



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

THE STRATEGY OF GOD

Understanding how to engage the spiritual enemy and win



Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

Ephesians 6:10

Strategy

The mind, plans, and purposes of the military general

The Talk with Stephen

- The exchange of stories
- The Mueller prayer diary

Honey, You Need a Prayer Strategy!

Coach, You Need a Game Plan!

The Basics about Spiritual War

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

[You have an enemy and this enemy is actively seeking to destroy you.]

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:10-13

[You are in a very real war, whether you want to acknowledge it or not.]

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Luke 11:21-22

[In and of yourself, you are weaker than this enemy.

You desperately need “One Stronger” to come to your aid.]

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love . . .

Colossians 1:13

[The Stronger has come. In Christ you are delivered from the clutches of this ancient enemy.]

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:19

[In Christ, you have power OVER this enemy.]

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

[In Christ, you need not fear this enemy.]

. . . the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God . . .

1 Corinthians 10:3

***[And in Christ, you have been given
God-given weapons to utterly humiliate this enemy]***

The Army - *Stratia* - noun - the host of armed angels, band of ready soldiers, the fellowship organized and rallied for battle, the group strategically united and prepared to go to war and win

The War - *Strateia* - noun - the warfare, the name for the overall conflict between Kingdoms, the result of what happens when two adversarial parties engage in military exercise against one another

The General - *Stratēgos* - noun - the Military General, The Lord of Battles

The Soldier - *Stratiōtēs* - noun - the fighting man ready to receive orders from the Stratēgos

The Engagement - *Strateuō (strateúomai)* - verb - the real-life action of the soldiers, the real-life implementation of the military strategy, the real-life use of the weapons, the real-life wielding of the sword against the enemy.

A Spirit War

we do not war (strateuō) after the flesh

- The Apostle Paul 2 Corinthians 10:3

[We do not do our real-life implementation of military strategy, fighting, and advancement against Satan by the strength of our own ability, will-power, intelligence, brain-storming, and gumption.]

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:10-13

The Spiritual Vocabulary of War

For 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 exalts 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 Corinthians 10:3-6

Let's Understand Our Most Elementary Weapon in our Warfare

The Word of God

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said [. . .] But He (Jesus) answered and said, **It is written** . . . Then the devil . . . said to Him [. . .] Jesus said to him, **It is written** . . . Again, the devil . . . said to Him [. . .] Then Jesus said to him, Away with you, Satan! **For it is written** . . . Then the devil left Him . . .

Matthew 4:1-11

The Word of God as a Weapon

1. It is Written (*The Scripture*)
2. It is Fulfilled (*Jesus Christ*)
3. It is Finished (*The Cross, The Shed Blood*)

The Word of God: *The Strategy of God*

The Mind, Plans, and Purposes of the Military General of Generals

The Bluster of the Enemy

Do you know his weak points? He's got them. Starting with the fact that he is defeated

Arming Every Christian with the Weapons

We shouldn't be the ones being pushed around

. . . the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God . . .

2 Corinthians 10:4

To Understand Weaponry, you Need to First Understand Position

He (the Father) . . . seated Him (Jesus) at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:20-23

His Position is Your Position

And all things under His Feet

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have

been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus . . .

Ephesians 2:4-6

Praying IN the Name of Jesus

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

Acts 16:16-18

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

Ephesians 6:10

What Do We Have Authority to Do?

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt **bind** on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt **loose** on earth shall be loosed in heaven . . . Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall **bind** on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall **loose** on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 16:19; 18:18

Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:7

The Word of God is Wielded in Two Key Ways

- 1) **Declaring the Facts.** Wielding that which it says in verbal pronouncement, as if declaring the words of the Word in faith are a very real swing of a sword that cannot be parried.
- 2) **Doing the Actions.** Actually exercising its commands. When the Word of God says, "Do this" - then when we "Do it" the *doing* functions as a very real instrument of war against the enemy.

Practice: Declare the Word of Scripture (The Facts)

It is written that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world! (1 John 4:4)

[If God has said it - stand on it - and don't be bashful!]

Practice: Do the Word of Scripture (The Actions)

Satan, I bind you, I resist you, I pin you down to the ground in the Name and authority of Jesus Christ!

***[If God says to bind, to loose, to resist, to wrestle, to pull down,
to throw down, to cast down, to take captive, and to stand against - then do it.]***

So, Here's a Starter Package for our Spiritual War Vocabulary

- In the Name of Jesus (authoritative position)
- Binding (arresting that which is harming)
- Loosing (clearing all roadblocks for God's purposes to be accomplished)
- Resisting (clearly setting yourself in the path of the enemy's advance and commanding him to retreat)
- Wrestling (yanking the spiritual powers down to the ground and pinning their powers)
- Pulling Down (utterly destroying and tearing apart their operation, their plans, and their schemes)
- Casting Down (to drive away to prison, lock up, handcuff, to bring under the rule of the Cross)
- Revenging (to exact, to tax the enemy for their unlawful invasion, and to sue them for damages)
- Standing (being strong in the Lord and in the power of His might)

When the Devil boasts that he has me beaten and that his strength is superior

I will remember that It is written . . .

All things are underneath the feet of my Redeemer (Ephesians 1:22). The Messiah has come, and has crushed the head of the serpent and has declared, "It is finished!" (John 19:30) And If God is for me, who can stand against me? (Romans 8:31) For greater is He who is in me than he who is in this world (1 John 4:4) My spiritual weaponry is mighty to the pulling down of enemy strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:3-4) If I submit to God, resist the Devil, the Devil WILL flee (James 4:7) The shield of faith repels all the fiery darts of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16) He is my refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble

(Psalm 46:1) For my God surrounds me with favor as with a shield (Psalm 5:12) and though a thousand may fall at my side, and ten thousand at my right hand, it will not come near me (Psalm 91:7). No weapon formed against me shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). I have been given power over ALL the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt me (Luke 10:19). My enemies may intend to harm me, but God means all things for good, that He may deliver many (Genesis 50:20)

When the Devil shouts of my defeat, my imminent shame

I will remember that It is written . . .

No one who hopes in Him will be ashamed (Psalm 34:22) and He has said He will never leave me or forsake me (Hebrews 13:5). No grave trouble will overtake me (Proverbs 12:21). I will not die but live and declare the works of the Lord (Psalm 118:17). I will have an abundance for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8). No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly (Psalm 84:11). He has said I am strong and the Word of God abides in me, and I have overcome the wicked one (1 John 2:14). He who spared not His own Son will He not freely give me all things (Romans 8:32). He who has begun a good work in me will bring it to completion (Philippians 1:6)

When the Devil forecasts my doom and attempts to darken my vision of the future

I will remember that It is written . . .

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers me out of them all (Psalm 34:19). I shall be like a stream of water whose waters fail not (Isaiah 58:11). He knows the plans He has for me, plans to prosper and not harm (Jeremiah 29:11). As I make the Lord my focus, I shall be like a tree planted by streams of water which brings forth its fruit in season - its leaf also does not wither (Psalm 1:3). Those who rise up against me will fall before me in judgment (Isaiah 54:17)

When the Devil conspires to sabotage my onward march, then I will wield the Word of God against him. I will declare to him what is written and I will also DO what is written for me to do.

I will remember (2 Timothy 2:8). I will give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18). I will sing (Psalm 96:2). I will praise (Psalm 113:1). I will worship (Psalm 96:9). I will obey (Hebrews 5:9). I will war (2 Corinthians 10:3). I will stand firm (1 Corinthians 16:13). I

will quit myself like a man (1 Corinthians 16:13). I will bind that which is hindering (Matthew 16:19; 18:18). I will loose that which is hindered (Matthew 16:19; 18:18). I will pull down (2 Corinthians 10:4). I will take captive (2 Corinthians 10:5). I will put on (Ephesians 6:11; Colossians 3:10-12). I will wrestle with the spiritual powers (Ephesians 6:12). I will stand (Ephesians 6:13-14). I will pray (Ephesians 6:18). And I will certainly overcome (1 John 4:4).

How Do you Engage the Spiritual Enemy and Win?

Implement the Strategy of God

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.

Ephesians 6:10