



Cover Me!

S. W. A. T. (*Special Weapons and Tactics*) for Your Marriage By John Donelson

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds... (2 Cor. 10:4, KJV)

As this month's topic, I will cautiously choose a subject that is very crucial in marriage and at the same time it is also an extremely volatile subject for many. **SEXUAL INTIMACY!**

I chose to dive into this subject because it was what I was meditating on one morning before I left for work. Over that weekend I was informed that a fellow soldier (*in God's army*) was recently wounded and taken hostage on the field of battle, through an attack of the enemy, in the area of marital fidelity. The person who provided the information on the incident had the correct initial response, to **PRAY!** But, then I heard a comment that kind of rubbed *my* spirit the wrong way. I can understand *why* the person said it, and it's not to say that the commentary was in the least bit inappropriate. I realized that I was just looking at the situation from a different point of view, just as they were.

The comment, in short, was an immediate note of pity for the un-convicted spouse, and a bit of disgust for the accused. I opted to use the word "*un-convicted*" here and not the word *innocent*, mainly because the comment had ignited a series of thoughts in my mind, which lead me to this writing. And so, I would like to share a few of my thoughts with you.

I remember reading a passage from the book, [HE-MOTIONS](#) written by Bishop T.D. Jakes, (J.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 2004), which carries a major understatement for its subtitle, "Even Strong Men Struggle". In the introduction of the book (*on page 4*), Bishop Jakes mentions a very powerful story about the fall and restoration of Rev. Jim Bakker, (the former head of the PTL Club) after his personal and very public struggle. He used a very effective anecdote about a man who loved exotic fish. This passage caused me to consider my own personal feelings and experiences. The story goes as follows:

"This man kept a large fifty-gallon aquarium in his apartment and enjoyed watching the myriad rainbow of fins flashing within his miniature ocean. Since the man traveled often for his job, he equipped the aquarium with state-of-the-art mechanisms, which would automatically clean the tank, release food, and keep the water temperature constant. Once, however while he was out of town for several days, the man returned home only to discover that he had not adjusted the thermostat on the aquarium. The water had over heated and killed his beloved collection of exotic

fish. In his grief over the loss, the man imagined what the fish must have thought and felt as the temperature rose and the water became hotter and hotter. "Did they scream in silence? Did they beg for someone, anyone, to turn down the temperature?"

And so, I was initially very disturbed at this person's response, because my question was this: As a man of God who has also had to fight daily through the minefield of sexual immorality, was the person crying out for help, and nobody noticed? Did anyone hear him, and try to adjust the temperature of the heat rising in his life? Was his wife able to **hear, and understand** his cry for help (*because both are required for proper communication*), and if so, how did she respond? When he tried to compliment her, did she receive it? When he touched her, did she respond? When he asked her to wear something special that he would like to see *her* in, did she continue to wear the "lumberjack dress" nightgown, made of the hideous plaid wool material about a half-inch thick? Was he constantly greeted home with rollers and nightcap, sweatpants and sweaters? Was he able to communicate his needs to her freely, without her feeling pressured and getting defensive? Because of his upbringing, was his only learned response to her defensive attitudes constant feelings of rejection, and abandonment? This in itself is a limitation for most soldiers.

Now that this soldier has fallen, everyone hears it clearly and immediately blames him alone for not being more careful, or not being strong enough to resist the temptation simply because he is a Christian. Was there anyone there to hear him cry for help before the fall? If so, did they pray for him, with him, support him, offer help to keep him accountable, or did they just wait for him to fall and then talk about him afterwards? Will there be anyone spiritually mature to restore him?

*"Dear brothers and sisters, if another Christian is overcome by some sin, you who are godly (**spiritually mature**) should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself."* **Galatians 6:1 (NLT)**,

I am not only writing this because of my own personal feelings on this subject; the Bible speaks to this situation explicitly.

1 Cor. 7:1-5 (KJV)

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. [2] Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. [3] Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. [4] The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. [5] Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Man (*the entire human race*) is under a spiritual attack, but specifically *men* have a unique mark on their backs because the enemy wants to destroy the seed (*at every stage of life*). Married men especially seem to yield an even higher bounty on the battlefield, because of the power of unity.

Satan tried to strike the head of the church to get the entire body to fall, but he failed miserably. So, if he strikes the head of the household, maybe the family will fall, if he strikes the family the community will fall, if he strikes the community the city will fall, then the state, and then the nation, and so on. Eventually, no one will respect the body of Christ, or marriage, and no one will have hope that they can be delivered. But Satan is a liar, and he is the father of lies!

There is power in unity. When one Christian fights the war against Satan and is joined with another like-minded Christian helper, there is a weapon created in the spirit realm that no mathematician or scientist can ever figure. (See **Ecclesiastes 4:9**) Jesus also told us that where there are two or three gathered together *in His name*, there He is in the midst, (**Matthew 18:20**). We need one another to fight sexual temptation. This is not just one man's fight; it's *your* man's fight. It's your son's fight, it's your father's fight, and today it may be your daughter, mother, sister, or even your fight. We all have to fight in order to protect our families and restore the "Heaven on Earth" experience that God has intended for us to experience.

I write as a man who has struggled, and have served time through tours of "[every man's battle](#)" with sexual temptation, lust, and pornography addiction. It was only through the grace of God, the Blood of Jesus, and the help of the Holy Spirit that I was able to emerge with my soul intact. But even now, I have to continue to fight daily. That is why I sound this trumpet to prepare you.

We often read the account of Jesus being tempted in the desert, out of habit we say, "For forty days". The Bible never tells us that Jesus was *only* tempted for forty days, and then the temptation was all over. Read **Luke 4:13 (NLT)**, When the Devil had finished tempting Jesus; he left him *until the next opportunity came, or left him until a better season*.

Do you know when the next opportunity for you will be? When is your guard usually down? When do you have to pray and fast the most to be strengthened and restored? I can be real about me, I know that my season is the spring and summer time, when the ladies decide that clothing that properly fits, does not satisfy them anymore. I have to pray more, fast more, and try desperately to communicate to my wife that I need her help even more! I need her to cover me!!!

YOU KNOW YOURSELF! STAY ON GUARD! FIND SOMEONE TO HELP YOU TO BE ACCOUNTABLE! BE THERE TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE WHO NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Do you think that we can escape temptation just because we are Christians? Jesus **IS** the CHRIST and could not be excused from being tempted. Hebrews 4:15 (NLT), This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for **he faced all of the same temptations we do**, (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life), *yet he did not sin*.

Stay Tuned for Part II

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