

Fight the gods: Part 1



We begin this series as we began our fast on October 1st, 2023 (and it will continue until October 31, 2023). I began fasting every October when I gave my life to the Lord. During my fasts, I typically ask the Lord about the upcoming year, to dedicate myself to His will for the upcoming year, and to consecrate myself to that which is necessary to be successful for the coming year—so that I will be prepared for it now. If I waited until January 1, 2024 to get ready, I would already be behind; day one is when God starts moving. If a day is 1,000 years to the Lord, then during the last three months of this year, God has a lot of time to catch me up! I will not miss His presence in 2024 as He has already begun talking to me about what's to come—and we'll discuss that later.

- The fast will be multifaceted, but the overarching goal of the fast is for you to reach dimensions that you've never seen before. It's this idea of touching the hem of His garment. This church will know what the touching of His garment feels like.
- There is a difference in dispensation in the way the Lord has been acting, and I saw this in Nigeria. The air is kind of clearer there when it comes to spirituality. And so, I saw what the Lord was doing, and I see why He took me there. He wants me to implement what He's doing there over here, and we shall be the beginning of such things.
- This requires that as a church, we touch His garment together. No spotlights of brightness—I want to see light emanating from our church. This means that I don't want to see only a few select people shining in the spotlight; remember, we are only as strong as our weakest link. The enemy comes through the weakest person, and that person messes up the entire church.

- In the Book of Revelation, it states, “You have entertained that spirit because you did not cast it out of your presence. A little yeast leavens the entire bread.” My job is to be strong, to find what needs to be fixed, and to fix it—so that together we may be a church without a spot or wrinkle That is my responsibility.
- In fact, this fast—though I’ve never made anything a requirement—I ask in the name of Jesus, that each of you fast with us if you are medically okay to do so. Just know that the Physician above told me that our church needs to fast, and in the name of Jesus we will get closer as a church.
- The entire idea of the campus is only possible if we can come into the realm of the Spirit because what will make us explode is the power of God that is associated with us, not our intellect or anything else—it’s the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The only difference with this fast is that we will meet at the church to pray in person each Friday at 8-9 pm, though I understand that some of you travel long distances and may not be able to make it. So, we will meet at 6 am on Zoom every day except Fridays and Sundays (as on those particular days, we will be meeting in the church in person).

On fighting the gods:

On the second day upon arriving in Nigeria, as I was praying on my bed, the Lord told me that as soon as I returned to the U.S., I was to begin preaching on fighting the gods. He asked me to speak on fighting the gods—and when you hear the word “god” in this sermon, know that I will be interchangeably using the words “gods” and “idols.”

- Now, the problem with it is this: If you walk up to a person and say, “Hey, get rid of your idols,” some of the initial thoughts that comes to one’s head is, “What is it that I love more than God? What do I love that God does not want me to love?”
- Now, if this is the only assessment by which you determine whether you have idols or gods, you’re only doing half of the job because idols are subconscious, not conscious. Therefore, this series is for us to be able to identify where our gods lie and to begin to fight them.
- Believe it or not, the gods we have determine how we perceive life and how we make decisions. In fact, we will see through this series that how we relate to each other determines how many of them we have.
- It is my job to show you how easily we form them; and many of us don’t even know that we have them. I will also show you how much this idea of gods is so pertinent to God that it is literally on the forefront of His mind whenever He is dealing with you and talking to you.
- When it comes to identifying these foreign gods, AKA idols, what’s pretty interesting is that sometimes, you basically find out that you have gods by assessing how much you offer as sacrifices to these gods. Sometimes, that’s the indicator—like, how much time you’re spending in a certain direction.
- Sometimes you don’t even know what you love more than God until you assess your life and see that sometimes it’s how much value you are ascribing to an idea. Sometimes, you don’t even know you have an idol until you start to assess which area of your life you’ve been obsessing about so much so that you’ve ascribed a value to it—and it becomes the

very reason why you live. Like school, for example. For some of us, education can cause us to obsess in a particular area sometimes.

- Sometimes, even our brokenness causes us to celebrate things in the media because we ascribe value to it based on our brokenness, and it becomes our salvation. As you can see, it is *that* easy, and I see Christians do it all the time.
- And they do not understand why it is that they feel opposed in their prayer, constantly saying, “I rebuke you Satan!” However, when I look at you, I can tell that your problem is with God Himself because He’s fighting your gods.

Your gods become your identity:

And when He fights your gods, you feel like He’s fighting you! So, this is very pertinent to get God off your back. Sometimes you don’t know that you have gods because the gods make you feel as though you’re succeeding.

- One of the things I will tell you—and I’ll bring up verses to back it up—is that idols are naturally derived. It is more natural to serve an idol than it is to serve Yahweh. It seems more humanistic and beneficial to serve your idols than it is to serve God.
- You also give birth to your gods while God gives birth to you. It is easier serving a god that derives from you, than to serve a God from which you were derived. Idols are easier to deal with and are more natural—and because of this, you don’t even know you have them.
- You can’t receive Jesus by mistake; it’s intentional when you ask Jesus to come into your life—and suddenly, your life feels jacked up, and you feel non-directional. Not to mention, no one seems to like you anymore. Welcome to Christianity!
- Idols on the other hand, don’t do all of that because idols are your desires becoming spiritual. If idols are naturally derived, it is because your desires have become spiritual.

How are idols formed?

The way idols are formed (let’s not think about physical objects just yet), by the time something becomes a physical idol, it was first a spirit.

- If you ever study Hinduism, you’ll see that they have up to 800,000 gods—they have idols and gods for fertility, gods for crops, etc.—and usually as Christians, we ignorantly believe *they’re* the ones serving idols.
- In Buddhism, many believe they’re serving the Buddha as an idol, but they’re not. Using Christian language, followers of Hinduism will tell you that there’s a spirit that is just represented by an image for them to focus on. In fact, the doctrine of Buddhism tells Buddhists not to follow those things.
- Therefore, before something becomes physical, it must be spiritual first; and every idol is formed from your desires, which ultimately become an obsession. The book of James tells us that sin begins with desire.

- It says that it is when desire conceives; desire is likened unto the gametes meeting and then going through mitosis, anaphase, telophase, and so forth before birth eventually takes place.
- This tells us that a desire doesn't automatically become a sin—it becomes pregnant first. And have you noticed that a baby comes out with life? What once seemed lifeless comes out with life. This means that you're being made in the image of God; and when you take desires and obsess about them so much, you're assigning your desire to a spirit to give it life.
- This is the reason many religions focus on manifestations, desires, laws of attraction, etc. For example, the idea is that if you can think clearly of it, you can manifest it in your life. They know what they are talking about.

Why can't we manifest?

We can't manifest things because what we do must derive out of the will of God and not out of desire. It works in the realm of the spirit when you obsess over desire so much that it is assigned to a spirit to guide it. And then, it starts to manifest itself into ideas and things that seem like an answered prayer, and you end up serving it as if it were God because it gives you what you wanted.

- If I obsess over money so much, the Bible tells us that the spirit of mammoth—which is attached to money—gives it life; then money becomes an idol.
- In the Book of Matthew, when Jesus said that you can't serve two masters, that's what Jesus was talking about. If I obsess over money so much, what happens to my obsession is that a spirit becomes assigned to it; and by the time that spirit becomes attached to it, every idea that needs to happen for me to live to gain money will start to flow in—but it becomes my god. And it will come at the detriment of every relationship.

Is there a sacrifice?

Every god requires a sacrifice, and it will be at the detriment of your God-given destiny.

- Idols are naturally derived, and they are your desires becoming spiritual. Therefore, God tells you not to be anxious because your desire will create a god. The god is the response to a need.
- Gods are a response to a need; therefore, it makes a lot of sense when you're in it because you're looking for salvation. Spirits are waiting for you, for your desire to reach the place of conception, so that you'll no longer have boundaries by which they can be held at bay.
- Satan's ultimate weapon to creating a god in you is to start working with your imagination to provide a solution to the problem that you're facing; and the minute you bow, it becomes a god.

For example:

When Jesus came, His job was to take over the world. When Satan found out, his last temptation to Jesus was, “Bow down to me.” Satan would have, therefore, become His god if Jesus did bow down to him.

- That means that Satan was trying to solve a problem for Jesus: “You don’t have to go through all of this pain. I’ll just give you what you want—just make me your god.”
- Jesus faced it too. That’s what every temptation is: every temptation is a test to reestablish Yahweh as God or to pick up a new God. A god, therefore, comes into existence, in the absence of God’s Spirit.
- Why do you think that every time you begin to read your Bible— when you’re starting to pray, and you’re starting to come into God’s presence—that it is in that moment that all hell breaks loose?
- And you find that things are not going well, so you start to focus on what’s not going well—to the point that when you wake up, you realize that you have not been in the presence of God for three to five days.
- This is because Satan cannot establish himself in your life when you’re in the presence of God. Whenever your pastor tells you to pray and fast, it’s not so that you can go into your secret place just to *feel* anointed; it’s so that you can at least stop what the devil is building!
- Because if you’re not in God’s presence, Satan is building something. He’s studying you constantly while trying to establish a foreign god in your life.
- For example:

Before the Ten Commandments:

Let me give you a paraphrased version of verse 19 to help you understand how idols are created in some of our lives and our relationships, and why we get to that place where we don’t even know we’re not walking with God (though we feel like we are, but it’s just not jiving), and we’re constantly feeling like we’re at war.

- Now, some of us might just be like the children of Israel, who when God led them out of Egypt and they got to the Mt. Sanai area, one of the first things God did was to establish Himself as God to them by telling Moses, “I want you to get the people ready. I am coming down with power, fire, and brimstone, the cloud will be dark, and there will be fire. I am doing this because I need them to know I exist; I am real and not theoretical.”
- One of the first things I’ve taught you is that when God establishes a relationship with you, one of the first things He does is to have an encounter with you, and that encounter proves His existence without a shadow of a doubt.
- When you came into Christianity, and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, something should have happened—because it’s either real or it’s not.
- Unfortunately, for some of us, our encounter was that our dreams changed and became nightmarish. Something did change, and it’s a good change—it means that you came in fighting and blazing!

- Some of us see angels while others of us receive messages from God through other people. Literally till today, let's say I think about something and it starts to bother me, within the next five minutes, someone will call me or text me with the answer. It happened recently when I was concerned about my son's school; someone texted me about a dream they had, and the answer was contained within that dream.
- Again, God establishes Himself. He comes in verse 19 and says, "Bring them to the mountain, and I'm going to come down so strong that if they touch this mountain, they will die. Keep them at bay." They said, "No problem."

Before the tablet:

God spoke the Ten Commandments to the Israelites as seen in Exodus chapter 20; it wasn't Moses in the mountain. God said, "I will speak to you, and I want you to hear Me talk to you."

- Suddenly, God spoke to them—giving them all these Ten Commandments—and right after that, they went to Moses and said, "Please tell God that we said it's okay if He just talks to you and you talk to us (because that was scary)." In the Book of Deuteronomy, God said, "I thought it was a good idea."
- What He was trying to get them to understand was that "I am God, so don't mess with Me," and it seemed like they got the message; but they didn't, because right after that, He said to Moses, "Come up here. Since they don't want to hear Me talking to them, you come and talk to Me." And Moses was gone for 40 days and nights.
- That was enough for them [to ask for other gods].

Exodus 32:1

¹When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down from the mountain, the people gathered to Aaron, and said to him, "Come on they said, make us gods who can lead us; we do not know what happened to this fellow Moses who brought us here from the land of Egypt." 40 days were enough!

Let's test the spirit:

We'll do an exercise of testing the spirit and we'll see if it is of God. Some of us believe that our major gift is the gift of discernment. Sometimes when I speak with certain people, I can tell they have good intuition—not discernment.

- What kind of people were they [the Egyptians], and where was their heart? They tell you in this verse that they always wanted to be aware of what was happening to them; therefore, they must be in control of what is happening to them.
- 40 days was enough for them to forget the God that could have killed them if they touched the mountain. If that god was not showing them where they needed to go, they would create a god that would tell them where to go.

- With some of us, if God is giving, He's good; and the minute He says to wait for 40 days—what is Satan's greatest weapon in 40 days? His weapon is to show you how your life is heading nowhere, and to provide a solution that will get you somewhere.
- Watch your friends who seem to come alive in your life when you're down and all they have is advice which always counteracts the God who led you out of Egypt; they're agents, they are not your friends.
- The people who are in your life either know the context within which you got where you are, or they keep telling you where to go. You're waiting on the Lord for 40 days, and we're doing 30 days [of fasting] now.
- Usually, it is within a fast that you start seeing where attacks come from; the demons that were having a field day start getting exposed. Suddenly, these guys [the Israelites], were about direction; then they said, "We don't know what happened to our fellow, Moses."

What were they talking about?

Apparently, Yahweh was just the God of Moses! Like some of us who know how to follow influencers—we know how to follow people who seem close to God, but *WE* don't know God.

- Suddenly, because we can't see Moses, therefore, we can't see God. If Moses is dead, we'd rather not walk with the God who seems terrible to begin with. He was terrible because He gave us the Ten Commandments. If Moses is dead, then God, therefore, must also be dead; so we don't need to follow the Ten Commandments.
- When your relationship with God is just contingent upon your needs and desires, then when He stops supplying you, there goes your relationship—that's how you know you have an idol. They said, "We don't know what happened to this fellow, Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt."

Do you know what they were actually saying?

What they were saying was, "Thank God He used him to save us; now we need another god to lead us forward."

- Yahweh did the hard part of saving us; now let a god that "we choose" tell us where to go next! Have you ever noticed that some know where God is when they're in trouble but when they've come out of it, they don't seem to know Him?
- It's almost like they're saying, "God give me a miracle to save me"; then [upon being saved], "I've got it from here."
- That's where idols come from. Idols are not usually born only when you're in the valley; they are also born when you're on top of the mountain.

Have you noticed that Israel had this problem?

Every time God turned around, Israel was doing something with an idol—like when they created the golden calf. The Bible tells us some of the things they did with idolatry, like having sex in public (they were dancing and having sex)!

- They were doing this because the gods we create are a manifestation of our desires. Gods just validate your desires and make them spiritual, so things like sex become a spiritual act of worship.
- Israel kept going into idolatry because for some reason, following Yahweh feels less enjoyable—He doesn't seem to let you do what you want to do. That's why we create idols—because by the time we wake up, and He says "don't lie," and the first situation that presents itself contains a lie, you'd say, "I prefer the god that doesn't mind if I lie."
- Therein lies the problem in the Book of Judges:

Judges 8:33-34

³³ "As soon as Gideon died, the Israelites prostituted themselves by worshiping the images of Baal, making Baal-Berith their god. ³⁴They forgot the LORD their God, who had rescued them from all their enemies surrounding them."

- Baal was an easy god to live with because if you didn't like your children, you could just sacrifice them too; and if you didn't like your wife, you'd just add another one; and if you didn't like your husband, you could just give him as a sacrifice.
- They made Baal-Berith their god because they forgot the Lord their God, who had rescued them from all their enemies surrounding them. Amnesia is the best way to create gods!
- Again, God has never given a testimony just because He wanted to give you something; every testimony was meant to be remembered because a testimony is God proving His love to you.
- You are meant to remember everything He does because when you are in the valley, it is the memory of the testimonies that proves that He's still with you.
- The minute you can tell in your life that you are not quick to remember, Satan appears once and your next prayer is, "Why me, oh Lord?" You have idols, and the best place to start is knowing that you are your own idol.

Let's test your knowledge:

What gods have we been talking about? Let me know [using the Mentimeter app] based on the spirits in the Bible—just throw it out there. I'll give you a scenario, and you tell me which god we're talking about.

Question 1:

Let's say I grew up in a family that didn't understand me, and I got abused growing up. Let's say I feel like everybody takes advantage of me as I'm growing up. And then, I make up my mind—not by prayer or asking the Lord, I just make up my mind—and I say, "Nobody will insult, use, or

hurt me anymore,” then I relate to everybody from that perspective—with this aggression of, “No, you’re not going to hurt me anymore.” But the way I also do this is that I find that whenever I am not in charge of a situation, that’s when I get hurt.

- So, I make sure that from now on, I will tell you my mind and control the situation. So I obsess, and I perfect this. Now, it starts to graduate where I find out that it’s even in my career and it’s helping my career, because as Jordan Peterson put it, “Agreeable people don’t go too far.”
- So, suddenly, I realize that if I can just attach myself to people of power and guide them, I find out that I have a lot of headway in life. No one tells me what to do; I will tell every single person what to do and it’s working flawlessly.
- No one can reach me, but I must tell everybody what to do. At that point, according to the Bible, what is the name of the spirit that is now guiding me?

Answer(s)

- Aggressive spirit
- Spirit of rejection
 - Okay, spirit of rejection is how it started, but it graduated. In the realm of the spirit, there’s a hierarchy: there are those that you can cast out quickly and then there are those that you must fight. It starts off with one of these [on the board] that we can remove quickly, but these have matured.
- Pride
- Ego
- Narcissism
- Witchcraft
 - Yes, the spirit of control is like the spirit of witchcraft; witchcraft is what they do.
- Jezebel—someone got it right!

Jezebel spirit:

Jezebel always starts with rejection. It even starts with the desire to never be abused again. Whether you think you’re protecting yourself or not, any obsession elicits a spirit.

- Like Gideon in the Bible, the spirit that was bothering him was that he looked down on himself and it birthed a spirit before he died.

In conclusion:

We like idols because they validate us. Idols validate how you want to feel; they give you a sense of power. You feel very powerful when you know that your god supports what you’re doing—that’s why we need a god.

- When you know that you are trampling over relationships to get to the top, that's when your god says it's okay, it's okay. Like Mammon is okay with that; Mammon is okay with you making it by destroying others.
- We like idols because they seem to solve problems, and they appear to solve them faster than Yahweh does. If I have a spirit that is dedicated to a problem, it should get solved faster than waiting for the cosmic God, Yahweh, to decide on whether He wants to do it or not.
- Whenever the seed of the god is in you, all you need to do is receive advice and you'll take it. We'll discuss this further later, as well as discussing gods being attached to needs.
- Gods allow you to be yourself; they are better suited to your identity. Let's take Yahweh, God in heaven—who is separate and apart from these small "g" gods—we take Yahweh and try to customize His image by putting other gods and what they believe around Him.
- And you are more in control when it is your personal god. Idols are naturally derived; but every idol, every god—from even our God in heaven to the small "g" gods—all have a secret place. They dwell in the secret place, and what is supposed to happen in the secret place is the meeting place—it is where you edify and where your spirit is churned into believing more.
- For some of us, our secret place is the mind. We live in our minds, churning the problem, and the spirit meets us in our minds.
- We think to ourselves, "They don't like me," when they are not even talking to you; but to you, they don't like you (in your head). For example, when I returned home, the devil told me that the neighbor was parking in my parking spot, and that because of this, the neighbor was looking down on me because of my good nature.
- So, I was convinced that they decided to leave their own parking spot and park in front of my house; so much so that up till 3 am, I was looking out of the window and saw that they were still there. I had decided what I was going to do when I left church; though I only have one car, I was going to park it in front of my house!
- In my mind, me and Satan were in the secret place. I had created in my mind how things would escalate—even though God said, "Bullus, it's a parking spot." In my mind, they would soon enough be barbequing in my backyard or even moving in with me, rent free!
- That's how Satan works in our secret place; that's why we're told in the Bible to cast down imaginations in the secret place.
- For some of us, the secret place is an actual place; "Be ye transformed [in the secret place]." The battle is fought in your head, but idols are there to inform and interpret how people are reacting to you.
- Because that spirit gives you what you think you are— as value—and interprets what other people do towards you.
- But every secret place has an altar; an altar is needed because every altar must have a sacrifice. Sacrifices reflect your actions, how you live.
- Every god needs service; for them to keep being your god, you must keep serving them. This even applies to how you think of other people in relationship to unforgiveness—which

is an idol—because it's a god telling you how much more you're worth than the other person, or how much more perfect you think you are compared to them.

- In Exodus 20:3, the very first commandment says, "You must not have any other god before Me." God thought about this to the point that it was the very first thing He told us because He knows that it is the most natural thing that we do—is to create gods.
- We give Him competition—it's the first thing we do. In fact, worry is evidence that there is a presence of a hidden god. It's what we do. That's why He says, "If you need something, just ask."
- That's why He also says, "If you are lacking wisdom, ask Me for it because wisdom is Me speaking to the direction and the knowledge of what's actually happening to you.
- "You must not have any other gods before Me." Then He continues in verse 4 with the same idea.

Exodus 20:4-6:

⁴ "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea."

- **"You must not make for yourself an idol."** So He says first, "Don't make another god, and don't get to the point that this idol—this spirit—becomes physical." That's what He's saying.
- **"...Of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea."** Do you notice how total He is about this? We humans are looking for gods so much that any place we see a sign of life, we will make it a god—whether in the heavens (the sky), or on the earth (the land), or when we go swimming (in the sea).

⁵ "You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I the LORD your God, am a jealous God who does not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is connected—even the children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject Me."

- What He is saying here is that "If I am married to you, I am the Husband, and you are the wife. I don't think straight. If you make Me jealous, I will act jealous. I don't understand it when you bring another man to the house; I won't get it." That's what He's trying to say.
- Even though you think He's gracious, He's saying, "I won't think straight." Right after they made the calf, He said, "Move out of the way, I'm about to kill them!" It was Moses who said, "Please, don't do it! If you kill them, the Egyptians will, ask 'Did you bring them out here, just to kill them?' Let's think about this." That's what Moses was saying.
- God was literally saying, "I will not understand it if you decide to make a god because when I see another god in my house, it immediately puts me into another mode—which means that somebody is going to die in this house. So you choose: it's either Me, or it."
- God forbid that your image is tied to that god, you'd feel like you're the one who is dying. Because He doesn't think straight enough to wait patiently to keep letting the god live with Him in the house while you're trying to get your act straight.

- That's why He says this:

⁵“You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. [I act so swiftly that] I lay sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is connected—even the children in the third and fourth generations who reject Me.”

- This means that, “If I act now the way I want to act, even your children’s children will feel the pain of my action; so don’t bring another person into this house!” That’s all that means.
- Yahweh! That’s what He’s saying: “If you don’t check yourself and I have to compete with another god, your children’s children will feel my wrath.”
- This tells you how serious it is to identify your god and deal with it; otherwise, He’ll go into a jealous mode—and you don’t want to be caught up in that storm. When Elijah came to fight Baal’s **servants**, 600 men lost their lives. When He comes to fight a god—when He goes to war with gods—He proves who He is, and He’s always the last one standing.