

Train Our Hands to War

Train Our Hands to War (Psalms 18:34, 2 Samuel 22:35, Psalms 144:1)

God Loves Us

I want to talk tonight about about warfare. Train our Hands to War.

You are in a battle whether you know it or not. You will always be fighting a battle until you die or until Jesus returns. Come Lord Jesus!

The battle isn't with your parents, or your brother or sister, or the government.

Ephesians 6:12 Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

We are in spiritual battle. We battle against our sin nature and the enemy of our soul. Things unseen.

The battle can be in our minds, our emotions, in our hearts.

If we are going to fight a battle, I think we need know the strategy.

We need to know our strategy!

We need to know the enemy's schemes!

Our Battle Strategy: Know the Truth, Understand or Believe the Truth, Speak the Truth!

We must understand Truth. Truth is not subjective to our own understanding, to our own experiences, to our own reality.

Truth lives outside of all of these things. Truth is the person of Jesus Christ revealed through His Word. The Word is Truth. We do not define Truth, but Truth defines us.

I know most of you understand these things. You have been raised in these truths. (If you haven't had a class or teaching on the authenticity of Scripture, I highly encourage you to go to your parent, your youth leader, teacher, or pastor, and ask them to teach you about this topic. It is completely eye opening to understand how the Bible has been preserved over the centuries)

That's right! It isn't complicated, but it can be hard to do.

First, we have to **KNOW Truth**. We have to know what the word says about God, His people, us, and the enemy. We have to read it, study it, love it!

Secondly, we have to **BELIEVE Truth**. We can know lots of things but it doesn't always make it a reality in my life.

Just because I know something, doesn't mean that I have full understanding of it. It doesn't mean I believe it.

This happens all the time when you are growing up. You learn about something, (ex. Mom says the stove is hot. I touch the stove and now believe it is hot)

However, don't confuse experience with faith. There are truths in the Bible that are true even if your experience doesn't match up.

We have to believe with our faith. Sometimes experiences do match up but not always.

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who do not see yet believe."

Thirdly, we have **SPEAK truth**. The Scripture is very clear that we have to not only know and believe, but also confess with our mouths,

Romans 10:9 - Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth.

This is one of the biggest weapons we have as Christians have to fight this spiritual war. And yet we sit silent far too often.

WHY???

Let's look at the battle strategy of the Enemy

Genesis 3 -

VS 1

The devil comes to Eve in the garden and the trick (deception) begins. The devil challenges what Eve knows about God. Did God really say?

VERSE 2/3

Eve repeats back to the serpent with the exact words that God spoke to Adam. She was not created yet, but she knew the Word of God that He spoke to Adam.

VERSE 4/5

By the trick of the enemy, she became convinced of his lie.

The devil number one plan of attack:**DECEPTION or TRICKERY**

VERSE 6

Eve started to believe something different when the serpent started talking to her. She even viewed the Garden different. And the clencher: **ADAM WAS THERE!** We know that he heard the word of God.

VERSE 7

They didn't have any clothes on and they knew it. Through the sin of disobedience **SHAME** comes. Shame- the painful feeling that arises from within something who has behaved improperly or dishonorably.

Inevitably, shame will follow disobedience. We are created to obey the

VERSE 8--13 **THE GIG IS UP**

When God comes to greet them and fellowship with them like He always does. Adam and Eve hide because they were ashamed.

Inevitably, shame will follow disobedience. We are created to obey the Creator. No one had to tell Adam and Eve they sinned. They knew because their eyes were open to good and evil.

Verses 14-19 God gives the woman, the man, and devil the consequences for what they have done. Verse 15 telling us how the Lord will redeem the entire world through Christ and how Jesus will crush the devil and victory forever.

We learn here that there is a battle but that Jesus has overcome and **WON!!!**

Always keep this in mind!

***Example, Jesus is like a futuristic character who comes back in time to tell us how to fight this war, but not to worry because we win in the end.

VERSE 21- Here is the mercy of God. He clothes them, and kicks them out of the garden to save them for judgement. The eternal plan of God was set in motion to reconcile us back to God through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Lies we believe:

1. Did God Really Say? The devil wants us to question the word of God even though we know it.

2. "Eh, it would be ok" The devil wants to warp our perspective. Just like Eve started to see the garden differently and thought the food looked good and wisdom would be nice. We can start exalting our thoughts of how we see things about the word of God. And then give ourselves permission to oppose God.

Give some examples: I could watch this movie, I can read this book, I can gossip about my friend, I can hide this from my parents.

This happens to all of us. Even in this moment when you may have disobeyed or have hidden sin. Turn to the Lord!

3. I have sinned and now I cannot draw near to God. This is why Adam and Eve hid themselves. The very thing we need to do is draw near to God.

Something else comes into play here too. It's called compartmentalizing your life. This means I act one way at home, one way at school, one way at church. This usually happens because of shame or pride but it all comes through being deceived that this is an acceptable way to live your life. WE HIDE OURSELVES.

4. People don't understand what it's like to be a kid today or no one knows what I'm going through.

Genesis 4

VERSE 3-8

Here we have the next generation dealing with deception and disobedience again. This is not exclusive to one generation. The devil doesn't have new tricks. he just repackages them.

Cain had the opportunity to turn to the Lord and he chose not to.

Cain also received consequences for his actions, but again God's mercy is there and He protects Cain from vengeance.

We are gonna mess up. We will fail but God's mercy is extended to us just like in the garden. Just like it was to Cain.