

CALL TO ARMS

A SEMINAR WITH PASTOR DAVID & GRETA PETERS

FRI, 10 JUL | 8PM-10.30PM
SAT, 11 JUL | 9AM-3PM
RIVERLIFE CHURCH

In partnership with the School of The Supernatural, SpiritLife Ministries, Auckland, NZ

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Pastor David Peters is based at the Elim Christian Centre, a large, multicultural church in Auckland, New Zealand and has more than thirty years experience in prophetic/teaching ministry. He and his wife, Greta, are founders of SpiritLife Ministries and they travel extensively, inspiring people to have unwavering hope despite life's circumstances and equipping them to operate in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit in daily life.



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SESSION ONE

A PROPHETIC CALL TO ARMS

(All scriptures NIV unless otherwise stated)

We are called firstly to be **worshippers**, and secondly to be **warriors**.

PREPARE FOR WAR

Father wants all His children ready and prepared for the **times** we are entering into. The time to **prepare for war** is now.

TIMES OF TROUBLE

In Job 38:23 God says this about **elements of storms**: *"...I reserve these for times of trouble, for days of war and battle."* In the midst of **storm** and **war** God will release **fire** for a **great harvest**. 2014 was the beginning of a season of heightened warfare. War has been declared because this is a season of harvest.

Satan is **warring** at a much increased level, but there is greatly increased Holy Spirit activity around the earth and God is also increasing the release of his warrior angels to do battle on our behalf.

PARTNERSHIP

We prepare for war in **partnership** with the Lord.

(a) _____

1. Accept the fact of _____.

Our **enemy** is Satan. **Revelation 12:9** *"The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."*

Revelation 12:17: *"Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to **wage war** against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast the testimony of Jesus."*

Promise regarding our enemies:

Isaiah 41:11-12: *"All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish. Though you search for your **enemies**, you*

will not find them. Those who **wage war** against you will be as nothing at all.

2. Be aware of the invisible _____ raging around us. Stay alert! Keep watch and pray!

3. Train as a _____ for battle so that you are **armed and ready**.

Know our **training manual**-the Word and our expert **Trainer**-Holy Spirit. Learn what our **weapons and armour** are and practise how to skilfully use them.

(b) _____

Prophetically God says, I have been and will continue to **prepare** my people for **battle**. It is I who trains their hands for battle; their arms will bend a bow of bronze for I provide supernatural **strength** by the **power** of My Holy Spirit. (See Psalm 18: 32, 39)

My people will learn to live in **joy** in the midst of war. They will be my **worshippers** in the midst of war. And I will teach them how to be **warrior harvesters**.

Psalm 27:6: *“Then my head will be exalted above the **enemies** who **surround** me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of **joy**; I will **sing** and make music to the Lord.”*

Radical **worship** of Jesus will be a feature of the next move of the Spirit- the baptism with **fire** in fullness that is coming to **empower** us to accomplish God's purposes of a great **harvest**. Father is forming **warriors** who will fight in the battles until victory is attained. He is fashioning a strong courageous people full of love and power and Holy Spirit fire.

Isaiah 45:1-2: *“This is what the Lord says to his anointed...whose right hand I take hold of ... **I will go before you** and will **level the mountains**; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.”*

We **partner** with God in removing **mountains**:

Isaiah 41:15: *“See I will make you into a **threshing sledge**, new and sharp, with many spikes. You will **thresh the mountains** and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff. You will winnow them, the **wind** will pick them up, and a gale will blow them away.”*

(a) Mountains/hills are symbolic of our _____

Enemies are all who rage against you, oppose you, and wage war against you i.e. Satanic & demonic forces of darkness and their strategies.

(b) Threshing sledge is symbolic of _____

God wants us to see with our spiritual eyes what He intends to transform us into: instruments of power in His hands to overcome all the power of the enemy.

Luke 10:19: *"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy."*

(c) Wind is symbolic of the _____

Zechariah 4:6-7: *"Not by might nor power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty. What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground."*

We are entering a **time** when we will speak to **mountains of impossibility** and they will go. (See Mark 11:22-24) We, God's Spirit filled people, will be His **threshing sledge to level mountains of impossible** sickness, disease, injury, circumstances, and situations.

WEAPONS

God is not only **training** us but he is also **fully equipping** us.

The Lord is opening His _____. He has prepared his deadly weapons. (Jeremiah 50:25)

2 Corinthians 6:7(NLT): *"We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defence."*

2 Corinthians 10:4: *"The **weapons** we fight with... have divine power to demolish strongholds."*

(See session three.)

WARRIORS

The Lord says: I have come to gather **warriors**. **Isaiah 13:4:** *"I am mustering an **army** for war."*

When the **army of God** comes together in **unity** in a city, serving Him shoulder to shoulder (Zephaniah 3:9), the enemy

will have to leave entire cities. The Lord is the **Commander** at the head of the army.

Isaiah 42:13: *“The Lord will march out like a mighty man, like a **warrior** he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies.”*

Zephaniah 3:15: *“The Lord your God is with you, the **Mighty Warrior** who saves.”*

WAR DECREE

Psalm 27 extracts:

*The **Lord is** my light and my salvation— whom shall fear?
The **Lord is** the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?*

*When the wicked advance against me to devour me, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart **will not fear**; though **war** break out against me, even then I **will be confident**.*

*I **remain confident** of this: I will see goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. For on the day of **trouble** the Lord **will keep me safe** in his dwelling*

*The Lord **will hide me** in the shelter of his tabernacle and He will set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemy who surround me.*

THE OVERCOMING SPIRIT

Christ has already won **victory**. Do not be duped out of your **victory**. Christ always leads us in **triumphant** procession. Walk behind him in **triumph**.

Believe you are an **overcomer**. Live like an **overcomer** in every area of your life.

CATCHWORD

A catchword for this season is _____!

Psalm 18: 35: *“You give me your shield of victory.”*

SESSION TWO

VICTORY IS ASSURED

The Christian life is a call to arms. It involves conflict. We are at war with the flesh and with the devil. We _____ the flesh and _____ the devil.

The battle is intensifying around the world. Wickedness is more and more obvious. Yet there is also a concurrent explosion of the Kingdom of God globally. This should not surprise us. In the parable of the wheat and tares Jesus warned that the nearer we get to the close of the age, the more the wheat (people of God and righteousness) and the tares (people under Satan's control and wickedness) would grow to maturity simultaneously (see Matthew 13:30). As one leader has said, *"this maturity of both good and evil is why we will have the greatest conflict at the end [of the age]."*

Spiritual attack is becoming more severe. Marital breakdowns, financial pressures, health battles, oppression, persecution and so on are striking many Christians. We must know how to combat this and prevail.

1 Peter 5:8-9(NIV): *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 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."*

We need to know how to resist the devil, firm in our faith.

Note: There is no war between God and the devil. He is not an anti-god. He is a fallen angel and a defeated foe. Satan and his demons are not omnipresent, omnipotent, and omniscient as God is. The war is between the devil and humankind.

ORIGIN OF THE BATTLE

Luke 4:5-6(NIV): *"The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendour; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.'"*

At creation, God gave humankind _____ over the earth. At the fall, we forfeited our right to rule the earth to Satan who deceived us. At Calvary, Jesus took back

rulership of the earth. We His church must now enforce the rule of God in the earth. Conflict and warfare are involved:

2 Timothy 4:7(NIV): *“I have fought the good **fight...**”*

1 Timothy 1:18(NKJV): *“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good **warfare.**”*

2 Corinthians 10:3-4(RSV): *For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly **war**, for the weapons of our **warfare** are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds.”*

Ephesians 6:12(NIV): *“For we are not **fighting** against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”*

These principalities, rulers, and mighty powers refer to the one third of the angels that fell with Lucifer when he rebelled (see Revelation 12:3-4). These fallen angels now help Satan rule over darkness (see Daniel 10:12 – 13, 20). ‘Evil spirits’ may refer to these angels as well or to demons.

Eventually, Satan, the fallen angels and demons will be cast into hell at the end of time. They are not there yet. Jesus has defeated the _____ satanic network on the cross. Any rule the powers of darkness have is merely by deception over blinded people.

ORIGIN OF OUR VICTORY

The price of Adam and Eve’s disobedience was:

- punishment for sin,
- death,
- hell,
- and Satan ruling over humankind.

To be a true Messiah, Jesus had to reverse all of these affects. This He accomplished on the cross.

Colossians 2:13, 14 (NIV): *“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the*

charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.”

But there was more:

Ephesians 4:8-10(NLT): *“When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people. Notice that it says “he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to the lower parts of the earth. And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself.”*

1. HE _____

Matthew 12:40 – *“the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth 3 days and 3 nights.”*

Jesus had to taste death for us in its fullness. On the cross, He experienced the judgment of death for sin. Then His body was placed into the earth, the grave. The grave is often personified as “Death” in the Bible. Some also believe that His spirit then descended into Hades (the place of departed spirits, called ‘hell’ in English, but different from Gehenna, the lake of fire) to announce His victory (see 1 Peter 3:18 – 20a, Luke 16:19-31)

2. HE _____

On the third day, the spirit of Christ was reunited with His body and he rose from the dead.

Hades could not hold Him- He conquered hell. The grave could not hold Him – He conquered death.

Revelation 1:18(NLT): *“I am the living one who died. Look I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”*

After appearing to his disciples, Jesus then ascended to heaven.

3. HE _____

Jesus then ascended through the heavens. In 2 Corinthians 12:2-14, Paul talks about being caught up to the third heaven or Paradise. Some believe this refers to the highest part of heaven, but most Bible students believe the following:

1st heaven = atmosphere above the earth

2nd heaven = space

3rd heaven = Gods' throne

Satan and his angels, when they rebelled, had been cast out of the third heaven into the lower heavens, where the devil set up his throne. (Ephesians 2:2 calls him the prince of the power of the air). As Jesus ascended through the first and second heavens He dealt with Satan and his demonic army enforcing the victory He had won on the cross.

Colossians 2:15(NLT): *"In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross."*

On the cross – he crushed _____

At the resurrection – he crushed _____

As he ascended – he crushed

Hebrews 10:12-13(NLT): *"But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honour at God's right hand. There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet."*

1 Corinthians 15:25-26, 28(NLT): *"For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death... then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere."*

CONCLUSION

Christ has won a complete and utter victory over sin, death, hell, and Satan. However this victory must be enforced. There will be a progressive enforcing of Kingdom rule in the earth through the church, which will be fully realised when Christ returns.

Until then we are in the in-between – the Kingdom has come but not yet fully and Satan has not yet been cast into hell. Hence there is conflict. But God has given us very powerful weapons to overcome our enemy.

Next Session: The Weapons of Our Warfare

SESSION THREE

THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

2 Corinthians 10:3-5(NIV): *“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 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.”*

Ephesians 6:10-13(NLT): *“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God’s armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armour so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.”*

Physical weapons will be of no use in spiritual conflict. God has equipped us to fight an invisible enemy. He has given us a spiritual missile system that is both defensive and offensive.

A missile comprises two parts:

- A _____ (carries the explosive punch that will damage the enemy)
- A _____ (the delivery system that propels the warhead to its target).

The rocket without the warhead is ineffective and a warhead without a rocket is unusable. Both must be employed together.

A. SPIRITUAL WARHEADS (_____)

There are three types of warheads all of which are very effective against the enemy:

1. The _____

1 Peter 1:18-19(NIV): *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*

Revelation 12:10-11(NIV): *“For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”*

There are 43 references to the blood of Christ in the NT and this is the last one, in the context of ultimate triumph over the enemy. The devil will assault our character and identity, and highlight our faults, sins, and weaknesses. Without the blood we are guilty. By grace we have been saved through faith, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. It is the greatest stain remover in the universe.

In the courtroom of the spiritual world, Satan accuses us and we must enter our plea before the Judge who is the Lord. Our plea is not ‘guilty’ or ‘not guilty’ (in the sense of our own righteousness) but ‘the Blood’.

Don’t treat the blood of Jesus like superstitious ‘holy water’. Rather remind yourself and the enemy that you are washed in it and there is a blood line around you and your family he cannot cross.

2. The _____

Philippians 2:9-12(NLT): *“Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honour and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Jesus is the highest name of all because he has the highest position of all. **Proverbs 18:10:** *“The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”*

Names carry authority. Roman times – “In the name of Caesar...” meant the whole of the Roman government backed up the speaker.

3. The _____

Matthew 4:3-4(NIV): *“The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

It is written. Quoting God’s word releases an authority beyond our words.

Hebrews 4:12(NLT): *“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword...”*

Ephesians 6:17(NLT): *“Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

B. SPIRITUAL ROCKETS (_____)

There are five ways of using God’s authority against the enemy (launching spiritual warheads):

1. _____

Ephesians 6:18(NIV): *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.”*

Prayer is a heavy weapon, one of the biggest rockets in the arsenal. The Devil hates a praying Christian or a praying church. Prayer that contains the word of God (either scripture or prophetic revelation) and the name of Jesus is especially powerful.

2. _____

Psalms 8:2(NIV): *“Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”*

Psalms 22:3(NKJV): *“But you are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.”*

Psalms 149:6-9(NKJV): *“Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; To execute on them the written judgment— this honour have all His saints.”*

Praise acknowledges God’s Lordship. He is enthroned in our praises which hinders demonic activity.

3. _____

1 Corinthians 1:17-18(NIV): *“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

Preaching not only impacts humans, but also the unseen spiritual realm. If truth is preached consistently over years, the spiritual atmosphere of a place can change.

4. _____

1 Timothy 6:12(NKJV): *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

The good confession is that Jesus is Messiah and Lord. When we confess that we belong to him, when we confess His word, and our trust in Him, when we declare we love Him no matter what, satanic powers are forced to back off. Confession is a statement of faith.

Mark 11:22-23(NIV): *“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.”*

Colossians 2:14-16(NIV): *“...having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”*

5. _____

Matthew 16:19(NIV): *“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Keys open and lock things. Greek: ‘whatever you bind on earth shall be, having been bound in heaven.’

This involves discerning what heaven is doing, aligning with it and enforcing it through declaration. It does not mean superstitiously using the phrases “I bind..., I loose...” like a magic formula to control demons. The devil and his demons have been bound at Calvary and all the blessings of heaven loosed upon the earth. Our declaring releases what has been done or prohibits Satan’s illegal activity on earth. Sometimes binding and loosing is not only speaking, but also moving in the opposite spirit.

CONCLUSION

Notice the common point about these missiles: all are launched through the mouth. They are only effective as weapons if the warheads are attached. E.g. prayer in the Name of Jesus, confession using the Word of God, etc. Note too that fasting, while not being a weapon, greatly enhances the use of the weapons above. It is like putting super rocket fuel in the missiles.

SESSION FOUR

EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL DEFENCE

(_____)

Just as offensive weapons are a vital part of warfare, so also is our defence. Ephesians 6 instructs us about our protective armour. Let's read it with fresh eyes. Note: they work together as an integrated whole.

Ephesians 6:13-18(NIV): *"Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."*

God wants us to be able to stand, to stand firm and to stand our ground.

How do we stand? V13 tells us to put on the full armour of God. If any part is missing we are vulnerable to being attacked and wounded. We put it on and we keep it on. This set of armour is not to be superstitiously put on each day. One can remind oneself daily that the armour is there. Let's look at each component of the armour:

1. BELT OF _____

Why does Paul mention the belt first? It plays a crucial role in the effectiveness of a soldier's armour. The belt contains the sheath which holds the sword. No belt means no weapon. In addition strips of leather hung from the belt to protect the abdomen and reproductive organs of lower body. The belt also secures other pieces of our armour so it is essential.

What is truth? In **John 17:17** Jesus defines truth: *"Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth."*

This is how we put the belt on:
we daily _____ on the Word of God.

2 Timothy 2:15(NIV): *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*

2. BREASTPLATE OF _____

The modern equivalent of the Roman breastplate is the Kevlar vest. It covers and protects a vital organ - the heart. Always guard your heart for your heart is the wellspring of life.

The breastplate also protects our lungs and will ensure that they are full of air/ breath, the breath of the Spirit of life.

What or rather who is our righteousness?

Jeremiah 23:6(NKJV): *“...The Lord Our Righteousness.”*

1 Corinthians 1:30(NIV): *“... Christ Jesus, who has become for us...our righteousness...”*

Jesus is himself is our protective breastplate. To withstand Satan's assaults of accusation and condemnation, we must stand in Christ's gift of righteousness that is ours through faith.

Psalms 55:22(NIV): *“he will never let the righteous be shaken.”* In other words, he will ensure we remain standing.

Remember that as we mature God intends us to progressively live out the righteousness we have received as a gift.

1 Thessalonians 5:18(NIV): *“putting on faith and love as a breastplate...”*

3. HELMET OF _____

1 Thessalonians 5:8(NIV): *“... put on the hope of salvation as a helmet.”*

Ephesians 6:17(NIV): *“Take the helmet of salvation...”*

The Roman helmet was designed specifically to protect the head during combat from flying arrows and cutting blows with swords. The head means the brain/mind. Modern equivalent is the Kevlar helmet.

As we should always guard our hearts, so too must we also always guard our minds. These are the two key organs the enemy targets.

2 Corinthians 10:5(NIV): *“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.”*

The key is to _____, the Hope of our salvation, the Hope of the world. *“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”* Colossians 3:2. When we do this, when we utterly trust in him, the God of hope fills us with such joy

and peace so that we actually overflow with hope by the power of his Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Hebrews 10:23(NIV): *“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”*

4. SHOES OF _____

V. 15(AMP): *“And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.”*

Roman legionnaires had hobnailed sandal like boots which were bound around the calf with leather thongs, and they were famous for the long distances they could march in those boots. The Christian life is a long march. Modern combat boots are designed to provide a combination of grip, ankle stability, and foot protection suitable to a rugged environment.

A soldier cannot fight effectively without boots for a number of reasons:

- the battlefield is strewn with things that would cut the feet
- there is constant change of position
- boots allow the ability to stand firm
- in hand to hand combat the soldier won't slip and fall.

Many teach that having the shoes on means always being ready to share the gospel with others, which is not wrong. But that seems a strange meaning in the context of defence against spiritual attack. The stronger meaning is that we are alert and ready to defend ourselves because we have put on the truth of the good news of peace with God. Our sins are forgiven, we are headed for eternity, so no matter what happens here our hearts are filled with peace.

Romans 16:20(NIV): *“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”*

The Gospel of peace and the hope of heaven and the resurrection it brings are our shoes. The shoes complement the helmet and allow us to be clothed from _____ with hope.

5. Shield of _____

Roman soldiers used two shields – a small circular shield and a large oval one. It is the large one that Paul is mentioning here. It protected the whole body and could be interlocked with other soldiers to form a wall of protection and a covering. Faith is like a total protective shield. There are times we need one another to stand firm.

Fiery darts mean the fire tipped arrows archers would fire at the enemy. Very destructive as they could set people and buildings on fire. Fiery darts of the enemy are designed to burn us – might be an arrow of temptation or hurtful words etc.

Other parts of the armour – truth, peace, righteousness and hope are worn constantly. But we must take the shield (and the sword). We do this by speaking the word of God in faith or making faith statements based on God's word.

6. Sword of _____

The belt of truth contains the sheath which holds the sword. The belt of truth is the Logos, the written word. The sword of the Spirit is the Rhema, the spoken word of God. The sword is pulled out of the belt's sheath- the Rhema flows out of the Logos.

This double edged sword is both a powerful offensive weapon and also a potent defensive weapon.

7. _____

We are to use this protective weapon and offensive rocket on all occasions and with all kinds of prayer and requests.

CONCLUSION

We are living in days when warfare has escalated to a whole new level, where it is far more intense and deadly. So we must upgrade our protective armour.

Defence contractors have demonstrated that a soldier wearing the experimental exoskeleton or exosuit can lift 2 to 3 times as much weight as a normal soldier, with no effort required by the user. Let's put on our supernatural exosuits. Be clothed with the Spirit of power.

Isaiah 40:31(NIV): *"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

When we put on the full armour of God, we put on the armour of light (Romans 13:12). The enemy cannot handle the dazzling brilliance of God's glory enveloping us.

Always remember that beyond our personal defence is also the **PRESENCE OF GOD**, the ultimate weapon. God is with me and surrounds me like the perfect impenetrable Iron Dome, Israel's missile defence system.

SESSION FIVE

BIBLICAL SECRETS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Luke 22: 31- 32 *“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to have all of you, to sift you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail.”*

Satan’s goal in warfare is that our faith will fail. God’s goal in warfare is that our faith will increase.

Let’s look at 7 biblical secrets of warfare:

1. _____

Exodus 13: 17 *“When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them on the road ...that was the shortest way from Egypt to the Promised Land. God said, ‘If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.’”*

God knows what you can handle. He will only let you face a battle that you are ready to win, and will protect you from battles you are not ready for. Some things that may have defeated you – there will be a time to defeat them.

Never be overwhelmed by the size of the battle, or seeming satanic victories. Always remember Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:1-5(NLT): *“Why are the nations so angry? Why do they waste their time with futile plans? The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the Lord and against his anointed one. ‘Let us break their chains,’ they cry, ‘and free ourselves from slavery to God.’ But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury.”*

God laughs at His enemies, and at times so must we. Not a mocking laugh, but a laugh of triumph.

2. _____

Psalm 23:5 *“You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.”*

Beware becoming warfare intense – is a trap of the devil to take your eyes off God. Wears you out. Stay in intimacy with God and you will not lose your joy.

James 4:7, 8: *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.”*

It is not by accident that these two verses are next to each other. We need to stay God focused.

Psalm 91:9-11 *“If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter, no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home. For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.”*

3. _____

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 *“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

Isaiah 42: 12, 13 *“Let the coastlands glorify the Lord; let them sing his praise. The Lord will march forth like a mighty man; he will come out like a warrior, full of fury.”*

God is raising a people now who consistently praise Him in all things. It is releasing His Warrior Spirit in the earth. We are going to see longstanding strongholds fall!

4. _____

Philippians 1:28 *“Don’t be intimidated by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved.”*

Devil wants us to cower in fear of him and his attacks etc. Stay in faith. Perfect love casts out all fear.

2 Kings 6:13-18(NIV): *“Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there [Dothan]. They went by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked. “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.*

Army attacks Elisha. Overwhelming, intimidating. Fear and anxiety result. This was an attack on the communication centre, the place of hearing from heaven, and the prophetic. Satan will always try to shut this down in our lives so that we live by the natural.

Servant's natural eyes get opened to see the invisible realm. Open eyes see heavenly armies. More with us than those with the enemy. God is Jehovah Sabaoth. The Lord of Hosts, the Lord of the mighty angelic armies of heaven.

To believe the impossible, you have to first see the invisible. The invisible spiritual realm is just as real as the visible natural realm. Note that God blinds the enemy. God will do this more and more as we ask Him. Hide us in Christ.

5. _____

James 4:7 *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

Don't get drawn into a one on one. Satan is more powerful than you as a human being. But in Christ you are more powerful. Learn to stay within our rightful boundaries of authority.

Jude 1:8-9 (NLT): *"In the same way, these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings. But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, "The Lord rebuke you!" (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses' body.)"*

The Lord rebuke you is an appeal to God Almighty for Him to deal with the devil and also a declaration that He will do it. We should not take on satanic powers beyond our sphere of authority. You have authority over your own life and family and can resist attack. But principalities over geographic regions and cities require greater authority to deal with. An individual should not tackle them alone. One can intercede to God however, asking Him to deal with them.

6. _____

Matthew 16:18 *"I [Jesus] will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."*

The true church is on attack. It is advancing in the earth. And it's not just in prayer and warfare. When we do the works of God – doing good, healing the sick and oppressed, proclaiming the truth - Satan falls. **Luke 10:18** *"I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of*

lightning.” – because the disciples were healing the sick and casting out demons and telling about the Kingdom of God.

7. _____

2 Corinthians 4:17 *“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that outweighs them all.”*

It’s tough being in a war. It’s even tougher when we seem to lose some battles. Sickness takes a loved one, or prayers seem to go unanswered. These battles are not lost. If you have fought a good fight but not seen the answer, there is an amazing reward waiting for you in eternity. Potentially every battle can be won, every sick person healed. But we do not yet see this. We have to accept the mystery for now and know God will reveal all in eternity.

CONCLUSION

We were born again into a war. There are no time outs, holidays, or ceasefires. Safest place to be is in intimacy with God and filled with the Holy Spirit. Look at the promises Jesus makes to those who overcome in Revelation 2&3:

1. *“Everyone who is victorious will eat from the tree of life in the paradise of God.”* (2:7)

2. *“Whoever is victorious will not be hurt by the second death.”* (2:11)

3. *“Everyone who is victorious will eat from the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one... a new name.”* (2:17)

4. *“To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, I will give authority over all the nations.”* (2: 26)

5. *“All who are victorious will be clothed in white.”* (3: 5)

6. *“All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God and they will never have to leave it.”* (3: 12)

7. *“I will invite everyone who is victorious to sit with me on my throne.”* (3: 21)

Who are the victorious? Not the perfect, but those who do not let their faith fail and stay true and obedient to the Lord.

Jude 24: *“Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling and present you without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing.”*