

The Sieges & Campaigns of Spiritual Warfare

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Bradford, Ned (ed.). "Jackson's Foot Cavalry." In *Battles and Legends of the Civil War*. New York: New American Library, 1984; pp. 194-95.

antistrateuomai - "campaign; expedition"

This is a compound word which combines the preposition *anti* - "against" with the noun *strateuo* - "to serve in the military."

All the standard lexicons—**Arndt & Gingrich, Liddell & Scott, and Kittel & Friedrich**—translate *antistrateuomai* as either "campaign" or "expedition."

Gerhard Friedrich in the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, volume 5 gives us this comment:

The oldest derivate from Aeschylus and Herodotus is *strateuo*, "to undertake a campaign." From *strateuo* comes the noun *strateia*. It denotes the essential activity of him who is in the *stratos*, "campaign."

All the standard English translations use either "warring" or "waging war" to translate *antistrateuomai*.

However, the best translation is "campaign." A campaign is part of a war which involves an army in the field seeking to accomplish an immediate objective. War entails all aspects of an overall struggle to achieve the ultimate objective.

How "campaign" is used in English is best described by the **Oxford English Dictionary: Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "campaign"**:

From the French word champaign meaning "open country" or "the field." The operations of an army 'in the field' for a season, a definite portion of time, or while engaged in one continuous series of military operations, constituting the whole, or the distinct part, of a war.

The name arose in the earlier conditions of warfare, according to which an army remained in quarters (viz. towns, garrisons, fortresses, or camps) during the winter, and on the approach of summer issued forth into the open country or 'took the field,' until the close of the season again suspended active operations.

fig. Applied to any course of action analogous to a military campaign, either in having a distinct period of activity, in being of the nature of a struggle, or of an organized attempt aiming at a definite result.

The word "siege" adds some insight to our effort to find the best English translation. Again, I quote from **Oxford: Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "siege"**:

The action on the part of an army, of [enclosing] a town or castle, in order to cut off all outside communication and in the end to reduce or take it.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. "siege":

A military blockade of a city or fortified place to compel it to surrender. A persistent attack. lay siege: To besiege militarily. To pursue diligently or persistently.

The war for control of the soul is waged throughout one's entire spiritual life. But Paul does not wish to call attention to the overall warfare but to the separate campaigns advanced against the believer's soul by the first husband. The campaign includes all the techniques available to the sinful nature in its struggle to regain authority over the soul which is the campaign's ultimate objective.

The campaigns vary with the season which could be a day, a week, a year, a lifetime. The campaign will eventually utilize every lust pattern possible to distract the believer and every vector available to embellish the temptation. The campaign stresses the mission's ultimate objective, to regain control of the believer's soul. The siege stresses the immediate objective which is to exploit any breaches which might afford access. It does so by cutting off all communication with the stream of consciousness and replacing it with bombardments from its artillery of human viewpoint.

Once a breach appears in the wall of the soul, the siege has achieved the immediate objective. The campaign continues as the first husband assumes authority over the soul with renewed power to carry out his policies of human good and evil.

Each day the struggle begins afresh for the believer who is either in status quo spirituality or status quo carnality. Your first husband either continues to wage his campaign of tyranny over your soul or he conducts siege warfare in order to do so.

Both these English words help describe the fundamental meaning of the Greek word *antistrateuomai*, therefore we will use both.

“But I see a different kind of principle in my body parts (brain) laying siege in a campaign ...”

present - Progressive, or pictorial; signifies action in progress. It presents to the mind a picture of events as in the process of occurrence. The first husband persistently lays siege to the soul in an ongoing campaign to regain authority over your life.

middle - Deponent; active in meaning. The principle of the sinful nature constantly lays siege to the soul in a campaign against doctrinal truth.

participle - Circumstantial; as long as we are alive, this conflict will continue unabated.

Bible doctrine is the target in the initial siege. The believer who acquires a large inventory of ideas into long-term memory traces constructs a very formidable fortress to be breached. Thus, the sinful nature's campaign against truth becomes less and less successful as the believer grows in grace.

The first husband has greater success in attacking truth in its academic form, before it becomes a part of the believer's doctrinal inventory. Therefore, we see the target of the siege is not the heart, *kardia* but the mind, *nous*.

We have the descriptive genitive from the noun: *nous* - “mind.”