sinners can

be forgiven and man can be accepted because of Christ, but you will further testify of God’s kingdom. “Testimony” means to tell others what there is in Christ, and the word of testimony is something which must be spoken forth. The overcomers must frequently proclaim the victory of Christ. Satan fears the most when this fact is repeated again and again. It is a fact that the kingdom of heaven will come; it is a fact that the Lord is King; it is a fact that Christ is victorious and forever victorious; it is a fact that Satan is defeated; it is a fact that the strong man has been bound and legally condemned; it is a fact that Christ has destroyed all the work of Satan on the cross. When we declare all of these facts, we have the testimony.

It is the word of testimony that gives Satan the greatest fear...Satan does not fear when we talk theology or when we expound the Scriptures, but he does fear when we declare the spiritual facts. “Jesus is Lord” is a spiritual fact...When someone declares in faith that Jesus is Lord, Satan fears. He does not fear our preaching or theology, but the word of our testimony. It is a spiritual fact that the name of Jesus is above every other name. We must declare it in faith, not only to men, but also to Satan. We often speak for Satan to hear; we purposely speak for him to hear. We call this the word of testimony. Even when we are alone in our room we can proclaim aloud, “Jesus is Lord.” We can say, “The Lord Jesus is stronger than the strong man,” or, “The Son of God has already bound Satan,” etc. This is the word of our testimony.

We proclaim that Jesus is Lord, that the Lord is victorious, that Satan has been trodden under His feet. We further proclaim that the Lord has given us authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy...The word of testimony causes Satan to lose his ground. When we give the word of testimony, we give Satan a blow. The work of the Lord has not only given us the blood to protect us, but also the word of testimony by which we can defeat Satan. (CWWN, vol. 34, “The Glorious Church,” pp. 90-91, 93-94)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 34, “The Glorious Church,” ch. 4

WEEK 44 — DAY 6

Morning Nourishment

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him because...they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

Matt. 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Because of Adam's fall, Satan has joined himself to man's soul-life, man's self (Matt. 16:23-24). Hence, to overcome him we must not love our soul-life but rather hate it and deny it (Luke 14:26; 9:23). The overcoming believers who constitute the man-child do not love their soul-life even unto death. Those who do not love their soul-life are willing to be martyred. We must hate our self. As long as we love our soul-life, we are dust, good to be food for Satan. But if we do not love our soul-life, our self, there will be no dust, and Satan will be killed. When our soul-life is killed, Satan is killed also. This is the way for us, as the stronger part of the woman, to overcome Satan. (Life-study of Revelation, pp. 411-412)

Today's Reading

The best way for Satan to deal with us is to cause us to act in our own strength...He wants us to exercise our own natural ability and fleshly energy in our work for God.

Natural ability is the ability which we originally had and which has never been dealt with by the cross. It accompanies our character. The natural ability of one person may be his cleverness...The natural ability of another may be his eloquence. He can speak well independent of any special power from the Holy Spirit. Man, however, cannot serve God with the natural ability that has never been dealt with by the cross...Oh, we all must be brought by God to the place where we are trembling and fearful lest we do anything without the

Lord. We must become such persons—not merely speaking such things, but actually being such persons. Then we will become useful in the hand of God.

We must learn to experience the cross. The purpose of the cross is to deal with us, so that we will not dare to move by our selves. It is useless merely to talk about the message of the cross or to listen to the message of the cross. God needs those who have gone through the cross and have been dealt with by the cross. It is not enough that our message is correct. We have to ask, "How about ourselves? What kind of persons are we?" The apostle Paul said, "For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling; and my speech and my proclamation were not in persuasive words of wisdom" (1 Cor. 2:2-4). The first part of these verses refers to Paul's message, and the last part refers to Paul's person. We often think that when a person like Paul gets up to speak, he must feel rich and full of his own resources. But Paul's message was the cross, and he himself was in weakness, fear, and much trembling...If we have been dealt with by the cross, we will not have any self-confidence, and we will not dare to boast.

The subjective work of the cross in us is to take away the things which do not originate with God. The cross leaves only the things which are of God... Some brothers have said that in the past they had many ways to help people be saved, but after they began to experience the dealing of the cross, the cross has dealt with their various ways, and it seems as if they are not able to do anything. This proves that what they did previously came out from themselves, because whatever is of God cannot be slain by the cross...That which passes through the cross and rises up again is of God; anything which is not able to rise is of man. The Lord Jesus is of God, for after He passed through the cross, He was able to rise again. We should not love anything of the soulish life or of the life of the flesh, but let it all go into death...Our attitude is that we will not live by ourselves in any way; we will not value our own ability or have any self-confidence. We must live as men full of fear and trembling. We must realize what feeble creatures we are. (CWWN, vol. 34, "The Glorious Church," pp. 91-93)

Further Reading: CWWN, vol. 34, "The Glorious Church," ch. 4

Conflict today is fierce

Spiritual Warfare — By the Lord's Coming

Composition for prophecy with main point and sub-points:

1. Con - flict to-day is fierce, The strength of Sa - tan more; The
cry of bat - tle call - ing now Is loud - er than be - fore. The
re - bel voice of hell E'en strong - er now be - comes; But
list, the mid - night cry re - sounds. Be - hold, I quick - ly come!

2. Trials more bitter grow,
The fighting doth enlarge;
Hell's forces rally all their pow'rs
And gather for the charge.
Yet while we wait and watch
And feel the war severe,
We hear the joyful song ring out,
Jesus, the Lord, is near!
 3. 'Tis harder at the end
The word to testify,
For Satan fights with all his pow'r
Our witness to defy.
Much greater strength we need
The foe to overcome;
How happy when the Lord we see
And all our sighing's done!
 4. Who then will forward go
Strong in His mighty power?
Who then will firmly trust the Lord
Until the vict'ry hour;
Till with the conqu'rors blest,
The triumph song's begun?
That man will then rejoice to hear,
Behold, I quickly come!
 5. Who then will choose God's best,
And take the narrow track,
Though passing thru the wildest storms,
Yet never turning back?
Who now will dare press on,
Enduring pain and fear?
All such will then rejoice to see
Jesus, the Lord, is near!
 6. Though deep the darkness be
We still would onward go,
Till we the day of rapture greet
And glory 'round shall glow.
'Tis there we'll see the Lord,
And Satan overcome;
The overcomers will rejoice,
Jesus, the Lord, has come!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.