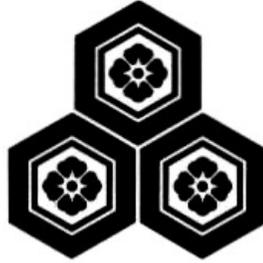


UNSEEN WARFARE

According To Yeshua-Warriors

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Saskaton, Saskatchewan, 2004



"The Sons of Light and the forces of Darkness shall fight together to show the strength of God with the roar of great multitude and the shout of gods and men; a day of disaster...

The Sons of Light shall stand firm so as to strike a blow at wickedness...

The holy ones shall shine forth in support of [men] and truth for the annihilation of the Sons of Darkness...

Be strong and courageous as warriors, Fear not, nor be discouraged and let not your heart be faint. Do not panic, neither be alarmed because of them. Do not turn back nor flee from them. For they are a wicked congregation, all their deeds are in darkness; it is their desire... For the God of Israel has called out a sword against all the [wicked] nations, and by the holy ones of His people He will do mightily... The great hand of God shall overcome Belial (Satan) and all the angels of his dominion, and all the men of his forces shall be destroyed forever...

We rejoice in Your salvation, and in Your help and Your peace. Who is like You in strength, O God of Israel, and Your mighty hand is with the oppressed. What angel is like You for Your effectual support, for of old You appointed for Yourself a day of great battle [...] to support truth and destroy iniquity, to bring darkness low and to lend might to light. [...] and to annihilate all the Sons of Darkness and bring joy to all the Sons of Light [...] for You Yourself designated us for appointed time [...] like the fire of His fury against the idols of Egypt".

- DEAD SEA SCROLLS

(Excerpts from - "The War of the Sons of Light with the Sons of Darkness")

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the Devil".

- JOHN 3.8

"My son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight.

"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold to eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

"No one serving as a warrior [Miles Christi] gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to please his commanding officer".

- PAUL To TIMOTHY (1 Tim.1.18; 6.12; 2 Tim.2.4)

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith".

- 1 PETER 5.8

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourself, then, to God. Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded".

- JAMES 4.6-8

"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".

- 2 CORINTHIANS 10.3-5

"Finally, be strong in the LORD and His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the Devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against the Rulers, against the Authorities, against the Powers of this dark world and against the Spiritual Forces of Evil in the heavenly realms".

- EPHESIANS 6 10-12

"The warfare between us and demons is waged solely on account of spiritual prayer. For prayer is extremely hateful and offensive to them, whereas it leads us to salvation and peace... If you pray to overcome a demon who is troubling you, remember the words: 'I will pursue my enemies, and overtake them; and I will not turn back until they are consumed. I will dash them to pieces and they shall not be able to stand, they shall fall under my feet' (Ps.18.37-38). Say this when needed and so arm yourself with humility against your enemies.. We must battle unremittingly against sin even if it means death.

"When one of the enemy approaches you, and you wish to turn his sword back into his own heart

(cf.Ps.37.15), then do as follows: analyze in yourself the sinful. thought that has wounded you, what it is, what it consist of, and what in it especially afflicts the mind... It is the pleasure that the law of God commands us to cut off (evil). Now as you investigate the thought in this way and analyze it into its components, it will be destroyed; and the demon will take to flight once your mind is raised to a higher level by this spiritual knowledge... In combat with all evil (unclean) thoughts, then, let us use these two methods: analysis of the thought attacking us, and asking of questions about inner essences.

"Evil thoughts cut off good thoughts, and in turn are cut off by good thoughts.

"All demons teach the soul to love pleasure... Hatred against demons contributes greatly to our salvation and helps our growth in holiness... Let the soul return again to its original hatred, and learn like David to say to the LORD- ' I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them my enemies' [Ps.139.22]. For a man hates his enemies with perfect hatred when he sins neither in act nor in thought - which is a sign of complete dispassion".

- EVAGRIOS OF PONTUS (346-399)

"The demons cunningly withdraw for a time in the hope that we will cease to guard our heart, thinking we have now attained peace; then suddenly attack our unhappy soul and seize it like sparrow. Let us stand, therefore, with fear of God and keep

guard over our heart, practicing the virtues which check the wickedness of our enemies...

Stand guard, then, over your heart and keep watch on your senses; and if the remembrance of God dwells peaceably within you, you will catch the thieves (evil thoughts) when they try to deprive you of it...

"Unless a man hates sin and all [evil] activities of this world, he cannot truly worship God".

- ST.ISAIAH THE SOLITARY (371-491)

"The demons, who are always waging war against us, try to prevent us from performing actions that are within our power and that would help us to acquire the holy virtues...

The adversary of our life, the Devil, employs many devices to make our sins seem small to us. Often he cloaks them with forgetfulness...

He who keeps a serpent in his breast and he who keeps an evil thought in his heart will both be killed, the one by being bitten in the body by venomous fangs and the other by injecting a lethal poison into his soul. Let us, then, speedily slay the 'offspring of vipers' (Mat.3.7), and let us not bring forth evil thoughts from our heart, lest we suffer bitter pangs...

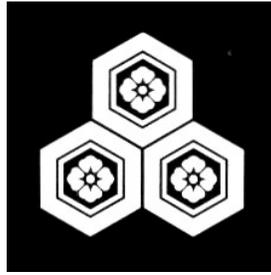
David teaches us to hate demons 'with perfect hatred' (Ps.139.22), inasmuch as they are the enemies of our salvation. This hatred is most necessary for the task of acquiring holiness. But who is the man who hates his enemies with perfect hatred? He who no longer sins either in act or in thought".

- St.THEODOROS (c.7th century)

"The man engaged in spiritual warfare should simultaneously possess humility, perfect attentiveness, the power (authority) of rebuttal, and prayer. He should possess humility because, as he fights against the arrogant demons, he will then have the help of Christ in his heart, for 'the Lord hates the arrogant' (Prov.3.34). He should possess attentiveness in order always to keep his heart clear of all destructive thoughts, even of those that appear to be good. He should possess the power of rebuttal so that, whenever he recognizes the devil, he may at once repulse him angrily; for it is written; 'And I shall reply to those who vilify Me; will not my soul be subject to God' (Ps. 119.42; 62.1). He should possess prayer so that so soon as he rebutted the devil he may call to Christ with 'cries that cannot be uttered' (Rom.8.26). Then he will see the devil broken and routed by venerable name of Jesus - will see him and his dissimulation scattered like dust or smoke before the wind".

- St.HESYCHIOS OF SINAI (c.7th or 8th century)

INTRODUCTION



The "Unseen Warfare" is another collection of spiritual wisdom for those who wish to be involved in spiritual combat. Just as the first two parts entitled: "The Sword of Yeshua - Spiritual songs" and "Yeshua-warrior's Position in Christ" gives us a deeper understanding of who we are in Christ, this part reveals what Christ can do through the one who truly abides in Him.

First of all, the main purpose for spiritual warfare is to learn who God is, then to express our love, gratitude, and worship to Him. For Yeshua-warriors, a holy life and deep relationship with Christ is absolutely of first importance towards our preparation for warfare. Without love of God and fellow man, thankfulness, a close relationship with the LORD, and a holy, righteous living, we will only disqualify ourselves. As the Sons of Light we are admonished to follow the biblical camp laws of soldierly purity. In the "War Scroll" we read: "Any man who is not pure with regard to his sexual organs on the day of battle shall not join them in battle, for holy angels are in communion with their hosts". And in the Book of Job we are also admonished to "make a covenant with our eyes and not look lustfully at a woman" (Job 31.1). Purity, then, is the first prerequisite for a spiritual warrior. It further follows through natural understanding that we are engaged in this warfare, whether we like to fight it or not. We must also know our enemy and his tactic, for as St.Paul said, "In order that Satan might not outwit us, for we know all his schemes" (2 Cor.2.11). The ancient warrior Sun Tsu also exhorts, "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle". The wise warriors of old in China knew that "deep knowledge is to be aware of disturbance before disturbance, to be aware of danger before danger, to be aware of destruction before destruction, to be aware of calamity before calamity". Therefore, by the principle of deep knowledge, a spiritual-warrior can change disturbance into order, change danger into safety, change destruction into survival, change calamity into fortune. And by strong determination and fearless action on the Way, a warrior can bring the body to longevity, bring the mind to the sphere of mystery and peace, bring his soul to salvation, and bring the world to loving harmony in God, thus his task will be fulfilled.

However, on the warrior's way there is a big tendency, even a temptation to study the dirty works of our spiritual enemies in order to know and be prepared for conflict with them. However, if you are not cautious, this knowledge can blind your heart and will cause you to be puffed up in pride (Rev.2.24). So, follow the advice of the wise and rely

solely on the Lord's Spirit. Revelation and divine guidance will give us safety and comfort and more understanding, thus leading to final victory through humility and submission to Him.

A text by one of the fathers of the Eastern Church, from 'The Philokalia', states, "There is warfare where evil spirits secretly battle with the soul by means of thoughts. Since the soul is invisible, these malicious powers attack and fight it invisibly". In another portion of the 'Philokalia' we read, "Watchfulness is a graceful and radiant virtue when guided by Thee, Christ our God, and accompanied by alertness and deep humility of the human intellect". Then follows the admonition given by Evagrius, "When Abba Theodore [4th.century] was preaching to the brethren, two big vipers crawled under his feet; but he calmly made an arch of his feet and let them stay there until he finished his sermon. Then he showed the vipers to the brethren and told them what had happened". This demonstrates the spiritual power and fearlessness which a true spiritual warrior ought to possess. But, let us not have confidence in ourselves alone; for he who has confidence only in himself will definitely fall headlong in this kind of warfare. The evil spirits are more cunning than we can imagine, so, we have to clothe ourselves in Christ's armour, His humility (Eph.6.11-18; 1 Thess.5.8).

We have to always remember that our enemies are spiritual enemies, so in this warfare we need spiritual weapons, given by the LORD himself who overcame and disarmed the enemy. The sacred Sword of Yeshua is available to us, but to gain this mighty weapon we are called to cross over the sea of sin and death and to meet the Captain, our LORD. Our journey in the spirit is not easy, rather dangerous, but the true mystery awaits and welcomes us from afar. If you decide to follow this narrow pathway you will face a thousands deaths, but if you win, you will be blessed forever. And what rewards await you in this victory? They are many and great. Hear of them from the lips of the LORD Himself, Who makes you this promise in the Book of Revelation: "He who overcomes and does My will to the end will not be hurt at all by the second death... I will give him authority over nations - he will rule with Me with an iron scepter... I will never blot out his name from the Book of Life... I will also give him the Morning Star... I will confess his name before my Father, and before His angels... I will give him the right to sit with Me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne... I will give him to drink from the spring of the water of life... He who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son" (Rev.2-3; 21).

During our spiritual warfare we have to know and believe that the LORD is our stronghold and He is the one who teaches us to wage this war. If we walk in truth and keep His words we will have the power to destroy wickedness. That's why the prophet Jeremiah commanded the Israelites to "destroy the seed of evil from Babylon" (Jer.50.14-15, 35-38), and David also said in the Spirit, "Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD, and abhor those who rose up against You? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies" (Ps.139.21-22).

Do we have to hate and destroy our fellow man? Not at all, the meaning of this is that we must erase the evil in our hearts before it penetrates into our mind and heart. For if we, a warriors of the spirit, let them (evil thoughts) enter and grow into our mind, and if we

allow them to be watered with sensual pleasure and unrighteousness, with violent tendency and greed by repeatedly thinking about them, they will produce a plentiful crop of evil. The Psalmist praises those valiant warriors who do not wait for evil to grow to full strength but kill them in infancy; "blessed is he who seizes your infants [of evil] and dashes them against the rock" (Ps. 137.9).

Furthermore, if we pass the tests of purity, humility, love, faith and compassion we will be qualified to receive a higher authority to lead "holy wars" for Christ. As someone once said; "We only have the true spiritual authority to the degree to which Christ the King lives within us". Clearly saying, the "holy war" is a metaphor for an ethical and theological conflict between the "new man" in Christ and the "old man", the fallen creature of Adamic race, between the Forces of Light and the Forces of Darkness, and between the law of Christ and those who transgress this law. A poem by the Persian sage Rumi states, "We have to slain the outward enemy, but there remains within us a worse enemy than he. This 'nafs (animal self) is hell, and hell is a dragon...".

Therefore, the spiritual warrior, and the good Christian, in order to be saved, is exhorted throughout the whole New Testament's teaching to wage a battle against sin and temptations, and to ward off demonic invaders and harmful external influences. Spiritual combat, then, is an inevitable fact in our life, we cannot escape its reality. It is as well the opportunity or the living expression of worship in action. In fact, it's not our devoted singing in the church which really matters, but rather our righteous behavior, faith expressing itself through love, and daily holy conduct. Only by such worship is there a real and pleasing aroma to God which arises directly to His throne.

So run as a mighty warrior, and fight the "holy war" within, that you may obtain the incorruptible crown of eternal life and bring the greatness, the power, the majesty, the victory, and the glory to God, Who is above all to be praised.

