

“Satan would rob us of our witness, making us into stumbling blocks to those who are perishing; he would rob us of our peace and our joy; he would rob us of our freedom; he would rob us of our fellowship with God. This is why we are constantly exhorted to walk according to the light (1 John 1:6-7); to be on the alert (1 Peter 5:8); to “put on the full armor of God that we may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:11) (Johanna Michaelsen)

Ezekiel Ministry

A Ministry of Hope and Healing



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Our Victory is in the Cross of Jesus Christ

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Ezekiel Ministry

Sharing the Light and Love of God to a Dark World

“...lest Satan should take advantage of us; we are not ignorant of his devices.” (2 Corinthians 2:11)

Satan today is attacking us as never before. One of his main attacks is on people called to ministry. He wants us to give up. He is telling us that we cannot do the job that we are useless and our ministry is not reaching people so why continue. He is attacking people in the ministry because we are on the front line and if Satan can get us to give up the fight, he has won a major victory. Satan is frantic to abort any vision that will strengthen the saints for the dark times to come. If Satan is attacking the ministry, how much more is he attacking God's saints. We must realize that we are at war. This is a war with eternity as the final victory. This war is more important than any war that has been fought on this earth. This war is a war that is fought in the spiritual realm.

The next few newsletters will be about spiritual warfare.

Spiritual Warriors

“He will flatter those who hate the things of God, and win them over to his side. But the people who know their God shall be strong and do great things. Those with spiritual understanding will have a wide ministry of teaching in those days. But they will be in constant danger, many of them dying by fire and sword, or being jailed and robbed. Eventually these pressures will subside, and some ungodly men will come, pretending to offer a helping hand, only to take advantage of them. And some who are most gifted in the things of God will stumble in those days and fall, but this will only refine and cleanse them and make them pure until the final end of their trials, at God's appointed time.”(Daniel 11:32-35TLB)

Spiritual Warfare

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

“The greatest battle of all history was not fought between flesh and blood, between opposing armies or armed warriors. It was a battle in the spirit realm between the two most powerful forces in the universe – the Source of Evil, known in the Bible as Satan, and the Commander in Chief of the Lord's host, the Son of God. Even though the battle was won by Jesus Christ, the skirmishes continue to this day. On one side is Satan with his countless demons. On the other side are Jesus and His angels. The battle is for the bodies and souls of men and women on earth. The battle is called spiritual warfare.” (Jamie Buckingham)

As we begin our study in spiritual warfare, there are some facts that we need to be aware of.

- ◆ The spiritual world is more real than the physical world we live in.
- ◆ Satan is real. He is not a fairy tale.
- ◆ We have victory because Jesus Christ died on the Cross for our sins and we are victorious.
- ◆ The church at times act as if Satan does not exist.

One important fact that we should remember is that we should have a balanced Christian life. This is the danger of studying spiritual warfare, we become too involved and we see Satan in everything. We must be careful.

There was a very cautious man who never laughed or played; he never risked, he never tried, he never sang or prayed. And when he one day passed away his insurance was denied; for since he never really lived, they claimed he never died!

The Spiritual Warrior must be a soul that thirsts after God.

“As a deer pants for the water brook, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God.” (Psalm 42:1-2)

“Thou hast formed us for thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in thee.” (Augustine)

“In this hour of all but universal darkness one cheering gleam appears: within the fold of conservative Christianity there are to be found increasing numbers of persons whose religious lives are marked by a growing hunger after God Himself. They are eager for spiritual realities and will not be put off with words, nor will they be content with correct ‘interpretation’ of truth. They are a thirst for God, and they will not be satisfied till they have drunk deep at the Fountain of Living Water.” (A.W. Tozer – The Pursuit of God)

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)

The Spiritual Warrior needs faith if they are going to battle Satan and all his demons.

Have the faith to step out of the boat. Get rid of the fear. A warrior will have his faith built on the Rock of Jesus Christ. God, our only provider.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23) ■

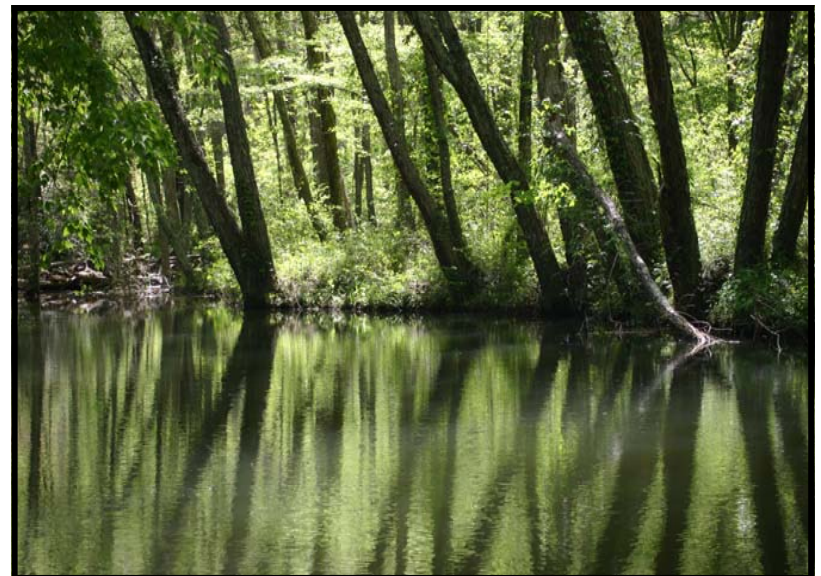
Victory in spiritual warfare is not a simple formula. Victory is the fruit of our relationship with Jesus Christ as we walk with Him and appropriate by faith the victory He has already given us.

“And those who are wise-the people of God-shall shine as brightly as the sun’s brilliance, and those who turn many to righteousness will glitter like stars forever.” (Daniel 12:3TLB)

In these last days we must learn to be Spiritual Warriors. What is a warrior? A warrior is one who will be engaged in warfare. Satan is fighting us in all areas of our lives. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6, that we must put on the whole armor of God. This should tell us that we are engaged in warfare. To become the warrior that we should be, we need to look at some characteristics of a Spiritual Warrior.

A Spiritual Warrior has made a choice to focus his attention on the things of God. He has a sense of a mission. He is on a mission for God. He focuses his attention on God no matter what is going on in his life.

“I had found what I was looking for – a man like myself but one who in his search for meaning had discovered a worthwhile object for his life; who had paid every price and not counted it a sacrifice; who was paying it still and would pay it until he died, who cared nothing for compromise, nothing for his pride, nothing for ourselves, or the opinion of others; who had reduced his life to the one thing that mattered to him, and was free.” (John LeCarre, The Secret Pilgrim) ►



The key verses to being a Spiritual Warrior is ***“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?’ (Matthew 16:24-26)***

To be a spiritual warrior we do not need to be more educated or sophisticated. We need to simplify our lives.

“There is so little principle in the church, so little firmness and stability of purpose, that unless it is greatly excited, it will go back from the path of duty, and do nothing to promote the glory of God.” (Charles Finney)

We must focus our lives more on what God wants us to do.

We need to wait upon the Lord. We have got to let God lead us in the direction that we must go. As we wait, we built up our strength.

When flowing water meets with obstacles on its path, a blockage in its journey, it pauses. It increases in volume and strength, filling up in front of the obstacle and eventually spilling past it.

Do not turn and run, for there is nowhere to go but forward toward God. Do not attempt to push ahead into danger. Pause and build up your strength until the obstacle no longer represents a blockage.

There was one emotion that Jesus never experienced. He experienced joy, sorrow, pain. He was tried, angry and hopeful. He was never frantic. God’s voice is never frantic. When you hear desperate thoughts, you can know that you are not hearing the voice of God.

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31) ►

Sometimes all we can do is walk. This at times can be a struggle. Sometimes we run. This is somewhat easier. Then there is times that we soar with the Eagles. These are the times that we truly walk in the power of God.

“He gives power to the weak, and those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary. And the young man shall utterly fall.” (Isaiah 40:29-30)

To be Spiritual Warriors we must stay focused on Jesus.

A man names Frank Laubach devoted his whole life to learning to focus on Jesus. He was a sociologist, educator, and missionary to the Philippines in the early twentieth century whose career fell apart when he was in his early forties. He lost the vocational opportunity he most desired. He and his wife lost three children to malaria, his wife took their remaining child and moved thousands of miles away, leaving him desperately lonely.

God spoke to him and told him that he was not focusing on Him but on himself. He prayed, “God drive me out of myself and take possession of me and think your thoughts in my mind.”

The following are some thoughts based on his recommendations for staying focused on Jesus.

- ◆ In a social setting, whisper “Jesus” quietly as you glance at each person near you. Christ sees the person as he is and as He wants him to be. We need to see everyone as Jesus sees them.
- ◆ When problem solving at work or anywhere, instead of talking to yourself about the problem, talk to Jesus about the problem.
- ◆ Read a scripture just before you go to sleep and pray. This will get the Word into your heart. Then when you get up read a scripture when you wake up.
- ◆ Meditate on God’s Word.
- ◆ Talk to Jesus about everything you do. Talk to Him as you ride down the road, as you work, as you go about your daily routines. Jesus cares about every thing about you. ►