**DAY 2**

**CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON**

It’s very clear in scripture that we are all involved in a spiritual battle that is not an elective. The nature of this broken planet is such that spiritual forces are at work to limit our effectiveness, taking us out if possible. This presents the ever-present options of victory or defeat, fight or flee, breakthrough or breakdown. The difference between sustained victory or a defeated Christian life really comes down to our knowledge of and willingness to use the weapons of our warfare. New Testament writers frequently refer to our journey of faith as a battle or fight and they give us a right perspective of promised victory as we face these spiritual battles.

*“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”* Ephesians 6:12

*“So, fight with faith for the winner’s prize! Lay your hands upon eternal life, for this is your calling.”* I Timothy 6:12 (TPT)

*“Be well balanced and always alert, because your enemy, the devil, roams around incessantly, like a roaring lion looking for its prey to devour. Take a decisive stand against him and resist his every attack with strong, vigorous faith.”* I Peter 5:8-9 (TPT)

It’s very clear in scripture that we are all involved in a spiritual battle that is not an elective. The nature of this broken planet is such that spiritual forces are at work to limit our effectiveness, taking us out if possible. Which presents the ever-present options of victory or defeat, fight or flee, and breakthrough or breakdown. The difference between sustained victory or a defeated Christian life really comes down to our knowledge of and willingness to use the weapons of our warfare. New Testament writers frequently refer to our journey of faith as a battle or fight and they give us a right perspective or promised victory as we face these spiritual battles.

*“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”* Ephesians 6:12

*“So, fight with faith for the winner’s prize! Lay your hands upon eternal life, for this is your calling.”* I Timothy 6:12 (TPT)

*“Be well balanced and always alert, because your enemy, the devil, roams around incessantly, like a roaming lion looking for its prey to devour. Take a decisive stand against him and resist his every attack with strong, vigorous faith.”*

 I Peter 5:8-9 (TPT)

*“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”*  II Corinthians 10:3-4

**Fasting is a powerful weapon for your use and advantage today!**

*Sure, it doesn’t make sense to the carnal min, yet Jesus told us that some forms of breakthrough and freedom* ***only*** *come by prayer and fasting.* Matthew 17:21

The problem, for many believers is that they do not access or pick up the weapons that God has furnished for the battle! They’ve heard about the weapons, read books about the weapons, and could probably even tell you quite a bit about the arsenal, yet those very weapons lay in the dirt or neatly packed in the closet of their spiritual life.

I believe fasting is one of the most unused weapons in the arsenal of the believer. Many Christians know about fasting but somehow relegate it to first century Christians or some form of ancient asceticism (self-imposed suffering to gain God’s approval.)

**RIDICULOUS WEAPONS**

If you were to examine many of the battle plans in scripture, you would find that the strategies used, and weapons employed, seemed a bit ridiculous. For example, when King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel were about to be attacked by a vast army, they picked up a few weapons that seemed a bit “ridiculous” yet yielded a miraculous victory. Their weapons of choice was to fast and sing (II Corinthians 20). Now, what kind of army would weaken their soldiers with fasting, and then send in an unarmed choir to the frontlines of the battle? Yet, that’s what King Jehoshaphat did.

Singing, “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever” the choir and army marched into battle. This God-given lyric, a simple yet powerful weapon, led the way to Israel’s triumph. Scripture tells us that because of King Jehoshaphat’s simple and even ridiculous strategy the location of the battle was permanently changed to “The

Valley of Blessing.” ***God turned a valley of imminent destruction into a valley of blessing through the simplicity of praise*!**

 “God brought about a great victory that day.” And so, it is with you and your journey of faith. During these 21-days of ***Pursuit*** I encourage you to pick up the unused, weapons of your arsenal, and then watch as the Lord fights for you.

**WEAPONS OF WARFARE**

We could define a spiritual weapon as “anything found in scripture that drives back the powers of darkness, defeats our spiritual enemies, and establishes the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.” Based on that description, here are several weapons found in the word (not an all-inclusive list):

* PRAYER
* INTERCESSION (focused prayer for others)
* THANKSGIVING
* SINGING
* GIVING

*“Whether it’s giving, fasting, singing or simply telling someone you are sorry, when we intentionally use these simple weapons it activates things in the spirit realm that cannot be accessed any other way. God uses the simple to confound the wise!”* I Corinthians 1:27

* TITHING
* TIME IN THE SECRET PLACE
* UNITY
* PRAISE
* COMMUNION (Observing the Table of the Lord)
* MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE (Battle Ground of the Mind)
* FORGIVING OTHERS
* RESOLVING OFFENSE
* DECLARING THE WORD
* BINDING AND LOOSING
* FASTING

**TAKE A MOMENT**

Go over the list of spiritual weapons we have provided and do a quick inventory of which weapons you are consistently using, and which ones are laying on the ground, gathering dust or perhaps have never even found their way into your arsenal. Then consider how you can take up some new weapons during this ***Pursuit***. For those of you who are new to fasting, let me encourage you to go after God with a biblical fast and see what He will do.

“…And **I will rebuke the devourer** for your sakes, as that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground.” Malachi 3:11

**BIG PROMISES**

Let’s return to our key passage for a moment. In 2 Corinthians 10:4 it says that “these weapons have divine power to demolish strongholds.” This is a huge promise and reality. When we fight God’s way and with His weapons, demonic forces, strongholds, and barriers are not just pushed back, delayed or discouraged, they are destroyed! If you’ve ever seen video of an old building being demolished, that’s what the Hebrew word means. This is the power available when we utilize the weapons we’ve been given. Those fortresses of despair or barricades of unworthiness that have limited your future in God are on the brink of being blown to bits as you step into this season of fasting and prayer!

**STRATEGY IS IMPORTANT**

When it comes to construction, or any trade, working plans and the right tools at the right time make all the difference and so it is with the weapons or “tools” of our warfare. Once King David was inquiring of the Lord as to how and when to attack the Philistines who were coming to capture him (2 Samuel 5:17-25.) The Lord instructed him to go straight at them and guaranteed that David and the armies of Israel would see victory. Sure enough! God broke through the enemy’s forces like a flood of water, so David named the place Baal-perazim (which means “the Lord who bursts through”). But after a while the Philistine armies recovered and returned to attack once again (a very real picture of our spiritual enemies.) David did not presume victory based on past successes but sought God again for the right strategy, to which God replied but sought God again for the right strategy, to which God replied “ ’Do not attack them straight on,’ the Lord replied. ‘Instead, circle around behind and attack.’ “ II Samuel 5:23

We can learn well from David’s example. Some battles require fasting, others a shout of victory, sometimes a prayer of agreement or practicing radical generosity. Other times the massive ground we are attempting to claim can be gained by simply humbling ourselves and saying “I’m sorry.” The key to consistent forward movement and progress is to; always seek God first, be willing and ready to be obedient, be led by the Spirit and use the right weapon at the right time.

**MEMORY VERSE**

“The weapons we fight are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary they have diving power to demolish strongholds.”

II Corinthians 10:4

**PRAYER DIRECTIVE**

As we spend time with the Lord, let’s ask Him to reveal to us the weapons that we have neglected or perhaps have yet to discover. Ask Him to show you what the battle plan is for this time of Pursuit. Strategy is as important as our willingness to fight. God is the one who releases divine strategy as we wait on Him. Ask the Lord if there is a specific weapon that you need to use today. It might even look like a “ridiculous” weapon, but who knows, you could be a simple song away from breakthrough.

**THOUGHTS & NOTES**