

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

(EKB - Jan 1994)

1. **Spiritual Warfare** is resisting and pushing back the spirits, influences and works of the Kingdom of Darkness that seek to oppose us as we serve Christ.
2. There are **two kingdoms** in opposition in the spiritual realm. They are mentioned in *Mat 12:26,28*. One is the Kingdom of Satan and the other is the Kingdom of God.
3. When we were born again, God delivered us from the authority of the Kingdom of Darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, *Col 1:13*.
4. We are members of the Kingdom of God, and in *Eph 6:10-18*, it instructs us to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might and to put on the whole armour of God. Then we will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, because we are in a spiritual battle against principalities, powers, the rulers of darkness of this age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. This is heavy conflict in the spiritual realm.
5. For this reason we need to be constantly clothed with the **armour of God** so that we will be able to stand firm in the victory Christ has won for us at Calvary, *Eph 6:10-18*.
The armour is:
 - a. the belt of truth, God's Word, *Eph 6:14, Jn 17:17*.
 - b. the breastplate of righteousness of faith and love, *Eph 6:14, 1Thes 5:8 + Gal 5:6b*.
 - c. the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace, *Eph 6:15, Eph 2:14*.
 - d. the shield of faith, *Eph 6:16, 1Jn 5:4b*.
 - e. the helmet of salvation, *Eph 6:17, 1Thes 5:8* - hope of salvation.
 - f. the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, *Eph 6:17, Heb 4:12*.
 - g. praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, *Eph 6:18, Phil 4:6,7*.
 In *Rom 13:12,14* we are told that putting on **this armour is putting on Christ Himself**.
Christ is:
 - a. our truth, *Jn 14:6*.
 - b. our righteousness, *1Cor 1:30*.
 - c. our peace, *Eph 2:14*.
 - d. we have the faith that comes through Christ, *Ac 3:16*, which shields us from Satan's fiery darts and gives us perfect soundness, *Lk 17:19*.
 - e. our hope of salvation *Ac 4:12*.
 - f. the Word of God, *Jn 1:1-5, Rev 1:16, Rev 19:13*.
 It is the **work of prayer** that keeps us united with Christ and activates every piece of armour in the power of the Holy Spirit, *Heb 12:2*. Rise early, and by faith put on each piece of the armour of the Lord.
6. In this realm of Spiritual Warfare, we are not fighting to win the war, because Christ has already done that. The Spiritual Warfare we are in, is to **lay hold of the victory Christ has won for us**, and to stand firmly in it, *Heb 2:14, Col 2:15, 1Jn 3:8, Mat 12:29, 2Cor 2:14, 1Cor 15:57, Eph 1:20-23, Heb 1:3*. We stand in Christ's victory by faith, *2Cor 1:24*. We are already seated with Christ, *Eph 2:6*, in His position of victory. We are fighting the good fight of faith, *1Tim 6:12*. It is a "good" fight because it is one that we win, *1Jn 5:4*.

7. At times we become aware of the powers of Darkness influencing us, our family, our work of service, our church, or some other area of responsibility and authority God has given us. It is our responsibility to **effectively resist the devil**.
8. *Jam 4:7* is the first step in doing this. It says, “submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee.” It is important to be **fully submitted to God**, to His Will and to His Word. Make sure that you are, *Lk 9:23*. Choose His Will now, and refuse your own will where it is in conflict with God’s Will. In being submitted to God repent of all known sin and ask for the cleansing of the Blood of Jesus. Refuse the old carnal nature of the flesh and ask for the fulness and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Make sure that there is no unforgiveness, bitterness or resentment in your life.
9. **The Blood of Jesus** is the first line of resistance to the attacks of the devil. The Blood of Jesus has justified us to God, *Rom 5:9*, (put us in a righteous standing before God); sanctified us, *Heb 13:12*, (set us apart from evil to God); redeemed us, *Eph 1:7*, (purchased us back to God as His property); and has cleansed us from guilt and sins, *1Jn 1:7*.

There are many precious, powerful scriptures about the Blood of Jesus, and as we believe, and confess these, the influences of Satan are cut off. See No 27, page 1, Scriptures on the Blood of Jesus. See No 54 - the Blessings of the Blood of Jesus.

10. The second weapon against Satan is the **Name of the Lord Jesus Christ** and in this Name we have the victory, *Pro 18:10*. His Name is far above every other Name, *Eph 1:20-22* and at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, *Phil 2:10*. As believers, and disciples of Christ, we have been given the right to use His Name to enforce His triumph, *Mk 16:17*, and to command evil spirits to flee, *Ac 16:18, Lk 9:1*. In *Lk 10:19* Jesus said to the 70 disciples He sent out, “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.” *Jn 14:13,14, 16:23,24*.
11. The **Word of God** is a supremely powerful weapon in spiritual warfare and Jesus used it during the attacks of Satan upon Him after His 40day fast, *Mat 4:4,7,10*. Satan cannot break the Word of God. The Word of God has authority over Satan and he has to submit to it. Know the Word of God and commit to memory many powerful scriptural truths. By confessing these truths, in faith, the attacks of Satan are cut off, e.g. for your children, *Is 49:25, Is 54:13,14, Is 44:3-5KJV*.
12. The **Anointing of the Holy Spirit** is a powerful and essential strength in spiritual warfare. Jesus said that He cast out demons by the Spirit of God in *Mat 12:28*. In *Ac 10:38*, the Word says that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed with the devil, for God was with Him. In *Lk 4:18,19* Jesus said that His ministry of salvation and release for oppressed humanity, was by the Spirit and anointing of the Lord. *Is 10:27b, Ac 13:9-12, Ac 6:9,10*.
13. The four weapons mentioned above are activated and released by prayer and **fasting, praise confession of the Word and preaching**, which in themselves can also be regarded as weapons of spiritual warfare.
14. **Prayer**. The prayer and cry of the believer is heard and answered by Almighty God. Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved, *Rom 10:13, Ps 56:9*,

Ps 34:6,15,17, Ps 18:3, Jer 33:3, Lk 18:1-8, Lk 11:5-8,9-13. Don't give up on prayer. In *Mat 18:19*, Jesus said that the prayer of agreement, when believers pray together, will be answered by God. Find someone, who will pray with you, and agree in Jesus' Name.

When Peter was imprisoned by Herod who intended to kill him, constant prayer was offered to God for him, by the church, and the Lord sent His angel to release Peter from the prison, *Ac 12:1-12*. Gather the church to prayer. Remember to keep praying in tongues, *Jude 20, 1Cor 14:15*, and pray together, out aloud, at the same time, unless you want to listen to the others and **agree**. Regular fasting is important. Build a pattern of weekly fasting into your life. It may be a bit of a struggle to do this but you will get there.

15. The **power of praise** is illustrated by the passage in *Ac 16:25-34*. Paul and Silas were in a painful and difficult situation but as they praised God, the Lord sent His deliverance and mighty victory. The same victory through praise is recorded in *2Chr 20:22* where the Lord defeated a powerful enemy through the praises of His people. Praise releases the power of heaven to defeat the works of darkness, *Ps 118:5, Ps 18:3, Ps 50:15, Ps 100:4*.
16. The **Word of the Lord** is the sword of the Spirit, *Eph 6:17*, and audible confession of the scriptures breaks the enemies' power, sets the captive free, and sends us forth in power and victory. Learn many powerful, positive promises from God's Word and speak them in faith into your circumstances, family, ministry and church. God's Word will stand, and evil influences will be destroyed. *Is 54:17, Is 26:12-14, Mic 5:7-9, Job 23:10-14, Deut 33:27, Phil 4:13, Phil 2:13(GNMM), Phil 4:19, 1Jn 1:9, 1Pet 1:18,19, 1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, etc.* Write out powerful, positive promises from the Word of God in a notebook and confess them into your life and situation frequently.
17. **Preaching the Word of God.** The great weapon of God to destroy the strongholds of evil, darkness, and the lies of Satan is the preaching of God's Word. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment as the Word is preached, *Jn 16:8-11*. This leads people to repentance and faith, *Mk 1:15*, and obedience to God's Will. *2Tim 4:2* says, "Preach the Word!" It also adds that there are two seasons for the preaching of the Word. The Word is truth, *Jn 17:17*, and as the truth is preached, it is applied by the Holy Spirit like a fire and a hammer to the hearts of the hearers, *Jer 23:29*, where it destroys the lies of Satan and allows the light of God to penetrate.

Our "preaching" may be to crowds, multitudes, or to an individual. Jesus spoke the Word of God to one lady at the well in Sychar, *Jn 4:5-42*. She repented, believed the message, and through her many in that city were brought to salvation. By the preaching of the Word, the Kingdom of God was established and the preaching of the Word destroyed the Kingdom of Darkness.

18. There are **some cautions** to heed in the area of spiritual warfare, and the first one is to **stay within the realm of your God-given authority**. If we go beyond our given authority we end up in presumption, which is trying to extend the Kingdom of God without specific direction, and enabling, *Num 14:44, Ps 19:13, Deut 17:13*. Presumption is acting without true faith or authority. It is acting outside God's Will. Satan knows if we are acting in faith or presumption. If we act in presumption we open ourselves up to satanic attack and defeat because we have moved out from under God's covering. Very severe attacks of Satan can come against us, if we have moved into presumption. Repent as soon as you are aware of this mistake.

Presumption, for example, is praying to bind and break the influences of satanic powers operating in society, or in the lives of believers, when those people are willingly choosing to act in the way they are, e.g. the influence of TV in the lives of the church members, the strongholds of abortion, homosexuality or pornography in society. While people are willingly giving themselves to these things, we are not able to cast down the spiritual powers in operation. In this situation we are called to preach the Word of God, and the Law of God and seek to bring people to repentance, faith and obedience to God, *Ac 26:18*.

19. A second precaution in spiritual warfare is to always **refute the accusations** of Satan and of people who are opposed to you in your service of the Lord. Read the Gospels and you will see that Jesus always refuted the attacks and false accusations of the religious leaders against Him and His ministry. *Mat 15:1-12, Jn 5:18-23, Mat 12:1-6, Mat 12:24-32. Is 54:17* is a key verse in this regard.

When someone comes and accuses you falsely of doing wrong, acting unfairly, or of some other evil action or failure, say, “that is not true!” “I do not receive that!” It is very important that you refute every unjust judgment against you, because silence, or a weak or half-apologetic reply, will give an opportunity for a curse to start operating against you, which will cause serious trouble. Go back to *Is 54:17* and *Gal 3:13* and refute all false judgments and all curses. Cut off the attacking spirits of satan.

20. Thirdly, **do not be open-hearted and friendly to someone who may have undisclosed bitterness and resentment towards to you.** This, too, can be the opportunity for a curse of hatred to start working against you. Be guarded and wary.

In every case where a curse starts to operate against you, ask God for forgiveness and cleansing by the Blood of Jesus, for opening the door for attack, and then claim *Is 54:17* and *Gal 3:13* in faith, resisting every spirit of evil and commanding them to depart.

[If someone accuses you, or reproves you, of some unrighteous action, and you realise that their judgment is just, say, “Yes, I did do that, it was wrong, please forgive me!” Also ask the Lord to forgive and cleanse you and receive His full forgiveness by faith. Make a stand of faith in God to fully repent of this area of failure.]