



Christians' 12 Offensive Spiritual Weapons and 12 Goals of Spiritual Warfare

By Karen Sue Nyquist



A. The Number 12 - Biblically, 12 often represents “governing and authority.” Jesus said, “Behold, I give you the **authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over **all the power** of the enemy, and **nothing shall by any means hurt you**” (Luke 10:19). When we war against demonic forces, we need to use the 12 offensive weapons that God has given us. These 12 represent the authority that we have over Satan and his armies. When we’re in God’s will and following the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, we will have victory (1 Corinthians 15:57)! Jesus said we’d do His works and even greater works (John 14:12)! But He has two prerequisites: “Therefore **submit to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

B. Spiritual Battles - The Lord once told me, “I’ll direct you in this battle.” Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you. Some battles are easier than others. Others are serious wrestling matches, requiring time, focus, strategy, and perseverance. Once the Lord gave me a dream where I was fighting against a demon. The struggle was so intense that I woke up sweaty and many of my muscles hurt. Immediately, Jesus said, “With some demons, simply commanding is not enough, you have to wrestle.” “For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood (*people*), but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*” (Ephesians 6:12). If no progress is being made, switch to other weapons. If needed, God’ll let us know which weapons to use. On one occasion, I was planning to use “travail” and God told me to use “thanksgiving.”

C. Our 12 Offensive Spiritual Weapons:

1. Declaring The Word of God - It is our “Sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17). Jesus used it to battle the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). We can use it as a sword, making commands and declarations against the devil and all the demonic spiritual powers that we face. This includes the Bible, the written word of God (Logos), and the spoken word of God (Rhema), which are promises and prophecies that He has spoken over an individual, a church, nation, etc. Examples: If the devil accuses or lies to you, you can respond by using both the logos and the rhema.

2. All Kinds of Prayer - (Ephesians 6:18) Paul said, “I will **pray with the spirit** and I will also **pray with the understanding**” (1 Corinthians 14:15). Praying in the spirit can include: speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, groaning, and travail (see next paragraph). Praying with our understanding means that our minds understand the words we are saying. These prayers can include the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophesying, discernment of spirits, speaking words of wisdom and knowledge, miraculous faith, healings, miracles, anything which the Holy Spirit gives us. Often they can be a mixture of praying with understanding and in the spirit.

3. Groaning and Travail - These prayers come **when the Holy Spirit puts a heavy prayer burden on us**. Sometimes it’s so heavy that words cannot express what we are experiencing. It can be compared to a woman going through labor. I like to call it, “giving birth to a miracle.” “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us **with groanings which cannot be uttered** (*cannot be expressed with words*)” (Romans 8:26-27). Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into groaning and travail. **Biblical Examples:**

a) Paul travailed for the Galatian Christians when they were being swayed by false teachers. “My little children, for whom **I labor in birth again** until Christ is formed in you,” (Galatians 4:19).

b) Sometimes, during your travail, your chin will shake, no words come out, but you are making “chattering sounds.” King Hezekiah experienced this when praying for God to extend his life. “Like a crane or a swallow, **so I chattered**; ... O Lord, I am oppressed (*heavily burdened*); Undertake for me!” (Isaiah 38:14). God answered and gave him 15 more years of life!

c) Elijah went into travail when praying for the 3-1/2 year drought to stop. He knelt on the ground and put his head between his knees, a position that people in travail often get into. - In travail, people will bear down, praying hard (like a woman's contractions during labor), then have short pauses, like the time between contractions. - During each of these pauses, Elijah asked his servant to search the sky. During the seventh pause, the servant saw a cloud. Elijah knew the Lord was answering and the prayer burden left. He had given birth to a miracle! The Lord answered by sending much rain and stopping the drought! (1 Kings 18:42-45).

d) Some intercessors have temporary tiny red dots (*Medical term - petechiae*) under their eyes. Why? The pressure from travail squeezed droplets out of the capillaries under their eyes. Is this biblical? Let's look at Jesus. Jesus was in travail in the Garden of Gethsemane. "not My will, but Yours, be done." ... And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:42, 44). (*Medical term - hematohidrosis*) Travail helped lead to the miracle of our Lord's death, providing the way of salvation. Jesus used travail because it's very powerful. It's available to us also! Let the Holy Spirit lead you, He knows the times when this spiritual weapon is to be used.

4. Praise, Worship, Dancing, Joy, Thanksgiving, and Shouting - Praise, Worship, and Dance: Psalm 149, Exodus 15:20; Joy and Thanksgiving: Nehemiah 8:10, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Shouting - When the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell down flat. - Joshua 6:16, 20

5. Name of Jesus - Philippians 2:9-11, "do all in the name of Jesus" - Colossians 3:17 Any command, declaration, prayer, etc. should be done in the name of Jesus.

6. Fasting - It binds demonic influences and produces freedom for individuals, even for nations. "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6). Jesus said, "However, this kind (*of demon*) does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (Matthew 17:21).

7. The Blood of Jesus and Our Testimony - Use both to overcome Satan - Rev. 12:11. Use the blood for protection, healing, cleansing, forgiveness, rightful standing, etc. Use your testimony to build your faith and others' and to remind Satan of his past defeats. ("I Plead the Blood" - <https://events.rhema.org>).

8. Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11

9. Commanding in Jesus' Name - Follow Jesus' example - Matthew 4:10, Colossians 3:17

10. Binding and Loosing - bind demons, release people and blessings - Matt.18:18, Col. 3:17 Examples: Bind the spirit of infirmity and release healing. Bind the spirit of despair and release hope.

11. Releasing the Fire of God - Here's an excellent article on when and why to do this, "Releasing the Fire of God." [https://discover.hubpages.com/religion-philosophy/Releasing the Fire of God](https://discover.hubpages.com/religion-philosophy/Releasing+the+Fire+of+God)

12. Asking for Angelic Reinforcements in Jesus' name - Matthew 26:53, Colossians 3:17

D. Our 12 Goals of Spiritual Warfare:

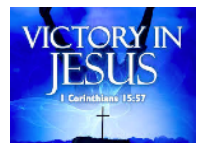
"For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for..."

1. Pulling down strongholds,
2. Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God,
3. Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to
4. Punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled" (2 Corinthians 10:4-6).

"See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to ...

5. Root out and Pull down,
6. Destroy and to Throw down,
7. Build and Plant" - Jeremiah 1:10.
8. Destroy the Works of the Devil -1 John 3:8
9. Salvation of Souls - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
10. Healings - Job 2:1-6, Matthew 8:16

11. Deliverance from demonic attacks, deceptions, oppression, etc, - Matt. 8:16, Luke 4:8, 2 Cor. 11:3
12. Fulfilling Prophecies, Promises, Purposes, and Destinies - Isaiah 55:11



**"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 15:57**