

**BOOT
CAMP
BRIDE**

**FROM BOOT CAMP TO MIGHTY
WARRIORS FOR CHRIST**

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Unless otherwise stated all scriptures in this book were taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

***for we wrestle not against flesh
and blood, but against principalities,
against powers, against the rulers of
darkness of this world, against
spiritual wickedness in high places***

Ephesians 6:12

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INTRODUCTION

Several years ago I read a book titled *The Art of War* which was written in the 6th Century BC by a Chinese military strategist and general named Sun Tzu. Sun Tzu is considered to be one of the most brilliant military minds in history. Many of the battlefield strategies, tactics, and maneuvers he wrote about in his book are still being taught today in military academies around the world.

Soldiers must be trained in the art of warfare in order to understand battlefield techniques and the proper use of weaponry among other things. They must learn to think like their enemy thinks and be able to predict what moves their enemy is going to make on the battlefield.

I have taught on the topic of spiritual warfare for many years and have written 4 books regarding spiritual warfare. At times I have used some of the tactics Sun Tzu wrote about in his book when teaching. Spiritual warfare is much like natural warfare. There is a battlefield, strategies, powerful weapons and an enemy to fight to name a few. In spiritual warfare we use tactics and strategies that are similar at times to the strategies and tactics used on natural battlefields. When there is an enemy present trying to kill or destroy us, war is war, no matter what type of battle we are fighting.

The Bible tells us that the Devil comes to kill, steal, and destroy. In other words, the Bible is telling us we are at war with the Devil. Because the war we are fighting is not a natural war, we cannot use natural weapons.

According to what the Bible tells us, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. One of the battlegrounds we fight upon is in our minds. The mind is where thoughts that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God remain or become strongholds of the enemy. In casting down these strongholds we are partaking in spiritual warfare.

We are fighting an enemy that tries to establish strongholds in our minds. The Forces of Darkness are continually trying to enforce their will upon us by tempting us to sin and/or deny our faith in Christ through the many tests and trials we experience on the Battlefield of Life.

Raw recruits in any army must go through a period of training in order to become effective warriors on the battlefield. Without the proper training in weaponry and battlefield tactics an army does not stand a chance against a well trained, well equipped, battle hardened enemy.

As Christians we have all been “drafted” into the Army of God. We fight the Devil daily on the Battlefield of Life. Whether we like it or not, we are at war with the unseen Forces of Darkness. If Christians do not know how to battle the Forces of Darkness and

stand against the enemy of their souls, they will surely lose the daily battles they are fighting.

Boot Camp is where raw recruits are trained to become mighty warriors. It is the place where soldiers learn discipline and the proper use of their weapons. Boot Camp is where soldiers learn the “art of warfare” and the strategies that will eventually help them defeat their enemies. It is a place where raw recruits learn to fight together in unity as a team.

Christian Boot Camp is where Soldiers of Christ get their “basic training” in spiritual warfare. It is a place where Christians learn the “disciplines of the faith” in order to rule and reign with Christ in the heavenlies here on earth.

I have said for many years that churches should be “training centers.” Unfortunately, many churches are just social clubs and “fanciful factories” teaching cunning fables that are sending Christians out into a world that overwhelms and devours them.

The Bible tells us that we do not war against flesh and blood and that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but “mighty” through God to the pulling down of strongholds. As Christians we have an enemy we cannot see with the natural eye. We have an enemy that is continually trying to force his will upon us. We have an enemy that attempts to establish “strongholds” of doubt, fear, and unbelief in our hearts and minds. Fortunately we have been given “spiritual weapons” and “heavenly armor” from the Lord that can enable us to defeat the enemy of our souls.

Our spiritual enemies are the most devious, conniving, deceitful, beguiling, wicked, and unpredictable entities on earth. They have thousands of years of experience in waging war against the unsuspecting masses, nations, and individuals on the planet. The Forces of Darkness are responsible for all the wars, trouble, turmoil, heartache, death, and destruction that has been visited upon the people of this earth.

The disciplines of spiritual warfare should be taught wherever Christians assemble together in order to learn about the Lord and study the word of God. Jesus began His ministry fighting the Devil and continued to battle him until His “victory” at Calvary. He fought for the souls of mankind that had been oppressed and possessed by the Devil. He won the victory over death, Hell, and the grave and became the “firstborn” of many who would follow in His victorious footsteps.

Jesus said “I give you the keys to the kingdom and whatsoever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatsoever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18). Jesus has given us the “Keys to the Kingdom.” Binding and loosing is about spiritual warfare. Among other things, the Keys to the Kingdom are used to wage spiritual warfare against our spiritual enemies.

We cannot expect to win spiritual battles if we are not properly trained in the art of spiritual warfare. Our battle with the unseen Forces of Darkness will be unsuccessful if we do not learn how to “bind and loose.”

The Boot Camp Bride is the Bride of Christ. With the proper training she becomes proficient at waging spiritual warfare against the unseen Forces of Darkness. In Boot Camp she is taught the disciplines of spiritual warfare and is given the most powerful weapons in the universe to defeat her spiritual enemies. Because she sits with Christ in heavenly places she has the power and authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and all the power the enemy of her soul possesses.

In Boot Camp the Bride of Christ becomes proficient in the art of warfare. The “training for reigning” with Christ she receives will be more than enough to expel the thoughts and imaginations in her mind that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. When her obedience is fulfilled, she will be able to take the battle for spiritual supremacy into the enemy’s territory in order to free those that have been taken captive by the wiles and schemes of the Devil.

Chapter 1

IN THE BEGINNING

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH. AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS. AND GOD SAID LET THERE BE LIGHT: AND THERE WAS LIGHT. AND GOD SAW THE LIGHT THAT IT WAS GOOD: AND GOD DIVIDED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. Genesis 1:1-4.

The story of Creation is a spiritual paradigm of a soul without Christ. For the unsaved soul life is spiritually barren and void of the Life and Light of Christ. Darkness permeates the “deepest dungeons” in the soul that is bound by sin and under the spell of Spiritual Babylon. Babylon means “City of Confusion.” Souls that do not possess the “Light of Christ” dwell in darkness and are “confused.” They lack the “spiritual understanding” that Light of Christ produces.

The soul without Christ will continue to remain “confused” and in spiritual darkness until and unless the Light of Christ finds its way into the wayward vagabond soul. When the “seed of righteousness” which is the Spirit of Christ, is planted into the vagabond soul and “germinates” the Life of Christ is imparted to them. In the Bible this process is called being “born again.”

At the moment the soul becomes “born again,” the Life and Light of Christ enters into the heart of the individual. The Kingdom of God which in the Bible is also called the “Kingdom of Light” formulates a “New Creation” in the heart of the individual. Old things have passed away, and all things become new in the individual through the “born again” experience. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

IN THE BEGINNING God said “let there be light,” and the Bride of Christ was conceived in the matrix of Creation. She had been envisioned in the heart and mind of God in eternity long before her conception. Creation would “bring forth” a man child that would “rule the nations.” (Revelation 12:5). That man child was Christ who is our Redeemer. His future Bride would be those He redeemed by His blood from every tongue and nation.

THE WOMAN CALLED THE PITTS

One night I had a dream about a woman called “The Pitts.” I was in a building where a few people had gathered together and were talking with one another. The Lord walked up to me and told me He was sending me to minister to a beautiful woman. He pointed to a woman on the other side of the room and told me “that is the woman.” I asked the Lord what was the woman’s name, and He said to me “THEY call her “the pitts.” I walked over to the other side of the room where the woman stood and introduced myself to her. I told her the Lord had sent me to minister to her. The woman was not very attractive. Both her clothing and her hair were very unkempt and disheveled, and she did not look

beautiful to me at all. Her dress was wrinkled and somewhat soiled. In some ways she looked rather homely, and was unpleasant to look at. However, looking closer at the woman I saw that in a way she did seem to have a somewhat “pleasing beauty” in her countenance. She wore a pleasant smile and was very friendly and amiable as I talked with her.

I decided to ask the Lord what the word “pitts” meant. The phrase “it is the pitts” is an idiom which means to be “unpleasant and offensive.” The “pitts” is a reference to the “armpits” which can be offensive and unpleasant at times, especially when people sweat a lot and do not use an antiperspirant or deodorant. I knew what the term “the pitts” meant, but I did not understand why the Lord said this woman was called “the pitts.” Although at first she was unpleasant to look at, I did not see her as offensive and repulsive.

I saw the Lord talking with some people on the other side of the room. I walked over and asked the Lord what the definition of “the pitts” was. He looked at me very sternly and said “it means pleasant and beautiful.” At first I was a little set back and confused about the Lord’s definition of “the pitts.” However, I knew the Lord was trying to convey a message to me about how He desired the woman to look. In other words, He was saying she may not look much to you right now, but to Me she is pleasant and beautiful. She just needs some changing and re-arranging. The Lord was giving me the task of helping to change the woman into His Beautiful Bride.

The Lord does not always look at us the way we are, but the way He wishes us to be. He looks at “Christ in us” the hope of glory for us, and pictures us as a Bride which will become without “spot or wrinkle.” In other words, He looks at us through the eyes of faith, not at us in our present condition. The Lord sees the “potential” in us to become without spot or blemish through the Spirit of Christ which dwells within us. The “old man” is dead, and the “new man” within us is Christ.

The Lord clothes us with His “garment of grace” and places upon our hearts a “mantle of mercy.” He washes and cleanses our hearts with His blood and the washing of water by His word. The Lord “irons” out the wrinkles in our garments with His “rod of iron.”

The Lord sees the potential within His Bride to become Christ-like. When He sees Christ in us He sees something worthwhile and pleasant to His eyes. Christ sees within us the “beauty of holiness” that He imparted to us with the power of His blood which He shed at Calvary.

Before the Church became what she is today, there was darkness upon the “deep dungeons” of her soul. The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters and the “Living Water” cleansed her heart. God said “let there be Light, understanding was imparted to her soul, and the Church became a “New Creation.” The New Creation was washed in “living waters” and exposed to the Light of “spiritual understanding.” The Light (Christ) that shined in the dark dungeons of her soul can never and will never be extinguished. The fire

that burns within her heart to “give her light” now will remain ablaze throughout eternity.

A SWEET SMELLING SAVOR

FOR WE ARE UNTO GOD A SWEET SMELLING SAVOUR OF CHRIST, IN THEM THAT ARE SAVED, AND IN THEM THAT PERISH, TO THE ONE WE ARE THE SAVOUR OF DEATH. 2 Corinthians 2:15-16.

AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE A SWEET SMELLING SAVOR THROUGH CHRIST OUR SAVIOR. To most of the world today the Church is unpleasant and offensive, especially in her present state. To the Lord the Church is a “sweet smelling savor” in Christ. She has been bought and paid for with the precious blood of Christ which He shed at Calvary in order to cleanse her and make her “pleasantly and perfectly whole.”

When we are born again it is the blood of Christ that cleanses us from all unrighteousness at the moment of the “rebirth. It is the “living water” which is the word of God that transforms us into the image of Christ. It is the truth that makes us free and sets us apart from the rest of the world. It is the fullness of Christ in His Bride that gives us the power to become the Sons of God. Creation is patiently but earnestly awaiting to embrace the manifestation of the Sons of God.

The Bride of Christ is the object of Christ’s deepest affections. It is for the Bride Christ suffered, bled, and died. The Bride is the apple of His eye. Next to the Father the Bride is the love of His life. He bought and paid for her with His life. She belongs to Him now. She

will never love another. She does not love this world or the things in this world. Being with the Groom is all she thinks about. The Groom paid a “great ransom” to redeem her from those who kept her in captivity since she was first imprisoned in the Garden of Eden.

The Bride found that the Groom was offering her more than just “eternal life.” She realized that the treasures He offered her if they were to become “united together” in Holy Matrimony” were more than she could ever dream. In her “wildest dreams” she could have never imagined the feelings she could have toward the One who stole her heart.

The Groom offered His Bride His greatest virtues. He demonstrated to her His amazing love which was “truthfully” and “sincerely” rooted and grounded in His “amazing grace.” He poured His grace and mercy out upon her at Calvary as He shed His blood to redeem her from her captivity. The Groom embellishes His Bride with all the treasures of Heaven as He washes her with the water of His word.

The Groom pours out the fragrance of His love into the heart of the Bride. He “wisely” embellishes her heart with spiritual gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gold represents the divine nature of Christ. The frankincense represents the oil of the Holy Spirit, and the myrrh represents the sweet smelling fragrance of His undying love.

When the Groom said “it is finished” as He was dying upon the cross, the womb of Creation opened up once again to receive the “seed of promise.” Darkness no longer permeated the face of the deep, and the living

waters brought forth “new life” for all who would drink of the “Living Water.”

A Roman soldier pierced the side of the Groom with a spear as He hung upon the cross. Water and blood flowed out of the Groom to wash and cleanse His future Bride of her sins and make her holy just as He is holy. The water and the blood which flowed from the side of the Groom became the Bride’s salvation. He continues to wash and cleanse her with the water of His word and the power of His “precious blood.”

The Bible says “How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). When we dwell and worship together in unity as one in Christ, we become a “pleasant sweet smelling savor” to our Lord. As the Bride we dwell together in unity to form a “perfect union” with Christ.

The Bride is a “sweet smelling savor” to our Sweet Savior.” He cleanses her with the washing of the water of His word. The Groom teaches and trains her to fight against the Forces of Darkness with His word which He wrote upon her heart. His word becomes more powerful than a “two-edged sword” when the Bride receives, believes, and exercises her authority over her spiritual enemies.

At present the Bride is a “Boot Camp Bride” because many in the Army of the Groom are in a “spiritual boot camp” learning the art of “spiritual warfare” in order to defeat her “spiritual enemies.” The Boot Camp Bride must put on the “whole armor of God” in order to stand against ALL the wiles and schemes of the Devil she is currently fighting.

Chapter 2

THE BOOT CAMP BRIDE

As Christians we are all called to be “Warriors for Christ.” We have been inducted into the Armed Forces of Heaven. We did not join the Army of God. We were drafted into the Army when we were “born again.” Like any army, new recruits in the Army of God must be taught and trained in the “art of warfare” and the proper use of their weapons. In a natural army before being sent into battle “new recruits” must go through a period of what is called “basic training” in military “boot camps” in order to learn the “art of warfare.”

The Forces of Darkness today are fighting a “psychological war” against mankind. They use the weapons of doubt, unbelief, mind control, temptation, hopelessness, debauchery, and fear to name a few in order to conquer and enslave the hearts and minds of individuals. If they can take their “thoughts captive,” the Forces of Darkness can enslave and control men and women wherever they “treacherously tread.”

Psychologically speaking, training a “spiritual army” is much like the training men and women receive today in a natural boot camp. In a natural army men and women must “learn” how to fight effectively against their enemies. Education is the key to understanding how to fight and win battles. In a natural army physical and mental strength and stamina are needed in order to successfully wage war against an enemy.

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