

The Drumbeat Of Heaven – Part 4

Worship and Spiritual Warfare

(Before we start this lesson, I would like to say that during my ministry trips to various countries I have come across every possible stance towards this area of ministry, from extremely over the top to extremely passive and all stages in between. What I would like to emphasize here is balance, as in all things. Jesus was the most balanced person to have ever lived and He wants us to live as He lived – to remain focused on God at ALL times in whatever we are doing. Do not become "darkness focused" in your dealings with the enemy and strike a path that God directs, and not one that we may think or perceive is the right one).

What is Spiritual Warfare?

Spiritual warfare is a very controversial subject and there are many different stances that are taken by Christians around the world from one extreme to the other and everything in between.

Although the subject of spiritual warfare is a very in-depth one and will be studied much further, in this introductory lesson I want to lay a foundation for you that will hopefully help to bring balance to this area of our Christian walk.

Spiritual warfare can be defined as a non-passive action aimed at advancing the Kingdom of God, through worship, prayer, the Word of God, acts of faith and our witness.

This can either apply on a personal or corporate level. As we engage in spiritual warfare, it is important for us to realise that Jesus has already won the victory, and now it is up to us to stand in that victory and use the keys that He has given to us.

We are called to engage in spiritual warfare, but we must have a correct and balanced understanding of what spiritual warfare actually is, and it is often this lack of understanding that makes people take a stand against spiritual warfare or else go over the top on the offensive.

There are basically 2 types of warfare, and these are:

Aggression: defined as *"to attack without provocation"* and

Resistance: defined as *"to withstand the action or effect of another force."*

Both of these types of warfare are found in human physical warfare. For example, a nation may attack another without the nation being attacked having done anything to provoke such an attack, whilst the nation being attacked will resist the attacking force.

Read the accounts of God's people engaging in earthly warfare contained in such books as *Exodus, Joshua, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings* and *1 & 2 Chronicles*. When we read these accounts of earthly warfare, we can also learn important lessons for spiritual warfare.

In spiritual warfare, God may call us to go on the offensive in the spiritual realm and/or the defensive (aggression or resistance). When we worship God, prophesy and intercede, we are entering into both types of warfare. We are attacking because we are claiming ground, even by the very act of worshipping God (as we worship God and lift up the name of Jesus, the spiritual realm changes, as at times does the natural environment around us). We may be dead set against the idea of spiritual warfare, but when we worship God in spirit and truth and when we make intercession on behalf of others, we are changing the spiritual environment around us for the better, and by so doing we are claiming back ground and advancing.

Worship is the highest and most effective form of spiritual warfare, as we are declaring the Lordship of Jesus over our lives, over our churches, cities and nations. As we do so, a banner is waved in the spiritual realm and the enemy's power – which comes from deception – decreases as the glory of the Lord breaks through and His truth is proclaimed.

Our spiritual warfare is our appropriation of what Jesus did for us on the cross of Calvary. Satan and his demons have been stripped of their power, but the doorways that they have had into our lives need the keys that Jesus has given to us in order to open them and deal with what is behind them, for instance curses and demonic inhabitation (read *Isaiah 53*). It is no good for us to have keys if we never use them. Worship is one of the most powerful keys.

Before Calvary, God used these keys to bring His people into freedom from curses, demonic attack, territorial spirits, etc. Post Calvary, Jesus has given us the keys to use by appropriating His victory on the Cross over the demonic (*we will be looking in detail at the types of keys and how to use them in the Inner Healing module*).

Demons are almost never the source of the problem, they are there due to legal ground/open doors in our lives, churches, cities and nations, and in the vast majority of cases are there due to deception and emotional woundedness.

One of the main tactics of the devil is to get the Church to focus on the demonic and away from the true source of woundedness, which is our historical and emotional pain, wounds and upset (*we will be looking at this in detail during the Inner Healing module*).

Through our involvement in inner healing ministry we are finding that the vast majority of demonic spirits are present within a person due to abusive and traumatic things that have been done to the person, usually at a young age.

Satan wants to distract us from the truth that will bring us healing and victory. He often wants us to focus on him and his demons and his territorial spirits so that we take our focus off of God and onto the darkness around us. I have seen this happen many times in the lives of those who are in the spiritual warfare, spiritual mapping and inner healing/deliverance ministries.

Even in the area of territorial spirits, the problems in the territory for the most part are not there *because of* a territorial spirit. Rather the territorial spirit has been given a right to manipulate the people there because of ungodly events, the choices made by people in the area and their subsequent lifestyles.

Spiritual Warfare is a question of the heart. Individuals and groups of people within geographical areas need to have a change of heart if lasting change is to occur - nothing lasting will be established without true repentance (*not just a change of mind, but a change in actual thinking, heart attitude and lifestyle*).

Divine Militancy

The strength for all aspects of our life and therefore our warfare comes through our intimacy with Jesus, and our time spent with Him. This must be our lifestyle, and indeed, a true intercessor must first of all be a true worshiper.

*"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 - NKJV)*

Jesus has called His Church to be both His Bride and His army. This divine militancy that is rising within the Church has come at a very strategic time. Jesus is coming back soon, and there is much work to be done, both in the natural and the spiritual realm. We must understand that nothing is accomplished without intercession and other aspects of spiritual warfare, such as worship, and so as Jesus leads us as our Captain, we must follow Him.

We must remain God-centred at all times and remember that spiritual warfare is essentially us coming into agreement with God and disagreeing with the enemy. It is basically that simple.

Worship is the highest and most powerful form of spiritual warfare, for as we lift up the name of Jesus, so He will draw all people to Himself. Remember that worship is not just about singing songs, but is a lifestyle.

The Hierarchy of Darkness

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12)

The kingdom of darkness consists of several different levels of authority. The first level is of course, Satan himself, then the principalities of darkness (Satan's inner circle) - in Greek, "Archas". Below this level are the powers of darkness (referred to by many as the "parliament" of darkness) - in Greek, "Exousia". The next level down is referred to in Scripture as the "World Rulers of the darkness" - in Greek, "Kosmokratoras". In the Amplified - "Master spirits who are the rulers of this present darkness". The base level of the hierarchy of darkness are the demon spirits that we often deal with in inner healing ministry - In Greek, "Pneumatika Poneria".

I have seen a lot of Christian ministries focus on naming demons as a means of bringing deliverance to a person, by then calling that particular demon to come forward and be expelled. I do not believe that there is any need for this, as our focus needs to rather be on bringing healing to the person's historical emotional wounds and deception, and once this is done, the demons will be expelled as a result of a very simple prayer spoken with authority. Demonic spirits know when a minister knows their authority in Christ and when they do not. We must always minister to the person with respect and dignity, even when addressing the demonic spirits - there is no need to shout and carry on, as this does not prove our authority over the demonic, but often shows our own insecurities.

Often during times of worship, as the manifest presence of the Lord increases, people receive deliverance spontaneously. We have experienced this many times through our ministry, and at these times we trust God that He knows what He is doing, and do not interfere unless the person is in obvious need of our help.

Our Position of Authority in Christ

We are seated with Christ in heavenly places (*Ephesians 2: 6*) and as such we have all authority over demonic spirits - of all levels, but we must seek to live close to God and not allow any open doors in our lives to the influence of evil spirits. The Bible is very clear that if we humble ourselves before God and resist the devil then even he will flee from us. However, it is highly unlikely that we will be dealing directly with Satan himself, as he is not omnipresent, and so can only be in one place at one time. However, only ever go into high-level spiritual warfare within the corporate church setting.

*"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."
(James 4: 6-8)*

You may know the story of how Smith Wigglesworth was woken in the night by a figure standing at the end of his bed trying to intimidate him. Wigglesworth realised that this was the devil himself and he simply said, *"Oh, it's only you!"* and turned over and went to sleep! That is the authority that each one of us has over the devil, if we only realise it and stand in it. Our authority comes from the One who has already defeated Satan and his demons - Jesus Christ, the Victor!

Maintaining the Correct Perspective and Balance

We need to have the correct perspective and balance when it comes to the area of spiritual warfare, and seek to remain on the God-centered path, which is straight and true. There have been 2 excesses in recent years in regards to spiritual warfare. One of which is passivity where it comes to spiritual warfare, and an attitude of avoidance, which does little to bring healing to individuals, cities, nations or the spiritual atmosphere itself. The second excess has been entered into by those who have jumped in tooth-and-nail against every perceived and imagined demonic spirit, as well as those that are real, and this has brought *"needless casualties of war"*. Both of these excesses are dangerous, as they promote either doing too little or too much!

The demonic spirits cannot do anything without God allowing them to, although we often give demons the right to enter into our lives, churches and cities through our sin and disobedience against God. However, it is our responsibility to war against them and to take back the ground that has been lost. *(Remember that there are MANY types of spiritual warfare, including prayer, worship, fasting, teaching the Word of God, acts of faith and meeting the needs of society - in other words anything that exalts God, as by doing so it automatically comes against the works of the enemy)*. Jesus is the Victor, and we stand on the Victor's side, with the covering of His blood of protection and filled with the power of His Holy Spirit.

The Armour of God

The armour of God is given to us primarily for resistance, as can be seen consistently in *Ephesians 6:10-18*, which is the passage of Scripture that deals with the armour of God.

The Belt of Truth –

The servant of God cannot remain standing against the kingdom of darkness unless he stands upon the truth of God's Word.

Satan does his work through deception and ignorance (*1 Peter 1: 13*). Therefore we must be saturated with God's truth.

The Breastplate of Righteousness –

Righteousness will cause you to stand steadfast in God. It is essential for us to realise that we stand in God's righteousness, and not our own (*Romans 3: 22, 25-26*). It is Jesus' death on the cross and our salvation through it that has made us righteous.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace –

It is essential for us to walk in the way of peace (*Matthew 12: 18-20*). The gospel of Jesus Christ is the gospel of peace.

The work of the enemy causes confusion, strife and division. Striving with God will cause you to lose your peace.

The Shield of Faith –

Our faith in God always has to be around us like a protecting wall. The enemy will try to get through this wall by coming against us with thoughts of unbelief, doubt and fear. We must resist him actively (*1 Peter 5:9*).

Faith is released by our mouths speaking out the Word of God and through prayer.

The Helmet of Salvation –

The main attack is against the mind. Always try and ensure that your mind has peace with God, man and yourself.

The unrenewed mind remains in darkness and so it is imperative that we are continually renewed in our minds (*Ephesians 4:23*).

We must actively take our thoughts captive to obedience, and do not allow unchecked thoughts to run wild in our minds.

The Bible tells us that, *“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”* (2 Cor. 10:4-5)

“A spiritual stronghold can be defined as an ideological fortress that exists both in the human mind and in objective territorial locations. Manifesting both defensive and offensive characteristics, these strongholds simultaneously repel light and export darkness.” (George Otis Jr.)

The Sword of the Spirit –

The sword of the Spirit is a living sword with godly power to cast down strongholds (*arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God*).

It is an offensive weapon that comes out of the mouth (*Revelation 19:15*).

Demonic spirits will try to twist the Word of God, and so we must declare the Word of God as Jesus did when the devil tempted Him in the desert.

Remember that *James 4:7* tells us to, *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

Speak the truth with God given authority.

Hebrews 4:12 speaking of the word of God says, *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

Contrary to popular belief, the sword of the Spirit is not for chopping heads off demonic spirits or slashing our way through the heavenly realms in search of territorial spirits to attack!

The sword of the Spirit is primarily to be used on ourselves (remembering that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God), to bring our minds and our lives into submission to the Word of God and to help us to live accordingly.

At Every Opportunity Pray in the Spirit –

The zeal of the Lord protects us like a mantle against discouragement (*Isaiah 59: 17b*).

What about your back?

The glory of the Lord is your rearguard (*Isaiah 58: 8, Exodus 14: 19,20*).

People will cover your back with prayer whilst you fight and rebuild the "fallen walls" (*Nehemiah 4: 16-17*).

Remember, NEVER take off your armour!

One of the more unusual practises that I have come across in terms of spiritual warfare teaching (and one that I definitely do not hold with) is that of "taking off the armour". This is done when a person goes to bed and then they are instructed to put their armour back on when they get up! So, my question is - what happens to that person during the night?

We need to be very careful not only to do those things that God tells us to, but especially careful to only teach the truth. NEVER take off your armour - apart from anything else, literally taking off your spiritual armour such as our helmet of salvation or our breastplate of righteousness by a physical action must surely be impossible?

Prophecy is a vital part of our spiritual warfare

To prophesy as a part of our warfare gives us the interpretation of God's view in the realm of the spirit, and can show us the tactics and strategy of people, the demonic and of course God Himself.

Actions in Prophetic Worship and Intercession

During times of worship and spiritual warfare, God will often lead His people to perform particular actions, which may seem strange and even outright weird! However, if God tells us to do something, we can be sure that it is for a purpose.

The Bible is full of accounts of God telling His people to do very unusual things, which had remarkable out-workings for the Glory of God.

Joshua at the battle of Jericho is one such example, and we can see by this and many other examples the truth of *Exodus 15:3* – "The Lord is a man of war".

As we obey God and carry out those actions that He asks us to, God sees that we mean business with Him, and He blesses our obedience, for it is better to obey than to sacrifice.

Scriptural Proof of Praise and its use in Warfare

Psalm 8: 2 - "Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have established strength because of your foes: that you might silence the enemy and the avenger."

Numbers 10: 9 - "When you go into battle...against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered before the Lord and rescued from your enemies."

Psalm 149: 6-9 - "Let the high praises of God be in their throats and a two-edged sword in their hands, to wreak vengeance upon the nations and chastisement upon the peoples, to bind their Kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute upon them the judgement written. He is the honour of all its saints. Praise the Lord!"

In Isaiah 30, we read that "every passing stroke of the staff of punishment and doom which the Lord lays upon them shall be to the sound of Israel's timbrels and lyres, when in battle he attacks Assyria with swinging and menacing arms."

2 Chronicles 20: 21,22 - "When he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers to sing to the Lord and praise him in the holy priestly garments as they went out before the army, saying, "Give thanks to the Lord, for his mercy and loving kindness endure for ever!" And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set two ambushments against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir who had come against Judah, and they were defeated."

Some pointers to safe and effective personal and corporate spiritual warfare through worship:

Most importantly, it is essential for each of us to realise that we can only be successful in spiritual warfare as we do exactly what God is telling us to do, exactly when He tells us to do it. We have seen too many casualties of war that have moved out on their own without covering and outside of God's timing.

Make sure that when high-level spiritual warfare is entered into, there is adequate spiritual covering either present during the warfare or else fully aware and in support of the spiritual warfare that is taking place. Remember that in the area of spiritual warfare over geographical areas, it is essential for the hearts of the people within the area to change towards God, and so focus your prayers along these lines. If a person (when dealing with an individual) or

people (when dealing with an area) continue in their ungodly lifestyles, in a sense fuelling the demonic altars that exist, lasting change will not come, as the demonic will still maintain a right to be there.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS A QUESTION OF THE HEART - whether interceding for individuals or groups of people, pray for a change in thought patterns, heart attitudes and lifestyles effected by the love, power and saving grace of God Himself. This is the only way that lasting change will come.

Focus our intercession, prophetic proclamations and prophetic actions towards God, asking Him to perform His will and reminding Him of His promises. This is what Jesus clearly taught in Scripture, and so we must seek to follow His example - "*...when you pray...pray to your Father...who sees in secret...In this manner, therefore, pray: our Father in Heaven...*" (Matt. 6:6,9)

Only focus intercession, prophetic proclamations and prophetic actions towards the enemy when God has very clearly directed us to do so. It is far more powerful to ask God to act on our behalf than attempting to dislodge the enemy ourselves!

Pray and make prophetic proclamation in line with Scripture, for example asking God to send revival to our church and spiritual awakening to our city or asking God to deliver the nation from economic crisis.

Proclaim God's victory!

Denounce the enemy (by confessing sin, resisting Satan and renouncing the works of darkness).

Quote Scripture when relevant, and when doing so remind ALL listeners - human and spiritual that this is the authoritative Word of God. In so doing, this breaks down many mental and spiritual strongholds.

We must be like the apostle John, who leant on Jesus' breast. Let us be so close to Him that we know His very heartbeat, never move from that position of intimacy and fight only when He tells us to.

What Spiritual Warfare is not!

Spiritual warfare is not searching out demons for the sake of it, believing that by doing so and by dealing with them with loud and aggressive voices that we will somehow be advancing the kingdom of God!

Spiritual warfare is not a game and neither is it something that should be taken lightly.

Spiritual warfare is not an attempt to take back the land by the casting out of demonic spirits (whether in a person or in a geographical location) without first bringing the necessary healing and change, unless specifically directed to do

so by God. We know from Scripture that if the access point for the demonic is not dealt with (through inner healing and replacing deception with God's truth), that the demonic spirits will return and will seek to re-establish themselves in a stronger fortification (*Matthew 12: 43-45*). Let us make sure that we are actually improving the situation by delivering the person/area from demonic spirits - (*This can only be done by dealing with any open doors or legal ground first*).

The Use Of The Drum In Warfare

Drums have always been connected with warfare, and no continent is more synonymous with the use of the drum in warfare than Africa. The rhythmic beat of the drum can bring up morale and adrenaline in warriors, as well as create a feeling of dread in the enemy.

Most tribal peoples use or have used drums in warfare, such as the First Nations American Indians and the Zulus of South Africa.

A look at the history of warfare shows that drums have been used for many thousands of years in warfare all across the world, in the ancient civilizations of Africa, Asia, Europe, Australasia and the Americas. It seems that the drum has a universal appeal for use in warfare.

God spoke to me very clearly with regards to this, and He told me that He wanted to use me to help lead forth His warriors into spiritual warfare through the use of the drums. God has spoken to me that He is taking back from the devil all of the ground that he has stolen from the Church, and this is one such area.

Satan, unlike God, cannot create, but can only counterfeit and corrupt that which already exists. As such, he has corrupted the use of the drum and other instruments, to be a sound that brings forth the worst in man, as in warfare, and also invokes the demon spirits of hell to come forth, as in Voodoo rituals.

God is calling forth His warriors at this time to come forth and do battle in the spiritual realm, and the major weapons that He has given us, other than those listed in *Ephesians 6* are praise and worship.

We know that drums have been used throughout history, and even today, in demonic ways, such as in voodoo ceremonies, in witchcraft and ancestral worship and to invoke evil spirits.

For this, and other reasons, the church has been slow to make advances in the use of music as a means of spiritual warfare, and it is really only in recent years that the advances have been made into this area.

As far as the use of the drum is concerned, it is unmistakably a sound that stirs the spirit. If this is used by those who belong to the devil, then it will often

stir up those things within people which are against God. If however, the drums are played by those who love and serve God, and are seeking His glory, then the sound will stir up the praise, worship, intercession and warfare of God's people.

As the drum is used in earthly warfare to great effect, so it can also be used to great effect in spiritual warfare. It carries with it the voice of God to His people through prophetic worship and warfare, and also carries the response of the drummer to God in praise and worship.

In his book *"Drumming at the edge of Magic"*, Mickey Hart writes: *"Drums were the driving force behind the percussive din that permeated the ancient art of warfare. The name of the game was to energize your troops while terrifying your enemies with the heroic quality of the noise you could make"*.

The Book of Army Management says:

"On the field of battle the spoken word does not carry far enough: hence the institution of gongs and drums. Nor can ordinary objects be seen clearly enough: hence the institution of banners and flags. Gongs and drums, banners and flags, are means whereby the ears and eyes of the host may be focused on one particular point. The host thus forming a single united body, it is impossible either for the brave to advance alone, or for the cowardly to retreat alone. This is the art of handling large masses of men. In night-fighting, then, make much use of signal fires and drums, and in fighting by day, of flags and banners, as a means of influencing the ears and eyes of your army."

"When battles by thousands of men started, large amounts of dust clouds could be conjured up, especially in deserts of the northern regions, thus methods of controlling troops needed to be highly developed. Different sides used banners of different colours with their surnames on it as a sign. But the banners of leaders or commanders can also be used to fool the enemy as to where the real position of a particular commander was. A large variety of flags were used, both for signaling and for raising morale. Movements to the right or left were indicated by flags, while drums signaled the advance and bells the retreat. Four beats of a drum signified 'prepare for action', and five beats signified the commencement of a march. Drums, horns and gongs were used in duels, and mostly used for psychological war, the purpose of inspiring their own side and terrifying the opposing side. Fighting techniques such as charges and simultaneous attacks to launch a drive against the enemy were seen in many battles. The use of fire was also commonly used as an element of surprise and deadly incendiary attack."

I would like to finish this lesson with some words of wisdom from Michael Ironside:

"For too long the drummer in church music teams has been shunned into being seen and not heard, or sometimes not being seen at all. We've padded his kit with blankets and gaffer tape so it sounds like he is playing on his mother's Tupperware, or we take his kit away completely and give him a set of electronic pads so that he can't really be heard."

Music directors, song leaders and pastors are beginning to realise the necessity for strong, anointed, powerful drumming in worship services. Notice that I didn't say loud, but strong. There is a new sound that God is releasing into our worship, which carries "strength!"

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