

Winning the War of Terrorism

Not Living In and With a Bunker-Mentality

Most national and World Wars, until now, have been for a limited period of time, until one side wore the other down, overran and destroyed or conquered them; times have changed. Terrorism is more of a threat, not because of the breadth of the attack, but because of its seemingly endless duration. This new, national-level, war of terrorism parallels what has always been the case on an individual basis – we are in a life-long personal war of terrorism. We know how it ends, we all die. But, then what? Or even more important how, in the face of this reality, will we live?

The answer of our final fate and legacy rests with how we conduct our personal war of terrorism – the constant, relentless, battle that souls. Yes, there are periods of can be sure the enemy is using false sense of security so we let our relatively quiet and peaceful the when attacked, run again for the in its safety. Periodically we stick the enemy is still attacking. Or many try to furnish and decorate the bunker so they can stay there all the time. And the enemy is happy having caused people to retreat and stay in bunkers because they are then neutralized.



rages for our possessions, bodies and apparent peace and quiet, but you these periods only to lull us into a guard down. When things are tendency is to forget the war then, bunker and try to ride the attack out our heads out of the bunker to see if

A bunker can be helpful for a short period. But no war is won solely from a defensive stance, no matter how good the defensive skills are! To have meaning, good defenses are the necessary foundation and platform for a good offense. Any offense, in the long-run, will be no greater than the quality of its related defense; but this said, a defense without an allied offense is foolishness and meaningless.

“If it is not one thing, it is another.” It is not being paranoid to think we are under attack, but wise and simply realistic! With all the attacks (physical, mental, spiritual, financial . . .) from the world, the devil, others and even from within ourselves it is important to establish good defenses and offenses. No one can logically or wisely deny this personal war of terrorism and our need of help and relative helplessness in and of ourselves – the question is if there is any real hope for help?

What is vital to win this unavoidable war is that we are committed to being in and winning the war; that if we lose at the point of the 1st Five Seconds we take our stand at the 2nd Great Line of Defense – seeking, developing, expanding and extending the art, discipline, grace and joy of repentance – it is a vital weapon in an effective and successful life! But as said earlier, a life built solely on good defenses will not win the war – good defenses have as their purpose to provide protection for offensive tactics and measures to neutralize and THEN destroy the enemy – this is how a war is won! Any enemy will eventually wear us down, and win, if we develop a bunker mentality, being afraid to fight! We must make the enemy pay, and pay dearly, if we hope to stop the attacks. Trials and temptations come to everyone – they are an opportunity to develop perseverance and demonstrate to the devil and ourselves the power of faith. Perseverance is a key ingredient to success in war – the enemy must know we are in it to the end, no matter the cost!

We don't have to go looking for trouble, it will find us, and in the same way we cannot hide from trials very long (they will find us in the bunker even if we refuse to come out and fight). Our objective should be that of our enemy: Attack and destroy, not just try to get by.

Taking the Offensive

There is one great condition for establishing an effective offensive stance and strategy of winning. And again the *Bible* provides the answer more succinctly, in a sentence or two, than volumes from philosophers and psychologists:

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace. Ac 20:23 - 24

The most effective warriors are those willing to die, if necessary, because they know they are going to die anyway and to die in a noble cause is better than living in a bunker in constant fear, breathing stale air, drinking poor water . . . The most feared warriors are always those with no fear of death! There is probably no greater evidence of mature true Christianity than the person who can say with Paul: “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Taking the offensive has, at its heart, making the enemy pay for their attacks, not simply whimpering and hoping for a truce or draw; it is the determination to win! If we have the stronger hand (which we do by grace) then we need to make it clear to the devil not to mess with us. Develop a strategy; telegraph it to our most persistent enemy, letting him know EXACTLY how we will react to an attack.

Individuals’ natures are generally to be defensive or offensive oriented – passive or active in nature. In either case we give our enemy an advantage. The former person tends to have a bunker mentality, waiting for the enemy to attack and then concentrating only on thwarting him, with little thought to destroying him. The active, offensive-oriented, person, on the other hand, takes the initiative, attacks often indiscriminately, giving little or no thought to shoring up their defenses – so the enemy sneaks in and attacks them from behind, at their weakest point. To win a prolonged war, a lifetime war like we face, requires a balanced good offense supported by good defenses; success is simply not going to be achieved without both! We need to be trained and prepared both defensively and offensively.

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 devil’s 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 your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 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. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Eph 6:10 - 18

Yes, we are in a life-long personal war of terrorism. The answer of our final fate and legacy lies with how we conduct this personal war of terrorism. The war will not be won with a bunker mentality, no matter how good our defensive skills. Good defenses are important as a foundation and platform for a good offense.

No life is worth anything unless the person finishes the race and completes the task the Lord Jesus has given them — the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace. Be vigilant. Maintain good defenses. And when attacked, counter-attack and destroy the enemy! In short, get out of the bunker!