

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021- Pastor Karl Payne- Ephesians 6:10-18

OT examples of spiritual warfare—*Eve*--**Genesis 3:1-6**—*Saul/David*--**1 Sam.16:14-19, 23**; 18:10-12; 19:9-10—*Elisha/Servant*--**2 Kings 6:8-18**--*Angelic warfare*, **Daniel 10:10-20**.

NT examples of demonic warfare occur regularly and should not represent a surprise to Christians—**Physical**, **Luke 13:10-17**/Gal.3:7; **2 Cor. 12:6-8**; and **Mental Acts 5:1-5**; 2 Cor. 11:1-4.

The NT is unambiguously clear that spiritual warfare is real--**Matt.4:1-11**; **Luke 9:49-50**; **Luke 22:31**; **2 Cor. 2:11**; **2 Cor. 10:3-5**; **Eph. 6:10-12**; **1 Thess. 2:18**.

The NT is equally clear that Christians are not immune to spiritual attacks--**Luke 13:11**/Gal. 3:7; **2 Cor.11:1-4, 12-15** (includes men-13-and demons-15); **2 Cor. 12:7**; **Eph. 4:26-27**.

How is spiritual warfare often explained? **Oppression/Possession**. More often it is simply ignored and relegated to something that missionaries might have to be concerned about. Apparently N. American and W. European Christians are immune to demonic attack because of their great spiritual standing and understanding, even though Satan and his demons had no problems soliciting and attacking Adam and Eve, King Saul, Jesus Christ, the Apostles, and professing Christians for the last two-thousand years. It is comforting to know that demons apparently fear us more than God incarnate and the Apostles.

Is there a more complete explanation for explaining the various degrees of demonic attack that is consistent with Scripture? **Oppression/Demonization/ Possession**

Who is qualified to responding to demonic attack? **All true Christians-Luke 10:18-20**.

What are our resources for responding to spiritual warfare attack? *Delegated authority*, **Luke 10:18-20**; *Armor*, **Ephesians 6:10-18**; *Scripture*, **Matt. 4:4,7,10**; *The blood of the Lamb/word of testimony*, **Rev.12:11**; Our *Positional union seated* with Christ in the heavenlies as members of His body, (far above all rule, power and authority), by virtue of our relationship with Jesus Christ, **Ephesians 2:6-7**.

How does spiritual warfare with Christians typically begin? *Solicitation*, **Matt. 4:1-11**; *Accusation & Arrows*, **Revelation 12:10**; **Eph. 6:16**. How does it progress? Usually it leads to *mental bondage*, **2 Cor. 11:3**; sometimes it can be *physical bondage*, **Luke 13:11**. Left unchallenged, it often leads to thoughts of isolation, fear, worthlessness, and even self-destruction. "Jesus does not love you; give up and die."

How are Christians commanded to respond to demonic attack? **Resist**, **Eph.6:13**; **James 4:7**; **1 Peter 5:9**. Christians are never told in Scripture to **ignore** demonic attack or to **run** from demonic solicitation.

How can Christians who suspect they are under demonic attack successfully resist their attackers? **For oppression**, offensive prayer is very effective. **For demonization**, I have outlined a clear, simple process for **deliverance** in chapter eight of my book on spiritual warfare. The process can be summed up in three words that begin with the letter "C"—**Confession, Canceling, Commanding**.

What are non-negotiables for successful deliverance if that has actually occurred? The demonized person must be: 1) A Christian, 2) 100% honest about sin, 3) Must be willing to resist demons rather than ignore or run from them. **Christians should be victors through Jesus Christ over the world, the flesh, and the devil. When Christians choose to live like victims, they are usually treated like victims.**

**Spiritual armor: Being able to explain Roman armor no more equates to effectively utilizing spiritual armor in battle than understanding the value of good nutrition guarantees gaining or losing weight.**

*Armor imputed by God to Christians-Foundational Truth, Positional Righteousness, Eternal Peace*

- 1) The Belt of Truth—This is referring to absolute truth. Jesus Christ is not part of truth; He is truth (**John 14:6**). Our union with Jesus Christ holds us securely in place with Him and to Him; just like a Roman soldier's belt was foundational for holding other pieces of his armor together.
- 2) Breastplate of Righteousness—This is referring to our standing before God through Jesus Christ as eternally righteous by virtue of His forgiveness and merit (**2 Cor.5:21; Eph. 1:7**), which is unchanging in God's eyes and unassailable before all of our opposition whether natural or supernatural; just like the Roman soldier's breastplate protected him from spears, swords and arrows in front or behind him.
- 3) Shoes of Peace—This is referring to our firm standing of eternal peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, regardless of where we are or what we are doing; just like the Roman soldier's hobnailed sandals provided him with a firm standing/footing for fighting regardless of the terrain (**Romans 5:1; Romans 8:38-39**).

*Armor available to Christians which must be exercised to be effective-Faith in God for immediate protection, in every place, Assurance of mental attitude because of our union with Jesus Christ for ultimate victory, in every place, Confidence in God for our surety through Jesus Christ to successfully confront all opposition, natural or supernatural, through the Word of God, in every place.*

- 4) The Shield of Faith—This is referring to the surety/confidence we have through Jesus Christ, as we actively resist and quench the fiery lies Satan and his demons shoot at us, insisting we are isolated from the love of God and inadequate to successfully live the Christian life; just like the Roman soldier raised his shield to quench the flaming arrows being shot at him by enemy archers, watching them bounce harmlessly to the ground.
- 5) The Helmet of Salvation—This is referring to a Christian's mindset or mental attitude that regardless of the opposition, deliverance/freedom/victory is ultimately ours because we are on the winning side, (we know how the book ends); just like a Roman soldier was certain that even if they lost a battle, they would not lose the war. Roman soldiers knew that Rome ruled the known world, and went into each battle with a mindset that they would be the ultimate victor in any war they fought. Like athletes, soldiers assuming they are going to lose, usually do.
- 6) The Sword of the Spirit—This is referring to a Christian's offensive weapon, some would say his only offensive weapon, utilizing the word of God to destroy endless speculations raised against Christians, Jesus Christ, and the Bible (**2 Cor.10:3-5**). This context is referring to God's written word, (His inspired/God-breathed words), "rhema" not (our words), "logos". God's written words adequately equip us to confront every particular situation we face in our battles with the devil. Jesus demonstrated this in **Matthew 4:4, 7, 10**, when He quoted the written word of God against the devil and his solicitations; just like the Roman soldier, armed with his long smashing sword and short slashing sword, was adequately equipped to defeat the enemies who were attacking him.

As C. Fred Dickason has so succinctly and apply stated in his newest book on spiritual warfare entitled, *Dangers of the Spirit World*, "We must know the Word of God and how to use it if we are to attack the temptations of the evil one!" (I feel in my heart means nothing to a demon.)

