TRANSFORMING Nations using ...
Now there have probably been many teaching on spiritual warfare, but I would hazard a guess to suggest that these have largely been about pulling down the kingdom of darkness. And I want to be clear … this is a very important and critical function!

Ephesians 6:10-20  “In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [draw your strength from Him and be empowered through your union with Him] and in the power of His boundless might. 11 Put on the full armour of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armour of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places. 13 Therefore, put on the complete armour of God, so that you will be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious]. 14 So stand firm and hold your ground, having tightened the wide band of truth (personal integrity, moral courage) around your waist and having put on the breastplate of righteousness (an upright heart). 15 And having strapped on your feet the gospel of peace in preparation [to face the enemy with firm-footed stability and the readiness produced by the good news]. 16 Above all, lift up the protective shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. 18 With all prayer and petition pray [with specific requests] at all times [on every occasion and in every season] in the Spirit, and with this in view, stay alert with all perseverance and petition [interceding in prayer] for all God’s people. 19 And pray for me, that words may be given to me when I open my mouth, to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news [of salvation], 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. And pray that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly and courageously, as I should.”

This is certainly one of the functions of spiritual warfare, but is there something else equally important?

What if we suggested that spiritual warfare is the vehicle that is meant to impact and change communities? In other words, in the physical domain … in the here and now!!!

I want to suggest that there are two sides of the coin of spiritual warfare.

One without the other is akin to a battle to gain supremacy over a piece of land, only at the end of the day, to return home to sleep and then start all over again tomorrow.
So let us define what I am trying to say clearly:

a) Spiritual warfare is the collective action (in deed / prayer / intercession) of people who stand against the activities of the kingdom of darkness.

b) Spiritual warfare is also the collective action of the Body of Messiah as it works to bring deeds of loving kindness to every single neighbour, with the express purpose of changing the spiritual domain over an area.

I am not going to explore the aspect of warfare against the kingdom of darkness, as I believe that this topic has been extensively covered in the past.

HOW DO WE APPLY SPIRITUAL WARFARE TACTICS AS THE BODY OF MESSIAH TO KEEP GOD’S COMMANDMENT OF LOVING OUR NEIGHBOUR?

A. Develop a clear understanding of God’s Plan

The Book of Joshua and Judges sets out God’s plan of how the Body of Messiah would live in order to reveal His ATTRIBUTES and reflect His Glory.

The plan
✦ Enter the Land
✦ We have come to stay in this Land that you call home.
✦ Conquer and evict all the inhabitants
✦ Are we being good stewards, or are we just like some of the tribes—do we allow some of the enemy to stay and set up camp in our midst?
✦ Allocate the Land amongst the tribes
✦ We can only allocate Land that has been taken, and where the enemy has been defeated (in our practical example later on about job creation while unemployment is rife, the community remains slaves).

Build a Tabernacle
We can build the Tabernacle—but it requires that the atmosphere should be “clean and Holy’

While despair / heartache abound in a community, we cannot say that all is well…

To be able to declare that the atmosphere is “clean” means that we must be able to say that the basics of loving your neighbour have been addressed.

B. Understand God’s dimensions of SPACE and TIME and get experience in how this works so that you can apply Godly wisdom to the task ahead of you.

Without doubt this is one of the most critical of God’s principles to learn and understand.

The Bible is clear that we are to walk in the physical, i.e. do whatever God commands us, so that we can have wisdom to see how we transform those physical Commandments into a spiritual reality, as we serve as priests in the Living Stone Tabernacle.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 “So it is written [in Scripture], “The first man, Adam, became a living soul (an individual);” the last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving spirit [restoring the dead to life]. 46 However, the spiritual [the immortal life] is not first, but the physical [the mortal life]; then the spiritual. 47 The first man [Adam] is from the earth, earthy [made of dust]; the second Man [Christ, the Lord] is from heaven. 48 As is the earthly man [the man of dust], so are those who are of earth; and as is the heavenly [Man], so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthly [the man of dust], we will also bear the image of the heavenly [the Man of heaven].”

The underlying principle is that God has two major dimensions:

| SPACE | By space we mean the physical … this could be the Garden of Eden, it could be the TEN Commandments; it could be the celebrating of the Feasts. It is every aspect of serving God, which manifests in something that is tangible. |
| TIME | By time we mean the fame-work of dates / times set out by God … the dates of the Feasts, the start of the month with the new moon, seasons, the 7 year cycle of “Shemitah” and the 50 year cycle of Jubilee. |

We understand that each time-period set aside by God has a unique message / impact (e.g., Passover = redemption / Shavuot = marriage).
When we combine our actions by faith in alignment with the times and seasons, we find exponential blessing.

It’s therefore logical to accept that we must have the right project to tackle at the right time if we want maximum success.

Very often we have good intentions, good ideas, and then wonder why we do not see the results that go with that effort.

It is therefore important to come in line with God’s Timetable of restoration and renewal.

If we are successful at that, we will find that we will be able to complete the task without headwinds.

C. Get to know your enemy and the terrain that they operate in

We can think to deal with the spiritual darkness that rules over an area. However, the community living there has far more practical problems and this applies to the biggest and the richest of nations.

✦ We have a society where income distribution is badly skewed
✦ We have a society where poverty and social needs are under developed i.e. health, education
✦ We have a society where social media is being misused to promote violence and unrest
✦ We have a society where the concept of fairness is distinctly lacking
✦ We have a society where corruption amongst the political elite is rife.

Knowing your enemy is the art of being able to establish which of the society ills is making the most impact in furthering despair and a feeling of hopelessness amongst the community.

We can certainly not tackle every ill at once, but we need to live in a way that reveals that we care; that we are willing to be the Good Samaritan.

This is the time to analyse the various factors affecting a community and then enter a prayerful time to hear from the Holy Spirit as to just what aspect of the pain should the Body of Messiah focus on.

All too often we see the implementation of the “shotgun” approach where resources are thrown at multiple projects, all have some measure of success, but none of which render the desired impact to make significant change

A feeding scheme helps the short-term needs … but job creation, education builds a longer-term future. (The enemy here is the need that will drive the people into slavery and depression the quickest)
You may ask for some Biblical examples … let us look at the life of Y’shua / Jesus.

✦ He enters into ministry
✦ He will be walking in the exact lifestyle / role model that we should
✦ He identifies some “enemies” of the ‘work of being a good neighbour / Samaritan”
✦ When people are hungry; He will feed 5000.
✦ When a man is demon-possessed, He will set him free and allow the demons to enter some pigs that are nearby.
✦ When a man has lost his way in life pursuing wealth at the expense of relationship; He will stop and call the tax collector to his senses.
✦ When the groom and the bride are about to be embarrassed in their gift of hospitality; He will turn water into wine.

D. Develop a strategy to conquer this enemy

God’s strategy is simple.

✦ Where we find injustice, we must restore JUSTICE
✦ Where we find hurt / wounded-ness we must restore compassion and mercy
✦ Where we find pride ruling, we must restore a humble spirit in governance

Micha 6:8 “He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you Except to be just, and to love [and to diligently practice] kindness (compassion), And to walk humbly with your God [setting aside any overblown sense of importance or self-righteousness]?”

Whatever type of ‘enemy” it is that you identify, we still have to work out the battle plan that is appropriate to the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy / terrain.

Consider for a moment, the taking of the Land by the Israelites:
Jericho is purely spiritual,

Jerusalem is marching at night and surprise attack at dawn with the sun at their backs

Ai, is an ambush

Hazor is a all out attack that results in the destruction of the city

**NUGGET** Every attack is unique / different, (we cannot just keep repeating the same old prayer / intercession / practical demonstration every time).

It means that you must plan for the factors / circumstances on the ground in front of you.
You must be able to adapt.
You must be able to anticipate the changes

E. Consider what formation and size your army should be made up of.

Anyone who has thought of warfare will know that one needs to choose the size of your force, and you need to determine what formation you will go to war in.

Fortunately, God gives us some direction in this regard.

Size of your army

It’s not the numbers that count, but whether you have the right skill set.
Do you recall the camp that is set up in the wilderness?
Each tribe had a specific place where they would march or camp.
When they go into the Land of Canaan, God makes sure that we understand another fact. Whilst there are some 600,000 able-bodied men that can go to war, they only need about 40,000 … but here the critical element … there has to be men IN THE ARMY from EVERY tribe.

The same is true for Gideon - 300 men were needed for the battle.

David also only needed 600.

Skill-set of your army

- Paul teaches on the Gifts of the Spirit.
- There are 9 such gifts, but importantly, we get a measure of about 3 or 4 of these gifts that make up each individual
- The major gift determines your specific ability / attribute that you bring to the Body of Messiah.
- When we go to war we need a measure of all 9 gifts in order to be sure that we have every skill needed for the battle that lies ahead.
- This does not mean that we need 9 people; the full skill set could be operating in 4 or 5 people.

Romans 11:29 “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable [for He does not withdraw what He has given, nor does He change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call].”

1 Corinthians 12:7-12 “But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit [the spiritual illumination and the enabling of the Holy Spirit] for the common good. 8To one is given through the [Holy] Spirit [the power to speak] the message of wisdom, and to another [the power to express] the word of knowledge and understanding according to the same Spirit; 9to another [wonder-working] faith [is given] by the same [Holy] Spirit, and to another the [extraordinary] gifts of healings by the one Spirit; 10and to another the working of miracles, and to another prophecy [foretelling the future, speaking a new message from God to the people], and to another discernment of spirits [the ability to distinguish sound, godly doctrine from the deceptive doctrine of man-made religions and cults], to another various kinds of [unknown] tongues, and to another interpretation of tongues. 11All these things [the gifts, the achievements, the abilities, the empowering] are brought about by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses.12For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so it is with Christ.”

F. Find a Godly leader with vision and courage

- There are many men / women that are managers / dictators, but there are few servant-leaders.
- Look for a man such as Moses, Joshua, Caleb; men who can build the strategy, train their followers, empower each one to work to the best of their ability in the position that they are best suited and delegate the job of going to war to those who have the courage.
A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

Let us assume that you have looked carefully at the circumstances in this community; that you have identified the LACK OF work opportunities as being the enemy; and that you feel that God has called upon your team to fight the battle in the spiritual realm but also in the physical realm.

✦ You see we are supposed to **shine our light** on earth
✦ You see we are supposed to **reveal God to all** on earth
✦ You see we are supposed to **love our neighbour** / stranger in your midst

You need:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The prophet</th>
<th>To call this fact to everyone’s attention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The ruler</td>
<td>To rally up the people to do things that they never thought possible to get the project going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The giver</td>
<td>To see how financial resources could be applied to gain the most ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The teacher</td>
<td>To give instruction on the concept of budgeting, on the concept of saving, the principles of basic hygiene for health and so on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The servant / mercy</td>
<td>To support those who have been disappointed so many times before, to lift up heir heads and try again, and so forth.</td>
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Without the full complement of skills, you will find that your plan, despite the hard work, will fail to produce long standing results.

**SHALOM**