

CHRISTIAN WARFARE {PART 2}

By Keith Greer

In our last discussion we clearly have seen that the Christian is in for a fight. Where does this fight take place?

From the hand of the apostle Paul (reread 2 Corinthians 10: 1-6) one can quickly see that the "heart of man" is the battlefield where this battle will be won or lost. The hearts of men are being fought for control. If the adversary controls the heart of man, the body will follow suit.

How can he gain control? How will he seek to accomplish his purpose? Let us seriously examine the answers to these questions.

The devil wants to get into your head. He wants to control your thoughts, desires and lusts. "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. 'Eat and drink!' he says to you, But his heart is not with you." {Proverbs. 23:7}

The devil wants to control your imagination and thoughts that lead to your actions. One cannot commit evil until he first "thinks evil". Where does all sin begin? In the heart! Every vile, wicked and sinful action men commit begin in their hearts. Why do you think the Bible speaks so much on the need to control the heart? It is the center of all that man is and hopes to be. Get the heart under control and you have the upper hand!

"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. " {Matthew 5:8}

"Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life." {Proverbs 4:23}

"A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps." {Proverbs 16:9}

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." {Matthew 6:21}

"But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered." {Romans 6:17}

"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart," {1 Peter 1:22}

"For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God." {1 John 3:20,21}

The battlefield is clearly defined and the battle lines have been drawn. The devil is fighting for control of our hearts. Will you put up a fight?

Who will win this great battle? It depends on the weapons you use and how you use them.

Gospel of Christ. The word of God is power to win this battle! "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;" {Ephesians 6:17}

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. " {Hebrews 4:12}

Prayer. This is a powerful and needful weapon in our battle. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;" {Philippians 4:6} "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;" {Ephesians 6: 18}

You have enlisted in the Lord's army. The lines have been drawn for the battle. Are you ready to engage the enemy and defeat him? Eternity hangs in the balance! ***