

Life Applications

19 January 2014

"Getting to the Bottom Line"

1 Samuel 17, 2 Corinthians 10:1-5

The battle David engaged was a physical one. What were the spiritual principles at play that brought David to do such a crazy thing (1 Sam 17:45-47; 2Cor 10:3-5)?

Discuss the interplay between physical and spiritual in David's situation, and why Paul never took up a weapon in his situation, though he did assert legal rights (Acts 16:35-40). What was the balance Jesus struck (Matt 10:34; Luke 22:35-38, 49-35)?

What has happened to the testimony of Jesus on account of centuries of "Christian" Armies conquering, oppressing, and persecuting with force in the name of Jesus (Matt 26:52; Rom 11:17-21)?

How might Christians being persecuted in Egypt, Syria, and Iraq understand and apply these biblical teachings about physical warfare, personal defense, and spiritual warfare?

How is reaching out to Your World and Our World with love and grace engaging in spiritual warfare? Who would oppose forgiveness, prayer, food, help, purpose, meaning, eternal life, etc.? Why?

What is intimidating about bringing God's love to your world? Where is the balance between humility and boldness (Eph 4:14-15; 1 Pet 3:15)? Are we guaranteed to win every battle we engage?