

Spiritual Warfare Part 2

Most of us don't like to think about war, but the Bible tells us that we are in a battle and we are involved in a war between two kingdoms; Christ's kingdom of light and Satan's domain, the kingdom of darkness.

“3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” (2 Timothy 2:3-4 KJV)

According to **2 Timothy 2:3-4**, we need to endure hardships in living for Christ and in serving Him to be good soldiers for Him. As well as and in order to please Christ we need not to get involved in any civilian affairs that would take us from the ministry and service of Christ. Soldiers they have their uniform whom with it they will be easily distinguished; for when the people would see them they will be aware that they were fully involved in defending that particular country and they are fully dedicate it to that task and they are by no means will be busy by other things. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs, because he wants to please his commanding officer and to meet the needs of the army that is working to defend the country. *** Therefore we are soldiers and so we are not supposed to get involved in fights, quarrels, or with businesses and focus on making money, as well as not to get involved in worldly pleasure and worldly style of living. * Therefore being a soldier you must know how to keep your identity and your good reputation as Christ's servant by not being involved in side way affairs that are taking you away from your service and dedication to Christ.**

Ephesians 6:12 tells us that our struggle is not against people but against the power of darkness, represented by the devil and its demons. ***“12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6:12) Therefore the more you are moving away from civilian affairs the more you are moving away from all the footholds of the devil. So your dedication and your holiness in living for Christ and away from sin would qualify you to be a good and a victorious soldier for Christ.***

So you are in a battle and you are entitled to be a soldier for Christ against Satan your enemy, and what you need more now is to know your enemy and his tactics. ***“11 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the***

ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.” (Ezekiel 28:11-17 KJV) Satan in origin was an angel created by God, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, but he became wicked and corrupted by his evil ways and pride on the account of his beauty and brightness which caused him to be corrupted in wisdom. So God decided to throw him to the ground, and when Satan fell, other angels who had sided with him also fell as we can read here, ***“7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.” (Revelation 12:7-10 KJV)***

Important to know now the tactics of Satan and how he works to fight against us. Therefore from the following Scriptures we can see and study the tactics of Satan:-

1. ***“12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.” (Luke 8:12)*** It says here that Satan, the devil, takes away the Word out from our hearts. **So be careful not to let the devil to confuse you and take the Word of God from your heart.**

2. ***“44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44KJV)*** It says here the devil was a murderer from the beginning, and a liar not holding to the truth. **So be careful and avoid violence and telling lies because such are the works of the devil.**

3. ***“10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.” (Revelation 12:10 KJV)*** Here it describes the devil or Satan as the one who is the accuser of our brothers. He accuses them day and night before God the Father. **So be careful not to accuse anyone if there is no clear evidence in your hand with the wrong that he did.**

4. ***“3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 11:3 KJV)*** Here it says that Satan can beguile you and corrupt you to lead you astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. **So be careful and do not allow worldliness and the works of your flesh to take you away from your sincere devotion to Christ.**

5. ***“14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” (2 Corinthians 11:14 KJV)*** Here it says that Satan can be transformed and present himself as an angel of light. **Satan often temp us to do what is seems and looks like good things, which are not in obedience to the Lord and, so such actions are considered sin, therefore you need to be careful to avoid them.**

6. ***“10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10 KJV)*** Here it describes Satan as a thief who comes to steal, kill and to destroy. Satan would come to steal our joy, peace, faith, and the Word of God from our hearts.

7. ***Satan often tries to divert us from the goal, as he tried with Jesus in Matthew 4:3-10, “3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”*** Satan always wants to keep us away from doing God’s will. **Therefore we need to be careful from him and immediately correct ourselves and go back to God and do His will.**

In spite of all the tactics of Satan but Satan’s position is that he already defeated by Jesus’ work on the cross. ***1 John 3:8***, tells us that Jesus came to destroy the devil’s work, ***“8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8 KJV)*** ***Colossians 2:15***, tells us that Christ, having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them on the cross: ***“15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” (Colossians 2:15 KJV)***

Satan’s final end is already determined, ***“10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10 KJV)*** **With his death on the cross, Jesus gained back the legal ownership and dominion of the earth. However, He did not take possession for God has given us the job of possessing the land. Therefore we need to be equipped by the weapons of the warfare to go and possess it, which are as the following:-**

1. We are given the armor of God for our protection: “10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching

thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (Ephesians 6:10-18) We cannot rely on our own strength. We are told to put on the full armor of God, and not only just part. We put on the whole armor so that according to verse 11 we can stand against all the schemes of the devil. For our struggle according to verse 12 is not against people, but against evil forces.

2. Having your loins girt about with the truth or the belt of truth: Truth protects us from the enemy so we are not hindered in battle. We need to know the truth and walk in the truth and such will make us fight a good fight standing firm and not shaken. Jesus is the truth and that is what does Jesus call Himself, ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life”***, in ***John 14:6***, ***“6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6 KJV)***? The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth in ***John 14:17***, ***“17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” Psalm 40:11*** says that God’s truth will continually preserve us: ***“11 Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.” (Psalm 40:11 KJV)***

3. Having on the breastplate of righteousness: This part of the armor covers the heart. ***Proverbs 4:23***, tells us to keep the heart with all diligence for out of it come the issues of life, ***“23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:23 KJV)*** Christ’s righteousness will protect our hearts and minds and will help us to follow God’s will and not our emotions or desires. **As well as living a righteous life and away from sin will protect us and will not allow the devil to penetrate us.**

4. And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace: Shoes protect us from stumbling, or striking our toes on the ground. When we have our shoes on we are available and ready to go. We need to be ready with the Gospel in season and out of season. Jesus gives us the peace which surpasses all understanding, therefore we are ready to go and preach the gospel. ***“7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7 KJV)*** As we move forward and preaching the gospel we are fighting the good fight and advancing forward.

5. Taking the shield of faith: The shield protects from the darts of the enemy. Leather shields needed oiling so they wouldn’t crack. ***Isaiah 21:5***, tells the soldiers to oil their shields: ***“5 Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink: arise, ye princes, and anoint the shield.” (Isaiah 21:5 KJV)*** The anointing of the Holy Spirit will oil our shields. ***“16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” (Ephesians 6:16 KJV)*** **The fiery darts of the wicked are the arrows of Satan, the bad news that he always sent to us and so our faith in Christ and on His Word will shield us and protect us from their effects.**

6. Take the helmet of salvation: The helmet covers the mind. If we are wounded in the head we can’t use the rest of the armor. ***Romans 12:2***, tells us we need to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. ***“2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2 KJV)*** A covered head represents both submission and protection. **When we submit ourselves to the Word of God and do what it say and when we submit**

ourselves to the leaders who teach us the Word of God and lead us according to God's will and instruction then we are protected.

7. The sword of the Spirit: We need to know the Word of God in order to use it. For example the Word of God can be a weapon against fear, **"7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."** (2 Timothy 1:7 KJV) **We can use the Word of God to combat the lies of the devil and all the false teaching of all his servants.**

8. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit: We are told to pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. **"18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"** (Ephesians 6:10-18) Some kinds of prayers are with the understanding, others in Spirit, others are thanksgiving, intercession, petition, and confession. **Therefore as we pray, giving thanks to God, intercede, make our petition then we are waging our war against the power of darkness.**

9. We are also given other weapons:

A. Praise is another weapon: 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 speaks about the story of King Jehoshaphat how he sought the help of God. Verse 22 says that as they began to sing and praise God, the Lord set ambushes against their enemies and were defeated. **"22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten."** (2 Chronicles 20:22 KJV) **Therefore as we sing and praise God then we are waging our war against the power of darkness.**

B. The Name of Jesus: We have authority in the name of Jesus. **Philippians 2:9-11** speaks of the name of Jesus that He is above every name, **"9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."** (Philippians 2:9-11 KJV) We can bind Satan, and the various kinds of demons and cast them out in the name of Jesus.

C. The blood of Jesus, and word of testimony: Revelation 12:11, says that the believers overcame Satan by the blood of the Lord Jesus and the word of their testimony, **"11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."** (Revelation 12:11 KJV) Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sins, **"22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."** (Hebrews 9:22 KJV) The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us **"7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 KJV)** Through the blood we can enter God's presence, **"19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,"** (Hebrews 10:19 KJV) Those who overcame through the blood of Jesus and the word of their testimony were not afraid to lose their lives because they knew that the victory was already won through the Cross. *** We can say to Satan and its demons the blood of Jesus is against you, and they will flee away. * Our**

life's testimony and living a holy life is very effective weapon to fight Satan and the demons with him.

My dear and beloved: For us to fight a good fight we need to know our position in Christ: According to **Luke 10:19** Jesus says that He had given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. **"19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."** (Luke 10:19 KJV) **Ephesians 2:6** tells us that God has raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the Heavenly places. **"6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:"** (Ephesians 2:6 KJV) Therefore our position is with Christ in a position of victory. Therefore let us go forward and fight the good fight.

Though we are in a battle, we can be encouraged because the victory is already ours through Christ Jesus and His work on the cross and we have all the weapons that He had given us that we can stand firm to defeat the enemy. Let us 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 thank you for the victory that you had given us through your work on the cross. Lord thank you for all the parts of the armor of God and the weapons that you had given us to stand firm against the power of darkness. Lord thank you for all the material and the spiritual blessings that you had given us in Christ in this world. Lord thank you for all the teachings, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.*

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce all your civilian affairs, your love for the world and the material things. your love for money and your fights, strife and quarrels. Repent and renounce all your idols, your envy and jealousy, your lies, cheating, stealing, fraud, lust, adultery, immoralities and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent and renounce your lack of faith in God and your lack of full trust and obedience to His Word and commands. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your pride, laziness, unforgiveness to people, anger, revenge and fights. Renounce your yoke with non believers, friends and wasting your time on the Media, games and News. Repent of your lack of prayer and reading God's Word. Repent of your non willingness to stand firm to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord I repent, forgive me, I renounce the following sins _____ .

Lord I commit myself to live a life as soldier for Christ Jesus my Lord. I commit myself to be away from the following civilian affairs _____ . Lord I commit myself to put on the full armor of God, living by faith, a righteous life, living the Word of God, a life of prayer, taking the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus, moving forward preaching the gospel and using your Word for the good fight. I come against the works of Satan and all its demons in the name of Jesus. Satan and all demons the blood of Jesus is against you, and I cast you out from my life in the name of Jesus. Lord Help me and equip me and give me discernment how to fight the power of the enemy. Lord I commit myself to go and preach your Word and make disciples of all nations. Lord I trust you that you will protect me and provide all my needs. This is all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and put on the whole armor of God and committed themselves to serve you and fight the good fights as good soldiers for Christ. Lord I bind all the works of Satan and demons in their lives and cast them all out in the name of Jesus. Lord protect them, equip them and continue to use them to serve you. Lord sustain them and provide for them to continue to serve you and be good example to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church, and help us to continue to stand firm and to fight the good fight. We come against all the works of the devil and demons and we cast them out from the life of the church in the name of Jesus. Lord lead us to help people in bondages to deliver them from all the power of darkness. Lord we are willing to go out to preach the gospel and spread your Word. Lord refill us once again with your Holy Spirit, and lead us to evangelize and reach new people and serve them, to make new disciples and train new workers, planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God', Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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