

# Spiritual Weapons

**Knowing the Victory  
in our Lives**

One of the images the Bible uses for The Church is that of an **Army** - but this is no ordinary army.

We're in a battle - a spiritual battle - and so we need **spiritual weapons and strategies** to enable us to stand defensively and overcome offensively.

2Corinthians 10:3-5(TNIV)

***“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”***

The problem is we tend to want to take matters into our own hands and fight on our own terms rather than use weapons God has given us.

The following has been prepared as a study guide to help us understand that God's ways of dealing with spiritual warfare are different to ours (His ways and thoughts are often diametrically opposite to the way we approach life - see Isaiah 55:8). The study guide is not exhaustive - no doubt you can think of other ways to be an over-comer - but hopefully these 21 spiritual weapons will help demonstrate that when we live life God's way we will know the victory in our lives.

Prayerfully read the passages, meditate on what God says and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand how to put them into practice.

## **21 Spiritual Weapons**

1. Putting God first and not allowing anything to be more important to us than God – Mark 12:30
2. Obedience to God, even if it means suffering, persecution, or personal loss – 2John 1:6; 1Samuel 15:22; 1Peter 3:17
3. Praising God in adversity, having joy in the midst of trials and genuine thankfulness for all things, even hardship – 1Thessalonians 5:18; James 1:2; Romans 8:28
4. Trusting in God in every situation despite all appearances – John 14:1 & 27

5. Acting with integrity despite the consequences by doing the right thing – 1Thessalonians 5:15
6. Not taking offence when wronged or betrayed – Isaiah 53:7; Luke 6:28; Matthew 5:11
7. Returning good instead of evil – 1Peter 3:9; Romans 12:17
8. Disproportionate generosity – 2Corinthians 9:5-14; Titus 3:14
9. Unconditional love – Romans 12:9; Colossians 3:12-14
10. Fairness and kindness to everyone, without favouritism – Romans 12:16; Titus 3:2; 1Peter 3:7; James 2:1
11. Forgiving everyone for anything, even our enemies, no matter how seriously they have wronged us, even if they are not sorry for what they have done – Matthew 5:44; Luke 17:1-4 (This includes never believing bad reports about others, no matter how convincing; giving everyone the benefit of every doubt – the Matthew 18:15-17 principle is about hearing the other side of the story first to establish the facts)
12. Not defending ourselves when accused, knowing that God will vindicate those who trust in Him – Romans 12:19
13. Purity, always dwelling upon that which is good – Philippians 4:8; 1Timothy 4:12
14. Not allowing ourselves to become distracted from God's purpose for our lives – Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 2:13
15. Humility, not boasting, deferring to others and not assuming ourselves more highly than others (including not manoeuvring ourselves into enviable positions) – Romans 12:3; 1Corinthians 13:4; Philippians 2:3-4; James 3:17
16. Modesty – 1Corinthians 12:23; 1Timothy 2:9 (We don't try and make ourselves look good)
17. Resisting temptation and relying on God's help and provision when circumstances are difficult – Matthew 6:13; 1Corinthians 10:13
18. Self-sacrifice and self-control – Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:5-11
19. Patience and perseverance – Colossians 1:11; Galatians 5:22; James 1:4
20. Courage, or the refusal to fear; never doubting that God will provide for our needs – 1Corinthians 16:13; John 14:27
21. Putting every doubtful proposition or statement to the test – Romans 12:2; Philippians 1:9-11; 1Thessalonians 5:20-22

## Put on the full armour

Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us we need the full armour of God to be protected

- The belt of **truth**
- The breastplate of **righteousness**
- Our feet wearing shoes of **peace**
- The shield of **faith**
- The helmet of **salvation**
- The **sword** of the Spirit - God's word

Plus **Prayer** - all types on all occasions for all God's people. We have the privilege of praying protection on each other!

## Points to Ponder

2Corinthians 6:7 (NLT)

***"We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defence"***

Ask yourself the following questions

- Where are the strongholds (i.e. where my thinking, actions or words are not aligned with God's purposes) in my life?
- In what areas don't I fully trust God to be my provision?
- How can I move forward – where do I need to take a risk and step out in faith?
- Who can help me?

## And remember

***"The battle is the Lord's"*** (see 1Samuel 17: 47) - He will enable us to stand in the victory.