

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE & THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR

Warfare, Warred, Warreth, Warring, and War – all fit (g0) together.

Definition: As well as being (in) a literal army: training, military; Wrestling in prayer, strenuous labor in prayer.

Spiritual warfare is one aspect of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Your Basic Training began immediately when you were reborn (saved). The first thing involved in spiritual warfare is a changed clean heart before God.

*Power of Jesus blood; “the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). **This was your first battle and victory in Christ!** Most Christians don’t identify this change as warfare. But it is, because you have crossed from Satan’s domain of darkness and sin over to God’s liberating power to righteousness.

***Spiritual Warfare is the ART of war.** In war we must be prepared! God has an army – the Church who operates as the armed forces of God in this war. Although the enemy is invisible, the threat is real and deadly.

***Who Is The Christian’s Enemy?** Satan and his demonic host. Our opposition and battle is against these invisible spiritual forces.

*Isaiah 14:12-14 Satan (originally known as Lucifer) is a **spirit being**. He works through evil spirits and through lives of the “children of disobedience” [Eph.2].

*Ephesians 6:12 We are not in a ‘natural’ conflict, but in a spiritual conflict. The problem is in the spirit world and in the sinful nature. Satan tries to destroy our work for the Lord and even our life.

*2 Peter 2:1-3 Satan deceives; learn to recognize how and who he works through – false teachers and others who pervert the Word of God to lead people away from God.

***Three ways to help us keep our ART of Spiritual Warfare in proper perspective:**

- **Aggressive** action toward the enemy.
- **Ruthless** with our personal pride and selfishness.
- **Tolerant** and loving care toward one another.

Part of being a Christian and following Jesus is to become

A SPIRITUAL WARRIOR: PREPARE FOR WARFARE

1)Put on God's Armor (Ephesians 6:13-15)

- Keeping it on and using it.
- It helps you to stand against the schemes of the devil.
- It keeps you strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
- It enables you to resist the enemy's attacks.
- It protects you and repels the enemy.
- It accomplishes God's will.
- It gives critical steps how we can stand firm in the battle and war.

2)Be Alert, aware of the spiritual battle.

- See beyond the external visible circumstance. Ask Holy Spirit for the gift of discernment.
- Identify the spirits around you through actions or words of people around you (write them down). What is manifesting identifies the spirit operating.
- Dutch evangelist Corrie Ten Boom said, "It's a poor soldier indeed who does not recognize the enemy." How true! **The key to victory in natural warfare, as well as in spiritual warfare, is to identify the enemy, and understand his character and his methods!**

3) Spiritual Training in Boot Camp of the Lord.

- ✓ Dig, dig, dig in the Word of God for truth and revelation.
 - *Study the Bible accounts of battle and warfare and the obedient faith of God's servants. Ask God for the same faith and obedience for the battles in your life that you may be victorious!
- ✓ Speak the word of faith – resist the enemy's lies.
 - *Jesus resisted the devil with the Word (James 4:7).
- ✓ Speak aloud, declare God's Word (Sword of the Spirit) into the situation.
 - *Jesus focused on God and He spoke the Word.
 - *Satan comes against the Word of God, and God's purposes in the life of every Christian.
- ✓ **DANCE – MOVEMENT**: Dance is the visual and expressive part of warfare and warpraise. Dance speaks of life, liberty and freedom; it is the opposite of being bound. Anointed dancers have the power and authority to liberate the atmosphere through the dance.
 - *"Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19)
 - *"I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them...I have wounded them, so that they could not rise; they have fallen under my **feet.**"(Ps.18:37-38)

4) WARRING, WRESTLING in prayer. This is strenuous labor in prayer.

*Jesus instructed His disciples to pray that the will of God be manifested on earth just as it is in heaven; in other words, that the two become ONE. What is going on in heaven?

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE? THE BATTLE OF THE HEAVENS

Warfare, Warfare, Warfare, Warfare

*Matthew 11:12 says, "The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." This sounds intense doesn't it?

WHAT ARE WE TO DO when the tactic of the enemy is manifested with violent activity??

Only the love of Christ Jesus can compel you to respond in fervent prayerful warfare for others.

John 11:10 "Whoever does not hate himself and his brothers, who does not love himself and his brothers, cannot love God who loves him who loves his brothers. Christians don't identify like the world. We identify with Jesus who was crucified from Satan's desire to kill us and bring us to a state of consciousness to righteousness.

"The actual warfare is the spiritual warfare that is going on in the heavens. Satan is the enemy who operates in the heavens. When the enemy is visible, the threat is real."

"Who is the Christian's Enemy? Satan is the enemy of the Christian. The battle is spiritual warfare."

Matthew 14:12-14 "Satan is the enemy of the Christian. He works through evil spirits and their activities to bring about the destruction of the Christian's life." (p.2)

1 Thessalonians 6:12 "We are not fighting a natural battle. The problem is the spirit world. The enemy is Satan who works through evil spirits to bring about the destruction of the Christian's life."

2 Peter 2:1-3 "Satan deceives people to bring about the destruction of the Christian's life. He works through evil spirits to bring about the destruction of the Christian's life. Satan is the enemy of the Christian. He works through evil spirits to bring about the destruction of the Christian's life."