

Being Able to Wage Spiritual Warfare

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Luke 14:25-35 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

1 Timothy 1:18-19 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

2 Timothy 2:3-5 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 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. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

- I. War is a state of contest by violence.
 - A. It is not a game or a competition, it is a violent contest where the winner takes all.
 - B. A war begins with an aggressor and a defender.
 - C. The defender simply wants to live in peace, but the aggressor is willing to fight and kill and destroy everything to get what he wants.
 1. Aggression is caused by greed, hatred, and pride.
 2. The aggressor may want revenge for an insult or wrong that has been done to him, an increase in possessions, or just to extend his realm of authority.
 3. A war of aggression is never considered justifiable, while making war in defense of life, property, and country is.
 - D. War is the proper word to describe what the life of a child of God in this world is like
 1. It is a war of defense against the powers of darkness that are wrecking havoc in this world we live in now.
- II. The primary goal of an aggressor, or a defender, is to take away the ability of the enemy to make war.
 - A. The main goal of the devil is to take away our ability to keep fighting and resisting him and his attacks on us.

- B. All the weapons of our warfare are described the Bible as weapons of defense, except for the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.
- C. In order to stop us from making war against him the devil must take away all our means of defense.

Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- D. This shows us that we are under attack by a wicked aggressor who is out to own us or destroy us.
- E. This shows us that the goal for us is to stand, and still be standing when this war is over.
- F. Truth is the first thing he will try to take away from you.
 - 1. He can only do this by convincing you to believe a lie.
 - 2. So be very careful where you get your information, both in spiritual matters and in earthly matters.
 - 3. A lie in either realm is a lie, and it affects your whole life and future and so much more.
 - 4. Once you are deceived and living and discerning by lies, even one lie – about anything, the devil has you in his snare and that defense is gone in your life; there is a breach in your defenses and open to an invasion by the enemy into your heart and mind.
- G. Righteousness is the second thing the devil will major on to take away from us.
 - 1. Our righteousness must be the same as God's righteousness.
 - 2. It isn't that God mystically imputes that attribute to us in heaven while we continue to live contrary to his moral law here on earth.
 - 3. MY righteousness is what I think is righteous, while GOD's righteousness is what God says is righteous.
 - 4. The devil wants us to have our own ideas about what is right and wrong.
 - 5. He wants us to disagree with what God has said is right and wrong.

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

- 6. When the devil gets us to the place where we are defending things that God has condemned we have lost that defense and our wall has been breached, and the enemy will come in like a flood into our life.
- H. He will attack us by taking away our footwear, which is the preparation of the Gospel of peace.
 - 1. If we will not study the Word of God and learn what it does for a person and how to live it and present it to others, we are like a barefooted soldier.
 - 2. No one can war a good warfare barefooted.

3. We are made weak and ineffective in this war if we are overwhelmed with cares, busy-ness, apathy, and laziness.
 4. We are a burden and a stumbling block to others in the war, and we hinder and prevent others from warring a good warfare.
- I. Faith is our shield “wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”
1. If our faith, which is our trust, in God wavers or grows cold, we are open to the deadly shots that are continually being fired our way.
 2. The devil tries to take away our faith, or get it out of the way, by simply getting us to trust in things other than our God.
 3. Kings and princes, earthly weapons and means of security, earthly means of being healed, or staying healthy.
 4. We either trust in the Lord or we trust in ourselves and others, or in some wisdom of this world.
 5. With our shield of faith down, even for an instant, it can cost us our life, or get us wounded so that we are no longer a participant in the war.
- J. The devil cannot take our helmet of salvation, but he doesn’t have to take that to neutralize us in this war.
1. He can get any other part of our armor and use us as an example to blaspheme God and damn the souls of many others.
- K. The Word of God is our sword and our only weapon of offense.
1. He cannot take that from us, but he can deceive us into surrendering it.
 2. He can do that by promising us a new one that he has issued.
 3. It make look like the real Sword of the Spirit and sound a little bit like it, but it has no firepower in it.
 4. It is dull, not sharp, because it is not a real sword, but an imitation, like a toy made for children to play with.
 5. With not weapon we cannot do anything to prevent, to hinder, to slow down, let alone to stop his attacks on us, and on our children, and others.
- L. So guard your armor, and don’t let the devil take any of it away from you, or trade you something for it that is a phony.
- III. The other means of taking away the enemy’s ability to make war is to demoralize him.
- A. Like Sherman did in the Civil Ward.
 - B. Like the devil did to Job.
 - C. Like we have all experienced at different times in our lives when we had more on our plate that we could deal with.
 - D. By taking away or destroying all that is dear to you.
 - E. Death of loved ones, betrayal by someone you never expected it from.
 - F. By loved ones who surrender to the devil and his evil and become your enemy and a soldier of the devil against you.
 - G. The devil tries to demoralize us by taking away or destroying all that we have worked for and all that is our means of sustaining ourselves.
 1. Loss of job, poverty, unexpected financial catastrophes.
 - H. We must fight always, and stand always, and never give up, and never surrender, no matter how discouraging it may be, or what the cost may be.

[Ephesians 6:10](#) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

[Ephesians 6:11](#) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Ephesians 6:13 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.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Jude 24-25 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.