

## Weapons of Warfare [Lesson 1 of 2]



**Scripture:** *2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;...*

*Ephesians 6:12 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.*

*John 18:10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.*

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

**TEACHER side note:** *Weapons of Warfare is best presented in two lessons. An easy break is suggested after completing the heading: "Know your enemy."*

### Introduction:

Peter is well known for his denial of knowing Jesus at the trial the night before the crucifixion. We remember the rooster crowed three times and the heartbroken story of Peter almost every Easter.

What we don't pay much attention to is that this is the man that pulled the sword out of its sheath and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant at the arrest of Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane. Peter was ready to do battle; he was ready to get into a fight to defend the Lord.

Peter spent his first three plus years following Jesus most likely not aware of the transformation taking place in his own understanding of who Christ is, what the purpose of His coming was, and what role he, Peter, must take on in the spiritual battle that is raging on this planet.

It is a similar transformation that each of us as a born-again Christian must encounter if we are to be effective in Christian service.

We can learn MUCH from Peter's journey from his just being in the battle wielding a sword at the wrong time in the wrong place to the eventual status of a War Hero accomplishing spiritual victories using the right weapons of warfare for his assignment in the Lord's Army.

Two books of the New Testament are given his name; he raises people from the dead in the book of Acts, and dies a martyr's death as an elderly man.

### Know your enemy:

*Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:*

### THERE IS NO DOUBT WHO THE ENEMY OF SIMON PETER WAS.

And as you might imagine, Peter is the disciple that penned these words as he neared the end of his lifetime:

*1 Peter 5:8*

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

**Informational side note:** *There is speculation that Peter died by crucifixion. Several writings of the time period indicate that Peter was crucified upside down. One writer indicates Peter's wife was killed along side of him.*

*All we have to go on for sure is what Jesus said to Peter: John 21:18-19*

*18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.*

*19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.*

Peter writes that you must be consistently focused on this spiritual warfare because your adversary is always waiting to take advantage of any opportunity to pounce. This was certainly his personal experience. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he penned this for our information and as a warning.

## **THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS US THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE DISTINCT SPIRITUAL ENEMIES.**

- **The World**

*1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.*

*James 4:4b ... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

“The world” means this present system of evil round about us. This includes the evil people of the world, as well as the things of the world.

- **The Flesh**

*Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

*Galatians 6:8*

*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

The Bible teaches that the flesh is fallen human nature, the carnal nature that natural men and women have inherited from their fallen parents. The flesh is a bigger enemy to us personally than the world.

- **The Devil**

*2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*

*1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

The Bible tells us Satan sometimes appears as an angel of light, not as an evil character in a red suit with a pitchfork. No, he is disguised as a saint, as a do-gooder, as a “being” or an “organization” going about doing good while telling the same old half-truths about God and His Word. He especially delights in confusing the brethren as well as discouraging the lost from coming to the Savior.

At other times he appears as a roaring lion, seeking to destroy all that Jesus has already accomplished. He may come in disguised to destroy the local church congregation or he may come in amongst the terrorist cells and seek to simply destroy life and bring destruction.

But anyway he comes, he is real, not a fairy tale.

### **Trail Markers to Discuss:**

Take each highlighted sentence and use as a discussion point asking some of these questions:

- Can you think of where this can apply to you today? Right now at this point in your life?
- Refer to: [War Heroes 2-Adult Wranglers Workbook](#)

## Weapons of Warfare [Lesson 2 of 2]



**Scripture:** *2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;...*

*Ephesians 6:12 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.*

*John 18:10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.*

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### Common Weapons of Spiritual warfare:

#### JUST BECAUSE YOU PICK OUT A WEAPON, DOES NOT MAKE IT THE WEAPON OF CHOICE FOR THE JOB.

Just because you throw a saddle on a horse, doesn't make it the right saddle for the job or the horse or the rider for that matter. An English saddle won't get the job done at a roping; and a heavy western saddle won't get the job done at a jumping either. You have to have the right weapon for the task at hand. So, how do you know how to handle the battle, the enemy? What is the right approach?

#### YOU MAY BE CALLED ON TO ACT QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY; THERE MAY NOT BE A LOT OF TIME TO PONDER YOUR REACTION WHEN ATTACKED. YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE.

When under attack I have witnessed some poor choices of weapons as well as correct choices.

- **The Tongue**

*James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!*

*Romans 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:*

*James 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

When attacked, the normal [flesh] first reaction is to lash back.

Indeed, having been attacked on more than one occasion by the flapping lying tongue of a "fellow believer," I can tell you that restraining from using this weapon against the very weapon that has attacked, takes character, discipline, and practice at restraint.

Prayer is the answer to this kind of attack. Sincerely seeking God's will for your reaction is the only viable answer.

*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

**Personal side note:** Personally, we have practiced the restraint response from the early beginnings of our lay ministry. Consistently God has answered us with a definite directional answer on "what to do" when we have prayed and fasted.

Responding as if "the battle is the Lord's" and not a personal battle has repeatedly led us into better situations whether that was to physically move to a different place of service or to sit and wait on the Lord's open doors. We can testify that the Biblical response has always brought us into the exact place at the exact time that God had in mind.

If you are serving the Lord and seeing souls saved, you will come under attack. Rarely will the attack be directed at your ministry as often as it will be at you. Respond correctly.

## **BUT TONGUE FOR TONGUE IS NOT AN OPTION FOR THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN.**

- **Influence**

*Psalm 1*

*1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

*2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

*3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

*4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

*5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

*6 For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

The influence or the peer pressure to belong for personal approval, can lead you to be disobedient and drag others along with you as well.

OR the influence to do right because it is right and because you want to please the Lord can be a powerful correct weapon of choice.

- **The Pulpit**

*1 Peter 5:1-4 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

*1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*

*1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

Now, this is a curious thing to list under weapons of warfare. But I have seen this used and misused in my years of experience. And as a result, you need to be exhorted to beware of this weapon of warfare.

## **JUST BECAUSE A PERSON STANDS IN A PULPIT AND SAYS THAT HE IS DECLARING WHAT GOD HAS SAID, DOES NOT MAKE THAT SO.**

The Word of God is always true; but you should know the scriptures well enough by your own Bible study habits and by your right relationship with the Holy Spirit of God in order to discern truth from falsehood or even preference when you hear it.

*1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

The Pulpit can be used as a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare to convict, to bless, to exhort. But it is also used to belittle and to confuse. Be aware, study the Word. Rely on the Holy Spirit.

- **The Sword**

*1 Samuel 17:47 And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.*

*John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

*1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

*1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

*1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

*Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.*

Peter started out impulsive in his choice of weapons. He attacked with the sword in the Garden. But in just a few short years you see him matured as a Christian leader. He no longer is speaking before he thinks, and that assuredly took some effort on his part as he was prone to speaking his mind.

Peter became a decisive forceful influential individual whom we still read today and can point to him as an example of learning self-control, a man who completely trusted Jesus Christ at His Word, and also a man that recovered from blunders made early in his Christian life.

### **Peter's advice concerning Effective Weapons of Warfare:**

*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 ;)*

And in Peter's own words:

*1 Peter 5:8-10 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

### **Conclusion: ARE YOU IN THE BATTLE?**

Most of this lesson has been directed at the born-again child of God. If you have never accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior then you are not even in this battle.

That may sound like a relief to some, but the truth of the matter is the unsaved are not in the battle because they are dead. Spiritually dead!

*1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

And speaking to the saved Paul said: *Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

Do you know Him? Or are you without Christ? Are you in the battle?

### **Trail Markers to Discuss:**

Take each highlighted sentence and use as a discussion point asking some of these questions:

- Can you think of where this can apply to you today? Right now at this point in your life?
- Refer to: [War Heroes 2-Adult Wranglers Workbook](#)