

“@ WAR”/@war(e)

We are at war!

We are aware.

aware - having knowledge or perception of a situation
- concerned and well-informed about a particular situation
or development

The world is aware....and is springing into action - all kinds of actions

We are aware.

And we are praying and supporting...

The Ukrainian situation makes us very aware of war and its deadly results...

But, are you aware? There is “war” as legally defined in 21 other countries in 20-21.

More than 100,00 killed in Afghanistan, Ethiopia (Tigray War), Mexico (Drug War - 350,000 +), Yemen (\$485,000,000 this week), and 1,000-10,000 in Algeria, Burkino Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, DR Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia.... Wikipedia

Are you aware?

What is war?

state of armed conflict
state of competition or hostility
sustained campaign against an undesirable situation or activity

And further explained as “people fighting to the death for the ideal they believe in”

WE ARE AT WAR!

God’s kingdom is at war....

There is a battle, an ongoing battle...

What are we fighting for? Truth Freedom Our relationship with God

It has always been going on....Jude reminds us and warns us about false teachers, those speaking falsehood....commenting that they will multiply in the end times....he also strongly warns those speaking/teaching falsehood.

We are to fight for truth

Truth is the only thing that can liberate us from sin....Jesus said. “I am the way and the Truth and the Life; no man comes to the Father but by Me”....by Truth with a capital T

Jude 3 Earnestly contend for the faith, once for all, delivered to the saints.”

Fight for the faith
Fight for truth

“Truth is under heavy attack and there are too few courageous warriors who are willing to fight.”.....

Am I willing to fight to the death for what I believe in.....

Lord, will it come to that....?

....and will I be ready in the natural if I have not been “training” in the spiritual realm?

....or if I have not been standing up for truth in day to day life?

Who are we fighting for?

Because of His commitment to Jesus Christ, Timothy was charged to **fight the good fight, wage the good warfare...1 Tim 1:18**

He was later exhorted to **endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ...2 Tim 2:3**
We fight for the Lord - **Exodus 15:3 The Lord is a man of war, the Lord is His name....**

Psalm 24:8 refers to Him as **The Lord, mighty in battle....**

GOD WANTS YOU!!!

“Yes, Sir”.....to our commander in chief!

Be aware - we are at WAR!

1 John 5:19 “The whole world lies in the power of the evil one”

And because of that our life here on earth is defined by the struggle between
light and darkness
good and evil
true and false
life and death

Who are we fighting against?

The devil. Satan. The accuser of the brethren. The Deceiver.....

@war(E). Be aware that we are at war with the **Enemy!**

Aware of the battle for LIFE - eternal life.....ours, our families, our friends, our enemies, the Ukrainians, the Russians, the Belorussians...

As we fight the big battles we see, let's not overlook the devourer in our family lives, our relationships, our Let's not overlook the deceiver in our culture, our government, even our schools...

Let us be alert, **AWARE**, and fighting His war for His kingdom to come....

Sin causes war! Human pride (beginning with Lucifer's), greed, desire for power, control...

See the old testament stories of war as a picture of the spiritual warfare, the spiritual battles of today....

The promised land was theirs - they had a legal right to it....just as we have a legal right to heaven through Jesus, a right to the Promised Land, eternal life (even here on earth) But they had to possess it! They fought many enemies to possess what was already theirs'. Our warfare is to possess what is already ours.....and I believe to open the way for others to possess it as well....

At WAR:

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. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Cor 10:3-5

We are God's invading army...willing to fight to the death for what we believe in, Who we believe in...

And the promises that we have:

- We have the weapons that we need (with divine power)
- We are victorious in Christ!
victorious against the darkness, against lies, against, evil, against the enemy's attempts to take our soul

Powlison described our battle with those words - "the battle for the loyalty of our hearts"....an ongoing battle. We have an enemy in that battle and we must stay aware!

The Weapons....

Paul speaks to our battle and describes our weapons...

Ephesians 6:10-18 A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's **armor** so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we[a] 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.

13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on **the belt of truth** and the **body armor of God's righteousness**. 15 For **shoes**, put on the **peace** that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.[b] 16 In addition to all of these, hold up **the shield of faith** to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.[c] 17 Put on **salvation** as your **helmet**, and take the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.

18 **Pray** in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.[d]

The original word for armor or full armor is panoplion...most often translated full armor...but often described primarily as protective armor. Defensive...

The literal translation of panoplion is "complete weaponry" everything that is needed to go into combat....

PROMISE #1 basically you have what you need to do the job, you are fully outfitted and equipped for your calling as His soldier...

Belt of Truth	fasten it on; gird yourself the belt of truth must come first; it holds everything together turn from all lies Isaiah 11:5
Breastplate of Righteousness	His righteousness does protect our core but more - it protects because it is the opposite of pride, hate...it pushes back the darkness the "weapons" of righteousness: humility, love, courage, faithfulness, goodness wisdom... Isaiah 59:17 The Lord comes to right wrongs (with a breastplate of righteousness)
Shoes of the Gospel of Peace	the gospel of peace - reconciliation! forgiveness triumphs over anger the gospel is offensive (not defensive) Isaiah 52:7
Shield of Faith	the man wearing these shoes is on the march it does have a protective role; allows us to go forth boldly the Lord is a shield as we take refuge in Him stand against the enemies' lies we step out in faith, we advance with faith that the Lord goes before us

Helmet of Salvation	<p>Psalm 18:2 now, fully dressed for battle, we grab our helmet bringing the victorious message of salvation we go in confident assurance salvation is the light we bring against the darkness... it does not defend against darkness, it attacks darkness; darkness cannot survive any light</p>
Sword of the Spirit	<p>Isaiah 59:17 a weapon of divine words Isaiah 49:2; Revelation 1:17 the wisdom of the Spirit, destroying evil our words, true to Scripture</p>
Praying at all Times	<p>(note: Paul asks them to pray that he will open his mouth with the sword of the Spirit -“utterances’ to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.</p>

“The powers of wrong are strong....but they will be undone by the power and truth of God”

PROMISE #2 We are victorious in Christ!

Col. 2:15 When He had [a]disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through [b]Him.

1 John 2:14b ...you, young men...are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

I AM AN OVERCOMER.

GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN ME THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD

1 John 5:4 For [a]whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith.

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD BECAUSE I AM BORN OF GOD.

MY FAITH BRINGS ME VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD.

Romans 8:37-39 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I AM MORE THAN A CONQUEROR THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

NOTHING CAN SEPARATE ME FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.

1 Peter 5:8-10 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 [a]So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your [b]brothers and sisters who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

GOD WILL PERFECT, CONFIRM, STRENGTHEN AND ESTABLISH ME.

Just a note: Warfare is complex. It is true in the natural (Ukraine and Russia) and in the spiritual. Seeking and discerning truth is important as we pray about literal conflicts as well as spiritual. The enemy has a hand on both sides and God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. May Your kingdom come, Lord Jesus; Your will be done on earth.