

TAKING THE OFFENSIVE.

- A. Now we want to move from the defensive to the offensive. We want to deal with weapons of attack that will enable us to assail and cast down Satan's strongholds. It is important that we see our obligation to take the offensive, to move out and actively attack Satan's kingdom.
- B. In Mt. 16, Jesus pictures His church in the light of two primary activities; building and battling. These must always go together. It is no good doing battle if we do not build. On the other hand, we cannot build if we do not battle. So we must think always in terms of building the church and battling the forces of Satan.
- C. See Col. 2:13-15; Heb. 2:14-15; 2Cor. 2:14.
(Col 2:13-15) When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, **14** having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
(Heb 2:14-15) Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
(2Cor 2:14) But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.
- D. Some scriptures concerning building up one another:
1. Rom. 14:19.
So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.
 2. 2Cor. 10:8; 13:10.
(2Cor 10:8) For even if I boast somewhat further about our authority, which the Lord gave for building you up and not for destroying you, I will not be put to shame,
(2Cor 13:10) For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I *need* not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down.
 3. Eph. 4:11-16.
And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. **14** As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; **15** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
 4. 1Th. 5:11.
Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.
 5. Jude 1:20.
But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
- E. Some scriptures concerning battling the devil:
1. Deut. 31:6.
Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."
 2. 2Chr. 20:15.
and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's.

3. Psa. 23:4.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
4. Psa. 46:1-3.
God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change
And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;
3 Though its waters roar *and* foam,
Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah.
5. Rom. 8:38-39.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
6. 2Tim. 1:7.
For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
7. Jas. 4:7.
Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
8. 1Pet. 5:8-9.
Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
9. Rev. 12:7-10.
And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying,
“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

PRAYER.

- A. God has provided us with the appropriate spiritual weapons (2Cor. 10:4).
for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- B. Scripture reveals four main spiritual weapons of attack. They are: prayer, praise, preaching, and testimony. I must qualify this by saying that prayer is much more than a weapon. There are many different aspects to prayer, one being that prayer is a weapon of spiritual warfare. I believe it is the most powerful of all the weapons that God has committed to us.
- C. See Eph. 6:18.
With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- D. Some scriptures concerning prayer:
 1. Mt. 21:22.
And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”
 2. Lk. 6:12.
It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.
 3. Ac. 2:42; 6:4.
(Ac 2:42) They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
(Ac 6:4) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

4. Rom. 12:12.
rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,
5. Eph. 1:16.
do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers;
6. Phil. 4:6.
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
7. Col. 4:2.
Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;
8. 1Tim. 2:1-5.
First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, **2** for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. **3** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **5** For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,
9. Jas. 5:15-16.
and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
10. 1Pet. 3:12; 4:7.
(1Pet 3:12) “FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS,
AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER,
BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL.”
(1Pet 4:12) The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.