

23 8 20

## Fit for battle – Pt 2 NT – Know the battle – it is spiritual

This is our second study on the topic – fit for battle. In our first teaching we established – what it meant in the Old Testament for soldiers to be fit for battle, and identified (1) soldiers, mighty men of valour, men of war are fit to go out for war, for battle, (2) men fit for battle can handle a shield, buckler and spear, and (3) a soldier's weapons in the Old Testament included a shield, buckler, bow arrow, handstave, spear and sword. In this study we establish – what it means in the New Testament for soldiers to be fit for battle and identity that they should know (1) the battle is spiritual and (2) the battle-field is in our mind, soul and members.

We cannot simply look up the phrase “fit for battle” in the New Testament because it does not occur, therefore we have searched the scriptures under the words – armour, weapons, shield, breastplate, sword, war, enemy, and soldier.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded –

For soldiers to be fit for battle and identity that soldiers should know

### 1. The battle is spiritual

\* God is Spiritual – “God is a Spirit”.(Jn 4:24).

\* The enemy is spiritual – “The enemy that sowed them is the devil” (Matt.13: 39).

\* The weapons are spiritual– “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal” (2Cor 10: 4)

\* The armour is spiritual – “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;” (Eph 6:13 & 14).

### 2. The battle-field is in our mind, soul and members

\* in our mind & soul – “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind” (Rom.7: 23), c.f. – 1 Pet.2: 11 – “Dearly beloved...abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”.

\* in our members – “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” (Jas 4:1). Also– Rom. 7: 23.

Illustration to help apply the teaching to our life.

I remember several years ago speaking with a professed believer (Peter) who gradually revealed more and more of his heart. During our time of communicating he felt the need to rebuke me in an email. Then later he turned up on the street with one of his disciples and rebuked me with a second and “final warning” for advocating that the Authorised Bible was scripture. Well, the discussion turned from pleasant to unpleasant as I in turn rebuked him for rebuking me for believing God. By the time we finished we were both making an exhibition of ourselves as tempers were raised.

Question to think about.

What important factor in the battle did I lose sight of?

Our answer from the scriptures.

I lost sight of the battle being spiritual. Peter was not the enemy, but the devil was and is, and the moment I changed from listening, to winning an argument, raising my voice to be heard, that was the moment I lost sight of the battle. Our enemy is unseen, and he provokes our members to sin. Let us always remember that we are in a war 24/7 and to be fit for the battle we **must** be mindful that it **is** spiritual not physical, our weapons and armour are spiritual. And be mindful of our flesh, our zeal and always use our spiritual weapons and armour. More on those next week.