

## Episode 7 - How to Face Spiritual Opposition and Win

Alright everyone hello this is Jason Owens and welcome to episode number 7. We're going to talk about opposition that you're going to face in your pursuit of your calling and your mission to spread the message that you have inside you.

So now for those of you who've been with me now for a few episodes you recognize here that my sound quality is a little different. I'll tell you what we're up to today.

I heard a great podcast reference here about a week ago. And I'll go ahead in the show notes now I'll find out the exact name of this podcast and I'll have it in the show notes but the name of it right now escapes me.

In any way the whole gist of it is, he's breaking convention in what he's doing, right. When I have been taught about podcasting and how you are to create a podcast.

Sound quality is a big deal; making sure you have a good mic, making sure you have a really quiet room to record in, making sure that you have good sound processing to go ahead and make sure that your sound quality is good.

So anyway everything has to do with just absolute perfection on sound quality or at least getting it as good as you possibly can. So what I loved about this snippet that I heard then it's about two minutes long.

And what the guy is doing basically he's recording his podcast while he is out for a walk.

Now I got the impression that maybe the guy was walking on his way to work and what makes this really unique is he was also in a pretty good-sized metropolitan area because he's walking on a sidewalk on a busy street and you can hear cars going by and you can hear wind blowing right.

It's not a quiet studio environment by any stretch of the imagination. But there he is doing the podcast. It's apparently a pretty well-known podcast. So anyway I decided to do a little bit of blending today so I'm out on this cold December day here in Pennsylvania.

Snow expected this weekend and again having lived for 15 years in Charlotte North Carolina I'm not doing too well with all this but I'm doing the best I can. So anyway made the move up here

this summer and now here we are several months later expecting all kinds of snow and you know what; it's all good.

The great part about this lifestyle that we lead the one where we have expertise, the one where we have some type of message that we're sharing. We can work pretty much anywhere right. If we have a laptop and a microphone we can work many places.

So anyway it makes us portable and allows our spouses who have really good health insurance; allows them to remain upwardly mobile. So with that in mind everyone let's go ahead and move into the real meat of today's podcast.

And as we're walking into it here what I want you to really wrap your minds around here is this whole idea of opposition right. So for the faith-based person you may have heard this coined several ways.

You may have heard the term 'spiritual warfare', you may have come up with the term 'resistance' before right. There's a really good book out there written. You can go to show notes for that.

In the show notes for this are going to be at [jasonrowens.com/7](http://jasonrowens.com/7). So the big deal is want to go ahead and focus on the spiritual side of this. The opposition that we get in the form of spiritual warfare.

Now that's a bit of a... really it still gives me out to use that phrase but it's a reality alright.

It is part of the way the world works. If you tune into somebody like John Elbridge he's very clear that spiritual warfare and opposition is something that happens against him a lot in his ministry and the people who work in and around with him they're very much on the front lines of truly, truly helping redeem people.

So the amount of warfare that he receives, he just decided to start talking very openly about it. So you can go in and take a look at a book of his. It's been out for a while now called '*Waking The Dead*'.

Fantastic book; walks us through something called the daily prayer which I highly recommend. I'll put both his book and the daily prayer into the show notes so that you can have that. But again it's really good stuff. I have the daily prayer myself on my phone and I listen to it every morning because of course you're supposed to pray it daily right.

So the good news is; I have to admit it helps, it really truly helps to have something that you do every morning to set yourself up and again for those of us out there who are faith-based which I imagine that's going to be most of you, this is reality.

If you want your material and your message to spread that message that God has put inside you, if you want that to spread and to grow by all means you're going to need to do something about the warfare that you're going to encounter.

It's not going to be an if, it's going to be a when. So I highly, highly recommend that you suit up and get ready for the battle because you're going to be in one whether you would have it or not and that can come in all kinds of varieties right.

That can come in the form of perfectly good vehicles breaking down at just the time when you don't need them to break down. It could be financial setbacks of any and all varieties. It could be opportunities that you have in your hand completely turning to sawdust at the last minute.

It can be just deal with health. I mean it can be a number of things right. So anyway with all that I just wanted to prepare you for and just wanted to give you some resources. So here's one example that John Elbridge talks about.

I've never heard the term used until he used it and explained what he meant. But this whole sense of ennui and the spelling of that I think ENNUI. But anyway the big deal with that is gosh, I really have to do that now?

Oh come on! I just want to put up with this, I want to engage, I just want to disengage right. I just want to chill.

So the whole idea of Ennui is another type of spiritual warfare that's maybe a lot more subtle than you would think right. It's not this blatant outright attack. It's very subtle, feels like it's coming from inside that's a pretty big deal.

So certainly be on the lookout for that. Okay, so now we have maybe another couple notches up on the spectrum something that's maybe a little bit more noticeable but again not outright and blatant.

The more noticeable piece would be something that Eldridge talks about as something called an 'agreement'.

Okay so an agreement is man I'm not really good at building a sales funnel or yeah you know, I really gave a pretty bad talk out there and that talk didn't go the way that I wanted to. I was up on stage and I was expecting the audience to behave one way.

I was expecting people to engage more man I just really feel like that was; that whole talk was flat, my whole interaction was flat. Nobody came up to me afterwards to ask any questions. I must not be any good at this right.

So again there's a little bit of an agreement there and it kind of starts with a thought in your head that truly you think is your own thought.

And what Elbridge goes through and explains quite a bit in 'Waking The Dead' is; whenever we have these thoughts in our head we're not always ours right.

So we have to really be aware and really be plugged into what God would have us do and what our mission is because again just throughout the day as you're walking along it's very careful to make a very subtle agreement and then the next thing you know we're just off by a degree.

And then a couple days later we're off by another degree because we've made another agreement and next thing you know we're off 10 or 20 degrees in course and you know what that does that subtle change does over and over time you find yourself very far away from any place that you thought you'd be.

Another one that I feel very strongly compelled to bring up is this idea of what God's not with me anymore.

He was with me at the beginning. I felt like I was on this call on this mission and I really felt like I was going somewhere and I felt like I was going somewhere with God's blessing. And now here I am three months later, six months later, six years later and I don't feel that anymore. I don't feel like God is with me.

I don't feel like God is blessing what I'm doing so he must have left. I must have misread my call. I must have heard wrong right.

So that confusion that kind of comes up and well if I didn't hear my call properly then what have I been listening to this whole time right?

Goes back to again you will know them by their fruit if you end up finding yourself confused a lot and it's not a fruit that God generally is the one who produces right. So just be aware again not all of these attacks, not all this discouragement is something that's going to be blatant right.

And that will hit you upside the head. A lot of it quite frankly is very subtle. If you go online and look up psychological operations; 'psych ops' and you Google that inside the military there are well that in intelligence there are entire departments, entire divisions that are truly set up to really mess with your head right.

On the head of the enemy and you can hear all you can read tons about that right. I mean there's propaganda, literature, leaflets going back to some of the days of Tokyo Rose on the radio broadcast that she would make back during World War II.

All of that, all of its propaganda, all that psychological operations and it's really meant to get you thinking right. So to doubt your call. So how is the confusion about your call any different than psychological operation or psych ops that's being pulled by your enemy right?

So think through that the next time maybe you're confused or maybe that you feel like you're on the wrong path. I get it I totally get it. And again through daily prayer and several other things that Eldridge brings up namely, 'The Four Streams'.

So if you go through 'Waking The Dead' and read through the sections that he has on the four streams it's a dynamite absolutely dynamite. It gives you a way to hey, how can I figure out what's going on?

How can I back up, pull back from the front lines, retreat a bit, get well, get healthy, get my head on straight so that I can now go in and fight another day right. And anyway it's a very good stuff.

So I highly, highly, highly recommend that read and again go back into the show notes. I now have the links there for you where you can check out more that's what I'm John Eldridge's material.

It's huge, it's been a huge benefit to me and I just wanted to share that with you. And just again wanting to give you guys encouragement has the path that we're on for most of us it is a solo path right.

Especially as we're starting out we have a connection with God. We have some kind of message that we feel we were compelled to give and I tell you what it's usually, usually one may be a person and a half.

If you have somebody that you can delegate some work to but in general you're not walking around doing this work with 30, 40 people around you right. It's usually you and the strength of your convictions and whenever your convictions fall through, very easy for your message to fall through as well.

So again I just wanted to encourage everyone out there just to stick with it stay in the game there's a lot of really, really good material out there to keep you encouraged these days and no, I'm not wrapping up here. I want to go ahead and move into section 2 of today's podcast.

I had a really good time warp moment here over the past a night or two; about a week ago. One of my friends from when I was growing up; actually lives across the street from me.

One of my friends was posting he's trying to post every day trying to post Merry Christmas every day in December I think that was what he was doing. So anyway he and I got into a conversation back and forth there on one of his posts about a church that he and I used to attend back in grade school right.

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So this is third grade, fourth grade, fifth grade, sixth grade you know, very formative years of course.

So we exchanged a few back and forth there on Facebook and what was really, really amazing about that is; again this is a smaller church certainly not a mega church by any stretch of the imagination.

Usually the kind of church here's maybe has 120 maybe 100. 100 might be pushing it in attendance on a weekend. Anyway great church fantastic place to grow up.

And went back and I found their website. And I was going through the website and the people who were there the pastor and his wife who were there starting this church.

They're actually getting this church rolling and going they have just retired from ministry and there was an audio clip. A two-part audio clip that was out on the church website and it was this really big; it's just a basically a giant commemorating the life and service of this husband and wife.

And I tell you what it was just phenomenal to listen to person after person after person after person get up and from the church and just share two or three minutes about their favorite memories of the pastor and his wife.

And I tell you what it just blew me away they have been in ministry for 49 years. Okay, 49 years they ended up building this church.

The pastor was the general contractor on the job and he and several other the men from the church got together, did a lot of the work themselves now bought the property back in; she was back in the late 70's, early 80's.

Built the whole thing by hand moved the whole congregation over there. And just to listen to their story; are the stories of people who have been positively affected by the pastor and his wife. I was just I mean it was amazing okay.

And what I really want you to grab out of this is we're not talking a mega church here. We're not talking thousands of people in the congregation.

We're not talking about; I doubt either one of them have ever written a book. I doubt either one of them ever had a membership program okay. So we're not looking at a ministry that has what you and I might think as this tremendous digital footprint right.

But the impact that this husband and wife made stretches across this globe. I mean people who are missionaries to different countries, all up and down South America, all up and down Africa.

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I mean it's just phenomenal to think about the reach and impact that these two people had over the course of their lives. And what I want you to take away from this message is I want you to be really encouraged by this.

You do not have to have 18,000 people following you on your blog. You don't have to have an email subscriber list of a hundred thousand people to be making a very deep impact in the lives of people, right.

I think sometimes we get fooled into thinking that we're not doing enough if we don't have these massive lists or these massive followings. Don't let that discourage you because nothing could be further from the truth.

I think simply just sticking with something over a period of time that is what gives you the reach and the impact. Now when you begin seeing the next generation of people so somebody that you've been able to touch they then help somebody that's really cool right.

That is the pay it forward, that's the gift that keeps on giving that is a big, big deal. So I just wanted you to take that with you as a part of a piece of encouragement today that the actions you take now can really truly have the impact over several generations.

I go back and think through my faith spiritual foundation at that church was affected by the pastor and his wife, their spiritual faith was affected by the person who started the church originally at a different location and that person; can't remember his name.

He had 18 people going to the church. Most of those people were college students. It wasn't till after the pastor; well to be pastor and to be wife.

They had tended there's college students left, got married, felt the call to ministry, went to Bible School, then came back to that church and started pastoring.

I mean that's phenomenal right. So you have a person who years back I mean we're probably talking back in the 50's now was sitting around his table feeling some kind of call on his life deciding hey, during some part of this discernment process to go start a church.

And I don't even know the guys name but through his actions he has affected me and my family in phenomenal ways right.

So again I just want you to take that story with you as you go forward if you feel that you have a call and you feel like I just don't know if this is going anywhere, guys you don't know how the full story will play out.

You may not know that in your lifetime in fact I'm going to go one step further and say you're probably not going to know that in your lifetime. You gotta look at this for the long haul. I mean the eternal long haul.

So anyway with all that in mind everyone thanks so much for listening. Again go back to the website. The show notes are going to be at [jasonrowens.com/7](http://jasonrowens.com/7).

Thanks so much for listening. By all means please jump over to iTunes. Please give me a review.

Would love to hear from you. Would love to hear on this side just if you're getting anything out of this.

Alright, so I really appreciate it or hey if you ended up getting a link to this via email just hit reply and let me know how much you like the show. Thanks everyone take care, bye bye.