

SPIRITUAL WARFARE TRAINING – PART TWO

Mini version From Katie's SW Training Manual - ARMOR OF GOD

The battle is for the **bodies** and **souls** of men and women on earth. It is called the battle of SPIRITUAL WARFARE. Because Satan and all his forces *are spirits*, our battle is a *spiritual* one. And our weapons must be *spiritual* weapons.

If you knew a thief was planning to break into your home tonight, what would you do?

*You'd probably turn on every light inside and outside, and sit up to watch for his coming with weapons in hand, so you could stop his plans. You would be prepared. You would take every precaution necessary to prevent the theft. This is a wise prevention. We are called to **be as prepared** when we are fighting the enemies of darkness in **spiritual warfare**.*

The objective of spiritual warfare is **2 Corinthians 10:4, 5 (NKJV)**, which says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Colossians 2:8 says, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. (NIV)

This is the heart of spiritual warfare. As we look at some of the truths listed here, we will learn that the weapons Christ gives us are able to tear down Satan's strongholds and replace them with fortresses of truth! We are not left to our own devices in fighting this spiritual battle, but we are given tools and told how to apply them through the Word of God and through the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

TRUTHS OF THIS SPIRITUAL BATTLE:

- Spiritual warfare began in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3).
- Jesus' birth was important as it represented Satan's power of control broken.
- Satan attempts to change the focus of the believer—off Jesus and onto self, things, and people.
- Satan hates you. It is not a love/hate relationship. It is pure hatred for the believer—God's child.
- Satan tries to prevent you from knowing your identity (who you are) in Christ.
- Satan seeks to frustrate the will of God for the believer.
- Satan tries to prevent and stop Christian service, potential, dreams and relationships.
- This battle is not a new or recent revelation; Satan is out to destroy the believer.
- When did it start? From birth as you entered into the world. It intensified, as you became a Christian.

Paul mentions in **Ephesians 6:12b**, our demonic enemies: Principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

Read **Colossians 2:12-15**. What does that mean? It means that our covenant for possession has been ratified by the blood of Jesus. Spiritual victory can be established, only as we move in and appropriate the provisions for the new covenant. The enemy's squatter rights has been in place for hundreds of years and he won't leave simply because you want him too. We must fight to displace the enemy; rout him out. This takes spiritual gumption, nerve, fortitude and strengths, but remember it is not just our battle; the Lord fights with us.

The armor of God will act as our defense and our offense while we live out our lives in this world. It will help us appropriate the "*whole of Jesus*" so He can work in and through our lives.

WEARING THE ARMOR IS WEARING JESUS

He is our **truth** – John 14:6. He is our **salvation** – Ephesians 6:17

He is our **faith** – Galatians 2:20 He is our **righteousness** – 2 Corinthians 5:21

He is the **sword** of the **Spirit**, the **Word of God** – John 1:1-2

He gives us the **ability** (readiness) to walk in the **Gospel of peace**.

His equipment is **sufficient** for battle – Ephesians 6:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Is it necessary to wear the armor at all time? I believe the answer to that question is a definite **YES!**

It is clear that our warfare is not against physical forces, but against invisible powers who have clearly defined levels of authority in a realm though invisible, sphere of activity. Paul, however, not only warns us of a clearly defined structure in the invisible realm, he instructs us to take up the whole armor of God in order to maintain a "**battle-stance**" against this unseen satanic structure.

This entire armor is not just a **passive protection** in facing the enemy; it is to be **used offensively** against these satanic forces. Note Paul's final directive: we are to be "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit." (v.18).

The weaponry that we want to check out is the "**basic issue**" described in **Ephesians 6**: girding or belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet and sword. And especially we need the **badge of authority** which indicates that we have every power necessary to wage war against the enemy. We are not intimidated by Satan. We are God's appointed authority! When we raise our hand and resist him, Satan sees our badge and he has to accept our authority and flee!

We can stand in the confidence of Jesus' completed work. His weapons are proven and tested; Use Them!

THE ARMOR OF GOD

I must put on the armor of God
 And put it on every day.
I need it to protect myself
 When against the enemy I pray.
I must put on the whole armor
 So I will be able to withstand.
In that evil day,
 I must do all to stand.
I must gird my waist with truth,
 Put on the breastplate of righteousness.
I must stand firm
 So the enemy cannot oppress.
I must shod my feet
 With the preparation
 Of the gospel of peace.
I must keep battling on,
 If captives I am to release.
I must take up the shield of faith,
 To quench all the fiery darts
 Of the evil one.
I must put on the helmet
 Of salvation,
 And not turn and run.
I must stand firm,
 With the sword of the Spirit
 In my hand.
I must pray for the saints
 In the spirit
 And obey all of God's commands.

~ Martha Cowan

Ephesians 6:13-18