

#24 The Necessity of Spiritual Warfare and God's People Formed into an Army Ready for Battle

(Crystallization-Study of Numbers 2) 2019/11/4-10

I. We need to realize the necessity of spiritual warfare:

A. Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the satanic will and the divine will; this is a warfare between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God. **Matt. 6:10** Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth. **12:28** But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. **Isa. 14:13-14** But you, you said in your heart; I will ascend to heaven; Above the stars of God I will exalt my throne. And I will sit upon the mount of assembly In the uttermost parts of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

B. In the Lord's recovery we are on a battlefield; in order to possess Christ as the good land for the fulfillment of God's purpose, we must fight against and defeat the satanic forces.

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C. The army of God defeated the king of Arad, Sihon the king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Bashan:

1. The kings of Arad, of the Amorites, and of Bashan were the "Gate guards" on the east of the Jordan, guarding the land of Canaan, the kingdom of darkness, for Satan: **a.** The kings defeated by God's army signify the rulers, the authorities, and the world-rulers of darkness, against whom we must struggle. **b.** In order for the children of Israel to enter into the good land, they had to pass through the territory controlled by these kings and had to fight against them, destroy them and take over their territory.

2. In order to gain the unsearchable riches of Christ, we must crush the spiritual enemies signified by the king of Arad, Sihon the king of the Amorites, and Og the king of Bashan and take over their territory.

Eph. 6:11-12 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil. For our wrestling is...against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

D. The fighting of the children of Israel against the Canaanites that they might possess and enjoy the good land portrays the invisible spiritual warfare that is taking place behind the visible scene on earth, and it typifies the spiritual warfare of the church against "the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies: **Dan. 10:13** But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me for twenty-one days; but now Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I remained there alone with the kings of Persia.

1. In the typology of the Old Testament, Canaan has two aspects: **a.** On the positive side, Canaan, a land of riches, typifies the all-inclusive Christ with His unsearchable riches.

b. On the negative side, Canaan signifies the aerial part, the heavenly part, of the dark kingdom of Satan:

(1) As the ruler of this world and as the ruler of the authority of the air, Satan has his authority and his angels, who are his subordinates as principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this world; hence, Satan has his kingdom, the authority of darkness.

(2) The Canaanites typify the fallen angels, the rebellious angels who follow Satan, who have become the powers, rulers, and authorities in Satan's kingdom. **(3)** The fighting of the children of Israel against the Canaanites that they

might possess and enjoy the good land typifies the spiritual warfare of the church against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies so that the saints may enjoy Christ as the all-inclusive land.

2. God wants us to gain Christ as our good land, but between us and the good land, there is a layer of devilish, demonic forces; if we would take possession of the good land, we must defeat these satanic forces.

3. There is an exceedingly real spiritual warfare in which we must engage; thus, the church must be a corporate warrior fighting the battle to gain the all-inclusive Christ and for the establishing and spreading of the kingdom of God so that Christ may come back to inherit the earth. **Tue**

E. The Lord Jesus has already won the battle, and the work of the church on earth is to maintain Christ's victory:

Heb. 2:14 ...in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil.

1 John 3:8 ...the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Col. 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

1. The Son of God was manifested to destroy the works of the devil. **2.** As a man, Christ defeated Satan during the temptation in the wilderness.

3. Through death the Lord Jesus destroyed the devil, who has the might of death, abolishing Satan and bringing him to nought.

4. God openly shamed the evil angels, triumphing over them in the cross of Christ.

5. The effect of Christ's crucifixion was that the base of Satan's rebellion was shaken, that the strongholds of Satan's earthly kingdom were broken, and that the power of death and Hades was conquered and subdued.

6. In the Spirit of His divinity, Christ proclaimed to the evil spirits in the abyss His victory over Satan on the cross.

7. The overcomers, the mighty ones, realize that spiritual warfare is based on the victory of Christ:

a. The starting point of spiritual warfare is standing upon the victory of Christ. **b.** We need to see that Christ has already overcome.

8. The church is on earth to perpetuate and manifest Christ's victory over Satan.

F. In order to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to know the Body, know the ascension, and reign in life. **Wed**

II. At the end of Numbers 27, God's people, the Israelites, had been formed into an army ready for battle:

A. The children of Israel had become a new people formed into a new army with a new theocracy:

1. The new people had been renumbered, the new army had been re-formed and strengthened, and a new leader, Joshua, had been appointed to serve. **2.** Joshua would serve not by himself but with Eleazar the priest, who would receive divine instructions by means of the Urim and the Thummin; this means that there was among the people a new theocracy.

B. After being formed, constituted, disciplined, trained, and qualified, God's people had come to the plains of Moab, where they were waiting to enter into the good land, to take it, and to possess it.

C. The formation of the children of Israel into an army to fight for God typifies the New Testament believers' being

Crucial Point(1): Obey God's will and fight for spiritual warfare

built up into the organic Body of Christ to fight for God and with God for the carrying out of His economy. [Eph. 6:11-12](#)

Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil. For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. [Thu](#)

D. With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, those who were qualified and ready to take possession of the good land were the younger ones: [Deut. 1:35-39](#) Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall by any means see the good land which I have sworn to give to your fathers, Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh..Joshua the son of Nun...Moreover your little ones, who you said would be prey, and your children...they shall enter there. And to them I will give it, and they will possess it.

1. The second generation did not pass through as much as the first generation did, but they received the benefit of what the first generation experienced.

2. Probably the older generation spoke to the younger generation about all that they experienced, enjoyed, and suffered, and this speaking was part of the raising up of the second generation.

3. What the older ones experienced was effective in building up the younger ones; therefore, God could prepare from the second generation more than six hundred thousand men with a rich inheritance and strong background who were qualified to be formed into an army to fight for God's kingdom.

4. The principle is the same with us in the Lord's recovery today; what the older ones have experienced is being passed on to the younger ones and will be very effective in building them up and preparing the to fight with God and for God.

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E. In Numbers 31:13-54 we see a beautiful picture of the one accord among God's people who had been formed into an army ready for battle:

1. The entire situation among the different categories of people was peaceful, pleasant, and harmonious because they were all in one accord. [Acts 1:14](#) These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

2. The genuine one accord in the church is the practice of the oneness of the Body, which is the oneness of the Spirit. [Eph. 4:3-4](#) Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace; One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling; **a.** One accord refers to the harmony in our inner being, in our mind and will. **b.** To be in one accord is to be one in our whole being, and this results in our being one in our outward speaking.

[Rom. 15:6](#) That with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **c.** In order to be in one accord, we need to have one heart and one way; this one heart and one way are the one accord.

d. For the Lord's move, all the churches need to be in one accord; we should all voice the same thing, trumpet the same thing, teach the same thing, and be the same in practice.

F. God's army was prepared and ready to take the good land under the blessing of God in His Divine Trinity and also under the blessing of Moses, the man of God. [Sat](#)

OL1: We need to realize the necessity of spiritual warfare
OL2: Spiritual warfare has its source in the conflict between the satanic will and the divine will; this is a warfare between the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God.

OL3: In the Lord's recovery we are on a battlefield; in order to possess Christ as the good land for the fulfillment of God's purpose, we must fight against and defeat the satanic forces.

Throughout history there have been wars between nations, groups, persons, and even within individuals. For example, you may experience an inner warfare between your reason and your lust. All the different kinds of warfare have their source in the controversy between the divine will and the satanic will.

In His greatness God gave man freedom of choice.... The crucial issue was whether man would choose the divine will or the satanic will. If the human will stood with the divine will, then God's will would be accomplished. But if the human will took sides with the satanic will, Satan's will would be carried out, at least temporarily. As we all know, the human will took sides with the satanic will. This means that man chose to follow Satan and sided with the satanic will. Therefore, Satan was victorious temporarily.

However, through repentance man can turn from the satanic will to the divine will, from Satan's side to God's side. The first commandment in the gospel is to repent. The next two commandments are to believe and to be baptized. Any sinner who desires to be saved must obey these three commandments. He must repent to God, believe in the Lord Jesus, and be baptized in water. To repent is to have a turn from the satanic will to the divine will.

In the Lord's recovery today we are on a battlefield. We should be today's Joshua and Caleb, fighting against Satan's aerial forces so that we can gain more of Christ for the building up of the Body of Christ, setting up and spreading the kingdom of God so that Christ can come back to inherit the earth....

Application to the new ones

[John 3:5](#) Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Through baptism, God has transferred you from Satan's kingdom to God's kingdom. This means that man belongs to either Satan's kingdom or God's kingdom and there is no human kingdom in the middle. Before man was saved, man whether good person or bad person, the rich or the poor, all suffered in the kingdom of Satan. When you heard the gospel and repented, believed the Lord and got baptized, you were transferred into God's kingdom. However, you need to enter into kingdom even richly. [2 Peter 1:11](#) For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.

This means that after you got baptized and enter into the kingdom of God, you need to enter into God's kingdom richly by Christ in you growing in the church life.

In entering into the kingdom of God richly, you need to let your will be subject to God's authority and not to the Satan's authority. As we mentioned before, there is no medial kingdom in between. You will either listen to and obey Satan or listen to and obey God. When you obey Satan, even though it looks good seemingly, but its result is darkness and death. When you obey God, even though it seems difficult, you will be filled with light and life. [Hebrew 10:25](#) **Not abandoning our own assembling together, as the custom with some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the day drawing near.**

Your home meetings, small groups and Lord's day meetings are your own assembling. In the company, we are instructed to work with "ownership" to work on your own initiative, otherwise we can not bring in a good result nor grow as a business person. In the same way, you must consider all kinds of meetings as your own and have sense of ownership. For this you need to fight the spiritual battle and subject your will to God and be willing to function in the meetings. Do not follow Satan's whispering saying, "my body is tired. I want to skip the meeting" or "going to the meetings won't give me good performance or grades, so I'd better rest" or "I'd rather like to play than going to the meetings" but enjoy the Lord together and supply the Lord with the brothers and sisters.

Prayer: "Oh Lord Jesus, thank You for transferring me from Satan's kingdom into the kingdom of God. Let me grow Christ within in the church life to enter into the kingdom of God more richly. For this, I subject my will to God and stand against Satan to fight the spiritual battle. I consider the meetings as mine and function willingly with ownership."

Crucial Point(2): Joining to the victorious Lord, and praying in the Body, fight the spiritual warfare against the evil forces working behind man

OL1: The Lord Jesus has already won the battle, and the work of the church on earth is to maintain Christ's victory. **OL2:** In order to engage in spiritual warfare, we need to know the Body, know the ascension, and reign in life. **OL3:** The formation of the children of Israel into an army to fight for God typifies the New Testament believers' being built up into the organic Body of Christ to fight for God and with God for the carrying out of His economy.

The spiritual warfare is defensive, not offensive, because the Lord Jesus has already fought the battle and won the victory....The Lord has already won the battle, and the church is here to maintain His victory....The strong man has already been bound. Her work is not to let him be loosed. There is no need to attack; simply guarding is sufficient. The starting point of spiritual warfare is standing upon the victory of Christ; it is seeing that Christ has already overcome. It is not dealing with Satan, but trusting in the Lord. It is not hoping that we will win the victory, because the victory has already been won. The devil can do nothing. The church's work and responsibility is spiritual warfare. It is a matter of the conflict between God's authority and Satan's power.

The Lord Jesus will [not] automatically come if we

sit and passively wait.... As the Body of Christ, we must learn to work together with God. We should never think that it is enough just to be saved. It is not. We must be concerned with God's need.

To fight the battle is a matter of the Body. We must be built together. We must be in oneness and harmony as the living Body, the living building, and the living house of God. Then we can be the army....Warfare is something of the Body, which is in Christ, in the Spirit, and in the heavenly places.

The real enemy is not the people. The real enemy is the evil forces behind the people. The people are merely the puppets of the enemy to be utilized by him. We should not fight the people; we should fight the evil forces behind them. The way to fight the evil forces is not by the flesh but by the Spirit, in the Spirit, and by prayer. The only way we can deal with the enemy who is working, fighting, behind certain people is to pray, to appeal to the throne in the heavens as the highest authority. Therefore, there is the need for real and prevailing corporate prayer. The church needs to come together to pray, not to deal with people. I have learned the lesson that whenever there is a rumor, we should not deal with it directly....We should not talk to people or explain things to them....We should simply go to the Lord and appeal to the highest authority. Through the throne we deal with the evil forces which are behind the blood and flesh.

For the young working saints and graduate students

Our Christian life and church life are spiritual warfare. You must not say "I don't want to fight because the warfare will make me tired." Even you don't want to fight, you are already on the battlefield. Satan try to attack you desperately, especially when you get motivated. But praise the Lord. Our fight is only to fight by standing in the Christ's victory and to maintain the Christ's victory.

[Eph. 6:10](#) **Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength. 11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, 12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

If you don't fight, you will be a prey for Satan and so you will be drifted down the course of the world and be forced to live a fallen living. On the contrary, if you find the courage to take Christ's victory, the Lord will lead you from victory to victory. This warfare is a warfare, but its winner and loser are already decided, so you only need to resist Satan by taking up the Lord's victory and maintain it. And moreover, you should fight this warfare in the Body. The secrets of the fighting are "in the Lord," "in the church life," and "with the vital partners." Therefore, you must not leave away from the church life. You must also have your vital partner to practice the prayer group. As a young business person or a young researcher, when you feel the attack of Satan in your actual circumstances, you should do a fighting prayer. For example, Satan whispers you to tempt you not to fight in faith, such as "You will be ignored unless you attend their

drinking party,” “Your work or research will get delayed if you attend the church meeting,” “People around you become prejudiced if they know you have Christian faith,” and so on. If the Lord’s victory is shown, Satan can do nothing but run away. So only Satan is able to do is to deceive a man. Stand against the deceiving stratagems of Satan, and exercise your spirit to do a fighting prayer with your partner.

Prayer: “O Lord Jesus, even Satan tries to threaten me in the way of deceiving with his various kinds of stratagems, You have already won the victory. Because if I don’t fight I become a prey for Satan, so in the Body, with my spiritual partner, I stand against Satan and proclaim the Lord’s victory to win my church life. I also preach gospel and bind the strong man, Satan, to plunder back the gospel friends for God’s building, who are the goods in the house of Satan.”

Crucial Point(3): Take the oneness accomplished by faith, and do the fighting prayer with 2 to 3 people in one accord

OL1: The genuine one accord in the church is the practice of the oneness of the Body, which is the oneness of the Spirit. One accord refers to the harmony in our inner being, in our mind and will.

OL2: To be in one accord is to be one in our whole being, and this results in our being one in our outward speaking.

OL3: For the Lord’s move, all the churches need to be in one accord; we should all voice the same thing, trumpet the same thing, teach the same thing, and be the same in practice.

The more difficulties we pass through, the more useful we will be to the Lord.... God’s chosen and redeemed people needed to undergo different kinds of frustrations. As a result of all these things, God’s people were ready to take possession of the God-promised land.

The oneness that we have is the accomplished oneness, the oneness of the Spirit. We all have the Spirit in our “bank account,” that is, in our spirit, ...but we may not write “checks of oneness” because we may not remain in the spirit. Instead, we may remain in our mind. When a certain brother prays, we may be in our mind discerning whether that brother’s prayer is genuine or whether there is hidden intention in his prayer. Thus, we may not say Amen to his prayer. In such a situation there is no practice of oneness. The one accord actually is the using of the oneness, which is the using of our possession.

Psa. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell in unity! **2** It is like the fine oil upon the head That ran down upon the beard, Upon Aaron’s beard, That ran down upon the hem of his garments; **3** Like the dew of Hermon That came down upon the mountains of Zion. For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: Life forever.

Application to young people and college students

God’s people are fulfilled through difficulties. This means that studying for exams and difficulties in human relationships are necessary for you to be fulfilled. Brothers and sisters of students, please understand this and don’t be overwhelmed. What is important during this battle is that they are organized into the army of God. What is important for the organized army is to take the oneness that the Lord has accomplished through faith, pray and talk about the same thing with one spirit, one heart and one accord. Read the message below to actually carry out the life of the Body.

You must consider before the Lord whether you have a real companion in pursuing the Lord; Joshua could have said that Caleb was his companion, and Caleb could have said that Joshua was his companion. You need “those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (LMA#6)

When you, your partner, or the people you care for face difficulties, pray to fight against Satan with 2 or 3 people. For example, when you come across problems such as “I get bullied”, “I don’t get motivated to study, so I can’t improve my grades”, “I’m immersed in the game and can’t concentrate on studying”, “I don’t want to go to school because I haven’t finished my homework, bind Satan’s working behind these people and things and pray to release those who are bound by Satan. Satan also lives in your flesh, which will tempt you into unbelief. You can stand against Satan’s working behind you and Satan’s working in your flesh by praying with your partner. Some situations will quickly improve with prayer. Also continue to pray with patience in another situation.

Also, in prayers at prayer meetings and prayers with your partners, train yourself to pray with your will, using the oneness that the Lord has already accomplished. For example, when a brother or sister is inspired by the Lord and fellowships or prays to preach the gospel, you should not find the excuses not to preach the gospel. Don’t think whether this person is really praying in the spirit or not. All you have to do is to pray, “Amen! The gospel is the only commission that the Lord has entrusted us. I will go out and preach the gospel.” Then the Holy Spirit will flow further in one accord and it will be blessed.

Prayer: “Oh Lord Jesus, I will become one with God’s army, the church, and pray and bind Satan. Therefore, I will stay in the church life and have a spiritual partner. The Lord listens to the fellowship and prayer with spiritual partners. I hope I can overcome difficulties in studying and human relationships through prayers with my partner. Amen!”

The Mystery of Human Life(2)

Our attitude(3): [Turn toward(Turn around)]

A. “And saying, Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.” —To repent is to have a change of mind issuing in regret, to have a turn in purpose.... For this we should repent, change our mind, make a turn in our life-pursuit. The goal of our pursuing has been other things; now our pursuing must turn toward God and His kingdom. (Matt. 3:2 & FN1, 2)

B. “and they turn around, and I will heal them. (Matt.13:15b)

C. “Turn to Me and be saved, All the ends of the earth, For I am God and there is no one else.” (Isa. 45:22)

D. “and announce the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and the sea and all things in them;” (Act. 14:15b)

E. “how you turned to God from the idols to serve a living and true God” (1 Thes. 1:9b)

F. “to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God.” (Act. 26:18a)

G. “Repent therefore and turn, that your sins may be wiped away, So that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Act. 3:19-20a)