

SPIRITUAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

To win spiritual battles, we must utilize all of our spiritual weapons.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ New armed forces recruits are soldiers in name only – they don't yet know the skills of war and fighting.
- ❖ At "Boot Camp" they learn army discipline, weapons and tactics. They learn to march, salute, take orders, wear their uniforms, and begin to develop the physical endurance they need.
- ❖ It's crucial for soldiers to be well trained *before* they go to war and engage the enemy in the field.
- ❖ Likewise, new Christians need basic training in fighting spiritual battles. Most new believers begin their Christian walk with a joyful, carefree attitude, having just been freed from the bondage of sin and Satan.
- ❖ However, the enemy of our soul hates to lose a battle, so he immediately begins an attack to reclaim his lost territory. And his lost territory is **us!**
- ❖ Therefore, we must learn to fight. Quickly.
- ❖ When the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus (somewhere around 60AD), Roman soldiers were everywhere, striking fear in the hearts of those they had conquered and whose lands they occupied.
- ❖ As a good teacher preparing his converts for the spiritual battles ahead, Paul compared the preparation needed for spiritual battle with the preparation of a Roman soldier (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- ❖ He outlined seven aspects of our preparation for spiritual warfare:
 1. (v.14) The *truth* of the word of God is our basic, 'core' defensive armour (girdle/belt).
 2. (v. 14) *Righteousness* is an offensive weapon to protect that which is most vital to us (breastplate).
 3. (v. 15) *Sharing the gospel* is another offensive weapon that brings deliverance to others around us (foot protection).
 4. (v. 15) *Faith* is a defensive armour that protects us against Satan's assaults (*shield*).
 5. (v. 17) The reality of our *salvation* is another defensive armament that protects our minds (helmet).
 6. (v. 17) The *word of God* is a powerful offensive weapon against our enemy (sword).
 7. (v. 18) Spirit-led *prayer* is used both offensively and defensively to protect and strengthen our brethren and ourselves.
- ❖ Paul said, "having done all... stand" (v. 13). And the last aspect of how we "stand," as we utilize all the other six aspects of our armour and weaponry, is that we pray.
- ❖ We pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- ❖ We pray night and day (2 Timothy 2:8).
- ❖ We pray without wrath and doubting (1 Timothy 2:8).
- ❖ We pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20).
- ❖ We pray with our own intellect (1 Corinthians 14:15).
- ❖ And we pray in other tongues as the Spirit of God intercedes through us (1 Cor. 14:14-15).

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Ephesians 6:10-18, 5:26; John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 11:6, 4:12; Psalm 119:11; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; 2 Timothy 2:4

- ❖ Clearly, no element of our Christian armour and war preparations is optional or dispensable. Which part of it could we possibly do without?
- ❖ Every morning we must check to make sure we are ready for battle. Every evening, we need to regroup, refresh, re-energize, refocus, and recommit ourselves to fighting the good fight of faith, to lay hold of eternal life (1 Tim. 6:12).
- ❖ Remember Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 10:3-6: ...though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.
- ❖ So, let us go "Onward, Christian Soldiers!" Let's ensure that all seven aspects of our preparation for battle are in place and let us take the fight to the enemy. As Jesus told us in Matthew 16:18, the very gates of hell cannot prevail against the church of the living God.
- ❖ Remember: Being a soldier in God's army is a lifetime calling that demands our full attention at all times.
- ❖ As Paul wrote to Timothy, "No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier" (2 Tim. 2:4).
- ❖ So, let us fight and we will conquer. Through Christ, we are positively assured of victory in every battle, in Jesus' name!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. According to Ephesians 6:12, describe the true enemy/enemies of a child of God.
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-11. What do these verses teach us about spiritual warfare?
3. Discuss the individual parts of "the whole armour of God" in Ephesians 6:14-17. How does each relate to our lives and the spiritual battle we are engaged in each day?
4. Discuss why prayer is so important (vv. 18-20).

PRAYER TIME

Lord, I stand in You and in the power of Your might. Thank You for standing with me in...
(mention some battles you are facing right now).

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

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

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: As you prepare for your day, what activity takes longest – "devotions", personal hygiene, dressing, breakfast...?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

In-person Services: Suspended until further notice

Due to current City of Toronto regulations.

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

He gives strength to me

As I worship Him

And my heart is filled with praise

Jesus breaks the bands

As I raise my hands

Giving glorious Victory

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:

Bible Study – 10:15 a.m.

Morning service – 11:00 a.m.)

- Go to www.faithsanctuary.com >click "livestream" link (or type in www.faithsanctuary.com/live)
- Go to www.youtube.com >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

Berean Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Facebook and Zoom)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

NOVEMBER 22, 2020


Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."
Ephesians 6:10 NKJV*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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