



24 – 30 Nov, 2019

Spiritual Warfare, part 1

**‘You are of God, little children, and have overcome them,
because He who is in you is greater than
he who is in the world. They are of the world.**

**Therefore they speak as of the world,
and the world hears them.**

**We are of God. He who knows God hears us;
he who is not of God does not hear us.**

By this we know the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error’

1 John 4:4-6

Introduction

- † ‘Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win’ Sun Tzu**
- † ‘If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle’ Sun Tzu**

Christ and crisis

- † ‘There is a world in crisis, and the crisis is simply that Jesus Christ is Lord and is judging’ Charles Malik**
- † ‘Do you feel the crisis? Do you feel something profoundly wrong, both in your life and in the affairs of the world?’ Charles Malik**

The spiritual warfare (Rev 12:1-12)

- † Revelation 12:1-6 fulfills the early prophecy in which God said He would put an enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent (Gn 3:15)**
- † The woman is us, the Church, the spouse of Christ, and Mother Mary, the God-bearer, the Theotokos**

- † The war started in Heaven, and is continually happening in the Kingdom of Heaven, that which is on earth
 - It is Michael who fought against satan and not the Messiah
 - The war is between Michael [and his angels] and the dragon [with his angels]
 - When defeated in Heaven, the dragon and the demons went down to earth to wage war against the beloved children of God
 - On earth, satan is defeated by the crucifixion of Christ

The role of the believers in the spiritual warfare

- † On earth satan is overcome by faithful believers
- † *'Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? Do you not know that we shall judge angels?' 1 Cor 6:2a, 3a*
- † Resembling Christ, the Shepherd, Who defends His flock against the wild beasts, the saints overcame Satan by
 1. the blood of the Lamb Who destroyed death and redeemed them of their sins and established their right to reign
 2. the word of their testimony, as the great instrument of war
 3. their courage and patience in sufferings. Their love to the Lord over came their love to their own lives
- † Satan is overcome by Christ's self-sacrifice, and that of the martyrs

The conquered enemy is described

- † By his malice, he was the accuser of the brothers. Let us not be partners in our accusation or in the accusation of others
- † Though he hates the presence of God, yet he is willing to appear there to accuse the people of God
- † The rage of satan grows so much the greater as he is limited both in place and time

Spiritual Warfare

- † The spiritual warfare is real and believing in it puts the things into perspective (*2 Kgs 6:8-23*). *'So he answered, 'Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them' 2 Kgs 6:16*
- † Although we are still in the battlefield, the Truth is that Christ and His followers are the conquerors
- † Saint Paul explains how to hold on to the victory and not fall into the devil's tricks by putting on the armor of God (*Eph 6:10-20*)
 - Truth as the belt girding on all other pieces of our armor

- Righteousness of faith and love as the breastplate securing the heart (*1Thes 5:8*)
- Readiness of our feet to spread the Gospel enabling us to walk steadily in Christ through repentance
- Faith as the shield which is the victory over the world, since faith is the evidence of things that are not seen
- Hope of salvation as our helmet purifying the soul
- Word of God as the sword, sharper than a two-edged sword

In summary

- ✚ *'There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan'*
C S Lewis
- ✚ *'You are a poor soldier of Christ if you think you can overcome without fighting and have the crown without conflict'* *John Chrysostom*

Bibliography

- ✚ Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*
- ✚ *Christ and Crisis* by Charles Malik
- ✚ *From Glimpses to Glory; How the Vision Becomes Reality*, by Beverly Carroll
- ✚ *The Many Faces of Faith: Key to God's Treasury* by Michael Taylor

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power' Ephesians 6:10

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

- ✚ On the Cross, Jesus Christ overcame the world

My reaction

- ✚ Am I putting on the armor of God in my daily life?
- ✚ Is all that I do and all that I say accompanied by prayer?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon

2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Roman Catholic Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية	قانون الايمان
أبانا الذي في السموات	نؤمن بالله واحد، أب ضابط الكل، خالق السماء والأرض
ليتقدس إسمك	كل ما يُرى وما لا يُرى، وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ليأت ملكوتك	ابن الله الوحيد، المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
لِتَكُنْ مشيئتك	إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
كما في السماء	مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر
كذلك على الأرض	الذي به كان كل شيء، الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر،
أعطينا خبزنا كفافاً يومنا	ومن أجل خلاصنا، نزل من السماء وتجسد من الروح
وأغفر لنا ذنوبنا	القدس، ومن مريم العذراء، وصار إنساناً، وصلب عنا
وخطايانا	على عهد بيلاطس البنطي، تألم ومات وقبر وقام في
كما نحن نغفر	اليوم الثالث، كما جاء في الكتب، وصعد إلى السماء،
لمن أخطأ وأساء إلينا	وجلس عن يمين الله الأب، أيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم، ليدين
ولا ندخلنا في التجارب	الأحياء والأموات، الذي لا فناء لملكه،
لكن نجنا من الشرير	وبالروح القدس، الرب المحيي، المُنْبِث من الأب
أمين	والإبن، الذي هو مع الأب والإبن، يُسجد له ويُمجّد
	النَّاطِق بالأنبياء والرسل. وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة،
	مقدسة، رسولية. ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة
	الخطايا. ونترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
	أمين