

Your Three Battles

Since the Because of the Times discs are being made available to you again this year, it got me thinking about the many resources that are out there. Most of you have been blessed on the field not just by preaching DVDs but also by churches that put their services onto the Internet. Someone introduced me to one of these, and I want to pass on the site to you. At the bottom of the playlist on the right side of <http://theantioch.com/videoondemand/> is a white triangle that gives you a pop-up menu of speakers and events.

In his "Call to War 2011" seminar that you can watch on the website, Bishop Chester Wright draws parallels between David's battles with the lion, the bear and the giant, and our own spiritual warfare today. Stage one for every shepherd is learning to defend the flock from attack. These battles confront us every time our responsibility is challenged and the enemy takes a sheep from the flock. But the trick is to learn to stop merely chasing the lamb that's gone missing. Instead, we have to go after the adversary that took the lamb. God calls us to war, and in the process, He trains us for greater battles.

When David pursued the predator, struck it and delivered the sheep from its mouth, the beast responded by turning and rising against David. Step two begins when the adversary turns on you, and you move from fighting for the *sheep* to survive, to fighting for *you* to survive! Sometimes the reason we don't go after the adversary in the spirit is that we subconsciously know we'll end up as the replacement target. But God has not called you to just survive; He has called you to thrive.

Winning spiritual battles at any one of these levels of faithfully defending your sheep and defending yourself produces confidence. That confidence enables you to face the next battle and to move from being on the defensive to going on the offensive against the enemies of God in the spirit realm.

We need confidence in the battles we must fight on the mission field. We have got to have it! And the only way to get real confidence is through the forge of personal experience and through a rhema word from the Lord. When you have that confidence, you won't be thinking about how big the giant is. You'll be thinking about how big God is, because of what you've already seen Him do. In the process, you'll begin to run at the enemy like David did. God has called you to dominate your field of battle.

There are other ways, of course, to apply David's three battles to our present day struggles. For example, the lion can represent our own flesh, the bear can represent principalities in our city and Goliath can represent the prince of our nation. We can't go on to successfully face Goliath until we successfully face the lion of our flesh and continue to subdue it. And we cannot take our nation before establishing the kingdom of God in our city. None of this is possible through our own power, but the weapons of our warfare are mighty through *God* to the pulling down of strongholds.

God is calling you to war, missionary. Whether you're pioneering a new field or you're laboring in a well-established one, you've got to fight. However you look at it, He is going to allow you to face three battles in order to strengthen you for triumph in His name. He has equipped you, through intercessory travail and warfare prayer, to take dominion in the spirit for your people, for your city and for your nation. With the adversary subdued, there is no telling what kind of harvest you can have this year.

Godspeed to you in the battles and conquests of 2013.