

# The Tactics of War, Part 6: Defend and Return Fire

Sermon Title: **The Tactics of War, Part 6, Defend and Return Fire**

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Speaker: **Bronner**

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Nathaniel: : Some things you just have to fight.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is Part 6 of the series titled, The Tactics of War. Subtitled, Defend and Return Fire by Nathaniel Bronner. This message is number 5831, that's 5831. Listened to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing: 00:00:22 - 00:00:51)

Female: And now for 5831. The Tactics of War. Part 6, Defend and Return Fire.

Nathaniel: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need, The Word. And today, we're actually in the fifth and final part of a series entitled, The Tactics of War. Now oftentimes in religion, we think that everything is all love and peace, but life is a battle. Jesus says, "I come not to bring peace, I came to bring a sword." There are times when we are faced with war in one form or another.

Even right now, at this very minute, every single person within the sound of my voice is fighting some kind of battle. There are varying tactics of war and I want you to be able to succeed in doing whatever you have to do to be victorious over whatever you have to be victorious over, but you need to know the tactics of war. The first thing I ask, was actually that you go and listen a series that I preached 12 years ago. All of our messages are online, absolutely free of charge except for a very small of number that God says, "Don't make them free, or don't put them online."

But other than that, there are nearly 2,000 messages online. You can go to brothersoftheword.com. Simply put in the sermon search box, the case for war. And you'll bring up four sermons, listen to those four sermons and it will take you to one level of the Tactics of War. And these five parts, number one was to make peace, it's the highest level, if you cannot fight, that's the best thing.

Number two, run, Sometimes, you just need to run, or do what's called a, "strategic retreat." Number three, strike first, and number four, surrender. And today we're going to deal with the fifth and final one, defend and return fire. We were in Arizona last year, and while we were there, we got to talking with the

forest ranger. It's a lot of desert and just wildlife there in Arizona. And he just began to say, "Look, you're all out hiking?" And said, "I mean danger, there's mountain lions." And many of you have never seen a mountain lion, most of you have never especially ran across a mountain lion in the wild, neither have I.

Nathaniel:

But when the ranger told us that one of their biggest threats in that area were just mountain lions. It didn't stick on my mind. And the naturalist whose name, Craig Childs, he was doing research in Arizona and he was actually researching mountain lions. And he had spotted a mountain lion drinking out of a pool and he was downwind of the lion. So, the mountain lion didn't catch a whiff of him. So, he stayed in the bushes and he watched the mountain lion until the mountain lion finished drinking from the little lake and pool there and walked away and went off into the trees and disappeared into the woods.

So, he waited a few minutes and then, he walked over because he was studying the lion. So, he wanted to catalogue the tracks and all of that. So, when he walked over, and he began to look at the tracks and started to take pictures and dust them off, he's going to make a cast, he looked up and he noticed two eyes staring at him from the woods. And he said, "Uh-oh" and then, the lion walked out from the woods.

Now, here, the naturalist was an expert in wildlife and here he was, at this pool, his jeep was around the corner that had his weapon. He was in real bad shape and the mountain lion walked round and stood, face-to-face about 30 feet from you. So, what he did instantly, he reached in his pocket and he took out his knife and he stood just like this looking at the lion. Now the naturalist understood some things about mountain lions. The first thing he understood is, you cannot run from a mountain lion. Number one, a mountain lion is really, really quick. Mountain lions can sometimes and cheetahs, can get up to 50 miles an hour. But even the fastest human, Usain Bolt, he can't do, but 30 miles an hour and that's the fastest human on earth.

So, the concept that you're going to be able to outrun a cheetah, or a mountain lion is, just out of the question. Unless, you just got a short dash to your car and he's a long ways away and you can make it to your car before he can get to you.

Nathaniel:

So, he knew without question, he could not outrun this lion and the other thing he knew about mountain lions is, the way mountain lions track and kill their prey. They have a unique technique. They will rarely attack a prey from the front, and mountain lions can bring down prey that's generally six, seven, or eight times their weight. So, they're powerful, they're strong, they're ferocious and he knew all of this.

But the way that mountain lions usually attack and kill their prey including people, they attack them from behind. And what they will do is, jump on the back of the prey, they will bite down on the neck, right at the base where the vertebrae and the skull connect and they will snap the spinal cord. And the minute they snap the spinal cord, the prey goes limp because now there is no connection between the brain and the body and the prey can't fight back, the prey can't run, the prey can't do anything, but fall to the ground and get eaten up. So, naturally, Craig understood this and he understood there was no way of escape if he turned to run. As a matter of fact, he knew that if he turned to run, the lion was going to hop on his back, snap his neck, and eat him up.

So, what he did, he faced the lion and he stood there with his pocket knife and there he was with the pocket knife, and the lion looked at him and he looked at the lion. And then, the lion began to circle around to his left. And the lion was circling around his left, or perhaps get him to turn and run. So, he could hop on his back, snap his neck, and eat him up.

So, when the lion circled to his left, he just turned his left and he turned to his left and he kept his knife pointed between him and the lion. The lion looked him, he looked at the lion. So, the lion then circled back around to the right and he did circle to the right.

So, he kept his eyes glued on the eyes of the lion and the lion knew, even though he was stronger and faster and more ferocious, the way he looked at the lion, let the lion know, "I'm not going to be the easiest meal for you to get. And you may kill me, but I'll stick you two or three times with his knife. So, if you go and come on, and if you think you're going to eat me, you're going to get stabbed two or three times. And by the time you'll finish eating me, and limping away because this is only a small blade, but two or three times of this blade sticking in you, you're going to know that might not have been the best idea to eat that meal." So, this is what he did, and they had a standoff for about 15 minutes, just

the lion circling and he would not let the lion get to the side of him or behind, he just kept his eyes straight on the lion. And finally, after about 15 minutes, the lion just stopped, turned around and walked away.

Nathaniel:

Life, is like that sometimes. Sometimes, you have to defend and return fire. You can't make peace, you can't run, you have to deal with the situation, and you have to battle with that situation as it is, where it is, because if you turn to run, you're going to get killed.

There are some things you just have to face and every one of us will sooner or later, if we haven't already multiple times encounter things that we would rather not deal with. But if we don't deal with them, we get killed. Some of you got something funny going on your body, and you know how it is when you feel something going on in your body?

And there's this wisdom that says, "You need to go get that checked." But there's this other part that says, "I don't even want to know. I don't even want to face this thing." Some things you just got to face. And somehow, if I'm talking to a right man, you got this issue and you know you need to go to the doctor about this issue. And we believe in faith healing, but sometimes you need to go to a doctor.

And there are sometimes, we don't want to face some things, you need to look at straight in the eye, you need to deal with some things, there are some things that you cannot run from and if you run from, the thing will kill you. We lost one of our great evangelists, who died suddenly of a, stroke because he had blood pressure and when I talked to his wife, his wife says, "Yes, pastor, he knew his pressure was high, his pressure was 187."

And I said, "187? You got to face some stuff." Man, you might not want to deal with that, you might not want to think at that. But if you had blood pressure is that high, you need to deal with that thing. You need to go to the doctor. And you said, "Look, I'm saved, I'm sanctified, I'm filled with the Holy Ghost and I have His laid on me, but I need some blood pressure medicine." So, you need to do especially if you're not going to do what you need to do to get it, you need to do what you need to do, because some of the stuff that won't face will kill you. And you got to sometime deal with it. That's why even, do you remember in the Old Testament

with Moses in the wilderness, when the people had eaten their stuff, then God told them that they would dine and five serpents came and bit them? And He said, "Go, put the serpent on the pole and look at it, you surely not die." So, some of you would look at it. You have to face it straight on. You cannot run from it, you cannot hide, it's a stuff that you need to deal with. You have to first of all defend and you got to fire back. You just got to battle this thing. Some things you just have to fight.

Nathaniel:

So, here the naturalist, stood and stared down the lion. But you know, there's a part that all of us deal with. In 1 Peter 5:8, it says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Jesus was the Lion of Judah, but the Bible calls the devil, a lion too. You see, everything God has the devil, has a counterfeit, both of them lions. But He walks around like a roaring lion. And if you turn and run, I'm not talking about, sometimes you say, "I'm just running from the devil." I'm not talking about you having company with the devil, I'm not talking about you making friends with the devil, but I am talking about some things that are devilish, you just got to face. You got to face him, you got to deal with him, you got to defeat them.

James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Just like that lion. The devil knows your weakest points. The devil knows when he got you on the run. The devil knows when he can hop on your back and take you down. Resist the devil. So, if when you learn how to do that, you can defeat the enemy and the enemies that come against you.

We're going to China in a few months on our Brothers' trip, the annual trip that all of the Bronner brothers take each year. And in China, is one of the greatest architectural constructions ever, it's the, Great Wall of China. And when they built the Great Wall of China, it costs a whole lot of money, it costs a whole lot of manpower, took a long, long, time to build. And when they built that wall, no enemy could break through; they couldn't scale it, they couldn't bust through it, they had built it so well and so tall, they couldn't go around it, because it was 3,000 miles long. They could not get pass the Great Wall of China. Yet, the enemy got through. How did the enemy get through? They bribed the gatekeepers.

Nathaniel:

See, there are some things that the devil cannot get through in your world until you open a gate. God has put a hedge around some of your lives. But He has told you, "My child, don't fool with this, don't go to this area. And when you do that, you literally open the gate to some things."

Ephesians 6:10, it begins and you've heard this over and over about the whole armor, a final word, "Be strong in the Lord, and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor. So, that you will be able to stand firm against all of the strategies of the devil." The King James Version is all of the wiles of the devil. "For we are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, 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. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor, so you will be able to resist the enemy and the time of evil. Then after the battle, you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the Belt of Truth and the body armor of God's righteousness, for shoes, put all the piece that comes from the good news, so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the Shield of Faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."

Now, every weapon of defense or offense has degrees. The King James Version says, "Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness." This one says, the Body Armor of God." I had a bulletproof vest myself. They said, "Pastor, why are you so military?" I just got these. I just got some stuff just in case.

Hence, when I bought the jacket, there were levels of protection. But each higher level, the jacket was heavier. One level of protection would stop up to a 380 round. Another level of protection, it weighed almost twice as much would stop a .357 magnum. But each level of offense and defense has different levels. And here, the only offensive weapon of the whole armor of God, and if you notice just like the mountain lion, there's nothing for your back. There's nothing for your back. The helmet, the breastplate, there's nothing for your back. When you turn your back and run, they can hop on your back and snap your neck. Some things you have to face.

Nathaniel:

But the only offensive weapon is the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. But they come in different sizes. Some words and some people's word are like this pocket knife. This is about a three-and-a-half-inch blade. Some people's word is, like this pocket knife. Now, if I have to face the roaring lion with this pocket knife, is better than nothing by a long shot. But I'm always get kind of totally dealing with a mountain lion dealing with this. I got a chance, but I'm always get kind of towed up with this.

There were others and their Sword of the Spirit is like this. They got a real sword that is sharp, that is powerful, that is two-edged. And you have to ask yourself, "How big is your sword?" Because size does matter. It makes a difference. If I have to fight a mountain lion with this little thing, or if I can fight a mountain lion with this, I don't even have to get that close him to chop it's head off. So, I just take a big swing and the next thing about it, if he seize me with this, the lion is going to know that's a big claw. "I don't need to fool with that. Let me go somewhere else for lunch because this is going to be too expensive."

When the devil sees that you have your Word of God strong, the devil will say, "No, I'm not going to attack, because I know right off the bat." They already, "Let me go to somebody else whose word is like this, the person who has not read their Bible all year long. This person has not been to church since last Mother's Day. Let me go and find a person whose words is like this. I don't want to fool with a person whose Word is like this."

And even my son, George, just went on a trip with the school. And I was riding to church this morning with my oldest son, and he saw my sword in the back that I was bringing. And he said, "George, just brought a sword." George, I want you to come up here, bring your sword with you. Now see, George went and bought him a sword, he's got on red tennis shoes, red shirt, and a red sword. He's got on red and black, but his daddy got on red and black. Now, one thing about it, unsheathe your sword there. One thing -- you know -- when the devil -- put it back on, put the sheathe back on.

Now, I want you to just listen, listen to it. You see, when the devils hear that, or it's like if somebody breaks in your house, and they hear a shotgun cock and you stop them right off the bat. See, it's just automatically, there's, "Wait a minute, I better go next door." "No, I don't know what it I, but I guess the sound." See, the sound

of your word coming out changes some things. But if you got no sound, if you got no word to pull on, if you're standing there trying to battle a roaring lion with just your knife, or stuff, you're going to have some problems. So, I've never talked with George about buying a sword. But one thing George has seen in his father's office and at home, "Did daddy have swords?" So, when George saw this sword and his sword is fancy in the mind, it's sharper, it's more decorative, but it will kill you just as quick. Matter of fact, if you looked like, it's a little sharper than mine.

Nathaniel:

People, how your children see you behave, how they see you handle The Word, how they see you wielding the Spirit of God is, exactly how they will yield it. And this is the sound. What is your Word sounding like? So, George has a sword. George, also, along with Prophet Dexter, they alternate doing, God heals.

Now, let me just tell you a quick story, some of you are fighting some illnesses and you need a sword. You need some weapon through that you don't have. George is a little bit different in the way that he handles God, heals in Prophet Dexter. Prophets Dexter lays hands on you, he prophecies on you. That's one prophecy that I told the person, write this thing out, it is so powerful. He will speak words of life, and encouragement and He will open up some things in the Spirit to you. He has a whole different type of anointing. George prayed solemnly, and God spoke to me, He has the power to command the angels.

And I remember, I was sitting there, and I had some physical issues. But, I said, "This is my son, he's only thirteen years old. I won't get beat up just that standing over there and just sit back healing my daddy. And man, George told me on the way home, he says, "Daddy." He says, "When I begin to pray for people, my whole-body start shaking." And he said, I can barely stand. He says, "Sometimes, I have trouble even keeping my balance and the minute I stop praying, the shaking stops." And I instantly knew what that was. And I said, "Fool, why did you go up there? Why did you up there, fool?" So, the next time, the next God heals, Daddy was standing right there, and I said, "George, I got two things that I want you to pray, because I had issues from head to toe." Some of you here got issues from head to toe. I said, first of all my vision is not as sharp as it used to be. For some of you can't see what's a quarter. So, my vision, is not as sharp as it used to be. Then I said, "George, I've got rotator cuff damage in my shoulders from where I've worked out and sometime if I work out

my shoulders hurts. I've got rotator cuff damage in my shoulders. Then where from where I have run the whole a lot, and one of my knees sometimes get a little -- I need to pray on my knees. And then, because I run a lot, I've got was called, plantar fasciitis. It's a tendon that can sometimes get inflamed and when you get up in the morning, it hurts on the heel.

Nathaniel:

So, I said, George, I got four things that I need you to pray for. So, George prayed and that very next week, I felt my feet. The pain was a way less than what it was, "And whoa!" And then, God spoke me, said, "Tell the people this, don't bring, but both one thing at a time."

So, George, in your instructions you'll tell, "Don't bring, but one thing at a time. And this is part of just even the vast-- for those of you who come to God Heals. And if George, is there, now he didn't say anything about prophet Dexter, you all low Prophet Dexter down with this stuff. He'll just bring you whole list of Prophet Dexter. But with George passes bring one, you all say one thing, "You all bring one thing, you ask him to pray and to call the angels to heal." Just, one thing and all that he did, "He'd hit one thing. The other three I still got. Next time, I'm going to bring another three." But I will bring one thing, so you bring one thing George, you may be seated, I appreciate you.

So, sometimes we face these things that we battle with these Lions of Life. And I want to just Avie, if you would play the video clip.

(Video Playing)

Female:

"I dropped my face off and, for that split the second, I told myself, I don't want to live. January 8, 2004, my friend Debbie and I decided to go for a mountain bike ride after work. We rode together pretty often and we are great friends. We met at a local park called, Waiting Ranch Wilderness Park. It's kind of our home turf. I've been out of town for Christmas and hadn't really been riding. So, I thought, "Oh, we'll just do quick loop, forty-five minutes in an out." We got on the trail and I remember seeing a lot of people out there. I was kind of surprised for it being weekday. We climbed up the fire road called, Mustard Road. It's kind of the hard work of the route we had chosen. And then, you get to the top to an area called, Four Corners, where people who

tend to kind of catch their breath, regroup, and chatted for a couple of minutes. Debbie and I took off down Cactus.

(Video Playing)

Female:

About a minute and a half later, down the trail, we picked up speed again. We're kind of twisting and turning, suddenly, I felt something grab a hold of me. It felt like, I just got hit by a bus. I couldn't believe how hard I hit the ground. I realized then, that the animal actually had a hold of me. The claws were dug into my shoulders and its fangs were dug into the back of my neck and I realized there's only one animal out there that could do something like this, and that's a mountain lion.

As soon as it grabbed a hold of me, I realized, it's trying to drag me off of the trail. I can hear Debbie screaming and at first, when she's came around the corner and saw this huge lion on top of me, she got off her bike and grabbed it and threw it towards the lion, trying to scare him off. Well, it got caught up in bushes and that didn't seem to faze him at all. So, he continued dragging me down the trail. Debbie realized, he's about to get away with me.

I realized that he was re-adjusting his grip every time he would drag me. So, he would drag me a couple of feet and then, re-adjust his grip. So, he went from the back of my neck to the side of head. He closed down his grip and my ear were separated from my scalp. He moved his grip again unto the left side of my face and as he closed down, I could feel my entire cheek tear away. I was surprised and how easily it happened, it felt like "a hot knife through butter." It took no effort at all, but I did realize the damaged he had just done. He had just ripped my face off and for that split second, I told myself, "I didn't want to live." But then, my next thought, was of my husband, James and how I know he would want me to fight as hard as I could. But he was too fast. He grabbed me by the front of the throat and closed down his grip. And as he did so, everything went black.

I knew at that point; my life was over. I was kind of surprised that I hadn't seen any tunnel of light, I hadn't seen my life flash before my eyes, -- this was it, what a way to go? But few seconds later, I found myself gasping for air. I'd no idea what had happened. How the land was now gone? All I know is, I'm choking; I can't get any air and I realized I'm actually choking on my own blood. Debbie was right there and I motioned to have her

tried to help me to sit up. To see if I could clear my airway. I am just concentrating on slowing down my breathing and trying to get little bits of air.

(Video Playing)

Female: And over the course of the next couple of minutes, I could finally breath normally. The mountain bikers had heard her screaming during the attack and they had groomed down the trail to find out what was going on. The guys were sort of picking up cellphone-sized rocks and throwing them toward the lion. And at that point, he released his grip and let me go. It is an absolutely miracle that I'm still here. There's almost no way to explain how I survived this. Other survivors of traumatic experiences talked about I wouldn't change a thing. I disagree for myself. I wouldn't skip the lion attack. I'm so grateful to still be alive. I'm grateful for the role everyone played to allow me to still be alive. I know that no one knows how they would react in a traumatic situation like this. But all I know is, everything worked together for me to still be here."

Nathaniel: That's a story of an actual mountain lion attack of a person who survived. Some of you alive, feel like that. You've been brutalized and torn, ripped apart. Some of you are still bleeding and still hurting from stuff. There comes a point in certain battles when you do not have the power to win it yourself. You got to depend on someone else to help you.

And I want all of you to know that regardless of what you may be facing as a Christian, you are not alone. Not only do you not have to worry about the "roaring lion", but you have the Lion of Judah on your side. And when you understand that, it changes the whole battle scenario. And sometimes, the devil can get a temporary victory over you. God will oftentimes even allow you to go through that just to experience some things. You see, a real soldier has been through some battles, a real seasoned soldier. And if you're going to be a soldier for Christ, you're going to have to go through some battles. And sometimes, you would have to have some scars so that you can even tell some other people to have this, is how you get through that. This is how you survive; this is how you come back, and this is how you handle a roaring lion.

Nathaniel:

So, you got to be able to understand that you are not in this alone. Yes, you may have some scars. Yes, you may have gone through some attacks. Yes, you may be bruised, and yes, you may be battered. But you are not alone and you have the power to be better than you have ever been in your life. And see, that lady because of that attack became known all over the world.

So, sometimes the very thing that you think is pulling you down is, actually pulling you up. It will set a stage for you. And right now, I just want to open the floor for anyone who feels that you have somehow not picked up, "The Sword of the Word." And I just want people right now to come who have simply not studied their Word enough? And your sword is like this. You have simply not studied your Word enough because the "roaring lion" is coming. And whether you get this little pocket knife, or this big sword, it'll make a difference and how that battle comes out. It'll make a difference in terms of whether you get blooded and beaten and almost killed or whether he turns around and walked away because you got a sword. See, that's what Jesus fought the devil with. When He came, and He said, "I'd give you all this stuff." And Jesus had a word from God, "It is written." And how are you going to use it is written if you don't know what is written? And this is just for people and you know you have not studied your Word enough.

And what you have to do with this is, if you know you've not studied it enough, "And I got to admit, I got to stand in myself because God has told me you study two hours a day. Sometimes I don't get that two hours in a whole lot of times." And you see, that's the way Satan gets you. He gets you from the back. He doesn't come in front. He gets you from the back. So, before you know, you got something riding on your back and you're starting to get pulled down, you can't even see the thing. But if something clamped onto your back, there's draining the life out of you. And sometimes, just think what God has told us to do.

Now, if you hear now, you know you have not studied your Word enough. I want you to say into your mind, first of all, how many minutes a day you're going to study your Word for six days a week, not seven, just six. So, you have one day off. That's when commend you. You study two hours a day, six days a week, your day off, and you don't have to study a dog all the day.

My problem is, all six days a week. And I fall short sometimes, because there's so much stuff in the world, it gets your attention and it drives you and drags you away from the Word of God.

Nathaniel

So, I want you to first put in your mind, how many minutes a day, six days a week, will I study the Word of God? Whether that's reading, whether it's listening to messages, however you study, how many minutes a day will I study the Word of God. So, that I can be on my suit, get that in your head.

The next thing I want you to do is, just shout it out, shout it out. "120 minutes!" Shout it out, whatever it is. "120 minutes." So, if whatever it is, shout it out. So, now you have what you need to do exactly how much of what you need to do. Because sometimes you go out here, and would commit, "I'm just going to go study my Word more." And you just go by me and read the Holy Bible and that's it. That's why you have to be specific, because when you are fighting, that kind of power, you need to know what is written.

So, you have made this commitment that I will study my Word this amount of time every day. And what you're going to notice is, you're going to get stronger, and stronger, and stronger. And there's going to be some things that will come out that, as you'd be, "I never saw this before like this." And there will be some things that's going apply directly to your life and they will help you turn some stuff around and change some things, but you got to stick with it. Because right now, what that old slow foot is going to do, is going clamp on to the back of your neck and try to cut your connection with the head. And if he can cut your connection with the head, the whole body is lost.

And you don't have communication with God, your whole body is lost. And I want to just say a prayer over you. I want to hold this sword over you. And this is actually called "The Sword of Solomon." Bow your heads and raise your hands. Dear Heavenly Father, we just thank you for those who have come. Right now, Father, I pray that you imbue them with the discipline and the power and the insight that that which they have shouted onto the heaven shall come to pass, that which they have agreed and committed to study with you, six days a week. In that study time Father, you will put into them revelation, knowledge, determination, power, and even that Word shall open doors that have been closed, because by the power of Your Word, you created everything. And Father, let the Power of Your Word move into

their lives, and create. And yet, even some things destroyed that which should not be, bring into manifestations that, which should be and remove that, which is detrimental. Father, in the name of Jesus, as we empower them now to go forth, changed, determined, and they shall be disciples. In thy Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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