



HOAW Newsletter

Effective godly leadership is developed over a lifetime, is exercised through our God-given passion and giftedness, finds its source and authority in God, is built on Biblical principles and values and is practiced in culturally sensitive ways.

J. Robert Clinton

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HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Biblical Warrior Terminology

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

From time to time I receive criticism for using 'warrior' terminology in Heart of a Warrior Ministries. I recently felt compelled to respond to a person's concerns over my use of such terms. I thought it might be helpful to present my rationale.

The New Testament is full of metaphors and allegories associated with military and warfare symbolism. The Lord is referred to as a "warrior" by Moses in Exodus 15:1-3. Jeremiah also suggests the same in Jeremiah 20:11.

*"I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. **The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.**" Exodus 15:1-3*

***But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior;** so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten. Jeremiah 20:11*

Revelation 19:11-16 and Isaiah 42:13 certainly implies similar symbolism...

*I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and **makes war**. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. **The armies of heaven** were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes **a sharp sword** with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule*

*them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.** Revelation 19:11-16*

*The LORD will march out like a mighty man, **like a warrior** he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies. Isaiah 42:13*

The New Testament speaks about spiritual warfare; that we must put on the 'armor' of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). Preliminary to the verses on putting on the armor of God is the admonition to be strong in the Lord...put on the full armor of God so we can make a stand...that we are in a struggle.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **Put on the full armor of God** so that you can take your **stand against the devil's schemes**. For our **struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world*

and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Paul himself says he has '**fought the good fight** (2 Timothy 4:7).' Several places in the New Testament we are encouraged to '**fight the good fight** (1 Timothy 1:18; 6:12).'

I am not advocating that men strap on a sword and press headlong into physical combat. Instead, I use the metaphor of a "**warrior**" to call men to the battle for the sake of their loved ones, the unloved, the marginalized, the defenseless, the downtrodden. I call men to take their assignment to be the spiritual leaders of their home. I use the '**sword**' as a symbol for **engagement** because too many men have abdicated their responsibilities to their families, friends, associates, and those who don't know Christ.

I have often used the phrase, "a warrior after God's heart." I have clearly defined what I mean by being a warrior after God's heart...

- **A warrior after God's heart is loyal to his Commander (Titus 2:11-14).**
- **A warrior after God's heart is a citizen of God's kingdom (Philippians 3:20-21).**
- **A warrior after God's heart follows orders (Acts 13:22).**
- **A warrior after God's heart prepares for the battle (Ephesians 6:14-17).**
- **A Warrior after God's heart guards his heart (Proverbs 4:23).**
- **A warrior after God's heart is a man of integrity (Psalm 15:1-5).**
- **A warrior after God's heart is a man of authenticity (1 Peter 2:8-9).**
- **A warrior after God's heart lays his life on the line (Ephesians 2:10).**

- **A warrior after God's heart rises to the challenge (2 Timothy 4:2-5).**
- **A warrior after God's heart makes a stand (Ephesians 6:10-13).**
- **A warrior after God's heart provides for his loved ones (1 Timothy 5:8).**
- **A warrior after God's heart finishes well (2 Timothy 4:1-8).**

Other passages underscore Paul's repeated use of 'soldier' when referring to his trusted coworkers. He calls Epaphroditus and Archippus a 'fellow soldier.' He exhorts Timothy to 'endure hardship...like a good soldier of Jesus Christ.'

***Philippians 2:25-26** But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and **fellow soldier**, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.*

***2 Timothy 2:3-7** Endure hardship with us like a **good soldier of Christ Jesus**. No one serving as a **soldier** gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an **athlete**, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking **farmer** should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.*

***Philemon 1-3** To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our **fellow soldier** and to the church that meets in your home: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

In summary, I do not apologize for my use of these symbols and images

designed to compel men to action and help them live a life committed to God's redemptive purposes. I will continue to call men to the battle, to take a stand against the evil one, to embrace their obligations and responsibilities to be spiritual leaders, to lean into their fear and stand in bold relief ready to give a defense for the hope that is in them. I will continue to urge men to prepare for the skirmishes they will undoubtedly encounter, to put on the full armor of God, to fight the good fight, to acquit themselves with integrity and honor on the battlefield of life. If the sensibilities of some are put off by such exhortations and they are uncomfortable with such terminology, then they will have to remove large sections from the Bible to assuage their concerns.

As for me and my house, we will not retreat from rallying men to stand and deliver!

Biblical Battle Metaphors

- **War**
- **Battles**
- **Training**
- **Sword**
- **Soldier**
- **Armor**

Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not **fight** like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize (1 Corinthians 9:26-27)

For though we live in the world, we do not wage **war** as the world does. The weapons we **fight** with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it

obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may **fight** the good **fight**, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith (1 Timothy 1:18-20).

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. **Fight** the good **fight** of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Timothy 6:11-12).

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good **fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will **award** to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of **wars** and rumors of **wars** but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations

because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:4-14).

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes **war**. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp **sword** with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Revelation 19:11-16).

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict **training**. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not **fight** like a man beating the air. 27 No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the **training** and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, **train** yourself to be godly. 8 For physical **training** is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come (1 Timothy 4:6-8).

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training** in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:12-17).

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to

distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:1-14).

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good **soldier** of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a **soldier** gets involved in civilian affairs, he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this (2 Timothy 2:1-7).

But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow **soldier**, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs (Philippians 2:25).

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, 2 to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow **soldier** and to the church that meets in your home: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Philemon 1-3).

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a **sword**. For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law- a man's enemies will be the members of his own household (Matthew 10:34-36).'

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full **armor** of God so that you can take

your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full **armor** of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 1 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the **sword** of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints (Ephesians 6:10-18).

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged **sword**, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12).

RESOURCES

Check out *The Store* on our website (www.heartofawarrior.org). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

Websites for Men

Heart of a Warrior Ministries
www.Heartofawarrior.org
 Church for Men
<http://churchformen.com/>
 Resolute
<https://beresolute.org/>
 Life Way Men
<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>
 Men's Fraternity
<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

Man in the Mirror
<http://maninthemirror.org/>
 Men with No Regrets
<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>
 National Collision of Men's Ministries
<http://ncmm.org/>
 Every Man's Battle
<https://newlife.com/emb/>
 Iron Sharpens Iron
<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>
 Ransomed Heart Ministries
<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>
 Band of Brothers
www.bandofbrothers.org/
 Man Up God's Way
<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>
 Iron Works
<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>

OTHER NEWS



The Compass – Calibration of the Heart

A Phase I: The Compass group was launched in my home.

13 men, ages 20-30's, all with families, made a decision to stand in bold relief. I am honored to be able to facilitate their journey ahead. For more information regarding the content we will be addressing click on the link below.

www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

Until middle January, there is still room for you who live in the area to join the group. If you are interested, please contact me at HOAWMinistries@aol.com.



Donations

As the year closes out please consider giving to

Heart of a Warrior Ministries. HOAW Ministries needs your financial support. Our ability to

help men live God-honoring lives depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on heartofawarrior.org. Thank you for being a subscriber.