

THE FIRST PRIORITY

5/03/17

*Newton's third law is not only universal, but is also spiritually sound as well... 'For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction'. Engineers understand that unless that which is built is stronger than the forces working against it, it will collapse! Human life is no different. Unless we exert a greater force against death, then death will prevail. Spiritual life is equally bound by this truth... that is why the bible is primarily a book that teaches us how to fight against the certainty of death, with stronger powers that offer the certainty of life. Thus, the battle for spiritual life (the preservation of the soul), should be our first priority. Paul explains this reality... **EPH 6:12** For we wrestle **not against flesh and blood** (natural forces), but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (spiritual forces). This is the true battle that should be the focus for everyone, at all times... especially us.*

***We are not naturally equipped to understand and apply life-giving forces. JER 17:9** The heart (natural reasoning) is deceitful **above all things**, and desperately wicked: who can know it? **10** I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. That is why Jesus sacrificed his life; making the power of the Holy Spirit personally available, so we can find the right way to think and act. Thus we are encouraged to let spiritual truths and wisdom, best direct us relating to our natural lives. **MAT 6:33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. This is a perpetual truth. God offers us life without end... thus he requires that we not only agree with spiritual truths... but rather that we exercise them as a priority. The forces that work against us whether natural or spiritual, are consistent. Thus we need to let God's power work in us at all times... not only when troubles or threats arise. **JOH 14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall **teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. The Spirit will always work together with us when we let it.*

***Most spiritual threats are unclear or disguised, thus the Holy Spirit acts on our behalf. ROM 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our **infirmities** (weaknesses): for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be (naturally) uttered (those spiritual needs outside our expertise and understanding). **27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh **intercession** for the saints according to the will of God. We were given another language for a reason (when we received the Holy Spirit)... the spirit acts for us, opposing evil and protecting us from distractions and harm and cleansing us from the corruptions which lead to spiritual death.*

***Don't be surprised that the forces battling between life and death never cease. 1COR 10:13** There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also **make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it. The trial of our faith is much more precious than obtaining natural riches or desires... the best choice is always to put God's power and principles first, before every other option and keep applying them regardless. God doesn't want us to just agree to spiritual principles... he wants us to make them a priority of action. There will always be disappointments, pressures and complications, but they all serve to make you stronger and more effective. **ROM 8:28** And we know that all things work **together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

***Excuses are a sure sign that God is being limited in the battle to keep people alive. LUK 14:26** If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple (our priority is to serve God ahead of ourselves and family). **27** And whosoever doth not bear his cross (get their priorities correct), and come after me, cannot be my disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? You can't maintain salvation if you don't practice your scriptural priorities.*

***Why is God calling us? Primary reason... we turn people from death to life. LUK 4:18** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, The battle between life and death are always our first priority... both in and out of the church.*

***Spiritual motivation. HEB 3:13** But exhort one another **daily**, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. God's advice is to be our daily priority, not just a passing interest.*