

WARRING SPIRITUALLY

How to Beat What Comes Against You

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- I. The Stance of Firm Resolve. *(disc 1)*
 - A. Introduction:
 1. “Warring Spiritually”—a way of standing/living that effects a change
 2. Vs. “Spiritual Warfare”— a list of things we do to effect a change.
 - B. *Posture We Take Vs. Exercises We Do.*
 1. Resist what the enemy is doing.
 2. Embrace what God is doing.
 - C. Avoid Extremes Regarding Demonic Activity; It’s Everywhere, But It Doesn’t Explain Everything.
 - D. Adopt a Posture of *Warring Spiritually*.
 - E. Four Misconceptions or Distortions That We as Believers Might Fall Into:
 1. Misunderstanding the nature—and the power—of the enemies that are against us.
 - a. Satan isn’t everywhere at once.
 - b. Satan isn’t all-powerful.
 - c. Satan doesn’t know everything.

2. Misunderstanding the nature of the different conflicts we experience in life.
 - a. Not everything is a demonic attack; obedience has its blessings and disobedience has its consequences.
 - b. Tendency to use the natural to explain away the spiritual.
 - c. *Our own voice* (spiritual temptations, whispers of the demonic) can be used against us.
3. Misunderstanding the nature **and use** of the spiritual weapons that God has placed in our hands.
 - a. Basic patterns of living in the Scriptures: seek first what God wants.
 - b. Reading our Bible will allow His word to preserve us.
 - c. Make the way out of temptation.
 - d. Take our thoughts captive.
4. Misunderstanding the nature of the victory that God wants to give us.
 - a. It's not just about being happy; it's about being changed through the process.
 - b. Our victory is for others, not only for ourselves.
 - c. Our call in life is hard (Ephesians 6:10).
 - d. Be strengthened in the Lord during our weakness.

II. The Nature of Our Enemies / Our Struggles. *(disc 2)*

A. The World = The Way Things Are Now, Broken.

1. The introduction of sin brought brokenness.

2. Many of the experiences we have are a result of this chaos.
- B. Our Flesh—It’s a Problem (Matthew 26:41) (Galatians 6:7) (Romans 8:6-8).
1. It’s weak.
 2. When in charge, it sets itself up against our spirit.
- C. Sin—A Force Crouching at the Door of Our Heart Wanting to Consume Us (Genesis 4: 7; John 8:34; Romans 5:21).
1. Flesh is drawn to sin.
 2. Sin moves toward flesh.
 3. Sin is the active element in the erosion of our lives.
- D. *Satan*—Means “Adversary” or “Opponent”; He Seeks to Do Us Harm.
- E. Demonic Forces (Beings):
1. We can stand against the schemes (methods, traps, ambush) of the devil.
 2. We struggle, wrestle (seek to gain an advantage) against the enemy.
- F. Defining Our Battle.
1. *Principalities*—arch (chief, foremost) angel: rule over (Romans 8: 38 & Colossians 2: 15).
 2. *Powers*—Spiritual influences—Spiritual jurisdiction; power over a particular geography, culture, and philosophy (Colossians 2:15 & Ephesians 3:10).
 3. *World Forces/world rulers*—take advantage of how the world is vulnerable and how it has been “messed up” to impose their will. Just as every “new idea” in this world has come to pass with much struggle, so too we will wrestle to bring the gospel to the world.

- a. Spiritual wickedness—depravity, malice, plots, sins—that which is evil and hurtful in effect or influence.
4. Demons & Spirits.
- a. Have specific assignments:
 - i) To move you into a different future than God has for you.
 - ii) Over regions or countries: culture, “vibes”, and atmosphere.
 - iii) To enter a person.
 - iv) To introduce heresies: cults, false teachings.
 - v) To imitate the voices of the dead.
 - b. Some particular personalities or attributes of demonic spirits:
 - i) Infirmary.
 - ii) Divination.
 - iii) Fainting.
 - iv) Various addictions.
5. Vulnerabilities of demons and spirits.
- a. They are meant to be opposed.
 - b. God has given us weapons designed to defeat them.
 - c. Our free will.
 - d. God’s plan is for *them* to be defeated, not us.

III. Truth, Righteousness and Repentance (Ephesians 6: 13-15) as weapons of warfare.

A. Review of Teaching.

B. *Truth*: Protect our Vitals with His Truth.

C. *Breastplate of Righteousness*—Desiring His judgment (Psalm 97:2), knowing that our heart is deceitful. (Jeremiah 17:9).

1. Integrity of heart: choosing God's way in advance.

2. Our heart can easily fool us with the strength of our feelings.

3. Has its own logic to "do right in our own eyes."

D. *Feet Shod in Preparation*—Make Ready the Way of God (Mark 1:1-4).

1. Walk in attitude of repentance, exchanging (converting) what is wrong to what's right. To have remorse, sorrow. To reconsider our thoughts and ways. The act of repentance helps us identify our sins, which leads us to see what we're fighting against.

2. Righteous not Religious.

3. A willingness to be wrong—"I'm wrong, Lord. Show me how to be right."

IV. Being Tooled For The Struggle (Ephesians 6:12-14; 2 Corinthians 10:1-6). *(disc 3)*

A. Spiritual Warfare Can Have the Trap of Legalism Attached to It.

B. Choose God's Way.

C. 2 Corinthians 10:1-6—Paul's Correction: Leading People Into the Way of Life.

1. Verse 4: these weapons are not natural.

2. Tools or devices of our trade.
3. Powerful to do three things:
 - a. Destroy fortresses (strongholds, bondage).
 - b. Destroy speculations (trying to figure things out on your own).
 - c. Take thoughts captive (honest feelings aren't always true feelings).
4. Truth is the #1 tool/device of our trade.
 - a. Obedience is when we get under and listen to something other than ourselves.
 - b. Our thinking: friend or foe.

V. Maneuvers of The Mind—Helmet of Salvation.

- A. Review of teaching.
- B. Helmet of Salvation, Old Testament definition: Deliverance, Aid, Victory, Prosperity, Health, Help, Welfare, and Defense.
 1. Scriptures; (Ps. 62:1, 149:4) (Isaiah 12:2-3, 26:3, 33:6, 59:16-17) (Luke 2:30, 3:6) (Acts 4:12) (1 Thessalonians 5:8) (2 Timothy 3:15) (Titus 2:11-12) (Romans 12:2, 8:5-7) (1Peter 1:13).
 - a. Psalm 62:1—My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation.
 - b. Psalm 149:4—For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.
 - c. Isaiah 12:2-3—Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation. Therefore you will joyously draw water From the springs of salvation.”

- d. Isaiah 26:3—The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You.
 - e. Isaiah 33:6—And He will be the stability of your times, a wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; The fear of the LORD is his treasure.
 - f. Isaiah 59:16-17—And He saw that there was no man, And was astonished that there was no one to intercede; Then His own arm brought salvation to Him, And His righteousness upheld Him. He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; And He put on garments of vengeance for clothing And wrapped Himself with zeal as a mantle.
2. Helmet of Salvation, New Testament definition: deliver, protect, heal, preserve, make well, make whole, make safe.
- a. Luke 2:30—For my eyes have seen Your salvation.
 - b. Luke 3:6—AND ALL FLESH WILL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.
 - c. Acts 4:12—And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 5:8—But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation
 - e. 2 Timothy 3:15—From childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - f. Titus 2:11, 12—For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.

- g. Romans 2:12—And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- h. Romans 8:5-7—For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so.
- i. 1 Peter 1:13—Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

VI. Holding Your Position—Faith.

(disc 4)

- A. Review of teaching—Ways of Living, Ways of Thinking, Ways of Being; Life-Long Soldiers.
 - 1. Truth: God defines what is truth.
 - 2. Righteousness: The way things are supposed to be.
 - 3. Repentance: To exchange wrong ways/thinking for that which is right.
- B. Shield of Faith: Extinguishing the Flaming Darts of the Enemy (Ephesians 6:16).
 - 1. Faith as a way of life.
 - 2. Flaming darts are destructive.
- C. Faith—Believing Whatever God Says to You (Hebrews 11:6).
 - 1. Circumstances can challenge the truth that God has spoken to us.
 - 2. Our own conclusions will lead us to believe God's word is not trustworthy.

3. Other people can be persuasive counselors (Job).
 4. Faith is hard when life is hard; life's circumstances are persuasive.
- D. Believing God for the Next Step Helps Us for the Long Haul.
1. Listening to God's instruction for my next step can be more helpful than spending time trying to understand His long term promises for my life.
 2. With faith I can please God.
 3. Choose to live by faith, not sight.
 4. The righteous live by faith; repentance is part of the process.
- E. Faith Extinguishes the Enemy's Darts (Psalm 7:14).
1. Travails in wickedness.
 - a. Travails: to bind someone with, or wrapped up in.
 - b. Wickedness: an exerting of oneself in vain, with no purpose.
 - c. Conceives mischief—Worry of mind or body, a wearing down.
 - d. Brings forth falsehood (John 8:42): believe an alternative future other than the one God has for us.
- F. (I Peter 5:6-11) Humble Ourselves, Cast Our Anxiety Upon the Lord.
1. God will exalt you at the proper time.
 2. He cares for you.
 3. Resist the enemy—others are suffering too.
 4. He Himself will perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

- a. Perfect—to mature, more complete, wholeness
- b. Confirm – to stand right there, not wavering in unbelief.
- c. Strengthen – to make stronger in faith and love.
- d. Establish –to cause to be; bring about.

VII. Parry or Perish: Using the Sword of the Spirit.

- A. The Word of God brings judgment (not condemnation), a sorting through, revelation; uncovers the riches of His inheritance and cleanses and makes things clear (John 8:31-45).
 1. Distinguishes that which is right and wrong.
 2. His word lets us in on what is going on.
- B. If You Abide (Stay) in God’s Word (John 8:31-45):
 1. You’ll be disciplined by Him.
 2. You’ll know the truth.
 3. You’ll be freed from sin—repaired, restored, made whole.
- C. Let His Word Make Progress in Your Life.
 1. Meditate on—let it sink in.
 2. Let it have its way with you.
- D. Hear His Word—“Lord, I Want to Pay Attention; I Want to Understand.”
- E. The Ability to Hear His Voice is a Good Test of My Relationship With Him.
- F. Try Studying Your Bible For 20 Minutes.

1. Underline any verse, phrase or word
 2. Think back on what you underlined
 3. Wait and be amazed:
 - a. At the wisdom it gives you.
 - b. At the direction the verses give you.
 - c. It answers questions you've had for a long time.
 - d. It will give you understanding.
- G. A Promise From the Word of God is a Fire and a Hammer (Jeremiah 23:29).
1. Fire to burn away things that don't belong.
 2. Hammer breaking through the hard places in life.

VIII. A Homemade Weapon: Our Free Choice.

(disc 5)

- A. Utilizing this Weapon Provides a Way of Escape.
- B. It's a Choice to Use It.
- C. (Romans 6:8-14).
 1. Romans—Concepts: Larger context—Philosophy of language—how everybody thinks about things.
 - a. Life existed prior to death, eternal life-boundaries, and commandments.
 - b. Death is defined in 2 ways:
 - i) A natural, temporal life.

- ii) A life outside eternal life.
- c. Sin is a force, power that has a desire to consume us; it's almost a personality.
- 2. Romans text—two kingdoms.
 - a. Sin reigns in the realm of death.
 - b. Grace reigns in the realm of eternal life.
 - c. We can't live in "life" until we die in "death"
- 3. Verse 8 —We are the life of God.
 - a. Life after death.
- 4. We don't have to obey sin; it's a choice.
- 5. We don't have to live in the realm of death because:
 - a. God always forgives.
 - b. There is a doorway to leave the realm of death and live in eternity.
 - c. We can choose to either obey sin or refuse sin as our master.
 - i) Sin desires to satisfy itself by using us.
 - ii) God and sin both ask something of us; each demands to be obeyed.
 - iii) Having my needs satisfied is a language of death; God won't allow anyone else to satisfy our needs except Him. That someone else becomes an idol in our life.
 - iv) Verse 13—live a different way of living—our being is an instrument for righteousness or unrighteousness

- v) Our will makes a choice to sin or not to sin.
 - a) “Lord I want your way.”
 - b) Incline our heart unto the Lord—live in the dimension of obedience.
 - c) Our choice is the homemade weapon.
 - d) We can always fall at the feet of Jesus: “Lord, be merciful to me.”
 - e) Be aware: sin will always give us opportunities to obey it.

D. Communion.

1. Provision for forgiveness and wholeness in the blood and in the body. The cup and the bread is also a provision for us to stop living in the realm of death and move into life.
 - a. Boundaries—keep us from going where we are not supposed to go.
 - b. Relinquish control—over situations, circumstances or a person.
 - c. Choices—Ask Him for the strength to make the right choices.

IX. For the Sake of Others—Praying in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18-20).

- A. A warfare that goes beyond do’s and don’ts.
- B. Ephesians 6:18-20—“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”
- C. Praying in the Spirit.

1. Deep—An unknown language.
 2. Holy Spirit directed.
- D. Prayer & Petitions defined:
1. Prayer—directed towards the Lord.
 - a. A longing or wish or desire directed to the Lord.
 2. Petitions—specific request to the Lord that we don't try to answer on our own.
 - a. The Lord is the only one who can answer.
 - b. Leave it at His feet and in his hands
- E. Pray at all time in the Spirit.
1. Purpose of the Spirit:
 - a. Leads us in truth.
 - b. Bring to our remembrance what Jesus has spoken.
 - c. Brings a maturity and growth.
 - d. Glorifies and exalts Jesus.
 2. Praying in Jesus' name.
 - a. Not vainly using "Jesus" for every third word.
 - b. Ask yourself: Is this what Jesus would pray for?
 - c. Praying all the time—When I pray, pray in the Spirit.

3. With this in view—be alert.
 - a. With all perseverance and petitions for the saints (others).
 - b. Not my own labors.
 - c. To have an alert perspective to pray for others.

- F. (Paul's example) Praying for Others By:
 1. Thanking God for that person; then we will get insight for them.
 2. Requesting that a person to be built-up and grow in God.