

Fighting Words

FOR YOUR WRITING MINISTRY

SHANNON POPKIN



spiritual battle

I Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

II Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

waging war = destroying arguments with truth



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Shame's Arguments:

Who do you think you are—to step out as a leader?

What do YOU have to say that hasn't already been said?

You're a hypocrite.

Look at the mess you've made. How could you possibly guide anyone else?

Look at your own family. Isn't it obviously that you can't help anyone?

You'll never measure up. You should be ashamed of yourself for trying.

You've put a target on your marriage/ children/ home. Step away from this ministry or you'll regret it.

Look how you've failed. Doesn't this disqualify you to help others?

Tearing Down Shame's Arguments

Nothing—not even Satan's schemes—can separate me from God's love for me (Romans 8:38-39).

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

God rescued me and brought me from darkness to light. He redeemed me and has forgiven me completely (Colossians 1:13-14).

God has removed my sin as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103: 12).

shame

truth

waging war = destroying arguments with truth

Pride's Arguments:

How dare they ask me to write without pay?

This is beneath me. They're lucky to even have me!

I should be speaking somewhere more hip or to larger crowds; not to old ladies.

God had better turn this around for me, or he's going to lose a key player.

I've done everything right. How could God let this happen?

They have no right to brush me aside like that. I need to stand up for myself.

I am far more gifted! Why isn't God using me instead of her?

Tearing Down Pride's Arguments

I answer to God, not the other way around. (Acts 7:49-51)

It's wrong to put God to the test, or demand a "sign". (Matthew 4:7, 8:11)

God is *for* the humble and *against* the proud. (James 4:7)

Submitting to God is part of resisting the devil. (James 4:7)

I must get rid of bitterness and anger, and be kind and compassionate to others. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

pride

truth

waging war = destroying arguments with truth

Temptations's Arguments:

It's hopeless. I'll never have victory.

This isn't that big of a deal. The risk is minimal.

Technically, this isn't wrong. Not if you look at the whole picture.

No one will ever know. No one can see.

I'm the exception. I'm special.

temptation

Tearing Down Temptation's Arguments

Temptation is common to all. God will provide a way out. (I Corinthians 10:13)

Jesus, who was tempted, will come to my aid. (Hebrews 2:18)

My fight is a spiritual battle, and I need to armor up. (Ephesians 6:11-13)

I am a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come. (II Corinthians 5:7)

I am dead to sin and alive in Christ. (Romans 6:11-12)

truth

My Assignment

“I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.”

ACTS 26:17-18



My Advantage

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

II CORINTHIANS 12:9



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