

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

21

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on spiritual warfare and living a life of victory.

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City of ^{the} Living God



“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Col. 1:9-14).

The Apostle Paul prayed for the saints that they would be filled with the knowledge and understanding of how to live in spiritual dominion over our adversary. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit and water baptism in the name of Jesus, God has given us authority over rulers of darkness. From the very beginning of our walk with God, we have fought spiritual battles that have helped us walk in righteousness. God has empowered us to live a spirit-filled life with dominion, power, and complete victory. Understanding true spiritual warfare is vital for us to continue our walk in Christ successfully.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS OFTEN HIDDEN

2 Kings 6:15-17

“When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (ESV).

The prophet’s servant was not able to see the angels that surrounded the city. He only saw the visible realm with the enemy surrounding the city. Oftentimes we fail to see God working in the background and only see our present problems. If we could see in the spirit, there are battles that are being waged on our behalf.

Hebrews 13:2

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Daniel, the prophet was in prayer and fasting for direction for the people of Israel. He had a vision of an angel sent from God to speak to Daniel. Apparently, the angel was trying to reach Daniel with a message from God, but he was in battle with a fallen angel named, “the prince of Persia.” Oftentimes we have no idea what war is being waged in the background of our trial.

Daniel 10:12-14

“Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the

kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days” (ESV).

OUR BATTLE IS NOT FLESH & BLOOD

If we can open our spiritual eyes and see in the spiritual realm, we would see battles that are fought for the souls of men and women. There is a connection between our commitment and consecration to the Lord with the empowerment of the angelic hosts in our circumstances.

We can see things in the physical realm and completely miss that there is a connection to the spiritual. Our fight is not earthly—it is in the spiritual realm.

Ephesians 6:12

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

2 Corinthians 4:4-5

“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

That’s why the Bible gives explicit instructions on how to do battle in the Spirit.

Ephesians 6:13-18

“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.”

THE ARMOR OF GOD

The Apostle Paul gives us a list of the armor that God has equipped everyone of his believers. He includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet prepared with the gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. You'll notice that none of these weapons are for protecting the soldier's back. The implication is that they are used in an offensive attack and not necessarily for defense. The picture is of an advancing soldier in war gaining new territory. Each armor and weapon is specific for conquering the enemy and is vital for complete victory in a believer's life.

The Belt of Truth

We have to hold on to truth. To the New Testament believer any veering away from the truth was considered false teaching. In Galatians, the Apostle Paul warns the believers from accepting any false teachings.

Galatians 1:6-9

“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

The Breastplate of Righteousness

Whereas the breastplate is to protect from the enemy's assaults, it is used to protect an advancing soldier. This has to do with keeping ourselves righteous in our lifestyle—in all manner of living. Righteousness means to do right; to live holy.

Ephesians 4:22-25

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

Feet Prepared for the Gospel

A believer should know how to share the gospel with anyone. Knowing the scriptures is imperative in being able to show the plan of salvation. It does not take much time to learn the specific Scriptures for the salvation of a soul.

1 Peter 3:15

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (ESV).

The Shield of Faith

Faith is more than just a mental belief. It is faith that produces results. If you really believe in something, you will show action. As James said, “Faith without works is dead.” The author of Hebrews states that faith is something substantial and it is seeing things as though were already done. Seeing the end result before it even happens. It is faith in God that you can stand upon his unwavering Word.

Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

The Helmet of Salvation

This armor protects the believer from a deadly attack. An injury to the head could be fatal. Maintaining your salvation has to do with your walk with God. Some teach that once you are saved, always saved. This is not biblical. The prodigal son was lost, but had to come back to the Father to be saved. Keeping yourself from sin and walking in his ways are vital to living a life of victory. Protecting yourself from things that will harm you like gossip, bitterness, and disobedience are critical for living a life that is victorious.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

“But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

The Sword of the Spirit

The Apostle Paul explains to us that the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. When Jesus was attacked by the devil while he was fasting and praying in the wilderness, Jesus always responded with “It is written...” There is no other authority higher than the Word of God. There is a connection with the Word and the Spirit. Under the anointing of the Spirit, the believer can exercise his/her authority by quoting the Word of God.

Luke 4:3-13

*“And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written**, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God...And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written**, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the*

*Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: **For it is written**, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season."*

UNHINDERED PRAYER

The armor and weapons that God has given us are for taking over territory in the spirit. They give us a solid unwavering foundation for advancement in God's kingdom. While the weapons help us conquer and the armor protects us in the fight, prayer takes us forward. A breastplate protects us from the blows of the enemy. The feet are made in preparation of going forward with the gospel. The shield is used to deflect the enemy's darts. The helmet is worn to protect us from the enemy's fatal blows. The sword is used to cut the enemy to pieces. We are ready for the battle!

With all of the armor and weapons, the believer is ready to wage war. How do we wage war? By putting on all of the armor and doing what the Apostle Paul says next:

Ephesians 6:13-18

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel" (NKJV).

Advancement only happens when we wear all of the armor and use the weapons that God has given us. After "putting on the whole armor of God," prayer and intercession for the salvation of souls is how we take over the enemy's territory.

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