

What Satan Doesn't Want You to Know About Spiritual Warfare

When God called Jeremiah as a **prophet** to the nations, it came with a sixfold prophetic-apostolic mandate to root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build and plant. A humble Jeremiah accepted the calling and, despite the **spiritual warfare** that raged against him, he walked in obedience and fulfilled his mission in God.

Prophets or not, God's people are still called to root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build and plant. We don't engage in physical battles, but we wrestle "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12, NKJV). We have spiritual weapons for offense and defense, including the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit and prayer (vv. 14-18).

As Paul said, "Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled" (2 Cor. 10:3-6, KJV).

3 Things Satan Doesn't Want You to Know

First, Satan doesn't want you to know that you have the authority in Christ to root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build and plant. Or, as Paul describes it, pull down

strongholds, cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. Second, Satan doesn't want you to know that you are wrestling against persons without bodies that are launching fiery, faith-stealing darts against your mind in the form of thoughts contrary to God's Word.

However, most savvy Christians understand their authority in Christ and realize they are in a battle that's targeting their minds. Yet there's still one thing Satan doesn't want you to know about **spiritual warfare**: You can't effectively pull down strongholds, cast down imaginations and bring every thought into captivity without casting down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God in your own mind. Consider the Amplified Bible's version of 2 Corinthians 10:3-6:

"For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One), being in readiness to punish every [insubordinate for his] disobedience, when your own submission and obedience [as a church] are fully secured and complete."

Casting Down Your Proud Thoughts

We all know we can't battle Satan in the flesh, yet the temptation is to rely on the flesh in warfare in subtle ways. As I've noted in the past, in an article entitled "You're Resisting the Devil, So Why Won't He Flee?" we can take pride in our **spiritual warfare** skills. But it's not just pride in

our warfare skills that can hinder our effectiveness in destroying strongholds. It's pride in any area of our life.

Of course, we all have a measure of pride in our carnal nature. But when the **Holy Spirit** is dealing with us about pride in some area—or when we see our own pride and don't cry out for the grace of humility—we're walking in sheer disobedience. The Bible says we are to have a "readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled (2 Cor. 10:6, KJV). I believe the more we seek to walk in obedience to the Word of God, the more effective we'll be in **spiritual warfare**.

So we return once again to the admonition of James: "He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded" (James 4:6-8, NKJV).

In our flesh, we're no match for the devil. We need the power of the **Holy Spirit** to back up our authority in Christ to root out, pull down, destroy, throw down, build and plant. We can't drive demons into obedience to the Word of God when we're blatantly disobeying the Word of God in any area, whether it's walking in pride or some other sin.

Before you engage in **spiritual warfare**, examine your heart, and take the time to break agreement with the enemy, repent before God and ask for His guidance. It could be that you've opened the door to the spiritual enemies that are attacking you and that simply renouncing agreement with them will stop the attack. In any case, we should enter **spiritual warfare** with confidence but not arrogance. We can be confident that God will lead us into triumph over our enemies if we lean and depend on Him and not on carnal weapons or pride. Amen.

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