

Fight Evil:
Swords and Hammers, Psalms and Prayer
By Deacon Jayson Heslep

When thinking about fighting our enemies, we must know our two most powerful weapons are prayer and singing. God's arsenal is no doubt the Psalms. Here is a brief explanation as to why we must sing and pray the Psalms, and hopefully this will exhort and encourage you as well. But first, let's start with 2 Cor. 10:3-5

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

So what are these weapons? Two of them would be prayer, and the singing of Psalms. Which can be used interchangeably because really, they are the same thing. The Psalms are prayers. Proverbs 15:8 tells that God takes delight in listening to the prayers of His children. And that He delights in answering them.

We are *supposed* to pray. And we are *supposed* to sing. We are supposed to sing and pray His Word back to Him. And what could be more powerful than the Word of God? As we consider the Enemy, and his cherished organization, Planned Parenthood, pounding on their gates with prayer and Psalms is the very best and most devastating strategy we have. Billboards, marches, Face Book pages, protests, legal action etc. are also strategic for keeping the heat on. But God uses worship to change hearts, there will be no demand for their abominations and they will have no choice but to crumble and close their doors.

If you look at Scripture, you find that worship really is warfare. In 2 Chronicles 20:21-24 Jehoshaphat sends the singers in front of their tiny army when they marched out to meet the combined hosts of Moab and Ammon, which was stupid, carnally speaking. But these weapons are mighty indeed, “and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.” Jehoshaphat was faithful, and God did all the fighting for him.

This is the pattern found throughout Scripture. God loves to take the smallest people, the most normal folks, the screw ups and the failures, the cowards and the fainthearted, you, and me, and use us to take down the enemy against all odds: Joshua and the walls of Jericho, David and Goliath, Gideon and the three hundred, Paul and Silas singing deep in the dungeons that could not hold them in. Christians throughout the ages have gone down singing. Facing lions, swords, saws, and flames. Singing. And it makes the enemy super mad.

And so, that is what we have been doing, fighting God's enemies. As I have considered our intended targets (Planned Parenthood), I have realized that we cannot deal with every person in the same way. None of us want to be screaming red-faced and spitting at the used-and-abused mothers who have been lied to since grade-school. In other words, we don't want to assume we are throwing rocks at Goliath only to discover that we have actually stoned the woman caught in adultery. And you all know that the Psalms can be hard like rocks sometimes. But the Psalms are multifaceted. In the course of one Psalm we could be repenting of our own sin, calling on God to redeem the mothers in the waiting room (not to mention their babies), to heal our nation, to protect the helpless, and also to smash the doctor's teeth right out of his head. That is where the rocks come in.

The Psalms are perfect for this. If that last one makes you uncomfortable, remember that bold prayer has nothing to do with comfort. Lazy-boy Christianity isn't Christianity. God put teeth breaking in the Psalms and He doesn't apologize for His Word, so neither should we. If God wants to break teeth, He will break teeth. Who are we to stop Him? If He doesn't want to, He won't. And that's just fine. But if we are faithful to open our mouths and declare the Word of God, He will do with it as He pleases and engage each person as they need to be engaged. Ourselves included.

The Word is a sharp sword, double-edged. The Psalms call on God to rise up in His might. They call on us to repent. They call out the rulers to knock it off, or be broken, and the wicked to turn aside. They warn, they call for judgment, and they are filled with grace. They are filled with terrible grief, and they are filled with battle joy. Singing is not very offensive, even though it is. The world won't understand. Planned Parenthood isn't going to get it. It makes no sense from a worldly standpoint. And so, it is perfect. They won't even know what hit them. And, Lord willing, they will be brought to their knees, and bow before the King.

What will happen if we are faithful to do this? What has God always done when His people are faithful? How do people respond? Maybe not really at all. Or maybe God uses it to effect change we don't see at first. But that is His business: we just need to pray and sing like David. We might get yelled at. Maybe you got the finger (Oooh. Scary). Or maybe we're stepping into something that is bigger than we realize. This is the Devil's cherished and coddled organization after all. But so what! Be ready to laugh at him (he hates it) and to do all of this with valor. This world belongs to the risen King. He took on death, grappled with it, and left it oozing down in the dirt waiting to die itself. He didn't rise from the dead for nothing. He didn't just rise in our hearts. His cold dead body came back to life, and He is ruling at the right hand of the Father, and He has promised to take on the world, and to take it down. And to make it new. And when He promises, He makes good on it.

It doesn't matter how big the stupid giants are, or how numerous, or how many horses pull their chariots, or whether their wheels are made of iron, or if their spears are like weaver's beams. It doesn't matter if they are nationally funded, or protected by law, or fondly spoken of by presidents, or if lots and lots of people think they are great health providers. Evil exists so that it can be destroyed. That is why God put us here. The World is His garden and we are to seek out the dragons. And the battle belongs to the Lord. So, be of good courage. Fight hard. Fight to win. Sing with valor and pray with boldness. We are the children of God, and He will listen.

Hebrews 11:32-34 reads,

“And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in a fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.”

The church must learn how to sing like we mean it. Especially men. If God commands us to sing, then who are we to do otherwise? If you don't know how, it doesn't matter. He picks us up where we are, not where we should have been. The only thing you have to lose is your pride. We have been tricked to believe that singing is inherently not masculine, which is a lie. That is like being tricked into thinking that taking a weapon into a battle is for sissies. No! Grab your

sword and start using it! So we can learn together, in humility and faith, and watch what He does with it.