

## GoBusiness200 | Lesson 25

The Battle to Preserve Your Spiritual Growth

BY DENNIS PEACOCKE



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### *MAIN LESSON IDEAS:*

- The Nature of Truth
- Spiritual Warfare
- Disillusionment & Unbelief
- Tactics of the Enemy
- Becoming Warriors

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### I. There are two major issues surrounding truth:

A. What truth do you "own?"

1. "Epistemologically self-conscious" definition: A state of awareness and understanding regarding one's own knowledge and beliefs; to know what you know and why you know it to the extent you can effectively communicate it to others.
2. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.* —John 1:14

B. How do you protect and defend the truth you own? In owning truth, there is pursuit of it (offense) and protecting it (defense).

1. Offense is exciting because it leads to new possibilities!
2. Defense, however, carries the potential of going backwards and losing ground you've already paid for.
3. If you practice the right defense, you will move from fear to faith to victory.

### II. Spiritual warfare: Satan is a mocker, and spiritual warfare is personal.

A. *The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy.* —John 10:10

B. The enemy's tactics:

1. The enemy steals our experiences and testimony, causing us to question what God has done for us.
  - a. The enemy sows unbelief as he tries to turn our experiences with God into a "natural phenomenon" instead of a true spiritual encounter with Him.
  - b. The enemy will also work to haunt us with the "mental movies" of what has happened to us in the past (see the series, Living Life God's Way, for more on this concept).
  - c. *And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.* —I Corinthians 10:13
  - d. Until you accept that it's personal, you can't learn to fight at the level you need to.
  - e. We need to learn how to block in the spirit.
2. The enemy tries to kill the joy of our salvation and our spiritual foundation.
  - a. We need to learn to get "space" when we are under attack. Ultimately warfare is about endurance.
3. The destroying attack of the enemy is aimed at the faith of the people connected to us. We are more connected to others in the spirit than we know!

### III. Recognize that you are called to defend the truth you've gained, and activate the warrior within you. Remember, we win and we have already won in Christ!

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### *Homework:*

**1. Give an example of a truth that you “own.”**

**2. Why is it so important to understand the personal nature of the enemy’s attacks on us?**