

THE TRUTH HERALD

The Weapons of Our Warfare

February 2015, Vol. 1, No. 2

If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

1 – For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. [2 Corinthians 10: 3]

The weapons of our warfare are not physical. They are spiritual. In a spiritual kingdom, we war spiritually because the enemy is spiritual. The Bible tells believers to put on the *whole armor* of God. Even though the armor of God cannot be seen with the physical eye, it is critically important to victory in warfare. An analogy can be seen with the common cold, caused by a virus. One's body can fight it naturally over time. Those who have built strong enough immune systems can be exposed to the virus but never show symptoms because their antibodies fight and overcome the virus before it has time to manifest itself in symptoms ... such as sore throat, nasal congestion, coughing, sneezing, fever, etc. Viruses and antibodies battle inside the body, yet the results are outwardly evident ... in disease or wellbeing ... depending on the strength of one's immune system. A Christian who has put on the *whole armor* of God can be likened to a person who has developed a very strong immune system.

2 – For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ [2 Corinthians 10: 4-5]

The weapons of our warfare are based on the supremacy of God. They are not carnal but spiritual and mighty, through God. The Bible tells us to *be strong in the Lord*, not in ourselves, and in the power of His *might*, not in our own might (Ephesians 6:10). This is only possible if we have submitted ourselves to the authority of God by being born of His Spirit. We do this by accepting His only begotten Son Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (John 3:16). He then sends His Holy Spirit to live in our hearts: "Because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6). And this gives us power to operate in His might: "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12).

3 – ...My brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

[Ephesians 6: 10-13]

The Bible tells us to put on the *whole armor* of God. Armor protects in times of battle. We put on this armor in order to fight effectively -- both defensively and offensively. If we want to be victorious, we do not wait until the battle begins before we begin to put on the armor. The enemy comes to steal, and to kill and to destroy (John 10:10a), without prior warning. Therefore, the whole armor of God should be on at all times because the believer never knows when the enemy will attack.

4 – Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

[Ephesians 6: 14-18]

What does the whole armor of God consist of? Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Faith, Salvation, The Word of God, and Prayer. All these parts of the armor are connected, and they are collectively for defense and offense. All these parts of the armor are Christ-centered and Christ-focused. The battle is with the enemy but the armor of God is focused on Christ; not on the enemy. When we put on the armor, we are hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). One who has put on the whole armor of God is immune to the wiles of the devil.

5 - TRUTH: Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free [John 8:32]

Truth is a foundational part of the armor of God. Paul's admonition is to 'gird your loins' with truth. "Girding your loins" depicts a readiness, preparedness. The truth makes us ready for warfare. What is truth? And how do we know this truth that prepares us for warfare... and makes us free? This truth is God's word; it is the same truth that those who walked with God in the Old Testament operated in; it is the same truth that those who walked with Jesus Christ (when He walked on earth) operated in; and it the same truth that those who have believed in Jesus Christ and walk by the leading of the Holy Spirit operate in. When we are born again, that is born of the Spirit of God, His Holy Spirit comes to live in us and leads us into all truth (John 16:13). Once His Holy Spirit is in us, and He has given us power to become sons and daughters of God, He leads us into all truth as we walk with Him. We build immunity to lies as we walk in truth.

6 - RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, and SALVATION: The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works (Psalm 145:17). | But people are declared righteous because of their faith, not because of their work (Romans 4:5) | Because Abraham believed God, God declared Him to be righteous (Romans 4:3)

Righteousness (breastplate), faith (shield) and salvation (helmet) are inseparably linked. They protect our vital 'organs' in warfare. The Bible tells us that God is righteous (Ezra 9:15). Man is righteous by his *faith in God* (Romans 4:5). By accepting God's gift of salvation and believing in Jesus, man is saved from spiritual death and given eternal life. He is placed back on the path of righteousness, by faith, and the Holy Spirit comes to live in his heart to lead him to walk according to God's will. Walking in righteousness means we follow God's will and enjoy a close relationship with Him (Genesis 6:9). Walking in righteousness keeps us in the will of God, and being in the will of God is our protection. As believers walk in righteousness they build immunity to accusations of the evil one.

7 - PRAYER, PEACE: Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. [Phil. 4:6-7]

The devil's objective is to steal our peace. God's word encourages us to walk in peace on our journey of life. A walk without Christ is a walk without peace. How do we walk in peace? The Bible tells us precisely how to do so. "To be carnally-minded is death, but to be spiritually-minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6). We should set our minds on things above, not on earthly things (Col 3:2). We should not worry about anything but pray about everything. How do we pray? We tell God what we need and thank Him for all He has done. As we do this we will walk in God's peace which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard our hearts and minds (the weapon of peace guards our hearts and minds) as we live in Christ Jesus. The Word of God also tells us to *pray at all times*. This means we should live a prayerful life and be in constant fellowship with the Holy Spirit, telling Him about everything, telling Him what we need and thanking Him for all He has done. This way, we build immunity to worry and anxiety.

8. THE WORD OF GOD: In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was the life and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehendeth it not. (John 1: 1-5)

The word of God is truth. It is the truth about who God is and who we are in Him. In this truth is found life. And this life is the light of man. This light shines in the darkness, and eliminates the darkness. Man can do nothing on his own; he is enabled and empowered by God to be like Christ, and to bring the light of Christ wherever he goes (John 15:5). Jesus says in Matthew 4:4 that "man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." The word of God is meant to be *practiced*. In Luke 11:28 Jesus says: "But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice." We are empowered to practice the word by the Holy Spirit living in our hearts. As we practice the word, we build immunity to ignorance of the truth. Truth brings light: thus, we are immune to darkness.