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CHAPTER 44

Worship and Warfare

Set the Tone

God designed us for living and loving not killing and dying. He optimized our spirit, soul, and body for righteousness, peace, and joy. We are primed for praise with an affinity for worship and an aversion for warfare.

Nonetheless, each generation connects with God in a climate influenced by worshipers and impacted by warriors. Worshipers venerate what they esteem, admire, and value whereas warriors attack what they fear, hate, and despise. Populations of people are galvanized for and pitted against one another based on their devotions and disputes.

In the aftermath of battle, spiritual forces continue fighting. They assault emotions, promote pride, appoint blame, and unleash contention, strife, and discord. While God reveals the knowledge of the truth, Satan spins the facts with lies and false narratives. God inspires reconciliation and restoration while Satan manipulates memories and instigates retaliation. Battlefield memories plead for a constructive interpretation—one laced with hope and fortified with comfort. Survivors crave the truth spelled out with redemptive certainty.

Unlike football stadiums and basketball arenas, the battlefield and its surrounding territory go to the victor. Winners define national boundaries and appoint governing authorities. They determine policy, design agendas, and sculpt worldviews. Warriors fight for land that future generations will own, occupy, and command. They contend for a place to exercise religious liberty and spiritual freedom.

Galvanized for Worship

Replacing resentment, revenge, and hostility with love, mercy, and forgiveness requires more than a prayer of repentance seasoned with praise. Such an exchange requires the renouncement of false gods and alignment with the true God. Mortal enemies shackled with anger, fear, and rage will not bow in the same direction until they replace false gods, imaginary gods, misunderstood gods, and artificial gods—with their Heavenly Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. He alone forgives sin, assuages guilt, and delivers from evil. He reigns as *“the God of hope”* and He fills us with *“all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*¹

Knowing the truth about Jesus and encountering His love transforms infuriated warriors into intrepid worshipers. Intrepid means resolute in courage, bold, and fearless.² Our Heavenly Father creates intrepid worshipers capable of following the Holy Spirit where their own strength cannot go. As terror, anarchy, and deception intensify, true worshipers assert compelling statements of praise through oratory, music, art, and dance. Worshipers on earth will join multitudes in heaven as they issue a far-reaching and unquenchable proclamation throughout the universe.

Summoning multitudes of worshipers to strategic venues may seem bold, audacious, and perhaps excessive. Compared with thousands of rival combatants fighting bloody battles or millions of babies slaughtered in their mother’s womb, massive worship gatherings are not extreme. They are an appropriate response to the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as it covers the earth. True worshipers will not be content waiting for finite history to expire before generating epic expressions of praise and worship on earth as they are in heaven.

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¹ Romans 15:13 ESV

² American Heritage Dictionary