

The Art of Spiritual Warfare Part 5 of 10: Shield of Faith; Shunammite Woman; Spies Sent to Canaan (Presented in 2016)

The following text is based on a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcTdYUVPoAc>

***Portions of the video message have been edited to present a written document. All the Scripture verses are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted and are in the red text. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

We are in part 5 of our study The Art of Spiritual Warfare. Last week we began to look at the weapons of our warfare, and we discovered that these weapons are not of this earth. They are not of the flesh, but they are spiritual. We discovered that these weapons are mighty in God for pulling down strongholds which the enemy erects and constructs all around us. We will experience trials and tribulation in marriages. There are strongholds of lust of the flesh, idolatry, covetousness and more. We were told by the Apostle Paul these spiritual weapons have the power against the strongholds to take them down.

When we looked at the list of weapons that Paul gave us in Ephesians 6, we discovered that there was one particular weapon that stood above all the rest. There was one that was given special preeminence among all the weapons, and that was the shield of faith. This is a weapon that we're told will quench everything the adversary throws at us. It will squelch all those strongholds brought on by trials and tribulations. No matter what Satan does, no matter what he brings against you, the shield of faith can dispel and tear it down. There's a reason Paul gave this specific weapon such a high standard and lofty place, if you will, at the table.

I want to open up today by continuing to give special preeminence to this particular weapon. I want to build upon this by looking at a couple of stories. The first story is one about a woman who is only known as the Shunammite woman. I am going to tell you that you need to pay close attention to this story because it is a powerful story. It is one of the most powerful stories for me in all of the Scriptures. The story speaks volumes on the kind of women that we want to cultivate in the body of the Messiah Yeshua.

We are going to start in 2 Kings 4:8—⁸ **Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman.** Notable woman in Hebrew is גדולה אשה ('iššāh ḡəḏōwlāh). In Hebrew ḡəḏōwlāh means great. I want you to keep in mind that this wasn't written contemporaneously (in real life). This was not written in the same period it happened; it was written in hindsight. This is very important to know because the writer identifies the Shunammite woman as an 'iššāh ḡəḏōwlāh. This is a great woman! It is not just that, but she is great in the faith. She is a titan of the faith. So as we begin the story, we already know her character.

Continuing in 2 Kings 4:8-11—**and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.** ⁹ **And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.** ¹⁰ **Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall;**

and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lamp stand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

We can now see why she is a great woman. Look at her character, integrity, wisdom, understanding, and her discernment. She recognized a man of God. She knew a man of God when she saw Elisha. She didn't just sit there. She moved in righteousness to prepare a place for him.

You need to think about the words that Yeshua was speaking that are found in Matthew 10:41—**He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward.** By the time we get to the end of the story, she is going to receive a prophet's reward.

Her character is beautiful. She has the heart for Israel. She has chosen to love those things that the God of Israel loves. And in this case, it is the prophet, Elisha. She is truly an 'iššāh gāḏōwlāh. She is a great woman of faith.

The story continues, and we're going to discover because of all the kindness she has shown Elisha, he wants to repay her. He recognized this woman went out of her way to make sure he [Elisha] was cared for. Because of that, he is thinking about what to do for this woman. His servant Gehazi said to Elisha, "She has no son." Elisha considers this and decides to act on that idea. He calls the Shunammite woman and tells her to come, and he tells her, "Woman. This time next year you are going to embrace a son." She responded to this very conservatively. She said, "No Lord. Do not say such things. Do not lie to your servant."

You see, the Shunammite woman was barren. She had no children, and in Bible times, even sometimes today, a woman who desires to have children yet has none is looked upon with reproach. This is done almost to the point of shame. Women have this innate desire given by God to have children, and when that's inhibited, it's devastating. So Elisha gives her the news that despite the old age of your husband, and despite the fact that you are barren, you will embrace a son this time next year. This news is very overwhelming to her.

It happened exactly how Elisha said it would happen. She conceived and embraced a son one year later. But when the son had grown to be a young boy, something happens to him. The text is not explicit in giving us the details of what happened. All we know from the text is that the boy cried out, "Father. My head. My head." So the father sends him back to his mom, the Shunammite woman. He goes to his mom and eventually dies in her arms.

This is where the story gets fascinating because the woman doesn't respond the way you might think she would respond. In fact, what she does next is going to make you marvel. It will bring you to awe. This is what we read in 2 Kings 4:21-23—²¹ **And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out.** ²² **Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back."** ²³ **So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath."**

Try to wrap your mind around that. Her son is dead, and she knows it. She lays her son on the bed of Elisha, and she goes to her husband. She does not tell him that their son is dead. She tells him that she is going to go to the man of God. She asks for a donkey and for someone to go with her. She wants to get the man of God.

Guess what? Her husband knows something's going on. That is why he questioned her—**Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath (2 Kings 4:23)**. Should he have been inquiring about his son? Perhaps. But he doesn't know that their son is dead. He is not sure what to make of all this. How does she respond to him? Keep in mind she knows their son is dead. She tells her husband—**It is well (2 Kings 4:23)**.

Try to get your mind wrapped around that statement. She knows her son is dead. She doesn't tell him that he is dead; instead, she tells her husband, "It is well." In other words, don't worry about it. This is what she tells him as he is inquiring.

When I read what she does here, it tells me one thing. Just like Job in the last lesson, this woman is armed to the teeth. Her hands have been trained to know war. She is operating on an entirely different level than everyone else.

Think about what is happening here. She chose to grab the shield the faith and to rise in battle. Instead of retreating, she advances. Look at how she advances—²⁴ **Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."** ²⁵ **And so she departed and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman!"** ²⁶ **Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? (2 Kings 4:24-26)**. Elisha had great instinct, like the husband, and knows something is up, so he asked very specific questions, "Is your husband OK? Are you OK? Is your child OK?" How does the Shunammite woman respond? 2 Kings 4:26—**It is well.**

Her response is not normal. Normal people would say, "No Elisha. Everything is horrible. My life has crumbled before me. I'm in pain and sorrow. My son is gone." She doesn't say that. She says—**It is well**—because she has lifted her shield of faith.

Look at what it says in Proverbs 18:21—**Death and life are in the power of the tongue**. She didn't speak those words just to speak them or because they sounded faithful. She spoke them because she believed it was well. There is a massive difference.

This is a story that we've got to allow to sink deep down into our hearts. When I look at this woman, I see a woman whose faith is greater than her fears. I see a woman whose faith is greater than her trials and tribulations. It is greater than her pain and sorrow. I see a woman whose faith can move mountains. You need to think about that. Her faith can move mountains.

As we continue, we're going to see this happen. We are going to see things in her life which look immovable crumble into the sea. 2 Kings 4:27—**Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress.**

I want to stop here because this is one of the most intriguing components of this entire story. This shows that this is real life. This shows that when she said, "It is well," she didn't need to be committed to a psych ward. She didn't go skipping down the road saying, "It is well," to everybody. She didn't say, "It is fine. My life is hunky dory. All is well. Our son just died, but it is totally fine." This component of her catching Elisha by the feet brings it to reality. Elisha recognizes she is in pain and sorrow. To truly appreciate what it took for her to say, "It is well," you need to see this— **she caught him by the feet**. Inside she is crushed because she has lost her son.

Elisha goes on in 2 Kings 4:27-29 & 32-33—²⁷ the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me." ²⁸ So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?" ²⁹ Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child." ³² When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. ³³ He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the Lord.

When we looked at the words of James last lesson, what did we learn? We learned the prayer of faith will heal the sick; the prayer of a righteous man avails much; the blind can see, the deaf can hear, and the dead are raised. That's the power of the shield of faith.

This story is bigger than those things. We learned about the Spartans in the last lesson and how they made their battle formation and stepped up the battle line with their shields interlocked. Do you realize what is happening in this story with Elisha and the Shunammite woman? The Shunammite woman moved to the front of the battle with her shield. She interlocked her shield with Elisha. They then moved together in faith into the battlefield. Why did the Shunammite woman go to Elisha? Because she believed in the God of Israel, and she knew what He could do. How does Elisha respond? He goes up to the front of the battle line and locks shields with the Shunammite woman. He goes in faith.

That's the power of the shield of faith. That is why Paul said—**we know that all things work together for good to those who love God (Romans 8:28)**. That's the power of unity; that's the power of the body of Mashiach. Amen?

Continuing with 2 Kings 4:34-37—³⁴ And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. ³⁵ He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. ³⁶ And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." ³⁷ So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

The dead has been raised. Mountains have been moved into the sea. Things that we could never fathom happened.

I want all of you, especially the women, to think about how this Shunammite woman affected her house. You have the supreme power to bring blessing, honor, glory, and power upon your home. That's exactly what happened in this story. She was a woman who moved in righteousness and faith. As a result, blessings were poured out not only on her son but her entire household.

You have the power. Satan wants to tell you that you don't. Our faith in Yeshua can do anything. There is nothing that can prohibit or stand in the way.

How many of you women and men are sitting in a situation today where you feel that you have strongholds, or you think you have immovable mountains that have been erected all around you, and they just don't seem to be moving? We need to remember according to the truth of Scripture that is in our LORD Yeshua that we can move mountains. We need to believe Yeshua. He shows us as in Matthew 21:22—**whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive**. These are not just mere

words coming out of mouth so that we can listen to ourselves talk. It's because we believe; therefore, we speak. That is the truth of the Scriptures. But if you want to move mountains, you are going to have to pick up that shield. You are going to have to cry, "It is well."

Going to 1 John 5:4—**For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.** Our what? Our faith. Why is the Apostle Paul giving preeminence to the shield of faith? Because that's what gains us the victory. That is how we are going to overcome all the cards that are stacked against us. It is through our faith.

Read this war manual, the Bible. Spend time sewing these things into your hearts. I promise you it will increase your faith. The more we hear from God, the more we believe. Amen? That is the truth.

Now looking at this verse—our faith is what overcomes the world? But faith in what? We continue in 1 John 5:5—**⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?** The shield of faith should be called a shield of faith in Yeshua. It all goes back to the Rock of Israel. It all goes back to our faith in the Son of God. It all goes back to the power of the resurrection. That's where our faith has power. It is in Him.

We can't do anything of ourselves. We can't move a molehill without going through Yeshua. That is why Yeshua said in Matthew 19:26—**with God all things are possible.**

I want to take you to the Torah, and take you to book of Numbers. We are going to look at another story. The LORD is preparing the children of Israel to go into the land. What's interesting is when you step back, and you look at what the LORD is doing, and what is going on, you discover that the LORD is preparing them for war. This is what we read in Numbers 13:1-2—**¹ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan.** Notice the word terms that are being used here. God tells the men to go spy. This is the art of war. You send spies when you are in the art of war. This is the whole concept we covered when we discussed the OSS, a spy agency, which was created to go behind enemy lines. That is what is happening here. So we can already see this is a war environment.

Continuing in Numbers 13:2-3—**which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, everyone a leader among them." ³ So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the Lord, all of the men who were heads of the children of Israel.**

So, Moses, he does as the LORD commands. He sends these spies to go behind enemy lines. They acquire secret intelligence regarding this Promised Land.

As we get to Numbers 13:25, the spies report back the findings. This is what we read—**²⁵ And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. ²⁶ Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ Then they told him and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.**

Why is that an amazing statement? To understand that statement, you have to go back to the time when they were still in bondage in Egypt. When Aaron and Moses first started to try to get them freed,

where did they say the LORD wanted to bring them? He wanted to bring them—to a land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8). While they were still in Egypt, this is what they were told. So the spies went out and found exactly what the LORD said they would find.

You need to put this in context. Everything that we have read regarding the Kingdom of God, that we have been shown, and the things Yeshua revealed in His ministry are exactly how He said it is. Just as we see in these verses, it is exactly what they were told. They even brought fruit back as evidence that the land was flowing with milk and honey.

Here is the problem. That is not all that they saw. They didn't just see that the land was flowing with milk and honey; they saw something else.

Moving to Numbers 13:28-29—²⁸ Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.

These spies share all this secret intelligence concerning the reality of the situation of the land. Yes, the land is flowing with milk and honey; however, the inhabitants of the land are established. They are militarily fortified, powerful, and stronger than us. In other words, the spies are conveying to the children of Israel, “If we go up and try to take the land, we're all going to die. We're all going to fail. We cannot do it. It is suicide.”

This kind of makes you think about what they were expecting. When they were to go into the land, were they expecting just to waltz into the land and see these old, decrepit unarmed people with no fortified cities? Could you imagine Israel going in and saying, “Hello civilians of the land. We are the children of Israel. It is so nice to meet you. I don't know if it has been brought to your attention, but our God has brought us into this land, and actually, this land is ours. So you go ahead and pick up your stuff. Actually, leave your valuables with us and relocate to another land. Your cooperation in this matter would be much appreciated. If you have any questions, let us know. Shabbat Shalom.”

You are laughing right now, but you need to think about what I just said because I'm going somewhere with this. I'm presenting to you what the Israelites were expecting to see. Why is this important? It is important because if you understand what the children of Israel were confronted with, you will find this is exactly what every one of us is confronted with in our own lives.

How many times do Christians come into the faith with the expectation of simply waltzing right into the Kingdom of God? They don't imagine war, trials, or tribulations. They don't imagine having to overcome anything. They think they are going to tell the old and decrepit inhabitants of the land to relocate. They believe this will be a seamless transaction.

I want you to think about that reality. There are far too many people who are giving in to the dictates, teachings, philosophies, and influence of the ten spies. When we think about people coming into the faith of Yeshua, they're not told they have to take the land by force. They are not told they are going to war.

I am going to tell you something. As you move toward the Kingdom of God, and your life progresses in faith, Satan is going to attempt to get you to focus on those things that appear to be impossible to conquer. He is going to try to intimidate you by telling you the things in your life are just too strong. He is going to try to encourage you to give up. He is going to try to discourage you to turn back and surrender. This is exactly what I see him doing in this story. You better make no mistake; this whole story is a training manual for the war. It is warning us what it will take for us to get into the Kingdom of God. That's what this story is about. There is going to be war.

Here is another fundamental principle. If in your life you are focusing more on your trials, tribulations, and testing's, then you are retreating from the victory you have in Yeshua. You have laid down your shield of faith. Are you are focusing more on the pain and the suffering rather than coming out like the Shunammite woman and saying, "I am in real pain?" She said, "I have real wars in my life, but it is well." Unless you focus on the victory, you will fall. We have to focus on the victory.

So how does Caleb responds to the whole testimony the spies gave? Numbers 13:30—**Then Caleb quieted the people** (because obviously there's a huge uproar) **before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."**

You need to keep something in mine. Caleb saw everything that the spies saw because he was with them. Because of this, Joshua knew exactly what they saw. On a human level, they knew they were outgunned. They're not fools. They knew the inhabitants of the land were stronger and had fortified cities. But they also knew what God had promised. Caleb and Joshua picked up the shields of faith. They interlock their shields, and they're ready to go to war against the face of all adversity. Why? Because they were focused on victory. They were focused on what God had promised.

For us believers, if we do not start focusing on what God promises, we are going to fall. We will come to a point where Satan is going to wear us out because we need to live in the promises of God in this life.

So how do these men of Israel respond to these reports? Numbers 13:31-33—³¹ **But the men** [the ten spies] **who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."** ³² **And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. ³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants), and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."**

So here we have these naysayers. They overrule Caleb and basically tell the people, "Listen people. Caleb and Joshua are nuts. They are insane. There are Nephilim in the land. This is a no-brainer because we are grasshoppers next to them. We don't stand a chance."

Isn't it fascinating that what stands between Israel and the land is the Nephilim? That is what is preventing them from getting the land. Why is that fascinating to me? Because today it is the same for us. We are dealing with the descendants of the Nephilim. We are dealing with evil spirits standing in between us and the Kingdom of God. Fallen angels are in between us and the Kingdom of God.

Think about the sheer strength, size, and power of these evil spirits. If it is us in the flesh against the spirits, we don't stand a chance against them. We cannot overcome them. All you have to do is read in the Bible, and you will see that Satan brought someone into bondage, and they couldn't do a thing

about it because they didn't have the power. The power rests in the faith of Yeshua. This is a faith that Caleb and Joshua had. They were more than conquerors.

So how does this bad report affect the children of Israel? Did it take root, or did they listen to Caleb? Let's see in Numbers 14:1—**So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.** The sad part of this is that the children of Israel believed the ten spies. They rejected Caleb's wisdom. They rejected the faith and believed the lie.

What a valuable lesson this is for us today. We need to understand that as we are pressing in to take possession of the land, as we're pressing in to receive our inheritance into the kingdom of God, Satan is going to sow discord amongst our ranks. He is going to sow despair and discouragement.

We cannot allow Satan to do what we see him do to Israel. We can't allow it. We have got to stand up and fight in faith.

Moving on to Numbers 14:2-4—² **And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! ³Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."**

Does this sound familiar? What just happened here? What we see is that Satan came against Israel, and he played the same mind games that we saw him play on Job. Do you remember what Satan's goal was regarding Job? What did he want to get Job to do? He wanted to get Job to curse God.

Let's look at that using verse three—³ **Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword.** They are saying God only brought them out there to kill them. Satan just won this battle. He got them to do what he wanted. He got them to curse their God. And when you curse God, what do you do? You abandon Him. Well, interesting enough—⁴ **Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."** When we look at the strategy of the enemy, we find that his tactics may change, but the goal is always the same. The goal is to get us to give up and abandon the LORD.

When we look at this story, what should we be taking away from this? Be very careful who you allow to speak in your life. That is the moral of this story. Israel allowed the ten spies to speak into their life.

Don't underestimate the power of influence. Don't underestimate the power of words. Again, life and death are in the power of the tongue.

There's a valuable principle regarding warfare that we want to follow. This principle is found in the Torah in Deuteronomy. The whole construct of the passage is giving commands regarding what they should do when they go to war. That is something that applies to us this very day. Look at what it says in Deuteronomy 20:8—**The officers shall speak further to the people, and say, "What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, lest the hearts of his brethren faint like his heart."**

You need to think about that. In other words, it is saying, "If a man is fearful in battle, take that man out of the battle formation because if he stays, it will have a dramatic effect on the rest of the troops." That

is the very same effect that the ten spies had on Israel.

If you allow fear and discouragement to be sown among soldiers, the soldiers will begin to retreat. So the moral of this is be careful who you allow to sow into your life. Be careful who you go to war with. Amen?

If you stand with men who promote fear, despair, and discouragement, and also give into the lust of the flesh, you will be brought to desolation over and over again. I could give you many scriptures to show this, but I will just give you one—**The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray (Proverbs 12:26)**. You can take that to the bank.

That is what I was getting at last week. You want to surround yourself with men who believe that healings are real for today. I don't want anyone praying for me who believes the gifts of the Spirit stopped in the first century. The people I want praying for me believe when God brought His people out of Egypt he parted the Red Sea. They believe in Pentecost when tongues of fire rained down on the believers, and the name of Yeshua was glorified. They believe the dead can be raised, the blind can regain sight, and the deaf can hear. If you believe anything less than that, I don't want to talk to you. I don't want to hear what you have to say regarding faith. I want to surround myself with Bible-believing leaders. The war is won on the level of faith.

Continuing on in Numbers 14:6-8—**⁶ But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; ⁷ and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the LORD delights in us.** There is a message of salvation here. We need to pick up on it because it is not here by accident. He says “if.” If the LORD delights in who we are, we will enter into the Promised Land.

This goes back to walking in the Commandments of the LORD. This goes back to having our faith made complete through obedience and not deceiving ourselves by telling ourselves that it doesn't matter to God if we fulfill this or not because He is a sovereign and forgiving God. Our goal is to please the LORD. This is not legalism and Phariseeism where we start focusing on the commandments of men. I am talking about doing what pleases the LORD so that we can enter into the land.

Starting again in Numbers 14:8-9—**⁸ If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD.**

What is rebellion? When you go to 1 Samuel 15, you find that rebellion is the sin of witchcraft. But what is it? We find in Isaiah 30:9—**this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD.** That's the very definition of rebellion.

So the very definition of rebellion is those who will not hear His voice. And we know what His voice is from Deuteronomy 27 and 28. The voice of the LORD is the Law.

Continuing in Numbers 14:9—**⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land.** We are not to fear the people of the land. Let's bring this into today's context. There are a lot of reasons to fear people today. People are getting their heads cut off. We see a rise of terrorism all over the globe. I love what Yeshua says in Matthew 10:28—**And do not fear those who kill the body but**

cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Our fear must be in God alone.

I love what is said next in Numbers 14:9—**nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread.** Think about all the things that are happening in the world today. All the violence, the slayings, the killings, and the constant, violent, vicious attack on Jewish people. We can rise and say to these people that are doing these things, “You are our bread. One day we will walk over your corpses.” That is the truth. We will have victory because the God of Israel said we would take the land.

Continuing in Numbers 14:9—**for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us.** If God is for us, who can be against us? This is war. Whose side are we on? The LORD’s. And if we are on the LORD’s side, we cannot lose. Victory is imminent. It’s only a matter of time before it’s realized.

So here we find Joshua and Caleb raised their shields of faith in the face of all adversity. Despite seeing the Nephilim and the fortified cities they walked by faith and not by sight. This is what I love about those two; in their minds, they had already won. That is the most important thing for us as believers living in this generation; in their mind, they had already won the war.

There’s an old Chinese proverb from the book *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu. It speaks to this very thing. I want to share it with you because it is a very powerful concept. Keep in mind the whole book is about the art of war; how to win warfare. He notes something about victorious warriors that I want to sink into your mind. This is what he says, “**Victorious warriors win first and then go to war; while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.**”

Think of that wisdom. That statement is a Biblical fact. True Godly warriors win first, and then they go into win. This is what Caleb and Joshua did. They first won in their minds. They said, “If the promises of God are sure, and if He delights in us, we’re going to have victory.” They had already won in their hearts. They just needed to go into the land and take it.

Think about that principle. It all boils down to this; there is no taking the land without war. That’s what Numbers 13 and 14 are all about. There is no taking the land without going to war. Today, for us believers in Yeshua, as we come to faith in Yeshua, the battle only begins. We’re not getting into the Kingdom of Heaven without war.

I want to close with this statement and run it into a verse. Douglas MacArthur, a five star general in the US military, says this—**It is fatal to enter a war without the will to win it.** I will tell you that it is fatal to enter into the faith of Yeshua without the will to endure, go all the way, and to persevere in the faith.

You need to realize that the people who made these statements of war were generals. These were people who were immersed in war, and they understood specific principles that guided and ruled in war. MacArthur knew, “Don’t bother going to war if you don’t have the will to win it.” They knew when they come up against trials, tribulations, and against the enemy, they’re either winning, or they are running. They will end up holding their guns up and saying, “We give up” and start waving a white flag.

I am going to close with this verse in 2 Samuel 22:31—**As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.** You wonder why Paul would grab the principle of faith and apply it to the imagery of a shield? He didn’t just concoct that out of thin air. It comes from

the Tanakh, passages in Psalms, and from the passage we just read in 2 Samuel. God becomes a shield to those who put their faith in Him. We have to put our faith in Him.