



Spiritual Warfare: Pulling Down Strongholds

PSALM 127:3-5

LESSON 18 – WARRIOR AND HIS ARROWS

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From Sword to Arrows

- ▶ Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.
- ▶ This is how God views children. He has already told us in Psalm 127 that a family is a blessing that He gives as He chooses and now we see how specific this is – He gives children as a blessing. There are two things we need to understand here, first, what it means that children are a heritage, and secondly, what it means that they are a reward.
- ▶ Children we are told in this verse are our heritage from the Lord. We first note that the heritage comes from the Lord. There is no other place to get it or find it. God gives children as a heritage and a reward. The word heritage refers to a number of things. It can mean:
 - ▶ 1. Something passed down through generations
 - ▶ 2. A possession or inheritance – property, share, portion
 - ▶ 3. What you leave when you leave

Generations

- ▶ To understand the term we must look past our immediate family. This has at its core a generational view. We must look far past ourselves. How sad it is that the things that influence us the most about our view of children all revolve around self. We give little thought for the long term impact we can make through the generations of our family and our church and instead we think only of ourselves. God views children through the lens of generations and wisdom is seeing these things from His perspective.
- ▶ Often the things that are passed down generationally in the Bible are negative things, like propensity for sins and sin patterns. Yet God gives us children so that good things might be passed down. This involves more than possessions given as part of an inheritance. It goes straight to the truth of what we leave when we leave – what will be left after us when we go on to be with Jesus in glory? Our family. Our children. Our grandchildren. These things will go on after us and will either enhance and continue our influence for the Kingdom of God or they will destroy what we have done and bring sorrow and pain to others.

Generations

- ▶ The most important thing we can leave when we leave is changed lives – not stuff, but saints! Disciples! Part of our inheritance given to us by God as He prospers us is our children. Do we view our children as God giving us an inheritance – something of value to be passed down through the generations for the benefit of the family and church?
- ▶ Every child is given by God. Every child is conceived by God, crafted in the womb by God, brought to delivery by God. And every child is a blessing from His hand, an inheritance with which we will either bless or curse the world depending on how we teach and train that child.
- ▶ Looking at this verse, He even refers to children as a “reward.” A reward is a favor, not a penalty. Children are gifts of God’s grace! But do we see God’s viewpoint? He gives children as a blessing. Why then would we think that children are a burden, a curse, or an accident? Is there such a thing as an “unwanted blessing” or a “rejected reward”? But then, how often do we as fallen human beings reject the grace and blessing of God choosing instead to embrace our self-indulgent sins and sorrows?

Arrows in the hand of a Warrior

- ▶ Psalm 127:4-5 – Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.
- ▶ The Bible talks about children in terms of arrows, enemies, and elders. Our children are weapons in spiritual warfare! They are arrows to be fashioned and used in spiritual battle, launched against the world, the flesh, and the devil. This gives us an illustration that shows us that we have a three-fold duty to our children as we receive them as gifts and rewards from God. If we understand God's purpose for children then we will follow His Word in order to 1) fashion them, 2) aim them, and 3) let them go, thereby make a lasting impact for the Kingdom of God and a lasting name in the community.

Arrows in the hand of a Warrior

- ▶ Fashion Them
- ▶ How we view and accept our children will have direct bearing on the way in which we train and discipline them. If we believe that children are a burden and that discipline is simply a tool to make them conform their outward behavior to acceptable social norms then we miss the whole point that our children are given as blessings by God to be fashioned and molded and taught to further the Kingdom of God of His glory. Parents are responsible to take the blessings that God gives them and use them for a maximum impact for the gospel on the world as good stewards over creation.

Arrows in the hand of a Warrior

- ▶ Aim Them
- ▶ In having a proper view of children we see that we must aim them. We must give them direction. In order to do this we must be sensitive to God's working in the lives of our children. What is He doing in them and through them? What plans does He have for them? How has He gifted and called them? This does not mean that we decide for our children what they will be "when they grow up." It means that we equip them to be godly and holy as they grow up.
- ▶ An arrow in a quiver that is not taken up and aimed is useless in battle. We must learn to fashion and aim our children so that God is able to use them to further the gospel. We do not just give them goals, or an aim – we actively aim them!

Arrows in the hand of a Warrior

- ▶ Let Them Go
- ▶ Again, an arrow left in the quiver, or held in the bow, is ineffective in battle. The arrow must be fashioned, aimed, and released in order to strike its target. Our children must be trained in such a way that when it is time for them to be released we know that they have been God's all along and that we have simply been used to prepare them for effective use in His hands.
- ▶ Notice, by the way, that the man who has a quiver full of arrows is happy! This means he is contagiously rejoicing. A man and woman who are allowing God to build their family and who are resting in Him, who receive blessings of grace from His hand accepting them for what they are and purposing to fashion and use them according to the Word of God will be happy – full of joy. Life then has abundant meaning and usefulness.
- ▶ Those who are raising a godly family also will not be ashamed. Literally, this means that life will not be wasted. They will influence people, many of whom they will never meet. Their life and the lives of their children will impact even the lives of the enemies of the gospel.

Arrows in the hand of a Warrior

- ▶ How many people seem so depressed and think their lives are so unfulfilling? And they refuse to have a family. They reject marriage and children as if either were a hindrance to their personal goals and ambitions. No wonder they feel the way they do – true and lasting joy is found in resting safely in God's will as He builds our family for a multi-generational impact on the world around us.
- ▶ We must take our eyes off of ourselves and allow the Spirit of God to reset our vision to see God's purpose for children and the family. We must willingly and gladly embrace His calling and purposes by working with Him instead of against Him when it comes to rejoicing in the blessings He plans for us. Are we living and believing that God will build our family? Are we willing to let Him? Do we view children as a blessing, a reward, and an arrow to be raised for the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel in this fallen world? Do we understand God's purpose for children?

How Are Children Like Arrows?

- ▶ Proverbs 1:7 The **fear of the Lord** is the beginning of **knowledge**, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- ▶ Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck. 10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent.
- ▶ Proverbs 1:15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, keep your foot from their path; 16 For their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood.
- ▶ Proverbs 2:1 My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, 2 So that you incline your ear to **wisdom**, and apply your heart to **understanding**; 3 Yes, if you cry out for **discernment**, and lift up your voice for **understanding**,

How Are Children Like Arrows?

- ▶ Proverbs 2:10 When **wisdom** enters your heart, and **knowledge** is pleasant to your soul, 11 **Discretion** will preserve you; **understanding** will keep you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things, 13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness;
- ▶ Proverbs 2:20 So you may walk in the way of **goodness**, and keep to the paths of **righteousness**. 21 For the **upright** will dwell in the land, and the **blameless** will remain in it;
- ▶ Proverbs 3:1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

How Are Children Like Arrows?

- ▶ Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.
- ▶ Proverbs 3:21 My son, let them not depart from your eyes— Keep sound wisdom and discretion; 22 So they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. 23 Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble.
- ▶ Proverbs 4:1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; 2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. 3 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. 5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

How Are Children Like Arrows?

- ▶ Proverbs 4:20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.
- ▶ Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
- ▶ **Through your children you have the potential to affect and influence generations to come in the church and in the world!**

Next Week

- ▶ Lesson 19 – Prayer and Fasting
- ▶ Matthew 17:21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”