

How to fight Spiritual Warfare

At the beginning of recent war between one country and those that were united against it, the question was raised as to whether the soldiers were sufficiently well protected. No government would send their troops to war unless they were as best protected as they could be. Since this is true in the physical realm, why should it not be true in the spiritual realm? The best possible protection you can have (apart from the protection of God) is to put on the full armour of God, outlined in Ephesians chapter 6 v 10 - 19.

“Gird up your loins with the belt of truth, and put upon your feet the shoes of the gospel of peace, put on the helmet of salvation which protects your mind from all assaults of the evil one, put on breastplate of righteousness, and take up your shield, the shield of faith, which can quench all the fiery darts of the evil one, and take up your sword, the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God which can be used for refuting falsehood, for proclaiming truth, and for building up and encouraging your brothers and sisters in Christ.”

As physical armour is very real, so is spiritual armour, so whenever you begin your day, first put on the armour of God verbally and (as it were) physically. The second best form of protection you can have in spiritual warfare is to ensure that you have many people praying for you and your success. Great things can happen if you are covered in prayer for as much time as possible, that might not happen otherwise.

Even with people praying for you it does not let you off the hook, you need to pray also, for your own protection and success and against any attempts of the enemy to stop what you are seeking to do in Jesus name. In any work of the Lord, there are three Ps.

The players, those who are called by God to go out, the payers, those who sponsor such events and missions, and the prayers, those who will pray and continue to pray until you return, and then some. Ephesians chapter 6 and verse 12 tells us something which many have not caught the vision of today, "our battle is not against flesh and blood, but principalities and powers of the air".

In other words, we do not have to persuade someone to come to Christ with a clever argument, souls are one in one place and one place only, in the spiritual realm through prayer, only then can you reap that harvest of souls in the physical realm. Matthew chapter 16 v 19 says the same thing in a different way. These are Jesus words to His disciples; "You **cannot** break into a strong man's house and steal away his possessions **unless** you bind the strong man." The strong man is the devil; his possessions are the souls of the unsaved.

During the first Gulf War in the 1990's the American General Norman Swartzkopf was asked when he would begin "operation desert storm". I wonder if he realised the significance of his answer which was "The battle of the air must be won before the ground offensive can begin." Considering that we are fighting principalities and powers of the air, what he said about a physical war must also apply to a spiritual war also. Often people have prayed things at meetings which even God Himself cannot answer in the affirmative. So many people have prayed "Lord we ask you to bind the evil one". Jesus instruction to His disciples in Matthew 12 v 29 is "Whatever **you** bind on earth shall be bound (forbidden) in heaven, whatever **you** loose on earth shall be loosed (permitted) in heaven."

The job of binding and loosing is **ours**, if we will only do our part then God will do His part, but we must act first. Both Matthew chapter 17 v 21 and Mark chapter 9 v 29 talk about the demon being cast out of a boy after Jesus had come down from the mountain where He was transfigured. Upon curing the boy the disciples asked Jesus "Why could we not do that?" Jesus reply adds a new dimension to our understanding of spiritual warfare. "This sort only come out through prayer and fasting.

Along with all the other things Jesus taught His disciples, is now added the weapon of prayer **and fasting**. It is interesting to note that in John chapter 5 verses 19 and 20 Jesus had been at the Portico of the Temple, where many sick people were. Of all the sick people around, Jesus heals only one, before disappearing into a crowd. Why did he not heal any others?

His answer is very simple. "I only do what I see my Father doing." In other words, I healed only one person because Father didn't say heal anyone else on that occasion. This same lesson can be seen in Exodus chapter 40 v 37 and 38 it is written "When the cloud rested over the tent of meeting, the people stayed put, when the cloud moved on, so did the people. A very simple lesson, but a very valuable one. "You do not move until I do." In other words, Jesus was teaching His disciples "Act on command, not in presumption".

In Genesis chapter 17 v 8 - 13 there is a battle going on down in a valley and Moses and two of his friends are on a hill overlooking that battleground. When Moses hands were raised, the battle went in favour of Israel, when they were lowered, the battle went against Israel, so his two friends supported his arms with two large stones, and the battle was won. Surely that means that if we lift up our church leaders in prayer day by day, then the battle will go more and more in favour of your church, in its battle against the powers of darkness wherever you live.

Joshua chapter 7 tells of how the Israelites went out into battle and were very badly defeated, if you read the chapter you will find out exactly why, but to sum it up, God's people suffered defeat because of sin in the camp. If you are going to do spiritual warfare, get right and clean before God first, otherwise you might have a similar experience.

A few years ago pictures were shown on television of cliffs collapsing on the east coast of England. The cliffs crumbled because after all the years, the sea was finally eroding them away. It did not happen overnight, only over time. If we are faithful to pray as we are instructed to in the bible, day by day, then slowly but surely the strongholds of the enemy will be eroded away where you live also.

If 288 people pray for as little as five minutes per day, that would equal 24 hours worth of prayer per day. Everywhere else that kind of prayer would move mountains, it will where you live also. Not as a one-off, nor a once a week, but continuously day by day.