

## The Warfare on the Home-front

II Corinthians 10: 3-5

Warfare is something that has become a part of our daily lives. Many homes across America are directly affected by the fighting that is going on today. It seems as if a new page has been turned in the history of our nation, involving terrorism and bloodshed. I doubt we'll ever know the peace we once enjoyed again. It appears that the current struggle is bogged down in a quagmire of politics and indecision on a proper course of action. Peace doesn't appear to be anywhere on the horizon.

Our text is also dealing with warfare, but it is vastly different than the war being waged in the desert sands. It seems as if a new page has been turned concerning the morals of our nation, (abortion, homosexuality, drug abuse). This war is being waged on a much larger scale, involving every known race and continent of people. The enemy is much more elusive and determined.

There are similarities though; lives are at stake, but often with eternal consequences. We as God's people need to wake up to the fact that we are engaged in warfare as well. Let's take a few moments to consider the [details](#) of: [The Warfare on the Home-front](#).

**I. The Warfare Declared** (3) – You may not realize it, but we are in a war. The enemy has increased his attacks and is using whatever tactics necessary to defeat the church. We may choose to deny it, but the reality is, we are in warfare on the home front.

- We can continue to live with our heads in the sand while the enemy continues to advance. We are facing attacks that weren't present twenty years ago. Satan gains more ground each year. We don't have to continue this downward spiral of moral decay. We can fight against the enemy.

**A. The Soldier** (Who) – Paul has revealed that “[we](#)” are in the battle. This is a war that each of us face right now! It involves young and old alike. If you are saved you are in a war with the devil and his forces.

- That ought to concern us today. This battle isn't reserved for the preachers and seasoned saints, all Christians are involved. Our children are under attack in our modern society! They are daily bombarded with sinful influence seeking to undermine their faith and destroy their lives.

- Peter described Satan as a [roaring lion seeking whom he may devour](#). (Illus. a lion's stalk of prey.) He is looking for the easy prey. He likes to prey upon the young and weak.

- We can't just "shrug off" our responsibility, assuming someone else will fight this battle. People say, "I'm glad that I'm not a teenager in this day, dealing with these problems." Well, our children are. This is real; it is life for them!
- What are we going to do about it? Listen, our children, the future of our church and nation, are fighting every day! Satan is working among our children as never before. We must understand the need and take our place alongside of them in the battle.

**B. The Scope** (Where) – Paul spoke of [war](#), literally a military campaign. He realized this wasn't just a small skirmish there in Corinth. It was a full blown attack of Satan. The church was in its infancy, souls were being saved, and the gospel was spreading like wildfire. Satan did all he could to prevent the church's work.

- This is nothing new; he has been at it since the beginning of time. I believe that he's as active today as he's ever been. His time is running out and he wants to defeat and destroy as many as he can in the time that's left. This war isn't confined to the big cities and ungodly locations of the world; it is here in our hometown.
- Satan has been fighting for thousands of years. He knows how to get to men's hearts. He knows our weaknesses and will do all he can to exploit them. Our homes, families, churches, and communities are under attack. This battle is being waged in the classroom, the living room, at the dinner table, and in sanctuaries around the world.
- We must wake up to the fact that we are in a war! We cannot afford to lose one soul or testimony to the enemy. The lost among us need to be saved. There are homes that need encouragement. Saints need to find strength to press on!

**C. The Struggle** (How) – This war isn't being waged with conventional means. It isn't fought in the flesh. Satan doesn't appear in a "commando" uniform, heavily armed with military weapons. This battle is being waged in the hearts and minds of people. We have allowed the enemy to infiltrate our homes, schools, places of business, and even our churches.

- Satan works by appealing to fleshly desires. He puts things in front of us that appeal to the flesh. He is very subtle. This war is being fought using the power of TV, music, the internet, and entertainment. Our hearts and minds are being filled with the sin and filth of this world. We don't like that, but it is the truth! [Ep.6:12 – 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.](#)

We must understand how the war is being waged to overcome. We must also know how to respond:

### **I. The Warfare Declared (3)**

**II. The Weapons Described (4)** – If you have decided this is serious, you are right! We are facing an enemy who cannot be defeated by conventional means. Our weapons must be spiritual in nature and supplied by the Captain of the Host. Let's examine these weapons.

**A. Their Perfection (4a)** – The Christian must use weapons other than the flesh. We cannot rely on our own strength, will power, education, or even our “church” experience. The source of our victory doesn't lie within our own means. The only weapons that are of any good are those given by God. [Ep.6:13-18](#) describes these.

- 1) Girdle of Truth – Our faith is based on truth; with ourselves, God, and others.
- 2) Breastplate of Righteousness – A life of righteous living is essential.
- 3) Shoes of the Gospel – Life must be built upon and stand upon the Gospel.
- 4) Shield of Faith – [Above all!](#) Faith shields us from the enemy's attack.
- 5) Helmet of Salvation – Know for sure you are saved. Then keep your mind centered on Christ.
- 6) Sword of the Spirit – God's Word, hide it in your heart, meditate on it, live by it.
- 7) Prayer – This is the most effective weapon we have. Our intercessions are taken directly into the Throne Room of God.

These weapons can overcome Satan. They are of God!

**B. Their Power (4b)** – Our weapons are mighty through God. They are spiritual in nature and originate in Him. We belong to the Lord; we don't have to fight this battle alone. We have a mighty ally in the Lord.

- Satan is strong and powerful, the lure of the world is intense, but God is able to deliver you. The world is no match for the power of God! Jesus overcame temptation in the wilderness.

- We have that same power working in us. [Ep.3:20 – Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.](#)

**C. Their Precision** (4c) – Our weapons, through the power of God, have the ability to pull down strongholds. This is a beautiful word picture. A strong-hold is a fortress, a strong fortification. Many times we face a strong fortress in life. The enemy has invaded and built strongholds that are impossible to break through.

- God has the ability to tear down and remove those walls. We have an arsenal of “bunker busters” that can get to the source of the problem, rooting out the enemy. We don’t serve a “generic god” with a “one size fits all” relationship. The Lord knows exactly what we are facing and exactly what we need to overcome. [Rom.8:37 – Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.](#) [I Jn.4:4 – Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.](#)

### **I. The Warfare Declared** (3)

### **II. The Weapons Described** (4)

**III. The Strategy Employed** (5) – We have determined that we are in a war involving all of us. This war can’t be won in ourselves, it takes the weapons of God. Recognizing the nature of the conflict and being armed for it is good, but there is more that we need to do. We must develop a strategy to become successful in battle. A good battle plan, one rightly executed is essential to victory. We need a good battle plan including:

**A. Conquering our Desires** (5a) – We have to be able to cast down, utterly destroy imaginations and thoughts that are uncontrolled. Much of life is dictated by desires. It is important to desire the right things. We’ll never win the war with lustful or sinful desires contrary to God’s will.

- Lustful imaginations turn into lustful actions. Avoid these at all cost! How do we do that? [Col.3:2 – Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.](#) It takes a close walk with God to win the victory. Satan likes to use lustful imaginations to lure you away. The grass will not be greener on the other side! Satan will never show you the end result of sin.

**B. Submitting our Hearts** (5b) – Our hearts must be totally surrendered to God. We must live in absolute loyalty to Him. Never develop an attitude of pride or arrogance thinking that you can handle it on your own. Never get to the place that you think you've arrived.

- There will never be a time when you don't need God. We are no match for sin or Satan within ourselves. We cannot overcome apart from the help of God. [1 Cor.10:12 – Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.](#) The flesh never desires to live according to God's will, but we must learn to submit to His authority. Good soldiers can follow orders and carry out commands!

**C. Controlling our Minds** (5c) – This is likely the hardest part of the strategy. Every thought needs to be captive in obedience to Christ. Satan likes to fill our minds with evil, lustful thoughts. Guard your mind against his attack. Avoid those areas that take hold of your mind.

- Always be aware of what you are exposed to, seeing and hearing. Those things enter the mind and find a lodging place in the heart. We must learn to control our minds in order to have any control over our lives. Overcome with thoughts of the Lord and His goodness. [Phil.4:8 – Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.](#)

The warfare we are engaged in is very real. There are lives at stake in this conflict. It is being waged on every front. We need to be ready to fight against the enemy. Our children need us to stand strong for them. They need to be equipped as well.

This warfare will only intensify as time goes on. Won't you help me pray for our church and all Christians that we might be able to stand in this wicked day?