

Warfare Strategies

(Part 1)

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

In the beginning God created heaven and earth and all the things that we see in the universe. He created man on His own image, *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)* As well as, *“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’” (Genesis 1:28)* As man disobeyed God, he lost his dominion over the earth. But God in spite of man sin He worked out salvation for man kind when He sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to redeem mankind from sin and death. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to everyone who believe in Him and follow His steps in life.

By the death of Jesus on cross and His resurrection on the third day He got the victory over sin and death and He brought back the victory and the dominion that God had given to mankind. By His death on the cross Jesus took legal ownership and gave us the task of possessing the land. In this message we will study the strategy and the principle of warfare and how we can be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

1- We need to go in and step out the land in order to possess it: *Joshua 1:2-3* speaks about such thing, *“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.”* We have then to claim the land physically. We have to go and preach the gospel, we have to go out and make disciples. We have to move out from our comfort zone and reach new people by all the possible ways. Not to be sitting in office work, but outdoor work.

2- Taking possession is conditional: As we read in *Exodus 23:20-27* *“See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out. Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span. I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run.”* God instructed the people that He would send an angel ahead of them to guard them and bring them to the place He had prepared, but it was necessary for them to listen to him and obey. They were not to worship the gods of the land they were entering or follow the practices of the people.

If they obeyed they would receive God’s blessing. We are called to obey God’s Word. If there is no obedience to God’s commands and instructions there will be no deliverance and no victories from the Lord.

3- Possession is not instant but gradual: *Exodus 23:29-30* says, *“But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.”* So we have to be patient and waiting upon God and on His timing. Going into the land and making disciple is not an easy process; it takes time and needs much energy and endurance. We don’t need to be in a hurry and miss the way.

4- Possession must be complete: In *Numbers 21:2-3* *“Then Israel made this vow to the LORD: ‘If you will deliver these people into our hands, we will totally destroy their cities.’ The LORD listened to Israel’s plea and gave the Canaanites over to them. They completely destroyed them and their towns; so the place was named Hormah.”* In the book of Judges 1, as the children of Israel began to take possession of the land, they didn’t drive out the Canaanites, but made them slaves. As a result these Canaanites became thorns in their sides and their gods became a snare to them. They began to worship them therefore God had to give them over to their enemies. This is an example for us and thing we have to be aware off. If we allow enemies like inner hurts, bitterness, unforgiveness, hatred, fear, insecurity, self-pity, laziness, lust, immorality, greed, impurity, etc, remain in our lives and among us, they will also become snare to us.

The Word of God it tells us the following: *“And do not give the devil a foothold.” (Ephesians 4:27)* Therefore holiness and cleansing from sin is very important. *“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.” (Ephesians 5:3)* Sin in your life is a foothold for devil to enter your life and destroy it. *“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.” (Ephesians 4:31)* These are all footholds for devil and it will bring detrimental effects into our lives and our service to the Lord.

My dear and beloved: *“In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.” (2 Timothy 2:20-21)* There is a big task ahead of you and God wants to use you for His great work. Therefore you need to prepare yourself for that. Take the opportunity today to heed to God’s call and allow the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to cleanse you from all impurities, **for we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do,** as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from all my sins _____. Lord cleanses me and sanctifies me to be a noble vessel in your service. I commit myself to go and preach Your Word and Make disciples of all nations, and I am willing to obey all your commands and your teaching, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*