WEAPONS OF WARFARE

By Derek Prince

When we become Christians we are automatically involved in a vast spiritual war that spans both heaven and earth. Our most powerful and dangerous enemies are a kingdom of evil angels whose headquarters are in “the heavenlies.”

In His wisdom and mercy, God has provided us with all the weapons that we need to achieve victory. Because our warfare is in the spiritual realm, our weapons are also spiritual. Paul says “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.” (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)

The strongholds that we attack are also spiritual. Over the centuries Satan has built them up in the hearts and minds of humanity. They are strongholds of fear, covetousness, hatred, idolatry, racial prejudice, religious superstition and many others.

It is these strongholds, by the way, that frustrate all attempts by politicians to negotiate real peace. The logical and political arguments in favor of negotiated settlements are not strong enough to break down the spiritual strongholds that stand in the way of peace. True peace will only come to earth when the Kingdom of Christ is established here. This is the objective of our warfare as Christians and the purpose for which we use our spiritual weapons. It is to break down the spiritual strongholds in the hearts of men and women and to prepare the way for Christ to set up His Kingdom—first in their hearts and finally in the whole earth. Paul lists in Ephesians 6:13-18 seven spiritual weapons—or items of spiritual equipment—that we need. They are: the Girdle of Truth; the Breastplate of Righteousness; the Shoes of Preparation and Peace; the Shield of Faith; the Helmet of Salvation; the Sword of the Spirit; and All Prayer.

The seventh weapon, all prayer, is not listed in exactly the same way as the previous six, but it is definitely needed to make the equipment of the Christian soldier complete. Of the previous six items, only the last one—the sword of the Spirit—is a weapon of attack, and even the sword is effective only as far as a soldier’s arm can reach.

But this seventh weapon of all prayer is subject to no such limitations. We may fairly call it our ICBM—our intercontinental ballistic missile. Focused prayer, directed by the Holy Spirit, can reach across continents and oceans and strike with unerring accuracy at any target assigned to it. Undoubtedly, it is the most powerful and the most effective of all the weapons in the Christian arsenal.