(14) Studies on the Holy Spirit

Spiritual Warfare (Part 2)

Divine Weaponry

**Weapons “Divinely Powerful…”**

**2 Cor. 10:3-5**

**3For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5***We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ…

**The Armor of God**

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

**10**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11**Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **12**For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **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, to stand firm. **14**Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15**and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16**in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. **17**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18**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.

* “Stand…Resist…Stand Firm”
* Belt of Truth
* Breastplate of Righteousness
* Foot Coverings of the Good News of Peace
* Shield of Faith
* Helmet of Salvation
* Sword of the Spirit

**1. Reciting Warring Passages**

**Jesus Spoke Memorized Scripture Out Loud as a Weapon Against Temptation and Spiritual Attack.**

**Matthew 4:1-11** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. **2**For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. **3**During that time the devil came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” **4**But Jesus told him, “No! **The Scriptures say,** **‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”** **5**Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, **6**and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’” **7**Jesus responded, **“The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’”** **8**Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9**“I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” **10**“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. **“For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”** **11**Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

**Scripture is Alive and Cuts To Specific Truth, Exposing Thoughts, Motives, & Desires**

**Hebrews 4:12-23**

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

**Arming Yourself with Both General and Specific Memorized Scripture**

**2. Shield Wall**

* **We’re Used to Thinking of a Shield as a DEFENSIVE WEAPON**
  + **Blocking the attacks**
  + Ephesians 6:16 “extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one”
* **The Shield (Faith) is an OFFENSIVE WEAPON Too**
  + **Pushing the Enemy Back** – Gaining Ground – Moving Forward
  + **James 4**:7 “Resist the Devil end He will flee from you…”

**Matthew 17:19-20**

**19**Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?” **20**And He \*said to them, **“Because of the littleness of your faith;** for truly I say to you, **if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move;** and **nothing will be impossible to you.**

* **Shield Wall Is Faith Fighting Together** 
  + **Solo Fighter…Doesn’t Have a Chance**

**Matthew 18:12-14**

**12**“What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? **13**If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. **14**So it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

* Vulnerable
* Alone
* Easily Overtaken

**In the Shield Wall There is…**

* + - Protection
    - Unified Strength
    - There is Life (Community of Faith)
    - There is Victory – “Faith is the Victory that Overcomes the World”

**Hebrews 10:23-24**

**23**Let us **hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering**, for He who promised is faithful; **24**and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25 not forsaking our own assembling together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging *one another***; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

* **Hold Fast – You’re protecting more than yourself**
  + **Locking Arms in the Spiritual Realm**
* **Don’t Forsake Your Comrades – They Need You, You Need Them**
* **Encourage One Another to Hold the Line**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-12**

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: **10**If either of them falls down,one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.**11**Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? **12**Though one may be overpowered,two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

**3. Being Grateful to God**

**Philippians 4:6-7**

**6**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7**And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**4. Thinking on the Good**

**Philippians 4:8**

**8**Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Other Divine Weaponry to Explore

* Prayer
  + **Mark 9:28-29**

Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, “Why couldn’t we cast out that evil spirit?” **29**Jesus replied, “This kind can be cast out only by prayer.”

* Fasting
  + **Matthew 17:19-21**

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not drive it out?”**20**And He \*said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. **21**[But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”]

* Worship
  + (See **2 Chronicles 20:12-24**)