

BAZOOKA

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Ready... Aim... FIRE!

This is written specifically for those of us that have an intellectual/spiritual understanding that the war really is over and the battle is won... but continue to be affected by defeated enemy agents wreaking havoc in our personal lives... and in the lives of others on whose behalf we should be effectively waging battle.

This is about the ultimate spiritual weapon with which to overcome a defeated enemy!

Before anyone can use a weapon... there must be a thorough understanding and knowledge about keeping it ready and how to effectively aim and fire it. One of the primary components of basic training, or "boot camp" as it is often called, for an infantryman - a foot soldier - is learning to clean, oil, assemble and disassemble his (and now *her*) weapons.

I was scheduled to speak at a family retreat at a summer Bible camp near Huntsville, Alabama. I was staying by myself in a guest home near Chattanooga, Tenn. The house belonged to the leader of the denomination that was sponsoring the camp. I was fasting and praying in preparation for my time there.

A couple of days prior to the scheduled trip to the camp, I was literally lying prone, face down, on the floor of the little study/office/library in the guest house praying. I heard the word "Bazooka." I was both puzzled and startled.

I got up off the floor and went over to the bookshelves where I had earlier noticed a set of encyclopedias. I looked up the word and sure enough, there was a rather lengthy article on "Bazookas." The advent of the Bazooka, as I recall from the article, was in the latter part of 1943. The Second World War was not going well for the Allies. In fact the outcome of the entire war, at that time, seemed to be in doubt. This information, again, I gleaned all from the article in the encyclopedia.

The article claimed that morale among the American infantry was poor, especially in those places where the powerful German tanks were employed against the Allies. It stated that during the first two years of that war, the distinctive roar of an approaching German tank would cause infantrymen to be paralyzed by fear... because they knew there was no effective way to defend against it.

Those tanks were impervious to grenades, rifle and machine gun fire. The Bazooka, a small, highly portable, launcher of missiles that penetrated steel tank armor and could be held and fired by one man, was first introduced and issued to the men in the field that year.

The article stated that the Bazooka was so effective at destroying a tank that the attitude of a platoon of infantrymen was completely changed. Instead of being reduced to terror by the sound of approaching German tanks, the infantrymen would anticipate the approach with something akin to glee... because they knew they could destroy the tanks instead of having large numbers of their platoon decimated.

The article credited the Bazooka for having a significant impact and actually changing the course of the war in favor of the Allies.

I found the encyclopedia article interesting... but how did it apply to what I would be speaking about at a Bible camp in the summer of 1989?

At that time, the teaching of putting on the Scriptural "whole armor of God" was very much in vogue across the spectrum of Christianity. People in churches across the country were memorizing and reciting the components, The "helmet of salvation," the "belt of truth," the "breastplate of righteousness" and so on. It was about this topic that I had been invited to speak.

It was at this time that I felt God leading me out of the organized church. I felt strongly about not accepting any speaking engagement if the recognized leader would not give me freedom to say whatever Holy Spirit led me to say. The president of this denomination had already wholeheartedly agreed that there would be no restrictions upon me. He had said, "Please feel free to say whatever God has laid on your heart."

I remember sitting there in complete solitude, with the encyclopedia opened to the article about Bazookas laying open on the little desk. I asked, "what is this about?"

I immediately had a vision of a soldier standing in a field. There were several German tanks approaching. The soldier was reading an army manual about digging a foxhole. I heard, "It is too late for defense. Memorizing things out of the 'manual' will not be adequate preparation for the battle ahead. My people need to be prepared to take the offense!"

Digging a foxhole or, for that matter reciting the "whole armor of God" was not what would take control over the enemy.

Then I "heard" a verse I had not ever heard about consciously before: "Revelation 12:11." I picked up a Bible and read the passage and then I understood... there are three components of the missile launched by the "Bazooka" of a believer. "The blood of the lamb." The "words that we speak," and finally, "not fearing physical death."

Together, these make up the offensive weapon. The weapon that will overcome the effects of the enemy that we have welcomed unwittingly into our lives to make us victims. I heard, "Tell them they must see this." I was both stunned and excited.

I called the president of the denomination. I told him that I had just had the most amazing revelation. I told him that I knew he had already given me permission to speak about anything that was on my heart... but that the revelation was almost directly opposite to the theme planned for the camp. I told him what had just happened. To my utter surprise, he became excited and said, "Sounds like God is giving us a different direction. Hallelujah!"

The camp was a huge success. People were moved by the Spirit to use the Bazooka! Several church leaders that attended the camp asked me to come to their churches and share the same basic message. I accepted several of these invitations. In each instance it fell on deaf ears. The spectator mentality of the congregations in those churches was to listen politely... but the message for the most part met with blank stares.

Since then, I have limited my discussion about the Bazooka to small groups or in one-on-one sessions. I started writing yesterday about the Bazooka to a man in the Southeastern part of the U.S. that frequently comments about "Brad's latest" and has become quite open about some of the spiritual challenges facing him personally. In a recent e-mail exchange he used the word "soldier." I wrote back asking him if I had ever shared a revelation about the Bazooka – he wrote me back saying that he had not heard it and would I please send it to him. "Ready... Aim... FIRE!" was born.

Many of you that read these "Brad's latest (attached)" articles once or twice each week write to me citing the need for powerful prayers for any number of crisis situations in your lives. I have had a several requests for something "practical."

To some of you, "the blood of Jesus Christ" seems like a passé religious term. I usually don't even allude to the topic generally. Those who understand what it means to be "prayer warriors" understand that there really is POWER IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB... these aren't just some words out of an old hymnal, barely remembered from childhood church experience.

In these times, now more than ever before, we need to employ the spiritual Bazooka against the attacks of the enemy. Just as the infantrymen in the Second World War were terrified by German tanks... but once they were issued Bazookas that terror was turned to confident determination; some believers are terrified by even the mention of unseen enemy agents. Understanding and using the spiritual Bazooka can turn that generalized fear into confident determination.

Come against enemy agents causing disease and disruption. You have a spiritual weapon of mass destruction. The BAZOOKA! The spiritual missile launcher. The missile? It is comprised of three powerful and explosive ingredients. 1) The blood of Jesus Christ, 2) The spoken words of our testimony that we have been given authority over all works of the enemy and 3) No longer fearing death. Let us see it in our minds... and project it against every situation. I do not pretend to know "why" this spiritual Bazooka works... I can only attest to its power. One hint... arguing about it is just another ploy of the enemy to distract us from using it against him! A soldier does not need to know why the missile launcher called a Bazooka works... he just needs to hold it at ready, aim it properly and FIRE... Ka-BOOM!

Sometimes we need to take aim at the lies causing confusion within. Sometimes we need to take aim at the lies causing fear. Habits, lust, unbelief, all kinds of things that keep us from operating in the Kingdom at maximum power are caused by enemy agents that have no power except to lie to our minds. Take aim and FIRE. Keep firing until the attacking "tank" is blown to smithereens.

I believe this is the time to tell a story I was given a long time ago.

The captain of a well equipped warship was given orders to capture a certain island. He had all the modern weaponry at his command. As he approached the island he saw that there were many natives standing on the shore, their faces painted with war paint and each had a fierce, menacing look while brandishing a spear.

The captain was frantically sending radio messages to the Commander in Chief... "the island is occupied with natives brandishing spears, what should I do?" Radio message after radio message with the same plaintive message. "What should I do? Please send new orders."

Finally the reply from headquarters... "Follow your orders, TAKE THE ISLAND!"

Our Commander in Chief has told us to be overcomers. Many of us are still reading the army manual daily and "radioing" in to headquarters... "I have all these problems, what should I do?"

Here's the answer... "Follow your orders, OVERCOME."

I was just praying about this article... and had another vision. I saw individuals that have the Bazooka laying idle at their feet while frantically searching the "Manual" to find out what to do.

You have been issued a Bazooka with an inexhaustible supply of missiles. USE THEM.

Ready... Aim... FIRE!

Brad Cullen

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