

SOUL FOOD

March April 2020



"Why seek ye Him among the dead?" Luke 24:6

The Lord was born into our world to fight the Hells. He underwent extreme temptations even to the passion of the cross.

In this sermon we are told how we in fighting our own personal temptations we will be making a difference;

In this battle we fight for all. And when we fight, we fight for all in the Lord's kingdom now and in future generations.

Excerpts from "Fighting Spiritual Battles": by Rev Thomas Kline

*.....we are actually "soldiers" who are called by the Lord to be part of the battle. **We are soldiers who live on a large battleground**, and we are called to fight in the name of the Lord. And this is one of the most important concepts we need to know about our lives, because it gives us a vision of hope and purpose. We are in the middle of a great war. (Just look around you and within you.)*

We are soldiers who are part of this great battle between heaven and hell. ...

*And here is another key : We fight the spiritual battle as an individual, but the **consequences of our victory, no matter how slight, are global**. When we, as individuals, fight a spiritual battle against the hells, we help countless millions throughout this world and the spiritual world who are affected by those same hells. When we are spiritually victorious over a particular hell, **we lessen the power of that hell, not just for ourselves but for everyone**.*

*When tragedy happens take for example, the untimely death of a loved one we can still fight against those very hells that caused the death. And we do this **by continuing on our personal spiritual journey of shunning evils as sins against God, by living the Word of God, by not giving up hope**. In this battle we fight for all. And when we fight, we fight for all in the Lord's kingdom now and in future generations.*

Why can't our life be free from pain, suffering, and the anguish of temptation?

Why can't life just be easy and enjoyable?

It is interesting to ask these questions about the Lord's life. Why couldn't the Lord's life, when He was on the earth, just be peaceful?

Why did He have to suffer continual temptations, as the Writings say, temptations from the beginning of His life to the very end?

Why did He have to begin His ministry by being tempted by the devil for forty days in the wilderness?

Why did He have to suffer the awful pain and anguish of the passion on the cross?

Why couldn't His life have been one of simple peace and joy?

*When we ask these questions about the Lord's life, the answer is obvious: He didn't come here to have a life of peace and joy; **He came here with a mission to be accomplished. He came here to fight against the hells**. He came to fight for generations of men, women and children, generations yet unborn. He came to fight for all of us. There was a purpose to His life, a **purpose greater than Himself**.*

*And the same is true for us. **We are here for our own regeneration, and we are here for a cause (a battle, if you will) greater than ourselves**. And sometimes this battle will involve pain, hardship and temptation.*

.....

Now this doesn't mean that our lives are going to be plagued with tragedy every moment. No, there is a lot of joy, happiness, and peace in life. Jesus says that **our yoke is easy and our burden is light**. But we do need to keep in mind why we are here. We need to have more of a "war-time" mentality than a "peace-time" mentality on the spiritual level. And if we see why we are here, we can know why there is often a lot of pain and suffering in our lives and with those around us. **A spiritual battleground is not a very peaceful place.**

If anything, the Lord gives us an oasis from the battle from time to time, time off from the battle, but **the battle is our main purpose in life**. In this context, it is useful to think of some of the teachings in the Writings about spiritual temptation.

First of all, we are told that **a spiritual temptation is said to be an attack by the hells on some good love that we have**. If you have some new, good love in your life, expect it to be attacked by the hells. And if you say to yourself, "Why, every time I have some new love in my heart, it is challenged," you are not seeing the purpose of why you are here. There is a battle going; expect spiritual temptations.

Another teaching of the Writings: **Are our temptations going to get easier or more difficult as we get older?** The answer: **they are probably going to get more severe**. And if your reasoning is,

"You mean I am going to have to fight greater battles as I get older?"

How can this be fair?

Why fight now?"

If that is your response, then you have missed the point of why you are here. There is a battle going on. **You are called to be a spiritual soldier**. As you grow stronger, more experienced, the Lord will give you greater challenges, greater battles to fight, because **strong experienced soldiers are needed in some of the battles**. The Lord is preparing you for great things. Still another teaching: Spiritual temptations cause utmost despair and anguish. There is no such thing as an easy spiritual temptation. Sometimes you feel that you are going to "lose it" during a spiritual temptation. And again, if the response of your mind is, "Why do I have to have really bad temptations?"

Why can't they be easy?"

then you have missed the point of why you are here. When Jesus began His ministry, He was baptized of John in the Jordan River. And then He went into the wilderness and was **tempted by the devil for forty days**. He hungered. He hungered so much that He was tempted by the devil to make bread out of the stones. **And His hunger was deep within Him. He hungered for the salvation of the whole human race**. The devil took Him up to the pinnacle of the temple, and asked Him to throw Himself down. **He was tempted to doubt His own power to save the human race**. And finally, the devil took Him up to a great and high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. All this would be given to Him if He would just bow down and worship the devil. And after all these temptations, it says that the devil left Him "for a time."

The temptations were to continue. *They were to continue even to the passion of the cross.*

And by His victory over temptation, our redemption was effected. Let us use His victory as strength in our lives so that we may face the challenges that lie before us with courage and strength. Amen. Lessons: Psalm 91; Luke 4:1-15; AC 6829, 1690

Shed for Godly Play: Application to the South Perth Council has been made. We need to wait to hear the outcome.

Tree church: On the first and Third Sundays when we cannot get the room at McDougall House we will meet in the fir trees to sing and have a story for the children. Subject to weather.

	Calendar March/April	2020
March 1	Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	Aubin Grove
March 8	Logo Praxis 9am Worship+Godly Play Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	McDougall House Aubin Grove
March 15	"Tree church" 10:30am Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	<u>Fir trees McDougall park</u> Aubin Grove
March 22	Logo Praxis 9am Worship+Godly Play 10:30am Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	McDougall House, Como Aubin Grove
March 29	"Tree church" 10:30am Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	<u>Fir trees McDougall park</u> Aubin Grove
April 5	Tree church : Palm Sunday Worship Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	McDougall House, Como Fir trees McDougall Park Aubin Grove
April 12	Logo Praxis 9am Easter Sunday Worship 10:30am and Godly Play Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	McDougall House, Como Aubin Grove
April 19	Tree church" 10:30am Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	<u>Fir trees McDougall park</u> Aubin Grove
April 26	Logo Praxis 9am Worship+Godly Play 10:30am Spiritual Growth Group 5:30pm	McDougall House, Como Aubin Grove
May 22-24	Todd visits us	BOOK THESE DATES PLEASE 😊

***We are all created to become angels of Heaven
which is a kingdom of communities.***

*Based on the Holy Bible, **The New Church** gains further inspiration and understanding through the Heavenly Doctrines revealed by the Lord and published by 18th century scientist and theologian **Emanuel Swedenborg**. In the 35 volumes of this new Revelation we see the Lord's plan for a rebirth of Christianity, a clear vision of God in His own Word, and what that means in our lives.*

Worship: 10:30am on the ***Second and Fourth*** Sundays with ***Godly Play*** for children

Venue: McDougall House, 20 Clydesdale Road, Como

www.newchurch.org

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