

Winning Spiritual Battles

In my path of ministry, I have been afforded the incredible blessing of meeting and praying with believers from many parts of the world. While some of these saints are humble stewards, there are many I have met who considered themselves mighty warriors equipped for spiritual war. Their tales of battles are usually summarized into... We engage, fire off some prayers then seal it with the blood of Jesus and consider it victory because the weapons of our warfare are mighty. Wars are much more complex. Winning those wars require much more than casual engagement.

Wars are fought in many battles and on many fronts. One of the most important tools needed to win is good intelligence. How is the battle laid out? What is the strength of the enemy? How much troops are with them? How broad is the coalition? What are their goals? What resources have they already deployed? Where and or what are the targets?

The intelligence helps us to determine strategy or a plan of engagement. Here is where you count the cost to determine if you have enough to fight and win. Are the resources readily available? Is the training and discipline adequate? Can the battle be won with just the intercessors, the whole church or the Body of Christ in the region? What would be the tangible signs of victory?

I can hear you say, we just follow the leading of the spirit and fight...Please hear this clearly. He will use you to the extent you are prepared. No preparation... no deployment. Wars are fought by soldiers. Those who volunteer and go without being sent become easy casualty...then we wonder where is God.

Do you know your weapons; your specialization and position in battle; and or, your level and areas of authority? Military pilots are trained for air combat. Some pilots are trained for air to air combat while others fly support missions in a big air bus. Each one plays a critical to victory in battle to ensure victory. As a warrior, you need to know your place and submit to it completely. This means that there are some assignments not in your area of expertise you must refuse. This will make room for those qualified.

The last step is engagement...this is where the average intercessor normally begins. As you read this in the midst of your battle, I challenge you to stop and go back to the beginning.

By the time you get to engagement, you should have a plan based on intelligence. Follow through it carefully while keeping your eyes on the Commander. Trust that the Commander knows more than you and He is invested in your victory.

In rest time, do not look for a battle. Instead, invest the time to hone the skills and exercise your gifts until you have become skilled. Perfection means you become one with them and no longer need to think through how to use them...like an experienced driver driving a car.

You go to war only when you are called by the Commander. Remember He will call you for an assignment for which you are prepared. Do not overstep the boundaries set for you. Listen

carefully to understand your role in the battle. If you can follow these simple guidelines, then you are well on your way to sustained victory.

Shayne Payne.