

Title: He Teacheth My Hands to War

Scripture: Psalm 144:1

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Date: February 20, 2013

Psalm 144:1 "Blessed be the Lord my strength which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight."

War is defined as a state of armed, hostile conflict. 292 years are the only ones that the world has known of peace. There have been over 14,000 small and large wars throughout time.

We face many battles in our Christian life. They happen at different times and different ways. When these battles get long, we start to doubt God and wonder why they happen. Satan is out to destroy our faith and break our confidence. Our strength needs to be built up. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Matthew 13 mentions the birds and how they ate the seed. When we scatter seed, the birds automatically come to eat. Satan and his angels are the birds, and God's word is the seed.

Four things to declare war on the enemy:

1. Giving: I Corinthians 4:1-2 *"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."* Satan hinders us from giving our time, resources, etc. He would love it if we never visited, witnessed, encouraged, or did anything else for God ever again. We must be working for Christ instead of doing nothing. Paul used 2 words in these verses:
 - a. Steward: one who handles the affairs of another person.
 - b. Servant: one that performs the duties of a master.
2. Worship: Exodus 3:1-6 *"Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. 2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. 4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. 6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God."* God wants us to turn to Him. There is a difference in praise and worship.
 - a. Praise: Based on the direct result of a blessing.
 - b. Worship: To show reverence of high esteem for the sacredness.God told Moses "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." He will not change. We would not be here without God. He is worthy of all worship. Worship is not dependent on circumstances. It's about our love for him. This is mentioned in Revelation 4. The church needs to get back to worship. TRUE worship. He needs to be thanked, praised, and worshipped.
3. Witnessing: John 4 describes the story of Jesus and the woman at the well. He spoke in a way that compelled the woman at the well. He captured her attention. The woman was in need of help. She went and witnessed to the village. We will be bothered by Satan a lot of times when we try to witness to others. He will leave us alone most other times. Satan will declare war on us then, but we need to

turn it the other way around. Don't let Satan try to rob you of witnessing. He can take away many things, but he can never take away our testimony. The hardest people to witness to are family. Possibly because they know about all that God has done in our lives. They see our strengths and weaknesses. The good and the bad.

4. Praying: Luke 18:1 says "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" Faint in the Greek means don't give up. We expect quick answers. Sometimes we feel as though our prayers don't reach heaven. Think of it like this: When we had a test in school, the teacher was quiet during the duration of the test. God sometimes stays quiet during the tests we have. We think he hasn't heard us, but he's quiet; listening and watching.