

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - March 11, 2021

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Topic: "Effective Spiritual Weapons Require Effective Spiritual Strategies"

Scripture Reference: 2 Corinthians 10:4

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."

I. Introduction

A. In this very powerful verse, the Apostle Paul speaks to us about spiritual warfare. In this passage we have one of the foundational verses on the subject of spiritual warfare. Therefore, it is extremely important for us to understand it.

B. In this study, I would like to draw your attention to three words in this passage, so please pay attention to the words **Weapons**, **Warfare**, and **Carnal**.

II. Exposition [Part I]

A. First, Paul tell us that we have "**Weapons**." These spiritual armaments have been provided by God and are at our disposal. They are both offensive and defensive weapons and can be found in Ephesians 6:13-18. (Let's take a moment and read these verses together.)

B. Second, in 2 Corinthians 10:4, Paul uses the word "**warfare**." The word "warfare" is taken from the Greek word **stratos**. In choosing to use this word, the Holy Spirit alerts us to some vitally important facts about spiritual warfare.

C. The word **stratos** is where we derive the word **strategy**. This lets us know that spiritual warfare does not occur accidentally but it is something that is strategically planned.

D. Just as an army plans its line of attack before a battle begins, our adversary the devil, plans a line of attack.

E. He decides which method he will use, and chooses the approach he wants to take as he cautiously and cunningly charts out his attack.

F. However, the word **stratos** does not just describe the devil's strategies. It also tells us that if we will listen to the Holy Spirit, He will give us a strategy that is superior to any schemes of the devil.

Comment: The devil is **NOT** the only one with a strategy.

THANK YOU LORD!

G. The Holy Spirit always holds the key to every victory, and He wants to provide us with a divinely - inspired strategy that will render null and void the works of the devil every time!

III. Exposition [Part II]

A. The Old Testament is filled with examples of divinely inspired strategies. Consider the case of Joshua and the children of Israel as they stood before the walls of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-27).

B. What strategy did the Lord give them? They were to walk around the walls of Jericho once a day for six days, and then seven times on the seventh day.

Comment: The number seven (7) in Scripture represents completion and also perfection.

C. Then after the seventh time around the wall on that last day, the children of Israel were to blow trumpets made of ram's horns.

Comment: None of this sounded "reasonable" to the natural mind, but the effects of that God-given strategy are still renowned today! We are still talking about it and rejoicing in knowing that God has a plan and a purpose for His people!

D. Here is another Old Testament example - I call to your attention the time Jehoshaphat sent out a **praise team** before the army to sing and worship the Lord (2 Chronicles 20:20-25).

E. I ask you, what army would send singers and musicians to the frontline of battle in front of its armed soldiers?

{Deacons- my fellow armed forces veterans - I know you can identify with this question.}

F. Yet, as the Praise Team sang praises to God and played their instruments, the Lord supernaturally set ambushments and the enemies were struck down. [What a Mighty God we serve!]

G. That day the children of Israel walked away from the battle without losing a single fighter. Not only that, but they were weighed down with gold, silver, jewels, and other riches in abundance! (The spoils of war. The battle is not yours - but the Lord.)

H. In fact, there was so much plunder that it took three days to gather it up.

I. How did they win this famous battle? They received a strategy from the Lord and then followed it accurately.

IV. Exposition [Part III]

A. In both of these examples, the line of attack made no sense to

the natural mind, but it released so much power that it completely crushed the foe.

B. So, don't be surprised if the Holy Spirit gives you a strategy that doesn't make sense when you hear it! Remember, the Holy Spirit operates on a supremely higher level than you and me, and He knows what you and I don't know.

When He speaks - Obey and just say - Yes Lord!

It's ok, it's alright to go ahead and **Shout** right here!!

C. The Holy Spirit may tell you to do something that seems odd to you at first. But you can be sure that any Holy Spirit-inspired strategy will always work! The result will be for your good and God's Glory!

D. Imagine an army that is fully equipped with weapons of warfare but has no strategy about how to use those weapons against the enemy.

E. Even with all those weapons and artillery at their disposal, an army in this condition will utterly fail.

F. Likewise, although it is crucial that you and I put on the whole armor of God, that is just the first step.

G. We must then have a strategy on how to use those weapons. Until you receive a strategy from the Lord or use the strategies He has already revealed in His Word, the weapons will be of little help in driving back the forces of hell that come against you.

V. Exposition [Part IV]

A. This leads to the word "**carnal**." In the Greek, this word is

sarkos, which describes *anything that is of the flesh, fleshly made, or fleshly conjured up* or anything that is natural or of an *unspiritual nature*. Paul uses this word when he writes, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal"

B. In effect, Paul is saying, "*Don't look to your flesh for the weapons or strategies I'm describing to you because they do not arise out of natural talent, mental exercise, or human efforts. These are spiritual weapons and spiritual strategies, and they come from the spiritual realm.*"

When you put all of these Greek words together, 2 Corinthians 10:4 carries this idea:

"Our God-given weapons are to be used in connection with divine strategy. But don't look to the flesh to find that strategy, for the battle plan you need is not going to arise out of your own natural talent, mental exercise, or human effort."

Comments:

- 1) If you want to receive the strategy needed to assure your victory, you must turn your attention to the realm of the Spirit, because it is from this realm that you will hear from God.
- 2) You must spend time praying and reading the Word of God. Afterwards, exercise obedience!
- 3) On your own, you will never conceive a plan (that pleases God) and will deliver you.

VI. Summary

A. Just as spiritual weapons come from God, so do spiritual strategies.

B. Use your head and the brain that God has given you, and as you seek God, remain open for Him to graciously give you a supernatural strategy to have victory after victory in your life.

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. All Scriptures have been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

" _____ unto me, and I will _____ thee, and _____ thee _____ and _____ things, which thou knowest not."

[Jeremiah 33:3]

"Cause me to _____ thy _____ in the morning; for in thee do I _____: Cause me to _____ the way wherein I should _____; for I lift up my _____ unto thee."

[Psalm 143:8]

" _____ me, O Lord, in thy _____ because of mine enemies; make the way _____ before my _____."

[Psalm 5:8]

"For we _____ not against _____ and _____, but against _____, against _____, against the _____ of the _____ of this world, against _____ wickedness in _____ places."

[Ephesians 6:12]

"For I _____ the _____ that I think toward you, saith the Lord, _____ of peace, and not of _____, to give you an _____ end."

[Jeremiah 29:11]

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. Has the Holy Spirit ever told you to do something that seemed odd to your natural mind but resulted in His power being mightily demonstrated in a situation?
2. Have you found that your natural talent, mental reasonings, and human efforts are helpless to win the battles you are facing?
3. God is ready to give you the battle plan you need to have victory in your life. Are you willing to spend time in prayer that is required for you to receive that plan?

Thank you once again for being a part of this study session and my prayer is that you have been blessed.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin