SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN INTERCESSION
INTRODUCTION

Why is understanding Spiritual Warfare important when we think about intercession?
Kargil War in May-July, 1999 – for 50 days = OPERATION VIJAY.
Every Christian is engaged in Spiritual Warfare.
St. Peter alerts us: “ Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil praws around, looking for someone to devour.” (1 Pet 5:8).
Eph 6:12: “For our struggle is not against enemies of flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”. The King James Version gives a much more specific translation for this: “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood...”
Satan is able to entangle the affairs of men and the Church in cleverly devised snares.
Something very **important** in a war is to **know** the enemy. How can we expect to succeed if we don’t understand who we face in battle and what the enemy’s strengths and weaknesses are?
Eph 6:12-13: “For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but (1) against the rulers, (2) against the authorities, (3) against the cosmic power of this present darkness, (4) against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Therefore,
the ENEMY is not a human person.
It is Satan and the evil spirits.
**Does Satan Exist?**

**According to the Scripture:**

**Rev. 12:7-12,17** - About the war that broke out in heaven and how the Devil was thrown down to the earth.

**2 Pet 2:4** “For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of deepest darkness to be kept until the judgement...”

These Bible passages along with a passage about the fall of the King of Babylon in **Is 14:12-15 / Ezek 28:12-17** have formed the basis for the Church Fathers’ statement that Satan and his evil spirits were angels who lost their place in heaven through sin. The sin is usually described as pride.
According to Church Teachings:

Pope Paul VI during the General Audience on November 15, 1973 said: “What are the greatest needs of the church today? Do not let our answer surprise you as being over-simple or even superstitious and unreal: one of the greatest needs is defense from that evil which is called the Devil.”

Pope Francis has started using the word “The Devil” or “Satan”.
The three areas where Satan establishes his rule as in Mat 4 are:

1. Physical – “command these stones become bread”
2. Spiritual – “throw yourself down”
3. Political – “all these things I will give you”
1 Pet 5:8 “Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.”

The Bible clearly talks about two kingdoms in conflict with each other – one is the Kingdom of God and the other is Satan’s evil kingdom, the kingdom of darkness. Satan’s representatives position themselves at his command over geographic regions - “territorial spirits”. Dan 10:13 speaks about “prince of Persia”.

It is clear that the Church is in a continuous spiritual warfare with Satan and his evil forces. We need to understand more about the enemy before we can do any kind of warfare.
The warfare is **personal**: in that we have to fight against the temptations of the devil.

It is **universal**: in that we have to fight against the works of the evil one over individuals, over the complex workings of governments and organizations, inside the Church and outside the Church.

During his visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II said: “There is a battle for the soul of this nation.”
Before we proceed further it will be useful to make note of two very important things.

1. **We are doing battle with an enemy who has already been vanquished.** Col 2:15. “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.”

With his death and resurrection, Jesus has defeated the enemy!
2. Jesus has given us the task of exercising the authority which he won for us. Lk 10:19: “I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.”
PART II: THE WARRIOR

Each one of us is the Warrior
And where do we engage the enemy in battle?

2 Cor 4:4

“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
This passage gives us a very important clue as to where the battlefield is. It is important that we understand this and it is key to our victory or defeat.

THE BATTLEFIELD IS OUR MINDS. This is the arena where Satan and his forces constantly wage war in order to gain control of our thoughts, our ideas, our imagination.
Example: In July 1990 seven American women who interceded and distributed the Bible tracts in Red Square. They prayed and commended the blindness to fall from the eyes of those who would be given a tract.

Even after NIRBHAYA CASE in New Delhi in December 2012 and very stringent punishment enforced through new law, the cases of crimes against women are on the increase. It is because SATAN HAS TAKEN THE MINDS CAPTIVE ALREADY.
PART IV: WARRIOR’S PROTECTION: THE ARMOR OF GOD

We are unable to defend ourselves from the attacks of the enemy largely due to ignorance of the means available to us.
God has given us armor that we can use to protect ourselves from the attack of the enemy and prevent him from building the strongholds in the first place. So what is this armor of God that keeps us safe?
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil... Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench 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.”
The letter was written between 58-60 AD from the prison in Rome. St. Paul takes a ROMAN LEGIONARY of his day and the six pieces of equipment a legionary would normally wear. The equipments of the Roman legionary for involving in war are compared to spiritual endowments for equipping oneself for Spiritual Warfare.
The Armor fall into 2 categories:

- Weapons of Defense – DEFENSIVE
- Weapons of Attack – OFFENSIVE

THE ARMOUR OF GOD
– Stress on being rather than doing.
1. **The Girdle of Truth:** – The belt of truth buckled around your waist/tunic
   It is essentially honesty. It is complete truthfulness in every single thing that we say and do.

   Some of our leaders fail miserably because they are not 100% transparent.

   **Example:** Taking of flowers from office.

   There may be times when the *belt around you will crack*. Do not try to patch it up and pretend that nothing has happened. Ask God to fix it. This is seeking God’s pardon.

   **Jn 8: 31-32** “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
2. Breastplate of Righteousness:

It protects a vital organ: **The Heart**

Righteousness means living a law-fulfilling life according to both divine rules and moral ones.
Two types:

1. By keeping the law

2. As a free gift of God – 2 Cor 5:21 “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” We are simply made righteous through forgiveness of our sins. It also gives us the power to put sin away.

When we are free from sin devil/through others cannot accuse us. Our sinfulness is a loophole in our ministry – intercession – spiritual warfare.
3. **Shoes of Preparedness of the Gospel:**

Strong, heavy sandals/shoes to enable one to march long distances at speed. During wartime, soldiers sleep with shoes on especially near enemy lines.
Evangelisation Schools teach us six capsules to be given to people in the form of Good News:

1. God loves you
2. You are a Sinner
3. Jesus died for you
4. Repent & Believe
5. Receive the Holy Spirit
6. Be part of a Community.
A shield protects the whole body.

Two kinds of shield:
(1) Small circular shield
(2) Long rectangular shield (door shape) – 2 ft x 4 ft
The shield is held tight – even when one falls. The shield is a prized possession. Losing it is great dishonor.
In a war, the soldier can get injured. The soldier can survive an injury of the arm or fracture of the leg. Injury to one’s head can be fatal.

Helmet protects Head > Mind. When you are wounded in mind, discouraged, depressed, you cannot use other equipments. You cannot progress in warfare.

It is the mind that the enemy attacks most ferociously. Helmet of salvation is the headgear to safeguard our mind.
What is this helmet of salvation?

1 Thes 5:8 – “But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on … the hope of salvation as helmet.”

Helmet of Salvation is the Hope of Salvation. It is hope that sustains us in the warfare.
What is the Sword of the Spirit? = The Word of God. [Defensive and Offensive.]

No war has ever been won by a defending army. The army to win has always been the army that went on the offensive, the army that attacked and advanced.

Heb 4:12 = It is a double-edged sword.
Jesus used this mighty sword when satan came to tempt him: Mt 4: 1-11
CAUTION: Sword of the Spirit is not the Bible on the bookshelf. The word used for this is RHEMA – spoken word.
PART V: THE WEAPONS

In order to win the war it is absolutely essential that we should go on the offensive.

As long as the Church is on the defensive, Satan’s kingdom will never be overthrown.

We need also offensive weapons. We need to advance by using offensive weapons.
2 Cor 10:3-5 “Indeed, we live as human beings, but we do not wage war according to human standards; for the weapons of our warfare are not merely human, but they have divine power to destroy strongholds.”
1. Weapon of Prayer:

- **Eg. Daniel 10:**
  When Daniel prayed angel came from heaven with answer.
2. Weapon of Praise:

**Praise is a powerful form of prayer.**

Ps 149: 6-9

2 Chron 20:1-23:

Jehostaphat (Judah) –vs- Moabites, Ammonites and Meubites. Jeshoshaphat placed the singers in the front lines of the army.
3. **Weapon of Preaching/Proclamation:**

It involves proclaiming the Word of God.

**Is 55:11** – “So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” - **Word of God accomplishes its mission.**
SOME IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE:

1. Spiritual Warfare is a Corporate endeavor.

There is an unprotected area of the body?
Front side is totally protected from head to feet == our back. Why?
a) **Never turn back.** Never give up.

b) **Fight in close ranks.** Legions of Rome are trained to fight in close rank. In Greek it is called *Phalanx.*

It is the same with Christians. We cannot go out as isolated Christians and take on the devil. We must come under discipline and find our place in the body. We should know who is on our right/who is on our left. There should be trust among fellow soldiers.
2. **Personal Preparedness.** Our Holiness. Confession. Prayer & fasting, etc.

3. **Our relationship with God** – key to success.

4. **Battle is the Lord’s**

5. **Listen to the Lord for discernment and guidance.** – Understand the problem & formulate the strategy according to God’s plan.

6. **Spiritual Protection.** Ps 91, Prayer of Protection, etc.