

God's Greatest Weapon

✖ *Did you know that love is the best way to defeat Satan's power?*

During the many years I have been involved in prayer and intercession, I have seen all kinds of approaches to bringing down the strongholds of the enemy. Just mention the phrase "spiritual warfare" in a group of seasoned intercessors, and you'll be amazed at all the different "techniques" espoused and "weapons" employed.

Although I too utilize various approaches, I have come to believe that the greatest weapon of spiritual warfare is simply love—God's love. This love is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit and sustains us at every juncture of life and in every opposition and trial. If we abide in God's love, it consumes us, restores us, refreshes us, satisfies us and gives us power over the enemy.

The Warrior Bride

For several years, the body of Christ has been experiencing tremendous warfare. The battle has been intense, with no rest in the foreseeable future except the rest that comes from relationship with Jesus.

In the midst of the battle,
we have been praying for revival for ourselves, our nation and
the
nations of the world. We are beginning to see answers to our
prayers:
signs of revival in our country as well as in other countries.
However,
this year, many leaders and intercessors are seeking the Lord
as never
before for fresh strategy in prayer, hoping that we will
experience a
more full-blown Scriptural revival worldwide—and especially in
America.

I believe one of the main
keys both to the success of this new phase of the battle
campaign and to
the strength of the leaders and intercessors as they engage in
warfare
for the revival is found in the first chapter of the Song of
Solomon.
Here the Shulamite—also known as the Beloved, and
representative of the
bride of Christ, the church—says of her lover, a symbol of
Christ: “Let
him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your love is
better than
wine” (Song 1:2, NKJV).

The Hebrew word for “kiss” used here is *nashaq*,
and it can refer to either a literal or a figurative touch of
the form
we normally think of as a kiss. But there is another meaning
of the
Hebrew word that applies.

According to Strong’s, *nashaq*
also means “to equip with weapons.” I believe the Lord is

raising up
and equipping a new breed of warriors in the body of
Christ—whom I call
collectively the warrior bride. Many in the past have seen
her, by the
Spirit, dressed in a beautiful wedding gown with combat boots.

I no longer see the bride
only that way. The new warrior I see still wears the beautiful
gown, and
she is still in combat, but her boots have been replaced with
dancing
shoes. She is adorned in righteous garments and feels the joy
and
liberty of the Holy Spirit down to her toes (see Eph. 5:27;
Rom. 14:17; 2
Cor. 3:17).

If she were to remove her
shoes, though, you would see that she bears the marks of
Christ—the
wounds, scars and bruises that have come from walking in this
life.
These scars are fulfilling their purpose, that she “may know
Him and the
power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His
sufferings” (Phil.
3:10). That’s why she can dance with all her might like David
did (see 2
Sam. 6:14); the enemy is under her feet.

The bride does not have to
fight the way she used to in order to be effective. Her
fighting is now
offensive rather than defensive because she “lives and moves
and has her
being” more in God’s manifest presence and power than ever
before (see

Acts 17:28).

This is because she has made a habit of “kissing” her God in the first sense of *nashaq*.

She has learned to spend time with Him in intimate communion, embracing

Him and allowing Him to embrace her, reveling in His presence and His touch.

Kissing is an expression of affection, and Scripture encourages us to set our affections “on things

above” and not “on things on the earth” (Col. 3:2). The Lord wants us to

be so closely attached to and intimately acquainted with Him that we

are inseparable in our daily decisions and dealings of life.

As the bride gives herself

entirely to Jesus in the kiss of worship, sweet fellowship in the Word

and heartfelt waiting upon Him, she is being equipped with weapons that

will enable her to rule and reign in heavenly places more effectively.

She has not always exercised the full authority behind her declarations

in prayer because she has not known intimately the One to whom and of

whom she spoke.

But now, she is armed with

the weapon of love—God’s love (see 1 John 4:7-8,17)—and with the weapon

of herself, infused and saturated with His presence. It is not only the

words she speaks, but also her very presence that dispels

darkness
because of the One she has kissed.

Responding in the Opposite Spirit

When we, as the bride,
experience an intimate relationship with Christ, we are
transformed by
the power of His love into His image and likeness (see 2 Cor.
3:18). We
develop a new way of speaking, thinking, acting and even of
fighting
battles. We gain greater understanding about how to respond to
the
subtle attacks of the enemy. This understanding helps us to be
resourceful in using the weapon of love; we learn to operate
in a spirit
opposite to the one with which we are attacked.

Our model, of course, is
Jesus. He did nothing of Himself but only what He saw His
Father doing
(see John 5:19). As we mature and develop a lifestyle of deep
devotion
to Him, the choices we make will be motivated by His love and
will
glorify His name.

In the face of opposition, we
take a stance—sometimes of silence, as Jesus often did (see
Matt.
26:63, for example). In the midst of His accusers, He held His
tongue,
knowing His Father was His defender and had an eternal purpose
for His
suffering—just as He has for the bride's.

“For to this you were called,
because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example,

that you
should follow in His steps: 'who committed no sin, nor was
deceit found
in His mouth'; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in
return; when
He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him
who
judges righteously" (1 Pet. 2:21-23).

Instead of pointing the
fault-finding finger, we speak "grace, grace" (Zech. 4:7) and
not
judgment. The Bible tells us that "judgment is without mercy
to the one
who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment" (James
2:13).

When we discern a spirit of
pride in a person or situation, we humble ourselves so that we
may walk
in the fullness of God's grace. We know that "'God resists the
proud,
but gives grace to the humble'" (James 4:6). We are to be
dispensers and
imparters of His grace wherever we go.

When others curse us or are
rude and demeaning, we are polite and esteem others above
ourselves (see
Phil. 2:3). We "bless those who persecute [us]," never
repaying evil
for evil (Rom. 12:14,17).

When jealousy comes against
us, we recognize that it operates on a lie—on insecurity,
inadequacy and
a sense of unworthiness. We look to encourage with truth and
to bring

peace. "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable" (James 3:16, NASB).

When we are confronted with anger, we remember that "a soft answer turns away wrath" (Prov. 15:1, NKJV). We are "swift to hear, slow to speak, [and] slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20).

Operating in the opposite spirit may not be considered a powerful spiritual warfare strategy by some intercessors. However, it can change an individual, a church, a city, a nation and the world. It is a successful and effective weapon of warfare—the love of God in action.

Isn't this the approach Jesus took when He redeemed mankind? He responded to hatred with the ultimate demonstration of love, giving His own life for those who deserved death. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

No wonder the bride loves Him! No wonder she desires to be with Him! No wonder she wants to be like Him!

Waiting in silence and contemplation, she is still and knows He is God; commemorating

and
honoring His name and Word, she sees His truth prevail;
offering shouts
of praise and rejoicing, she celebrates His victory; assuming
the
attitude of a victor and an overcomer, she watches the neck of
her enemy
subdued by the foot of the Lord.

Pat Chen

*is founder and president of First Love Ministries
International. She is
also an ordained minister with a reputation as an apostle of
prayer.*