

# ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

## SECTION 10 – The Battle of the Mind

### Lesson 39 - The Battle of the Mind Part 3

**John 8:32** *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

He's not talking about intellectual knowledge. He's not talking about the ability to even quote it or recite it. He's talking about revelation. Some of the things that we may share over this next lesson or two you may have heard before, but I'm telling you in Jesus' name that the mass majority of people haven't understood it. The Bible says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Matthew 11:15), but that word hear means to hear and understand. He that has an ear can hear let him hear and understand.

If we're going to go into warfare and stand strong in the days we are facing now and the incredible increase of demonic activity coming upon the world, we are going to have to understand the battle we are in, the enemy that we are fighting, and the battlefield where we fight. We have to understand these dynamics of spiritual warfare in order to walk in total victory, which is exactly what God has always planned for us.

God never intended for you to suffer defeat. He never intended for you to live a defeated life. It is not in God's plan. The Bible says we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus, that we are overcomers. (Romans 8:37) He never intended for us to suffer defeat. He didn't plan for you to walk in 50 % victory. He didn't plan for you to walk in 75% victory. He didn't even plan for you to walk in 90 % victory. God planned for you and me to walk in 100% victory, 100% of the time.

**Ephesians 6:10-17** *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

We are going to have to get a spiritual breakthrough here. The armor of God is not put on by us ritualistically going through the motions and saying, "I put on the belt of truth. I put on the breast plate of righteousness. I put on the helmet of salvation and some fancy shoes. I take the shield of faith and the sword." That's not what God is talking about. That doesn't do anything.

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*Each piece of the armor is a revelation and is only put on by you entering into the manifestation of that revelation.*

Each piece of the armor is a supernatural, divine revelation of Christ. It's a revelation of God, and you only put that piece of the armor on when you actually enter into the experience of the manifestation of that revelation. When that revelation begins to take on and manifest in your life, when you enter the experience of the revelation, then you have put on the armor of God. If you are not walking in the experience of that revelation you do not have the armor on no matter how many times you stand up and say you have it on; no matter how many times you quote the verses; no matter how many times you confess it. Unless you have the revelation and you are experiencing the manifestation of that revelation, you haven't put on the armor.

We are going into a realm of warfare. We are going to have to come to know the battlefield where we fight this war. We are going to have to understand who our enemy is, where he is from, and the weapons God has given us to defeat him.

**Romans 5:20** *Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,*

The more the enemy releases sin in the world, the more the grace of God is going to come. The Bible says that when the enemy comes in like a flood the spirit of the Lord raises up a standard against him. (Isaiah 59:19) Don't be afraid by what God is saying is coming. Realize there is going to be a greater release of God's power and strength and anointing in these end times.

We have to know the battlefield and that we are in a war. It's amazing how passive many in the Church are today. Many of God's people don't want to admit that they are in the middle of an incredible spiritual war. We are in a war. You didn't choose this war. You didn't invite this war. You were born into this war, and whether you like it or not, whether you want to fight or not, you are still in the middle of the war. You are either going to be a prisoner, or you are going to be a victor in this war. It all depends on what you are going to do. You can't sit back on the sidelines and take a mousy pansy attitude thinking that if you don't bother the devil and make a peace treaty with him, he will just leave you alone. How dumb do you think the devil is? While you are pretending to not be in this war he will kill your children, take out your family, and wipe out your community.

The devil is looking for every opportunity he can to kill you, to destroy society, and to destroy mankind because his war is not with man. His war is with God, and his utter hatred for God is focused on us. We're in a war and we better start thinking militarily. We better first draw our strength from Him and be empowered through our union with Him, and then pick up our weapons of warfare and begin to fight.

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**James 4:7** *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

It didn't say to make a peace treaty with him. It didn't say to just leave him alone. It didn't say to just ignore him.

There are preachers today who have been deceived by the devil and are preaching lies. They are preaching that our battle is not with the devil. They say we don't have to fight the devil; the devil has already been defeated; the battle is not with the devil for it is all just in your mind. The battle is in our minds, but we must understand the battle of the mind is a battle with demon spirits. It's a battle with demonic forces and power. They say you don't deal with the devil anymore, but if it was the problem back in Jesus day, it was problem in the early church, and Paul said we have to deal with this thing, then I guarantee you it's a problem today.

There is a real devil, there are real demons, there are real principalities, and there are real powers. I could stand here by the hours and talk to you about real experiences with real demonic powers that I have had. That's why when these guys come around and they try to preach their nice theology that you don't have to deal with the devil, I invited them to go overseas with me and they will see some devils. Those who have learned to be strong in the Lord, to draw their strength from Him can face the forces of darkness, and when the enemy comes they will stand.

**As we are all engaged in spiritual warfare, what is the first thing we need to do?**

*If we are going to fight in this war, the first thing we need to do is locate the enemy.*

The enemy is not some political party. Your enemy is not your mother-in-law. The enemy is not your parents, young people. The enemy is not your pastor. The enemy is not the guy down the street. Your enemy is demon spirits.

We have people preaching in the church in essence that the devil has been defeated, he's not your problem, and it's all about the mind! The battle is fought in your mind, but if you don't recognize that you have to deal with the demon spirits that are effecting and even trying to infiltrate and other times oppressing and even possessing the mind, you will never win the battle. You will be constantly fighting because you are trying to deal with spiritual warfare on a psychological battlefield, and it will never happen. You have to locate your enemy. Until we locate our enemy we cannot defeat our enemy.

The devil is trying to do everything he can to sidetrack us from locating our enemy, but we are dealing with demon powers. Paul said we are dealing with principalities and powers and world rulers and spiritual wickednesses in heavenly places. (2 Corinthians 10:4) There are multiple levels; not just one kind of demon spirits, but ranks of demon spirits. We better recognize them and understand that behind the natural manifestations of what is called our psychological

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problems are spiritual demonic powers. Fear is a spirit: it is an emotion, but it's a spirit. God has not given us the spirit of fear. (2 Timothy 1:7) Hatred is a spirit. Rage is a spirit. Alcoholism is a spirit.

We have to go below the surface and stop only dealing with the surface manifestations. We have to go deep and deal with the root cause. Just like in your yard when you chop a weed off at the top, if you don't deal with the root that weed will come back. It seems like it comes back faster. We try to deal with the anger by trying to get everybody to get along with each other. We'll have these little unity conferences, but until you break the spirit of prejudice, and the spirit of hatred, and the spirit of envy, and the spirits of strife that are at the root of the division, you can do all the meetings you want. People may come in all smiles and even for a while they can control their emotion, but the enemy still has a stronghold because we have failed to go beneath the surface deep down to the roots.

I remember I was praying for a young man. He was into satanism. I was praying for him to get saved. This was in my early Christian walk and I had been learning about spiritual warfare. There were demon forces behind his activities; the lack of love from his father may have opened the door for the demons to come in, but it was still demons. I started going into spiritual warfare. I started going in very deep. I kept pressing and pressing, and it felt like I was coming up against a wall. I kept pressing, but I wouldn't stop for I knew that the weapons of a warfare are mighty through God to pulling down strongholds. I kept speaking the Word, commanding the devil to let him go. I kept praying and all of a sudden I felt something break in the spirit realm.

I went to that young man the next day. I had witnessed to him before and he was like a brick wall. I started talking to him about Jesus and within moments he began to cry under the presence of God. Right there he surrendered his life to Jesus and began to manifest demons. I cast the devil out of him and he became a major part of our youth ministry from that day on. I had gone into the spirit realm and broke the stronghold of the enemy. I had located my enemy.

I remember one time when I was pastoring, we had a couple people in the church who started complaining and griping about this and that. I was getting ready for service, and I had just heard about this. It was really bothering me. I was feeling really down about it, and really hurt over it. I was in the shower, and I was feeling so hurt and so wounded. It was really strong and I said, "Lord, what's going on here? This seems like an overreaction." All of a sudden God opened my eyes. I looked up and there in the corner of the bathroom I saw a little, punk demon. He was the spirit of deep hurt. He was loosing the feelings of deep hurt on me, trying to affect me. When I recognized him, I bound him in the name of Jesus and cast him out of there. All of a sudden all the feelings of deep hurt left. How was it that I was able to win the battle that most people say is just a psychological thing? I located the devil that was behind the feelings of deep hurt.

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Now that devil was trying to influence me in the battlefield of my mind, but I want you to understand. There are two realms where the battle is fought. There is the battlefield of the mind, and there is the spiritual atmosphere.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

The battle is a spiritual battle. It's a spiritual war. It's fought in the battlefield of the spirit. But I want you to hear me carefully. It is not just the natural mind, it's in the spirit. The Bible talks about the spirit of your mind as well as the spiritual atmosphere. The battle is in the spirit realm with demonic principalities and powers.

If I had not dealt with that little demon of deep hurt, I would not have been able to deal with the feelings on just a psychological level. I would not have gotten the victory, and that deep hurt would have affected me. It would have started to sear and scar my heart. I would have felt wounded. I would have carried the wound with me. If I allowed that thing to stay with me long enough it would have affected me, but God opened my eyes to the spirit realm.

#### **What are the two battlefronts we are engaged in?**

There's the front on our hearts with the issues and the lies and things that are still in our hearts, but there is also the front of the spiritual realm where we're battling demon powers and principalities.

There are many things that you're dealing with, and yes it's a dual battle. It's in the spirit realm. It's the demon spirits out there, and it's the things that are still in our hearts that he touches. We are going to have to win on the two battlefronts. If you only deal with one front, the enemy will slaughter you on the other front.

We have people who only try to deal with the mental side of it, and because they don't deal with the spiritual side they're never getting true victory. They may change their actions and their mood and attitude for a little bit, but they don't get true victory. Then we have people on the other side who think it's all the devil and nothing inside of themselves. They go to meetings to get delivered all the time with their barf bags, spitting out little demons. Then they still have struggles because they don't deal with the other front. There are two fronts.

You have to locate your enemy and you have to know the battlefield. The battlefield is in the mind, and the battlefield is in the spirit realm. The reason they're connected is because the mind

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is not just natural. The mind is spirit. The Bible talks about being renewed in the spirit of your mind. (Ephesians 4:23)

#### **For Further Study:**

**Romans 8:7** *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

**Romans 12:2** *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*