

Doctrine of War

1. The symbol of war is a red horse.
 - *Revelation 6:4 And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.*

2. War between Satan and his demons and the angels of God once took place in heaven.
 - *Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

3. Though war is horrible, God has approved it on certain occasion.
 - *2 Samuel 22:35 He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.*
 - *Psalms 144:1 A Psalm of David. Blessed be the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight.*

4. Civil war has always been part of the history of nations.
 - *Isaiah 19:2 And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.*

5. There are times when war is prohibited.
 - *2 Chronicles 11:4 Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren: return every man to his house: for this thing is done of me. And they obeyed the words of the LORD, and returned from going against Jeroboam.*

6. Sometimes war can be and should be averted.
 - *Joshua 22:33 And the thing pleased the children of Israel; and the children of Israel blessed God, and did not intend to go up against them in battle, to destroy the land wherein the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.*

7. In times of war much foolish boasting takes place.
 - *2 Kings 18:19 And Rab-shakeh said unto them, Speak ye now to Hezekiah, Thus saith the great king, the king of Assyria, What confidence is this wherein thou trustest? 20 Thou sayest, (but they are but vain words,) I have counsel and strength for the war. Now on whom dost thou trust, that thou rebellest against me?*

8. War leads to terrible acts of violence including the extermination of the enemy.

- *Deuteronomy 2:33 And the Lord our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. 34 And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain:*
- *Joshua 6:21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.*
- *Joshua 8:24 And it came to pass, when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness wherein they chased them, and when they were all fallen on the edge of the sword, until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned unto Ai, and smote it with the edge of the sword. 25 And so it was, that all that fell that day, both of men and women, were twelve thousand, even all the men of Ai.*
- *Joshua 10: 11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Beth-horon, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword. ,,28 And that day Joshua took Makkedah, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and the king thereof he utterly destroyed, them, and all the souls that were therein; he let none remain: and he did to the king of Makkedah as he did unto the king of Jericho.*

9. Some wars are considered by God to be justified.

- *Exodus 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*
- *Deuteronomy 3:21 And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, Thine eyes have seen all that the LORD your God hath done unto these two kings: so shall the LORD do unto all the kingdoms whither thou passest. 22 Ye shall not fear them: for the LORD your God he shall fight for you.*
- *1 Samuel 17:45 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.*
- *Psalms 18:34 He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.*

10. God will not hesitate to use war as a form of severe divine judgment against His enemies and even against His own.

- *Exodus 23:24 Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.*
- *Leviticus 26:17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.*

11. War is repulsive to God. Because David was a violent man he was not allowed to build the Holy Temple.

- *1 Chronicles 22:8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight. 9 Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.*

12. War brings fear and panic to a people.

- *Exodus 15:14 The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina. 15 Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. 16 Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased.*

13. Since all things are in the hands of our sovereign God, He is free to threaten defeat in war for the unrighteous.

- *Deuteronomy 32:25 The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.*
- *1 Samuel 2:10 The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.*
- *Isaiah 30:15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. 16 But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift. 17 One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one; at the rebuke of five shall ye flee: till ye be left as a beacon upon the top of a mountain, and as an ensign on an hill.*

14. Prior to going to war, individuals are wise to receive counsel.

- *2 Samuel 16:20 Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do.*

15. Wisdom is required in war.

- *Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.*

16. War causes great agitation.

- *Amos 2:2 But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet:*

17. Many are killed or neglected in times of war including innocent women and children.

- *1 Samuel 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.*
- *1 Samuel 27:8 And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt. 9 And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish....11 And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.*

18. The evils of war are numerous.

- *Psalms 46:8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth.*

19. One day God will cause all wars to cease.

- *Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

20. Until Christ comes there will be wars and rumors of war.

- *Matthew 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

21. Warfare is used in a figurative way to speak of the spiritual conflicts of the saints. Spiritual warfare is not after the flesh.

- *2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

22. Christians are to wage a good spiritual warfare before God.

- *1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*

23. Spiritual warfare is called "*the good fight of faith*".

- *1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

24. The believer fights against many things:

- the devil. *1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
- the flesh. *Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*
- spiritual enemies. *Psalms 38:19 But mine enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied.*
- the world. *1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*
- death. *1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.*

25. One part of the spiritual warfare of the believer is emotional in nature as opposition arises from friends or families.

- *Matthew 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.*

26. The spiritual war that the Christian engages in is carried on

- under Christ who is the Captain of the faith. *Hebrews 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*
- under the banner of the Lord. *Psalms 60:4 Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.*

- with great faith. *1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*
- with a pure conscience. *1 Timothy 1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:*
- with a heart which is steadfast in the sphere of faith. *Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised ;)*
- with sobriety. *Jude 3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*
- with due consideration. *1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*
- with sobriety. *1 Thessalonians 5:6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*
- with a mindset willing to endure hardness. *2 Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*
- with a spirit of self-denial. *1 Corinthians 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*
- with absolute confidence in God. *Psalms 27:1 A Psalm of David. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. 3 Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.*
- with earnest prayer. *Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*
- without earthly entanglements. *2 Timothy 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

27. Those who merely profess a Christian faith will not persevere in the hour of spiritual conflict.

- *Isaiah 9:3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.*

28. Because every believer has been enlisted in the spiritual conflict of the ages he must engage the enemy and stand firm.

- *Ephesians 6:13 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. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*

29. The saints are exhorted to be zealous in spiritual warfare.

- *1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*

30. In the hour of battle there is

- comfort. *1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*
- divine help from the Father. *Isaiah 41:13 For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. 14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.*
- divine protection. *Isaiah 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*
- strength from God. *Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*
- strength from Christ. *2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
- divine deliverance. *2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

31. In all things there is to be thanksgiving.

- *1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

32. Spiritual war requires protective armour.

- The belt of truth. *Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*
- The breastplate of righteousness. *Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*
- The preparation of the gospel. *Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*
- The shield of faith. *Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*
- The helmet of salvation. *Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*
- The sword of the Spirit. *Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*
 - ❑ Called "the armor of God". *Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*
 - ❑ Called "the armor of righteousness". *2 Corinthians 6:7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,*
 - ❑ Called "the armor of light". *Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

33. The armor which the Christian wears is

- not carnal. *2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds ;)*
- mighty through God. *2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

- required. *Ephesians 6:13 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.*
- to be put on. *Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*

To be on the right hand and left, an idiom meaning” to attack “and to defend”. *2 Corinthians 6:7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,*

34. Strategic victory in spiritual war is from God. *1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ....2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*

35. Any victory won shall be won

- through Christ. *Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*
- by faith. *Hebrews 11:33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: 36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*
- over the Devil. *1 John 2:14 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*
- over the flesh. *Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*
- over the world. *1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*
- over all that exalts itself. *2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

- over death and the grave. *1 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*
- triumphant. *2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

36. Those who overcome in spiritual warfare will

- eat of the hidden manna. *Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*
- eat from the Tree of Life. *Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*
- be clothed in white clothing. *Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*
- be pillars in the temple of God. *Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*
- sit with Christ on his throne. *Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.*
- have a white stone, and in it a new name written. *Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*
- have power over the nations. *Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:*
- have the name of God written upon them by Christ. *Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.*

- have God as their God. *Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*
- have the Morning Star. *Revelation 2:28 And I will give him the morning star.*
- inherit all things. *Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*
- be confessed by Christ in the presence of God the Father. *Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*
- be sons of God. *Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*
- not be hurt by the Second Death. *Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*
- not have their names blotted out of the Book of Life. *Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*