

## The Lord's Resistance Army

The Lord has been speaking to me that one of the highest levels of spiritual warfare is the enlisting, equipping and organizing of an army. He then showed me that many of the spiritual warriors destined for service in His army have been involved in "Guerrilla" warfare - a very independent and self-reliant form of warfare. This is the first level of warfare for a warrior in an "occupied territory". After the enemy has invaded and established a stronghold for himself, those living within that area will fight back using their personal abilities and the provisions which are readily available. Small groups of individuals may gather together for mutual benefit, but larger groups require more coordination. At this level, the warfare is of the "hit and run" variety, and sustained siege or attack is impossible. It can be very effective for a single contest against the enemy, but building one victory upon the last is not common at this level. Generally the enemy has time to recover from his losses before another attack can be assembled.

The second organizational level is the Resistance Movement. This level is more united than the previous, but still "underground". In many wars of the past it is at this level of warfare that real and sustainable damage began to be effectively staged against an occupying enemy. While using many of the same techniques learned as Guerrillas, the Resistance is able to do significant damage to the structures the occupying army uses to move and care for its troops. This level of warfare uses the supplies at hand, strikes hard and disappears until the next operation (opportunity). There is recognition between members of this army, but very little outside of this "resistance". It can actually be dangerous for the soldier if too many can identify him or her. This resistance movement weakens the enemy, knows his strengths and weaknesses, has mapped out the enemies' "camp", and has strategies for attacking the enemy when the third level, the "Liberating Army", arrives. The Liberating army is much more organized and disciplined. The Liberating Army cannot win without the preparatory work accomplished by the Resistance movement.

I believe the Church as a whole is currently in the first stage of guerrilla warfare. But the battle is quickly out-growing independent soldiers. The "Resistance" Army is formed of committed "companies" of believers who are relating and setting aside their personal differences for the benefit of the coming King and His liberating army. Those who serve well in the resistance movement will be commissioned in the Liberating Army. I will take a closer look at these stages of warfare and what is necessary for the transition from one to the next.

I believe that some of the most effective spiritual warriors today are guerrilla warriors. The battle may be brutal for them and the warriors learn to trust only a few. They work to cover their own backs if possible. There are rewards and personal victories, but the frustration and risk is great. The casualties may be unusually high at times, especially due to "friendly fire". Friendly fire is not always due to "fighting in the ranks", but can be accidents caused by mis-communication between combatants. Sometimes it is difficult to identify between the enemy and the ally. Some victories fall short because there are no "reserve troops" to call upon. Victories won and territory taken from the enemy might be

fought for again by another group of spiritual guerrillas because they are not aware of what has already been accomplished. It is nearly impossible for groups of warriors at this level to sustain great victories like the winning of an entire city or area. While a party of warriors at this level might be effective at taking out a "bridge" which the enemy uses for transporting evil, the enemy generally is able to re-build before a major assault can be made upon his stronghold. The guerrillas expend much of their energy and resources on each target and can not regroup quickly enough. This is not to say that these warriors or their techniques are not worthwhile, but they are not as efficient as the next level.

In the Resistance Army the commitment and technique of fighting learned at the Guerilla level is necessary for the "freedom fighters". Unlike the guerrilla warfare level there is a higher level of communication and coordination of the warfare. Because of this, losses due to friendly fire are dramatically lower. It is difficult for many guerrilla warriors to make the transition to this level due to distrust. Many at the previous level have lost trust in leaders and attempt to accomplish all that an army should accomplish while remaining separate. One indication I see of someone stuck at the first level is that they attempt to cover their own back. The armor God has supplied to His New Testament soldiers does not provide for protection of the warrior's back except by intercession of others (Eph 6:18). This is similar to the armies of Old Testament Israel where the "glory of the Lord" was to be their rear guard. (Is 58:8). Since the glory of the Father was given to the Son and He said He has given it to us, it follows that this part of the armor is manifested through unity. Yet, at the first level of warfare there never seems to be enough intercessors and intercession.

In the Resistance Army there is a greater ability to specialize and the intercessors are informed and released. In fact, true intercessors need very little more than information and time to pray. At the first level information is sketchy at best and usually too little and too late. The intercessors fall to counter attacks by the enemy because the enemy is given too much attention and time in conversation. However, when intercessors come into the Resistance they become more aware of the Glory and less aware of the darkness. There is a higher level of intercession available in the Resistance Army, and the casualties in the commando units are lower. It is now possible to coordinate intercession with the warfare campaign strategy.

One of the greatest hindrances preventing the move from the level of guerrilla warfare to that of the Resistance Army is a fear of authority. The key to successful transition is two fold, first there must be a recognition of the need to move on, and secondly there must be a willingness to "forget those things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are ahead". The soldiers must recognize a need for those who are walking in true spiritual authority, rather than the examples of religious authority and control which are counterfeits. False authority is a source of much past hurt and present distrust of authority. The two can not exist together, and true spiritual authority will always intimidate counterfeit authority. Authority is counterfeited - and it is therefore imperative that discernment be used in locating those in authority in the Resistance Army. Those in true authority will exhibit a willingness to "lead from the rear" in humility by placing the needs of others before themselves. Yet there will also be a willingness to "lead from the

front" when it comes to actually getting up and going. In short, they will be willing to mobilize for the good of the Kingdom.

Participation in the Resistance Army requires some recognition - but not advertisement - of rank or else there would be no coordination possible. Secrecy from the occupying enemy is imperative to success, thus advertisement is a pitfall. The members of the Resistance Army, including the officers, must look and act just like the rest of the population when they are not deployed on maneuvers. It is regrettable that some are not willing to give up their rank among the guerrillas for a less advertised rank among the Resistance, this keeps them from moving forward. Likewise, many guerrillas have assumed a rank which the Lord has not given to them. Often there is a wealth of experience and knowledge which should be passed on from those guerrillas to the Resistance Fighters, but this can never happen without the willingness to share with one another. Presently there are thousands of independent ministers, ministries, and churches. While often the birthing of these ministries was out of necessity and called of God, the Holy Spirit is presently calling for us to question what are we "independent" of, and to become "interdependent" with one another for the good of the Kingdom.

Finally, it seems that many times those who are tremendous guerrilla warriors are inadequate in enlisting and retaining recruits. On the other hand there are those who are able to recruit and mobilize but haven't the guerrilla's ability to train new recruits. It is only by laying aside our outdated methods of warfare and coming to the Lord together that we will prepare ourselves as an Army of warriors strong enough to resist the powers of darkness, and prepare for the Liberating army which the Lord will lead.

In light of the events occurring around us in the world it is very important that we again realize that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood. The Lord is calling His people to lay down our lives for Him, and enter into an organized resistance against evil. As we do this I believe the victories will increase geometrically through the anointing that comes with corporate unity.

The time to UNITE is NOW!

“Therefore submit to God. Provide RESISTANCE to the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 (paraphrased)

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