

Today I am going to speak about WAR!

## INTRO:

Since the beginning of time, war has had a significant impact on the course of our history. From the earliest up to the battles of today war has had the power to shape and change our world. Even with the increased sophistication of war tactics one thing has remained constant. The constant and never changing knowledge that war continues to carry the influence and/or ability to reshape our history and future. When you understand that war is an open and declared armed conflict between rivals, it should give you the indication that no freedom is obtained without some since of war.

Within a war article I read; it stated that for war to exist, nations or states had to retain a sense of independence and detachment from other communities. It shared that without this independence, there would be no us-versus-them mentality. It went on to share as long as there is a differentiation between nations and communities, there would be the potential for conflict.

I really want to unpack the context this morning regarding your **WARFARE**. Because often we can spend so much time playing defense that we forget that we are heirs to an offensive weapon!

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** New International Version (NIV)

**3** For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. **4** The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. **5** 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.

When you made the decision to walk in the likeness of Christ, you actually where making a public declaration of war against the enemy.

## ~ Declaration of Warfare

As believers we may wonder why it is when I try to do good evil is always present, or when I obtain one victory there is another battle awaiting? It could be that we often loose sight that we declared independence and detachment from the communities of the enemy. And it is important to understand that by doing so, it did not free us from troubles, but it actually made it public that we where declaring war. Upon our declaration we where not only choosing to depend upon a God for protection, healing, and to be our provider, but at the same time we where declaring war against the ultimate terrorist (*Satan*) who's main

purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy. I am reminding you of this declaration so you will not be blind sided by the reality that your profession of faith said to the enemy, this means war.

In His word, Jesus shared how as believers we would experience tribulation.

### **John 15:18-19 - NKJV**

**18** “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

### **John 16:33 - NKJV**

**33** These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

The enemy wants to distort your vision to keep you from seeing that your declaration was one that came with empowerment and authority. Satan wants you to see it as only a position of needing to be rescued. I want you to know that there is a difference in being rescued versus being empowered and having authority in a situation.

When you operate in your authority that was given to you by God, the enemy cannot cause you to see past struggles as a put down because your spiritual eye sight only allows you to see them as a set up. When you are operating in the authority and retaining your independence and detachment from the community of the enemy, past wars that you perceived as the end game of your life, will be viewed as the very things that gave pathway to new territory that shaped and changed your world. We cannot cower down into a corner and build a dam that doesn't allow the river to flow.

We must have the mind set of: 2 Corinthians 4:17

### **2 Corinthians 4:17-18** New Living Translation (NLT)

**17** For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!

## **~ WAR CLOTHES**

War is not something you can go into unarmed; for it is identified as the Law of Armed Conflict against armed hostilities (acts of warfare). In war you must have not only a strategic plan, but also a tactical plan. It is stated only once the Strategic and Tactical plan are fully understood can the mission planning WAR properly begin.

**Ephesians 6:11** Amplified Bible (AMP)

**11** Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes *and* the strategies *and* the deceits of the devil.

**It's not enough to put your armor on, but you must understand how to use it!  
Inside your war chest is some war clothes.**

**The Belt of Truth** - *Back in the day this was a leather girdle or belt that a soldier tightened about his waist to protect his loins and carry his weapons of warfare. In the spiritual realm this deals w/ integrity. Integrity holds everything together and allows you to win the battle. It takes integrity to maintain what God has given you.* God had given an anointing over David's life. David walked in that anointing. He did what God wanted of him to do. David didn't have to take the responsibility to face Goliath, but he did, he didn't have to spare Saul's life. He didn't have to raise up leaders who were David's Mighty Men who were giant slayers. But He did!

**The Breastplate Of Righteousness** - *A breastplate for soldiers was used to cover the soldier's vital organs. For the believer the breastplate is righteousness. The enemy is looking for a crack in your armor so he can yoke you. The spirit in us desires Holiness, but at times our flesh places that desire in a state of spiritual paralysis. We must stand on righteousness: The quality of being morally right or justifiable.*

**The Shoes Of Peace** - *The enemy wants to cause you to stumble. That is why he throws gravel in your path to cause you to slip up. Don't allow the enemy to sow confusion and discouragement into your life. You must have solid footing of peace that surpasses all understanding in-order-to take a stand in a time of war!*

**The Shield Of Faith** - *Grab your shield and hold it up to deflect the arrows and the fire of the enemy.*

**Ephesians 6:16** Amplified Bible (AMP)

**16** Above all, lift up the [protective] [a]shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

*The arrows of the enemy are subtle. Satan will provide subtle thoughts that will cause you to begin to doubt. Allow your faith to starve your doubts. Satan wants to keep your spiritually malnourished and dead.*

**The Helmet Of Salvation** - *In battle if a soldier's head is wounded, he would not be able to think clearly and his entire body would be affected. Spiritually we must guard our minds so the body doesn't wither away.*

**Matthew 4:17** Amplified Bible (AMP)

**17** From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “[a]Repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Romans 12:2** New Living Translation (NLT)

**2** Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Sword of the Spirit** - *This is the most effective weapon we’ve been given by God. It is the word of God. The word of God is an offensive weapon in a time of war.*

An **offensive** is a military operation that seeks through aggressive projection of armed force to occupy territory. I don’t know about you, but I am not waiting for a break through, but I am going to offensively occupy some territory that my family is suppose to have, where my blessing is, and what I have been called to. I am not merely getting dressed to look good in my amor, but I place it on with intentionality to get some blood on it.

**Ephesians 6:19-20 - NKJV**

**19** and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**~ WAR CRY**

This is a cry of desperation to God, but a **war cry towards the enemy**. Remember the past wars that you perceived as the end, actually gave pathway to new territory that shaped and changed your world. It could be hard to see it physically, but spiritually it was for the win!

God just might be giving you a command like **Joshua 6:10** New International Version  
**10** But Joshua had commanded the army, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!”

The Israelites Marched in Obedience Before God. They were a covenant people who blew trumpets. Not the shiny and attractive horns, but the ram’s horn. They believed God so they gave voice to their faith. **They didn’t blow their trumpets or shout for victory, but they shouted from the stand point of having already won the battle. Can you imagine when the enemy has you surrounded and you begin to lift your hands and shout in victory?**

**God is looking for some people that will blow their trumpet even when it seems defeat is upon them.** Your **WAR CRY** weakens and disarms the enemy. When we raise a War Cry and glorify God it gives Him dominion over our life and every situation. The weapons of worship are given to us to utilize; warring against the enemy and obtaining victory over demonic influences.

**Isaiah 8:9-16** New International Version (NIV)

**9**

Raise the war cry, you nations, and be shattered!

Listen, all you distant lands.

Prepare for battle, and be shattered!

Prepare for battle, and be shattered!

**10**

Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted **(it will not succeed)**;

propose your plan, but it will not stand,

for God is with us.