

Identifying Spiritual Warfare

Recognize the War. Enforce the Victory.

The true nature of spiritual warfare – is not about physical strength or eloquence – but about using God’s power to tear down every opposition **against God’s truth**:

- Mental strongholds
- False ideologies
- Rebellious thoughts

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual warfare is real—and it's not always loud, spooky, or dramatic. Sometimes it's subtle: a mindset that won't let go, a heaviness you can't explain, or a lie you didn't even realize you believed. But make no mistake—there is a war going on in the spirit, and if we're going to live in victory, we've got to learn how to **recognize it and respond with power**. In **2 Corinthians 10: 1-2**, Paul greets the church in humility; clarifying his authority and setting the tone for what he was about to teach on spiritual warfare. He acknowledged and confronted criticism he received which opened the opportunity for him to not only defend himself but the Gospel --- from prideful and carnal critics who were trying to discredit (undermine) his leadership.

Reference Scriptures

- **2 Corinthians 10: 3-5** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling 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;*
- **Ephesians 6: 10-18** – “*put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*” v11 <<<< this is the **battle plan** (spiritual gear)
- **1 Peter 5:8-9** *(be sober and vigilant); James 4:7* *(submit and resist); 2 Timothy 2:3-4* *(endure hardness as a good soldier)* – **shows us that warfare is a part of the call. We are not “wimpy” – we are soldiers!; Romans 13:12** *(cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light); Luke 10:19* *(authority over the enemy)* - **power-not just over demons/demonic activity but over fear, temptation, confusion, torment...**

IDENTIFYING SPIRITUAL WARFARE (OPPOSITION)

Paul addressed this – not only in relation to heavenly realms but he taught that opposition comes through people – sometimes in the form of accusations that had risen against him from within the church. [**self-promotion, pride, deceit, lies, rebellion, strongholds**]
The only way to defeat these is through God’s weapons: **truth, righteousness, faith, the Word, prayer, peace, unity** – *the WHOLE armor of God. Each piece is a weapon!*
Strongholds must be torn down by these weapons, not by human strength, ability, or intellect.

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RECOGNIZE THE WAR

Signs of spiritual warfare: **(1)** Unusual opposition; **(2)** Mental (battles/tormenting thoughts); **(3)** Relationships (divided, distorted); **(4)** Sudden oppression; **(5)** Repetitive cycles or delays; **(6)** Attacks during Kingdom Assignment/Call.

NOTE: Matthew 4:1 *"Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." --- before launching His ministry. This is our example and encouragement that warfare often increases when you are about to **advance the kingdom**- when lives are about to be changed, set free, and delivered.*

ENFORCE THE VICTORY

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 v6: *"and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." ---- we are **always ready to court-martial any (thoughts, plans, schemes, demon, false teaching, etc)** that is in opposition to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Seven (7) Strategies to (engage and) enforce the victory:

- 1. Use the Word like a Sword (Ephesians 6:17)**
- 2. Pray without ceasing (Ephesians 6:18)**
- 3. Put on the full Armor of God [get fully dressed] (Ephesians 6:11)**
- 4. Resist the devil – Don't entertain him. (James 4:7)**
- 5. Guard your mind [thoughts] (2 Corinthians 10:5)** *"...take every thought captive..."*
- 6. Speak life! (Proverbs 18:21)** *"the power of life and death is in the tongue..."*
(Romans 10:8 – *"the word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach..."*)
- 7. Praise through the Pressure [problem] (Psalm 149:6)** *"let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand."; (Psalm 8:2)* *"praise is a weapon that invokes the presence of God."* **Invite Him in!**

FINAL THOUGHT:

Spiritual warfare is not reserved for emergencies—it's part of your daily walk. You were not left defenseless; you were fully equipped. You have the Word as your weapon, prayer as your power line, armor as your covering, and praise as your breakthrough sound. Remember, you are not fighting **"for"** victory, you are fighting **"from"** victory!