

Spiritual Warfare is Really Boots on the Ground

‘Pilgrim’s Progress’, although accurate in many ways, highlights fear rather than the power of our identity as a son. The book and the movie¹ are also about not giving up your Christian faith so you can enter the Celestial City when you die. There’s nothing Kingdom about ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ at all.

Similarly, the methods promoted by the spiritual warfare proponents are not Kingdom-based.

In contrast, there is a simple Kingdom solution to dealing with the enemy. Jesus demonstrated it, but it’s not obvious if you think he did what he did because he was God. No! He gave up his deity and became a man,² but his ability came from being baptised (filled) with the Spirit.³ He is our prototype: the first spirit-filled human being.

What did Jesus model for us in the area of spiritual warfare: Know who you are, align yourself with Heaven, while you’re about Father’s business.

Very simple.

Spiritual warfare is not shouting at the devil, reading some spiritual guru’s prayer or reciting an incantation.⁴ It’s not even about 40 days of prayer and fasting.

Putting it in plain language: Firstly, spiritual warfare is about knowing you’re in the King’s army fighting a battle to see his Kingdom expand so it gradually kicks out the Kingdom of Darkness. This is a mindset, not specifically a set of activities. When all the followers of Jesus know that they are sons of the Most High God and act accordingly, while in alignment with the King’s plans, the enemy will be pushed back on a massive scale simple by the weight of their spiritual standing.

Secondly, spiritual warfare is not ‘giving place’⁵ to the enemy because that’s how he takes ground. This doesn’t just include resisting sin, it encompasses resisting everything by not giving in to ideologies, gossip, negativity, regret, disappointment, back-biting, etc. And that especially includes resisting the voice of the enemy. Probably the main way we ‘give place’ to the enemy is by not allowing ourselves to be completely healed of our pain and woundedness as these are the places he has a ‘hook’ in us. These need the King’s healing, which he does from the inside-out, but only with our permission and full co-operation.

Listen to what Frank Viola and Michael Heiser have to say about spiritual warfare in this podcast:

- **‘Insurgence Podcast #30: Spiritual Warfare and the Kingdom’⁶ (Frank Viola & Michael S Heiser) [16:22-39:15]**

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1 – See the movie trailer here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=04WXIAcOtS0

2 – Philippians 2:5-7

3 – Luke 4:1

4 – Read John Paul Jackson’s “Needless Casualties of War”

www.amazon.com.au/Needless-Casualties-John-Paul-Jackson-ebook/dp/B008WVIKFO

5 – Ephesians 4:27

6 – insurgence.podbean.com/e/30-spiritual-warfare-and-the-kingdom-satan

OR www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-ydj2k-b9ab05