

2 Things You Don't Know About Yourself

You've been entrusted with an invincible, invisible, eternal weapon—and it's time you used it. Whether you're aware or not, you are part of an epic battle, and God does not want His daughters to be unarmed or unaware. The success of the most recent *Star Wars* movie hints at just what might happen if we become girls with swords. We do not live by the violence of a sword, but it is high time we lived by the power of one. To illustrate this point, I am going to turn to another movie, the original *Terminator*.

OK, stay with me. I'm not endorsing the movie or suggesting you watch it. I saw an edited-for-TV version, and it was still '80s awful! But amid the ridiculous hair, disjointed music and bad acting, I found something valuable.

In case you're unfamiliar with the movie, allow me to paint a vastly shortened version for you. It is the story of Sarah Connor, a moped-riding waitress who serves pie and coffee by day and hopes one of her blind dates will work out by night. All of that changes when a robotic assassin from the future interrupts her life. The Terminator—aka Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor and California's former governor—has time-traveled with one goal: the elimination of anyone bearing the name Sarah Connor. As he systematically works his way down the list, Sarah slips out to a bar to hide in a crowd. However, the Terminator is relentless and shows up at the club, guns blazing and wreaking mayhem. In the midst of the chaos, Kyle Reese—Sarah's protector from the future—appears and says to her: "Come with me if you wanna live."

It doesn't take Sarah long to decide. She wants to live! She leaves with Kyle, and the two of them are on the run. A high-speed chase ensues, and as bullets fly and cars crash, Kyle

tries to tell Sarah who she is. He explains that in the future she is a hero in the fight against the enemy of all mankind. An entire army wages war, equipped with foresight and the strategies she recorded and passed on to her son.

Sarah does not believe she is a player in this absurd future story. She is confident there is a case of mistaken identity. Sarah counters that she's just a waitress who doesn't even have a boyfriend, so certainly there's no son! Her guardian has made a grave mistake; he's confused her with someone else!

But he insists that she is, in fact, a hero, and his mission is to equip and protect her. Understandingly overwhelmed and undone, Sarah yells, "I didn't do anything!" To which Kyle insists, "No, but you will!"

Choose to Be a Hero

As I sat with my son on the sofa, watching this movie, that line from decades past crashed into my present with the realization that our enemy often knows who we are long before we awaken and realize who we are.

I need you to know the two things Sarah learned in the Terminator movie. Lovely one:

1) You are a target.

2) You might be a hero.

I say "might" be because the choice is ultimately yours. But if you're a Christian, you are a target. The moment you are anointed by God's Spirit, you are noted by the enemy. There's no choice about this. There is a real, highly structured force of darkness in this Earth that wrestles against all who represent God's light and life.

Satan wants to distract you from who you really are and from the true purpose of your life. He wants to lure you off the path of strength, life and authority and onto a course of

intentional destruction. Satan knows your potential and is systematically working to undermine your future. This is why I believe the present attacks on your life have much more to do with who you might be in the future than with who you have been in the past.

You see, like the assassin in *The Terminator*, the enemy has your name. Don't let this frighten you. Take a deep breath and realize you are alive with purpose. Don't get paranoid or take this personally because the attack is against one and all. Remember everything you've been through in your life, then throw your shoulders back and realize no one launches a large-scale systematic assault against anyone who is not considered a threat.

"Christian" is more than an assignment to a religious group; it means "anointed one." You are a beloved, royal daughter of the Most High God. The enemy's tactics are different with each of us, and he will do all within his power to hinder or bend your growth to his purposes and distract you from your destiny.

When you were born again, you left normal behind. This doesn't mean you became weird or abnormal; it just means you were stripped of average and common when you were covered in His righteousness. You may live in this earthly time period, but you are ultimately a daughter of eternity.

Know You Are a Target

The fact that you are female makes you a more specific target and the worthy recipient of Satan's enmity.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring" (Gen. 3:15).

Enmity is "deep-rooted hatred and irreconcilable hostility." This describes a breach so profound that with each passing

generation, Satan's hostility and hatred deepen because he knows he's running out of time. Never has his attack against women and children been more wicked, obvious and widespread.

In addition to the atrocity of sex trafficking, there is undeniable evidence that conservatively estimates 50 million women are presently missing from the Earth. What do I mean by "missing"? These daughters are gone, meaning they were never born or were killed at birth.

The major reason for their disappearance is the evil practice of gendercide. Just as genocide is slaughter based on race, gendercide is slaughter based on gender.

I believe we are on the threshold of yet another release from human oppression and captivity, but this time, it is the girls, not the boys, who are the target. Satan is not able to touch our bridegroom, Jesus, so his onslaught is now waged against the bride of Christ.

"Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and he went to wage war with the remnant of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 12:17).

In her book, *Unnatural Selection*, Mara Hvistendahl cites statistics that show this outrage may be more than a startling 160 million baby girls lost. In countries such as China, India and Pakistan and on the continent of Africa, simply being a girl endangers your life. It could mean pre-emptive abortion, abuse, trafficking, neglect or honor killing.

Lovely one, you should not imagine you are safe just because you do not live in a developing nation. Your birth location just means you will be targeted in a different way and from another angle. I believe he is already working hard to distract you, diminish your role and divide you from your purpose so you will never give birth to God's plan for your

life.

I do not share these things to frighten you. I want you to know the weight of your moment in history. As a daughter of this age, the target dynamic is a certainty. The hero factor is a choice.

This is not an earthly battle. This conflict is ultimately with spiritual wickedness in high places, and therefore, it will require heavenly strategy, prayer, unity and, of course, a sword.

Turn from the numbers. As horrible as they are, they only hint of a greater darkness. It is time you lift your eyes and lend your voice to what heaven would want to speak into this void. The storyline is set. On one side, a relentlessly cruel enemy is perpetually bent on your destruction, and on the other side, a magnificent Prince of unfailing love is equally determined that you realize all He created you to be. The role you choose to play in this altercation is what is in question. Will you be an unarmed civilian, victim, prisoner of war or hero?

“There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan,” C.S. Lewis says.

There is no middle ground. It is only a matter of time before you must join one side or another. It is always better to predetermine your position with decisive intention rather than have it chosen for you by passive default. Remember, God chose you before He even created the Earth.

“In Him also we have received an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His own will, that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, should live for the praise of His glory. In Him you also, after hearing the word of

truth, the gospel of your salvation, and after believing in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1:11-14).

Becoming who God created you to be is at once your best offense and your best defense against all the enemy’s strategies. He obviously didn’t stop you from drawing breath, so now it is time to keep him from aborting the life God planted inside you. When the enemy oppresses us, it is always because he fears what we might become.

I believe you are positioned to become an extraordinary, heroic daughter of the Most High God—one who behaves virtuously, matures brilliantly and lives with the intent of enhancing the lives of others. So lean into God, lift your sword, boldly pray His Word and show the enemy the lovely face of a hero.

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