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CATFISH IN THE TANK

There is a story told about a restaurant owner from the Northeast U.S. that visited Alaska. While there he had codfish for dinner. He thought the taste was incredible and decided to import this codfish for his restaurant.

Sure enough, the codfish came. It had been frozen for a quick delivery. They put it on their menu, but when they cooked the codfish, it still did not taste the same as it had in Alaska. The owner decided to have the codfish shipped in alive in containers.

Sure enough, the codfish arrived, but it still did not taste good. The long trip in the tank made the codfish become soft and mushy. He was not sure just what to do because he really wanted this codfish on his menu.

He came up with an excellent idea. He decided to put the codfish's predator in the tank with it. So, he had the supplier put catfish in the transport tank with the codfish. Sure enough, during the entire transport the codfish was chased by its predator. When it arrived, it was strong and firm from the pursuit. They cooked it, and it was excellent.

The moral of this story is this: if you aren't being attacked by the enemy you will never get the muscle and stamina to be what God made you to be. God did not give us armor just to polish and put on display. There is a real war out there and there is a predator named Satan that wants to steal, kill, and destroy you. The only way to survive is to fight back.

A catfish in your "tank" could be a co-worker that irritates you. It could be a spouse that ignores you. It could be finances that are stretched. It could be your health that has been attacked. Whatever it is, it will make you stronger when you resist the spirit behind it.

You can remain soft like the codfish was when it had no predator; or you can lose your "flavor" if you have become frozen in your present state; or you can become stronger when your enemies pursue you. This is when you exercise your faith and become what God has called you to be.

Remember, it is just a test to develop your character, so thank God for the "catfish" in our tanks that make us stronger in our walk with Jesus.

James 4:7 says, ***"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*** The first part of that verse is "submit." Without submitting to God first you cannot defeat the devil in your life. The devil is the catfish, but God is your hiding place where you run to when your enemy is in pursuit.