

## Recognize The Warfare

When we think of "spiritual warfare," our thoughts dwell on prayer: putting on the full armor (Eph. 6:13-17) and thus clad to carry out the directive of verse 18; "pray at all times interceding in behalf of the saints."

However, we need to recognize that there is another aspect to "spiritual warfare" that we face every day as we walk on this earth. This warfare has to do with thoughts. II Cor. 10:3-5 speaks of spiritual weapons to be used for the destruction of strongholds. These strongholds are: theories, reasonings, proud and lofty things raised up against the knowledge of God. The admonishment given is that we are to take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Many of us have relinquished territory (our thoughts) to the enemy through ignorance, apathy or neglect. More often than not we find ourselves agreeing with humanistic principles without fully realizing that we have done so.

As we minister to those who come to us for counseling we find that a high percentage not only do not give much time to the reading of the Word, but also they have only a cursory knowledge of the basic principles needed to live a life of victory.

Many can not name the pieces of the spiritual armor and because their knowledge of God's Word is limited they have a limp and useless Sword of little value when they come under attack.

As I view the body of Christ from this vantage point I see wounded and bleeding soldiers, without their armor, a limp Sword or no Sword at all, wandering aimlessly on the battlefield of life. Some actually turn their back on the enemy and flee and are further wounded because it is only as we stand clothed in the armor that the "glory of our Lord becomes our rear guard." (Is. 58:8)

In the warfare we all face every day, we can assume four possible attitudes:

1. Offensive - moving forward
2. Defensive - keeping the enemy at bay
3. Detente - (co-existence - peace through compromise)
4. Desertion

If we are determined to see Satan defeated in our own lives and in our society there is only one attitude: Be On The Offensive.

This requires the Whole and Complete Armor (Eph. 6:11-18) including the "Sword of The Spirit which is the Word of God.

The Sword is an offensive weapon. We need a combat knowledge of God's Word. II Tim. 3:16, 17 amplifies the role of scripture: it is for instruction, reproof, correction and training in righteousness. "So that the man (or woman) of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The Word is our power to overcome not only the enemy but also our own will and the dictates of our flesh. Heb. 4:12 says "the Word is a sharp, two edged sword that divides between the soul and spirit and judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart."

Christ used the Word when He was being tempted in the wilderness; can we do less? Andrew Murray says: "If I trust in the Word, and in the living God, His commandment will work in me the desire and power for obedience. The Word, as the command of the living God who loves me, is my power."

Ask yourself: Do I agree with God or man? Am I concerned about Truth? Do I know what God's Word says about living as a Christian? Do I have victory over the onslaughts of the enemy or am I a wounded and bleeding soldier?

Be assured that it is God's desire for all of His children to walk in victory (II Cor. 2:14). He has already provided all we need in this warfare, and victory is ours through Christ. However, we must appropriate His provision and move forward on the offensive in order to lay full claim to our inheritance.