

CHAPTER 7

Roaring Against Resentment

This chapter's title encapsulates the lion's strength and the dangers of harboring negative emotions. "The Lion's Heart" suggests inner strength and resilience, while "Roaring Against Resentment" implies an active stance against negative thoughts, which I love to call "Stinking Thinking."

The chapter effectively captures the essence of comparing a lion's characteristics with the dangers of holding grudges. We all know that the lion is renowned for its strong, striking appearance and authoritative demeanor, earning it the title of "king of the jungle." With its thunderous roar and magnificent mane, the lion embodies strength, bravery, and dominance within the animal kingdom.

Lions exhibit remarkable patience and stealth while stalking a herd of game. They can spend days observing the herd's movements, carefully looking for any signs of weakness among its members. This includes targeting stragglers or the physically impaired, such as those with a limp.

When the lions decide to charge at the herd, they do so with great speed, targeting the strong individuals. As they stampede the herd and go after the strong, they are careful to keep their eyes on the ones they have already identified as the weak members of the herd. After causing chaos among the herd, the lions circle back to claim their prize from the vulnerable targets they had previously spotted.

As lions mature and age, they may experience a decline in physical strength and agility, which can hinder their ability to lead the pride during hunting expeditions. Despite this, older lions still contribute to the pride by providing guidance and wisdom based on their extensive experience.

The older lions maintain their mighty roar, which commands attention throughout the jungle, ensuring they remain valuable to the survival of their pride. As lions age, their physical condition deteriorates, and one noticeable sign of this decline is the decay that sets in their teeth. The younger lions strategically utilize the intimidating presence of the older lions to instill fear in the prey through their mighty and thunderous roars.

The roar of the old lion causes the prey to panic and disorient, leading them to unwittingly fall into the ambush of the physically superior younger lions lying in wait. How often have we attempted to evade trouble, only to realize that our efforts to elude it have inadvertently steered us into even more formidable circumstances? If the potential prey had chosen to flee towards the old lion instead of the younger ones, the old lion, although possessing a mighty roar, would have been unable to inflict harm due to his weakened teeth and diminished strength compared to his younger counterparts.

The moral of this chapter is to stay in the word and maintain a disciplined prayer life. When the enemy causes people, circumstances, and things to come against us in an attempt to get our eyes fixed on fear, anger, hatred, and resentment, causing our emotions to run wild, may we learn to back away and give God time to work on both ends. May we saturate it in prayer and do spiritual warfare by running toward the roar, a metaphor for facing our fears and challenges head-on with the strength of our faith.

In 1 Peter 5:8, the Apostle Peter warns us about the devil, describing him as a roaring lion seeking those he may devour. Let us not forget that Peter emphasizes that the devil is portrayed as a roaring lion, not a strong one. This tells us that the devil's power is not as intimidating as it may seem. We, as believers, have the power to resist and not allow our emotions to control us. This tells us that the devil's power is not as intimidating as it may seem. We, as believers, have the power to resist and not allow our emotions to control us.

After his defeat at Calvary, the devil's power lies only in his roar. If we boldly face the devil, claiming the victory of the cross and refusing to be intimidated by his roar, we can be assured victory over him. Therefore, may we shout from the housetops to all who feel like they are bound with no hope of any way out of the dilemma that the devil's power is limited, and our faith should stand grounded in the victory of the cross. Understanding and learning how to engage in spiritual warfare properly is essential to walking in victory. Confronting our fears and emotions head-on, knowing that we do not have to face them alone, makes us more able to endure and overcome them.

Jesus has already triumphed over and dethroned the powers of darkness. We must learn to stand firm in the victory already secured and fight from the side of the victory that has already been won, which reminds me of a story about a young boy playing a prank on his friend. The young boy caught a large bumblebee and carefully removed its powerful stinger.

Most people know that the bumblebee is known for its yellow back, large wings, and formidable stinger, which makes it capable of drilling holes in wood. The boy caught the bee and placed it in his friend's clothes, causing him to panic and run. The boy's friend was running and attempting to remove his clothes to avoid being stung. After a few yards, the boy caught up to his friend and assured him the bee couldn't hurt him because he had removed its stinger. The illustration of the bumble bee vividly represents the significance of Jesus' victory on the cross over sin, the world, the flesh, and the devil.

The triumphant victory of Christ over sin is vividly articulated in the timeless wisdom of God's Holy Word. Through His sacrifice and resurrection, the scriptures convey the profound message of redemption and hope, illustrating how faith in Him forgives our transgressions and empowers us to live transformed lives. *(1 Corinthians 15:55), which asks, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"*

The power of sin is found in the sting of death, and the authority or strength held by sin is derived from the law. (Hebrews 2:14) Christ, through his death, destroyed the one who had power over death, and he identified him as the devil. This is a powerful testament to the triumph of good over evil and the role played by Jesus in overcoming the forces of darkness. His resurrection further underscores this victory, affirming that because of His victory over death, hell, and the grave, life now for the believer prevails over death, and hope triumphs over despair.