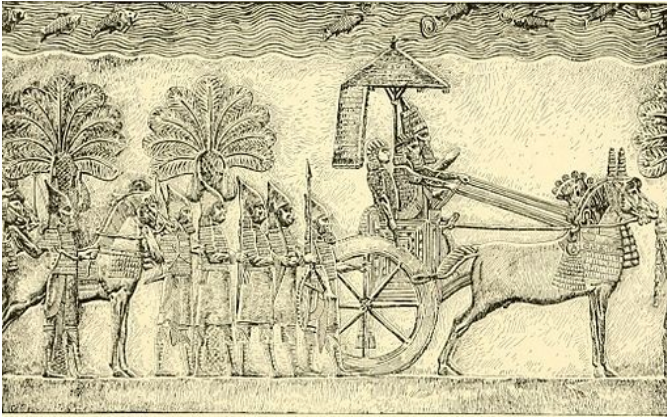


# New Covenant Spiritual Warfare



*Sennacherib's campaign against Israel*<sup>1</sup>

In ancient times kings would record their **victories** on walls and gates to declare their power, both to the people and their enemies.

In Roman times, a conquest-winning general would march at the head of his troops through the streets of Rome in a parade of **triumphal** celebration. The kings, generals and nobles that he conquered would be dragged naked in chains behind his chariot or in line with the troops.

For the sake of accuracy, there's a difference between victory and triumph. Victory is the successful defeat of the enemy, while triumph is the celebration, or ticket-tape parade of the victorious leader and his army.

## The Spiritual Facts

This same triumph-declaring celebration is used in NT writings to advertise Christ's victory over his enemy, Satan, on the cross and with his resurrection. However, when we treat the Bible as a religious book, we are prone to miss this grand exposé. This failure ultimately leads to failure in life as believers don't stand in the victory that's been won for them.

Here's what shows us the current state of affairs in this matter as far as the Kingdom is concerned:

**Hebrews 2:14-15** (NASB) – *Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might **render powerless him** who had the power of death, that is, **the devil**, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*

**Hebrews 2:14-15** (AMPC) – *Since, therefore, [these His] children share in flesh and blood [in the physical nature of human beings], He [Himself] in a similar manner partook of the same [nature], that by [going through] death He might **bring to nought and make of no effect him** who had the power of death—that is, **the devil**—And also that He might deliver and completely set free all those who through the [haunting] fear of death were held in bondage throughout the whole course of their lives.*

**Romans 8:37** (NKJV) – *Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.*

**Romans 8:37** (AMPC) – *Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and **gain a surpassing victory** through Him Who loved us.*

**Colossians 2:15** (NKJV) – *Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, **triumphing over them** in it.*

**Colossians 2:15** (AMPC) – *[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in **triumphing over them** in Him and in it [the cross].*

What more proof do we need?

BUT...this is not the example of the majority of Christians. They are bound up in doubt, fear, worry, impotence, bitterness, negativity and totally defeated – even if they don't admit it.

<sup>1</sup> – Graphic: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\_monuments\_and\_the\_Old\_Testament\_-\_evidence\_from\_ancient\_records\_(1900)\_ (14781164624).jpg

Apart from gung-ho Pentecostals who have geed themselves up, where have you seen triumphal Christians in the recent past. For that matter, triumphalism is preached against from the pulpit.

If our King has conquered the devil, rendered him powerless and has triumphed over him, why can't we enter into this reality? After all, here's our situation:

1. We have the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven<sup>2</sup>
2. Our King lives in us by his Spirit<sup>3</sup>
3. We are able to abide in our King<sup>4</sup>
4. We are able to be one with our King<sup>5</sup>
5. Our King in us is greater than our enemy<sup>6</sup>
6. We are lead in triumph by our King<sup>7</sup>
7. Our King enables us to do anything required<sup>8</sup>
8. The enemy will not prevail against us<sup>9</sup>

Many believers fight against sin and against the enemy all their lives. It's time to realize that the battle has already been won and as we are “in him”, we share in the victory and the triumph.

*“If we understand that we abide in Him (which also means that we abide in His authority), then our spiritual warfare is very different: we are not fighting for victory; we are fighting from victory.”*<sup>10</sup>

When Paul wrote that Christ “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.”<sup>11</sup>, he was using a first-Century metaphor of a Roman general parading his conquered foe in humiliation down the streets of Rome. And another first-Century metaphor, which everyone knew, that a conquered foe has no power of authority any more. His statements were therefore, completely understood by his intended readers of the day. But today, modern believers don't get the same impact of the reality won for them.

Jesus made this a firm reality with his recorded statement: “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”<sup>12</sup>

## **Spiritual Warfare**

To assist helpless Christians survive and win battles, an elaborate system of spiritual warfare has been developed and propagated throughout the churches. The source of the techniques used has been stated to be “God” or “Holy Spirit”. This martial system needs to be addressed from a position of spiritual reality and the New covenant, rather than religion or legalism.

The amazing truth is this:

**The devil was made powerless by the cross – Jesus' death and his resurrection.**

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2 – Matthew 16:19 (The context of this was reiterated to all the disciples – See Matthew 18:18 & John 20:23)

3 – Colossians 1:27

4 – John 15:4

5 – John 17:21

6 – 1 John 4:4

7 – 2 Corinthians 2:14

8 – Philippians 4:14

9 – Matthew 16:18

10 – Jonathan Welton (10-8-2016) “Spiritual Warfare In The Better Covenant”

(weltonacademy.com/blogs/jonathanwelton/spiritual-warfare-in-the-better-covenant)

11 – Colossians 2:15 (NRSV)

12 – John 12:31

But:

*“The devil wants the Church to think that we are fighting him, because he does not want the Church to understand that he has been defeated. Since his defeat was already accomplished, the Church is not on the earth to try to win a victory. Our starting point is victory, and from there we move forward. We are currently on Earth as ambassadors<sup>13</sup> enforcing and advancing the application of Jesus’ victory.”<sup>14</sup>*

So why is there any need for believers to come up with spiritual warfare techniques? Simply put: ignorance.

Satan only has one weapon against believers: lies. He uses this constantly because he's a liar<sup>15</sup> and he knows its power. He uses lies to taunt the saints, to manipulate, intimidate, tempt and condemn them.

Lies work in the mind, so the battle for believers is in the mind, not the spiritual realm. His mind games, like chess, is purposed to **checkmate us by causing us to come into agreement with him**. He plants thoughts and temptations in our minds (which are false) and then lies to us with the idea that these thoughts come from the evil within us. Consequently, we condemn ourselves and become powerless to withstand the obvious falsehoods.



Many Christians struggle with sin because of these lies. They think it comes from within them – from their evil flesh. They fail to realise that as a 'new creature'<sup>16</sup> they don't have the propensity to sin any more<sup>17</sup>.

So:

*“If we allow ourselves to listen to his voice and then come into any form of agreement with him, we are essentially stepping out of Jesus’ chariot, stripping off our royal robes, and chaining ourselves beside Satan.”<sup>18</sup>*

## **Our Stance**

To succeed against our defeated enemy, we must identify his mind games and work in our minds unless the Spirit tells us otherwise. The Spirit will advise us of any spiritual steps we need to take on specific occasions, while the bulk of the time is overcoming the mental incursions of the enemy.

We must “take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ”<sup>19</sup>.

**2 Corinthians 10:5** (AMPC) – *[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One),*

This doesn't mean declaring, “I bring these thoughts in captivity to Jesus”. This is illogical. Look at the Amplified's translation above. It's an active statement. We must dismiss lies placed in our mind because we know which ones these are – they don't align with the true knowledge of God. We use our authority to control our own minds and resist what they are saying.

We must be aware of the enemies tactics at all times.<sup>20</sup> We are not to just look out for doctrines of demons<sup>21</sup>, etc., but focus on ourselves, our attitudes, and what we think. We are accountable to the Judge for ourselves, first and foremost. We must see that we live a righteous life by defeating the lies that are

13 – See 2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 6:19-20

14 – Jonathan Welton (10-8-2016) “Spiritual Warfare In The Better Covenant”

15 – John 8:44;

16 – 2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP, ASV, BRG, DRA, GNV, KJV, MEV, NASB, WYC, YLT)

17 – 1 John 5:18

18 – Jonathan Welton (10-8-2016) “Spiritual Warfare In The Better Covenant”

19 – 2 Corinthians 10

20 – 2 Corinthians 2:11

21 – 1 Timothy 4:1

deposited in us.

However, we continue to think that the devil is a prowling, roaring lion<sup>22</sup>, we will have the wrong attitude towards him. This description raises fear, when he is a defeated foe under our authority – provided we use that authority correctly. He works in our mind as a 'slimy', 'weasely' liar, and that's where we need to focus our defence.

Here's the crux of the matter:

*“Most true spiritual warfare takes place in the arena of truth versus lies. The devil is a liar, and he uses his craftiness to get us to lay aside our identity and authority. Our battle must be understood as a battle to maintain our identity, because the authority we have been given as believers is contained in our identity.”*<sup>23</sup>

Since lies are the enemy's tool, we must use truth as our Kingdom tool. Truth sets us free<sup>24</sup> – but free from what? For one thing: freedom from being manipulated by the enemy.

Knowing the truth in any situation we can confidently stand against the lies. That's it: STAND.

We've already been advised of this technique, but we've preferred so-called spiritual warfare instead.

Here's what we've been informed to do:

**1 Peter 5:9** (NKJV) – *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

**James 4:7** (NKJV) – *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

So our martial art in the spiritual is: **RESIST & STAND.**

We can expand on this with other advice:

**Ephesians 6:11, 13-14** (NKJV) – *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

So our methodology can now be defined as:

**STAND AGAINST, STAND OUR GROUND, STAND FIRM.**

You see:

*“Once we understand that Jesus has already taken all of the devil's authority, we realize that our objective is not obtaining victory, but maintaining victory. Jesus obtained all authority, and then gave it to His followers. Now we are to stand and resist the devil to maintain our position of authority.”*<sup>25</sup>

So long as we continue to believe the enemy's lies we'll remain in bondage to him, to sin, and to other things.

If at any time we agree with these lies we can break the agreement this way:

1. Repent,
2. Ask God to forgive you,

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22 – 1 Peter 5:8-9

23 – Jonathan Welton (10-8-2016) “Spiritual Warfare In The Better Covenant”

24 – John 8:32

25 – Jonathan Welton (10-8-2016) “Spiritual Warfare In The Better Covenant”

3. Agree with the truth, &
4. Stand on the truth.

Freedom is that simple.

### **Some Important Points**

Get these 'under your belt'.

**(1)** Cease seeing the Bible as a religious book and instead see it as a Kingdom handbook full of facts, principles, protocols and constitutional statements, as well as spiritual reality.

**(2)** Eliminate legalism as it keeps you in a defeated position – permanently. The Torah and the Law don't allow you to operate as a son as the focus is on the letter of the Law, instead of partnering with Heaven.

**(3)** **The key is authority**. We have his authority which is total authority<sup>26</sup> and we operate from the position of sons who wear the family's signet ring of authority.



**(4)** Adhere to this:

**The devil is already defeated, he has already lost, and there is nothing we can do to add to what Christ accomplished on the cross.**<sup>27</sup>

**(5)** Stop formalized spiritual warfare and allow the angels to do your spiritual fighting for you. (More on this at another time.)

Laurence

20-8-2016

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<sup>26</sup> – Matthew 28:18

<sup>27</sup> – Jonathan Welton (10-8-2016) “Spiritual Warfare In The Better Covenant”