



# Spiritual Warfare: Pulling Down Strongholds

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6  
LESSON 3 – THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE  
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# Weapons of Our Warfare

- ▶ 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

# Weapons of Our Warfare

- ▶ Wars throughout history have been fought and won based on a nation's strength, the power of their weapons, and with overwhelming numbers.
- ▶ However, when it comes to spiritual warfare, fleshly (carnal) strength and numbers matter little and will not influence the outcome of battles. In fact, it is often turned to the ebonies advantage to have so many engaged in fighting while unaware of who or what they are actually warring against.
- ▶ Zechariah 4:6 "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts."
- ▶ Therefore, we must start by understanding that we have been given weapons, but they are not fleshly, carnal weapons. The reason of course that carnal weapons will not work is that we are not fighting flesh and blood.

# The Real Enemy

- ▶ Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

# Principalities

- ▶ Principalities: arkase – prefix arch, suffix archy.
- ▶ “One who enjoys preeminence; one assigned a position or sphere of activity; ruler; domain; jurisdiction.”
- ▶ 1 Cor. 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.
- ▶ Col. 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

# Powers

- ▶ Powers – exoosia – “authority, right, authorized”, to have the right to speak or act in a situation without looking for approval.
- ▶ Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,
- ▶ Where does the authority come from? Col. 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

# Rulers of the Darkness of this Age

- ▶ Rulers – kosmokratoras – world rulers, having power over the world.
- ▶ Darkness – skatous – absence of light, realm of evil, moral and spiritual darkness.
- ▶ Age – aion – a period of time.
- ▶ Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

# Spiritual Hosts of Wickedness in the Heavenly Places

- ▶ Spiritual hosts – pneumatika – pertaining to the spiritual, powers not in harmony with Divine interest
- ▶ Wickedness – ponareia – malicious; a hurtful, scheming mindset.
- ▶ Heavenlies – epouranious – celestial as opposed to terrestrial base of operations.
- ▶ 1 Cor. 15:40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.
- ▶ Phil. 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,



# Our Enemy is Spiritual

- ▶ Our weapons are not earthly or fleshly because our enemy is not earthly or fleshly. Our enemy is the devil and demons. Hence our need for protection against the “wiles of the devil.”
- ▶ Revelation 12:3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. 5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.
- ▶ Rev. 12:9 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

# Our Weapons

- ▶ God's Armor
- ▶ Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 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—

# The Belt of Truth

- ▶ Holding it all together
- ▶ Girding Up Our Loins - mind, prepared, alert - 1 Pet 1:13
- ▶ He brought us forth by the word of truth - James 1:18
- ▶ The Law of the converts the soul - Ps 19:7; Rom 1:16-17
- ▶ The Word of God is True - John 17:17; Ps 119:160; 1 John 5:20
- ▶ God is True - Father, Son, & Spirit - John 15:26; 16:13; 14:6; Titus 1:1-2

# The Breastplate of Righteousness

- ▶ Where Does Righteousness Come From? - Phil 3:1-15
- ▶ 1) Imputed Righteousness - Rom 4:6, 11, 22-24; 2 Cor 5:21 (Our Position in the Lord)
- ▶ 2) Imparted Righteousness - Eph 4:17-27; Col 3:9-14 (Our Practice in Life)
- ▶ How Does Righteousness Manifest Itself?
- ▶ 1) Will power - Phil 2:12-13
- ▶ 2) Works - holiness - Eph 2:10; Eph 4:25-32; Rom 6:1-2, 11-13

# The Shoes of Readiness

- ▶ Cleats! Sandals or boots, with shin guards and leather straps - won't slip off, grip the ground, dig , covered with metal - protect from strikes
- ▶ Readiness (prepared) - are we ready?
- ▶ 1) Ready to Suffer - Acts 21:13
- ▶ 2) Ready to Give - 1 Tim 6:18
- ▶ 3) Ready for Every Good Work - Titus 3:1
- ▶ 4) Ready to Preach - Rom 1:15; 2 Tim 4:2
- ▶ 5) Ready to Give an Answer - 1 Peter 3:15
- ▶ 6) Ready for Christ's Coming - Matt 24:44
- ▶ 7) Readiness is Context - are we prepared to use the gospel?

# The Shield of Faith

- ▶ Quench All the Fiery Darts of the Wicked One
- ▶ 1. Fiery Darts - flaming arrows, a barrage to drive us back, burn us, wound us, or kill us
- ▶ 2. Temptations - accuse, bait, confuse, doubt - *Every temptation starts with a doubt about God's Character or Word*
- ▶ 3. Overview of Doubts - Matt 4; 1 John 2:15-17
- ▶ a. Jesus was tempted to doubt His Father's Provision, Protection, and Plan
- ▶ b. Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes, Pride of Life
- ▶ 4. Affecting Everything We Are - (heart, soul, mind, strength) - Mark 12:29-30
- ▶ a. Heart - Imaginations
- ▶ b. Soul - Emotion/Feeling
- ▶ c. Mind - Thoughts
- ▶ d. Strength - Desire/Lust of the Flesh

# The Shield of Faith

- ▶ The Wicked One
- ▶ a. The Devil is an Intelligent, Spiritual, and Personal Being
- ▶ b. The Demons are too
- ▶ c. These spiritual hosts of wickedness influence, tempt, possess, oppress, accuse, confuse, and harass people
- ▶ d. There is no such thing as abstract evil (it is not just a concept or an abstraction of morality)
- ▶ e. Evil originates from a personal being influencing other personal beings

# The Shield of Faith

- ▶ How Do We Take Up the Shield of Faith?
- ▶ 1. "The quick application of what we believe as an answer to everything the Devil hurls at us." - Lloyd-Jones
- ▶ 2. O Ye of Little Faith - Take God at His Word and Remember what He has done in the past
- ▶ 3. Faith as a Mustard Seed - A Little Dab'll Do Ya
- ▶ 4. I Believe; Help My Unbelief
- ▶ a. Do we doubt God's Word? Read it, memorize/meditate on it
- ▶ b. Do we doubt God (His Character)? Spend time with Him in prayer and the Word (with fasting if necessary)
- ▶ c. Don't depend on your faith - depend on Christ, trust Him!
- ▶ Gen 15:1; Psalm 18:30; Prov 30:5; 1 John 5:4



# The Helmet of Salvation

- ▶ Why Do We Need the Helmet? - Psalm 73
- ▶ 1. Discouragement - this is in vain - 1 Cor 15:9-11, 50-58
- ▶ 2. Doubt - lack of assurance - Heb 6:9-11
- ▶ 3. Temptation to Give Up
  - ▶ a) Give Up Hope - Ps 42:5; Prov 13:12; Rom 5:1-5
  - ▶ b) Give Up on Faith - Eph 3:8-13
  - ▶ c) Give Up on Love - 1 Cor 13:4-8
  - ▶ d) Give Up on the Church - Gal 6:6-10; 1 John 3:1-3

# The Helmet of Salvation

- ▶ What is the Helmet? The Helmet of Salvation
- ▶ 1. Saved, being saved, will be saved - Rom 8:28-30
- ▶ 2. Saved From
  - ▶ a) Sin - Rom 6:6-7, 14
  - ▶ b) Death - Rom 6:8-9, 23
  - ▶ c) Wrath (Hell) - Rom 5:9, 18-19; 8:1
  - ▶ d) Bondage - Rom 6:17-18
  - ▶ e) Self - Rom 7:15-25
- ▶ 3. Saved To
  - ▶ a) Eternal Life - John 3:16; Eph 2:1
  - ▶ b) Good Works - Eph 2:10
  - ▶ c) To Fellowship - Eph 2:19-22
  - ▶ d) To Carry Out a Mission - Matt 28:19-20
  - ▶ e) To His Glory and Good Pleasure - Luke 12:32; Eph 1:5, 9

# The Helmet of Salvation

- ▶ How do we take up the helmet?
  - ▶ 1. Believe - Col 2:6 - by faith
  - ▶ 2. Walk in the Spirit - Gal 5:16-25
    - ▶ a) In the Flesh vs. In the Spirit
    - ▶ b) Crucify the Flesh
    - ▶ c) Do not become Conceited
  - ▶ 3. Be Filled with the Spirit - Eph 5:17-21
    - ▶ a) Indwelling vs. Filling - Eph 1:13-14; Acts 4:31
    - ▶ b) Drunk vs filled - intoxicated, influence and control
    - ▶ c) Fruit of Filling is Worship
  - ▶ 4. Do Not Lose Heart - Lk 18:1-8
  - ▶ 5. Expect the Second Coming (glorification) - Rom 13:11; 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11; 2 Tim 4:8; Titus 2:13

# The Sword of the Spirit

- ▶ The Character and Quality of the Sword
- ▶ a. Inspired - God breathed - 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21
- ▶ b. Infallible - without error on the whole - Psalm 19:7-11
- ▶ c. Inerrant - without error in its parts - Prov 30:5-6; Matt 5:18
- ▶ d. Complete - Rev 22:18-19
- ▶ e. Authoritative - Jeremiah 2:4
- ▶ f. Sufficient - 2 Tim 3:17
- ▶ g. Effective - Isaiah 55:11; 1 Thess 2:13

# The Sword of the Spirit

- ▶ The Sword our Source
- ▶ a. Of Truth - John 17:17
- ▶ b. Of Happiness - Prov 8:34; Luke 11:28
- ▶ c. Of Power - Hebrews 4:12
- ▶ d. Of Growth - 1 Peter 2:2
- ▶ e. Of Guidance - Psalm 119:105
- ▶ f. Of Comfort - Romans 15:4
- ▶ g. Of Victory - Eph 6:17

# The Sword of the Spirit

- ▶ How Do We Use the Sword?
  - ▶ a. Read It
  - ▶ b. Listen to It
  - ▶ c. Memorize It
  - ▶ d. Pray It
  - ▶ e. Sing It
  - ▶ f. Meditate Upon It
  - ▶ g. Know It
  - ▶ h. Obey It (Do It)

# Our Mindset and Attitude

- ▶ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...
- ▶ Humble dependence upon and faith in Christ is necessary if we are to PUT ON CHRIST!
- ▶ MLJ said, “You cannot fight the devil with philosophy, you cannot fight him with idealism, you cannot fight him with anything but with the truth of God which is provided for us. But the point is that you cannot fight the devil even with orthodox doctrine if you are attempting to do so in your own strength and power.”

# Our Mindset and Attitude

- ▶ “There is such a thing as dead orthodoxy. It is possible for a Christian to be perfectly orthodox and yet to be defeated, and to be living a defeated and a useless life. He understands the truth with his mind, he knows it, he can point out the errors in other people's teaching; and yet his life is of no value to anyone, because he is being defeated by the devil. A mere intellectual acquaintance with the truth, though it is absolutely essential, cannot guard us against defeat.
- ▶ “We are utterly dependent upon God and upon the Lord Jesus Christ; and we must realize that if we do not remain in constant contact and communion with God, whatever we may have done by way of putting on the armour will avail us nothing. We must ever maintain this essential intimate relationship with God. Let us never forget that in the Christian life prayer is essential.”



# Our Mindset and Attitude

- ▶ “Our ultimate position as Christians is tested by the character of our prayer life. It is more important than knowledge and understanding. If all my knowledge does not lead me to prayer there is something wrong somewhere. The value of the knowledge is that it gives me such an understanding of the value of prayer that I devote time to prayer, and delight in prayer. If it does not produce these results in my life, there is something wrong and spurious about it, or else I am handling it in a wrong manner.”
- ▶ Sermon Series: The Whole Armor of God - <https://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?seriesOnly=true&currSection=sermonstopic&sourceid=timeintheword&keyword=The+Whole+Armor+of+God&keyworddesc=The+Whole+Armor+of+God>
- ▶ Next week: Lesson 4 – Casting Down Arguments