

REVIEW OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE BASICS

I. Every Christian Is in a Warfare

A. *Ephesians 6:10-20* - Because we all wrestle with spiritual powers of darkness

1. We must stand firm
2. We must put on the full armor of Christ

B. War started when you became a disciple of Christ

1. Before that a prisoner
2. After that a combatant

II. You Are in a Warfare Because You Were Sent Out as a Builder

A. The warfare is the spiritual opposition we encounter as we take the Gospel to people around us

1. We build and we war
 - a. Building is the objective
 - (1) Make disciples
 - (2) This is how the kingdom of God comes on earth

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For 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. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 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, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

~ Ephesians 6:10-20 NASB

And He saw that there was no man, And was astonished that there was no one to intercede; Then His own arm brought salvation to Him, And His righteousness upheld Him. He put on righteousness like a breastplate, And a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.

~ Isaiah 59:16-17

b. Spiritual powers of darkness oppose that effort

(1) To complete the task we must also war

B. Spiritual conflict must be separated from the suffering that is common to all men

III. Principles of Natural War and the Spiritual Warfare

A. Reason to study principles of war

1. What we learn from natural war helps us understand spiritual war

2. Spiritual activity takes place in the natural world

a. Illustrations are given to point us to the similarities

3. We find that the Lord and the disciples all walked according to these principles

B. The principles which govern warfare are the same principles that make us effective builders in the kingdom

C. The Spirit of God enables us to keep to these principles

1. **2 Timothy 1:7** - *God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline*

2. Discipline relates to the mental control that enables us to maintain a purposeful and orderly life

For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

~ II Timothy 1:7

IV. Principles Considered up to This Point

A. Clearly defined objective - What am I trying to achieve?

1. General knowledge of what is going on
 - a. In the Word we are given a general knowledge of God's will
 - b. *Colossians 1:9* - ...filled with the knowledge of His will...
2. Specific understanding of my part
 - a. We must understand the part we play in that great plan
 - b. **The will of God is coming to pass in my circumstances**

B. Offensive - two parts

1. As an **attitude** we must take the initiative
 - a. We must never fall into a defensive posture
 - b. Jesus Christ will win the victory
 - (1) Gates of hell will not prevail against the Church

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

~ Colossians 1:9-12

2. As an **action** the offensive is the plan that we construct to accomplish the objective
 - a. Separates dreams from accomplishment
 - b. In the spiritual realm - How can I use the resources I have and the opportunities God has created for me to fulfill my assignment?

C. **Concentration** - Focus your resources on the objective

1. God's resources are limitless
 - a. Our faith rests on the fact that He will make His resources available to us
2. Even in Christ my resources are limited
 - a. We are complete but not unlimited
 - b. Limits of time, opportunity, energy, intelligence, finances...
3. We have all the resources available to us to do what the Lord is asking of us
 - a. Key is to concentrate those resources on the objective God has given us