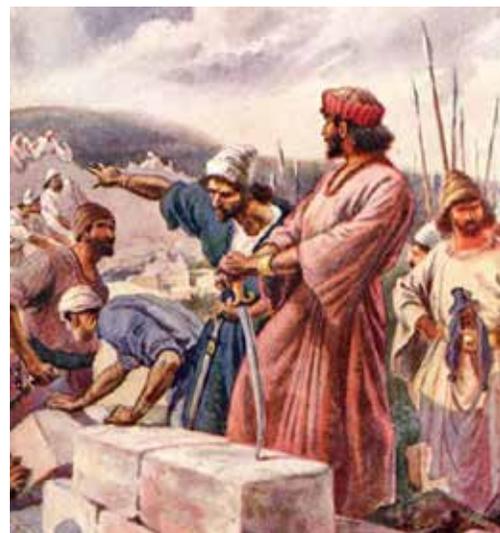


"For *The Builders, Every One Had His Sword Girded By His Side*, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me." *Nehemiah 4:18 KJV*



A believer's battles can't be fought with physical weapons. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against SPIRITUAL wickedness in high places." A "high place" is either a place of worship or a place of leadership. Worship is anything assuming value above all else in your life. Leadership is anything followed. We like to exempt this from our personal level by thinking of it as demons or wicked rulers. While this is also true, it comes a little closer to home. It is our own thoughts we follow and our own desires that lead us. Think for a moment, what consumes you? What do you follow? Anything that disrupts your obedience to God's Word is "spiritual wickedness in high places. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth, and having on the Breastplate of Righteousness; And your feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace; Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench ALL the fiery darts (evil thoughts) of the wicked. And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" The Sanballat's and Tobiah's of this world are driven by lust and satanic whispers to oppose obedience to God. Obedience to God's Word builds the wall of faith against Satan's fiery darts of lustful imagination. We stand only if our mind is "girt about with Truth." If our mind is the belt and scabbard of "the Sword of the Spirit," Truth can be drawn and wielded at a moment's notice! We must "quench not the Spirit!" Give Him free reign to wield the Sword of Truth beginning in our own minds, "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the Knowledge of God, (God's Word) and bringing into captivity EVERY THOUGHT to the obedience of Christ (God's Word)." Believer's first responsibility is their own "obedience." Flesh does not defeat evil! It is the strength of believing obedience to God's Word. Use Truth to "exhort (encourage, edify, correct) one another as ye see the Day approaching! Till we all come in the unity of the Faith, and of the Knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the Measure of the Stature of the Fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the Truth in Love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ." God's Word gives us the Knowledge, Wisdom, Measure, Standard, and Stature of Christ whereby we live and defeat all evil brought against us!

The Spirit's Sword fast by your side,
Will give you strength and be your guide,
It's strength prevails 'gainst evil's tide,
And you in Christ will safe abide. -CGP

If we fill our minds and meditations with Truth and our hearts with unceasing prayer, the enemy has no chance of halting the construction of our faith for the Spirit will wield His Sword! No fiery dart of doubt or temptation will ever pierce its defense for its very Substance is the Power of God's Word! Keep building the Wall!

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but Fellowcitizens with the Saints, and of the Household of God; And are built upon the Foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone; In Whom all the Building fitly framed together groweth unto an Holy Temple in the Lord: In Whom ye also are Builded together for an Habitation of God through the Spirit." *Ephesians 2:19-22 KJV*