

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

THERE IS A WAR

- IT IS INVISIBLE
- IT IS LIFE OR DEATH
- IT IS RAGING NOW
- IT IS FOUGHT ON THE INSIDE
- IT IS ALREADY WON
- IT IS OUR CHOICE OF SIDES

C. S. LEWIS

- *“THERE ARE TWO EQUAL AND OPPOSITE ERRORS INTO WHICH OUR RACE CAN FALL ABOUT THE DEVILS. ONE IS TO DISBELIEVE IN THEIR EXISTENCE. THE OTHER IS TO BELIEVE, AND TO FEEL AN EXCESSIVE AND UNHEALTHY INTEREST IN THEM.”*

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

- *“¹⁰FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT. ¹¹PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, SO THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO STAND FIRM AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL. ¹²FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE POWERS, AGAINST THE WORLD FORCES OF THIS DARKNESS, AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.”*

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

- *“¹³THEREFORE, TAKE UP THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO RESIST IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE EVERYTHING, TO STAND FIRM. ¹⁴STAND FIRM THEREFORE, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,¹⁴ AND HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,¹⁵ AND HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;”*

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

¹⁶IN ADDITION TO ALL, TAKING UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH WITH WHICH YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXTINGUISH ALL THE FLAMING MISSILES OF THE EVIL ONE. ¹⁷AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD. ¹⁸WITH ALL PRAYER AND PETITION PRAY AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT, AND WITH THIS IN VIEW, BE ON THE ALERT WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND PETITION FOR

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

ALL THE SAINTS, ¹⁹AND PRAY ON MY BEHALF, THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN TO ME IN THE OPENING OF MY MOUTH, TO MAKE KOWN WITH BOLDNESS THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, ²⁰FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS; THAT IN PROCLAIMING IT I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK.”

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- 1) THERE IS AN INVISIBLE WORLD THAT IS JUST AS REAL AS THE VISIBLE WORLD. Eph. 6:12;
- 2) WE ARE INVOLVED IN AN INVISIBLE WAR, A COSMIC CONFLICT THAT HAS ETERNAL IMPLICATIONS. 2 Kings 6:15-19;
2 Cor. 10:3-5; 2 Cor.4:4

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- 3) OUR FOE IS FORMIDABLE AND HIS GOAL IS TO DESTROY US AND DISCREDIT THE CAUSE OF CHRIST. 1 Peter 5:8; Jude 9
 - His name is Satan.
 - He is a created spirit. Col.1:16, Job1:3
 - He is an angel. Matt. 25:41; Rev.12:7
 - He is a cherub. Ezekiel 28:14
 - The highest of all created beings. Ezek.28:14; Jude 9

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- He was created perfect. Ezekiel 28:14
- He had heavenly estate. Jude 6
- He was the guardian of God's glory. Ezek.28
- 4) WE MUST REPECT OUR FOE, BUT NOT FEAR HIM-
BECOME ACUTELY AWARE OF HIS "METHODS," BUT
NOT BE PREOCCUPIED BY THEM. Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11
 - **HIS NAMES REVEAL HIS TACTICS.**
 - **SATAN**= ADVERSARY
 - **DEVIL** = SLANDERER 1 PETER 5
 - **LUCIFER** = SON OF THE MORNING

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- **BEELZEBUB** = MATTHEW 12:24
- **BELIAL** – 2 CORINTHIANS 6:15
- **EVIL ONE** – 1 JOHN 5:19
- **TEMPTER** – 1 THESSALONIANS 3:5
- **PRINCE OF THIS WORLD** – JOHN 12:31
- **ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN**-REV. 12:10
- **HIS GREATEST GIFT MAY BE DECEPTION.**
 - THOUGH NO SCRIPTURE CAN BE CITED, MOST BIBLE SCHOLARS BELIEVE POSSIBLY UP TO A THIRD OF THE ANGELIC HOSTS WERE DECEIVED INTO FOLLOWING HIS HEINOUS PLOT AND WERE CAST FROM HEAVEN WITH HIM. IN MARK 5:9 THE NUMBER OF ANGELS IS DESCRIBED AS “MYRIADS UPON MYRIADS” WHICH LITERALLY MEANS 1,000’S UPON 1,000’S. IN REVELATION 5:11-12 IT SPEAKS OF 10,000 UPON 10,000 (100 MILLION). DO THE MATH!

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- **HIS KINGDOM IS ORGANIZED & STRUCTURED.**

- EPH. 6:11-12 ...AGAINST THE RULERS, THE AUTHORITIES, THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD, THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS.
- DANIEL 10 TELLS OF DANIEL ASKING GOD TO HELP HIM. ON THE 21ST. DAY AN ANGEL COMES, SAYING HE WOULD HAVE BEEN THERE SOONER BUT THE “PRINCE” OF PERSIA HAD HIM LOCKED IN MAN TO MAN COMBAT UNTIL THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL HELPED HIM FIGHT THROUGH TO DANIEL.

- **HE ATTACKS GOD’S PROGRAM, THE CHURCH, BY...**

- FALSE PHILOSOPHIES-COLOSSIANS 2:8
- FALES RELIGIONS-1 CORINTHIANS 10:19

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- FALSE MINISTERS- 2 CORINTHIANS 11:14-15
- FALSE DOCTRINE- 1 JOHN 2:18
- FALSE DISCIPLES- MATTHEW 13
- FALSE MORALS- 2 THESSALONIANS 2:7
- **HE ATTACKS GOD'S PEOPLE BY...**
 - DIRECTING GOVERNMENTS- DANIEL 10:13
 - DECEIVING MEN-2 CORINTHIANS
 - DESTROYING LIFE- HEBREWS 2:14
 - PERSECUTING THE SAINTS- REVELATION 2:10
 - PREVENTING SERVICE- 1 THESSALONIANS 2:18
 - PROMOTING SCHISMS- 2 CORINTHIANS 2:10,11
 - PLANTING DOUBT- GENESIS 3:1-2

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- PROVOKING SIN
 - ANGER-EPHESIANS 4:26-27
 - PRIDE- 1 TIMOTHY 3:6
 - WORRY- MATTHEW 13:22
 - SELF-RELIANCE- 1 CHRONICLES 21:1
 - DISCOURAGEMENT-1 PETER 5:6-8
 - WORLDLINESS- 1 JOHN 2:16
 - LYING- ACTS 5:3
 - IMMORALITY- 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-2
- PRODUCING SECTS/CULTS- 1 TIMOTHY 4:1
- **HIS POWER IS LIMITED**
 - HE IS CREATED, THEREFORE NOT OMNISCIENT NOR INFINITE

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- HE CAN BE RESISTED BY THE CHRISTIAN- JAMES 4:7
- GOD PLACES LIMITATIONS ON HIM- JOB 1:12

5) AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, WE DO NOT FIGHT “FOR” VICTORY, WE FIGHT “FROM” VICTORY. IN CHRIST’S POWER WE ARE INVINCIBLE! Eph. 6:10

- PROMISES FROM GOD CONCERNING VICTORY OVER SATAN:
 - 1 JOHN 4:4 *GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN US THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD*
 - 1 JOHN 5:4-5 *HE WHO BELIEVES JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD OVERCOMES THE WORLD*
 - REVELATION 12:11 *THEY OVERCAME HIM BECAUSE OF THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB & THEIR TESTIMONY*
 - JAMES 4:7 *RESIST THE DEVIL & HE WILL FLEE*

PREPARING FOR ATTACK

EPHESIANS 6:13-15

- *“¹³THEREFORE, TAKE UP THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO RESIST IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE EVERYTHING, TO STAND FIRM. ¹⁴STAND FIRM THEREFORE, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, AND HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,¹⁵ AND HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;”*

PREPARING FOR ATTACK

- 1) KNOW THE ATTACK/ATTACKER V₁₂
(PREVIOUSLY COVERED)
- 2) KNOW YOUR DEFENSE (THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD)
- 3) KNOW YOUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S
ORDERS (GEAR UP)
- 4) FOLLOW ALL ORDERS (PUT IT ON, USE IT,
STAND FIRM AND PRAY)

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

- OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (JESUS CHRIST) “URGENTLY” COMMANDS US TO PICK OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR AND PUT IT ON FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING FULLY PREPARED AND ENABLED TO WITHSTAND THE GRAVE AND DIFFICULT “DARK TIMES” WHEN THE ENEMY ATTACKS.
- AFTER PICKING UP OUR ARMOR IN PREPARATION FOR BATTLE, WE ARE THEN COMMANDED TO CONSCIOUSLY AND VIGOROUSLY MAKE A SERIES OF DECISIVE ACTS TO STAND OUR GROUND FIRMLY AND

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

AND FEARLESSLY AGAINST THE ENEMY'S ASSAULTS AS HE SEEKS TO DECEIVE, ACCUSE AND DISCOURAGE US.

- USING THE METAPHOR OF A ROMAN SOLDIER'S ARMOR (WHICH PROTECTED HIM IN BATTLE) WE ARE GIVEN THREE SPECIFIC PIECES OF SPIRITUAL ARMOR THAT MUST BE "PUT ON" BY US AS BELIEVERS AS A PREREQUISITE TO STANDING FIRMLY AND FEARLESSLY AGAINST DEMONIC ATTACK.

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

“HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH”

- A ROMAN SOLDIER WORE A BELT TO WHICH ALL HIS ARMOR SOMEHOW HOOKED TO IT. IT WAS CRITICAL TO THE REST OF THE EQUIPMENT. PRIOR TO BATTLE HE WOULD “GIRD UP HIS LOINS” IN OTHER WORDS HE WOULD TUCK HIS ROBE INTO THE BELT SO AS NOT TO BE TRIPPED UP NOR ENCUMBERED BY IT DURING THE BATTLE. HIS SWORD & HIS SHEILD ATTACHED TO HIS BELT. THE BELT WAS CENTRAL AND A LOT DEPENDED ON ITS BEING SECURE.

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

- “TRUTH” =FOUND IN CHRIST. CANDOR, SINCERITY, TRUTHFULNESS ROOTED IN THE OBJECTIVE REALITY OF THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD, BUT HERE REFERS TO THE SUBJECTIVE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF OPENNESS AND HONESTY IN ALL THINGS WITH GOD AND MEN.
- SATAN’S FIRST ATTACK ON MANKIND WAS DECEPTION (*YOU WILL NOT DIE*) WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY MAN’S HIDING, DENYING AND BLAME SHIFTING.
- APPLICTION =TRUTH HOLDS YOU TOGETHER. PRACTICE NO DECEIT NOR ANY DISGUISES. SEE PSALMS 139:23-24

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

*“HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS”*

A ROMAN BREASTPLATE WAS USUALLY MADE OF BRONZE. COVERING FROM JUST BELOW THE NECK TO THE THIGHS, IT WAS CALLED A HEART PROTECTOR—FOR OBVIOUS REASONS; IT GUARDED THE VITAL ORGAN THAT KEEPS US ALIVE. NO GOOD SOLDIER WOULD DARE GO INTO BATTLE WITHOUT IT. PAULS SAYS, BELT OF TRUTH FIRST, THEN THE HEART PROTECTOR, THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOLLOWS.

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

- “RIGHTEOUSNESS” = UPRIGHTNESS, RIGHT LIVING, INTEGRITY IN ONE’S LIFESTYLE AND CHARACTER—CONFORMING OUR WILL WITH GOD’S WILL. ALTHOUGH ROOTED IN THE OBJECT RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT WE ALREADY POSSESS IN OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD THROUGH THE WORK OF CHRIST, THIS BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE TRUTH TO OUR LIVES—i.e. LORDSHIP OF CHRIST. HIS WILL NOT OURS.

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

- SATAN'S ATTACKS ARE NOT MERELY DECEPTION, BUT ACCUSATION (RESULTING IN GUILT AND CONDEMNATION) OF THE BELIEVER. WHEN WE WILLFULLY TURN AWAY FROM WHAT WE KNOW IS GOD'S WILL, WE OPEN OURSELVES TO DEMONIC ATTACK. (SAUL -O.T. / PETER N.T.)
- APPLICATION = "THEREFORE TO THE ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT IS RIGHT TO DO AND DOESN'T DO IT, TO HIM IT IS SIN." JAMES 4:17

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

“HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE”

ROMANS SANDALS WERE STRAPPED UP TO THE KNEE & TIGHTLY FASTENED TO THE SOLDIER'S LEG. THE SOLES HAD KNOBS AND SOMETIMES NAILS PROTRUDING FROM THEM- AN ANCIENT VERSION OF ATHLETIC CLEATS. GOOD FOOTING = GOOD FOUNDATION = NO SLIPPING, BUT A SOLID GRIP ON THE GROUND ALLOWING YOU TO “STAND FIRM”.

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

- “PREPARATION” = ESTABLISHMENT –THE MEANS OF A FIRM FOUNDATION; ALSO CONVEYS THE IDEA OF READINESS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WHICH BRINGS PEACE BETWEEN MAN AND GOD.
- SATAN NOT ONLY USES DECEPTION AND CONDEMNATION TO NEUTRALIZE BELIEVERS, BUT ALSO SPECIALIZES IN CASTING DOUBT ON THE VERY BASIS OF GOD’S GOODNESS AND THE MEANS BY WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED IT—THE GOSPEL.

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

- THE ATTACK ON GRACE – 2 COR. 11:3-4
- APPLICATION-
 - KNOW & UNDERSTAND THE CONTENT OF THE GOSPEL. 1 COR. 15:1-5; EPHESIANS 2:1-9
 - KNOW THE BASIS FOR YOUR ETERNAL SECURITY (ROM.8:38-39;EPH. 1:13-14) & THE ASSURANCE OF YOUR SALVATION. (1 JN.5:11-13)
 - FAITH IS BASED ON FACTS NOT FEELINGS.
 - SAVOR IT, SHARE IT, SPEAK IT, SEND IT

ENGAGING THE ENEMY & WINNING

•
WIELDING YOUR
WEAPONS

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

EPHESIANS 6:16-17

- *“¹⁶IN ADDITION TO ALL, **TAKING UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH WITH WHICH YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXTINGUISH ALL THE FLAMING MISSILES OF THE EVIL ONE.*** ¹⁷**AND TAKE UP THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND (TAKE UP **implied**) THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD.”**
- NOTICE THE COMMAND CHANGES FROM “PUT ON” TO “TAKE UP”!!

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

“TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH”

PAUL WAS SPEAKING OF THE LARGE ROMAN SOLDIERS SHIELD. ABOUT FOUR FEET HIGH & TWO AND ONE HALF FEET WIDE. IT HAD HOOKS ON THE SIDE TO LINK IT TO OTHER SHEILDS IN A LINE SO AN ENTIRE ROW OF SOLDIERS COULD ADVANCE WITHOUT EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO INCOMING ARROWS. IT WAS COMMON FOR ARROWS TO BE DIPPED IN PITCH, LIT AND SHOT AT THE ADVANCING SOLDIERS. SHEILDS WERE MADE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO EXTINGUISH THESE DEADLY FLAMING MISSILES.

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

“FAITH” =IN THIS CONTEXT IS OUR “ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE” IN GOD, HIS PROMISES, HIS POWER, AND HIS PROGRAM FOR OUR LIVES. ALTHOUGH ROOTED IN THE OBJECTIVE REALITY OF THE GOSPEL AND OUR NEW STANDING WITH GOD (JUSTIFICATION) THROUGH CHRIST (SAVING FAITH), THIS FAITH REFERS TO OUR “PRESENT FAITH IN THE LORD FOR VICTORY OVER SIN AND THE HOST OF DEMONIC FORCES.

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

THE FIERY DARTS (MISSILES) OF THE ADVESARY ARE THE SCHEMES, TEMPTATIONS, LIES AND ATTACKS AIMED AT GOD'S PEOPLE. THEIR GOAL IS TO SHIFT OUR FOCUS FROM GOD ONTO SOMETHING OR SOMEONE ELSE. IF THE ENEMY CAN GET US TO BE AFRAID, FEEL GUILTY OR CONDEMNED, GET DISCOURAGED, OR LOSE HOPE, HE CAN MOVE OUR DEPENDENCE AWAY FROM GOD AND ONTO SOMETHING LESS WORTHY.

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

THREE WAYS FOR OUR FAITH TO REMAIN STRONG WHEN ATTACKED:

1. 1) TRUSTING IN GOD'S CHARACTER AND THAT HE ALWAYS HAS OUR BEST IN MIND. PS. 84:11; ROMANS 8:32
2. 2) TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROMISES. NUM. 23:19; 2 PETER 1:2-4; PHILLIPIANS 4:19
- 3) TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROGRAM & TIMING. JEREMIAH 29:11

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

THE LAST PIECE OF ARMOR A SOLDIER WOULD PUT ON WAS HIS HELMET. IT WAS MADE OF BRONZE AND LEATHER, AND IT'S IMPORTANCE WAS OBVIOUS. BEFORE GOING INTO BATTLE , AN ATTENDANT WOULD BRING IT TO HIM & HELP HIM FASTEN IT ON SECURELY

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

FOR THE BELIEVER, PAUL WAS SHOWING THE SECURITY WE HAVE IN OUR SALVATION. IT IS THE CERTAINTY OF DELIVERANCE FROM SIN AND THE PROTECTION OF OUR MINDS IN BATTLE. IT MAY BE SEEN AS THE ABILITY TO REASON LOGICALLY AND WISELY FROM A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, NO MATTER THE ATTACK. IT IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD “RENEW” DAILY, AS WE ARE

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

ADMONISHED TO IN ROM. 12:2. PROBABLY NO PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IS MORE CRITICAL TO A SOLDIER THAN HIS HELMET. “CUT OFF THE HEAD AND THE BODY DIES” IS A NOTED STATEMENT. SATAN’S ATTACKS ARE MOST TIMES ON OUR MINDS. THEY ARE VICIOUS AND UNRELENTING. IN THE COSMIC CONFLICT THE FRONT LINES ARE BETWEEN YOUR EARS THIS IS WHERE THE BATTLE RAGES FIERCEST..

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

THE HELMET PROTECTS THE HEAD , WHICH HOLDS THE BRAIN, YOUR MIND. IT MUST BE PROTECTED AT ALL COST. DON'T LET SATAN GET TO YOUR HEAD!! KEEP PUTTING ON YOUR HELMET!

2 COR. 10:5 *“TAKE CAPTIVE EVERY THOUGHT TO MAKE IT OBEDIENT TO CHRIST.”*

APPLICATION: ANY CHRISTIAN NOT FILLING HIS MIND WITH SCRIPTURE IS LIKE A SOLDIER GOING INTO BATTLE WITHOUT HIS HELMET!

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

*THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE
WORD OF GOD*

SWORD- THE ROMAN SOLDIER ALWAYS HAD HIS SWORD WITH HIM. IT WAS A LIGHT, TWO-FOOT WEAPON USED IN CLOSE, HAND TO HAND COMBAT. IT HAD TO BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND READY FOR USE— AND THE SOLDIER HAD TO BE PROFICIENT IN USING IT. IT WAS THE ONLY WEAPON THAT COULD BE USED WHEN THE ENEMY WAS CLOSE

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

SO WARRIORS PRACTICED HOURS ON END
WITH IT IN THEIR HAND.

CLEARLY THE SWORD IS THE WORD OF GOD.

MOST OF THE TIME “WORD” *IS INTERPRETED IN
THE GREEK AS “LOGOS”*. NOT HERE; IN THIS
CASE THE TRANSLATION IS “RHEMA”
MEANING THE SPECIFIC SPOKEN WORD

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

(OR WORDS) GIVEN TO US BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD TO DO CLOSE HAND TO HAND COMBAT WITH THE LIES AND DECEPTIONS OF THE ENEMY. THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD QUOTED AND APPLIED TO THE SPECIFIC LIE OR DECEPTION OF THE ENEMY WILL ALLOW YOU TO TAKE "EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST."

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

APPLICATION: JESUS MODELS FOR US THE USE OF THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT. MATT. 4:1-11

EVERY STATEMENT SATAN SAID TO GOD HAD TWO (2) DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS: 1) EACH HAD PARTIAL TRUTH , and 2) EACH STARTED WITH THE WORD “IF”. AS WE LEARNED EARLIER, THIS IS SATAN’S MO: LIES, DECEPTION, DOUBT, etc.

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

LIKEWISE JESUS' RESPONSE TO SATAN HAD TWO DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS: 1) TRUTH and (2) THE WORD "*IT IS WRITTEN*", "*IT IS WRITTEN*", "*IT IS WRITTEN*"

INCREDIBLY OUR LORD WAS QUOTING THE "LOGOS" OF GOD, BUT HE WAS BATTLING WITH THE "RHEMA" OF GOD – THE "LOGOS" APPLIED TO HIS SPECIFIC SITUATION.

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

FURTHER , IN THE BOOK OF THE REVELATION
GOD DESTROYS THE ARMIES OF SATAN WITH A
TWO-EDGED SWORD THAT COMES OUT OF HIS
MOUTH e.g. RHEMA: THE SPOKEN WORD OF
GOD!

WHATS IN YOUR SCABBORD?!?!?

SHOULD IT BE THERE OR “TAKEN UP?”

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD IN THIS INVISIBLE WAR, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE A MAN OR WOMAN OF THE BOOK.!

PICTURE THE WORD AS PORTRAYED IN HEBREWS 4:12 *“FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD, AND PIERCING AS FAR AS THE DIVISION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, OF BOTH JOINTS AND MARROW, AND ABLE TO JUDGE THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF THE HEART.”*

WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS

“WE MUST NOT CONFIDE IN THE ARMOR OF GOD, BUT IN THE GOD OF THIS ARMOR, BECAUSE ALL OUR WEAPONS ARE ONLY MIGHTY THROUGH GOD.”

WILLIAM GURNALL

THE MISSING WEAPON

WEVE GONE THROUGH THE BASICS, YET THE FINAL ELEMENT OF OUR WARFARE IS THE GREATEST – AND MOST NEGLECTED - WEAPON WE HAVE. PRAYER IS PIVOTAL AND ESSESENTIAL IN ORDER FOR US TO BE VICTORIOUS.

THE MISSING WEAPON

*18 WITH ALL PRAYER AND PETITION, PRAY AT ALL TIMES
IN THE SPIRIT, AND WITH THIS IN VIEW, BE ON THE
ALERT WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND PETITION
FOR ALL THE SAINTS, 19 AND PRAY ON MY BEHALF*

*VERSE 17 TIES DIRECTLY TO 18 TAKE UP THE SWORD
WITH PRAYER AND CONTINUE (PERSEVERE) TO BE
DILLIGENT!!*

*PRAYER IS THE MISSING INCREDIENT WHEN
CHRISTIANS LEAVE FOR BATTLE. IT IS A
HORRENDOUS MISTAKE. “PRAYER, DON’T LEAVE
HOME WITHOUT IT!”*

THE MISSING WEAPON

EPH. 6:18-20 CAN BE SUMMARIZED THIS WAY:
THE MEANS BY WHICH BELIEVERS ARE TO
WITHSTAND AND OVERCOME THE ATTACKS
OF THE ENEMY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS
BY CONSISTENT, INTENSE, STRATEGIC
PRAYER FOR ONE ANOTHER IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE PERSONAL
APPLICATION OF THE ARMOR OF GOD.

THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON'S IMPACT

- PRAYER HAS A DIRECT IMPACT ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE. MARK 9:29
- PRAYER PROVIDES/ASSISTS IN THE DELIVERANCE OF OTHERS WHO ARE UNDERGOING SPIRITUAL ATTACK. LK. 22:31-32
- POWER FALLS WHERE PRAYER PREVAILS. ACTS 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 4:24-35; 6:4-8; 8:14-16; 9:40-42 & 10:1-4. CHURCH HISTORY IS REplete WITH EXAMPLES.

TYPES OF PRAYER

1. CONSISTENT PRAYER-V:18a

“with all prayer and petition” = all kinds of prayer.

“pray at all times” = prayer on all occasions.

“pray in the spirit” = in communion with and directed by the agency and power of the Holy Spirit.

2. INTENSE PRAYER-V.18b

“be on the alert” = literally without sleep, vigilant

“with all perseverance” = enduring, not giving up.

TYPES OF PRAYER

3. STRATEGIC PRAYER-V.18c-20

“for all the saints” = for boldness for all.

“utterance may be given” = God’s message will be clear and have opportunity.

SUMMATION

THE MISSING INGREDIENT IN MOST CHRISTIAN'S LIVES AND IN MOST CHURCHES IS THE COMMITMENT AND REGULAR PRACTICE OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER. SCRIPTURE INDICATES THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE, CONSISTENT, INTENSE, AND STRATEGIC RESPONSIBILITY THAT WILL IN FACT *“DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.”*

GOOD TO “GREAT”

*“THE **GREAT** PEOPLE OF THE EARTH TODAY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO PRAY. I DO NOT MEAN THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT PRAYER, NOR YET THOSE WHO CAN EXPLAIN ABOUT PRAYER, BUT I MEAN THOSE PEOPLE WHO TAKE TIME TO PRAY. THEY HAVE NOT TIME. IT MUST BE TAKEN FROM SOMETHING ELSE. THIS SOMETHING ELSE IS IMPORTANT. VERY IMPORTANT, AND PRESSING, BUT STILL LESS IMPORTANT AND LESS PRESSING THAN PRAYER.” S.D. GORDON*

SUMMATION

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF TEACHING IN THE BIBLE HAS TO DO WITH ALERTNESS, PREPARATION, DEFENSE, AND BEING PROACTIVE TO PREVENT DEMONIC INFLUENCE FROM BREAKING OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST OR THWARTING GOD'S PROGRAM FOR OUR LIVES.

WHAT THEN SHALL WE DO?!

THE WINNING STRATEGY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. PUT ON
2. TAKE UP
3. STAND FIRM
4. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
5. BELIEVE GOD !

CHRISTIANS CAN HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH:

- **The occult**
- **False religions or cults**
- **Any part of the New Age Movement**
- **The homosexual lifestyle**
- **Any type of Satan worshiping group**
- **Any involvement with abortion or the abortion industry**
- **Abusing alcohol**
- **Doing any type of drugs – including pot**
- **Any type of extreme verbal and/or physical abuse on your mate or children**
- **Any type of promiscuous, sexual lifestyle**
- **Any type of criminal activity**
- **Murder**
- **Bringing a cursed object into your home**



12 Things