
INSIGHTS INTO SPIRITUAL WARFARE PART 2

DEFENSIVE SPIRITUAL WARFARE:



WRESTLING: THE NATURE OF OUR WARFARE


- Eph. 6:12—“We wrestle...NAS—For our struggle is not against flesh and blood”
 - two-way player, basketball, soccer
 - “wrestling” – root word--to sway back and forth – is very intense form of combat in which each opponent tries to push the other off his stance and take him down—quickly switches from defense to offence –
 - same in spiritual warfare – play both offence and defense, must be good at both

DEFENSIVE KEY: RESISTANCE—WE OPPOSE THE OPPOSER, RESIST THE RESISTER; RESISTANCE IS BOTH OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE

- James 4:7—“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary (enemy), the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in faith...”
- Eph. 6:13—“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, so stand firm.” Context: other synonyms for “opposing forcefully”


THE SPIRITUAL POSTURE OF RESISTANCE


- Gr anthistemi – anti—against; histemi—to stand (lit., to uphold the authority or force of something)
- “to oppose, stand against, withstand, stand one’s ground—refuse to be moved, i.e. to be pushed back; military term – to take a firm stand against/strongly withstand the attacks of an opponent

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- Pieces of the armor, Eph. 6:14-17—all are aspects of Christ in and upon us
 - we are “clothed with Christ” “Christ in us”—all pieces of the armor are switched on/maintained by prayer
 - Each armor piece protects against a specific enemy weapon—truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, word of God

DEFENSIVE WARFARE EXAMPLE:



- Jesus Matt. 4:1-11
- 3 temptations
- 3 uses of the “sword of the Spirit”
- 3 defeats of temptation’s power
- 1 devil flees
- (many) angels arrive to serve Jesus

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- The Weapons of Our Spiritual Warfare/Resistance (2 Co. 10:4):
 - Acquired Knowledge of Devil's Strategies (Eph. 6:11 "schemes/designs") and pre-emptive warfare to defeat them – 2 universal ones –
 - 1) Hindrance/prevention—
 - 2) Retaliation/counterattack
 - How to defeat both: Pre-emptively pray against each, then continue to move forward, protected – "No weapon formed against me will succeed" – Isaiah 54:17

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- Pre-emptive praying—See specific enemy strategies not yet launched, then binding (cancelling) the enemy’s authority via authoritative prayer
 - Praying By Releasing The Power of The Word:
Proclaiming/Confessing/Declaring Scripture— Ps. 103:20--As we “give voice” to God’s word – God releases angelic activity “...angels...obeying the “voice” (the sound) of His word.”
 - Angels are triggered into action by our declaration of “Spirit-given” scriptures

PRAYING IN THE NAME (AUTHORITY) OF JESUS, BY THE POWER OF HIS BLOOD

- His Name--Phil. 2:10—So, in honor of the (authority) in the name of Jesus, all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will bow their knees...”
- His Authority--Luke 10:19—“Pay attention to this: I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy...”
- His Blood--Rev. 12:11—“They defeated Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony (speaking the truth/declaring scriptures)

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- Praying Without Ceasing, with Persistence/Continuality: our persistence must match the enemy's persistence – no daily/weekly vacations – “we pray to avoid temptation's power” (Lord's Prayer—a daily prayer) – how long warfare: every day
 - Pray pre-emptively– “See then Strike”
 - Prayer Shield Support – Daily Covering (1 Thess. 5:17)
 - Colossians 4:2—(big 3) “Devote yourselves (give yourselves continually) to prayer. Stay alert (on the watch as a soldier is on the lookout for enemies), and remain thankful.”