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“Kneeling Warriors”



*.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith
that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV*

Reviewed by: Dr. Lambert Duncan

“Kneeling Warriors”

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) “ *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests with this in mind, **be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.***”

James 5:13 (NIV) “ *Is any one of you in trouble? **He should pray.** Is anyone happy? **Let him sing songs of praise.***”

Acts 12:5; 12 (NIV) “⁵ *So Peter was kept in prison, **but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.***”

¹² *When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, **where many people had gathered and were praying.***”

By definition, a warrior is a person who is either engaged in warfare or experienced in warfare. Unbeknownst to some Christians, they are in a constant war with three (3) enemies; the devil, the world, and their own flesh and are therefore warriors. Unlike the wars that were fought and ended that we know about from history (WWI, WWII and Vietnam), the Christians’ war has no end, it continues until the Lord either returns or calls them home. There can be no peace treaty for the Christian; he/she is fighting all or one of these enemies all the time. There is no rest for the Christian nor does he/she usually get any time to regroup between the many battles.

The Christian’s enemies do not fight fair; they usually strike when we’re at the lowest and/or weakest points in our lives. The devil, the main and most ruthless enemy, attacks us the most when we’re worn out physically, mentally and spiritually and have separated ourselves from the saints that serve as a source of strength. It is then that he’ll send a co-worker over to us to falsely accuse us of something so that we in turn react out of our flesh, and say or do something un-Christ-like. Meanwhile, the person(s) we were trying to lead to the Lord for months sees the whole thing, and because of our un-Christ-like behavior, decides we are hypocrites and wants nothing to do with us. In this one incident, all three (3) of our enemies attacked us. The “**devil**” motivated somebody in the “**world**” to accuse us and our “**flesh**” rose up and said or did what we used to say or do before we were saved. The end result, a soul is lost and we are ashamed of ourselves.

Unfortunately, while the saints are sometimes divided and won’t work together for a common purpose, our enemies will regularly work together against us. Without warning, these enemies can and will join forces against us and attack at any time or place, even while we are in church.

Soldiers today, or who I call the warrior in the “natural,” have a much different war he/she fights. Typically, the warrior in the natural purposely goes into their enemy’s territory looking to fight

them. To their advantage, before going out to do battle, they have been trained to deal with their enemy; they have the geographical location of their enemy and a description of their enemy so they won't miss their enemy. In addition, they go to battle armed with the weapons needed to destroy their enemy.

However, for the Christian warrior it is much different. For the Christian warrior, the enemy comes to us in many different disguises, shapes and forms so there is no way to clearly see our enemy coming in advance. Sometimes the enemy sends folks to attack us with a smile on their face, sometimes the enemy attacks through those closest to us, maybe a friend, maybe our own family. Maybe we have an area of weakness in our flesh and the enemy presses the right buttons at the right time to get us to fall or react negatively. Whichever the case, the Christian is usually blind sided and therefore initially unprepared for the enemies sneak attack.

Since the warrior in the natural is purposely armed with one or more weapons when he/she goes to battle with their enemy, they can and do use them as a means to destroy their enemy. However, when the Christian battles his/her enemies, they fight with different weapons. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (NIV), “³ *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.* ⁴ ***The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.***” So Christians don't fight the enemy with guns, knives, baseball bats or fists like the world or the warrior in the natural. In fact, the Christian's battle position and weapons defy the logic of the world that relies on brute force and worldly weapons to overcome their enemy.

In preparation for a life-long battle with our enemies, the Christian is told in Ephesians Chapter 6 to “*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 flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*” (verses 11-12)

Therefore, in preparation for battle, we:

- Stand firm with “the truth buckled around our waist”
- Have the “breastplate of righteousness” in place
- Have our “feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace”
- Take up “the shield of faith” to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one
- Take “the helmet of salvation”
- Take the “sword of the Spirit” which is the word of God

Then, after we are dressed for battle, we assume the battle position by kneeling in prayer. Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) says, “***And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.***”

Most saints commit to memory the armor we are to put on to do battle, but overlook the battle position, which is on their knees. As the ole saying goes, **“He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.”** As Senior Pastor, I have made the mistake of trying to change various situations in the church and people’s behavior on my own. However, I quickly found out that I couldn’t do it in my own strength. Stern words of warning didn’t change anything, the hell raisers continued to raise hell. Letters didn’t change anything either. In fact, some folks got worse. It wasn’t until I began to do battle on my knees that things changed. Of course I corrected minor things on my own, but the big things that were out of my control, that were usually from one of the three (3) enemies, I dealt with on my knees.

Down through the years, I found out through the time spent kneeling, giving the battle to the Lord, that no enemy can defeat or get in the way of the true and living God. From that point in my walk with the Lord until now, all my fighting with my enemies is done on my knees, and guess what? I never lose.

That said, the sooner the saints of God realize the power in kneeling before God in prayer, the sooner they begin to see God’s power move on their behalf. So the next time one of your enemies surface, don’t fight with the weapons of the world, put on your armor and assume the battle position, on your knees. A Christian poem writer put it this way:

“Restraining prayer, we cease to fight;
Prayer keeps the Christian’s armor bright.
And Satan trembles when he sees,
The weakest saint upon his knees.”

Finally, Paul said in Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV), *“⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, **but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.** ⁷ And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Therefore, we pray about everything, especially the enemies we are doing battle with. All of God’s children can rest assured of one thing, **God answers our prayers.** Sometimes he says **“wait,”** sometimes he says **“yes,”** or sometimes **“no,”** but he always answers; we just need to be listening with expectation for his answer.

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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