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Strategic Thankfulness

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Strategic Thankfulness

I remember an old Tarzan movie in which the famed ape man was peering at a droplet of water through a microscope. Tarzan was shocked to see the water was teeming with microorganisms invisible to the naked eye.

What if we could peer into the spiritual world? Like Tarzan, I imagine we'd be shocked to see the real source of our battles. The Bible tells of an atmosphere filled with invisible enemies.

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood...but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12 NLT)

Scripture doesn't describe this realm in great detail. It does, however, tell us how to fight. We're told to put on our "spiritual armor" (Ephesians 6:10-20). To "submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee" (James 4:7).

Giving thanks can be a strategic weapon in our spiritual battles. We see Paul and Silas singing and praising God in a Philippian jail after being severely beaten and chained. Their chains fell off, the jailer accepted Jesus, and his whole family became believers! (Acts 16:19-24).

The children of Israel sang praises right in the middle of a huge battle: "Give thanks to the Lord; His faithful love endures forever!" The Lord caused the enemy to fight among themselves and God's people won an astounding victory! (2 Chronicles 20:21-22).

Perhaps you're facing a spiritual battle today. You've resisted, prayed, and fought the good fight. But you're weary. Maybe this is your strategic moment to thank God.

Let God fight this battle for you. Rest in His power. Remember, the devil and his minions hate childlike trust. If you stand firm in your faith and continue to thank God, the devil will eventually have to flee. After all, he is allergic to praise.

[by Marilyn Chadwick, founder, SEEDS of Hope, Charlotte, NC]