

The Art of Spiritual Warfare Part 3 of 10: Peace is an Illusion, War is the Reality, Choose a Side! (Presented in 2016)

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQ4bqdExIVE>

***Portions of this sermon message have been edited to better transcribe the message. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Today we are in part 3 of our study “The Art of Spiritual Warfare.” I would like to open today with a quote from a Swiss-born Frenchman named Gustaf Velvert. This is his pen name, but he went by this name.

This gentleman did some very comprehensive historical research looking to identify the prevalence of war in the history of this age. He went back so far as 1500 B.C. He did this study in the mid-1800 A.D. I want to show you what he found—[from the year 1496 BC to AD 1861 in 3,358 years there were 227 years of peace and 3,130 years of war, or 13 years of war to every year of peace.](#)

I want you to think about that for a second. We have to go 13 years just to get to 1 measly year of peace. Let’s put that in perspective. In the average lifetime of living into your mid 80’s, that would mean during your entire lifetime you would only see six years of peace. Think about that statement.

He goes on to say—[Within the last three centuries there have been 286 wars in Europe alone. He added that from the year 1500 BC to AD 1860 more than 8,000 treaties of peace, meant to remain in force forever, were concluded.](#)

Think about that. Going back for generation after generation, there have been over 8,000 treaties in which kings got together and said, "Let us join together and have indefinite peace with each other." However, these agreements cease to exist. He continues—[The average time they remained in force was two years.](#)

Talk about a joke! All these peace treaties that are made to allow man the peace that they want don't even make it two years. They can't even get it to work for two years.

What does this tell us when we look at this? What does it tell you? I'll let you know what it says to me. It tells me peace is an illusion. War is a reality.

I love what's Coleman McCarthy, who is an American journalist, had to say—[Everyone's a pacifist between wars. It's like being a vegetarian between meals.](#)

If you think about that statement, you realize that war is the reality of what we're faced with. Everything that relates to our past, present, and future all centers around battle. War is the common denominator.

I started today off by going through these physical realities. But over the last couple weeks, what have we been covering? We have been covering the reality of war in the spiritual realm. We have covered the reality that there are angels and demons. This is the truth.

I open this today by looking at the reality of war in the physical realm. What I want you to understand is everything I have been telling you in the first two weeks were just proven by going through the statistics of war. What I am saying is the spiritual realm is not independent of the physical realm. The two are intertwined. In other words, if there is war in the spiritual realm, we will experience war in the physical realm. And that is exactly what we see.

This is what I have been talking about for the first two parts of this study. If there is war in the spiritual realm, then things are going to happen in the physical realm and vice versa. You are going to see this more and more as we continue in the next couple weeks

Given this reality, what should this prompt us to do? If we look and notice that there is a war here and there, what should this inspire us to do? It should prompt you to pick a side. If you see there is war; you now need to pick a side. What does the LORD say? **Choose you this day whom you will serve (Joshua 24:15).**

What do we see happened when WWII broke out? Countries were scrambling to align themselves with other nations. Why? Because they were picking their side. War became a reality for them when they realized that they had to pick a side. This is where we got the Axis and Allies. The Axis Powers included Germany, Italy, Japan, Hungary, and Romania. Then there were the Allied Powers of the United States, Canada, Russia, and China. Every country was scrambling to pick their side. For us as believers that is instrumental because the side you select will determine whether or not you will have victory. Amen?

1 Kings 18:21—**And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him."** This is the gospel message. We find the gospel message going all the way back to the time of Elijah. The cry is, "Come to the LORD. If the LORD is God, follow Him." We are being presented with a choice, pick a side.

When the children of Israel were at Mount Sinai, we find Moses does the same thing. He cries out to the children of Israel to pick a side. Moses went up the mountain and meets with God to get the stone tablets. He receives the stone tablets and comes down the mountain. What was happening? Israel is sinning. Moses sees Israel sinning, and he casts the tablets out of his hands. He is outraged. He grinds up the idol into powder and makes the Israelites drink it. But then he does something. Look at what he does as recorded in Exodus 32:26—**then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side--come to me."** Moses drew the line in the sand

So Moses came down from the mountain; he saw the evil that was happening, and he draws the line into the sand and says, "If you're for the LORD, you come to me now." That was all he said. Then we continue in Exodus 32:26-27—²⁶ **And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.** ²⁷ **And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and**

out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'

With this calling to come to the LORD's side, what is Moses calling for? He is calling for war to the degree that we see war against his flesh and blood who rejected the LORD. These people who rejected the LORD have become their enemies. I want you to ponder that for a second.

What does that have to do with us? How does this apply to us? Understand that when you come into the faith of Yeshua, this is precisely how it's going to be. You are going to be called to the LORD's side, and then you're going to be called to war.

Let me offer some proof to this. What you will notice is what we just covered here is reiterated in the New Testament by Yeshua. Yeshua, however, is stating it in the first person. That is very important because Yeshua is the prophet like unto Moses (Deuteronomy 18:18).

In Matthew 10:34 we read—**Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.** This is very powerful despite all the peoples, mostly in the Western culture, attempting to paint Yeshua as this Jewish hippie that came to make love, not war. When our Messiah Yeshua came, He came to declare war. He didn't come to bring peace. He came to draw the sword.

The comparison is interesting. Yeshua came down from heaven, who did He come to? He came to a wicked and sinful generation. When you look at Moses, you find that in a sense Moses came down from heaven because he was with God. He came down to a sinful generation. The people were committing idolatry. It is the same thing.

Now look at what Yeshua goes on to say because this is a perfect parallel of Moses—³⁵**For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';** ³⁶**and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household'** (Matthew 10:35-36). That's exactly what Moses called for when he said. "All who are on the LORD's side come to me. And let every man go to the camp and kill his brothers who are not with the LORD.

What do we take away from this? When you join the LORD's army and make that commitment, my friends, you better count the cost because according to your flesh to follow the LORD is going to cost you everything. You need to understand that.

This is what Yeshua said in Luke 14:33—**So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.** And in Matthew 10:38-39, we find this—**And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.** ³⁹**He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.** If in fact, we take the stand that we are going to choose the LORD and we step on that side of the line that includes following Yeshua and being His soldiers, there are a couple of things that you might want to take into consideration.

First, you need to count the cost. You need to be all in. You need to be willing to lose it all for the sake of the Kingdom.

This prompts me to think about December 7, 1941, when in World War II Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. We were getting to the point in the realm of history where technology was getting more advanced so that the actual attack was caught on video. On December 7th, 1941, every American was glued to their televisions watching this horrifying attack by the enemy. Do you know that on December 8th, 1941 there was an unprecedented amount of Americans who enlisted in the Army? There were blocks long of the youth of Americans coming to join. Why did they do that? They saw the reality of war. It became real to them, and it burned in their hearts. They wanted to fight for freedom and justice. They did not want the enemy to oppress them and afflict them. They saw the war, and it moved them to enlist.

What is interesting is that mentality is so different than the mindset of many of the people in the service today. I have many friends who have been in the service or are still in the service. When you ask them why they are in the service, they do not hesitate to tell you, "I need the education, and I can't afford the education." They listed solely to get their education paid for. Other reasons cited are for the financial security, medical, or the dental benefits.

I want to tell you something about World War II. When these men and women all over this country saw the reality of being attacked by an enemy, they wanted to enlist. They were not asking whether or not their education was going to be paid for. They were not questioning whether or not they were going to be financially compensated. They were not asking if there was a good dental and medical plan. They were there for one reason, the cause. That's why they were there. They had seen the face of the enemy; they had seen the oppression, and they wanted to step up and fight for freedom and liberty.

In the very same way, this needs to be our attitude. If we are doing our job, one of the things we have to do is preach the gospel of Yeshua. You need to go paint the picture of war because that's the reality. It should burn in the hearts of the people to fight for that which is right. Fight for that which is moral and for justice. This should burn in our hearts. This is the mentality we should have.

Believers coming into faith in Yeshua should not be asking, "What is in it for me? What is in it for my flesh? What kind of education am I going to get out of this?"

Second, I would suggest that once you've agreed to enlist, the next thing you need to do is prepare for war. One of the most important ways you can do this is by heeding the wisdom found in Proverbs 24:6—**For by wise counsel you will wage your own war.**

What does that mean when according to Scripture it says that we're going to wage war through wise counsel? This is really simple. It is in the Bible. The Bible is wise counsel. The Bible is the war manual. This is a book of war. You need to read it, study it, learn it, memorize it, and you need to do it.

The Bible is a book of war. This is where we derive our instructions on how to fight. It teaches us how to fight. It gives us the ability to compete supernaturally. It gives us secret intelligence about our adversary. Do you want to exploit the deceptions of the enemy who is coming to take you out? It's in the war manual.

I was recently watching a documentary with my wife on the OSS. That acronym stands for the Office of Strategic Services. Now if you're not familiar with this, this was an intelligence agency that was quietly established during World War II specifically for espionage. It was a spy agency. They recruited and trained agents to go behind enemy lines and gather intelligence in the name of freedom and justice. The agency eventually became the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency).

What was so interesting about this documentary is they were interviewing agents who had taken part in the OSS during World War II. As I watched, over and over again something fascinating kept catching my attention. That was the amount of gravity that was put upon something known as the OSS manual. The OSS manual was invaluable to the organization itself and its success. It was invaluable to the training of the agents. In fact, one of the testimonies of an agent was the fact his life was saved in the face of these two German officers because of the training that came from the manual. He had studied, learned, and put that training to work on the battlefield. This saved his life.

In the very same way, the Bible does this for us today. It trains us to handle the worst of the worst situations. The more familiar we are with this manual, the more capable we are of gaining victory against the adversary.

I want to take you to Psalm 14:41—**A Psalm of David. Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.**

Understand that when you come into the faith of Yeshua, you're going to be entering the most intense training of your life. You are going to experience things you've never experienced before. You are going to be pushed to do things you never imagined you were even capable of doing. You will be challenged on every level and pushed to the brink of total collapse physically, emotionally, and psychologically.

Make no mistake; you are going to be bent and broken. In every which way you are going to be conditioned, lifted up, to be able to battle deceiving demonic spirits of wickedness.

When the governments orchestrate their armies, they don't just grab men off the street and throw them in a battlefield without instruction and training. Rather, they're brought through this rigorous process of training so that when war does come, they don't just fall paralyzed with fear, or they don't just fall confused not knowing what to do or being unequipped.

I can't tell you how many times I've seen special operatives from the Rangers or the Navy SEALs being interviewed. These people would be asked, "How do you guys do this stuff? You guys are amazing and so well organized. You guys accomplish missions in the face of all adversity nobody could accomplish. How do you do it?" The response of these men over and over again is, "We did what we were trained to do."

That is the reality for us. We need to get trained. If you want to learn the art of spiritual warfare, you need hardcore training so when you are confronted with real-life scenarios in the spiritual and physical realm, you are equipped. You just follow your training.

It is impressive to see how a cog clicks when soldiers get engaged in warfare. They just resort to the training. They fall back on the training they have been doing day after day after day. That is what we need to be. We need to be soldiers of the Most High God.

In Psalm 18:34, David says—**He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.** Think about that. It is not a coincidence that David is using this imagery. Nobody can bend a bow of bronze. That's not something that men can do. David says—**He teaches my hands to make war.** To do what? To accomplish the unthinkable. To accomplish the impossible. It is the very same thing for us. We are to be trained in war tactics so that we can achieve the unthinkable. We are to be a Special Ops team so that people are scratching their head wondering how you did that. As all the different life scenarios present themselves in front of you, you can overcome them. As life hits you from the left and the right, you'll be equipped.

When you study the life of David, who made the above statement, you discover David's life was filled with training. David's life was filled with chaos and war, one battle after another. But it was all part of God's plan. It was all part of his training.

A great example of this is the whole Goliath incident. This tremendous heroic figure of the Philistines standing roughly 9 feet tall has come out to defy the armies of God, and Israel is quaking in its boots from terror. That was until David came on the scene. Look at what it says here in I Samuel 17:32-33—³² **Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."** ³³ **And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."** Saul is telling David, "You are not equipped to fight this battle. This guy over there had been training for war from his youth."

Look at how David answers this statement in 1 Samuel 17:34-37—³⁴ **But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."** ³⁷ **Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."** And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!"

So David explains to Saul, "I have been trained for war. I have fought the lion and the bear. I'm ready for this battle." This is what you need to take away from this story. There are going to be things that are going to happen in your life that are going to challenge you and be very difficult. You are going to face trials, tribulations, and temptations. Brutal things will hit you out of nowhere, and they're going to test your faith. And once these things happen, you're going to need to resort to your training. You're going to need to persevere. You're going to need strong faith to make it through.

There is a false perception that exists that when you come into the faith, everything's cotton candy clouds and these beautiful sunsets. The reality is when you come to faith in Yeshua, you're going to war. War is the reality. And war is hard, brutal, and sacrifices. That is the reality. But there's good news; it's

all worth it. That's what the Bible is about. It is all worth it to persevere because there is going to be redemption, rest, and reward at the end of this age. But we need to be trained and willing to fight.

I want to take you to the book of Judges. And in this passage we are given some valuable insight into the reality of war and why there is a war for us believers. You want to pay very close attention to this passage. And just to give you a little backdrop here regarding the context of this passage, the children of Israel have successfully been brought into the Promised Land. So they're dwelling in the land. And conceptually one would think, "Well. OK. The LORD has brought them into the Promised Land, the land of milk and honey; He has made good on His promise. All should be well. All should be this perfect eternal peace."

It did not play out that way. This is what we read in Judges 2:21-23—²¹ I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, ²² so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." ²³ Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

So we read here the LORD left the pagan nations in the Promised Land to test His people. He wants to know whether they're going to follow Him and truly be loyal to Him. This is what the LORD wants to know, how loyal are you? Are you true soldiers?

Now there's a deep spiritual contagion in this passage. We need to look at this passage as though it's talking about believers coming into the faith of Yeshua. In other words, just as the LORD brought Israel into the Promised Land, we in a like manner were brought into the land of promise by coming to faith in Yeshua.

Think about this. When you come to faith in Yeshua, do the battles stop? Do the trials, tribulations, and temptations just cease all of a sudden? The answer to that is obviously, no. You have to deal with them. You are battling these things on a level you had never fought before.

Listen to what is said in the next passage in Judges 3:1-2—¹ Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan ² (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it). God left Israel's adversaries there to teach them war. He wanted them to know war. How accurate it is when David said—Lord trains my hands to know war. War is going to happen.

When we look at the Bible, you better believe that war is going to happen in your life. If we come to faith in Yeshua, it will be war. We will be tested. In fact, I'm going to take you to the New Testament and show you the parallel to this passage. Look at what Yeshua says in Matthew 13:24-26—²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵ but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶ But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

Does this sound familiar? This is exactly what we read in Judges. You have the wheat, which is Israel going into the land. What was allowed to grow up among them? The tares. This is the same scenario.

Continuing in Matthew 13:27-28—²⁷ So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

Look at how he responds in Matthew 13:29-30—²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares, you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' In other words, there's always going to be tares among the wheat. Until the time of the harvest, there will still be trials, tribulations, and wars. At the time of the harvest, there will be only one King ruling and reigning in the entire earth. And all the kings of the earth will fall before him. Amen!

We have to decide whether or not we're going to fall victim to these tares which are the attacks of the adversary. You are going to have to determine whether or not you truly want to go to war. You have to decide how bad you want to bring glory to the name of Yeshua. Is that at the top of your list? Your intimate relationship is going to depend on how you respond to the LORD training your hands to make war.

One of the things that you discover in Navy SEAL training camps, not everyone makes it through there. They psychologically get tormented. They were not capable of handling it. Others were not capable of physically dealing with the abuse of the rigorous training that they went through.

I'm going to tell you right now, you're going to be put through that, and you need to overcome psychologically, emotionally, and physically. You are going to need to overcome everything that is going to come your way. And, oh yes, putting your faith and trust in Yeshua knowing at the end of the day He is God. He is in control. We have nothing to fear. Amen!