

## Part 1: What's This About?

**Question:** Why should you and I study spiritual weapons?

**Answer:** We're already in a spiritual war, whether we see it or not. Going unarmed is unwise, and carrying weapons you don't know how to use can make you a casualty.

Only Christians can possibly see the war clearly. Without Biblical teaching they may still live as if blind. If you don't know Jesus yet, please turn to the first appendix. Because Christ dwells in Christians the war will not destroy us. We need to know that we are Christians, redeemed of the Lord. The sons of Sceva in Ephesus neglected this as described in Acts 19:13- 16.

Certainly an enemy is trying to destroy us! The attack includes diseases, abuse and drugs. Violence is our leading form of entertainment. Hatred in many places produces terrorism, murder and torture. Greed and various forms of lust dominate human thinking. A real but usually invisible spiritual enemy called Satan helps make our world a lot like hell.

We're constantly tempted to set ourselves up as gods, with our own definitions of truth and lies, good and evil, pretending nothing is wrong we can't fix by ourselves. It never works.

On your own you can never succeed against this enemy. After Father God adopts you into His Kingdom, His power can make you a warrior fit for every battle. You and I have what it takes to join His human army and do it His way: God's strength, ourselves, our brokenness, our failures and our weaknesses. The enemy tells us our weakness, failures and brokenness disqualify us, but that's a lie, and we can reject it.

*From  
Failure  
to  
Success*

Father God lets this be real war. He gives us a part in real victories, real celebrations, real

2 Corinthians  
12:7-10;  
Revelation 22:  
10-17

**disappointments and real losses. Even in disappointments and losses we have His companionship. Jesus Christ is our commander in chief, and final victory is certain.**

Matthew 2:1-3,  
13-18, 4:17,  
10:16-23;  
John 15:18-22;  
Revelation 21:4

**When Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is at hand," He declared war on other kingdoms. Competing kings, emperors, and dictators are swift to recognize this. Martyrs and persecuted Christians constantly pay the price of this recognition, but Father God keeps score and promises justice in the end.**

Colossians 2:13-15

**Colossians 2:13- 15 describes Christ disarming all rulers, authorities, powers and principalities. These are spiritual enemies, not flesh and blood. They still use accusation, deception, distraction and enough other power to spread the evil we see in the world.**

Nehemiah 4:15-23

**This war resembles the tension of Nehemiah's time. Construction and hard work on other things go on while we keep weapons ready for battle. Staying ready when all is quiet is challenging. Ask anyone who works on an ambulance crew or fire department.**

**God created the world and all that is in or on it. He gave humans the greatest possible freedom of choice. He knew many of us would use it to destroy ourselves. Yet this freedom also opened the door to loving relationships which are impossible without choice.**

Genesis 1, 2, 3;  
Acts 2:22-33

**Actions have consequences, some of them unintended. Adam and Eve's sinful actions (turning away from God) doomed all people to spiritual blindness and deafness leading to eternal death. This problem was solved by Jesus Christ, but millions of people still do not know this truth or apply it.**

Father God is making a royal priesthood, a family of loving children, and a bride for His son out of those who receive Him. Life on earth is a chance to live in fellowship with God and other people and a chance to develop character we will carry into eternity. That character is like Jesus Christ and yet uniquely our own. The struggle with evil plays a role in developing this character. Since our character accompanies us into eternity, Father God constantly emphasizes attitude and character. Abraham, Moses, and David were friends of God, or “men after God’s heart.” They accepted God’s choice, desired God’s directions, and were ready to hear from Him even when He corrected them. They also took responsibility for their own actions and attitudes.

## *The Real Objective*

David in Psalm 51;  
Luke 6:35,  
9:23-26;  
1 Peter 2:4-10;  
Revelation 19:7-9

As a Christian, the Holy Spirit has given you new life and the new vision and new hearing to become aware of the spiritual realm. Some of what you see and hear is glorious and beautiful. Some is pain, ugliness, and destruction. The deceiver will tell you to ignore what your new eyes see as if it is illusion or the only possible way for life to exist.

Before I met Jesus, I understood something about ugliness and destruction. I was a tall, skinny and weak child with red hair: The perfect target for bullies. But the idea that there was something spiritual about this never crossed my mind. My dad denied any spiritual reality. It wasn’t intellectually respectable. I respected him and adopted his viewpoint.

When I was 12 I met the resurrected and living Jesus Christ. He came to talk to me in a former Spanish mission church. Then I had to reject Dad’s view of spiritual reality.

Galatians 2:20;  
Romans 7:14-24

Being a Christian through faith in Jesus is a lifelong process which will finally change almost everything about you. While it goes on, you find dying but unconverted remnants of your old nature, called the flesh, supporting the enemy of your soul. I can honestly say, "I have been crucified with Christ," and "those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh." I can also agree that "I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate." This is an example of the "now, not yet" nature of God's Kingdom in our era. A much fuller discussion of this appears in another Four Craftsmen publication, *In the World, Not of It!* By Phil Buechler, ISBN 978-0-9639644-3-4. The book is only available as a print edition.

Father God has been fighting Satan and his supporters as long as humans have existed. God could end the war with a single word. His angels could finish it off while He stood back and watched. His Son Jesus has already won the crucial battle by his atoning death on a Roman cross. But in His wisdom Father God lets the struggle continue. That way, mankind has a choice of kingdoms and Christians have a chance to join in a real fight.

Acts 17:6 NKJ;  
2 Corinthians  
10:3-5;  
Ephesians 6:12

Fighters experience wounds, pain and suffering, but we also share in "turning the world upside down" with God. Christians often try to fight this spiritual battle with steel swords, lead bullets and other useless weapons. But that doesn't build God's Kingdom.

Acts 3:19;  
1 Peter 4:12-13

Father God will give you times of rest, refreshment, and loving fellowship with others. He loves you even if you refuse to fight, though refusing to fight is part of Satan's plan for you. Father will let you refuse and still share in the spoils when God finally ends the war in total