

Warfare The Cross and Victory! – Gina Kulikowski

Opening Video and Pray.....

Good evening/morning! Its been an emotional time for our church family, and I usually like to start out by showing you pictures of my grandbaby, my family and even my new puppy. And of course I will get to that but today you are going to see a different side of me as your sister in Christ. You are going to see the warrior side of me.

You see I try to live in the abundance of Christ.

(Slide 1) John 10:10) tells us the thief comes to steal kill and destroy, but I have come that you may have life and have it to the fullest!

So what you see is me living out the joy that only comes from knowing Jesus Christ, and I love to share that joy with all of you my church family.

(Slide 2 pic of Christopher Royal and Ashley)

This is the abundant life...But sometimes life isn't always, grandbabies, puppies and beauty pageants. You don't see the warfare going on behind the scenes. And to be honest I don't like to dwell on what the enemy is doing so I will always celebrate what God is doing in my life! Because the enemy comes to steal kill and destroy us every chance he gets! He hurts me he hurts my kids and He hurts you my church family! We are all engaging in warfare, everyday but when we know God and we trust God and His word as absolute truth, we can look to the cross, the cross is our safe place and Jesus has given us complete victory through His precious blood that he shed on that cross! The war between us and Satan has already been won... but we live on the earth still and there are battles we must fight because

the devil hates you and he hates me... Do you know why?

Because we look like God, and we are Gods kids. We were created in HIS image! He in me is stronger then he that is in this world!

The title of my message today is

(Slide 3)..Warfare, the Cross and Victory!

(Slide quote) The closer you get to Jesus the bigger the battle; but if you never fight a battle, you will never know the Victory!

We have been talking about spiritual warfare the last few weeks, and some of you may know and feel we are definitely experiencing spiritual warfare in our church and within our own families!

So what is Spiritual warfare?

(Slide 4) Spiritual warfare is the Christian concept of fighting against the work of supernatural evil forces. It is based on the biblical belief of evil spirits, or demons, that are said to intervene in human affairs in various ways.

The war is real...

We need to suit up for this war people! Look at your neighbor and say “get your armor on!” We have been learning about the full armor of God these last few weeks so we can be ready when the devil attacks. Not if, but when, because he will!

I know Spiritual warfare is real, God has allowed me to experience some really creepy things to teach me what I am up against and how I need to rely on the Holy Spirit at all times in my life! Are you ready for a creepy story?

(Story of Jesus of Nazareth)

So he brings me to this verse in Luke.....slide 5

Luke 4:33-34 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon an impure spirit He cried out at the top of his voice

...demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice.
“Go away” what do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are the Holy One of God!”

So God was showing me, the enemy can attack us, physically and spiritually, but he is no match for the Holy Spirit in me and in you! The enemy and his demons bow down to the power of Jesus Christ!

We need to put on the armor so we can stand and fight the battles that come our way! Lets look at what we've been learning so far about the armor of God!

(Slide 6) Ephesians 6:10-18

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devils schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with our feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

That is what we've covered so far the last few weeks now we have....

(Slide 7) Ephesians 6:16-17

“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

(Slide 8) photo of shield of faith, helmet of salvation and sword of the spirit

Let's talk about the shield of faith, what is it? Why do we need it?

The shield is to protect a soldier from arrows piercing his heart which will lead to death. The shield of faith is to protect us from Satan's attacks which will cause us to doubt God's word and doubt God.

There are four ways to put on the shield of faith:

1. Fasting
2. Prayer
3. Worship
4. Reading God's Word

Let me give you an example of how I needed the shield of faith and how God led me into victory!

Share Haiti mission trip story after story photo of Daana (slide 9)
Daana graduation photo.

The shield of faith will always extinguish the flaming arrow the devil throws at us! And there are many different arrows that come our way every day!

We give into temptations when we believe what it has to offer is better than what God has promised us. When Satan attempts to plague us with doubt or discouragement or tries to entice us with instant gratification, faith recognizes the deceptiveness of his tactics and quickly extinguishes the arrows.

Ask yourself do you recognize the devil's tricks to try and get you to sin willfully?

Faith chooses to believe that Jesus redeemed us and there is no more condemnation in Christ Jesus! Look to the cross, all we have to do is look to the cross, it tells us that Jesus took every arrow that has or will be thrown at us on the cross. Put on the shield of faith and remember to look to the cross! The cross is your only victory!

So I'm standing, with my shield, the flaming arrows are coming out me, you aren't good enough, you are a failure, you really blew it this time, you will never get over this addiction, you can't forgive the person who hurt you because they will only do it again, you can't forgive yourself, you aren't qualified for this job or ministry! Or it can even be its ok to have before I'm married God will forgive me, I need to have fun while I'm young. The shield of faith, as you are holding it up against the word the God will extinguish the arrows! Look to the cross and remember what Jesus did on the cross!

Jesus purchased the next one for you!

The helmet of salvation. (Slide 10 The armor again)

What does a helmet do? It protects your head right? The battle will always start in your mind! The helmet is so important. You have been purchased with a price the ultimate price. You must know and believe in your mind that God loves you God forgives you and God has a great plan and purpose for your life. If you go into a battle unsure of any of this the enemy will get into your head and you will lose the battle! Most of the battles I've lost are when I'm really tired and I entertain thoughts that are not of God! I become weak and I put down my shield and I get hit with a flaming arrow that really wounds and really hurts! Last but not least is the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God!

(slide 11)Proverbs 18:21 The tongue has the power of life and death and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Hebrew 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow.

Remember the story I told you about the dark figure getting inside my body and pressing on my heart. God showed me my spirit was fighting back and won in the name of Jesus!)

(Share Story of John after church sugar dropping)

You can suite up but you have to fight back church family. We can't sit still and let the enemy have our children or our marriages or our ministries or our peace or our joy. We need to fight back and we can only fight back with the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. We need to speak out loud...out loud the things God promises us in his word! I have another short video of what this looks like its another clip from the movie war room, but this is what it looks like to fight back with the sword of the spirit....

(show video)

Is Jesus the Lord of your house? Do you have the authority to cast out the demons from your life? You will only have that authority if Jesus is Lord and savior over your life.

If you've never asked Jesus into your heart its as easy as A B C...

A admit you are a sinner, we all are!

B..Believe that God sent his only son Jesus Christ to die on a cross for your sins, past present and future sins! Ask God to forgive you.

C.. Commit your life to Jesus Christ. Its not about saying a one time prayer. It's a commitment to live your life for Jesus! And

D..Do it today.

Please say this prayer with me if this is what you want for your life... Dear God, thank you for loving me, I admit I am a sinner ive don't things that are wrong and I am sorry for my sin please forgive me dear God. Jesus I ask you to come into my heart and be my Lord and personal Savior. And now Holy Spirit I pray you would come and fill my and help me live my life for Jesus! In Jesus name I pray! Amen.

Now today we are going to use our Spiritual armor, we are going to use the sword of the spirit and we are going to cast out any strong holds the enemy has over our lives! Look to the cross the battle has already been won, but you need to receive the Victory today.

Our church needs to receive the victory today. I will have some of the pastors and staff up front to pray for you as you come to the cross and defeat the demons in your life today. We are using The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God today!

As Bobbie leads us in worship please get out of your seats and walk down one of these Isles it represents you coming to the cross for the victory in Jesus Christ that has already been won for you. Its time to claim that victory over your life today! Claim it for yourself for your marriage for your family for your kids for yourself.

Come receive prayer and victory now in Jesus name!