

Text for the back of the book:

I am well aware of the fact that there have been many books written through the years on the issue of spiritual warfare, and those books each focused on the battle with the devil and his minions. So I know that in order to write a book about spiritual warfare that does not just reiterate the same ideas as others before me is quite the challenge, but I hope that you find this book to be more than just another attempt at a new teaching of the same information. So let's examine this issue with a new understanding of what is necessary to effectively win the war!

The Five Methods of Effective Spiritual Warfare:

How To Defeat The Enemy And Be The Effective Warrior For Christ That You Desire To Be!

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BONUS MATERIAL:

“The Christian Warrior's Creed”

Introduction

I want to present you with a fresh understanding of what spiritual warfare actually is, what it entails, and, lastly, I want to give you five methods of warfare that are, for the most part, misused, underused, or ignored completely. I recognize the obvious challenges that have to be overcome in order to reach that goal, but I believe that we can do it. And now I want to do something that I normally reserve for the end of the book. I want to pray for you as you begin to read through this book.

Lord Jesus, I come before You, first just lifting up the name of Jesus and proclaiming You to be the only possible chance of victory in our own battles with the enemies of our souls. Lord, I know that the devil is going to come against, not only the writing of this book, but the reading of this book by anyone who desires to oppose him in any way. I ask You to put up a special hedge of protection against every strategy that he would employ in the fulfillment of his goals against the people of God. Just use this book to bring glory and honor to Yourself, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter One: A Simple Definition

I want to start this book with a definitive look at spiritual warfare. I'm going to first give you a plain definition of what spiritual warfare is, and then I will elaborate on some things that are involved with this issue. Spiritual warfare can be defined as the constant battle of the Christ-follower against the enemies of his soul, and there are three of them.

- 1) The flesh of the man. Not the actual physical, fleshly body, but the natural human desires that are against the nature of God.
- 2) The world. Anyone who has tried to resist temptation knows what I am talking about. Almost without exception, the world encourages us to give in to the temptations, and the world *never* discourages us from temptation.
- 3) The devil and his ilk. The devil is the ultimate evil master architect of the spiritual warfare that every Christ-follower finds himself in, and he has had many thousands of years to perfect his strategies.

Now, let's consider some specific strategies that we can see that the devil routinely employs against the people of God.

- 1) Hitting us while we are down. This may be with one catastrophic event after another, practically nonstop (as in the case of Job), or it could be with the flirtatious waitress right after you had a big fight with your wife. Whatever the strategy that is employed against you, you can rest assured that it is going to involve a temptation.
- 2) Monotony. What do I mean by that? Take the case of Samson and Delilah as a classic example. Delilah, acting in this case as the agent of the devil, wore Samson's resolve down with the monotonous pleas to be told the secret to Samson's incredible strength until he gave in and told her the truth. (And, just as a side note, Samson never recognized the compromise for what it was until it was too late!) This same strategy is still used today by the enemies of God against His people, because it is a very effective strategy.
- 3) The manifestation of a previously unthought-of or deeply hidden desire. This strategy is used routinely with young, 18-25 year olds, because of the fact that many people in this age group are just beginning to experience life without the restrictions of home being placed on them.
- 4) Natural tendencies. This strategy involves every natural tendency of the unredeemed that is against the very nature of God: greed, idolatry, sexual temptation of every variety, and every single thing that can be classified as a temptation (including everything from engaging in that affair to getting drunk to overeating.) This is probably the most common and most utilized method of attack that the devil employs.
- 5) One more strategy that the devil routinely attacks with is employed against older Christ-followers, and that is the temptation of a previously unrealized desire to do something that the individual has never done before. The real danger of this

strategy lies in the apparent harmlessness of the initial endeavor. Often the accomplishment of the goal leads to either a desire and a drive to accomplish more (regardless of the morals that must be sacrificed to achieve the new goals) or a feeling of emptiness and need that can only be filled with the achievement of future goals, which are sure to come with future temptations.

So, I believe that we have laid down the foundation for, not only recognizing spiritual warfare for what it is, but also recognizing many of the strategies that are employed by the enemy. But there's more to do before we get to the five methods of spiritual warfare, so let's look at those things.

Chapter Two: A Biblically Solid Footing

Now, I want to look at various verses of scripture that are useful, and indeed, necessary for our own understanding of the warfare that we are to engage in. First, let's look at a couple of verses that remind us to not flee the battle.

1) Ephesians 6:13 (KJV)

“[13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

This verse plainly informs us that there *is* no retreat in this battle.

2) 2 Timothy 2:3 (KJV)

“[3] Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

This verse demonstrates that we need to be prepared to endure hardness for Jesus’ sake.

Now, we are going to look at several verses that inform our strategy and teach us how to fight.

1) James 4:7 (KJV)

“[7] Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Here, we are informed of two things that we need to do. Both are of vital importance, but the first one ranks ahead of the second one.

2) 1 Peter 5:6-7 (KJV)

“[6] Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time:

[7] casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”

This passage actually gives us two important strategies to follow: it reminds us to be humble, as well as reminding us to take everything to God in prayer.

3) 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (KJV)

“[3] For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

[4] (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

[5] 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;”

This passage reminds us of the importance of always guarding our minds against attacks from the enemy.

4) 1 Peter 5:8-9 (KJV)

“[8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

[9] whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

This passage reminds us again that the devil is constantly looking for anyone who is a threat to his kingdom, with the intention of devouring them. But we are also told to resist him, and in a previous verse that we looked at we were told that when we resist the devil, he will flee.

5) Galatians 5:16 (KJV)

"[16] This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."
This verse tells us plainly that the routine engagement of sinful behavior will be drastically reduced when the habit of walking in the Spirit is established in the Christ-follower's life.

6) Galatians 6:10 KJV

"[10] As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

We are told in this verse to make it a regular habit to do good deeds for the benefit of everyone, but the phrase at the end of this verse tells us to make a particular habit of blessing those who believe the gospel.

Now, we are going to look at one final category of scripture, and that is, verses that inform us of how we need to conduct ourselves.

1) 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

"[15] Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We are told here to firmly establish the routine habit of studying the scriptures so that we will not be ashamed.

2) 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)

"[17] Pray without ceasing."

Here we are informed about the importance of always praying.

3) 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)

"[18] In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

We are told in this verse to thank God in all things. This is both simple and hard, depending on the circumstances. If the occurrence is good, it's easy to thank God. But it is much harder to thank God when the outcome is less than desirable. This verse makes no such distinction, however. It simply says that we are to give thanks in *all* things.

4) 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (KJV)

"[19] Quench not the Spirit."

Here we are told to *not* quench the Spirit. The most common way that we quench the Spirit is by putting a time limit on our services and not allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the timing, and hence, the tempo of the service. Other ways to quench the Spirit include not allowing spontaneous worship during the worship portion of the service, and the natural tendency toward opposition to anything unknown or out of the ordinary. (These are just a few of the ways that we tend to quench the Spirit.)

5) 1 Thessalonians 5:20 (KJV)

“[20] Despise not prophesyings.”

This verse clearly tells us to *not* look down on prophets or their words that they give. Obviously, if they are wrong more than they are right, we have no verse telling us to listen to them.

6) 1 Thessalonians 5:21 (KJV)

“[21] Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

Here we are informed that we need to test everything, and hold tight to everything that passes the test.

7) 1 Thessalonians 5:22 (KJV)

“[22] Abstain from all appearance of evil.”

This verse informs us of the importance of making sure that nothing that we do even has the appearance of evil.

I believe that I have thoroughly presented most, if not all, of the scriptural references that inform our strategy and teach us the importance of always following the scriptures.

Chapter Three: The Importance Of Being Properly Equipped

In this chapter I will go over some of the reasons why it is so important to be properly equipped for the battle.

The first thing that I want to address is the tendency to not apply ourselves with full strength to *whatever* we are doing when we are not equipped properly for that particular task, be it warfare or something else. Being prepared to achieve something is greatly influenced by the level of preparedness for that

task, and if we are not properly prepared for the battle we tend to not apply ourselves to that fight.

The second thing that I want to address is the tendency to laziness, which contributes to a lack of careful attention being paid to a multitude of things, not the least of which is spiritual warfare. And even those who are *not* classified as lazy tend to put spiritual warfare and spiritual awareness on the back burner. That's just the nature of man, to ignore everything that he doesn't see physically in front of him.

The third thing that I want to address is a subject that I just touched on briefly a moment ago, and that is the tendency of man to ignore everything that can't be seen or touched in the world. Why should we be equipped to fight against the spiritual realm when we can't see it? The devil and the unseen spiritual side that is just as real as our world gets totally ignored because of the fact that it is unseen with physical sight.

Another reason why we need to be properly equipped for the battle is, being properly outfitted for the purpose tends to improve the self-confidence, even when a lack of self-confidence is not a regular problem. When all of the proper equipment is available for use, confidence in the ultimate outcome is greatly influenced.

The last thing that I want us to look at concerning being properly equipped has to do with who we are fighting for. We are fighting on behalf of Jesus Christ Himself, and He will not allow us to approach the battle against the devil unequipped, unless we refuse to ask for the weapons. I believe that He will allow us to be soundly defeated if we try to fight without asking for the proper weapons and equipment, and my experience has been one of occasional defeat when everything was apparently done properly for the purpose of teaching me something new. However, those occasions were the exception rather than the rule.

I have given you five reasons why being properly equipped for the battle is vital to ultimately seeing victory.

Now that we have laid the groundwork, we can begin to examine the five methods of spiritual warfare that every Christ-follower needs to know.

Chapter Four: Prayer

Prayer - probably one of the most common and utilized methods of spiritual warfare.

The previous statement is accurate because of several reasons, which I am listing below.

- 1) This is the most easily accessed weapon of all of the methods that we are going to look at. Anyone can pray about anything at any time. But, though many times a day prayer is made by many people, the real question is, is that prayer being heard? Thankfully, we can find out the answer to this question by going to the book of 1 John. Let's look at that scripture.

1 John 5:14-15 KJV

"[14] And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask any thing according to His will, He heareth us:

[15] and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

This passage of scripture informs us that, unless we pray according to His will, we will not be heard. So I will take a guess and say that the prayers of the majority of people are completely selfish and self-serving, and are not heard by God.

- 2) This method of spiritual warfare is basically one of only two methods that most people know about, so the tendency to overemphasize it is strong. When properly utilized, it is always a very powerful weapon, but, as we have already touched on, the vast majority tend to misuse this method.
- 3) This method is thought to be the most easily accessed weapon in spiritual warfare, and this appeals to most because of the human tendency toward laziness. The rest of the methods tend toward taking more work, and the apparent ease of access with this method results in an overconfidence in this one method, as well as creating an imaginary scapegoat to blame failures on. This is totally wrong, but routinely played out nonetheless.

So, how can we properly utilize this method? There are a couple of different ways to do so. Let's look at them.

- 1) The first and most important thing is to realize that we *cannot* pray effectively for our will to be done unless our will is in alignment with His will. This can be implemented as simply as repeating the words of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done." The words aren't nearly as important as the heart attitude of the person saying them.
- 2) You need to pray routinely, because that is going to be a key factor in your understanding of what the will of the Lord is, and without that knowledge, you will not have your prayers heard.

So you can plainly see that the most popular method of spiritual warfare is actually more complex than most people realize. The tendency to emphasize prayer as a

weapon is overwhelmingly misused because of the fact that most people have an unhealthy belief in their own prayers being effective. Now, let's look at the second method of effective spiritual warfare.

Chapter Five: Regular Bible Study

Bible study - Exceptional way to engage and defeat the enemy.

The next method of spiritual warfare that I want to focus on is a regular habit of studying the Word of God. This is an easily overlooked method that tends to be ignored because of the amount of work that is necessary to effectively use it as a weapon.

The speed of life is one of the main reasons that this method is glossed over, because the vast majority of people are focused on the here and now and *not* their

eternity. What can we gain in this life is the question that everyone is asking, all the while ignoring the fact that this life is not even a drop in the bucket compared to the unending length of eternity. Another reason why this method is ignored by the majority of people is because of laziness. It takes too much work and too long to become an effective weapon. I have often said that we live in a microwave society with a Crock-pot God. We expect to have everything done yesterday, while God tends to take His time delivering on everything. And He also teaches us patience, which is one of the most needed things in today's society. A lack of patience tends to go right along with laziness (although many impatient people are hard workers, and many lazy people tend to be patient).

A third common reason why regular study of God's Word is neglected (or just flat out ignored) is because of poor time management. We don't have the time to devote to regular study of the Bible.

And a fourth reason ties directly back to the third reason, and that is, priorities. God and the things of God are not a priority to the vast majority of people. If He was, people would make time for Him, but since He is not, regular habits of study get kicked off to the side in favor of more "appealing" things, things that tend to appeal more to the flesh.

So we can see from this that one of the major problems with the methods that we have looked at so far is summed up with one word: laziness. Call it by whatever name you want to, it's still laziness, pure and simple. And, spoiler alert, laziness is the contributing factor in the neglect of all of the methods that we are going to look at. Other things play a part, as well, but the *vast* majority of people have the same problem: laziness! Aren't you glad that Jesus was not lazy?

Chapter Six: Praise King Jesus!

Praise – Often under-emphasized method that is absolutely a game changer.

Now I want to talk to you about what is probably one of the most underused and underutilized methods of spiritual warfare, and that is, praise. Let me ask you a question. Have you ever had one of those days where everything that could go wrong does, and nothing even remotely goes right, and, in the midst of it, you just decided, "Not today, devil!", and you just began to praise King Jesus? Within just a minute or two

your whole day and outlook on life had changed for the better. *That* is the kind of warfare praise that I am talking about. The kind of praise that strikes fear in the heart of the devil (if there's even a heart there, but you know what I mean). I'm convinced that the devil is terrified of the man or woman who is hit with everything that the devil has, is laying on the ground, battered, bruised, bleeding, and begins to sing praise to God through all of that. *That* is the power of praise! And the Bible says that God inhabits the praises of His people. Let's look at that scripture.

Psalms 22:3 (KJV)

"[3] But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel."

This specifically says "Israel", but now, since Jesus has come, the Bible tells us very plainly that there is neither Jew nor Greek, and Paul goes through a long list, all to make the point that in Christ Jesus, we are all one. So that necessarily means that God inhabits the praises of all of His people (not just Israel).

Now, let's consider for a little bit a few of the reasons that praise tends to be ignored when it comes to the issue of spiritual warfare. Especially since it's one of the most powerful weapons that a Christ-follower can utilize. There are several reasons why praise is under-emphasized or totally ignored.

- 1) It is not routinely recognized as a viable weapon for spiritual warfare. Prayer and possibly Bible reading are about as far as the thinking about weapons to conduct spiritual warfare ever goes. But praise is not even considered.
- 2) It is routinely considered to be a "Sunday morning" or "church" thing, *not* something that regular people do in private times or any time outside of church. Certainly not a weapon to be utilized in spiritual warfare.
- 3) The vast majority of professing "Christians" don't even have a basic understanding of what it means to be in spiritual warfare, so how will they know anything about how we should fight, much less one of the lesser known methods? I know that probably sounds harsh or something like that, but I really don't think that the majority of them have a clue.
- 4) Praise is under-emphasized by design of the enemy because of the hatred that he has for God, and hearing praises for God come from *anyone* is an absolutely gut-wrenching thing for him. That's one of the main reasons that this is very effective.

So, now you can see how praises for God are an effective weapon in spiritual warfare, and, hopefully, you can begin to see some ways that you can implement this

method into your life. Now, let's look at a method that is absolutely under-emphasized and underused.

Chapter Seven: Fasting

Fasting – Probably the least utilized of all of the methods while quite possibly being the most effective.

Now, I want us to look at what is probably *the* most underused and under-emphasized, while, at the same time, the most powerful method of effective warfare that is available to us, and that is, fasting. To begin with, let's get an accurate definition of fasting.

I want to give you a definition of fasting that God blessed me with, and then I will show you some scriptures and show how they correlate.

Fasting defined:

Fasting is the process of doing without any pleasurable activity (whether food, TV, social media, etc.), for a prescribed time for the purpose of dissipating idolatry and bringing the flesh into alignment and subjection to the spirit.

Basically, the previous definition is a summary of the following verses.

Isaiah 58:6-7 (KJV)

"[6] Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

[7] Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

Now, let's elaborate on the concept of the definition being a summary of the verses.

Verse six is the explanation summarized by the concept of "dissipating idolatry". All four of the elements in verse six are necessarily included when you speak of idolatry.

Idolatry:

- 1) wickedly binds the participants in slavery to the worship of that thing,
- 2) puts a heavy burden of service on those involved with it,
- 3) includes oppressing the participants, and
- 4) puts the participants under a heavy yoke of bondage.

Verse seven is likewise an explanation and exposition on how fasting brings the flesh into alignment and subjection to the spirit. It is totally against the natural human nature to part with anything, whether food, money, time, or anything else. The human being is naturally the most selfish and self-serving creature that God ever created, due to the fallen nature of man and the influence of the devil, so the concept of giving to others is the antonym to the human nature.

I believe that you can see from this that fasting is one of the most needed things for the church to return to, because we have gotten far away from it in the current day and time, especially in the United States. But Jesus said that we would fast when He returned to heaven. Let's look at that scripture passage.

Luke 5:34-35 (KJV)

“[34] And He said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

[35] But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.”

Jesus assumed that we would fast when He told the disciples what He did in the following verses.

Matthew 6:16-18 (KJV)

“[16] Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

[17] But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

[18] that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.”

Now, let's look at a list of things that we can fast from. There are numerous different things that can be given up while fasting. Below is a sample list.

- Food
- TV
- Social media
- Books and magazines
- Videos and movies

Any of the previously listed items can become an idol in your life that needs to be brought into subjection to the spirit. I am reminded of the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 6.

1 Corinthians 6:12 (KJV)

“[12] All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”

Anything that acts as an idol in your life needs to be quickly and forcefully brought under control. Let's look at Webster's definition of the word "idol":

an object of extreme devotion.

So, we can see from this definition that most people have at least one idol in their lives, be it a job, a relationship, or something else. A good way to identify the idol in your life, if you have one, is to look at what is most important to you. The thing that you can't see yourself living without is probably your idol. And if that is anything besides the Lord Jesus, you are mistaken. Life might not seem like it's even worth living without that thing, but the reality is that Jesus and Jesus alone is the sole purpose of life.

Now, let's look at a list of other types of fasts.

- Liquid only fast – no food, but liquids are allowed.
- Straw fast – anything that will go through a straw – example: milkshake.
- Prison fast – only tap water with no ice and two tortillas three times per day at 6am, 12pm, and 5pm used to replicate prison conditions with the emphasis on freeing the prisoners, whether actually in prison or particularly someone in a prison of addiction or servitude to something.
- Water only fast – used to show the serious nature of your need.
- Total fast – not used for more than three days and only recommended in life and death situations.

Now, we also need to look at a list of possible lengths of the fast.

Fasts can be however short or long the person chooses. But you should never decide on the length of a fast without direct Holy Spirit input and leading. Below are some common lengths to consider.

- 12 hour fast – used by the person who is just beginning to fast.
- 24 hour fast – used as a stepping stone for the beginner.
- 3 day fast – used by the intermediate up to the experienced.
- 7 day fast – used by the intermediate to the experienced.
- 10 day fast – used by the intermediate to the experienced.
- 21 day fast – used by the experienced only.
- 40 day fast – used by the experienced person only.

As you can see, fasting is one of the most complex methods, simply because of the vastly different structures that can be utilized in the use of this method. But I stand by my statement of this being the least utilized, while, at the same time, the most effective weapon that we have at our disposal. In the next chapter we will look at the fifth method of spiritual warfare on our list.

Chapter Eight: Scripture Memorization

Scripture memorization – allows a person to carry a mobile weapon with them at all times.

This final method is another commonly ignored weapon simply because of the time and effort necessary to effectively implement it into the fight. But Jesus Himself is our example, and the first battle between the devil and Jesus that we read about involved Jesus using scripture that He knew to combat the attacks of the devil. Let's look at a portion of that battle.

Luke 4:3-4 (KJV)

“[3] And the devil said unto Him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

[4] And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”

As you read here, and as you read more of this, every single occurrence of the devil attacking was met by Jesus quoting the Word of God to him. And we need to do the same thing that Jesus did.

You may be saying to yourself something along the lines of, “My retention of words is so bad, it would be impossible for me to memorize any scripture.” Friend, that is a lie straight from the devil, designed to prevent you from becoming the most effective weapon that you can be. If you truly want to memorize scripture, I can tell you how to do that. I know that this works, because of the fact that this is what I have had to do in order to memorize the scriptures. Let me give it to you in numbered steps.

- 1) Pick one scripture that you want to start memorizing, and sit down with your favorite translation of the Bible that you want to know with the scripture open in front of you.
- 2) Read this one verse out loud ten times in a row. Do it out loud so that you can help yourself to retain it.
- 3) Do this daily for a week, or even longer than that if necessary, until you can repeat the verse without looking and without mistake.
- 4) Now, repeat the verse throughout the day as you go through your day, checking periodically to make sure that your retention is still accurate.
- 5) After a few days, pick another verse to memorize, repeating the same process of reading the scripture out loud repeatedly, as you did with the first one.
- 6) At the same time, make sure that you don't forget the first scripture (multiple, when you get to that point) that you have memorized. The way that you ensure that this does not happen is by setting aside the necessary time every day to repeat all of the scriptures that you learn. This is very much a time-consuming effort, but it is so very important, and so worth it.

So, there are the five methods to use to be effective warriors for Jesus. In the next chapter, we will look at two strategies that are usually overlooked for various reasons.

Chapter Nine

Two Additional Tactics

I want to talk to you now and explain the two additional tactics that are great additions to your arsenal of weapons. They both involve learning and remembering different strategies of good intelligence, both about your enemy and about yourself.

The first thing that I want to talk to you about is the issue of learning your enemy: strengths, weaknesses, prior tactics that he has used in the past, both against you and against others, etc. Many people have fallen for the lie that we do not need to learn the strategies that the devil uses, because they assume (wrongly) that the devil receives glory when this happens without even realizing that he is perpetrating a very effective lie that allows him to continue to operate undetected in our midst. Hosea 4:6 says, 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge', and this is an area of 'lack of knowledge' that is basically causing the church to enter the battlefield (those few who actually get involved with this warfare) unarmed (or, at best, without a majorly effective weapon).

So, you need to devote a certain amount of time each day to intelligence gathering: both on the devil and on yourself (more on this point in a little bit). Spend time learning strategies that the devil uses in certain situations, such as when you are already stressed out about something else or when you have a deadline to meet, etc. Also, recognize the often subtle strategy of procrastination and learn how to avoid this treacherous trap. And recognize the devil's voice in your ear as he whispers (or screams), 'Ignore this man. He's trying to get you to focus on the devil. You need to just focus on Jesus, NOT the devil!' The most effective strategy that the devil has ever employed is to convince people that he doesn't exist, but I'm convinced that the second most effective strategy is to convince people that they are giving glory to the devil if they even attempt to learn his tactics.

The other side of this 'intelligence gathering' is the practice of learning yourself. What do I mean by that? Simply put, you need to spend time learning more about yourself: your strengths and your weaknesses, *specifically* strategies that have caused you to stumble in the past. (As a side note, this is another example of the devil using fear (fear of being seen as self-absorbed) to prevent you from becoming a more effective warrior for Christ!) Also, spend time learning about your strengths and ways that you have been successful as a warrior in the past.

Finally, you need to take this intelligence info and put it into practical use. Develop strategies to employ in certain situations: for example, if the devil hits you with a certain temptation on a regular basis, have a plan already in place to fight against that temptation. Remember Hosea 4:6: 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge'.

Don't be afraid of 'pushing the envelope', so to speak, as you learn these various tactics. In the final chapter, we will summarize everything that we have learned.

Chapter Ten: A Summarization

I want to briefly summarize the methods that I have talked about in this book. I will list them below, with a brief summary of that method.

- 1) Prayer: probably the most popular, but the most misunderstood and misused (because of the fact that it is misunderstood) method that there is.
- 2) Bible study: the second method mentioned, one that is often remembered, but rarely used because of the time and effort necessary for the proper utilization.
- 3) Praise to the King of Glory: the third method mentioned, rarely even considered as a weapon in spiritual warfare because of the widespread idea that this is strictly a "church" thing.
- 4) Fasting: the fourth method mentioned, easily the least utilized method, and probably one of, if not *the* most effective weapon at our disposal.
- 5) Scripture memorization: the fifth and final method mentioned, one that Jesus Himself modeled for us that is undervalued and has unrealized potential, because of the fact that this is an offensive weapon that is specifically geared for use on the go, when resources, such as a written copy of the Bible, are not available to us.

Now, we're going to summarize the process of intelligence gathering that we discussed in the previous chapter.

- A) In order to be the most effective weapon that you can be, you need to learn your enemy's strategies that he has used in the past, both against you, and against others.
- B) You need to learn yourself: both your strengths and your weaknesses. Take the time to sit down and make a list of both, and then figure out how to improve yourself.

That is every method that we have looked at in this book, as well as the two intelligence gathering strategies, briefly summarized. Now, to finish out this book, I want to pray for you again.

Lord Jesus, I come before You, ever and always lifting up the name of Jesus, and proclaiming You to be the only possible victory for any of us. I ask You now to take this book and place it into the hands of Your warriors, the ones who will implement the strategies herein and use them to destroy the kingdom of darkness. I pray also for all of the people who are reading this prayer right now, and I ask You to reach down and touch each one with a supernatural touch of strength, endurance, and knowledge of the use of these methods. Just use all of this for Your glory and honor, in Jesus' name, Amen.

BONUS MATERIAL:

THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR'S CREED

(anonymous)

I am a soldier in the army of Jesus Christ, the King of the universe.

He came to this earth, walked, ministered, suffered, bled, and was executed for my sins.

Three days later, He arose victorious over death, and He has been giving Life to all those who call on His Name since.

I have given my entire life, existence, and all of my hope to Jesus Christ, and He has changed my life dramatically, giving hope and a purpose where there was neither.

My Savior has an enemy, and that enemy is also my enemy. His name is satan, and he has many warriors on his side.

Jesus has few who are willing to serve Him, and even fewer who are willing to become true warriors for Him. I have decided, because Jesus gave everything for me, that I will do likewise for Him. I am a warrior in my Savior's Army.

Because I have held nothing back, Jesus has decided to take it all, and anything that is not profitable for a warrior, has been or is being removed. This is a painful process, but so worth the cost. My life is not my own, and He has the right to do with me as He pleases.

I am first and foremost a warrior for Christ. That means that I am nothing else ahead of a warrior. My wants, desires, dreams, aspirations are all subject to the scrutiny, evaluation, and Will of my Lord and King, Jesus, and anything that does not meet His approval, has to be removed from my life.

I am a (insert surname here) by family name, but I am first and foremost a warrior for my Lord and King, Jesus.

I am a (insert occupation here) by trade, but I am first and foremost a warrior for my Lord and King, Jesus.

I am a (man/woman) by virtue of Divine Appointment, but I am first and foremost a warrior for my Lord and King, Jesus the Christ.

This means that nothing in my life, nothing, ever takes precedence over the Perfect Will of Jesus Christ in my life. Not family, not a career, nothing.

I have made the decision to give it all for my Savior, Jesus, and He has decided to break, make, and mold me into a warrior He can use to cripple His enemy's efforts, destroy His enemy's strongholds, and defeat His enemy's armies. The only way that I can be that effective warrior for Him, is to never ever hold back anything from His Divine Will, Divine Use, and, if necessary, Divine Disposal.

So, you see, my friends, you can call me what you want, but the only thing important to me anymore is to hear my Lord and King say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." And I will do whatever it takes, pay whatever cost, give up whatever is required, to reach that pinnacle, so that at the end of my life, I will know that I didn't waste it all.

Biography

Roger Lindsey graduated from Ira High School in 1992, and the year before that, began to experience real life with Jesus Christ as his Master. He walked away from the faith after several years of faithful service, only to return to his first love after many years of living his own way. He married Merinda Smith for the second time in 2021, and they currently live and minister in Rockport, Texas.