

TOPIC: IT'S TIME TO STRIKE BACK

(Pastor John Smith, Jamaica)

We need to recognize that we are in a battle. God has equipped us with everything we need to “strike back” in His name.

KEY POINTS

- ▶ There are many today who are under attack. It is very easy for us to become a bit comfortable with the oppositions we face, and we can take it for granted that “it’s life.” But there is a time when we become aware and it becomes essential for us to strike back.
- ▶ To strike means to deal a blow to a person or a thing as with a fist or possibly a weapon; to hit, to inflict, to deliver a blow or attack; to cause grave impact.
- ▶ Sometimes our adversary the devil comes so forcefully that he may even seek to influence us to change our battle plan. But don’t change the battle plan. Our weapons are not carnal, but they are mighty through God (2 Corinthians 10:4).
- ▶ Without God, our weapons are useless.
- ▶ As observed in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NLT): We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. ⁴We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.
- ▶ That is what we—the Church, the Holy Ghost-filled, the anointed—do: we wage war in the spiritual realm, not in the natural realm.
- ▶ So even when we are bombarded by physical/natural enemies, we can still fight the battle at the spiritual level.
- ▶ There are more battles won on our knees than there are by the words we speak.
- ▶ When the child of God comes under attack, it is important for us to be aware that our adversary the devil is subtle. His attacks are often indirect; it is not always easily noticed that he’s the one attacking.
- ▶ Sometimes the attacks are on our physical body. Sometimes they are on the soul and there are times when they are on the mind, characterized by fear, guilt and doubt.
- ▶ We must understand that even though the physical body comes under attack, our response can and should be spiritual.
- ▶ We must strike back. The Church must strike back.
- ▶ We may go through low times, through valley experiences, but the adversary will not have dominion over us. We will come out victorious because of the power that lies in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Do you have a circumstance in your life that you want God to take care of? Are you willing to stand in faith and declare over yourself, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I am healed, I am delivered, I am set free by the power of the Lord”?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Acts 4:1-4, 8-15, 29;
Ephesians 6:10-18

- ▶ Get ready to strike back today. Don’t walk in fear under the clouds of the enemy, under the dark shadows of the devil.
- ▶ We can call on our God for backup. His name is Jesus. We can’t call on Him without something positive happening in our lives.
- ▶ There is power in His name. There is deliverance in His name. There is healing in His name!
- ▶ In Acts 4, the apostles realized they were under attack. And in preparing to strike back, what did they do? They prayed (Acts 4:29-31).
- ▶ If we are going to strike back in a meaningful way, we’re going to have to do it through prayer, bearing in mind that “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God” (2 Corinthians 10:4). We must put on the whole armour of God when engaging in battle (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- ▶ We will never see all the darts that are coming at us. They are invisible, but so is our shield of faith. Faith is not a physical piece of armour. Faith is in the mind and in the heart. It is believing, having full confidence in our God.
- ▶ So let us call on God wherever we are. He will hear us. Our God is greater than all the powers of the enemy. We have power as long as we have Jesus.
- ▶ It’s time to strike back!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Ephesians 6:14-17 breaks down the components that make up the whole armour of God. In your own words, how do you define these different components and how do you go about utilizing them?
2. Reflecting on past situations, how were you able to effectively use any of these parts of the armour?
3. Have you ever been in a situation where you should have utilized one of these components but you did not? What was the outcome? What could you have done differently?
4. Are you under attack today? Are fiery darts of the enemy coming your way? Do as the apostles did—pray! Call on the name of God. Equip yourself with the whole armour of God and engage the enemy in battle. Strike back!







Prayer Time

Lord, equip me with Your armour so that, by Your power, I may be able to deflect the darts of the enemy.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

L.G. Ice-Breaker: How have the recent hurricanes, Harvey and Irma, affected your thoughts and/or your life?