

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 discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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 or to get into a fight to defend the Lord.

Peter spent over three years traveling with Jesus, learning and observing everything that He did. This experience was changing Peter in many ways as well as making him into the man he needed to be so that he could handle the job that Jesus had for Peter to do.

It is a similar transformation that each of us as a born-again Christian must have 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 end result of his status as 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. He became who God wanted him to become. Will you?

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:

TEACHER side note:

We have an Excalibur sword that we use often in these messages. If you have access to a sword; then this is a great message to use it with. A visual goes a long way in focusing this age group.

Suggested visuals: Sword and a Bible

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

Present the plan of salvation weekly.

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. It is EASY to get caught up in the world.

While there is nothing wrong with ball teams, roping events, or sports in and of themselves, they all too quickly lead us into a “world” thinking mentality where these things mean more to us, and achievement in these things means more to us, and attendance and loyalty to a “team” means more to us, rather than the things of God.

- **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.

When you consistently disobey parents or leadership; when you have a bad spirit and attitude, this is what the Bible means by the “flesh” being our enemy. Our sin nature is a continual battle.

- **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.

Conclusion: ARE YOU IN THE BATTLE?

The unsaved are not even 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? [Present Salvation here.]

Activity: Refer to: *War Heroes 2-Wranglers Workbook*

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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? A prayerful lifestyle is one of the best choices. Consistent PERSONAL prayer whether it is once the lights are out and you are lying on your bed or if it's the first thing you do when you wake up or both times, will lead you to live with a more sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's nudges.

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 [SNAKES] 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.

I have been attacked on more than one occasion by the flapping lying tongue of a "friend." You will be, too.

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. How would God have you answer? Sometimes the answer is, not at all.

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.

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

- **Influence**

Psalm 1: 1-2 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.

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.

READ YOUR BIBLE.

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 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.

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.

No longer is he speaking before he thinks, and that assuredly took some effort on his part as he was prone to speaking his mind.

No longer is he trying to use a sharp sword to defend the Lord, but instead he is using the Word of God and the power that God gives.

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.

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;*

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Activity:

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