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706.860.7493

## Weapons of Spiritual Warfare

A well stocked armory does no good without knowledge of the weapons it contains and what they are used for. This lesson is designed to act as your armorer and help you know what spiritual weapons are available to you, how to use each one, and what their limitations are.

To begin with, we must first define what sort of conflict we are in. When we talk about warfare in the physical sense, there are two readily distinguishable sides, even if we have multiple opponents we still think in terms of 'us' and 'them'.

What are the sides in spiritual warfare?

In WWII, soldiers faced a problem of identifying their friends and foes because almost all the nations involved in the conflict had green uniforms. Most of the time they fought with the people of their own country so telling the difference between the two wasn't a problem. However, during the Normandy campaign (and D-Day in particular), they were going to be fighting side-by-side with and against people they had never seen before. They needed a sign to distinguish between their friends and their foes

How do we determine who is on whose side?

Benedict Arnold is best known for his betrayal of the fledgling American Republic in spite of his claims of allegiance to America. Actions speak louder than words.

- Body
  - Discipline
    - Matthew 7:18-20 <sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.
    - 1 Corinthians 9:27 But I roughly treat my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.
  - Endurance

- 2 Timothy 2:3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
    - 2 Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.
  - Paul helped us understand this battlefield even further when he told us in 1 Corinthians 6:19 that our bodies are temples under the new covenant.
  - The temple was, and still is, the most important symbol in Jerusalem. It signifies the strength and heart of the Jewish people. All throughout the Old Testament, you could tell how Israel was doing just by the condition of the temple and how it was treated.
  - How is our temple doing?
- Mind
  - Deception
    - All warfare is based on deception.  
–Sun Tzu
    - Hosea 10:13 But you have planted wickedness,  
you have reaped evil,  
you have eaten the fruit of deception.  
Because you have depended on your own strength  
and on your many warriors,
  - Information
    - Never interrupt your enemy while they are making a mistake.  
– Napoleon Bonaparte
    - 2 Corinthians 4:2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
    - 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds),
- Heart
  - The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.  
-G. K. Chesterton

- We fight for our hearts
  - Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
  - Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
- We fight for your heart
  - Proverbs 24:11-13 <sup>11</sup>Rescue those being led away to death;  
hold back those staggering toward slaughter.  
<sup>12</sup>If you say, "But we knew nothing about this,"  
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?  
Does not he who guards your life know it?  
Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?  
<sup>13</sup>Eat honey, my son, for it is good;  
honey from the comb is sweet to your taste.

Conclusion:

I neglected to mention caveat, though. None of these weapons are available to you, and no one is on your side if you do not belong to Christ. What's worse, if you are not Christ's, if the fruit of your life would not convict you in a court of law of being one of His servants, you are His enemy. You are my enemy.

Jesus is the narrow gate, and only through Him can we have any hope of facing spiritual battles with anything less than a devastating outcome so the ultimate question is;

What side of the gate are you on?