

# The Tactics of War Part 2: Make Peace

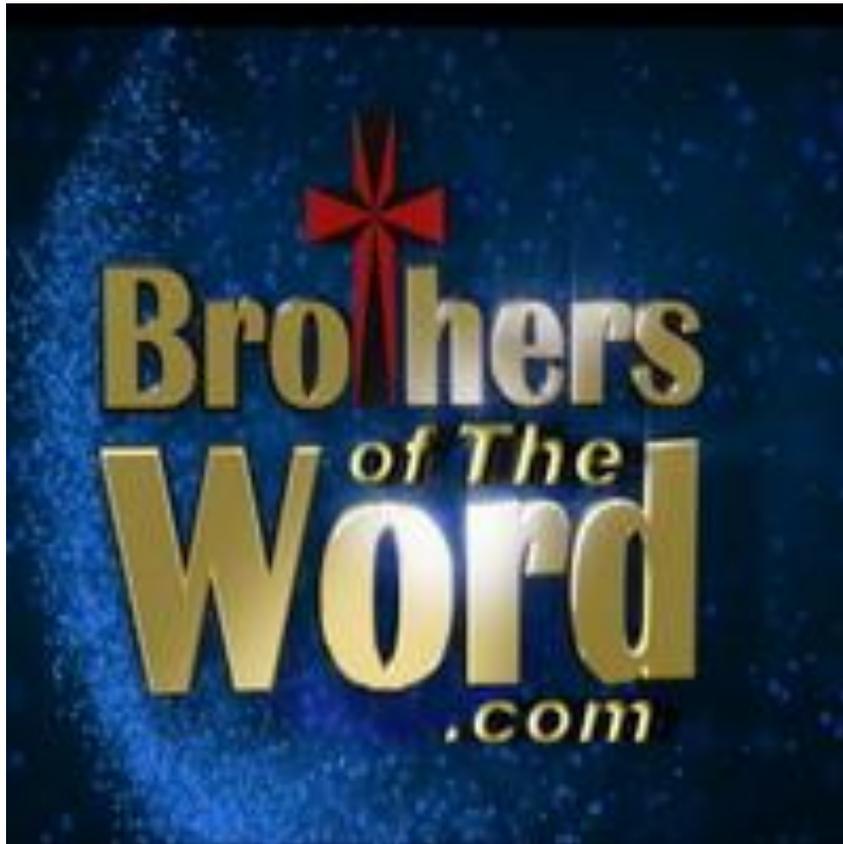
Sermon Title: **The Tactics of War Part 2 - Make Peace**

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Speaker: **Nathaniel Bronner**

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Nathaniel Bronner: The best battle that you will ever fight is the one that you don't fight.

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And now for 5826, "The Tactics of War Part 2 - Make Peace."

Nathaniel Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because, brother, you need the word. And today, I am on part two of a series called, "The Tactics of War." Jesus says, "I didn't come to bring peace. I came to bring a sword." There are times in our world where we must unavoidably face war.

The first part, I've talked about just for necessity of knowing the tactics of war and today, we're going to talk about that first tactic of war, which is simply to make peace. Sometimes, you're in a situation that has a lot of potential conflict from the clouds of war on the horizon and, still, the best battle that you will ever fight is the one that you don't fight. So, if you can, make peace because war is detrimental on both sides and even when you win, both sides are still sometimes beat up.

I remember a few years ago, we had an employee at the office and he was a janitor, but he was a big fellow, maybe about 250 pounds. You all remember. When he wasn't working as a janitor, he worked as a bouncer at a club. So, that lets you know how big and strong he was.

Well, he started to get a little off. I won't get into all of the details, but he was doing a few things and folk were a little scared of him because they thought he was losing his mind. So, they came to me and they said, "Look, we would like you to fire him." I said, "He doesn't work for me. He doesn't even work in my building." But everyone was scared of him because he was a great, big old 250-pound fellow, and he was kind of losing it, so they just didn't know what he would do.

So, everyone was scared to fire him. So, I said, "Would you fire him?" So, invited him out to my office, and he was a big old, big old, big old fellow, and this was a situation where I knew that if he truly had lost it and if this fellow attacked me, I had made two decisions about that meeting.

First of all, I wanted to do this thing in peace, because this was a big old fellow, and even at my best, I was going to have a time with this fellow. So, I had made a decision that I wanted to settle this thing with peace.

Sometimes, people, you have to make a decision that you want to settle this thing with peace. So, that was the first decision I made. First decision I made was I was going to settle this thing in peace. Second decision I had made is if this fellow did come at me, he was going to know he'd been in a fight.

So, those were the two decisions I had made. So, I said, "Look, if he does attack me and he goes walk out of my office, I don't know what I should have done next." So, I had made those two decisions but I knew, first of all, it would be beneficial on both sides if both of us could settle this thing in peace, and I had that fellow leaving the office in peace and in joy, and calm in both of us were whole and sound. So, this is the way some of the things in some of the battles that you may face in life, the best that you can do, is not get in the fight in the first place. So, this is about peace. Make peace is the first tactic.

Now, I want to read starting out, not a Bible verse. I want you to hear something that most of you have never heard. All of you know the man who wrote it, but most of you have never heard this. It's actually -- it is the pledge written by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and everyone who worked for him back in the '60s, doing the struggle of the civil rights, they had to read sign this pledge, and they had to go over it every single day.

Now, this is the pledge that they read and signed, and went over every day as they went out to fight the civil rights battle. That was a war.

Number one, "Meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus."

Now, if you adopt these things that Dr. King had his workers do, it will bring a great deal of peace into your world. Number one, meditate daily on the teachings and life of Jesus.

Number two, "Remember always that the movement seeks justice and reconciliation, not victory." Now, that's a big part. Some of you all just want to win sometimes. You don't necessarily want peace, you just want to win. You just want to be right. You just want to get them tow. So, he says, "Remember always that the movement seeks justice and reconciliation, not victory."

Number three, "Walk and talk in the way of love, for God is love."

Number four, "Pray daily, to be used by God so that all men might be free."

Number five, "Observe with both friend and foe the ordinary rules of courtesy."

Number six, "Seek to perform regular service for others and for the world."

And number seven, "Refrain from the violence of fist, tongue, or heart." And these seven things, if you worked for Dr. King back in that tumultuous time, you had to sign it and you had to read and go over this every single day, because when you walked out and people were throwing bricks and cursing at you, and spitting on you, you had to have some inner fortitude. You had to really have something to be able to really turn the other cheek, to be able to maintain peace and not react in kind. So, he had to have his people go over this seven-point pledge every single day, but it began with know and study the life and teachings of Jesus.

So, you need to know and study the life and teachings of Jesus, and when you do that, it helps you to understand, and to do, and to keep peace with all around you. Matthew 5:9 is when Jesus was speaking to beatitudes, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

Now, peace does not just happen. He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers," not blessed are the peace-wanters, not blessed

are the peace-wishers, not blessed are the peace-hopers, not blessed are the peace-lovers. Blessed are the peacemakers.

You see, back in the -- that made what it meant to do, and basically, you really have to do something to have that peace in your world. "Peace can just come" is not natural to the universe. It just doesn't come. You have to make peace. You have to make a concerted effort to have peace in your world and to have peace all around you.

Many years ago in Psychology Today, they post an interesting question, and this was the question. They said, "If you could push a button and thereby eliminate any person with no repercussions to yourself, would you do it?"

That's a deep question. Suppose you just had a button under your desk, and all you had to do was speak a person's name and push that button and they would disappear. That was the question that the magazine, Psychology Today -- if you could just push a button and make anybody in the world disappear, would you do it?

The majority of the people said yes, and do you realize if people had that power to just push a button and make people disappear, we would never have a president of the United States, stay in the office more than -- I mean, I'm not talking about just the president. We wouldn't have the past president, the one before that, and the one before that, and the one before that if people had that power.

But then, one other man posts an even better question. He said, "If such a device were invented, would anyone live to tell about it?" Because, see, the problem is not only would many of you push the button on somebody else, it'd be a lot of folk who'd push the button on you. So, he said, "Would anybody live to tell about it?" So, if there is an inner nature with people that if we had a button that it could just eliminate people, there would hardly be anyone left. So, you have to work. You have to struggle. You have to really do some things to really have peace in your world and peace around you. It's just not easy.

Many of you have seen the tradition of breaking a glass at a wedding. It's particularly common at Jewish weddings, and most people don't know where they came from. There're several

different rabbis who have different interpretations of it, but one rabbi simply says this. He said, "The glass is held up and then thrown down and shattered, and then they'll point to the fragments and the young couple is charged to guard jealousy, the sacred relationship into which they've entered because once it's fractured, it's real hard to get it back together."

Peace is just hard to keep with those who are close around. It's hard for brothers and sisters to keep peaceful relationship. It's hard for husband and wife to keep peaceful relationship. It's even difficult often for many people in most churches to keep peaceful relationship. It's hard for pastors among themselves to keep peaceful relationship.

Peace is not innate to the very nature of man. I began when I talked the last message about how many of the years of man's recorded history war has been going on. And basically, it's 92% of the recorded history of the world has been spent in war. There was a war going on for most of the world, most of the time.

Even now if you turn on the news, you're going to see war and war and strike and terrorism and all of this stuff going on. And most of the wars that are going on in the world right now are not on the news. It's a whole lot of battles going on right -- they only cover some of the stuff they want to cover. It's a lot of conflict, a lot of arm conflicts going on right now. Not even on the news and most people know nothing about it.

The word peace is the Hebrew word, shalom. And many of you know it, you've heard it, it's often used as a greeting either coming or going. And they use it in terms of saying, "hello or goodbye". But actually, what the word shalom means, it means health, prosperity, harmony and peace to the person. So, it means all of these things; health, prosperity, harmony, peace and wholeness. It means perfect welfare, serenity, fulfillment, freedom from trouble and liberation from anything which hinders contentment. So, when a Jew says, "Shalom", they're wishing on one another the full presence of peace and prosperity of all the blessings of God.

When you don't have peace, you don't prosperity. If there's a trouble in your spirit and in your soul, there's something about it that you will lose your real prosperity. Jesus' first words after

his crucifixion to his disciples in Luke 24:36 and as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them and saith unto them, "Peace be unto you." His actual words were, "Shalom", which means, "Peace be unto you." So, Jesus when he came back from one of the most horrifying and physically excruciating deaths that anyone could ever experience, his first words to his disciples, "Peace. Peace."

You know that's why King studied the life and teachings of Jesus. He had gone through some of the roughest stuff you could ever go through and his first words he spoke, "Peace". Not, "You need to go get them folk. Man let's get a posy together and let's --" That's the way the modern mentality and the mentality of the flesh would think. Jesus' first words, "Peace". So, when you have gone through some rough stuff, peace. When someone has pierced you, peace. When someone has hurt you, peace. When someone has embarrassed you, peace.

Look at the life and teachings of Jesus. Proverbs 16:7 says, "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." That's a deep statement. When a man's ways pleases the Lord, he maketh his enemies to be at peace with him. Now I want to tell you these three quick things that you can do to bring peace into your world and to your relationship and the people who you're with.

Number one is you need to be at peace with God first. That's the first thing is you need to be at peace with God. I was having some challenges in some areas in my life and I was trying to find all these other solutions. And then I realized, I'm not doing what God told me to do fully. I am slacking off in what God has told me to do. I'm looking at all these other things trying to figure out a way to get these things solved. And the source of all, I'm not in full obedient student. You need to be at peace with God first. When you're not at peace with God, it's going to flow at everything else you touch and do. So, that's number one. You need to be at peace and you need to be in the will of God with whatever you do. And once I realized that for the umpteenth because it's not a new realization. And that's why when you study the history of the children of Israel, they go through the same thing. Every third generation, they just mess up, they mess up. And God has to send this war and conflict to knock them down and get them back to him.

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Every time God bless them, he prospers them. They get all of the prosperity, they get all the blessing, they forget all about God and go worship other gods. The same cycle happens over and over and over. It happened with the Nation of Israel. It happens with us. And sometimes it's only when God starts to turning the screws on us that we realize, "Wait a minute, I am not quite doing what God has told me to do," and because of the pain let me get right. We go through this cycle over and over and over again. So, number one, you need to, first of all, make peace with God.

And number two, you need to go to God and ask God four questions. If you got an issue with someone and you're trying to bring peace in a situation of conflict, go to God, ask God four questions. Number one, ask, "What did I do wrong?" Now see, that's not in any question to ask. Number one, you want to go to God and forsake God about what they did wrong. In every conflict, there is rarely 100% of the blame on the other side. Rarely, sometimes but that's really rare. Now there are cases whether the majority of the fault is on the other end. But usually, you got at least by 5% of that on your end. It's always some of that on your end. So, the first thing is you go to God and you ask, you know open your heart to really receive, "What did I do wrong?"

Then the second question you ask, "What are my strengths and my weaknesses?" It's important for you to understand your strengths and your weaknesses. Third question, "What did they do wrong?" And the fourth question, "What are their strengths and weaknesses?" The reason that you need to know the strengths and the weaknesses is because you can have empathy. You can walk a mile in their shoes. See I have certain strengths but I also have certain weaknesses. Sometimes if there's a person I'm in conflict with, they have certain strengths and they have certain weaknesses. Their strength maybe my weaknesses and my weaknesses maybe their strengths. And a lot of times, that's where the conflict is.

Sometimes you got a conflict with somebody just because they talk too much and you're tired of listening. Rarely -- that's one of the major relationship issues, "They just don't listen to me." And if you're going to ask the other person, "They talk too

much.” So, you got a situation where one person’s strength is talking and the other person’s weakness is not listening. So, you have to ask, “What are my strengths and what are my weaknesses?” My strength is this that. My weakness is I just don’t have much patience.

When you understand your strengths and your weaknesses and when you understand the other person’s strengths and weaknesses then you can begin to work to try to reconcile that. And you may have to go to them and say, “Look, I want to listen to you but I’m going to be honest with you. I got about a 15-minute endurance.” Just be honest because sometimes to have peace you usually have to have some compromises on both sides. “I got my 15 minutes. So, I can listen about 15 minutes and after minute number 16, my mind is going to start wondering. My eyes are going to roll up in my head and I’m going to lose you.” So, sometimes you have to just go and you have to say, “Look, I am going to give you 15 minutes of just my undivided attention. And I’m not going to focus on anything. I going to just watch your lips and I am going to listen to every single syllable you say for 15 minutes. But you got to give me your word that if 15 minutes you going to cut off, sum it up and cut it off.”

And actually, if both of you understands strengths and weaknesses, and if you go to the person it can help bring peace. So, number one, you got to be at peace with God yourself, because not only made you not have a problem listening to them, you may have a problem listening to God. And when you go to him and your weakness is patience God says, “You don’t spend enough time listening to me. So, no you can’t listen to them because you don’t listen to me.” So, the first thing you may have to do is learn how to spend some time in prayer. Listening to God. And then once you can listen to God, then it may extend your time when you can listen to somebody else.

So, number one, you go and you make sure you’re at peace with God. Number two, go to God ask those four questions. What am I doing wrong? What are my strengths and weaknesses? What are they doing wrong? What are their strengths and weaknesses?

Third thing, go and physically do something for them. Put love in action. You go to them and you take the first step. You make

the first brick in the bridge to peace and once you do that, that will open the door because they'll be able to feel the sincerity in your heart because you've gotten right with God first. And you spent time with God first, asking those four questions. So, you're able to go with them with some enlightenment and with some wisdom and with some understanding. And you will then make the road into peace -- and Paul's letter to Romans, he said in Romans 12:18, "If possible, on your part, live at peace with everyone.

Now, that's a pretty clear command but Paul asked that important phrase, "If it is possible." The King James Version says this, "If it'd be possible as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." What Paul said on the flip side is this, "Sometimes, peace is impossible." He said, "If it's possible, if it lieth in you, if you got it anywhere in you, but sometimes peace isn't possible and you have what I call a Popeye situation." Popeye used to be my favorite cartoon character and I'm going to sit down and I'm going to play what Popeye said. But in the cases of where it's not possible, that's what the next messages will cover. When peace is not possible and you have to deal with war. Play what Popeye said.

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