

WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE - 2



MIGHTY WEAPONS FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Introduction:

Life generally is war but the Christian warfare in particular is spiritual in nature. Thank God who already equipped us for the battles of life. The weapons of our warfare also, though spiritual and invisible, they are mighty through God (work in God's strength and ability; NOT ours) to pull down strongholds of Satan and his hosts - **Ps.60: 12**.

In spiritual warfare, we may feel weary and discouraged at times, but we must not give up. Our weapons are not carnal and so, we must not fight in our own strength or wisdom. Our weapons are spiritual weapons and work beyond our strength and abilities e.g. David & Goliath.

Some of Our Spiritual Weapons:

1. The Word of God - Eph.6: 17; Col.3: 16.

This is the major offensive weapon God gives us. Jesus used this weapon in the desert when Satan came to tempt Him - **Matt.4: 3-4**.

Satan often tempts us by twisting the meaning of the word of God but like Jesus, we must defeat him each time by quoting Scriptures rightly and using it in its proper context.

Please, remember that...

We will not defeat Satan by reasoning with him like Eve did.

We will not defeat Satan by negotiating with him like Pharaoh tried with Moses.

We will not defeat Satan by just telling him to get out... He leaves only for a season and will always return again - **Lk.4: 13**.

We defeat Satan by always using the word of God as a weapon that is mighty through God.

2. Prayer - Lk.18: 1; Eph.6: 18; 1Thess.5: 17; Jam.5: 16b.

Prayer is a major powerful spiritual weapon. This goes beyond presenting our 'shopping list' to God. It is, “prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**”.

Praying in the Spirit goes beyond praying from our mind or intellect. It is allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through us according to the will of God. Sometimes, we already know the will of the God in His word e.g. praying for the soul of a lost loved one, the Bible tells us that the will of God is that **none** should perish (**Jn.3: 14-16**).

However, there are times when we are not sure; when we do not know any verse of the Bible that clearly tells us what the will of God on an issue is e.g. praying for a sick person - should we pray for immediate healing, pray that God be glorified through their sickness - like Paul's thorn in the flesh, or pray for their ultimate healing - for God to take them home? All three can be the will of God for different persons. We need the Holy Spirit to pray the will of God through us at such times. At such times, God may choose to guide us to pray in our own language or He may choose to pray through us by speaking in tongues.

3. Worship - 2 Chron.20: 20-25; Acts 16: 25-26; Ps.149: 5-9.

Jehoshaphat was king of Judah a host of army from three nations came against them, and Jehoshaphat was afraid. At that time, he did what any great spiritual leader would do - he called for prayer and fasting.

Then, God gave them the battle plans and assured them of victory. Early in the morning they began to prepare, and Jehoshaphat did something very unusual. He put worshippers in front of the army who sang and praised God (**2Chron.20: 22-23**).

Paul and Silas also experienced God's great deliverance while locked up in the prison at Philippi through the power of praise and worship (**Acts 16: 25-16**).

Worship is a powerful weapon to defeat the enemy. However, worship is not just music or playing your favorite Christian songs. Worship comes from the heart - pure heart - **Ps.24: 3-4**.

It is purposeful and intentional reverence and elevation of God above everything else. Pure worship is like offering a sacrifice to God - **Heb.13: 15**.

We can worship God by singing songs of praise written by other people and we can also worship God spontaneously using our own words from the heart that we did not learn from anybody and that no one has ever written before - **Jn.4: 24**.

4. The Name of Jesus - Prov.18: 10; Phil.2: 9-11.

The name of Jesus is above every other name. And in that name is incredibly spiritual power! There are many gods but there is only one Jesus Christ and we get answers to our prayers and great victories when we use the name of Jesus - **Jn.14: 14**.

The name of Jesus works for us both as a defensive and offensive weapon. At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and confess that He is Lord.

However, we must be very careful not to trivialize things by abusing the name of Jesus or use the Lord's name in vain.

5. Fasting - Isa.58: 6; Matt.17: 21.

Much of the church has moved away from fasting as a spiritual discipline and as a mighty weapon of warfare against the enemy. Fasting has an amazing health benefit but, if we only use fasting for that purpose, without using it as a mighty weapon of spiritual warfare, then, we will short-change ourselves and even offend the Lord.

Christian fasting is a mighty weapon for spiritual warfare to break spiritual bondage and set the captives free!

6. Our Testimony - Rev.12: 11.

Some skeptics may refute what you believe. They may even question some parts of the Bible and/or even the existence of God altogether. This does not negate the power of God's Word, rather it confirms that we're living in an age of incredible deception and delusion.

However, something that cannot be refuted is your personal testimony. The enemy may attack you with lies and deception, but he cannot convince you that what God has done for you didn't really happen. It's your testimony and it has great power! It is a big blow the enemy cannot withstand - **Jn.9: 24-25**.

This is a weapon that is so often neglected, because if the enemy can get us to focus on the negative, on what we *don't* have, on the bad things going on in our life right now, he can cause us to forget all the good things God has done for us in the past. All the ways God has delivered for us. All the miracles God has done in our life. All the ways God has provided for us when we had nothing. The healing God has done in our heart and in our body. While Satan cannot refute our testimony, he can cause us to forget them. So, never forget but always rehearse your testimonies like David – **Ps.103: 1-5**.

When we testify of past victories, we gain new strength, boldness and courage to stand in faith that God will repeat what He did before and much more for us again!

7. Boldness, Courage and Fearlessness - Josh.1: 6-7; 2Tim.1: 7; Rev.12: 11.

God always emboldens His children and fills them with courage in order to make us fearless in the face of the battles of life and give us victory in the end. Fearful and timid people don't always win their battles in life but only bold, fearless and courageous people do! That is why God repeatedly said, "***Fear not***" for about **365** times in the Bible. It's as if we need a daily dose of "***fear not***" for each day to win in life. God also told the children of Israel many times to - "***Stand still and see the salvation of God***". Fearful people find it very difficult to stand still.

Boldness, Courage and Fearlessness can be used as synonyms interchangeably because they all connote bravery or overcoming fear. Virtually all the saints of old who were gallant and victorious in spiritual warfare were brave and daring people. Victory in the battles of life always belongs to bold, fearless and courageous people. Such people include Moses, Joshua, Esther, Deborah, David, Daniel and his friends, many Kings, Prophets and Apostles, etc.

Satan usually harasses men with the fear of death but these wonderful saints of God simply took big risks for God and did not love their lives even in the face of death. Many of them actually died in the course of the battles of life but they withstood Satan and his hosts and never allowed them to achieve their aim or mission. We need to emulate them! Many Christians are now failing and woefully disappointing God because of fear of death but Jesus already died for us in order to deliver us from the fear of death - **Heb.2: 14-15; Rev.2; 10**.

Let us prepare to endure hardship and be valiant as good soldiers of Christ in the face of the battles of life - **2Tim.2: 3**.

Really, of what use is any life not lived or spent for God - **Phil.1: 21**.

Conclusion:

Our women should emulate Esther who said, "***If I perish, I perish***" (**Est.4**). And our men should emulate the three Hebrew sons who said, "***Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto you, O king, that we will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up***" (**Dan.3: 17-18**). The best way to overcome fear is to face it. Timid or fearful Christians cannot resist the devil as God has commanded us to do (**Jam.4: 7**).

There are only three parties in every spiritual battle we face in life - God, Satan and yourself. If God will not shift or run and you refuse to shift or run, then, the only person who will shift or run is Satan! So, the Bible says, "...and having done all to stand, stand therefore... (**Eph.6: 13c-14a**). Stand your ground to resist the devil and he will surely FLEE from you!