

CHRISTIAN WARFARE {PART 1}

By Keith Greer

Has anyone ever asked you to describe what the Christian life is all about? How would you explain the life of a Christian? The last thing, which would probably enter your mind, is that this life is one of warfare".

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ," (2 Corinthians 10:4,5)

Let us examine this "Christian Warfare" which we are fighting for our Lord!

What is warfare?" A state of disharmony or conflict; strife; acts undertaken to destroy or undermine the strength of another;" {American Heritage Dict.}

What are the essential characteristics of this warfare?

It is REAL. It is not imaginary. So many today fail to see that this warfare is a real battle! One we must engage in to defeat our enemy.

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses." (1 Timothy 6:12)

"You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." (2 Timothy 2:3,4)

This warfare is **SPIRITUAL**. This is not carnal warfare. We do not fight with physical weapons.

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
(Ephesians 6:12)

This warfare is **CONTINUOUS**. This warfare started in the Garden of Eden and will not end until time on earth comes to an end. Do we ever reach a time when it ends for us personally? Yes. When your life is over.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

Can one choose not to fight? How can they if they have "enlisted" into the army of God! The Christian who will not fight-will not win! Please make no mistake my friend. The life for the child of God is a struggle. Yet, one well worth all the efforts we put into it.

"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver

me from this body of death? I thank God; through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:23- 25)

Why should we be willing to fight? What is at stake? Our soul and where we will spend eternity! When you became a Christian do you think Satan just gave you up? No way! Satan is going to do all he can to undermine your decision and win you back to him.

"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. "{2 Peter 2:20}

Dear reader the life of a Christian is not for the timid, weak or frail. God's people have all types of challenges surrounding them on every front. Satan has one design and purpose for every person who wears the name of Christ – DEFEAT. Our adversary is counting on God's people to give in to the difficulties life can throw at us. Are you up to the challenge? ***