

# In Our Inner Battle We Ought to Use Power (Norwegian)

by Zac Poonen

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*Zac Poonen emphasizes the importance of understanding the New Covenant, living by the Holy Spirit, and prioritizing spiritual authority over worldly attachments.*

**Duration:** 55:55

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11

**Topics:** "New Covenant", "Spiritual Growth"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, likening them to the two trees in the Garden of Eden. It highlights the danger of focusing solely on the knowledge of good and evil without truly knowing God, and the need to prioritize a life centered on Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The speaker urges listeners to study the Bible diligently, avoid distractions that hinder spiritual growth, and be willing to make sacrificial decisions to prioritize God above all else.

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## Transcript

I want to repeat what I said, that there are very few who have understood the difference between the New Covenant and the Old Covenant. And I see the Old Covenant and the New Covenant like the two trees in the Garden of Eden. And I see the Old Covenant and the New Covenant like the two trees in the Garden of Eden.

The Old Covenant will only show you the difference between good and evil. And you can increase and increase and increase in the knowledge of good and evil. And that is all that many people get in many churches.

More knowledge of good and evil. Ah, this is wrong and that is right. But when you talk to them, they don't seem to know God.

There is not the spark of life. There is not a spark of life in them. So, what did the Pharisees do? They had a doctor's degree in the knowledge of good and evil.

How much to type. How much to wash your hands. All the little, little, little laws.

We have to be careful that we don't go that way. Right in the beginning of the Bible, God has said, knowledge of good and evil will bring death. Have you understood that? Right in the beginning of the Bible.

The knowledge of good and evil will bring death, but it will make you think that you are very spiritual. We can come to a meeting and we can say, Oh, we have become very sensitive to so many things we know as sin. But it is life that we need.

The tree of life. That is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit that brings to us the life of Jesus.

And for that we have to go under the sword and the fire. We read in Hebrews chapter 11. Somebody once asked me this in India recently when we were having a Bible study.

That if the Old Covenant is abolished, does it mean we don't have to read the Old Testament anymore? I said, No. There is no such word called Old Testament in the Bible. Man has given that name, Old Testament.

But the Bible only says Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus. It doesn't say this is all Old Testament. We need to understand the word Old Testament in the Bible is a man given name.

The whole Bible is the inspired word of God. But there is an old agreement which God made with Israel that doesn't apply to us. And that is a way in which God dealt with man right up to the coming of Christ.

Actually up to the coming of the Holy Spirit. And that was by the law. And the Bible says by the law is the knowledge of sin.

The Bible calls the law a mirror. When you have a mirror, you can see your face. People who don't have a mirror, they can't see there is some dirt on their face.

In today's language we could say an x-ray. Which shows me what is wrong inside my body. But I cannot clean my face with that mirror.

And that x-ray cannot heal me. It can only show me. So with the law.

That was needed. We need the mirror even today. Even today the doctors will take x-ray and scan to see what is inside.

But that is only to see. The cure is somewhere else. So there are many, many things written in the books from Genesis to Malachi which are good for us to learn.

One of the things I have learned from the Old Testament. Is the mistakes that Israel made. Because those are the same mistakes people are making in the church today.

They are pursuing after the wrong things. So in Hebrews 11 you read about the examples of these great men. The Old Testament period.

And do you know what is the most important verse in Hebrews chapter 11? That is the last verse. And that it says God has provided something better for us than all these people had. I am really excited when I read that.

That I can study about Abel and Enoch and Moses and Noah. And God has provided something better for me. Better than the Old Covenant.

Because they could not have what I have. Jesus said the greatest man under the Old Covenant was John the Baptist. But the least person who comes into God's kingdom will have more than him.

So we can say that Hebrews 12 verses 1 to 4. Is actually the last four verses of Hebrews 11. Then we understand it. Because it starts in Hebrews 11 like this.

Verse 4 and 5 by Abel and Enoch. And then Noah, Abraham, all these people. Joseph.

And Daniel. And then it comes saying but God has given us something better than all these people. After you read by faith Noah, by faith Abraham, by faith Joseph.

Finally it says by faith Jesus. Hebrews 12 verse 1 to 4. That is the last four verses of Hebrews 11. That today I follow Jesus, his faith.

Not the faith of those people. Because all those people, their faith gave them something external. But the faith of Jesus brings me into the life of God.

Nobody could come to the tree of life in the Old Covenant. We read in John 7, 38 and 39. The Holy Spirit was not given till Jesus was glorified.

Do you young people realize that you have a greater privilege than Moses and Daniel and all these people? I am excited that I can live a better life than John the Baptist. That is what Jesus said. It does not mean I will live that, that depends on my faith.

If I allow the Holy Spirit to show me the footsteps of Jesus and I walk in them. And you have a passionate desire to put away everything that is hindering you from following Jesus. Then you can have a life better than even John the Baptist.

Because it says here God has provided something better than all these people had. Even though John the Baptist name is not mentioned here. But he was the greatest of all these people.

See Matthew 11. And verse 11. Jesus said this.

Among those born of women. Matthew 11, 11. There is not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist.

But he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. But he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. That means he has the potential to rise higher than John the Baptist.

It is like saying a rocket has the potential to go faster than an airplane. An airplane can go 40,000 kilometers an hour. But it cannot go 40,000 kilometers an hour until it escapes from gravity.

There are a few hundred kilometers around the earth where gravity pulls you down. See planes fly there and so you cannot go very fast. And this atmosphere also is thick for the plane to go through.

So once the rocket is in that area it is difficult. But once it goes out of that area. That is called space.

There is no gravity. There is not this dense atmosphere. And suddenly its speed increases.

40,000 kilometers in one hour. You say how is that possible? A hundred years ago if you told anybody that man can travel 40,000 kilometers an hour that is impossible. And even when Jesus was on earth if somebody had said you can walk as Jesus walked they would have said impossible.

Even today people say impossible. Almost all Christians will say. Can you walk as Jesus walked? Impossible.

It is just like people said a hundred years ago. You cannot go travel 40,000 kilometers an hour. You can go to the moon impossible.

Why do they say it is impossible to walk as Jesus walked? Because their faith is based on their experience and not the word of God. I want to say to all of you young people. You can choose either to base your faith on your experience and the experience of others around you or on the word of God.

When we see something in God's word. For example here. The greatest human being from the time of Adam was John the Baptist.

In the history of mankind from the time of Adam was John the Baptist. The greatest in God's eyes. Not in the world's eyes.

In the world's eyes some pharaoh or Caesar was great. But in God's eyes the greatest human being was John the Baptist. But if you come into the new covenant you can go higher than that.

How many Christians have you met in your life who believe that I can live a life better than John the Baptist? That I can be more spiritual than John the Baptist. I can be more free from the love of money than John the Baptist. I can have a purer thought life than John the Baptist.

I can be more wholehearted than John the Baptist. I can be a more fiery preacher than John the Baptist. Have you met many Christians like that? Why don't they believe it? Only one reason.

They don't read what Jesus said. They look at their own experience. And they listen to all the preachers without faith around them.

Or they listen to the preachers who say you can have faith to get money or faith to get healing. For myself I will tell you this. I am willing to be the poorest man in terms of money on the face of the earth.

And the sickest man with diseases on the face of the earth. If I can live inwardly better than John the Baptist. Can you say that? God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Those who will believe that God's word is true. All the limitation among God's people is because they don't believe the word of God. They believe for all types of things which are not written in the scripture.

Better house, better car. Things which are not written in the word of God. But the thing that is promised in God's word.

That I can have a life like Jesus. But it says here. Who are the people who are going to possess this life? Matthew 11 and the next verse, verse 12.

The kingdom of heaven suffers violence and violent men take it by force. That's another thing that all of you young people must learn. If you want to accomplish the most in your life.

You must be a man of violence and a woman of violence. Externally a man of total peace. Inwardly a man of violence.

That is the balance. That outwardly nobody can fight with me. You should have a testimony like that.

That nobody can have a quarrel with me. If they come to fight, sorry I am not going to fight. I use the example of hands.

You need two hands to make a noise. If one hand refuses to cooperate, there is no noise. I often tell husband and wife, can you be like that? If one person wants to fight or shout.

If you refuse to fight. They can get as angry as they like. Or it may be the wife.

One person must say, I will not cooperate. There will be perfect peace. Of course the best is fellowship where both refuse to fight.

But if you cannot have fellowship, there must be peace. Peace we can have with all people, fellowship with very few people. Because for fellowship the other person has also got to die.

Both have to die. Peace only one has to die, that is enough. Please remember that.

Externally, we must be people of peace. Even in arguments on doctrine. So many people come to me to argue about doctrine.

I explain to them from scripture. And very often I know the scripture better than them. And then I show them where they are wrong.

And then they begin to get angry. Then I close the bible. I say, let's talk about something else.

Maybe the war in Iraq or the war in Israel. We do not get into an argument. So we do not have arguments, we do not have quarrels, we do not have fights.

One of the things we face in India is demon-possessed people in our villages. You cannot build a church in the villages in India if you do not know how to cast out a demon. Because it is no use praying with a demon-possessed person, they will not listen.

And the Lord told me once. If you want to have power over a demon. You must make one decision in your life.

That you will never again fight with human beings. You will never fight with your wife. You will never fight with your neighbors.

You will never fight with other Christians. You will fight with nobody. That is Ephesians 6 verse 12.

We do not fight with human beings. But we fight with demons. Why is it so many Christians do not have authority over demons and the devil? I will tell you.

They fight with human beings all the time. They fight with their parents. They fight with the husband, wife.

Neighbor. Other people in the church. Other people in other churches.

There is no end. They travel for a few hours in a bus or train and they are fighting with people there also. I see that happen so many times in India.

Most of the people travel in India by train or bus. Such a short journey. 3-4 hours.

And they have to fight with the person sitting next to them. You have taken 10% of my seat or some silly thing like that. That is human nature.

It is a small thing. What is the use of that? If you do not have authority over the devil. If the devil wants to make you weak.

All he has got to do is make you fight with your husband or wife. Or make you get into an argument with some believer or something like that. So outwardly we must determine.

I have decided I will be a man of faith. So outwardly we must determine. I will be a man of peace.

And if you decide that while you are young. What a blessed life you can have. You can be a young person.

But Satan will be afraid of you. I have never been interested in people being afraid of me. But I want Satan to be afraid of me.

Do you have a passion like that? Have you ever gone to the Lord and said. Lord the devil must be afraid of me. I want to live in authority over Satan.

I do not want to impress people. I want to impress the devil. So then I must be inwardly a man of violence.

Outwardly a man of peace. So what does it mean the kingdom of heaven suffers violence. And violent people take it by force.

When I seek for God's best in my life. There are so many human things that can come to hinder me. People.

And possessions. People. And my own self life.

These are the three things. People. My parents.

Please do not go into that type of life. Seek a comfortable life and live somewhere near us. So that we can also be Christians here.

So that we can also be Christians here. Can not God call you to be a missionary in Africa for the next 30 years? I'm sure your parents will start weeping. There are many people who do not listen to God.

Because they look at the tears of their parents. And that's why Jesus says you have to hate your parents. We honor them.

We care for them. We don't let them dictate how we should live. And our example is Jesus.

Who obeyed Mary for 30 years. One day when he left the house he told her. Woman what have I got to do with you.

Don't try to run my life. But he loved her. Even in the midst of that agonizing pain.

When he was hanging on the cross. He was thinking who will care for my mother. And he said John please take care of my mother.

That is the balance in the Christian life. That even in the midst of your pain. You think of your parents.

That you care for them. But you never allow them to run your life and your ministry. You honor them.

But you don't allow them to determine how you should go. So I have to do violence in my heart. To that attachment I have to my parents.

If we don't break that. You will never be able to follow Jesus. So many people are so attached to their parents.

That the Lord can never tell them to do anything. My father was the one who encouraged me to join the military. The navy in India.

It was my father who encouraged me to join the navy. I was not a Christian. But I was 15 when I joined the military academy.

My father was a Christian. And he said I want you to be the admiral of the navy. And I also wanted that.

But then one day Jesus came into my heart. And four or five years after that. The Lord said leave your job.

And I did not write to my father. I first put my resignation letter. Then I wrote to my father.

I'm leaving. God is first. But I honored my father and mother.

I took care of them until they died. But I did not let them run my life. Or my ministry.

Or the way God was calling me. And even 34 years ago. When we started meeting with 3-4 people in our house.

My father could not understand that. He said you got such a gift. Why are you sitting with these 3-4 people.

You should be traveling the world like Billy Graham or something. I said no, you don't understand. I have seen in my life.

If you don't do violence in your heart. To those attachments. You can never do the will of God.

So we must learn that balance. Honor and care for our parents. But not to let them run our life.

Honor and care for our parents. But never let them run our life. Or your wife.

Or your children. You must hate them all. Don't let your wife run your life.

If you are married. You must be the head of the household. Eve's sin was.

That she disobeyed God. And ate from the tree. Adam's sin.

You read in Genesis 3. The Lord did not say to Adam. Because you ate from the tree. I am punishing you.

You know what God told Adam. Because you listen to your wife. I am punishing you.

You read it in Genesis 3. You have to be the head of your home Adam. I say to all of you who get married. Be the head of your home.

You know. Adam said. If I don't eat this.

My wife will create a fight. So for the sake of peace in the home. Let me do what she said.

Let me do what she said. You have to be a man of violence. I am not going to listen to my wife there.

This is what God wants me to do. So it may be husband. It may be wife.

It may be father, mother. You have to put God first. I have seen some people in our church in Bangalore.

They are so afraid. To displease their wife. They want to please their wife.

You know what I tell them. I said you should veil your head. And sit in the meeting you brothers.

Because you are not the head of your house. You are not the head of the meeting. You are not the head of the home.

And I say to them. You have to tell your wife. That she has to take the scout.

And then you have to take the scout. These are small examples. These are the principles.

I will never allow. That someone comes between me and Christ. So I decided.

That Jesus would have the first place in my life. And whoever I would marry. And no matter how much I love my wife.

After 41 years. She is still second in my life. And here is the best part.

I am second in her life. I wanted it to be like this. Otherwise we would have fights.

Because if not we would have conflicts. But when Jesus is in the middle. Then it is like a glue that holds us together.

So I have to do violence. Against everything that comes between me and Jesus. And the next is property.

People. Especially our closest family members. Nobody must come between me and Christ.

Then second is possession. When you are young. And you don't earn any money.

It is very easy to think you love Jesus a lot. But then when you start earning money. Then there are dangers.

I heard one. I read. Somebody preaching this.

That. In the old days. The devil said to God.

About Job. He is serving you. Because he has so much money.

Everything is so well. All his children have got nice houses. He is so healthy.

And he is in a good position. You take it all away. Make him suffer.

Then let us see. Whether he serves you. And God said.

Okay try. But this preacher was saying. That today the devil says something else.

Who are these Christians. They follow you because they have so many trials. And difficulties.

That is why they follow you. Take away all those trials. Give them plenty of money.

And houses and cars. And comfortable life. Then let us see whether they follow you.

And you can see what has happened. To so many Christians. Who got so much of these world's goods.

So much money to throw away. So much money to just waste on. Unnecessary food.

And unnecessary things in life. We can say their money and their possessions. Have come between them and Jesus Christ.

Yeah the devil is very clever. Yeah the devil is very clever. He knows how to bring something.

Between you and Christ. If it is not a person. Then maybe money.

Maybe something. Which comes between you and the Lord. When I left my job in the Navy.

All that I had earned in the first 8 years. I gave away. And I left the Navy with nothing.

And I thought that I had to live in a rented house. All my life. But then my father sold an old house.

And from that I could buy a house in Bangalore. And that was 37 years ago. And I was afraid.

I was very afraid. And I said Lord I never thought I would have my own house. And now I have it.

And it is. I am scared that this will come between me and you. That I will worship this house instead of worshipping you.

Please save me from that. I want to be a man of violence. And I used to pray like this.

Lord you can burn up this house. Make some electrical short circuit or something and burn it up. I can go and live in some small house.

It is ok. I don't want anything to come between me that I care for some earthly thing. And for 6 months.

I thought any day. That house would burn up. Because it was something big in the eyes of men.

He has got a house. I said Lord this is dangerous. I don't want to be attached to it.

But God never allowed it to be burnt up. The church started in that house 3 years later. And I was never attached to it.

Because I laid this Isaac on the altar. And said Lord take it. The Lord didn't take it.

He gave it back. It never became important for me. And we used to have.

The church started meeting in our house. And you know. In India people live in a very different level.

Poor people especially. So after the meetings. You will see children have practiced their ABC on the walls.

And I come after the meeting. And see all these things written on the walls. And I said Lord.

I will not worship my walls. I worship Jesus Christ. Nothing will come between me and Jesus.

I remember another brother from the village. Came to our house. And you know these little children in the villages.

They don't wear any diapers or anything like that. So he comes to the house. And he climbs on top of my coffee table.

Small boy. And he urinates right there. But fortunately I was not a worshipper of coffee tables also.

I worship Jesus Christ. No wall. No coffee table.

No house. Nothing. I say Lord.

It's a battle. It's a battle even today. Lord.

I will never allow anything to come between me and you. I have understood what it means to be a man of violence inside. Anything coming between me and Christ.

Anything. Just like many of you young lovers who love one another as husband and wife. You don't like anything to come between you right? That's how it must be between you and Christ.

That is the person who can rise up to the new covenant like me. And what God gives us is so wonderful, it can never be compared to houses or lands or anything. If money means something to you, you will never have an anointed ministry from God.

I remember, you know, many people say, oh brother Jack, God has not given me a gift of ministry. But have you ever asked why? It's like a child who tells me, some student in school. Oh brother Jack, I failed in the school again.

I said, why did you fail? You didn't study hard for your examination? If you don't study, you will fail, even if you pray, you will fail. Yes, if you don't practice and prepare yourself, you will not pass the exam, even if you pray. You have to study hard to pass the exam.

So why does God not give you a ministry? Is it because you don't spend enough time studying the Bible? You spend more time looking at other things and reading other things? Because God sees you don't have any interest in His Word. So what should I tell you young people? Before you get married, study the Word of God. I did that.

For seven years before I got married, I spent all my time studying the Bible. I did not know that God was going to give me a ministry. I did not know that God was going to give me a ministry.

But when God saw it, He gave me a ministry. So I believe that there are many young people that God wants to give a ministry, but He can't do it. Because they don't study God's Word enough.

And to study the Word of God, you have to cut out certain other things. Because the devil will fill your daily life with so many good things. There is a proverb in English that says, the good is the enemy of the best.

Because he knows that you've got enough sense to avoid all that. But he can fill your life with so many good things, that you'll miss the best. You know, if you go to the internet, there are a lot of evil things.

You avoid all those evil things. There are so many good things, that you can spend 24 hours every day looking at those good things. No evil.

Only good things. Some information about this, and some information about that. At the end of the day, you have no time to study the Bible.

Is the devil making a fool of you like that? What is the use of all this information, finally, when you stand before God? If you don't know God's Word. What a clever thing the devil does to prevent people from reading the one book God gave us. What did Jesus say? If you want to live.

Man shall live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. And I don't find every word proceeding from the mouth of God on the internet. There's only one book, the Bible, in the whole world, where every word proceeds from God's mouth.

So, if I have to live, I must live by not one or two words, but every word that proceeds from God's mouth. I will tell you my 50 years experience as a believer from this book. There is an answer in this book to every problem you can ever face.

There is an answer in this book to every problem you can ever face in your life. Every single problem. Anything you could face.

Illness, financial problems. The same goes for you. If others try to harm you.

Persecution. Anything. There is an answer in this book.

But you have to know where it is. So you can never make the most of your life if you don't study this book. It's very, very important.

That when God is trying to tell you something, the devil will bring so many things to hinder you from being occupied with that. And I know many Christians in India. Born again Christians.

They watch Christian television programs. This preacher, that preacher, 90% of them are from America. Because they are the only ones who got so much money to buy all this television time.

So, I decided to get cable television for one year just to listen to all these preachers. I don't have it now, but I watched all these preachers. To see what are they preaching.

And I'll tell you, after watching all these preachers for one year. Not one of them preached on victory over sin. Not one of them preached on taking up the cross.

Not one of them preached on overcoming life. Not one of them preached on building the local church. Not one of them preached on the new covenant.

It was all psychology. How to be free from fear. And to anxiety.

And how God values you so much, you are a very important person. And how to be successful in life. And how to ask God to bless your business.

You listen to all that for one year. They will deceive you. And no time to read the Bible.

Because you are listening to all these people. Then you get deceived. And you get deceived and you don't even know you are being deceived.

And I say this. If you neglect the word of God. And listen to all these people.

You deserve to be deceived. You deserve to be deceived. So be careful when you are young.

There is a lot of deception in Christian circles today. A lot of deception. The only way to be protected is knowing God's word.

And the other advantage is that if you study God's word, God will one day give you a ministry. Let me share you one verse that challenged me many times in the last 30-40 years. It's in Isaiah chapter 50.

You know, I always, I had this burden. Lord, there are so many needy people in India. Spiritually needy people.

And I always want to have a word that will bless them. Always. If one person comes to my house.

Discouraged. I want to help them. If suddenly they ask me to speak in some house meeting to 10 people.

Even if it's a sudden, without any notice. I must have a word to help them. And if one day I have to speak to 10,000 people, I must have a word for them also.

Whether it's one person. 10 people. Or 10,000.

I want a word from God according to their needs. How to have it? Isaiah 50, verse 4. This is a fantastic word. Verse 4 and 5. The Lord God has given me the tongue of disciples.

That I may know how to sustain the weary person with a word. The Lord has given me the tongue of a disciple. This is speaking about Jesus.

To sustain the weary, discouraged person with one word. But how does he get that word? The Father awakens me morning by morning. And awakens my ear to listen to him as a disciple.

And then verse 5. The Lord has opened my ear and I was not disobedient and I didn't turn back. Even if it meant, verse 6, that my back would be struck and my cheeks would pull out the beard and spit on me. Yes, I will face all this.

But the Lord God, verse 7, will help me and I will not be disgraced. Then it says in verse 8. Who can stand against me? The Lord God helps me, verse 9. That is the way to have a word from God according to their needs. And have a word in season for everybody who comes to you.

I want to encourage all of you brothers and sisters. When you are young. Say, Lord, open my ear to hear you.

Every day. Because you never know when somebody will come with need to you. Maybe God may not call you to speak to 10,000 people.

He may call you to speak to one person. I'm quite happy to speak to one person or 10,000. It's the same to me.

The will of God is the important thing. But you've got to listen. It's not always serving, serving, serving.

Martha, serving, serving, serving. Jesus said, see Mary, she's listening. That's more important.

So, if you want to make the most of your life. Listen. Listen to what God has to say.

Let's pray. Let's pray. When we hear God's word, we have to make some decisions in our life.

According to what he spoke to you. And I'll tell you, the devil is there to prevent you from doing it. You have to be a man of violence.

A woman of violence. I will not allow anything to hinder me from doing what God told me today. I'm going to give priority to God and his word from today in my life.

Lord, I want to make you a man of violence. Lord, I want to live a useful life on this earth. Heavenly father, please apply the word to every heart.

Thank you. In Jesus name. Amen.

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