

A STUDY GUIDE THROUGH SPIRITUAL WARFARE

— THE —
**UNSEEN
WAR**



ALL THINGS POSSIBLE.

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INTRODUCTION

The Unseen War: Spiritual Warfare

Welcome to *The Unseen War: A Study Guide through Spiritual Warfare*, created by the team here at All Things Possible Ministries with Victor Marx. Whether we are in war torn countries or poverty stricken communities, we have seen first hand that effective and courageous Christians engaging in the spiritual battle (or "unseen war") have the ability to change lives.

We have also seen a desperate need for more training in the biblical concepts of engagement. If we are to engage the enemy we must understand the weaknesses and strengths of ourselves, our allies, and our enemy. The western church has raised a generation (or two) that either ignores or misunderstands the spiritual battle. Many are fearful, defeated, addicted, and distracted. Even though Jesus completed a rescue operation behind enemy lines to save them, they are caught in a web of lies and functionally still a P.O.W. (prisoner of war)

You may feel hopeless and defeated as you read this. Please hear us as we tell you there is real hope in Jesus to give you freedom from the entanglements weighing you down. We are called to be aware of the schemes of the devil. He is a liar, a thief, and a murderer. His aim is to take you out of the battle, but God is greater and has given us the power to resist and stand against the enemy. That is the aim of this workbook, to help you see, believe, and apply the truth of God in your life and get into the battle.

This is not meant to be an exhaustive study on the topic of Spiritual Warfare. This is a field manual to get you in the fight. We hope that the knowledge and activities included in this book will equip you to step into the battle with confidence. The strategies and approaches that we discuss in this book are biblical, tested, and effective, but we are just one of many ministries who have developed and tested biblical approaches to spiritual warfare. Many of our partners in this project have resources that share their experiences and strategies on this topic. We highly recommend a deeper dive into any of the materials listed in the back of this workbook.

Finally we believe that all believers are called to be in the battle but sometimes there are battle scars that need help from others to heal. We believe that an important part of spiritual warfare is standing with others who are weary. We encourage you to go through this material with a group, to reach out to organizations (like ours or the others listed in the back of this workbook) for support if you are in a dire situation, and if you are strong in the Lord and the strength of his might, then stand with others and let's take back some ground!

STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD

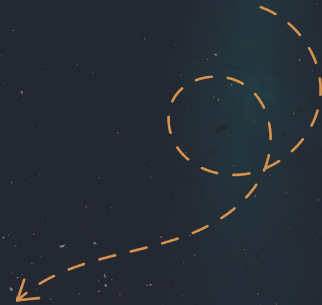
1: GOD'S PURPOSE: PEACE AND LIFE.

The Bible Says:

"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." - Romans 5:1

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

What keeps us from having the life God planned for us?



2: THE PROBLEM: OUR SEPARATION FROM GOD.

God created us in His image. He gave us a will and the freedom of choice; we choose to disobey Him and go our own way. This separates us from God.

The Bible Says:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." -Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." -Romans 6:23

People have tried to bridge this gap between themselves and God.

The Bible says:

"There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." -Proverbs 14:12

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." -Isaiah 59:2

No bridge reaches God ... except one.

3: GOD'S BRIDGE: THE CROSS.

Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between us and God.

The Bible Says:

For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."

-1 Timothy 2:5

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God!"

-1 Peter 3:18

God has provided the only way back to Him. You must make a choice.

4: OUR RESPONSE: RECEIVE CHRIST.

We must trust and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The Bible Says:

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

-John 1:12

"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

-Romans 10:9

Which side are you on? The side with Christ or without Him?

HOW CAN I ACCEPT CHRIST INTO MY LIFE?

THE SINNER'S PRAYER.

✓
Admit your need.
(I am a sinner)

✓
Be willing to turn from
your sins. (Repent)

✓
Believe that Jesus
Christ died for you on
the cross and rose
from the grave.

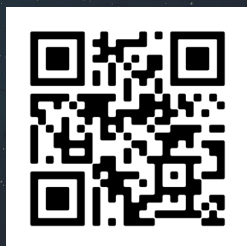
✓
Through prayer,
invite Jesus Christ to
control your life
through the Holy Spirit.
(Receive him as Lord
and Savior)

PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER.

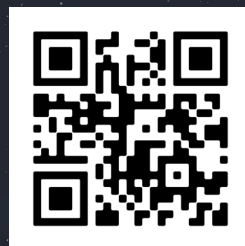
"Dear God, I know I'm a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is Your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen."

DID YOU PRAY THIS PRAYER?

Yes, I Prayed The Prayer.



No, But I Have A Question.



USING THIS STUDY GUIDE

The purpose of this Study Guide is to accompany you on a personal and biblical journey of learning, training, and exercising your God-given **position** and **authority** in the battlefield of spiritual warfare. It is best used alongside the ***Unseen War Course-Series***, but can be used as a stand alone study guide.

Using the guide along with the Course-Series

We recommend that you first watch one episode and then complete the corresponding chapter before moving on to the next episode and corresponding chapter. **Example:** watch all of *Episode 1 - The Unseen War* and then complete all of *Chapter 1 - The Unseen War* in the Study Guide before moving on to *Episode 2 and Chapter 2 - Knowing Your Enemy*. The Corresponding episodes and chapters are listed in this Guide. Of Course you are welcomed to watch the Feature-Length Documentary in its entirety before beginning this study guide, but it is purely per your preference as the episodes cover all the same content.

Using the guide without the Series

Of course, we recommend that you watch the Course-Series along with the Study Guide, that's why we made them! We believe this brings a different element and perhaps fuller understanding to the study guide. However, the guide is designed so that it can be used on its own as well.

Every section contains chapters with similar components that specifically target personal and biblical understanding with clear guidance on how to personally apply the word of God in life.

COMPONENTS USED IN EVERY CHAPTER OF THIS STUDY GUIDE

The Brief

An introduction and synopsis to the Lesson.



Key Scripture

Important scriptures that relate to the topic of the chapter.



Lesson

A study through scripture and biblical principles.



Key Concepts

A recap of key concepts that are important to understand as you move forward to the next chapter.



Tactics & Training

Questions that individually challenge and encourage biblical reflection in order to help make an accurate personal assessment and encourage growth.



Call To Arms

Assignments to focus on during each week of the study.



Battle Prayer

An example prayer of worship, repentance or agreement with God that pertains to the concepts of the lesson.





1: THE BATTLE IS REAL





The Brief

Spiritual warfare is real. We live in a warzone and must be prepared for real conflict. We battle against an adversary who desires our destruction. We are given orders, tools, and authority to battle against an enemy.



Key Scripture

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12

"But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice." James 3:14-16

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:18-20



Lesson: The Reality of War

When there is a war between nations it's all over the news. We know the war is raging, but if we are not in the warzone our daily routines are unaffected. It's easy to continue living as though the war doesn't exist. It's possible for us to acknowledge the existence of the conflict in our minds, even talk about the war with our mouths, but not see any real impact in our day to day behaviors or routines.

In the same way the Bible can tell us that there is a war raging all around us (Eph 6:12), but we can falsely believe that we are not in the warzone. We can acknowledge that a spiritual war exists but live in a way that clearly demonstrates we are not convinced of any real threat or need to change our daily behaviors or routines.



It can be equally problematic if we believe that we are, in fact, in a warzone, but don't understand the role we have in the conflict. We are not simply civilians waiting for our liberation, nor are we POWs waiting on rescue. We are soldiers (Eph 6:10-11) and ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20). We have critical roles in the conflict and we have been given a clear mission to accomplish (Matt 28:18-20, Lk 10:19).

But, what is the conflict? That is where there is much discussion and disagreement.

Is it a battle against the world system, a struggle to bring heaven to earth and advance the kingdom of God? To create a God honoring culture that reflects the character of the Lord?

Or, is it a battle against our flesh? The desire to rebel against God's commands and instruction for our lives? An internal struggle to be righteous and more like Jesus?

Some would say it is a battle against the demonic? A conflict against an adversary (the spiritual forces controlled and commanded by Satan) who desires to divide, distract, and destroy? So who is right?

What is Spiritual Warfare?

"Spiritual warfare is the worldview of the Bible." That is what Dr. Marcus Warner (President, Deeper Walk International) told us when we interviewed him for this project. The Bible tells us our world is fallen. It is corrupted by sin and rebellion (Gen 6:11,12); not just of man but also of angelic beings (2 Pet 2:4, Rev 12:7-9). It is in a constant state of struggle: good vs evil, spirit vs flesh, God vs Satan. This constant struggle is one that is meant to show the power of God (Col 1:16-17) and the beauty of redemption (1 Pet 1:11-13, Eph 3:10, Eph 1:4).

Spiritual warfare, like any war, has multiple battlefronts. In World War 2 there was Europe and the Pacific, in Spiritual warfare there is the world, the flesh, and the Devil. These are the primary battlefields our war is waged upon. James references them when he equates the source of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition to earthly (the world), unspiritual (the flesh), and demonic (the devil) sources of wisdom. These battlefronts can also be seen in Satan's tactics used against Jesus when He was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11) as well as in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23). They are prevalent throughout the Bible but particularly clear in Ephesians 2:1-3.

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of



disobedience — among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

So, yes, spiritual warfare includes combatting the world system by creating God honoring culture. Yes, spiritual warfare includes a battle with our flesh. And, yes, it includes conflicts with the demonic. The biblical word view of spiritual warfare consists of a multi-front battlefield hitting the believer and non-believer alike; the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

Training for the Battles

A war is made up of individual battles and as soldiers we must be equipped for those battles in order to be effective. Each soldier prepares physically, mentally, and emotionally for combat. This preparation happens before the battle is even upon them. A soldier knows their life depends on being ready for the battle when it arrives; and training is the only way to ensure they are prepared.

Let's think of a few things a soldier must do to be mission ready:

- They must maintain physical and mental fitness through diet and exercise
- They must learn to use specialized tools and weaponry
- They must learn to function as a unit and train as a team
- They will receive mission briefings to understand the conflict and war zone they are to enter
- They will study mission reports that include dossiers on enemy combatants and objectives

A soldier spends weeks in bootcamp and receives specialized training for their role in combat. Once trained they continue to perform drills to be sure they are ready for battle when the moment comes. Each soldier supports the rest of their team and they function as a cohesive unit. They are not fighting the battle alone!

And, of course, before all of this preparation a soldier must enlist! They must believe in the goals and mission of the army and commit to joining and being subject to it. They must assess the sacrifice required and be convinced the battle is worth fighting. Can you see the spiritual parallels that we as believers need to apply in our daily lives?

Many leaders will give counsel that the spiritual battle requires you to read your Bible more, go to Bible study, plug in to church. These are all good things, but these are not part of combat, these are



exercises in preparation for combat. This is training, not war. Even this study can give you the knowledge you need, but just like in our physical lives, you have to exercise your faith beyond training to be effective in combat.

Actual combat happens when you are hearing lies in your mind, being faced with temptations, experiencing persecution or oppression and choose to engage or respond in the Spirit, truth and authority of Christ.

As Christians, we need to both train for the battle and be ready to engage when the battle is upon us. We must understand and value our training in order to be mission ready. When we study, fast, pray, worship, and obey the commands of God, we are training for battle but mastering them is not the goal. The goal is to complete our mission. To be salt and light to the world around us. To make disciples of all nations. To be the hands and feet of Jesus here and now on earth. When we experience spiritual opposition to this mission, we are in the heat of battle.

A soldier who always trains, but never engages in combat is of no threat to the enemy. If the enemy can distract us by focusing us on personal improvement, he is just as happy as if he can cripple you through destroying your confidence and hope. We must value our training but not allow it to replace our mission objective. It is just like James (1:22-25) says, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

There are too many in the church who have spent years training for battle; memorizing scripture, studying the word, worshiping on Sunday morning, but never join the fight.

A Battle of the Mind: The Frontline

The Frontline of this battle is your mind. Negative or intrusive thoughts, temptation, doubt, shame, and attacks on your worth are often fiery darts from the enemy. However the battle is not limited to mental combat.

The enemy's mental attacks have a purpose. Our thoughts lead to beliefs, our beliefs to understanding, and that understanding produces actions. The spiritual battle may begin with the mind, but it is a war that includes physical manifestation. We are fully physical as much as we are fully spiritual.



Addiction is an example of how mental attacks can lead to physical manifestation. Stress, isolation, pain, peer pressure, all of these can lead to drug use. Addictive substances then create a physical dependence and often bring deeper mental attack, which leads to life problems like broken relationships, loss of stability, even death. There is no spiritual/physical divide. The two are intertwined and are often targeted in conjunction.

So the spiritual battle most often starts as a battle of the mind but quickly progresses to physical manifestation if it gains a foothold. Paul commands the church to not give the devil a foothold (Eph 4:27) by embracing sinful actions. James uses a similar metaphor in his description of sin taking root and expanding in the life of an individual. From the security of a foothold, the enemy forces can launch attacks deeper into their opposition's territory.

Sin is not the only doorway for the enemy to influence and attack. Jesus committed no sin and was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Job was blameless and was allowed to undergo trial brought on by Satan. Both of these scenarios seem to be more calculated attacks than opportunistic. Why is this important to note? We cannot fall into thinking that limits the enemies attacks on us as simply repercussions of sinful decisions. Sin can give a foothold, but a foothold is not needed for attack.

Spiritual Attacks vs Spiritual Warfare

There is no end to disagreement over doctrines and theology. Spiritual warfare is no exception. As we begin this journey together, one thing we have found helpful is to understand that a war can look different depending on where you are sitting. If you are in the Navy, a battle will look very different than if you are in the Air Force. Much of the disagreements about spiritual warfare stem from mistaking individual attacks as the defining feature of the war.

For example, if we have primarily struggled with the constant solicitation to join the world in sin and selfish injustice, we may think this is what spiritual warfare looks like - a battle against the world and a need for righteousness and justice in our culture. However, if we have predominantly fought with our own internal desires and weaknesses, we may believe that this is all that spiritual warfare looks like - an internal battle for holiness and simply a struggle against the flesh. Even furthermore, if we have seen a lot of physical manifestations of demonic influence and oppression on others and/or ourselves, then we may believe that this is the definition of spiritual warfare - liberation from demonic oppression. However, all of these examples would be defining the greater war by a type of individual battles. The greater war encompasses all three of these attacks, and we need to broaden our vision in order to be effective in our mission to go and



make disciples. We must be equipped to stand against all these types of attacks (2 Cor 10-11, Eph 6:10-11). We must understand that our battle is not simply to be more holy, or bring more justice and/or liberation. We need to identify the type of attack and respond accordingly and effectively; and remember that we have an overall mission to complete, as we wage war on a very real enemy!

Dr. Karl Payne reminds us, "As soldiers of Christ, our promise is victory in battle, not the absence of conflict." Even though the victory belongs to the Lord, in the face of most certain battle, it is still our duty as soldiers and ambassadors to train and wage war (Prov 21:31). When we are attacked, we are in a singular battle, a microcosm of the overall war. It is meant to distract us, to divide us from others, to destroy our hope and joy. We must remember that we are not alone in battle and that many others are involved in the war. We are not meant to fight alone and individual battles may be difficult, but our victory is secured in Christ (John 16:33, Rom 8:37-39).

The Key to Victory

The key to our victory, both individually and universally, is the power and authority of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ (1 Pet 3:22). As soldiers and ambassadors in the battle, we carry with us the authority of the kingdom we represent. The enemy we fight is powerful but he is nothing compared to the One who created the heavens and the earth.

The work of Jesus on the cross was a counter offensive against the ruler of this world. His sacrifice disarmed the enemy and redeemed that which was lost. His resurrection was proof of its success and a demonstration of its power to push back the darkness and once and for all conquer death (Col 2:15).

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He sat down at the right hand of the Father, and placed all His enemies under His feet. He promised the Holy Spirit would come and dwell within those who followed Him (Act 2:33). The same Holy Spirit that empowered the early church dwells within any who have given their life to Jesus. Through that indwelling Spirit we have the power and delegated authority to live a life of godliness, to stand against the attacks of the enemy, and advance the kingdom of God here on earth (2 Pet 1:3-4).



Key Concepts

1. Acknowledge the Battle

Everything in your life has a spiritual connection. Our battle is not about doing what is right or wrong, it's about being a messenger and force for the love and truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The



enemies we battle are meant to stop that mission from being lived out through distraction, division, or destruction.

2. Acknowledge Your Enemy

The demonic is real and they have power and influence. A relationship with Jesus is the only defense and assurance of victory. However, this does not eliminate our adversary. Over and over again the Bible warns believers to be on guard, stand firm, resist, and battle against the attacks of the enemy. Your enemy is real and it's not the person you look at in the mirror.

3. Acknowledge Your Authority

Every true Christian has been given the authority of Jesus through adoption into the body of Christ. Your authority to stand against the enemy is not of your own power but the power and authority given by Jesus as He has made you a new creation.

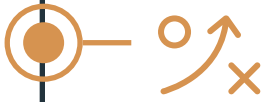
4. Asses the Battlefields

The world, the flesh, the devil. These are the three fronts of the war. As we battle each day it is important to be prepared to defend against attacks that stem from each of these fronts. The process begins by identifying attacks. As we progress we will be able to identify the source of attacks and respond accordingly.



Training & Tactics

1. What questions and/or expectations do you have about studying spiritual warfare and your own personal growth that you are hoping will be addressed through this course?
2. Have you had any experiences that have led you to believe in the reality of spiritual warfare (i.e. negative or tormenting thoughts, mental health issues, demonic manifestations, etc)? If so, what were they?
3. Which of the following would you consider part of the spiritual battle?
 - Addictions
 - Road Rage / Bursts of Anger
 - Negative Thoughts / Depression
 - Movies / Media



- Sex Trafficking / Slavery
- Government Regulations
- Education
- Worship
- Culture / Social Norms
- Diet / Exercise
- Family Dynamics
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Sleep / Rest
- Prayer
- Scripture Memorization or Study
- Sexual Desire / Identity
- Work
- Anxiety / Panic / Fear
- Psychology / Mental Illness
- Medicine / Drugs
- World Affairs
- Finances

4. Have you had recurring thoughts and/or feelings that have made it more difficult for you to live out the call God has placed on your life? Have you felt your identity in Christ attacked? Pray and ask the Lord to reveal to you the lies the enemy most commonly uses against you.
5. How would you define spiritual warfare and your role in it? In light of this session is there anything you feel you need to change in your approach?



A Call To Arms

All of us are involved in the war, but we may not be in active battle at the moment. We are, however, always blessed to be able to train and prepare for the moment an attack comes our way. This involves more than just a study of the Bible, we need to rehearse the truth and put it into action. What does this mean? Here are some examples and suggestions to follow over the course of this study:

Prayer (James 5:16)

Begin with the Battle Prayer written below. It is broken up into 4 sections of review. Take time to pray through each section and look up scripture as needed. Say the prayer OUT LOUD! God can weigh between our thoughts and the intentions of our heart; but neither you, me, or our enemy possesses this ability. Speaking out loud for all to hear (namely God, ourselves, and the enemy) forces our bodies, thoughts, and our enemy into submission through



obedience to God. Remember, you can use this as a guide to pray for others, as well.

Fasting (Matt 4:4, Joel 2:12, Ezra 8:23)

Start with just one meal, one day a week, during the course of this study. Set this time aside to seek the Lord in prayer, worship, study or meditation in Him.

Study (Heb 4:12)

Be strategic with the Word of God, it is a weapon! Write down any lies and deceptions from the enemy that the Lord revealed to you, as you went through the Battle Prayer below. Now, find a verse or section of scripture to counter the lie of the enemy in your life and fortify that ground in truth. Commit to reading or listening to these verses everyday over the course of this study, and being the renewing of your mind.

Engaging (James 1:22-25)

Learn to battle alongside other christians and depend on the strength of God in His body of believers. Every Soldier is part of a team and we are part of the body of Christ. Share your faith, practice strength, and/or give of your time and resources. Pick one person, born-again or not, and let them know you are praying for them and will continue to pray for them over the course of this study. Share the Gospel or Battle Prayer with them. Commit to volunteering for, or giving to, a specific ministry at church or otherwise during the course of this study.



Battle Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father (John 1:12-13), I thank you for Your amazing love, protection, and grace in my life (Rom 8:35-39). I proclaim my utter dependance on You (John 15:5) and acknowledge that You alone are all-powerful, and all-knowing (Isa 40:28). You have all-authority in heaven and earth and over all Your enemies and the kingdom of darkness (Matt 28:18).

I now willingly submit myself to You and Your plans and trust in the name and power of the risen Lord, Jesus Christ (Col 2:10), Who has cleansed and bought me with His precious blood (1 Cor 19-20). I ask that You, by the counsel of the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18), would bring to my remembrance any distracting, divisive, or destructive evil-vice and/or demonic lies present in my mind, thoughts, heart, body, or life that is opposed to You and Your truth (John 14:26, 16:7-11). I confess it now and repent of my part, (if any), in all its wrongdoings (1 John 1:9).



2: REBELLION





The Brief

Knowing our enemy is critical for success in the war. Understanding his motivation, his allies, and his character helps us develop a strong defense and counter attack.



Key Scripture

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit." Isaiah 14:12-15 ESV

"And He (Jesus) said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.'" Luke 10:18 ESV

"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 (ESV)

"But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough." 2 Corinthians 11:3-4



Lesson: The Rebellion Begins

In every battle, whether it's a boxing match or an international war, knowing your adversary is a critical component of victory. If you know the history and motivations of your foe you can prepare defenses for likely attacks. If you know their strategies and capabilities you can counter attack and advance when opportunities arise.

Much can be learned about our spiritual battle by breaking away from the individual conflicts we face daily and looking back at the beginning of the war. You may be tempted to look at the fall of man,



the temptation of Eve and the failure of Adam as the beginning, but the conflict began before the rebellion of humanity, it started with a rebellion of the angelic.

Many notable Bible scholars* associate Isaiah's taunt to Babylon (Isa 14:12-15), Jesus's reference to Satan falling from the sky (Lk 10:18), and other similar language in Revelation as a reference to the rebellion of Satan against God (Rev 12:3-9). Some details of this rebellion are given, but many are not. However, the establishment of Satan as an adversary against humanity is clear (John 8:44, 1 Pet 5:8, Rev 12:10,12). This adversarial relationship is rooted in Satan's desire to take the place of God, to be higher than God and usurp His throne.

We see this play out in the temptation of Eve in Genesis (Gen 3:1-8). He promised that Eve would "be like God" and questioned God's character causing Eve to doubt and justify disobedience. At that moment he had convinced Eve to join in his rebellion. This is a common scheme of the devil. He deceives us and through that deception he seeks to establish strongholds in our lives; an area where he can continue to harass and torment us.

Traditionally, it has been interpreted that Satan rebelled after creation was completed and before he spiritually attacked Adam and Eve in the garden. His plans for Adam and Eve were executed only after he had turned against the Creator. Through his deceptive manipulation of Adam and Eve, he secured his position as prince of this world (Eph 2:2) and he has continued his attack on God (through humanity) ever since.

A Sinister Character

The Bible gives us insight into Satan's character and motivation. Knowing this helps us identify attacks and prepare defenses. Here are a few key passages that reveal the driving goal behind the attacks of the demonic.

Satan is a deceiver: "And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him." Revelation 12:9

Satan does not merely lie, he deceives. He distorts truth, manipulates emotions, causes confusion, seduces desires, and calls evil - good, and good - evil. He is the father of lies(John 8:44) but he is not like a child who lies to avoid getting in trouble. He lies to change our thinking (2 Cor 11:3). His aim is not motivated by fear of punishment but always aimed to change the behavior of the hearer (2 Tim 2:26). He is the ultimate propaganda machine (2 Cor 4:4). Just as the fruit of the Lord's spirit gives sight, the fruit of the spirit of the world breeds death (Heb 2:14-15).



Satan is a Thief: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Satan is a thief and usurper upon every opportunity. The thing he (and his minions) attempt to steal more than anything else is authority; this consists of our position, protection, and purpose. He stole authority from Adam and Eve, he will try to steal that same authority from us. If you are outside of the heavenly citizenship attained through Jesus Christ for all those who believe in Him; then you remain most certainly victimized by this thief of old. He has stolen your authority, along with the rest of humanity's - position, protection, and purpose. You have found yourself in the same plight as Adam and Eve when they were deceived and the usurper took what God had given to them; making them slaves to his kingdom of darkness, death and sin.

However, Jesus has changed all of that by His death, resurrection and ascension. He has restored to those that believe in Him what was lost in the garden and more.

Satan is filled with Pride: "You said in your heart, I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." Isaiah 14:13-14

Pride is one of the most dangerous of deceptions. Pride will make you believe you are something you are not, isolate you from others, and bring unexpected judgment. This is the path Satan invites us to join him on.

Satan is a narcissist and like most pathological narcissists he believes his own lies.

Satan is opportunistic: "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8

A cunning adversary, he is patient and is willing to wait to strike. He, and his minions, will study and stalk their prey (that's you by the way) and wait for the opportune moment to strike. He will test the waters, send in distractions, and watch for responses to difficult situations. Looking for weaknesses he will exploit them through direct attack or through the influence he has on the world system.



A Sinister Motivation

The “spirit” of someone or something speaks to the fundamental core of its life and the totality of its essence, more than that it simply gets to the truth of something (Prov 20:27). Biblically, this can refer to the “inner man” and “Holy Spirit,” but also is used as the “spirit of the law,” or the “spirit of this world.” This speaks to the purpose of the law, just like the “spirit of ‘76” refers to the zeitgeist of the American Revolution; moreover, the “spirit of this world” refers to the core rebellion or essence of demonic motivations and the vitality of its master, Satan.

Satan is the prince of this world and in some way he stole that authority through his convincing of Adam and Eve to rebel. As the world fell, it fell into his control. This control is limited but it’s been a reality throughout history. It changed drastically upon Jesus’ resurrection but is still not completely eradicated.

His lies and manipulations have not drastically changed, but his rebellion has always been about tarnishing the image of God (2 Cor 11:3-4). He does this by defacing those who are uniquely created in this image through deceiving them to rebel. His deceptions are double edged, he deceives us to join in his rebellion, but he also accuses us when we do so (Isa 14:16-17, Rev 12:9-10, Rev 18:23). This is because his aim is not to build a team (2 Tim 2:25-26), but instead is driven by his own pride and his disdain for the plans of God.

His pride is not fed by simply robbing you of hope and/or watching you suffer. His aim is more sinister. To the non-believer he uses deception to steer away from God, to the believer his aim is to keep you from living out your mission God has given you to be His hands and feet here on Earth (1 Cor 12:27, Eph 4:4).

Limitations of the Demonic

An unseen adversary who desires our destruction can be pretty intimidating. It is easy to feel powerless and not know how to respond. The demonic are dangerous but we must remember they are not the equal to God (Isaiah 43:10-11, Ps 97:3-9). They are not omniscient (all knowing), they are not omnipotent (all powerful), nor are they omnipresent (in all places at once). They have limitations and boundaries that they cannot defy just as we have limitations and boundaries that the physical world imposes upon us (Jude 1:6, Ps 82).

Authority is at the center of these limitations. Just as Satan usurped the authority of Adam and Eve he also desires to usurp authority



from us. The Bible speaks about giving the enemy a foothold, it talks about being taken captive, it also references strongholds in our lives (Eph 4:26-27, 2 Tim 2:26, 2 Cor 10:4). All of these references are made to believers not unbelievers. The clear biblical reality is that Satan and the demonic can exert influence on the believer. So as Peter says, we must be "on guard" (1 Pet 5:8-9).

There is a common phrase used when pastors teach on spiritual warfare, "A believer (in Christ) cannot be possessed by the devil." This statement is true, but the context and explanation of terms is critical. Are you protected from Satan forcing his hand to control you against your will? Yes. Are you protected against getting attacked from the demonic? No. Clearly no. There are too many passages (see those noted previously) that tell us we will be attacked by the demonic to think otherwise.

Can Satan (and/or the demonic) force themselves upon non-believers? The Bible is clear that before Christ we were in bondage, enslaved, dead in our trespasses. This language highlights the power sin and spiritual deception has on us without the enlightenment of the Gospel. The Greek word, "*daimonizoma*" the Bible uses when translated "possessed" is better transliterated "demonized." This word is simply the verb or action form of the word "demon." There is no connotation that implies ownership or possession in the original text. This means that an individual may be harassed, influenced, or perhaps even given themselves over to a demonic spirit.

There is a range of influence a demon can have on a person. Possession implies that the Devil owns you. That you have lost your moral agency for your actions. That is definitely not the case for believers. You are purchased by Christ's sacrifice on the cross and He will finish the work He began (1 Cor 6:19-20, 3:16). All of this said we can draw two important conclusions from scripture that are critical and agreed upon by nearly all who proclaim to follow Christ.

1. Jesus has been given the authority over all of creation by purchasing and redeeming it through His perfect life and sacrificial death. This is the only true defense against the demonic (Col 2:13-15).
2. That authority has been delegated to all believers and is empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit (Eph 1:18-23, 2:6).

Think about your life patterns: your daily habits, emotional state, thought life, relationships, anything and everything that encompasses your life. Now ask yourself, if you had an enemy that wanted to distract you where would they attack? Where are your weaknesses?



Key Concepts

1. You are Part of a Larger Conflict

The attacks we experience each day are significant and demand our focus. However we cannot forget that our personal battles are part of a greater conflict. Our hope should not be in an absence of personal conflict, it should be to advance the greater cause of our Father and King. By bringing our greater goals into focus personal battles will be more effectively fought.

2. Assess Your Enemy

Satan is motivated by his rebellion against God. Knowledge of his corrupted character can inform us of when he (or more likely his minions) are actively attacking. Think of the weights and distractions that are coming against you and assess if there is a spiritual root that needs to be renounced and stood against.

3. The Limits of the Demonic

You battle from a place of victory with the authority of Christ behind you. The demonic cannot force themselves upon you but are a constant harassment. We do not need to fear them, "greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world" 1 John 4:4. The demonic is not omniscient, omnipresent, or omnipotent; they are created beings with limitations.

4. The Demonic have Influence not Ownership

The concept of demon possession is misapplied in modern linguistics. The demonic are squatters, they are not owners. They are given influence but they have no intrinsic authority. A Christian cannot be demon possessed (owned and controlled by the demonic against their will) but they can be influenced, oppressed, attacked, deceived, and give permission to the enemy to run rampant in their lives. This is why we must be on guard and aware of their schemes (2 Cor 2:11, 1 Tim 4:1).



Training & Tactics

This week's exercises include some time spent in thoughtful expectant prayer. Spend some time calming yourself and removing distractions while contemplating the questions and seeking the Holy Spirit to give you insight into the schemes the enemy may be using against you and how to respond.

1. Does your daily life reflect the reality of a warzone? Do you function with the preparation required to keep yourself and loved ones prepared to respond to enemy fire? What sort of changes do you think would help you to be better prepared each day as you live life for Jesus?
2. The spirit of the enemy is one of pride and rebellion. This spirit influences and infects the world around us and it can also influence and infect us. Take a moment and humbly approach the Lord and ask Him to reveal through the Holy Spirit areas where you may be weak to attacks from the enemy. Write down your thoughts for reference. Here is a list of areas to pray through:
 - Rebelliousness
 - Unforgiveness
 - Pride
 - Unresolved Hurt or Trauma
 - Childhood Experiences
 - Lust
 - Greed
 - Complacency/Laziness
 - Loss of Hope
3. The enemy is an opportunistic foe who is happy to take the path of least resistance. Looking over your response in the previous question, what sort of ways have you seen the enemy attack you in the past week? Month? Year? (These could be recurring thoughts, emotions, life situations, toxic or broken relationships, or anything else the Lord may reveal to you as you pray for wisdom.)
4. As you have read through the lesson, the scripture references, and watched the video session this week, think about what you have learned about your adversary the devil. Do you feel better prepared to identify his attacks? What have you drawn from these concepts and how do you think they will affect your daily approach to the spiritual battle?
5. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that each day we have good works placed in our path by God. We have spent some time thinking about our enemy, but let's wrap up with an exercise that thinks on what God has called us to do! What good works have you seen in your path through your life? What desires do you have to bring hope and healing to others? Spend some in prayer and seeking; let the Lord reveal to you through the Holy Spirit and the scripture the things He has for you to do. Knowing what you have been called to do will help you stay on mission and defend against attacks.



Battle Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your word and Your revelation to my heart and understanding. I proclaim the power, dominion, and authority of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ over all. I declare Jesus's victory over the enemy when He made an open spectacle of him at the cross (Col 2:13-15). I proclaim my position of triumph over the enemy through the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ as my headship and I part of His body (Eph 1:18-23, 2:6).

I now command any enemy of God in my presence to be bound and gagged in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 12:29). You will in no way be able to hurt or hinder me as I seek to do the will of the Father and submit myself to His Holy Spirit of Truth (John 16:13). Jesus Himself is my protector and has crushed all His enemies (1 John 5:18).

Dear Heavenly Father, I humbly submit myself to You and ask, by the power of Your Spirit, that you would now bring to my mind all the areas in my life that I have been both in the past, and are currently being, rebellious and prideful towards You, Your commands, or others in leadership and authority over me, including those in Your church. Please bring these people and institutions to my mind, that I may repent of that now.

Lord, I repent of and renounce all these acts of rebellion and pride in my life and ask that You would cleanse me and in these areas from any unrighteousness. I now choose to forgive all those that I had not forgiven because of my pride and ask Your forgiveness as well (Matt 6:14-15). I choose to submit myself to You, Your word, Your church and others from this day forward. I choose to humbly value others as above myself (Phil 2:3). I ask that you would bless those in authority over me (1 Tim 2:1-2). I ask that if I had partnered with any spiritual enemy of Yours, whether knowingly or unknowingly, in my rebelliousness and pride that You would now sever and cancel that partnership (1 Sam 15:23).

In the name and power of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, if there be any demonic spirit against me or this area of my life, you must leave now and go to the dry place of Jesus's choosing, never to return, your assignment here is now broken (Luke 11:24, Matt 16:18-19).

Heavenly Father, I now dedicate the areas of my life, and the ground that was previously given over to demonic rebelliousness and pride, to You. I ask that You would fill these areas with Your Holy Spirit and build them up in Your truth.

Heavenly Father, I thank you for Your grace and care for me and my heart (James 4:6). I pray for all these things in the name and power of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



3: AUTHORITY





The Brief

The authority of Christ is delegated to you through the Holy Spirit. His authority reigns supreme and is meant to be used to advance the kingdom work of redemption through all believers.



Key Scripture

"And He (Jesus) said to them, "I saw **Satan fall** like lightning from heaven. Behold, **I have given you authority** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**, and **nothing shall hurt you**. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the **spirits are subject to you**, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:18-20 ESV

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way." Ephesians 1:18-23 NIV

"Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, so that through death He might **destroy the one who has the power of death**, that is, **the devil**, and **free those** who through fear of death were subject to **slavery all their lives.**" Hebrews 2:14-15 NASB



Lesson: The Rebellion Begins

In an action movie one man can be sent in to fight against a dozen or more hardened villains. His abilities, combined with his reputation, gives him the power to defeat his foes. We may scoff at this exaggerated movie scenario, but in the spiritual realm this is a reality. There is one man who can stand against unlimited foes because of his abilities and reputation. That man, of course, is Jesus. The enemy might be strong, but Jesus is always stronger (Luke 11:21-22).

Authority is a central part of our existence and this is by design.



When God created Adam and Eve they were given authority over creation. This authority was delegated to them by God with a purpose; to be fruitful, to multiply and to rule over everything He created (Gen 1:26-28).

That authority came with instruction and responsibility. Through deception Satan usurped that authority by convincing them to rebel against God. Creation was corrupted because the delegated authority was abandoned by Adam and Eve and usurped by Satan (Eph 2:1-3).

This is the scenario that Jesus came to redeem (1 John 3:8). He has fulfilled the responsibilities humanity could not and has restored humanity's authority over creation (Heb 2:14-15). God created humanity as image bearers and gave us authority over creation. When sin entered the world that authority was usurped by Satan. In response to this God sent His only son, Jesus, to redeem and restore that authority which was lost.

This is the gospel! The work of Jesus in His life, on the cross, resurrection and through His ascension is not just about filling the gap between your sin and Heaven. He has redeemed the world, purchased it back and defeated Satan. The authority of Jesus is not simply to redeem you, it is to redeem creation in proper dominion (Eph 1:18-23).

Most Christians do not question the authority of Jesus, but there is much debate on the delegation of that authority to the believer. If you desire to have victory in the spiritual battle, advancing the kingdom for the Glory of God, you must understand your place in creation.

Think about how delegated authority works in everyday life:

If you are driving on the freeway and a random person starts to wave at you to pull over what would be your response? If that person waving you to pull over is a police officer in uniform and driving a patrol car the scenario completely changes. Not simply because the individual has more ability or reputation, but because of the delegated authority that a police officer has been given. Both are strangers so the individual makes no difference. It is the delegated authority that we recognize and obey.

Recognizing and honoring the delegated authority of another is reasonable. Why? Because, we understand the repercussions of disobedience. If we choose to disobey that police officer, they can call in backup. They can tap into a powerful system of law enforcement resources that we cannot battle against. There are times when people choose to disobey, but they are risking punitive damage when they do. Ignoring the position of one with delegated authority has consequences of evoking the wrathful power from that which they have been commissioned to represent. The police officer's position of delegated authority to represent the law of the land, and all of its



power and strength to enforce those laws, has to do with his relationship with the law enforcement burrow, not that of the person he is pulling over.

In a monarchy, a prince or princess will often be sent to represent the Monarch. To speak with the authority of the family who rules. They have positional authority because of their relationship to the Monarch.

As a believer you are given authority. This is given to you not only through delegated authority like a law enforcement officer; it is also positional through the adoption into the family of God (Rom 8:15, John 1:12). You are an ambassador for Christ with a mission (2 Cor 5:20, Matt 28:18-20). He has not just given you authority; He has secured you positionally within His family (Eph 1:13).

This is a powerful truth that we so often forget. You are a son or daughter of God. This is the foundation of your identity (Col 3:3, Col 2:9-10). The enemy will bombard you with thoughts to distract you from this truth. He cannot take your authority away, but he can convince you to doubt it and keep you from using it.

You have been given great authority in the spiritual realm.

Authority over the demonic. (Luke 10:17-20)

"The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name.' He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'"

Authority over nations. (1 Corinthians 6:2)

"Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?"

Authority over the Angelic. (1 Corinthians 6:3)

"Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!"

The question of identity.

Who are you? What are your strengths? Giftings? Responsibilities? What has God instructed you to do? How does God see you?

One of my favorite testimonies in scripture is of Gideon. When God



sends the Angel of the Lord to call Gideon. He labels him a man of "Valor" (Judges 6:12). Gideon is hiding, he doubts God, asks him for signs, obeys instructions in the dark of night, and sets up elaborate ways to test God (Judges 6-8). Gideon does not seem to act valorous, but instead he is doubting, fearful, and questioning. So, why would he be called a man of Valor?

Because God does not see as man sees with limitation. No. He sees the true identity of His children in light of eternity and who He has really made them to be (1 Sam 16:7). God does not see us through our failures, He sees us through the lens of Holy Spirit empowerment (2 Pet 1:3-4, 2 Cor 3:17-18). He saw what Gideon would be, not what he was. He saw the finished work, the seed of truth that was growing. Gideon's identity was not defined by the acts of his flesh, the situation of the world around him, nor the doubts planted by the demonic; his identity was assigned to him by God. It is the same with you and I as believers in Christ (2 Cor 5:17).

He does not address us as sinners, but as saints (1 Cor 1:2, 1 Pet 2:9). He tells us we have all things to live a life of godliness (2 Pet 1:3), has equipped us with the armor of God (Eph 6:10-18), planted the fruit of the spirit to grow within us (Gal 5:22-26), and set good works in our path to boldly walk in each day (Eph 2:10.) We are no longer defined as "sinners" that were merely saved by grace. We are now "saints" who live by grace!

The demonic will always accuse you. They will bring up sinful actions, try to focus you on failure and lie to you that you are nothing more than a sinner (Rev 12:10, John 8:44). Unfortunately, many pastors feel their responsibility is to remind you of this every Sunday. Our faith has become obsessed not with the gospel solution, but the gospel need. What does that mean? We are a church who obsesses over our need for Jesus, but never identifies the transformative work of Jesus in our lives! The result of the Gospel is not simply future freedom, it is current freedom (1 Pet 2:16, Rom 8:1-2)! We are so focused on our own holiness we forget we were called to something greater (Gal 5:1). We are here to advance the kingdom and assist in setting other captives free (Acts 1:8, 2 Cor 5:11).

You have been adopted into the body of Christ for a purpose. You have not just been forgiven, you have been redeemed with a purpose. Read through the following lies (Note: the scripture provided counters these lies and is the actual truth):

1. You are nothing but a worthless sinner (Eph 1:1, John 15:16)
2. You are not important (1 Cor 12:12-27). God has no use for you (Eph 2:10)
3. You need to learn more before you can be used (Eph 2:10, 2 Cor 9:8)
4. You are powerless to make any real change (2 Tim 1:7, Acts 1:8)



All of these are lies that the enemy uses to mold your identity to be harmless and/or defeated. They are not true. If we believe these lies the enemy has a foothold to attack from. Perhaps it has even been reinforced and has become a stronghold that is driving your decision making and forming your identity. You believe you are without power so you do not act and often this leads to submitting to sin or abuse in your life.

Negative accusations are not the only things that distort our identity though. Take a look at these common lies (Note: the scripture provided counters these accusations with truth):

1. You need to focus on work and your career (1 John 2:15-17, John 15:31-34)
2. I could solve this problem if I had the authority and was in charge (Heb 13:7, Rom 13:1, 1 Pet 2:18, 1 Pet 5:6)
3. They need my help and can't do it on their own (Phil 4:19, Rom 12:3, 1 Cor 3:18)
4. I am under appreciated and deserve a break (Col 3:23-24, Matt 10:42, Matt 11:28-30)

All of these are lies that the enemy uses to mold your identity to be distracted and prideful. They are also not true. If we truly believe that we are the source of strength for ourselves and others, then that is just as effective of a lie as the enemy convincing us that we have no strength at all. If he can distract us with the things of the world he can form our identity into one that is self-sufficient without a need for God. This is just as dangerous as an identity that has a great need for God but fails to see the power given by Him to overcome (1 John 5:4-5, John 16:33).

All of these lies have one aim: to convince you to focus on you and not stay on mission, walking in the good works God has prepared for you to do. You are a child of God (John 1:12), a prince or princess of the kingdom of God (Rom 8:17). You are filled with the Holy Spirit, redeemed by the blood of Christ, and empowered to battle against the world, your flesh, and the devil. You have been given the power and reputation of Jesus to be his representative here on Earth (Ephesians 1:18-23).

Keeping Your Identity Centered in Christ

Our identity and authority come from our relationship with Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit who indwells us (2 Cor 21-22). The Holy Spirit is in you, He is changing you, making you more righteous each day. You are a "saint", which is literally translated as "holy one," and that is the truth (Eph 1:1).

A critical first step in the spiritual battle is training your mind to see you as God does. You are called God's child (John 1:12), valuable (1



Cor 6:19-20), redeemed (Col 1:13), chosen (John 15:16), a masterpiece (Eph 2:10), and given the title saint over and over again throughout the New Testament.

While interviewing Neil Anderson for this project, he told us something that is so powerful and true. "Your identity is what is going to get you out of your problems, it's not what got you in them." Think about that truth for a moment. If you are defined by your failures you will never believe you can do anything else. The enemy knows this. That is why over and over again God reminds you of how He sees you, His power within you and His care and compassion for you. Like a good father He allows us to learn from our mistakes. He gives us instruction so that we can grow and provides security for us. However, He also respects us. If we choose deception or pride, as the son in the Prodigal Son story did, He waits for us to return to Him and our true identity (Luke 15:11-32).

If you find yourself not believing in the true identity that God has purchased for you and called you, perhaps you are in rebellion against Him and/or believing the lies of the enemy. Remember, in the story of the Prodigal Son, the prodigal son knew the truth and the father, but chose the lie instead. If that is the case in your life, do as the prodigal son eventually did. Turn from your ways, and return to the Father. Renounce the lies along with living your life according to them. Choose the truth and make decisions to live according to God's truth, including the way you see yourself. At the end of the Prodigal Son story, the father was watching and ran to receive his son back with celebration, feast, open arms, and restoration. Don't allow the accusations of the enemy to keep you from your true identity in Christ and the love of your Heavenly Father. He is watching and waiting with open arms.



Key Concepts

1. Jesus is the Ultimate Authority

Through His birth, life, death, and resurrection Jesus redeemed mankind. That redemption is now spreading across the globe through the Gospel. As a believer Jesus has purchased and restored your authority to stand against the ruler of this world.

2. Delegated Authority

Just as we see in the physical world, delegated authority is critical in all areas of God's creation. Jesus gave His followers (which includes you) delegated authority over the demonic and told us that the gates of hell would not be able to withstand our assault and invasion.

3. Don't be a Victim of Spiritual Identity Theft

The enemy is trying to steal your identity and the authority that comes with it. Just as he did to Adam and Eve in the Garden and generations of people since then. Don't let the enemy distort your identity as an image bearer of God, now redeemed through the sacrificial love of Jesus.

4. Your Value is Determined by Jesus Alone

There are many forces that will try and define you by something other than what Jesus does. It doesn't matter how the world sees you, others see you, or the enemy tells you to see yourself. What matters is how God sees you and to align our understanding of reality with His.



Training & Tactics

1. The gospel is good news for all of creation! You are not just a recipient of God's grace, but a part of his redemptive plan. How does that make you feel? Why not express that feeling to God right now?
2. All of us have many roles, responsibilities, and activities that make up our daily lives. Think about the things that, in your opinion, make you who you are. Make a quick list of the top 10 things that form your identity.
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
3. Read through the list you created in the previous question. How would others in your life rank your top ten identity attributes? Do you think they would define you differently than you have? If so, how?
4. Read through the "In Christ" statements (Found in Appendix B in the Resource document). These statements are the truth, and who you really are, according to God and His word. Are there any conflicts between your list in question 1, or the ranking of others in question 2, with the truth of who God says you are "In Christ?" If so, list those conflicts here along with any other "I am..." statements from the "In Christ" declarations that don't seem or "feel" true to you personally in your life today.

5. Look over your answers in question 4. Any conflicts with your identity list and that which others assign you from questions 1 and 2, with the "In Christ" statements are most likely indications of areas in your life where you are believing or choosing a lie about yourself instead of believing and choosing who God says you really are. The same goes for any statement on the "In Christ" declaration that just doesn't seem or feel true to you personally, even if you would say it is true for others. These areas could be indications of strongholds in your life, or areas where the enemies attacks and lies have been effective. We counter this by choosing God's truth over the lie even when it doesn't "feel" true yet, and trust God to heal our damaged emotions and transform us by the renewing of our minds as we choose Him and make decisions based on His truth rather than the lie any longer. Pick the top 3 conflicts of identity you have according to the "In Christ" statements, now write out the "In Christ" truth statement along with the scripture provided that counters that lie. You may also want to look up additional scriptures to counter these identity lies and strongholds. Now, renounce the lie and declare the truth of God for each of these 3 areas out loud in prayer. (Example: "I renounce the lie that I am rejected. In Christ I am accepted. I am God's Child as it says in John 1:12 ...") Feel free to do this with more than 3 or as many conflicts as you have. Commit to reading these renuncements of lies and declarations of truth everyday, out loud for 40 days and be proactive in being transformed by the renewing of your mind. Feel free to do this with all of the "In Christ" statements.
6. Judges 6:12 is how the Angel of the Lord (Jesus) identified Gideon, "And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, "The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor." Gideon was called a man of valor although he did not seem to be acting valorous. God identified a weakness in Gideon and built a strength in him. Think about a weakness that you see in yourself. It could be impatience, anger, fear, anything that comes to mind. Fill in the blanks below:

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to _____ (Your Name) and said to you, "The Lord is with you, o mighty man/woman of _____ (opposite of your weakness.)



Battle Prayer (read out loud and from the heart)

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You and praise You for Your love and grace in my life. Thank You for Your intricate design, knowledge and path for me. Thank You that You know me and formed me. I am all that You say I am in Christ (Ps 139:13-18, 2 Cor 5:17).

I proclaim Christ's authority overall and His name, the name of Jesus, which is higher than any other name. I proclaim that Your

Holy Spirit is within me, because I am Your Child. I proclaim that I am in Christ and seated with Him in the heavenlies (Eph 2:6). I proclaim that the Risen Lord Jesus Christ has placed all His enemies, all the forces of spiritual darkness, under His feet (Eph 1:18-23). I proclaim that the authority of the enemy over me, my identity and my life, is crushed by the death, resurrection and ascension of my Risen Lord Jesus Christ (Col 2:13-15).

I proclaim that Christ is my Head and that He has made me part of His body, His most holy church. I proclaim that He has made me an ambassador, to go and do the will of the Father in His name; in the name of Jesus Christ and as a representative of His power and authority through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 5:20, Matt 28:18-20).

I know proclaim the following as truth and reject the lies of the enemy in my life:

(Read the "In Christ" statements along with all renouncements of lies and declarations of truth)

Heavenly Father, I ask that You would cancel any ground gained by the enemy in my life because of demonic lies. I ask that You would now fill these areas with Your Holy Spirit and fortify them in Your truth. I now commit all these areas of my life to You, Your truth, Your ways and Your Spirit. I trust You to heal my broken heart and wounded emotions as You transform me by the renewing of my mind and strengthen me in Your love (Rom 12:2). I commit to submit myself to You as the highest ranking authority in my life; and to reject, resist and rebuke any lie or thought from the enemy that is contrary to Your authoritative truth (James 4:7). In the wonderful name of Jesus I pray these things. Amen.

Notes



4: EQUIPPED





The Brief

The Armor of God is more than something to put on, it is something you must train in and get comfortable with so that you are ready for the battle.



Key Scripture

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak." Ephesians 6:13-20 ESV

"But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation." 1 Thessalonians 5:8



Lesson

Every soldier goes into battle with gear; protective armor, communication systems, and weapons are common tools of warfare used by soldiers throughout history. Before going into battle soldiers must train to use their gear so they can adequately respond when under attack.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he describes some of our gear for the spiritual battles we face. It is commonly referred to as the Armor of God. Many of the resources that address this passage spend much of the time describing ancient Roman armor. But there is nothing holy or spiritual about ancient Roman armor. Paul is simply using physical examples to impart the spiritual truth that we must be prepared to battle like soldiers (Eph 6:13-20).

Paul promotes this metaphor of a soldier gearing up for battle. In fact, he uses the same metaphor with slightly different terms in a letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thes 5:8). Paul clearly states we do not battle



against flesh and blood, like a soldier in the physical realm; rather, against the rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world. He further states that we battle against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. He also clearly believes that like soldiers in a physical army we must gear up for this spiritual battle (Eph 6:10-13).

Assess Your Gear

In the Ephesians 6:10-20 passage, there are 5 elements and their corresponding gear commonly referred to as the Armor of God: Truth - Belt, Righteousness - Breastplate, Readiness - Footwear, Salvation - Helmet, Sword - Word of God. In addition to these 5 elements, or pieces of gear, there is also an often overlooked, but deeply related command to pray at all times in the Spirit (vs. 18).

This gear is given to you for the battle. The "Armor of God" is more than just armor for protection, though. True, armor protects you from attack, but you are given an offensive weapon to wield as well - the sword. Every believer has been given a weapon to cut, slash and destroy the enemy. With a sword, you can take your enemy out. You are not called to passively defend against attacks waiting for the Lord (your general and commander) to do the fighting for you. Just like any commander, He has already given you the equipment with purpose to engage in the battle within His ranks and win!

Paul's description of armor is a great way to help you remember what gear you have available to you. It is also helpful to start from the top with the head or helmet and work your way down when remembering all the pieces of this gear.

The Helmet of Salvation

You cannot live without your head. Your head is the seat of your mind and thoughts. Those thoughts, both subconsciously and consciously, dictate how you function and engage with the world and others around you, even with the Lord! If your enemy takes out your mind, mainly through your thoughts, you have been neutralized. You are no longer a threat and are powerless to further your cause or mission. However, our minds are not left unprotected. We are told that our salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ protects our minds and thoughts like a helmet. How? Because we know that our salvation is always secure in Christ (Titus 3:4-7). But, does it end there? Remember, this is a spiritual helmet given to us by the power of God, and as such provides us with more than just protection, but ability. The Helmet of Salvation does more than protect the mind, because salvation by its nature is transformative (2 Cor 5:17). If someone has been saved, then they have gone through a transformation from a state of slavery to one of freedom. And, if that freedom is in Christ, then you are free indeed,



including your mind (John 8:36, Rom 12:2).

Now that we are saved and in Christ we possess the ability to take every thought captive and force it into submission to Christ (2 Cor 10:5)! This flips the tables as far as the war on your mind goes. The fiery darts, or lies and tormenting thoughts shot into your head by the enemy are no longer able to run a muck and dominate your mind. Now that you are safely in Christ, every fiery dart and thought is captured and held up to the scrutiny of His wonderful salvation for you. You can capture these fiery darts, you can determine where they have come from, and you can force these thoughts into submission to Christ. They no longer have power over you. You are not a slave to your thoughts or the fiery darts of the enemy. They are now captive and forced into submission, making them subservient or in slavery to you. This is all part of our great salvation! You are redeemed. Your thoughts are being redeemed. Your desires are being conformed to that of the Lords. Your mind is being changed. You are being given knowledge and understanding through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:22-24). You are a new creation in Christ Jesus!

This happens through both the reading of the written word of God as well as the indwelling of the Spirit within you. It happens through the body of Christ coming together and spurring one another unto good works (Heb 10:21-24). It happens through trials, tribulations and life experience. Your salvation is secured through Christ. It is being worked out day by day in your life, guided by the hand of the Holy Spirit with faith and hope securely resting in His ability (Phil 2:13).

In a previous letter to the Thessalonians, Paul also speaks of putting on the "hope of salvation" as a helmet (1 Thes 5:8). Here is a specific aspect of our salvation identified as effective against the enemy - that is, hope. Hope is part of faith and an anticipation of the good we are assured will come (Heb 11:1,6). The enemy will constantly attack your hope of salvation. Not in order to extinguish or remove the actual salvation from you, because that is impossible; instead, to cause you to doubt and lose hope, and thus become passive. His lies are subtle. He will use the truth and twist it to disarm you.

A very common example of this is concerning your hope of salvation. He will tell you that you are not worthy of salvation and encourage doubt in its transformative power or authenticity. The real lie here is that you must earn your salvation. It is used to discourage you and make you feel like a failure. To question its validity and be self-focused on your works rather than the secure love and power freely given by God through Jesus (Eph 2:8-10). If the enemy can get you to doubt God's gift of salvation by pointing you to your failure he has subtly placed you on the throne and removed God. You are now defining your salvation's validity by your works not God's, and the power of the Holy Spirit has been muted. This lie will eventually



become personally fine-tuned - "You are worthless. You are not worth it. You are useless. You can't do this." It is a powerful lie, because like any good con-job it is mixed with some facts, yet leaves out all other truths and facts that do not support the narrative. You truly have done nothing to make yourself worthy of your salvation! However, that does not negate its transformative presence and spirit-filled power of God in your life – in fact, that's the point! Its potency is not based on your performance or worthiness, but the works of Jesus and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit that changes you from glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18). You have this hope even in the toughest of times. Even though sometimes things look bad on the outside, in the unseen realm something far greater is at work - the eternal weight of glory! Therefore, you do not need to lose heart like the world, but can hold on to hope (2 Cor 4:16-18).

Breastplate of Righteousness

Of all the varied armor discussed in Ephesians, the Breastplate of Righteousness is the most important piece to highlight the fact that this is not your armor that you are wearing; but it is the armor of God given to you to wear. It is His armor and He is imparting it to you in order that you would be prepared for combat. When you are putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness you are not putting on your works of righteousness. You are putting on the righteousness that has been given to you through Jesus (Rom 5:1, 2 Cor 5:21).

As you put this righteousness on it is empowering and transformative. The vulnerability of your righteousness is covered with the impregnability of Christ's righteousness. As we put the righteousness of Christ on it permeates our own actions and we become righteous (1 Cor 1:30). This is how our hope of salvation is so secure.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! (Rom 8:1-2). You have the righteousness of Christ, but what happens if you don't believe it? What happens if you look to your own righteousness? Will you go into battle confidently? No. The enemy knows this. Looking at your own works of righteousness, you will be ashamed, fearful and full of doubt. That is why we don't look to our own righteousness, but that of Christ's. When holding up Christ righteousness, there is no doubting, no shame, and no fear of His authenticity or abilities. As a breastplate covers our hearts and vital organs, so does Christ's righteousness cover our deepest emotions, vulnerabilities, and inner-selves. How? Because victory in battle is not based on your emotions, strengths, the things that you have or have not done, or inner-self. It is based on who Christ really is and what He has done, is doing and will do. It is His righteousness that covers you and He is working His righteousness through you (Gal 3:27, Eph 2:10). Therefore, you can be bold and remember that your identity is in



Christ and His likeness and righteousness (Col 2:9-10, Eph 4:24). Righteousness is a product of your faith in Christ.

The fiery darts of the enemy will tell you that you are a sinner. The lie is that you have no righteousness at all. He will even bring up scripture to twist, as he did to Jesus in the wilderness. An example of this twisting of scripture might be like using Isaiah 64:6 which says, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags," to convince you of this "truth." We must be diligent though and take the entire word in context. The verse right before this says, "You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember You in Your ways..." Clearly Isaiah 64:5 is speaking to a moment in time when Israel was in rebellion. It is not making a blanket statement that we are never capable of being righteous under any circumstance. On the contrary, we are told in scripture that faith in God is accounted as righteousness (Rom 1:17, Phil 3:9, Heb 11 4-7) Especially when it is the Spirit of God working His righteousness through us (1 John 3:7)! So you can be confident going into battle walking in the righteousness God has clothed you with.

Belt of Truth

A belt is a wonderful accessory to any outfit, but to a warrior its purpose is especially important. While belts can be stylish, the ultimate function is to keep things in their proper place. A belt will keep chest armor snug around the vital organs and lower gear correctly stationed, without worry of slipping. It will also provide some protection and keep important equipment, like a weapon, immediately accessible. The biblical metaphor of the belt is marvelous, but at the heart of this comparison is an image of God's truth being wrapped around us holding everything in place.

Why is truth so important? Truth is the focus of an entire field of philosophy, epistemology, and humanity has been wrestling with how to define and test truth for all of time. Jesus said " I am the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father but through Me," (John 14:6). Truth is ultimately the word of God, not simply a reference to the biblical texts, but God's spoken words, His creative and divine being – God is truth (Ps 119:160). So to put on the belt of truth is really to try and wrap ourselves with God's thinking, His motivations, His purposes and wisdom. God's truth will keep everything in place and allow us to move forward in power and purpose (1 Thes 2:13).

When truth is defined by man, man puts himself in the place of God as the speaker of truth. Our modern western culture will say that truth is whatever we want it to be. This worldview confuses beliefs with truth and devalues the pursuit of truth. We become a society that is living based on deceptions, feelings, and relativity. A society where our feelings dictate what is real and true.



Satan is called the father of lies and it is with good reason. As a culture we have accepted his lie that we define truth and that belief is in essence placing ourselves in the position of God. Just as in the garden, Satan's lies bring confusion and justify rebellion against God. The truth is that when our lives are based on lies it leads to hurt, suffering and death.

This is why the Bible is such a gift to us. It is the written and inspired Word of God established by the prophets and Apostles. It foretells and records the life of Jesus who is the Truth. It is a measuring rod we can use to test all things (2 Tim 3:16). It is a filter for us, but it is also not the only thing God has given to test the world around us.

We should also learn to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit in our own lives (John 16:13, 1 John 5:6)). The Holy Spirit leads us, teaches us, convicts us, exhorts us, and changes us (John 16:8, 2 Cor 3:6). How does this look practically? The Bible instructs us to take every thought captive (2 Cor 10:5). This means to closely inspect our thoughts and see if they stand as truth according to God. We can ask ourselves, "Is this a thought that is drawing me closer to a loving God? Is this from the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth? Or, is this a thought from my own flesh or the enemy?"

Our thoughts are not all our own and we must be able to discern them using the truth of God as our guide.

Sandals Fitted with the Gospel of Peace

You were made with a purpose. Good works have been set in your path that you may walk in them (Eph 2:10). In order to move we must be confident in our steps. The gospel, not just of salvation and redemption, but also of restoration and purpose, gives us the confidence to continue to march forward. This propels us across rough terrain even in difficult times, and against all manner of dark spiritual enemies. This confidence is not in ourselves resulting in personal pride, but is properly placed in Christ resulting in inner peace (John 16:33).

Your feet are protected and you are able to move because you know that God has defeated the enemy (Rom 8:38-39). He has restored broken things, He has purpose for our suffering, healing for our traumas, and a holy calling for our lives (1 Pet 5:10, 2 Cor 4:17, 2 Tim 1:9). We do not need to stand still, like prey trying to avoid the gaze of a predator. On the contrary, we are now commanded and able to stand strong. We can stare down the fiercest enemy and be unmoved by his intimidations. We push against the enemy in the power of Christ and resist the devil knowing our place in Christ and the victory He has already won (2 Col 13-15, James 4:7).

Jesus prophesied this in Matthew 16:17-19 when he commended Peter for calling him the Son of God:



"And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

This is not a passage about defending against attacks. It is a passage of laying siege to the enemy. Their gates will not withstand. This is how we have inner peace regardless of the battle raging around us. We are secure in the gospel of God; in our position and purpose in Him. We know it means victory, no matter what battles rage all around us(John 14:27, Is 26:3, Phil 4:7).

The Shield of Faith

You have been given faith. We are told this faith acts like a shield. Furthermore, it is able to extinguish the fiery darts of the evil one. But, what exactly is faith? In Hebrews 11:1,6 we are told that "faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see...and without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Faith is more than belief. Even the demons believe that God is and that He is powerful, and they tremble (James 2:19). Faith is belief with confidence that God is a rewarder of those that seek Him. An excellent passage in the Bible that encapsulates the concept of true faith is the response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to King Nebechenezzer. These men were commanded by the king to bow down and worship the statue of the false god upon pain of death, mainly being thrown into a fiery furnace alive. In Daniel 3:16-18 we read their response:

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Faith is the belief that God is all powerful, perfectly loving, and completely wise. Like these men facing death and adversary, their faith allowed them to stand against the opposition. Their faith was not motivated by fear, although Nebechenezzer along with most false worship practices was attempting to motivate through fear. Their faith was centered on something much stronger - truth and trust. And as such, the Lord did supernaturally deliver them from the fiery furnace into which they were thrown. King Nebuchadnezzar



witnessed their deliverance and faith in action first hand, as Daniel 3:28 states:

“Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, ‘Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God.’” Daniel 3:28

Their faith was in the reward they had received through their worship and relationship with the Most High God. The truth is that God is who He says He is; and thus, we trust He will do what He said He will do (Due 7:9). In fact, we expect it. This is hope. Truth, trust, and hope mix together in our faith. The seed of faith grows as we walk with the Lord (Col 2:6-7). As we understand Him more, we begin to see the lies of the enemy and have the ability to deflect them. We become accustomed to deflecting the lies of the enemy, his fiery darts, by responding through faith. You may wonder how this looks practically?

If the enemy attacks, planting a lie in your mind, accusing or tempting you, it takes faith to respond to that lie. If he says, “you will always be like this - broken and a failure,” it requires faith to believe God’s promises. We have trust in the truth of what God says, “You are a new creation. You have been redeemed and restored. You are loved. You are equipped. You are complete in Christ.” This produces great hope or expectation in our lives. And we know that we will not be disappointed or put to shame (Rom 5:3-5). Our hope in the Lord is now and also will be realized. Even though the enemy will tell us the same lies that King Nebuchenezzar told Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; mainly, that he had ultimate power over them and their lives (Dan 3:13-15). So do we have the same God who is actually all powerful, loving, wise and completely trustworthy (Ps 37:4-6).

Without faith in the power, wisdom, and goodness of God we are easily attacked with lies. We can find ourselves pierced and engulfed by those lies, even left injured on the battlefield. Faith, which is truth and trust in the Lord producing hopeful expectation, is critical in the fight against the enemy. It is a mighty defense that cannot be penetrated by the enemy’s fiery darts. However, it is not our only tool to wield against him. The Shield of Faith gives us a strong defense, but we are also called and equipped to fight offensively.

The Sword of the Spirit

The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, both written and spoken, the Holy Scripture. However, the Word of God is not just knowledge to be understood. It is truth to be applied (2 Tim 3:16-17, James 1:22). It is also a powerful weapon against the demonic. It carries



the authority of God (Heb 4:12, 1 Pet 1:25).

Think about a legal warrant, summons, or some other lawfully binding document. At face value they are just words written with ink on paper. If it's just words, why care at all about what it says? We care because of the institutions that are behind these words, and we believe in their ability to enforce what they have said. It is the authority behind the words that give these documents great power.

The Bible is the same. The words are important for wisdom and teaching, but the authority is what gives them power (John 5:39, Matt 5:17-18). This is why we believe that Paul used the Greek word "Rhema" instead of "Logos" when describing the Sword of the Spirit as the Word (Rhema) of God. Rhema is used for spoken word not just a written word or concept. God's voice gives words power. Jesus is the Word (John 1:1-14). His voice and His words are to be used as you wield the Sword of the Spirit in spiritual battle against all His enemies. Whether you are quoting scripture or leaning on the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers, the Word of God spoken out loud for all of creation to hear, both visible and invisible, has power (Is 55:11, Is 34:16).

Now before someone says we're talking about a name-it-and-claim-it doctrine of wealth and prosperity, let me clarify. God has given you authority over the demonic in Christ, He has not given you authority for material wealth acquisition and/or every flippant desire of your own heart (James 4:3). Just as a representative of the government can abuse their authority by corruption, believers can missapply God's teaching and speak words without His authority (2 Peter 3:16, 2 Tim 3:5-8). We must learn to use the Sword of the Spirit properly and apply the Word of God appropriately; understanding the great weight, power, and authority through it. You have been given a weapon so that you would use it effectively.

There are a few things you need to know about your sword. First you need to equip it, then you need to understand how to use it, finally you must train with it (2 Tim 2:15). Sword fighting is about landing blows against your opponent. A sword is a weapon not armor. It can be used defensively to block an attack, but it is only used this way with the intention to counter attack. In sword fighting they call this a parry - a defensive maneuver to divert the incoming attack; followed by a riposte - an offensive maneuver to counter attack.

We see this battle of parry and riposte with the temptation of Jesus by Satan. In the wilderness, Satan would twist scripture and tempt Jesus to sin with a tricky distortion of truth that ultimately fed self-gain. Jesus would counter his attack with the proper application of the Word of God (Matt 4:1-11). We also see Jesus directly rebuking Satan as he was using Peter's words to tempt him off of the path of God - parry; He followed this by directly speaking the truth about



the will of the Father - riposte (Matt 16:21-25). Jesus would expose the lie, and then counter it with properly placed truth. He doesn't just quote any scripture or declare any random truth of God. He is using the specific truths and scriptures that apply; correlating directly to counter the particular lie and deception. This practice can also be seen on a grander and more proactive scale in the early church. The use of public denunciations of demonic practices and allegiances (Acts 19:18-19, James 5:16), and declarations of truth and commitment to God (1 Tim 6:12, Matt 10:32-33), was exercised; as was also a common practice of the Israelites in the old testament (2 Chr 6, Ezra 9-10, Neh 9). Whether individually or corporately, the Sword of the Spirit used properly is a formidable and effective weapon.

The Tactics of Prayer

One component of the armor Paul speaks about, which is often left out, is prayer. He commands us to be praying at all times in the Spirit. There are two features linked to this element. One, is the frequency of prayer. Mainly, that it should be done at "all times." The other is the manner of prayer. It should be done "in the Spirit." Both of these aspects give us key insights into ourselves and the spiritual realm.

First, let's address the frequency of prayer. Why would Paul say to pray at "all times?" Surely he is exaggerating? We would argue that he is not. Oftentimes, we approach the Bible and the word of God from a very western or naturalistic perspective. This perspective is based on the five senses, information and logic; which then we believe dictates our will and ultimately our choices. That said, rarely are people making choices solely based on information and logic, but that is a discussion for another time. When naturalists become believers, there is a tendency to simply create and add a new spiritual "category" to our lives as opposed to a complete integration into every realm of our existence and our view of reality. We tend to categorize life, the world around us, and even ourselves let alone God and the spiritual realm! Because we are so categorized, and make such a separation between the physical, the mental and the emotional, and now the spiritual; we assume that the spiritual realm will remain safely within that fixed category. But, this is not the Biblical world view, nor was it Paul's. The Bible states that we are spiritual beings just as much, if not more, than we are physical or mentality-emotional ones (Ecc 12:7, Ps 51:10, Luke 10:27). We cannot cease to be physical, mindful, or emotional anymore than we can cease to be spiritual. Our spirits do not cease to be spirit while we do physical things, just as we never cease to be physical beings while doing mindful and emotional things. We are all these things at all times. We cannot cease to be what we are. In light of this, Paul's words to pray at all times take on a different perspective. He's not telling you to disengage from a physical activity, or even a mental or emotional one, so that you can now engage in a spiritual venture.



In his mind there are no categories. The spiritual is integrated with and affects all of creation. That includes the mental and emotional, or soulful part of people, as it does the whole of the physical realm (1 Thess 5:23, 1 Cor 6:20). No, he is not telling you to stop doing one thing so that you can do another. He's telling you how to be effective as one who is already always engaged in the spiritual realm and fully clothed in the armor of God for battle.

The second component of Paul's command addresses our manner of prayer. We are to pray in the Spirit (2 Cor 2:11). We can see the obvious connection not only to the Spirit of Truth or the Holy Spirit, but also to the Sword of the Spirit or the Word of God. This only re-emphasizes the call to speak the words of God. Paul even asks for supplications which are earnest, persistent, and humble requests. That he may be given words to proclaim the gospel boldly. Paul understands the importance of spoken words. Think about the link he is making here, though. He says to suit-up and prepare yourself for battle and then ask for prayer to speak with boldness about the freedom found in Christ. We often think of prayer as asking God for things, but really it is all our communication with God. Worship, requests, evangelism, concerns, counsel, every thought is taken captive through prayer and communion with God (Phil 4:6-7, Rom 8:6). As we speak to God through prayer we can worship Him, we can seek counsel, we can also bless others, request deliverance, repent of sin, and take authority over the demonic. The Holy Spirit will even "intercede on our behalf with groanings too deep for words" according to the will of God" as He searches our hearts and minds (Rom 8:23-27). Prayer is the tactical application of God's word through us to impact the world for His glory.

Training

When a soldier first puts on his gear it can feel uncomfortable. If a soldier is given weapons, but never learns to use them, never trains with them, or understands their value, they will be defeated in battle. We must learn to use the gear God has given us and train with it so that we are ready when we are attacked; or, as Paul says, when the "evil day" comes. You have to train in the gear in order to become accustomed to it and also to master its use. But, how do we train with this gear God has given us? How do we train in truth, righteousness, readiness, salvation, faith, and the word of God? How will my shield of faith be of use in battle? By rehearsing that faith in times of peace and being disciplined.

Spiritual disciplines like giving, serving, study, and fasting are great ways to rehearse your faith and learn to surround yourself with opportunities to act in faith. A powerful way to train in your salvation is to see it through the eyes of Christ. Your identity is central to the battle and what you believe about yourself does impact how you will engage in battle. Using the "I AM" statements by Neil T.



Anderson at Freedom in Christ Ministries we discussed in the previous chapter is excellent. Frequently reading through the statements and corresponding verses is some of the best training you can do by renewing your mind in truth.

We seek the truth by saturating our minds with God's truth. Pursuing truth starts with the written word of God but extends into our daily lives. We should not engage with falsities or false truths and lies. When we say "yes" to someone or something, it should be out of commitment in our hearts, and mean "yes." Our "no" should mean "no" without omission of truth. The Bible teaches that anything besides this is actually from the evil one (Matt 5:33-37)! So, we should seek to be honest and truthful (James 3:17). This is training in humility and brings great personal discernment and confidence in God as opposed to our own abilities (Prov 11:2, 1 Pet 5:6).

An exercise of truth seeking is to seek not just to know what you believe but why you believe it (Heb 13:9, 2 Tim 2:15). Memorization of scripture fills your mind with the building blocks of truth (Ps 119:11). There is no better way to train in the sword of the spirit than to memorize scripture. Victor Marx talks about a gift his kids gave him when he was in a difficult season of life. It was what he called his "ammo belt." A steel ring with relevant verses written on index cards that would be encouraging to counter specific lies the enemy would throw at him. Building familiarity with the promises and truth of God's word allows you to not only parry the attacks of the enemy, but counter attack and anticipate his tactics (2 Cor 2:11). Finally, seek to understand those who believe differently than you do (1 Pet 3:15). These practices all help increase the presence of truth in your life which promotes growth. That growth is in righteousness, which is simply choosing to do what is right.

We have to remember that we are seeking to grow in the righteousness of Christ. We are not trying to fulfill a list of do's and don'ts. If we want to grow in the righteousness of Christ we should be pursuing deeds that Jesus pursued. Are we praying for others, serving, loving, sacrificing, enjoying time with God? The most important part of pursuing righteousness is that you are not pursuing to be righteous as in holy. That is done already through the work of Christ (Rom 5:1)! Instead, we are looking to live in Christ's righteousness (1 John 2:29, 2 Cor 5:21). Don't allow the enemy to lie to you about your righteousness and its source! Be sober-minded and ready to combat the lies.

Readiness is best practiced by faith in the work of the Holy Spirit in your life; mainly by acting on his promptings without overthinking it. If someone asks you for prayer, pray for them right then and there. If you feel the inclination to share the gospel with someone, do it! If you see someone in need and feel drawn to help them, help them! As the Holy Spirit gives you proddings and desires to respond in your daily life, act on it without duplicity. Faith is built up by confidence properly placed in the Lord. Listening to the prompting of the Holy



Spirit often can take time and courage. If we ask the Lord to speak to us and then doubt that He speaks we are like James refers to as double-minded (James 1:6-8). Take a step in faith and risk looking foolish to help you discern the voice of the Lord. Get in the habit of hearing God's voice and trusting that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you. As you take steps you will learn to discern the Spirit's voice and be ready to act in all seasons (Gal 5:16-26, John 10:27).

Key Concepts



1. You Have Been Equipped

The Armor of God is a metaphor for very real offensive and defensive equipment you have available for the spiritual battle.

2. We Must Train in Our Gear

Every soldier must train when out of combat to be ready for the day of battle. We must get comfortable in the gear God has given us.

3. We are Called to Offensive Attacks

You are not given armor to protect you from yourself, and you are not given a sword to play defense! we are to bring the battle to the enemy and know the gates of hell will not withstand us.

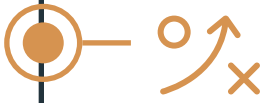
4. Our Armor is God's

We are not given our own salvation, righteousness, faith, peace, truth, and spirit. The armor is God's and we are empowered by His armor placed upon us.

Training & Tactics



1. Knowing you have armor available is different than putting it on. How comfortable do you feel with the armor of God? Do you feel secure in your salvation? The righteousness of Christ? Seeking the truth? Think through the armor of God and the real work of Jesus that they represent. Choose one piece of armor and find 3 verses that speak of that element. Speak those verses as you wake up each morning and get ready for the day as a reminder and physical action to put it on.



2. Wielding the Sword of the Spirit is vital to spiritual battle. The Sword of the Spirit is the “spoken” words of God. Memorize, or write down, scriptures that are relevant to attacks you find yourself the prey of regularly. Speak them outloud. If you can find a worship song based off of these verses, this is another great way to speak the words of God.
3. Build your faith by stretching it. Pray and ask the Lord to lead you to an opportunity to share His hope and truth with someone: ask a stranger if you can pray for them, seek opportunities to be generous, force yourself to get out of your comfort zone, and ask the Lord to build your faith through it this week. Share the results with someone else so their faith is built up as well.
4. A clear action Paul calls us to in Ephesians is to pray. Pray this week with confidence not just for protection and blessing from God, but pray with authority against the enemy. Rebuke the enemy as he seeks to tempt you outloud and directly. Pray for the bondage of others to be broken. Pray for wisdom and to hear the voice of the Lord to guide you each day.
5. Pray over your home this week. Walk through each room and ask the Lord to bless your dwelling as you commit it to Him and His purposes. Command any enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave as well. Pray against any demonic attacks or presence you may feel. As a remembrance, consider using fragrant oil to anoint the doors and windows of your home; as we smell the fragrance it is a reminder that the Holy Spirit is present and powerful around us and within us.



Battle Prayer (read out loud and from the heart)

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your love and protection. I thank you that you will never leave me or forsake me. I thank You that You have not left me defenseless or powerless, but have clothed me for the day of battle in Your armor. I choose to submit myself to You and I am committed to do Your will.

Therefore, I take up the full armor of God against all enemies and forces of darkness. I come against and resist the devil in the name, power, and authority of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. In His name I stand against all temptations, lies, accusations, torments, and fiery darts of the enemy. I wrap myself with the Belt of Truth and proclaim that only God’s word is reality and ultimate truth (Ps 119:160, 2 Tim 3:16). I put on the Breastplate of Righteousness and declare that I am free from condemnation as Christ has become my righteousness (Rom 8:33-34, 1 Cor 1:30). My feet are fitted with the readiness of the Gospel of Peace and I proclaim my purpose and commissioning by God to go and be a minister of reconciliation and to walk in the good works He has predestined me to do (2 Cor 5:18-20, Eph 2:10). I take up the



5: BATTLEFIELDS

[THE WORLD & THE FLESH]





The Brief

We face opposition on three fronts; The World, The Flesh, and The Devil. They work together to undermine our effectiveness. We must be able to identify, defend, and counter attack on each front.



Key Scripture

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind." Ephesians 2:2-3

"For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world." 1 John 2:16

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them... The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." 1 John 2:15, 17

"The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:19-22



Lesson

Wars are generally fought on multiple fronts. In Ephesians 2:2-3 Paul addresses the 3 primary battlefields that make up the spiritual battle; the world, the flesh, and the devil. As we face each day we will find opposition from each of these arenas. Attacks are often coordinated and are fought on two, or even all three of the battlefields. To be effective in our battle it helps to have a general understanding of the types of attacks that come from each front and how we are instructed to respond.

The World Systems

The least covert of the three battlefronts is the world. This is not just the physical reality that we live in. It is more specifically referring to



something much broader and larger in scope. We call it the world-system. It can be a variety of different things that work together like an interconnected network with a common goal. The world-system includes governments, entertainment, education, marketplaces, industry, medicine, even religion and everything else that makes our world operate. This world-system has been in rebellion against God because the "prince" of this world is pulling the strings (Eph 2:2, John 12:31). This world-system that is revolting against God and His children is ruled by the "prince of the power of the air," namely Satan and the kingdom of darkness (1 John 5:19).

It is not hard to see the corruption in the world, but it is worth mentioning some specific aspects that will clarify how to identify systemic attacks from the world-system as opposed to our own flesh or the devil. A major indicator is the external nature of the world's proposition to join in the sinful rebellion to God's way of life. In one of his letters, the Apostle John further breaks down the world-system into three points of solicitation towards the believer. He lists "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life." (1 John 2:16).

The "Lust of the Flesh" seeks to engage our bodies and the physical desires therein. It is meant to tempt us triggering a physiological response in our own bodies. This type of attack by the world can be likened to an external agent triggering a physical itch, and then offering nothing but sinful solutions to scratch that itch. A physical urge, desire, or craving is targeted, but the proposed solution for the satisfying of that desire is twisted to become sinful (James 1:14-15). Various overindulgences, forbidden sexual engagements, and abusive objectifications and gratifications are all examples of how the world system will attack us. Each of these are coupled with the lie that engaging in these types of sin will satisfy your biological desires far better than anything the Lord has to offer with little to no consequences - "after all, everybody does it." The entertainment industry, food and beverage industry, marketing firms, pornography, organized crime, and many other world institutions are very successful in using this type of worldly propositioning to lure people away from God and into sinful rebellion. It is important to note that temptation alone, even one that has triggered a physiological response in our own bodies, is not sin in and of itself. It is choosing to give in to the temptation in a sinful way that is actually sin. Jesus, himself, was tempted and yet found without sin (Heb 4:14-16). God has promised that He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear and He will provide a way of escape for us out of that temptation. We need only to choose the way He has provided. This is a tactical retreat, as it were. Sometimes, that simply means leaving the area or location of the temptation and not being around materials or people that tempt us. The Bible calls this "fleeing" temptation and this is choosing God's way of escape from the situation (1Cor 10:12-14, 2 Tim 2:22-24, 1 Cor 6:18).

The second method of attack implemented by the world-system is identified by the Apostle as the "Lust of the Eyes." This is an appeal to



jealousy, greed, and envy. It targets dissatisfaction and sometimes encourages distraction. There is a constant comparison of what you have compared to what others have. The main lie of this aspect of the world is that you will find spiritual fulfillment through the material things of the world. That happiness lies with having what others have and every object you ever desired. "If you had more you would finally be whole and happily content. If you had what others had, you would finally have peace and security." These attacks often stem from but are not limited to advertising, government agencies, art, social media, and of course manufacturing.

The truth is seeking materialism to solve what is essentially a spiritual problem is an endless rat race. It will have your head spinning as you seek the next bigger better deal or highly desired item, only to be filled with disappointment and ultimately despair when the magic wears off. It will have you questioning your own value and worth in terms of material objects and wealth. We are warned in the Bible about the "love of money" being the root of all kinds of evil and leading to nothing but multiple sorrows (1 Tim 6:10). Jesus tells us that although we have physical needs, we are meant for more than the endless and ultimately vain pursuit of material things (Matt 6:25-34). The way that we counter the Lust of the Eyes tempting us to trust in material things is to be about investing in His kingdom (Matt 6:19-234). Hospitality, generosity, missions, all of these are clear ways to use the resources God has given to advance His kingdom.

The boastful "Pride of Life" is the third method of temptation to sin implemented by the world-system. It is an appeal to what the Bible calls "selfish ambition." This is a solicitation to look out for our own interests before that of others and promote ourselves for personal gain in this world (Phil 2:3-4). What does that look like? It is that "do whatever it takes to make it," and "step on all the little people to make it to the top" attitude. It is all about making friends in high places or that can further your reputation and position, while leaving the weak and needy behind. Essentially, it is quite delusional and completely negates the work and gifts from the Lord in our lives. Vain self-promotion is worldly, and thus demonic wisdom. It leads to disorder and vile practices like spitefully using and abusing others (James 3:14-16). Pride, like any good con-job, conveniently directs our attention only to the facts that support the world's narrative. The word system says, "You did it, and you did it all on your own. You don't need anyone else. You are made to be the center of your universe. You can fulfill your desires through your own means and willpower. You know better than others, trust your heart. You do you. You are the best at this. Others need to shut-up and listen to you. It's ok to use others to live out your great destiny." All of these lies conveniently leave out our Creator and all provision from His hand. All that we have, and are, belongs to God and has been given to us by Him. He is our Maker. If we have skills, it is because He has made us with certain skill sets. If we have



success, it is because He has made a way before us. If we have abundance, it is because He has given provision. If we have empowerment it was given to be used for good and the protection of the innocent. These are the inconvenient facts to the world system that counter the pride and selfish ambition narrative (1 Cor 8:6). All that we have done or ever will do is by the grace of God. True humility does not deny the work, giftings, skill sets, positions or connections in your life; but places full confidence in the Lord's provision and sustaining ability of them all. Denial of this leads to the ultimate maturation of the boastful Pride of Life, which is self exaltation above God himself. It makes sense that this would be part of the world system as this was the downfall of the ruler of this world - Satan, himself (Isa 14:12-16). This is seen in Satan and the age-old lie of temptation in the Garden of Eden directed at Eve, "You will be like God" (Genesis 3:5). The world-system propagates these lies and temptation towards vain self-promotion through social media, business practices, self-help materials, educational institutions, false religions, psychology, medicine, and even from a well meaning friend at times. It is important to note there is a difference between selfish ambition and regular ambition. Motivation and boldness are good traits when aligned with God's will and character, when they stray from that source they become a snare to entangle you. All of these areas are trying to create a false worldview. The enemy has imprinted his worldview on the systems of the world. A worldview of rebellion against God. This rebellion can be active in opposition or passive in denial. Either way our identity is entwined with our worldview. That can be according to God and truth, or the enemy and lies.

Through agreement with the world system and its lies we give authority to the spirit behind it (James 4:4-8). This granting of authority develops a foothold in our lives (Ephesians 4:27-29). A place where the enemy can continue to grow and encourage deception and sin that will weigh us down and keep us out of the greater fight for the kingdom. If left unaddressed, these footholds can turn into strongholds where we are in outright rebellion against God (1 Corinthians 10:2-4). A stronghold is a mental and emotional space in our lives where we have given the enemy permission to continually influence, torment, attack and oppress with authority; because we are in agreement with his lies and are living our lives according to those deceptions as opposed to God's truth.

There is more to this battlefield than just attacks, temptation, lies, and deception. There is also a clear call to redemption (Matthew 28:19-20). To protect ourselves from these attacks we must be able to identify and respond as the Lord has instructed. Individual temptations from the world system are often met with a tactical retreat, or fleeing the temptation encounter. Think of Joseph when he was propositioned by Potiphers wife, he chose to flee the sexual advances of the authority that was over him. His tactical retreat was not centered around a battle with the flesh, but a proposition and solicitation from a person of influence and power (Gen 39:7-20). The world



system continued its attack against him however. His arrest, another attack from the world, was used by God, because Joseph did not allow the enemy to gain a foothold in the first attack. His dedication and patience was rewarded with redemption. He ultimately was used mightily by God to save his entire family and nations from starvation (Gen 40-45).

When we are directly tempted, we should look for a tactical retreat, but that retreat often can lead to a redemptive counter-assault. The world system has been under the rule of the enemy. But Jesus has repurchased the world through His redemptive work on the cross (Col 2:13-15). Joseph did not simply flee and avoid, he engaged with the world system to change it and attained positions of influence to glorify God. How much more should we, filled with the Holy Spirit, be looking for ways to bring God's redemption to the world around us.

The Flesh

As the world solicits our desires externally towards sin and rebellion, we must also be aware of appeals from within. The Bible talks about our flesh in two contexts; our physical nature (Gen 2:21-24, Matthew 16:17, John 1:14) and a tendency toward sinful and selfish behavior (Romans 7:5, Galatians 5:16, Colossians 2:11). The battle of the flesh includes both. It is both the basic biological functions of the body and the internal drives, desires, thoughts, and emotions that create our identity and understanding. It is, apart from Christ, at enmity with God and focused on selfish gratification of fleshly desires (Rom 8:7-9). However, It is important to not confuse our flesh with our old sinful nature (Rom 6:5-6). Our old sinful nature refers to our previous identity of being spiritually dead, trapped in sin and the kingdom of darkness. Jesus did away with all that when He conquered sin and death on the cross and brought us to spiritual life. The believer is born again of the Spirit, and thus has become a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17, John 3:5-6). This is how we are able to "walk in the spirit" versus walking "in the flesh." We are no longer slaves of any kind, not even to our own flesh. We are no longer "sinners" dead in our sin, but saints or "holy ones" that still retain free will. This means we can choose God's way and live according to the spirit over the way of our flesh and sin (Rom 8:1, Gal 5:16-18).

When we begin to look at the desires of a believer versus a non-believer there are stark differences. Paul tells us that apart from Christ we are enslaved to desires and subject to sinful manifestations in fulfilling those desires (Romans 6:20). In short we have no self-control and we have no defense against the temptation of sin. But as a believer there is a very different scenario.



For the believer the battle against the flesh is not one of survival, it is one of victory (Romans 8:1-4). If that statement is hard to read it's most likely because the enemy has lied to you and told you that your situation is hopeless. That you will always be nothing more than a sinner and that you are trapped in that sin. However, scripture does not teach that the battle with our flesh is hopeless, on the contrary with Christ we have been given the power to stand against these temptations (2 Peter 1:3).

A new heart with new desires has been given to us to lead us each day (Ezekiel 36:26-27). A mind that is being constantly renewed is active in our sanctification which is the process of becoming more like Christ each day (Romans 12:2). It is clear that we have been given all things needed to live a life of godliness (2 Peter 1:3). However, we still live in these bodies that have been corrupted by the fall, still tempted by sin, and remember our old way of living.

There are physical habits, thought patterns, and limitations that need to be crucified with Christ on the cross. Our desires can be drawn toward sinful behaviors, we can have chemical dependencies, toxic relationships, false ideas, and any number of other life situations that need to be cleansed, redeemed, and/or restored. God is more powerful than any of those. This is not just a concept, it's the reality of the Christian life. We can still choose sin and rebellion, but we are empowered to stand against it. Read that last line again ... **We are empowered to stand against it** (Romans 6:14)! Anything else is a lie from the enemy. It is important that we do not agree with the enemy in this deception that is contrary to scripture. Such lies in our hearts and minds should not stay hidden in darkness, but brought to light by openly renouncing them (Eph 5:11-14). A new commitment to God's truth and power over sin in our lives should be proclaimed and embraced.

There is an "old man" that was put to death, but the enemy will constantly try to revive him by appealing to the desires of our flesh. That is the battle of the flesh and it is a formidable enemy on its own. What we have found though is that the flesh rarely works in isolation. Here are two passages that describe and give an example of how the battle of the flesh often works.

Genesis 3:1-7: Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."



When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Note that Eve was propositioned by the Serpent, but there was a desire or appeal that Eve had within her that was targeted, "fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom." There was a battle going on that she was completely accountable for, but there was also an external force tempting her with lies and distorted truth. This process seems to be addressed by James in his letter to the churches.

James 1:12-14: Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

Here James shows how our desires are targeted to drag us away from God, just as Eve was by the serpent. James also talks about friendship with the world being at enmity with God in the last half of his letter. It would not be difficult to surmise that James would see the world as something that could lure and entice your flesh to rebel against God and produce sin in your life (James 1:14-15).

However the world is not the only thing that can lure and entice us, James also acknowledges the devil as an adversary against us. In James 4:7 we read, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." We will continue to discuss demonic attacks in the next session, but it is important to take a moment to acknowledge that attacks are often coordinated and overlapping. We must battle against the world and the demonic in different ways than the flesh. However, if we succumb to those worldly and demonic attacks, are enticed and embrace sin, we are now dealing with the flesh.

When battling against the flesh our main form of response will be submission, confession, and true repentance (1 John 1:9, Matt 3:8). We are called not to feed the flesh, but instead feed the spirit (Romans 8:9). Our primary response to the flesh is submission. When a desire arises from within that is against God, we must submit to the Lord and turn away. If you stumble and sin, repent and make restoration. If you continue to stumble in a particular area there may be more than just a battle of the flesh. Part of submission to God is to take care of the flesh and build self-control (2 Pet 1:5-9). With self-control comes good stewardship even of our own bodies. Sleep,



diet, and exercise help keep our physical well being from becoming weak and susceptible to temptation. This self-control played-out as stewardship of our physical well being also carries over to our minds and hearts. How? Because the mind is where all of these battlefields cross over one another.

It is important to note the importance of taking thoughts captive. The world will try and change your thoughts by propositioning your flesh through the outward world system. The flesh will push you toward selfish desire fulfillment at any cost through inward appeals. We need to assess where thoughts and ideas are coming from so we can formulate the appropriate response. Self assessment is an important part of the Christian life. However, remember this truth as you grow in this discipline; God knows your every desire, action, thought, and fear. Knowing all of these things about you, He still sent Jesus on a rescue mission to save you. He knows what He is doing and freedom has been purchased. Never believe any lies of the enemy that would tell you otherwise.



Key Concepts

1. Three Primary Battlefields

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil are the three battlefields that we will fight on. Most commonly these battlefields will overlap like fighting a battle from the air, land, and sea. Learning how to fight in each of these areas helps us find freedom and be effective in the battle.

2. The World System

The Gospel is potent and spreading, but the world system is still a stronghold of the enemy. The institutions, cultural values, morality, entertainment, and education of the world is inherently corrupted by the hands of the Devil and the sin nature of its inhabitants. This behemoth of influence on our daily life can be much more than a mere hostile landscape. It often becomes a seductress or even an assassin.

3. The Flesh

Our physical bodies, the desires that drive us, and even our thoughts and memories from our old way of life, make up our flesh. The enemy will target these things and attempt to return us to a state of bondage by corrupting them. This is not just a battle against sin, it is very much a battle against the results of sin in our fallen world, sickness, pain, and death.

4. Taking Thoughts Captive

Our mind is subject to attacks from all three of these battlefields. Our own flesh, influence from the world, and fiery darts from the demonic. We must take thoughts captive and interrogate them to determine their source and then renew our mind by rebuking and receiving them appropriately.



Training & Tactics

1. We all live in the world but are called to not be of the world. It is a hostile environment and we need to be on guard. Take a moment and think through your schedule for the last week. Take note of not simply what you are doing each week, but who the associated institutions and people are to those tasks. For example, you may spend an hour watching a show. Who are the creators of the show, the distributors, and who did you watch it with? You may spend hours at work each week. Who are the clients, the co-workers, and what are the locations? Think through your week and make as detailed a list as possible.
2. Look through your list from the previous questions and pray through the places, influences, and people you are giving authority to in your life. With each one ask the Lord how you should proceed. The battle for our own identity and our effectiveness is fought each day not only in how we act, but also how we refresh ourselves and what we pursue.
3. Most of us have battles of the flesh that are ongoing. It is a natural and normal part of the maturing of a believer. We crucify the flesh with its desires each day. This doesn't mean that our desires are always bad, we are also told that the Lord will give us the desires of our hearts. Think through a battle you have had consistently with the desires of your flesh. Prayerfully try to identify your basic desire (affirmation, respect, sexual intimacy, security etc...) Once you identify the basic desire try and identify how the world is telling you to fulfill those desires as opposed to how God is.
4. Take a moment and ask the Lord to show you how and why he loves you. There is plenty of scripture to reinforce this fundamental truth, but as believers we often try and minimize thinking about why God loves us because we feel we are being prideful. You have value. Worthless self-abasement is rebuked in the scripture as destructive so don't do it! Take a moment, ask the Lord to speak to you through the Holy Spirit and tell you how He is proud of you, reveal the maturing He has done in you, and the plans that He has for you. Just journal your thoughts, weigh them against

scripture, and share them with another mature believer. Meditate on the fact that He knows you better and more transparently than you even know yourself.



Battle Prayer (read out loud and from the heart)

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you that you are a loving Father. You have not left me alone in the world system or subject to the whims of my own flesh; but, have provided a way of escape for me and empowered me by your most Holy Spirit to live a life of godliness (John 14:15-21). I admit that I have not always chosen that way of escape and have given into temptations of the world and my own flesh (1 Cor 10:13). I admit that I have not always chosen to walk in the spirit and instead gratified the selfish and lustful desires of my own flesh (Gal 5:16). I even admit that sometimes I am blind to the deceptions of this world, but know that you are not (1 Cor 3:18-20). You are the Good Shepherd of my own soul (John 10:14-15, Ps 23:1-3). Therefore, I ask that you would now bring to my mind all the ways that I have been deceived by this world system and the selfish desires of my own flesh, so that I may now confess and renounce them ...

(Write down everything the Lord brings to mind. Do not dismiss anything that comes to mind, no matter how small or unapplicable you feel it is. Humble yourself and trust the Lord to know what actually needs to be dealt with much better than you do yourself).

Thank you Holy Spirit for revealing these things to me. I now confess and renounce my involvement with the world and my flesh in the following ways (read everything you wrote down that the Lord had brought to mind). I openly admit my rebellion against God and His ways and ask forgiveness for all these things (1 John 1:9). I now openly reject all these things of the world and my flesh; and proclaim my allegiance to the Living God alone. I am now committed to living according to God's word and by the leading of His Holy Spirit (Matt 4:4).

Heavenly Father, I ask that you would now cancel the authority and permission I have given over to the enemy because of my agreement with him in the world system or my flesh. Please fill all the areas of my heart and life that had become a foothold or stronghold for the enemy with your most Holy Spirit (2 Cor 10:4). I ask that You tear down the root lie and deception of each area; and I commit myself to filling my heart with your truth that counters these deceptions.

I thank You for your saving grace, love, forgiveness, and empowerment. In the wonderful name of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.



6: BATTLEFIELDS

[THE FLESH & THE DEVIL]





The Brief

We face opposition on three fronts; The World, The Flesh, and The Devil. They work together to undermine our effectiveness. We must be able to identify, defend, and counter attack on each front.



Key Scripture

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15, 16 ESV

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." Galatians 5:16 ESV

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." Colossians 2:8 NIV

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7



Lesson

It has been said in many Bible studies on spiritual warfare that it can be divided into two camps; those who never see the demonic in anything, and those who see a demon in every shadow. After this dichotomy is introduced the next statement is generally discussing how we don't want to fall into either camp.

What's really going on in moments like this is an appeal that we're not going to get crazy and sensational. There is an effort being made to say, "We believe in the demonic, but we also believe in science." Or perhaps, "We believe in demonic temptation, but also personal responsibility." Or even, "We believe in the demonic, but don't believe Christians need to worry about that sort of thing." All of these tensions are trying to cover up for perceived abuses or hyperbole made in the realm of the spiritual. This highlights the biggest problem when speaking about the role of the demonic in spiritual warfare - fear and misdirection.



It is interesting that similar statements are not made in regard to the flesh or the world system. There is no, "Don't believe the flesh is always an issue," statements being made to protect against sensational belief about the flesh. There are no "two camps" of our take on the presence and danger of the world system around us. This is because we understand that the physical struggles we have against these things are always present. It is the same with the demonic. There is always a presence of the demonic, just as there is always a presence of the physical. The real question that should be asked is not how often is it present, but what varied ways does it manifest physically (1 Pet 5:8-12).

The reality portrayed in scripture sometimes is a bit sensational and therefore uncomfortable to some. The Bible has examples of people running around naked, physically inflicting damage and pain to themselves, oppressed with illness, mute, deaf, blind, having bouts of seizures, suicidal, and filled with all manner of negative emotional responses all due to demonic oppression (Mk 5:1-11, 9:17-27, Matt 12:22, Lk 8:26-33). However, demonic oppression is also portrayed as very devious and clandestine at times, hiding itself in the shadows to go unnoticed and/or pretending to be on the side of good (Luke 22:1-6, John 13:27-30, Acts 16:16-18). Most importantly though it is clear that we do not need to fear the demonic nor their influence (Ps 23:1-6, Lk 10:17-20). As we approach the spiritual battle against the demonic it is important to acknowledge that sometimes it is messy and that makes us uncomfortable, but that mess is more commonly manifested in destroyed lives than spinning heads.

People are afraid of looking foolish, afraid of the unknown, and afraid of demonic retaliation. This stance where we seek the middle, is at its very heart a qualifying statement that doesn't really state anything specific. So, let's look at some specifics when it comes to the demonic. That is the best way to get past the fear and intimidation of the unknown.

The Demonic

The demonic represents much of the "unseen" aspect of the unseen war. Though that can be intimidating at first, it is important to remember the other "unseen" parts of this war. There is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is a whole host of angelic beings, along with the human spirit, emotions, and thoughts. All of these are unseen as well. So, even though our spiritual battle often takes place in our physical lives through our flesh, there is an unseen aspect to that struggle. We must remember that though something is unseen it does not mean it is non-existent, nor undetectable (John 3:5-8). The demonic are very real and very much present all around us. As are the angelic and the presence of the Holy Spirit (Heb 1:14, Ps 91:11, 2 Kings 6:17-20). We simply are not used to thinking about it, and therefore do not live our lives in a manner that reflects this reality. Although, we already



extend this acceptance of certain unseen worlds in other areas of our lives.

It's a lot like germs and viruses. With the right tools we can become aware of their presence. Once our eyes are opened to the prevalence of germs all around us it can be overwhelming. We mitigate this by employing proper hygiene practices and cleanliness. We alter our lives according to an unseen reality. Furthermore, the truth is that our God given immune systems protect us from countless infections and attacks each day. It is much the same in the spiritual battle. As a believer in Christ we have an immunity system against the demonic, but that doesn't mean we can do anything we want without repercussions. There is no need to be fearful or overwhelmed by their presence or existence, in fact, as the Bible tells us, we should be aware of their schemes so we can maintain our spiritual health (2 Cor 2:11). If our spiritual immune system is compromised we can become spiritually sick, so to speak. This brings opportunity for our enemy.

The demonic have rebelled against God and towards their proper place, and thus have become like criminals - opportunistic (Jude 1:6). Sometimes, the only reason a criminal robs one house as opposed to the neighboring house is because the neighbor's door was locked and theirs wasn't. Remember, demons follow the same battle strategies and have the same character as their master, the Devil (see chapter 2 for more details). They are seeking to exploit weakness, ignorance, and anything left unguarded that could possibly be used for evil. They are trying to tangle you up with lies and deceptions (John 8:48). They are trying to gain authority into your daily life and thoughts. They are doing everything they can to rob you of joy, peace, and ultimately effectiveness.

The goal of the demon is specific. It is to deceive, distract, discourage, and destroy the believer and non-believer alike to disengage them from God. They desire to blaspheme the image of God by defaming the image-bearer. There is spiritual combat and conflict going on in the heavenly realms and it involves those who have been created in the image of God (humanity.) Demons will study and stalk their prey looking for an opportunity to strike (1 Pet 5:8). We call this process demonic assignments.

The most common tactic used on these assignments are fiery darts (Eph 6:16). These can be intrusive thoughts, temptations, harassment, even physical attacks at times as we have already seen examples of this in scripture. There are many other Christian believers who have experienced these patterns for centuries; and we have seen them first hand as we have prayed with people to overcome them. Physical manifestation may be something that you haven't been directly exposed to but, you can be guaranteed that you have personally experienced demonic attacks in some form (1 Pet 5:8-9).



Have you ever had a thought come into your head that you didn't want to be there? If so, you are in good company, because there isn't a person alive today who hasn't had this experience. This is often the whispering of the demonic. A thought can be a physical manifestation of a demonic attack. Our thoughts are not simply unseen and unknown. They are a link between the physical and spiritual realm, and we can be transformed by God through the renewing of them (Rom 12:2). The result of this is a christian life that walks out the will of God everyday. Strategically, this is devastating to the enemy's cause. These attacks are often an attempt to test boundaries and see how you will respond. Will you take the bait? Will the desire they are targeting trigger the response they are looking to incite? Will you sink even further into the pit of their lies and embrace deception as truth? Or will you engage in taking the thought captive and ultimately forcing it into submission to Christ? Will you resist and rebuke the enemy and his lies? This process of taking thoughts captive is critical to engaging with the demonic and overcoming him (2 Cor 10:5).

Intrusive Thoughts from the Enemy

There are three places a thought can come from; the Lord, our flesh, or the enemy. The differences between internal thoughts, thoughts from the Lord, and thoughts from the demonic can sometimes be difficult to sort. However, the Lord has given us some critical instruction of what this does and does not look like.

The Lord has given you a mind and emotions so that you would use them. We were given a free will to choose and to think as we please. This can be used for good or for evil, the choice is ours. God does not think for you, but rather freely shares His thoughts with you. What you do with those thoughts are entirely up to you. You can embrace them, receive His perspective as truth, and live your life according to that truth. You can also do the same with the shared lies or fiery darts of the demonic. Sometimes these attacking thoughts seem quite natural, and that is part of the strategy. Just as in any conversation we would have in the physical realm with a friend, it is natural that the things they say become part of our thought process. As we hear them, we process and explore what they are saying. We see this happen spiritually in much the same way. Our mind can hear things from the spiritual realm much as our ears can hear things in the physical realm. However, just because we hear it, does not mean we have to obey it. Just because we have the thought, does not mean we have to agree with it, or own it as from ourselves, or how we really feel. Just as a thought shared by your friend does not have to be taken as truth, neither do we have to internalize every thought that pops in our head about ourselves and others; nor should we. First, we need to be mindful of the thoughts we are having. This is the biblical practice of "taking every thought captive," (2 Cor 10:5). For some, just the realization



that not all our thoughts are our own is enough to wake them up to pay attention to the stream of activity in their heads. For others, the torment of continuous attack on their minds by the enemy has become so frequent that it has been completely internalized by them and integrated into their daily functioning. It can be much harder for the latter, because what started as a passing suggestion from the enemy has now developed into a stronghold, or that person's reality and constant torment. They may not want to stop and focus on one of these thoughts anymore than they already feel forced to in a day. For them these attacks are not just accusatory, but tormenting as well. Regardless, this is one of the ways we can tell if a thought may be from the enemy. It is usually accusatory in nature, as our enemy is the "Adversary" who accuses the brethren (Rev 12:10). These accusations, if not rejected, will turn into consuming torment (1 Pet 5:8).

Accusatory thoughts are nearly always from the enemy. "You are worthless, you are unloved, no one will understand you, no one wants you, you're doomed for failure, you're not enough." All of these are making an accusation against you and your identity, specifically in relationship to God. They are meant to isolate and trap you in hopelessness. The desired result is to take you out, or at the very least, your immobilization in the kingdom of God.

The enemy sometimes employs destructive thoughts. These can oscillate between various degrees of annihilation and torment. At times they seemingly come out of nowhere and are perceived as quite crazy and out of place. Ever been driving on a road that had a steep drop-off on one side and thought, "What if I just turned the wheel and drove off?" What about something specifically about hurting someone you loved or didn't even know? Or perhaps a thought of random sexual perversion that repulses you to even think of it! These thoughts just pop into your mind without any context. These are generally like scatter shots meant to test your limits and responses, and perhaps simply distract and torment even if just to a small degree. On the other hand, there are destructive thoughts from the enemy that are employed after a person has already swallowed the initial lie and a stronghold has formed. These thoughts are meant to bring spiritual, emotional, mental and most often physical harm to you or someone else. After agreeing with the lie of the enemy that, "nobody loves or wants me," now the thought is proposed, "you should just kill yourself, everyone is better off without you anyways, stop being a burden." This is an escalation of desired results and usually comes after much mental and emotional torment.

In either case, we need to rebuke the thought, stand against and resist it. We do not need to repent of thoughts that are revolting or tormenting to us. We rebuke those, they are not our own. Read that again and take it to heart. We do not repent of the fiery darts of accusation, torment, and temptation. Repentance is an acknowledgement of sin, if we repent of the attacks of the enemy we run the risk of embracing the false identity of those attacks as



part of our identity. Soldiers who are shot at in the battle field do not receive discipline, they receive medals for standing against attacks and persevering. If there is an accusation and torment we stand against it and resist. If there is a temptation, we reject it and leave the area or object of temptation if needed. If there is a lie, we renounce it, and replace it with truth. Identifying the attacks of the enemy, and handling it appropriately, are vital to the battle. Not doing so can lead to strongholds in our lives.

Thoughts that are contrary to God's truth about ourselves, others, or temptations to sin that have been internalized can turn into demonic strongholds. When we no longer choose to reject or ponder a lie or temptation but instead agree with, receive, cherish, and fantasize about a thought laid before us by the enemy, then we have now made it our own (Prov 15:26). These lies and temptations can take root. We have joined the enemy in rebellion and thus given him permission to run a muck so to speak in this targeted area of our lives. This can create additional problems. This foothold given to the enemy can lead to a demonic stronghold, where now we are living our lives agreeing with the lies of the enemy and acting out accordingly to that deception (Eph 4:17-27). This can be done knowing or unknowingly. Both lead to sin, torment, destruction, devastation, and even desolation.

Footholds Leading to Strongholds

A foothold is essentially a given opportunity to the enemy. Strategically speaking, it is something you can use to push-up from and potentially overcome your opponent. Think about climbing a mountain and getting a spot to place your foot in order to push up and make progress until conquering the mountain. Or those locked in physical combat. Once someone's guard is down, just for a moment, the opposition uses this window to get in there and eventually take their opponent down. It is the same when the enemy gains a foothold in our lives. He uses an opportunity to gain footing so as to push-off from there and deepen his hold and destruction. That opportunity can be anything from trauma to sin, unforgiveness to choosing the enemies lies over God's truth. If he gains a foothold, it is an opportunity to establish a stronghold.

Most often, though not always, a foothold is established through the act or embrace of sinful behavior (Ephesians 4:27). Remember that sin is an entanglement that the enemy uses to disarm and entrap you. If left unattended it can become a stronghold that needs to be broken down. The goal of a foothold is to gain entrance into our lives and potentially stop our forward advance. The goal of a stronghold is to take us out of the greater battle.

A stronghold could be seen as a demonic deception that has created a false picture of ourselves and circumstances in our hearts and minds. These generally hinge around two distortions of 1) Who God is, and/or 2) Who you are in Christ. If the enemy



can get you to believe a skewing of either or both of these two things, he can effectively immobilize you. He might even be able to get you to work for him in your own life or the lives of others! We have seen this play out countless times in scripture. In fact the entire book of Galatians is devoted to correcting those that sought to further the perversion of God's truth (Gal 5:1). Dangerous strongholds can develop in a number of ways. Habitual sin and rebellion against God through choosing lies over truth is prominent. Traumatic abuse can form scars in our lives that the enemy uses to build influence through deception. Bondage to bitterness through unforgiveness is a massive and yet largely ignored area of subjection. As can involvement in or dedication to the occult. They can also develop through sinful cultural or family practices, mentorship, and false teaching or guidance. However, all of these things can be broken down through the power of Jesus.

Strongholds are the root of the cause and need to be addressed through identifying the source, rebuking its authority, affirming the truth, and then inviting the Holy Spirit to fill, restore, and strengthen. Often the habitual sin may not be directly related to the source (lies or experience) that gave the enemy authority to attack you. The habitual sin manifesting itself is often a method of medicating the problem, not the problem itself.

Footholds give the enemy a legal right to harass and build a presence to tangle you up and keep you in bondage. Footholds and strongholds represent some sort of influence or authority. This influence or authority is often called giving the enemy ground or biblically, being demonized.

Strongholds and Demonic Assignments

While a stronghold generally refers to the whole area of a person's life that has been given over to the enemy and encompasses all lies, sin, and demonic influences (2 Cor 10:3-5); we use the term "assignment" (Eph 6:12) in identifying a singular demonic influence within that stronghold. This helps us bring things from general terms to specifics. It is the difference from a shotgun style of engagement to that of a sniper. This type of engagement seems to be encouraged in all other areas of the christian life, but left out of resisting the devil. All would agree that before God it is vital that we know what it is we are specifically repenting of, like a sniper carefully acquiring his target and taking the shot. We would encourage an individual to specify confession of sin and not to just throw-up general asks of forgiveness like a shotgun spray in hopes of covering everything; otherwise how could true repentance take place? Just so, this sniper style of engagement to overcome the enemy, or personal assignments of the enemy, can be vital in victory. One can target the source of the lies and the attack, and take back the ground of the stronghold by the power and truth of the Lord (2 Cor 2:11). Remember, the attacks of the enemy can



be specialized and personal, like a particular shot fired at a singular target or subject. Demonic assignments can be given what is commonly referred to as a legal-right or enabled place in our lives when we enter into agreements with them simply by listening to demonic lies and accepting them as truth over God's truth (1 Tim 4:1). As stated previously, the avenues taken by the enemy are usually through trauma-woundings (Job 7:11, Ps 37:8, Acts 8:23, Heb 12:15), sin (Eph 4:25-27, Gal 5:19-21, Mark 7:21-23, Col 3:5-8), unforgiveness (Matt 6:14-15, 18:21-35), occult-practices (Lev 20:6, Due 18:9-12, Gal 5:20-2, Acts 19:19), and generational-bondage (Exod 20:4-5, 34:6-7, Num 14:18, Due 5:9-10, Jer 32:18). The enemy's goal is to rob Christians of privileges that Jesus bought with His blood, and render the subject much less effective in advancing the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Have you ever known a Christian who seems to have most of their walk with the Lord together, even seems to excel in ministry, but are caught in the act of, or confess to very serious and heinous sin? Or, on the other end of the spectrum, have you ever known a believer that loves the Lord strongly and wants nothing more than a victorious walk with Jesus, but there is just some personal aspect that falls short of the abundant life they know Jesus promised them? Believers in both of these scenarios can't seem to explain why they are unable to overcome the last hurdle to abundant joy and victory other Christians seem to have. We believe that one of the strong possibilities for both is that they have demonic assignments rooted in spiritual footholds. As Paul mentioned, we are triune creations: spirit, soul or mind/emotions, and body (1 Thes 5:23). The flesh and the soul or seat of the emotions and mind can be part of the reason why people are not living abundant christian lives, and much attention is given to righting the wrongs in those areas. But, why does it seem the enemy and spiritual realm is often overlooked or ignored completely? We have found that simply praying and engaging the enemy through a sniper style prayer we call "Retooling" can be effective in exercising our God-given position and authority in dealing with demonic spirits. We will learn more about the Retooling approach in the next session, but understanding that we live in active battlefields on multiple realms is essential to the type of engagement we deploy.

Oppression and Demonization

As we discussed in chapter 2 the term "possessed" can be misleading. The greek word is the verb form of "demon" and conveys influence or harassment not ownership or forced control. It would be more accurate to understand the translation as "the man possessed a demon," rather than "the demon-possessed man." This is why we choose to use the transliterated term "Demonization" rather than the translated term, "demon-possessed."

This is an important note because when the Bible speaks about footholds and strongholds they are warning against giving the



demonic, or the spirit of the demonic, any opportunity to influence your life or decision making. If we as Christians have a poor understanding of the demonic and disregard it as something that we do not actually deal with, then we cease to engage in that battlefield. This leads us continually battling ourselves, or our own flesh, and retreating, while our real adversary remains undeterred in their harassment and advancement. This also leads us to believe that the demonic only affects non-believers, and lolls us into a false justification of passivity.

Demonization to various degrees of severity is not only in non-believers' lives, but potentially in the lives of any believer who pays attention to "deceiving spirits and teachings of demons" (1 Tim 4:1), and gives the enemy a "foothold" (Eph 4:26-27) by their own decisions, desires, and choices. As believers, we must not fall into the trap of thinking simply because we have never openly evoked the name of Satan or solicited demonic assistance, that we are then free from listening to deceiving spirits or the teachings of demons. As we see in Ephesians, simply giving into our anger, and thus choosing the lies of the enemy to then act out in sin, is enough to give a demonic foothold or opportunity in our lives. This can be better understood when we look at the reality of our bodies being actual temples of the Spirit of God (1 Cor 6:19-20).

In Ezekiel chapters 8-10 we see that it is possible for demons to be admitted into the outer courts of the temple, at the same time that God is dwelling in the innermost room, the Holy of Holies. The picture is painted for us of Israel worshiping the indwelling presence of God residing in the Holy of Holies, while openly worshiping and evoking pagan demons in the outer and inner courts of the same temple at the same time. This can help us draw a parallel to understand how it can be that Christ can dwell in our hearts, our Holy of Holies, while our flesh and our minds, our outer and inner courts, permit the entrance of our enemy and demonic activities into our lives (1 Cor 3:16-17). We must be on guard and not remain ignorant of such breaches and defilements.

The above being established, this can be a sobering reality for many believers who thought they could simply jump on the "Jesus-train" and enjoy the ride as a civilian, without ever having to engage the enemy as a soldier in battle. For others, who have been "demonized" for lack of a better word, understanding this reality can be the revelation of a lifetime and the first step in learning to exercise their God given authority over the enemy in their lives. Either way, we see a biblical precedent that exhorted the early Christians to adopt many principles of spiritual warfare, starting with not being ignorant of the enemy's devices, schemes, or thoughts (2 Cor 2:10, 11).

"The job of an oppressing demon is to solicit the believer to sin. The job of a demon that has invaded, infested, or demonized a Christian is to destroy that person." (Carl Payne, *Spiritual Warfare*,



pg 177). All people have and will experience demonic oppression at some point in life. This is usually perceived as more external in nature and can be chopped up to the normal “bumps in the road” of the Christian life; living in a fallen world and having a spiritual enemy that routinely attacks. Not all, however, have experienced demonization which is perceived and felt not only externally, but also internally and can be extremely severe in nature. It is oftentimes very difficult for Christians that have not been severely demonized to understand the intensity of the battles experienced by those that are or have been. Either way, the occasional oppression or severely demonized, we have found that offensive prayer, such as the Retooling prayer approach can help in exercising our God-given position and authority in dealing with demonic spirits. We also see a Biblical precedence for this type of rebuke and resistance of the enemy.

In the New Testament we see examples of demons, or groups of demons, who have some sort of authority or influence in the lives of specific people. Whether it was the demoniac (Mark 5:1-20) or the vocal fortune teller (Acts 16:16-18) it is clear that there were specific demons active in their lives. A more subtle but interesting interaction between Jesus and Peter has Jesus rebuke Satan directly.

“From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” **Matthew 16:21-23**

In all of these scenarios the demons were addressed directly and commanded to leave by Jesus, the apostles, or other disciples who were part of the community of believers at the time. The degree of influence had on the person varied from complete submission to fleeting verbalized thoughts. The authority of Jesus over the demonic was clear and direct. The authority passed on to all believers through the Holy Spirit is the same authority given to the disciples of Jesus when they received the Holy Spirit. It is the same Spirit. This is why we believe we have the authority to identify and confront the demonic in our lives and in the lives of others through prayer.



Key Concepts

1. Christians are Attacked by the Demonic

Though we have an immune system against the demonic given to us through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are still subject to attacks from the demonic. We must be aware of the schemes so we can stand and resist when attacks slip past our God-given spiritual immune system.

2. Fiery Darts are Real

The fiery darts of the enemy can be intrusive thoughts, negative ideation, temptation, or accusations against you. They commonly come in the form of our thoughts but are not limited to that, especially if you have given the enemy a foothold or allowed a stronghold to develop in your life.

3. Footholds

A foothold is given when we embrace a lie, a sinful act, or a spirit of rebellion. That foothold then gives the enemy a point to lodge more direct attacks and entangle you with sin. Remember that sin is not just rebellion against God. Petrifying fear, doubt, and worthless self-abasement are also the results of sinful thinking and actions. A foothold can allow the enemy to grow the fruit of sin in your life which leads to isolation and destruction.

4. Strongholds

A stronghold is an area of life that has been completely secured by the enemy and may be infested with demonic assignments. It is a lie that has become part of your identity and has started developing fruit in your physical life. It is deception and entrapment, and life decisions are now being made according to those lies and bondages. These deceptions are most commonly about 1) Who God is, and 2) Who you are in Christ. A lie about your value is believed, it then turns into a fearful spirit and then that fearful spirit creates neural pathways that reaffirm reasons to be fearful. That fear is then acted upon and lived out in various destructive ways. The truth and ways of God are rejected and/or dismissed. The deception of demons is embraced and reaffirmed. This is one of many strongholds that can be developed by the enemy.



Training & Tactics

1. Identifying attacks is an important part of the spiritual battle. Sometimes it can be helpful to identify attacks by journaling your thoughts. It gives time to assess and work through them. Please take time to read through the "Oppression vs Demonization" Appendix at the back of this workbook (see full workbook or see 'tools and resources' document from introduction). This can be eye opening for many in assessing the demonic severity of attack, they or a loved one, might be under. Be on guard this week and seek to identify the lies of the enemy as they come in. The accusations, deceits, fear, and suspicions that would rob your peace are very likely sourced from the enemy. Stand against these attacks by rebuking them and resisting the devil.
2. In the last chapter we sought to assess our battles in the flesh through the attacks from the world system. This week let us spend some time assessing the battle from the attack from the demonic. Most of us have battles of the flesh that are ongoing. You can use the same battle as last week or perhaps select a different one. Prayerfully try to identify your basic desire in the battle (affirmation, respect, sexual intimacy, security, protection etc...) Once you identify the basic desire try and identify how the demonic are telling you to fulfill those desires.
3. One thing the demonic cannot do is read your mind. We pray to a God who can hear our silent prayers, but rebuking the enemy is much more direct when done aloud. This can feel odd for someone who has grown-up in a western mindset and still grapples with the reality of spiritual warfare with an unseen adversary. A great introduction to this is to pray over your home and your space. It can help to think of it this way: If you were to enter a dark room or area you suspected may be occupied by squatters, you would call out with warning to anyone who was inside and turn a light on or shine a flashlight. If this room or area belonged to you, you would announce the authority you carry and walk with confidence knowing you are the one who has the right to be here, not the squatters. Approach prayer over your house this week in the same way. Rebuke the demonic in the name of Jesus. Send them away and reiterate that they are not welcome in any space that you occupy. Commit your home to God and to be in service to Him alone. Praying scripture aloud is a great way to get started.
4. The easiest way to break footholds and strongholds is to repent and believe. You can pray to God to give you insight into areas that you need to be cleansed and have weights cut away. Remember that these are not your identity, they are entanglements that have been placed upon you. Stand against them and shed them away.

5. Assess your need to continue on with the help of other more mature or experienced believers in the area of spiritual warfare. If you have found these exercises difficult or met with much resistance, please consider contacting a mature and experienced believer to help you continue on in a restoration process. We believe the Retooling Prayer approach will help you greatly and would encourage you to be together with a mature and experienced christian. You can also contact All Things Possible Ministries or any of the other ministries represented in this series for help with deliverance and restoration. They are all excellent and bear godly fruit as a result of their approach to spiritual warfare as well. Please see the "Ministry Contacts" Appendix.



Battle Prayer (read out loud and from the heart)

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You, that you have not given me a spirit of fear, but of strength, power and a sound-mind (2 Tim 1:7). Thank You that You are my protection and my strong tower against the enemy (Ps 18:1-3). Thank You, that You have promised to keep me safe and the evil one cannot harm me because I belong to You (1 John 5:18). I declare my complete dependance on You and Your most Holy Spirit of Truth.

Now, in the name and power of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, if there be any deceiving spirit against me or the space that I occupy, you are bound and gagged. You will not be able to interfere with or harm me in any way as I seek to submit myself to God (Matt 18:18-20, James 4:7). Your authority is smashed by Jesus Christ, and you are a conquered foe by the power of His death, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the Father. He has been given a name higher than any other name and has placed all His enemies under his feet (Phil 2:9-11). I declare His victory, and my position in Him as part of His body, the church (Eph 1:18-23). I am also one of His commissioned ambassadors on earth, as I am a child of the Most High God in Christ (2 Cor 5:20, Matt 28:18-20). Holy Spirit, I ask that you would severely punish any deceiving spirit that would attempt to harass or confuse my thoughts for their insolence towards your authority (2 Cor 10:6).

Heavenly Father, I ask now that You would search my heart and mind by Your Holy Spirit, and reveal to me an area of my life that I have believed a deceiving spirit with my thinking, and given the enemy a foothold or stronghold (Rev 2:23, Jer 17:10). Please show me:

When and what happened that I would start to believe and agree with a lie about myself and/or you? (Write down whatever comes to mind; could be a memory, an event, or a time of life) ...

What is the lie or deception of the enemy that has started to feel

true in my heart and mind because of this? (Write down whatever comes to mind, for example: "I am ugly, worthless, no one wants me, I'm lesser-than, I'm not enough, I'm too much, I'm a burden, God doesn't love me as much as others, I'm unlovable, I'm dirty, ect.)

Heavenly Father, I now renounce and reject my agreement with any and all deceiving spirits and these lies... (read all the lies that you wrote down). I confess these all as deception from the enemy, and admit my part in believing and receiving them in my heart and thoughtlife. I, now, ask You to cancel and take back the ground, any foothold or stronghold, that I have given over to the enemy because of this.

In the name, power, and authority of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ; any demonic spirit holding an assignment against me because of these deceptions, footholds or strongholds; must now leave my presence and go to the dry place of Jesus's choosing, never to return. You will take all works, effects, and any physical act you have done in my body with you. You will never return. Your assignment here is now broken by the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ (Matt 12:43). What is bond on earth, is bond in heaven, and what is loosed on earth, is loosed in heaven. You are now bound from me and the space that I occupy, and I am loosed from your affects to God (Matt 16:19).

Heavenly Father, I now commit myself to taking every thought captive and resisting the enemy when he attacks my thoughts with fiery darts contrary to Your word. I will force my thoughts to be in submission to Christ and seek Your perspective with everything going on in my mind (2 Cor 10:4-5). Fill this area of my life with Your Holy Spirit as I proclaim that You alone are the ruler of my heart, mind, and body (Ps 37:5-6). Please begin to heal my thoughts and broken heart with Your Spirit and truth. Thank You for freeing me from bondage, even bondage to torment and thoughts. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Notes



A series of horizontal lines for writing, spaced evenly down the page. The lines are thin and black, set against a white background. The lines are arranged in a regular grid pattern, providing a guide for text entry.





7: ENGAGE THE ENEMY





The Brief

All Things Possible Ministries uses their Retooling Prayer to help believers and non-believers alike identify and eliminate attacks from the enemy on their lives. This is one of many methodologies to counter attack and find freedom through the power of Christ.



Key Scripture

"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead **expose** them." Ephesians 5:11 ESV

"For He was saying to him, 'Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!' And Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' He replied, 'My name is Legion, for we are many.'" Mark 5:8-9 ESV

"As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.' And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour." Acts 16:16-18 ESV

"Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded." Acts 19:13-16 ESV

And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Ha! What have You to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. Luke 4:33-35 ESV



Lesson

Take a moment and think about the state of the world. We are more comfortable, knowledgeable, wealthy, and privileged than at any other time in history. Yet what do we see? Endless accusations, rampant corruption, deadly wars, hate, division, and a sense of hopelessness invading people everywhere. It would seem that the spirit of this world has gained a stronghold in our culture and influenced its people.

Jesus came to set the captives free and He did this through teaching, but also by miracles and casting out demons (Jn 8:32, Matt 4:23-24). His disciples also engaged in the same practices. In the western world this practice of casting out demons is seen as suspicious, phony, and harmful. Even in the church, in most denominations, there is avoidance of this biblical reality. We have regulated the spiritual attacks of the enemy to a mental exercise and applied the philosophies of the world to treat and care for individuals who are under any sort of duress. The focus is on treating the physical and not identifying the spiritual-root causes at play.

Some notable Bible teachers have begun crusades against deliverance ministries. They generally use the most ridiculous, sensational examples to prove all deliverance ministries are a hoax and then encourage you to take comfort in the "correct" theology that Satan has no power over the believer. The problem is that the Bible is full of warnings, commands, and instructions about dealing with the demonic, not to unbelievers but to the church. Clearly the demonic are exerting some power and coordinated attack against the church; and by dismissing it we are actually allowing the enemy to have power or territory they should not. As it is often said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men should do nothing." Unfortunately, many Christians have not only chosen to "do nothing," but take it a step further and feel morally superior by their acts of "nothing" and forbid others that do "something." By this, "Deliverance Ministry," has become a tainted phrase. There is such an obvious irony in this Christian-cultural phenomenon. Jesus came to set the captives free and to deliver them from bondage to sin and the kingdom of darkness! The gospel is deliverance, and our continued deliverance from bondage to sin and the power of the enemy as well (Col 1:13-14).

The "Lord's Prayer" found in Matthew 6 specifically addresses deliverance from evil. We are not simply being delivered from bondage to ourselves. We are being delivered from bondage to the spirit of this world. Our flesh is weak, but it is not our master, for the spirit is willing and empowered by God (Matt 26:41). Deliverance is a key element of the gospel because of Jesus's victory over the kingdom of darkness, but it is not a single isolated event. The Lord tells us to be continually praying to be delivered from "temptation" and to "be delivered from



the evil one” as an ongoing pattern of following God (Matt 6:13). It is a call to every believer in Christ to not just pray for deliverance from temptation, but from the enemy as well. Thankfully, there are ministries who seek to stand with those who have found themselves being oppressed, attacked, and influenced by the demonic.

The organizations that partnered with us on this project provide wonderful resources to dig deeper into this needed area of ministry (see Ministry Contacts Appendix C). The Bible is clear that the demonic exists, that they attack, and that we are to stand against them. It is clear that the gates of hell will not withstand our advance. Remember that because of the finished work of Christ, we are advancing on the gates of hell, not the other way around (Matt 16:18-19)! What the Bible is not crystal clear on is the exact methodology of standing against these attacks. Why? Well, our belief is that the Holy Spirit will guide you within a biblically sound framework to stand against the attacks of the moment (Phil 4:19, Jn 14:26). Not every healing Jesus and His disciples performed looked the same way every time, nor did every deliverance. We believe this is to foster faith and dependence in God, His Spirit, and His word (2 Cor 9:8, 2 Tim 3:16-17).

As we have stood in the gap with those who have been tormented by demonic thoughts, accusations, and even physical manifestations; our desire has been to provide a process that was specifically designed to identify attacks and assignments from the enemy and then neutralize those attacks through the power and authority of Jesus Christ. We call it the “Retooling Prayer” method.

Why is it called “Retooling” Prayer?

Militarily speaking, “retooling” means to adapt or alter someone, or something, to make them more useful or suitable for a given task. The Retooling Prayer sessions have been developed over the years with just that kind of transformative goal in mind. It is alright to be skeptical, but “a tree is known by its fruit” (Matt 7:15-20); and as Jesus said in Luke 7:35, “wisdom is proved right by all her children,” so we allow the fruits of our methods to speak to the wisdom behind it. We have thousands of people as a testimony to our “fruit,” who have experienced life changing freedom from the schemes of the devil and this offensive prayer style.

Retooling prayer sessions engage in offensive prayer rather than defensive prayer. In Psalm 27 and 35, King David gives us excellent examples of engaging in offensive prayer against his enemies. The modern church feels most comfortable with defensive prayer and exaltation. The truth is there is a time and place for both offensive and defensive prayer. With the retooling prayer we are primarily



offensive in nature as we are asking God to unleash His power against an enemy that is actively seeking to destroy His children.

In no way do we believe a Retooling Prayer session to be the only way to see results. Nor is our methodology written in stone; or do we believe there are “magic” words that need to be said. There are many different excellent ministries, including those represented in this course, that share the same view of spiritual warfare and approach to engagement with the enemy in varying ways with great success (see Appendix C). We would encourage anyone to check them out in their pursuit of a victorious Christian walk. Again, if the Lord shows you a different way to get the same results, go for it, and may all glory be to God!

The Process

The easiest way to understand the process is to think of it as an exercise in taking thoughts captive. As we discussed in an earlier chapter we believe that our minds receive communication from the Holy Spirit. That is because we are more than physical creatures and our spiritual nature is designed to commune with God. However, in the corrupted state of this world and our own flesh there are other voices that act like a pollutant in our hearts, minds, and lives; such as the demonic along with the world system, and our own flesh. The purpose of these is to corrupt and confuse, to further destruction and immobilization in our lives. These seek to distort our ability to walk in the Spirit and keep us dependent on the flesh or trapped therein through works of deception, lies, accusations, and torment (Gal 5:16).

Oftentimes, these works have become so rooted into a person’s heart that it has sadly become like a personal truth for them. This creates all kinds of problems as they have lived their lives according to lies. Furthermore, this has usually led to unrest, desperation, dysfunction, and problems with relationships, behaviors, and deeds. During the Retooling Prayer session, these established footholds and strongholds are brought to light, they are clearly dealt with in order to bring freedom from their effects.

Retooling Prayer sessions can be 5 - 25 minutes on average. These sessions are low on drama and theatrics. People who have been prayed for often comment on how “normal” it is and there is no attempt to whip-up emotions to manufacture something that isn’t there. On the contrary, everything is done clearly, directly, and filled with authority. If no demonic assignments are found, we simply praise God. If they are found, in a very straightforward, authoritative, and God-honoring way we expose and bring those demonic assignments and their works of darkness to light (Eph 5:11-13).

To be clear, the Retooling Prayer method is not a catch all solution for all spiritual needs. We have an ongoing battle with our flesh and



the world system. However, walking in our God-given authority and position in Christ definitely puts them on a different footing. Let's look at how a typical Retooling Prayer session works.

Lay Ground Rules for Engagement

The person conducting the session begins in prayer and laying the ground rules for engagement. Ground rules are the basic rules for doing something or rules pertaining to the limits of interaction on a particular field. Our ground rules proclaim the truth of God's victory, His authority and power over everyone and everything present. We also dictate what will be required and limited or non-permissible during the engagement with the enemy.

Ground Rules are for the benefit of our engagement. Because of God's ultimate victory over the enemy there is no need to allow any demon to torment or mess with us. Establishing this from the beginning lets our enemy know that there will be consequences to noncompliance and saves everyone a lot of time, confusion, and torment. Remember, we fight from a place of victory, our engagement with the enemy is not evenly matched. Jesus has already won on our behalf, they are the defeated foe. We are not equals, but conquerors in Christ. They will submit to Jesus's commissioned authority and judgment by respecting spiritual boundaries or have to suffer the consequences.

The ground rules we use for engagement include the following vital aspects, as we:

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** the Authority and Power of God over all, and the accomplished work of Jesus done at the cross and the grave (Col 2:13-15)
2. **SECURE** a zone by pleading the blood of Jesus to create a seamless canopy (Heb 9:14, Heb 10:19-22, Rev 12:11, Ex 12:13) over the area of encounter, cutting off all communication with the outside spiritual world (Ps. 143:11-12, Luke 11:20-22).
3. **ESTABLISH** that we have authority because of what Jesus has done and our position in Him now because of his conquering death, resurrection and ascension (Luke 10:18-20, Eph 1:18-23, Eph 2:6).
4. **ASK** God to draw a circle of judgment (Ps 139:5). This establishes a spiritual boundary in the spiritual realm (Matt



16:19, Matt 18:18-20) — a place that is holy ground because of God's presence (Matt 18:20, 1 Cor 3:16-17).

- 5. Ask God to POST** two warring angels on each side of the circle as guards. (Hebrews 1:13-14, Ps 91:11-12, Ps 34:7, Matt 26:53)

Securing a Zone: Establishing a Spiritual Boundary and Circle of Judgment

When we speak about securing a zone, we are referring to the biblical practice of "binding" and "loosing" (Matt 16:19.) "Binding" and "loosing" refers to the designated power and authority given by Jesus to "bind" or secure the spiritual realm; while "loosing" refers to its findings or ability to "carry off" or "rob" and release the enemies' spiritual plunder (Matt 12:29). This authority is given to every believer.

Jesus says that sometimes we have to "bind" the enemy before we can "loose" in the spiritual realm. This is overpowering the "strongman" or demonic assignment (Luke 11:20-22). When someone is bound, they are held captive and powerless. They have no other option than to submit to their fate.

In Luke 11, Jesus very clearly demonstrates His ability and authority over the demonic. He even gives a more detailed example of His strength and ability to bind the demonic and pull apart the stronghold, piece by piece. "But if it is by the finger of God that I (Jesus) cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil" (Luke 11:20-22).

Jesus gives us more detail in Matthew 12:29 as well, "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house." In these detailed descriptions we see the demonic spirit in his stronghold portrayed as a strong man in his palace. He is fully armed and has gained for himself quite the loot. His armor and weapons are demonic lies and sometimes other demons that have helped him gain the spiritual ground in which he now enjoys the loot of sin and perpetual torment in the life of his subject.

As we pray for people it is imperative that the Lord binds the enemy so that we can begin the process of letting loose the plunder of the



enemy. This is done not only by the judgment of God upon His captive enemies, but also through His sustaining protection of His children during that process (Ps 139:5).

Engaging the Enemy

Once the above items are established, we move on to engaging with the enemy. These commands keep things clear and straightforward. Our aim is to gather intelligence. We want to reveal the schemes of the devil that have been employed on this particular person, break those bonds, and equip them to stand against them.

1. **COMMAND** any and all demons who may be present to come to attention (1 Sam 17:45, Lk 10:17).
2. **COMMAND** the first demon to step into the circle of judgment, bow his knees and head in shame (Philippians 2:9-11).
3. **COMMAND** the demon to speak directly to the subject's mind and answer all the questions clearly.

As we have already established, the enemy speaks to our minds like fiery darts of destruction. We are simply commanding it now, and taking those thoughts captive, literally forcing them into submission to Christ. It is likely that many will find this step unnerving to read. There is a disconnect between the modern Christian and the authority of Jesus given to them to command. You may not believe that you have been given authority over the demonic, if that is the case then why are you called to fight against it? Is it not possible that the uneasiness at this assertive approach to demonic influence is a lie from the enemy to pull you out of the fight? A clever scheme to remove you from engaging in the battle that the bible says is occurring? We believe it is worth considering.

Gathering Intel and Breaking Bonds

From here we begin to interrogate the enemy. This means we ask the demon questions and their responses will be given to the individual we are praying with who will simply tell us what they hear or see in their mind out loud. For our purposes, they do not need to process it now, share what they hear. It is highly recommended that they process everything later, if they wish; so as to further understand and not remain ignorant of the enemy's schemes in their lives (2 Cor 2:11). This is why it is very helpful to record the session on a phone or have someone take notes during the prayer session so they can review it. This will help them see what the Lord is doing through this in their lives.



There are two very important things to make clear. At no time are we asking the demon to take control of the individual, in fact we forbade that through the authority of Christ in the ground rules. This is simply actively taking thoughts captive in the authority of Christ. These are the thoughts going on in the mind of the subject of the demonic assignment, but it is not giving the demon any authority or control, on the contrary the demonic assignment is being controlled. Second, there are numerous times when someone has no assignments on them. We do not push or prod with expectation that there must be something. We rejoice when there is nothing revealed because it generally means the person has stood and resisted effectively for the time being. This most often is a fruit of spending time with the Lord daily through prayer, study, and fellowship with other believers. However, most people who seek a Retooling Prayer session already know that there is something amiss in their lives. It is possible that the enemy is trying their hand at hiding out of fear of being found out. If further inquiry is desired by that person, a simple command of any demonic spirit present to come forth and answer the question in the "name of Jesus," is enough to force the enemy to stop hiding and speak up. We always evoke the name of Jesus because He has been given a "name above all names" (Phil 2:9-11).

In the Bible we see a precedent of coming in, or doing something "in the name of" someone or something else. It is a concept that we still use today, although we rarely think about it. A business or house may be registered in someone's "name." A volunteer, employee, or politician may be allowed access to private areas, information, or certain people not because of their own name, but because of the NGO, business, or country they represent. The leader of a group may refuse to allow violent acts to be done "in his name." We even will use the phrase, "tell them I sent you" meaning that the use of a "name" will reap benefits for the person that was sent. But, what does this mean? In short, it means to officially represent someone or something and their authority. The longer answer is that it is used to say that something is done with the authority of a specified person or thing and based on the authority of someone or something. It is also used to say that something officially or legally belongs to a specified person.

Someone's "name" is associated with all that they are, have done, and possess. It signifies our reputation and abilities both past, present, and into the potential future. Business men will put their name on a product to not only declare ownership and authenticity, but also as a guarantee based on their personal reputation, or having a "good name." In 1 Kings 8:22 - 9:3, King Solomon consecrates the Temple in the name of the Lord, and God Himself says, "My Name will be there." God's "Name" is associated with all that He is. It carries His glory, power, portion, authority, holiness, protection, possession,



trust, and love. To act in His Name is to act with His authority. To fight in His Name is to fight with His power. That established, Philippians 2:9-11 says this about the name of Jesus, "Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." His name is above every other name. This means that there is no authority higher than His.

Our names carry varying degrees of authority or weight, but no created being has a higher name than Jesus. That goes not only for humans, but angels and demons as well (Heb 1:4). Even in the spiritual realm, demons' names carry a degree of authority and even power. However, when we evoke the name of Jesus, their name means nothing, but a reminder of subservience to Him. To demand a demon to give up their name, just as Jesus did to the man at Gerasenes (Lk 8:26-31), is to demand that they acknowledge the limited authority they represent in contrast to the ultimate authority that we do, which is the authority of God. We are also asserting our delegated positional authority in Christ, which was commissioned to us as Christ's ambassadors (Matt 28:18-20, 2 Cor 5:20). Furthermore, we are forcing them to identify themselves, and what limited authority they have, to be subject to the will of the Father and us as Christ's body (John 15:16, Ephesians 1:19-23). Taking a demon's name, and binding him in the name of Jesus to whatever name he gives, does not allow them to hide or pretend to be someone or something else. They must stand and answer for what they've done, and will watch powerless as the destruction of their works is torn down before them. They will be "bound" and we will be "loosed."

The "loosing" begins as the plunder of sin and torment the demon has collected in the subject's life are taken away, returning the spoils of the stronghold in the palace to righteousness and peace. The strongman is defeated, the stronghold is gone, the palace now belongs to He who is stronger, that is, Jesus. The Biblical word used for "loosing" is "luo" and it means to undo a bond. Loosing is a process of judgment on the findings of the strongman and stronghold. It is canceling any demonic assignments and agreements that give the strongman what we call a "legal right" or permission, in a spiritual sense, to remain in the palace or in an area of our lives.

After the aforementioned commands are put in place; the line of questioning that we have found to be the most effective goes like this:

1. What name do you (the demon) go by? (Names can be understandable or not. It can be a familiar name or take the name of an emotion, event, false gods, sound or anything else in order to represent the embodiment it is trying to



communicate with its name. If needed, it will be able to spell it for clarity. Whatever name is given, verbally bind the demon to that name).

2. How old was your subject when you were assigned to him/her?
3. What were the circumstances in their life when you were assigned?
4. What are the three most effective lies you have told your subject (the person being prayed for)?
5. What was the goal you were sent to accomplish?
6. What one truth of God have you been trying to hide from your subject?
7. Do you have a legal right to be here? If the demonic assignment answers "no," continue on to the next question. If it answers "yes," that legal right must be determined to continue on. The legal right could be a willful allegiance to the demon, sin, unforgiveness, choosing the demonic lie over the truth of God, the subject may have been dedicated to Satan or a false god as a child, etc... The subject needs to verbally renounce it, ask God for forgiveness and/or forgive if applicable. If that right is based upon current bondage to sin, the subject must renounce that sin and the stronghold it has created along with the lies, as well as repent and confess to God. After this has been done, ask if there is still legal right for the demon to remain. If no there is no longer a legal right, proceed to the next question. If "yes," ask the demon what the remaining legal right is, and repeat the process of renunciation and confession until the legal right is removed. It is sometimes possible that the subject themselves are not willing to renounce and confess the legal right, and/or are not being honest with you about what answers they are getting from the demonic assignment. If this is the case, there is no need to continue on. They have chosen to remain in bondage and there is nothing more to do. Unfortunately, we are done here.
8. Are you the head demon? If not, continue to the next question. If "yes," ask how many other demons are under their command.
9. Ask the subject if they want the demon to stay.

Most people don't, but some buy into the lies they've been told to such an extent that they prefer to put up with the torment in an effort to retain whatever they believe the demonic spirit is accomplishing for them. If the subject does not want the demon to go, there is no point continuing. But if they do, proceed to sending the demon to the footstool of Jesus.



Once the head demon is determined and the number of demons assigned to him are known, it is up to the prayer session conductor and the subject to decide how many of the demons they want to deal with directly. They can all be bound to the head demon and sent to the footstool of Jesus simultaneously to await his righteous judgment. We have found that it's often beneficial for the subject to deal with as many individual demons as possible so they can see the schemes and devices the enemy has used successfully against them.

10. Call the next demon into the circle of judgment, and repeat steps 1-9 as many times as you are led to do so. Once those agreements that give a legal-right to remain are loosed or canceled, any remaining demonic assignment can be bound all together, in this case, to the strongman who is their higher ranking demon or "head-demon," and commanded to leave (Lk 10:19, James 4:7). Remember everything is done in the name and authority of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ (Lk 10:17).
11. At the end of the session, pray for the Holy Spirit to minister to the areas of the subject where the attachments had been. Ask the Lord to cancel any ground given over the enemy and commit those areas to the Lord. Ask him to fill in those places with his Holy Spirit that were once footholds and strongholds.

Encourage the subject to develop a good consistent daily devotional time; it's the best way to keep the demonic forces at a distance. The one common denominator for people we have prayed with who had no apparent demonic assignments was their consistent daily time of prayer and Bible study.

What to do with this Information?

If you are coming from the vast majority of western Christianity, this is probably something that you have either never heard of before. On the other hand, it's possible that you are part of a tradition that labels anyone who seeks to engage against the demonic directly as a heretic or demonic themselves. We very humbly ask that you seek the Lord on this through a study of the biblical account on the subject. Just read the texts and take them for what they say. Don't dismiss these away or make excuses for the unconventional details contained in these biblical accounts. If you are still set against it, we pray that the Lord will protect you and guide you to be effective in the battle in the way He leads you to engage. We have no delusion that you have to use this approach to engage offensively with the demonic influences in the world. It is just our way and it has proven fruitful in the lives of many. We do however hope that at the very least you agree with us that we must follow the clear command that we are to be aware of the schemes of the Devil and resist him and his



demonic associates.

If our approach resonates with you, here are a few things you can do to get help, or get into the fight to help others.

1. Start, or expand, the spiritual care ministry at your church to include engaging demonic strongholds in the lives of one another.
2. Get some training/discipleship in this area from people who have some experience that you trust for you or your church.
3. Organize a screening of, “The Unseen War” at your church or small group to introduce others to Spiritual Warfare.
4. Pray for the boldness of the Lord to stand against and resist the lies of the enemy.



Key Concepts

1. Deliverance is a part of the Christian Life

You have been bought and paid for by the blood of Christ, however we still live in a combat zone. Our daily lives are entangled with the world system controlled by the spirit of this world. Add to that the fact that our flesh is weak and we are bound to run into problems. That is why we are called to pray for continued deliverance from temptation and the evil forces of this world.

2. Deliverance Ministry is Misrepresented

Sensational and manipulative practices of some do not negate the need for spiritual deliverance from the influence of the demonic. Just as the existence of “pastors” who teach the Bible incorrectly does not negate the need of correct biblical teaching; the incorrect application of deliverance does not negate the need for deliverance.

3. Many Approaches to Deliverance

The Bible makes clear that the demonic can gain influence in the lives of any believer or non-believer but it does not give a technical manual on how that influence is to be broken. It gives a clear foundation of Christ’s authority as the power to break bondage, but its various examples are anything but uniform.

4. The Retooling Prayer is One Example

All Things Possible Ministries has their approach that allows quick and direct engagement to identify and break strongholds in the lives of anyone. This is not “the way” it is simply what we have found fits in the biblical framework given and has been effective when used.

Training & Tactics

This week the training and Tactics section is centered around common questions in regards to finding freedom from demonic strongholds. Many of these questions are answered from our experience taking thousands of people through the retooling prayer. We have seen so many people receive freedom from the lies and torment of the enemy, whether that is persistent torment mentally, physically, or emotionally. We believe that God can and will deliver His children when they stand and resist the enemy.

General Questions

Q: Are demons speaking through the person you are praying with?

A: Absolutely not. This is an exercise in taking thoughts captive in our position and delegated authority in Christ. We believe our thoughts are coming from one of 3 sources: God, our flesh, and the demonic. There are many times each day that you have thoughts you choose not to vocalize. There are many times each day that you have thoughts that you choose not to act on, entertain, or embrace. Hearing something and repeating it does not mean you are being controlled, agreeing with, or spoken through.

Q: How do you know when retooling is something that would be helpful to do?

A: Our response would be prayer is never a bad thing and the Retooling Prayer Session is just a way to do a spiritual check up. 1 Peter 5:8 is a good warning for all believers. “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” If you are a follower of Christ you have an adversary and you will be targeted. The Retooling Prayer is specifically meant to surface footholds and strongholds that the enemy has secured against you. We have prayed for people desperate for help and people who are just curious. Every once in a while we run into someone who doesn't have any footholds or strongholds in their life, but even they are encouraged by the process.



Q: Is Retooling a one time thing or does it have to be done more than once?

A: It's definitely not a one time thing. We are in constant battle against the enemy. Retooling is a great way to check and see if there are any lingering issues. It's not a daily thing, it's probably not a weekly or monthly thing; it's a do it when you need it thing. At the heart you are just checking for enemy attacks against you. If you feel there may be something amiss in certain areas of your life, make some time and go through the process.

Q: Am I really saved if I am being oppressed or demonized?

A: You are saved by the blood of Christ. If a soldier is in battle and they are shot at, it does not change their allegiance. If they find themselves wounded on the battlefield, it does not change their allegiance. Even if they are captured by the enemy, it does not change their allegiance. These things can change your effectiveness as a soldier, and that is the aim of the enemy. If you believe that Jesus died for your sins and you desire to follow Him as your Lord and Savior then you are saved. Period. Anything else is just a lie of the enemy trying to rob your authority and disable you in the battle.

Q: Is Retooling scary or dramatic?

A: Most of the time retooling is very calm and freeing. That is why we use ground rules. The authority of Christ is real and when used the demonic must obey it. On rare occasions there are physical manifestations of some sort. These are generally easily dealt with by commanding the demon in the name of Jesus to cease their harassment and promising punishment for disobedience. I know this may sound dramatic, but even these things are very calm and direct. These sorts of situations are generally from highly demonized individuals who are having a struggle agreeing with the Lord that they have the authority in Christ to stand against their tormentor. These are the exceptions but they do happen. If a demon is being insolent or defiant to God and his children at any point during the Retooling Prayer, it is generally solved by asking God to torment and attack them using his warring angels or the fire of His Holy Spirit until they submit. They always submit.

Q: Do you hear audible voices when dealing with the demonic?

A: It is uncommon for anyone to hear audible voices from the spiritual realm. Even in scripture the interactions with the demonic were generally words being said by the person demonized. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness He engaged directly with Satan, but it is unclear exactly what that engagement looked like. A group of demons that went by "Legion" asked Jesus if they could be cast into some nearby pigs and it isn't clear if that was said through their

subject's voice or one of their own. What we do know from our experience is that those we pray with generally hear words like thoughts, images, or impressions in their mind. We believe this is a normal path of communication from the spiritual realm to us.

Leading a Retooling Prayer

We believe every believer has the authority of Christ to stand against the enemy. We find that it helps to have someone pray with you (or for you to pray with someone else) when using the Retooling method. If you feel led to seek the Lord and stand against the demonic we encourage you to use the materials provided and pray with one another. It is, however, quite possible to Retool yourself; and some that are experienced with this method have no problems doing so should the need arise. We would strongly encourage that anyone using the Retooling prayer method on themselves without others present, share their experience later with trusted brothers or sisters in the Lord. This helps keep us on guard and free from easily falling into isolation and deception.

Here are some things to keep in mind as you intercede and seek to break strongholds. If you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you have been given position and delegated authority to do "greater things" (Jn 14:12-14). That said, the body of Christ is made up of many different individuals that have been given spiritual gifts to varying degrees. There will be some who have developed or sought a greater gift of faith, wisdom, and knowledge that may be more effective. Paul tells us to seek the gifts and we believe this is an area that benefits from the experience of that pursuit. One last thought on this would be that, just like anything else in life, it helps to have experienced the process first and then to have mentorship and instruction, if possible. If that is not possible, trust in the Lord and He will lead, guide, and protect.

Battle Prayer: Retooling Prayer

(This session's Battle Prayer is an example of a Retooling Prayer. The following can be used as a template for leading another person through a Retooling Prayer session, and is meant to be personalized and modified as needed).

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for this person (the person being prayed for). I thank You for leading them to this place (1 Thes 5:18, Phil 4:6-7). I thank You for the work You have done in their life up till now, and the work that You are going to continue to do (Phil 1:6). I thank You for Your Holy Spirit that is with us, and will lead us, and guide us into all truth (Jn 16:13).



We now acknowledge that all power and authority belongs to You, over all. We proclaim Your victory over sin, death, and the kingdom of darkness through the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ (Col 2:13-15). We establish and proclaim our position in Christ, as we are part of His body, and our authority and victory in Him over the powers of darkness through His conquering death, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the Father; where He has placed all His enemies under His feet (Lk 10:18-20, Eph 1:18-23, Eph 2:6).

Heavenly Father, we ask that You would now secure a zone around us in the spiritual realm (Heb 9:14, Heb 10:19-22, Rev 12:11, Ex 12:13). We plead the blood of Jesus over this area of encounter and ask that You would cut off all reinforcements and communications of our enemies within it (Ps. 143:11-12, Lk 11:20-22).

We ask that You would draw a circle of judgment that establishes this spiritual boundary (Ps 139:5). That this would be a place of judgment and bondage on Your enemies, and protection and freedom for Your children (1 Jn 5:18, Matt 16:19, Matt 18:18-19). Lord, we proclaim this place as holy ground because of Your presence (Matt 18:20, 1 Cor 6:19-20, 2 Cor 3:17).

God, we ask that You would send two warring angels and post them as guards around Your encampment. That they would truly be ministering angels here to carry-out and enforce Your will (Heb 1:13-14, Ps 91:11-12, Ps 34:7, Matt 26:53).

Now, in the name and power of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ (1 Sam 17:45, Lk 10:17):

- I command any and all demons who may be present to come to attention.
- I command the first demon to step into the circle of judgment. You will bow to your knees and hang your head in shame (Philippians 2:9-11).
- I command you to speak directly to your subject's mind (to the person being prayed for) and you will answer all questions clearly.

(At this point let the person you are praying for know that all they have to do is speak out loud whatever they hear or see in their mind)

I am addressing the demon, the first question is:

1. What name do you (the demon) go by?

I now bind you to the name you have given and to your current authority structure in the name of Jesus Christ.

2. How old was your subject when you were first assigned to them?
3. What were the circumstances in their life when you were assigned?
4. What are the three most effective lies you have told your subject?
 - What is the first?
 - What is the second?
 - What is the third?
5. What was the goal you were sent to accomplish?
6. What one truth of God have you been trying to hide from your subject?
7. Do you have a legal right to be here?
 - If not, continue on to the next question.
 - If yes, go through the process with the person you are praying for by removing the legal right of the demon to stay through confession, renouncement, and/or forgiveness before God. After this, address the demon by name, and ask if it still has a legal right to stay:
 - I am addressing the demon bond to the name (fill in the name of the demon), do you still have a legal right to stay? (If not, continue on to the next question. If yes, you may continue to question the demon as to what the legal right remaining is, and then go through the process of removing that right further until it is gone.)
8. Are you the head demon?
 - If not, continue to the next question.
 - If yes, ask the demon: How many other demons are under your command?
9. (This question is addressing the person you are praying for) Do you want this demon to stay?
 - If they do not, continue in prayer: Then now in the name and power of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, addressing the demon bond to the name (fill in with the name of the demon), You are now bound together with all of your works, all of your effects, all of your underlings and associates (if desired), and even any physical act you have done within your subject's body. You will now leave, in the name of Jesus, taking with you all

that is bound to you, and go to his footstool to await judgment and command. Your assignment here is now broken and you will never return. You are now bound from this person (the person you are praying for) and they are freed (Matt 18:18-20).

10. In the name of Jesus the Risen Lord, I now command the next demon to enter the circle of judgment. You will bow to your knees and hang your head in shame before the Living God. You will speak directly to your subject's mind (to the person being prayed for) and you will answer all questions clearly.

- Repeat the process asking the questions 1-10 with as many demons as you feel led by the Spirit to question.
- When you are done with the last demon you want to question, bind all "remaining to demons" to it and send them all to the footstool of Christ together.

Heavenly Father, as this person (the person being prayed for) has chosen to submit themselves to You, I ask that You would cancel the ground and any footholds or strongholds that were given over to these demons in their life (Jam 4:7-10). We now commit these areas of their life to You and ask that You would fill them with Your Holy Spirit. We ask You to sweep through with Your Spirit and unroot any deep seeded deceptions from the enemy. We ask You to break the bonds of bitterness and begin to heal their broken heart and emotions (Ps 147:3, Col 3:15); and transform them by the renewing of their mind in Your truth (Rom 12:2). We ask You to minister to these areas of their lives as they are committed to You and You alone (Ps 37:5-6).

We thank You for the work You have done here today over Your enemies and give You all praise and all glory for all that You have done (Ps 97:3-9). In the most wonderful name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Notes



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8: LIVING IN VICTORY





The Brief

We are set free with a purpose. Christ's victory is not only for our own gain, but for the glory of God to be shared through us to the world. We glorify God in our lives by manifesting His presence to the world. This is done by living a victorious Christian life that bears much Godly fruit.



Key Scripture

"... so that **through the church** the manifold **wisdom of God** might now **be made known** to the **rulers and authorities** in the heavenly places. This was according to **the eternal purpose** that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have **boldness and access with confidence** through our faith in Him. Ephesians 3:10-13

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16

"**By this** My Father is **glorified**, that **you bear much fruit** and so **prove** to be **My** disciples." John 15:8

"But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace to me was **not without effect**. No, I worked harder **than all of them**—yet **not I**, but **the grace of God** that was with me." 1 Corinthians 15:10 NIV



Lesson

There are two common reasons someone begins to look into spiritual warfare. They personally feel the effects of it in their own life and are looking for solutions; or they see the effects of it in the lives of others and are looking for how they can respond. Maybe one of those reasons resonates with you or maybe you had an entirely different introduction to this material. No matter what brought you this far we hope that it is the beginning of an important journey.

The material we covered in this workbook and the companion video series are just the tip of the iceberg. As with any area of our walk



with Christ there is a lifetime of growth and understanding that is in front of you. We hope and pray that you will move forward and are better equipped. We also hope that you continue to train for the battle. We believe you are an important part of God's plan of redemption, you have been placed with specific gifts and experiences to reach specific people with the good news of the Gospel of freedom in Christ (2 Cor 5:20, Eph 2:10).

There are many things that we've discussed and addressed, but the most important truth to remember is that you are redeemed by the work of Christ (Col 1:14). Your identity is no longer a sinner trapped in bondage but a saint who has been delivered and restored (Col 2:10). The enemy will accuse you until you lose hope. Stand against him with the truth of Christ.

We are called to more than a pursuit of holiness. There is a massive need in the church today for believers to change our way of thinking. Your orders in the war are not to go and be more holy - internal thinking. Your orders are to go and make disciples - external actions. If you believe you have won the spiritual battle because you are being "holy" you run the risk of being like a "pharisee;" concerned with your own worth, rather than a disciple concerned with sharing the worth of Jesus (Lk 18:10-14, Jn 5:39).

Pursuing righteousness is exercising your faith, it helps free you from being ensnared by the enemy (1 Tim 6:11-12). However, many Christians confuse pursuing to live righteously with being holy. Pursuing holiness, for the believer, is a journey that ends before it begins. Why? Because Christ has already made the believer holy by His finished work on the cross, and by the power of His resurrection (Heb 10:10)!

The New Testament refers to those that believe in Christ as "saints;" or more accurately, "holy ones" (Eph 1:1). The English word "saint" comes from the Latin word "sanctus," which was translated from the original Greek equivalent "ἅγιος" or "hagios" which means "holy." Think about that. Every place you see the word "saint(s)" in scripture, you can replace it with "holy ones." "Saints" appears at least 60 times in the New Testament alone. The messaging is clear, those who were once "sinners" have now been made "holy ones," and thus can live like it (1 Pt 1:15-16).

The bondage many believers sit in stems from this simple deception: "you are a worthless sinner." This is an attack on your identity in Christ. It is a clever twist on what you were before versus what you are now in Christ. If your identity is wrapped up in what you were before Christ, then how are you walking in the power of the Holy Spirit now? If you are in Christ, then it is true that you were once a sinner that was saved by grace; but now you are a saint that lives by grace. True, you still possess the ability to sin, being not yet perfected (Phil 3:12-14). However, you have been transformed by God's holiness and glory, and are being transformed from glory to glory (2 Cor 3:18). This is



the nature of the new birth and new creation that has taken place. The truth is the truth regardless of how you feel about it. You must choose to believe and act in the truth of your new identity. Jesus has set you free, and made you part of a “chosen people” with a “holy calling” (1 Pet 2:9, 2 Tim 1:9). Our mission is simply to live this reality out. Here are just a few examples of what you, the believer in Christ, now are:

You are a partaker of God’s divine nature and spiritual empowerment:

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” 2 Peter 1:3,4

You are called to be a “Holy One:”

“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints(holy ones), with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours” 1 Corinthians 1:2

You are “holy ground,” so to speak, because you are God’s temple indwelled by the Holy Spirit:

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

You are no longer a “sinner,” or spiritually powerless, ungodly, dead, a slave to sin and to the enemies of God:

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient...Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions,” Ephesians 2:1-5



"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly ... While we were still sinners, Christ died for us ... For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!" Romans 5:6,8,10

You are now "saints" and spiritually alive, born again, made new, and liberated children of God:

"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins," Colossians 2:13

"Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again... Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.'" John 3:3,5,6

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." Galatians 5:13

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

We should no longer say, "I am a sinner saved by grace," but rather "I was a sinner saved by grace. Now, I am a saint that lives by grace." The difference might seem subtle or like semantics, but as we've seen from scripture, it is the difference between a lie and truth. Any lie, no matter how subtle or small, will lead to trouble, defraudment, false humility, and defeat in a believer's life. This is especially true when it comes to a lie about our identity in Christ. This particular tendency to call and view saints as sinners is largely used in the church today as a form of false humility or "self-abasement" as referred to in the Bible. It ultimately leads to the believer being defrauded of their spiritual prize. As it says in Colossians 2:18 NKJV, "Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind." Remember, if it's a lie then it is from the father of lies. Satan is trying to cheat you of your true spiritual blessings



in Christ. Know the riches and the depths of what Christ has done. Know where He has brought you, and who He has made you to be. Know who you really are, not simply what you once were (Eph 1:18-13).

This mindset is the difference between engaging in a war as soldiers that understand we are no longer civilians versus soldiers that still act like civilians. We are soldiers in the battle either way (Eph 6:12). What profit would it be to us to engage in a war like a civilian? In order to do so, we would have to disregard all our training, equipment, positions, and authority structures. Of course this wouldn't make any sense at all. Why? Because we are no longer civilians, but soldiers. We are highly valued, empowered, and fully equipped for battle. With this in mind, who do you think will come out victorious, soldiers embracing their new identity or those still embracing their old one? Your enemy knows the answer, do you?

Officially Engaging as Salt and Light to the World

Jesus told His followers that they were the "salt" and "light" of the world (Matt 5:13-16). That means you, as a follower of Jesus, are called to the same role and mission. As we look more into what it means to be salt and light, we need to understand that God does not call us to roles and missions haphazardly. He does it in authority and power. In fact, He has made all believers His ambassadors to the lost of this world (Matt 28:18-20, 2 Cor 5:20). We need to take this entitlement seriously, along with all the implications that come with the office. An ambassador is a diplomatic officer that is sent to officially represent his or her own country in a foreign territory. The parallels are clear; we are now ambassadors for Christ and carry all the permission, authority, representation, and responsibility that come with the title. As it says in 2 Corinthians 5:20, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." If we are to live in victory we must understand the meaning of this critical part of our mission. This manifestation of Christ through us to the world is God's plan for us. The effect we have on this world when we live commissioned in our official capacity is like that of salt and light on the planet.

Our commission and Christ's presence in us has a preservative effect on the world around us. Many commentaries draw equivalents between this and the preventative and protective nature of salt. Salt is an effective preservative because it protects against microbial growth by controlling the water activity in foods. Just the same, we are called to preserve the truth of God and keep it from being corrupted. As a matter of course, this necessitates pushing back the kingdom of darkness as the corruptive agent of influence it is. Remember, the war has already been won by Christ. To the



kingdom of darkness, we represent the Conquering King and His dominion. To the lost, enslaved in the darkness, we represent the new message of liberation under Christ the King. The effect of this is the furthering of God's gospel, word, ideas, values, and morality in society through us. These things are always going to be healthy and promote a positive lifestyle for all those affected by it. Why? Because God's ways are better than ours, and we all live best when it is according to His manner (Is 55:8-9). Living in a society based on God's goodness, rather than the deceptions of evil, works out better for everyone (Acts 17:28, Matt 5:45). This is an important aspect of our mission and role in creation. We are called and empowered to share the truth, stand for truth, protect the truth, and repel the enemy's lies and deception. This naturally occurs through the furthering of the gospel, and more lives changed by God's Spirit (Mark 16:15). But, is there more than just a preservative nature to salt and our ambassadorship here on earth? Salt seems to act like so much more than just a protectant or preservative.

Salt not only preserves, but it also enhances. When used in cooking salt brings out other complimentary flavors. It has the ability to promote the various good flavors that are already present. A little bit of salt brings out the sweetness or savoriness of any dish. It can also bring balance to the flavor profile. Things just aren't as good without it. It's a welcome companion and a complimentary addition to what is already present. Just as salt enhances the good flavors that are already present, so do God's people bring out and elevate the work of the Lord in the world around them. God has already been at work, and is always working in the lives of those around us. As His children, commissioned by Him, and filled with His Spirit, we have a complimentary effect in all that He does (Eph 2:10, 2 Cor 5:21). Our value to him in this aspect is limitless, because His spirit within us is limitless (Jn 14:12-14, Jn 21:25). He has even gone so far to say that His children are "the body" of Christ, with Christ as our "head" (Col 1:18, Eph 1:22-23). We are the physical manifestation of His spiritual body in the world. We need to know the truth and spread the truth; but, we do it as Christ's body, driven by His Spirit in love (Eph 4:16). In simpler terms, it is living the mission of truth in love (Eph 4:15, 1 Jn 4:7-12). This furthers His good works in us and others. This overcomes the kingdom of darkness and evil, with light and God's goodness (Rom 12:9-21). As salt, we shine a spiritual light on the work that God is already doing in the world around us, revealing and enhancing it. When we live out the manifestation of Christ's body empowered by the Spirit in truth and love we are bringing God's "marvelous light" to those in darkness (1 Peter 2:9, Matt 4:16).

Light, like salt, can be a revealing agent. While salt preserves, protects, and enhances, light brings the revelation of reality in its entirety. It is the constant illuminator of actuality. The absence of light leaves us in darkness and uncertainty of what might be (Prov 4:19, Jn 11:10). The presence of light allows us to confirm everything that truly is (Jn 11:9). How? Light exposes what was previously



unknown and unseen. Darkness cannot abide in light (2 Cor 6:14). Light expels the darkness and exposes everything it touches (Jn 12:46). Darkness cannot consume light, but light can overcome darkness (Jn 1:5, Rom 13:12). Its very presence and nature is the opposite of darkness (Jn 8:12). If we as followers of Jesus are called to be light then we are called to illuminate and push back the darkness (Eph 5:8-14, Is 9:2). Specifically, Jesus says that we as the living representatives of His body are like a city on a hill (Matt 5:14-16). In the darkness of night the light of God we show will provide direction to those in the confusion of darkness (1 Jn 1:5-7). This is done by our good works in Christ that are predestined for us through the power of His Spirit (Matt 5:16, Eph 2:10). This may sound like a beautiful and glorious call, which it is. However, remember we have a very real enemy of darkness. There are those that hold allegiance to him, even if they are unaware of it. They are literally in spiritual darkness and cannot see the truth. They, like Satan and all demons, do not desire to have their evil works exposed or live in the light (Jn 3:19-21). The responses to the light of the Lord and His people can differ greatly. That cannot be controlled, nor is it the responsibility of the believer. Our responsibility is simply to "let our light shine before men," and trust God with the rest (Matt 5:16).

Generally, when shining God's exposing light of truth, love, and good works into the darkness (Eph 5:9), the inevitable revelation that follows will elicit one of three responses: thankfulness, flight, or attack (2 Cor 4:6, 1 Jn 1:7, Jn 16:33). These responses can even be induced within our own hearts and lives when exposed to God's truth as well. If you shine a light into the back of a dark cave, someone who may have been lost will show thanks, while the vermin flee, and those who were purposely hiding in the dark will attack. The first loves the light and the other two despise it. So, we must be ready for any of these responses. Ready to comfort those who've been lost, to not be distracted or discouraged by those that flee, and ready to stand against the attacks of the enemy that may come through people. Again, we are walking into an ongoing work of God in people's lives (1 Cor 3:6-8), and are not responsible for their reactions to God's light, but we are responsible for our own (Prov 25:28). We must rightfully judge the responses in our own hearts when God shines light in an area of our lives that we've allowed to remain in darkness (Eph 5:10-11). We do this sometimes because of painful past hurts, footholds, or strongholds. Oftentimes we are blind to these things in our lives, but still suffer the consequences of their presence. God searches out our hearts and minds, and knows our pain, and the schemes of the enemy against us. Our reactions should be thankfulness to a good God that doesn't want to leave any part of our being in the dark. His light of his Spirit is to facilitate freedom and healing in these areas (Rom 8:26-28). With thanksgiving and courage, we should be ready to rid ourselves of vermin, and resist the devils attacks, pushing further into our calling and His marvelous light (1 Pt 2:9).

Beyond the symbolism of salt and light, hear this one truth: we have



been transformed for a purpose. That purpose is to change the world through real, honest, bold love for God and each other (Jn 13:35). If you are discouraged and feeling a loss of purpose or a lack of worth, it's very possible that you have been distracted by the enemy and are not living out your mission of being salt and light. No matter your circumstances, be sure to stay on mission and not get distracted by the deceptions of the enemy, the world, or the flesh. Whether you feel it or not, God's Spirit resides in every heart that trusts in Him. Do not let the enemy's deception rob you of your true identity in Christ. The glory of God is the manifestation of His presence. We glorify God in our bodies by manifesting His presence to the world. This is done by living a victorious Christian life that bears much fruit. As it says in John 15:8, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples." We are ambassadors of Christ, we do this through the indwelling of His spirit and that becomes manifest as His very body, affecting the world around us like salt and light.

Living in Victory

There is a big world out there that is in desperate need of the love of Christ. As ambassadors, salt, and light for Christ, you are created to be part of the delivery system. You are a soldier with a mission and though you may not feel ready the Lord has given you an opportunity each day to walk in good works (Eph 2:10). You may feel like you have nothing to offer, but God has given you all things to live a life of meaning and effectiveness (2 Peter 1:3). You may be busy with the stresses of life, but He is with you and will meet your needs (Matthew 6:28-33). You may have been abused, but He is the great healer that redeems the worst of situations to show His glorious power through broken vessels (Ps 147:3). All of these weights are schemes of the enemy to distract you from the true freedom you already have in Jesus Christ (Heb 12:1, Jn 8:36).

This doesn't mean that the pains, complications, and histories that we have are not very real concerns. God does not take these things lightly, and His heart breaks along with yours in compassion towards you. He does not spare Himself from your sorrow, trials, and pain (Heb 4:15-16, Ps 34:18). However, these things are just not outside of the power of Jesus to restore and redeem. The weights that you feel now are the very things that the Lord will use to advance His kingdom and demonstrate His power to others (2 Cor 1:3-5). So here are some very important steps to living in Victory.

- Rehearse the truth of your identity in Christ (See Who I Am In Christ Appendix B)
- Speak the truth out loud in opposition to the lies of the enemy each day, to each attack.
- Stop thinking only of your situation and start serving and



helping others.

- Begin praying offensively and commanding the demonic to retreat from you.
- Practice periodic fasting to continue to build physical and spiritual discipline.
- Bring your sin into the light, don't hide in darkness.
- Don't battle alone! Build community with other like minded people who are not afraid to stand against the enemy and embrace their identity in Christ.
- Train in the things we have discussed and continue to hone your battle prowess.
- Kick the enemy's teeth in and let him know the strength of Christ is in you.

We encourage every believer to go through some sort of personal inventory each year to clean off any entanglements that come up from being in a warzone.

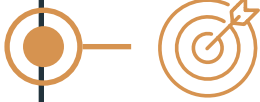
Walking in the Spirit and Spiritual Calling

When the footholds of the enemy are broken in your life it is like seeing with clear vision. Keep that vision clear by filling it with the Holy Spirit (Matt 6:22-23). Trust that the Lord will speak to you (Jn 10:27, Jn 16:13). He will give you new desires and guide you on a path of growth and effectiveness (Acts 1:8). Read the Bible with new eyes to see the promises of God. Be empowered by worship and praise to the One who has saved you. Serve others so that they can see the power of Christ in you (Matt 5:16).

Pray and ask the Lord to show you the fruit of the Spirit that He is growing in you now (Gal 5:22-23). If you have been heavily demonized I would assure you that perseverance has been built up in you for a great purpose (2 Cor 1:3-5, Lk 7:47). Be patient but expectant that the Lord will bring others across your path to share your experience and point back to Him (1 Pt 3:15). If the enemy sends in reinforcements to try and take ground back, stand strong and resist those lies and attacks (Jm 4:7).

The enemy has seen the potential your life could have for the kingdom of God and has strategically come against it, not because

it was worthless but because it was a threat to his goals. You are a threat to the enemy and he wants nothing more than to neutralize you (Rom 8:31-39). It's time to put the things we have talked about into action and to hurt some feelings of the devil and his minions. Get to it and Godspeed!



Key Concepts

1. Don't Lose Hope

The spiritual battle is real and we know it can feel heavy. If the enemy has been allowed to build a stronghold in your life through sin committed by you or against you, trauma, or just through the deceptions and manipulations of the world, do not fear. These bondages can be broken. The authority of Christ is all the power needed. With those influences broken the real work of healing can begin.

2. Be Filled with the Spirit

The best way to push the influence of the world and the enemy out is to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Once the entanglements of the enemy have been shed it is time to pursue the mission God has called you to. In the place of lies continue to rehearse truth as the Lord renews your mind, body, and spirit. The fight will be easier, but remember we are still in a fight each day and the adversary will not give up, he must be stood against through the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. Live in Victory

Living in victory is totally possible, because you are not a defeated sinner destined for failure over and over again. You are a new creation, a saint, a holy one of God. The Holy Spirit has sealed and equipped you for battle. Stand against your enemy and push forward for the kingdom of God. Worry less about your holiness which Jesus has already secured. Focus more on being the light God has made you to be to a world that needs to see and hear the love of Jesus. Push into your holy calling of ambassadorship, salt, and light. That is what the enemy wants to keep you from doing!

4. Fight in a Unit

Your mindset cannot be passive in battle. You are no longer a simple civilian, but a fully equipped soldier. You need to be on guard and ready to counter attack. Just like a skilled unit of soldiers on mission, this is done most effectively when we fight side by side with the rest of the body of Christ. Isolated you will be focused on yourself, but in a group you can focus on the mission God has called you to accomplish as part of the body.



Training & Tactics

1. Now that you have completed this workbook and video series, take a moment to write down the most important details that you have embraced.
2. This series is really just an introduction to the spiritual battle. We need more people to not only find freedom in Christ but also be a messenger to bring that freedom to others. If this series resonated with you, pray about looking at some of the additional resources found in the back of the workbook. The ministries represented in this series are doing amazing things to bring freedom to all, believers and non-believers alike. We have been blessed by their resources and we believe you will as well!
3. An important part of spiritual freedom is identity in Christ. Finding your identity is not just a question of authority, it is also a question of direction. God has given you a mission. Take some time to pray and ask the Lord how He has gifted you and what He would desire you to do with those gifts to advance the Kingdom.
4. The battle is not fought alone and you are part of a unit. Who else is in that unit and how have you been fighting together or how can you fight together in the future? Remember that one of the tactics of the enemy is division, divide and conquer. Take some time to write out a list of people you are connected to and pray through the list. Seek the Lord and ask first, is there a spirit of division between us? If so, seek restoration and forgiveness. Next seek the Lord on how you can be praying and supporting one another.
5. Battles are not won without a plan. Now that you have completed this course, what is one aspect of engaging in spiritual warfare you want to begin practicing and implementing in your life? How do you plan on doing it? Be as specific as possible.



Battle Prayer (read out loud and from the heart):

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for leading and guiding me today. I thank You for all that You have revealed to me. I thank You that You have redeemed and protected me. I thank You that You have placed Your Holy Spirit within me and commissioned me with a holy calling (1 Pt 2:9). I thank You that You have hidden my life with Christ in You (Col 3:3).

I proclaim Christ's victory over all; over sin, death, and all the spiritual forces of the kingdom of darkness. Jesus, You have been given a name higher than any other name, and have ascended on high, seated at the right hand of the Father, and have placed all your enemies under Your feet (Eph 1:19-23). I proclaim my position in You for You have seated me in the heavenlies with You, and made me part of Your family and Your body (Eph 2:6). You have commissioned me to go in your name, and in Your power and authority, and be salt and light in a lost and dark world. Lord, by Your grace, that is what I intend to do (1 Cor 15:10).

In the name of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, if there be any demonic and deceiving spirits against me, you are in no way allowed to hinder me in any way as I submit myself to God and seek to do His good will. I command you to leave my presence, never to return, your assignment here is now over.

Heavenly Father, I ask that You would guide me by Your Holy Spirit of truth further into my purpose in You. I ask that You would now share Your heart and thoughts with me (Col 3:1-2, 1 Cor 1:17-19)).

I ask now that You would reveal to me (write down whatever the Lord brings to your mind and heart for each of the following):

- How You see and hear me right now ...
- The circumstances in my life right now that You are working in ...
- The things and opportunities in my life right now that are part of Your calling for me ...
- How You are with me through this ...
- How You have plans and provision through this ...

Thank You Lord for your most wonderful love and purpose for my life. Thank You that You will never leave or forsake me (Heb 13:5-6). Thank You that I can always come to You to receive mercy and grace in a time of need (Heb 4:16). I present my life, my body, my mind, and emotions as a living sacrifice to You (Rom 12:1). I ask that you would fill me with your Spirit, that I would walk in your Spirit and not my flesh (Gal 5:16). I surrender and commit myself completely to you. I proclaim my allegiance to you and you alone. Strengthen me in all the areas of my life needed for the advancement of Your kingdom and according to Your purposes (Matt 6:10). Open my eyes to the

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Possible Questions and Training Exercises:

Trauma-woundings not properly healed by the Lord can be taken advantage of by the enemy. When we are traumatized physically, mentally and emotionally it is like a gaping wound opens up on our very being and starts to bleed out. If we do not fill the wound with the truth of God and bandage it up in His Holy Spirit, the enemy can gain a foothold. Not only does the enemy rejoice in the trauma and pain inflicted on us, which is usually by his design; but he is waiting and ready to fill our gaping wounds with demonic lies and bandage it up in strongholds. This can lead to fear, anxiety, bitterness, unforgiveness and all sorts of sinful coping behaviors such as addictions, aggression, avoidance and selfishness. Life can be hard and unexpected. We are in a constant battle against evil. No one makes it through without some sort of trauma-wounding at some point. Let's ask our Heavenly Father to reveal to us whether we have a trauma-wounding that has been taken advantage of by the enemy. Write down what He shows you and any ungodly behaviors or ways of thinking due to this stronghold. Renounce any demonic lie and confess any sin He shows you. Now ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to know about your trauma-wounding. Ask Him to fill this area of your life with His truth, Spirit, and healing. Look up scriptures that apply to what the Lord has revealed to you. Here are some ideas:

Fear and Anxiety

Psalm 29:25-26, Luke 12:22-26, Psalm 55:22,
Isaiah 41:13, Philippians 4:6-7, 2 Timothy 1:7,
1 John 4:18, Peter 5:6-7

Aggression and Vengeance

Romans 12:17-19, Galatians 5:15,
Colossians 3:8, James 1:19-20

Bitterness and Unforgiveness

Heb 12:14-17, Ephesians 4:31-32,
Matthew 6:14-15

Envy and Self-Seeking

James 3:14-18

Sin

Eph 4:25-27, Gal 5:19-21, Mark 7:21-23,
Col 3:5-8

Unforgiveness

Matt 6:14-15, 18:21-35

Occult Practices

Lev 20:6, Due 18:9-12, Gal 5:20-2, Acts 19:19

Generational Bondage

Exod 20:4-5, 34:6-7, Num 14:18, Due 5:9-10,
Jer 32:18

KEY TERMS

APPENDIX A

Foothold:

The opportunity of the demonic to gain ground or presence in a particular area of a person's life (Eph 4:27-29).

Stronghold:

The whole area of a person's life that has been given over to the enemy and encompasses all demonic assignments and works including lies, sins, vows, influences, and claims to that person and/or area (2 Cor 10:3-5).

Assignment:

A singular demonic influence within a stronghold in an individual's life (Eph 6:12).

Legal Right:

A demonic assignment that is given a permissioned place in an individual's life through agreements with them by sin, unforgiveness, invitation, or choosing demonic lies over God's truth (1 Tim 4:1).

Securing a Zone:

Establishing a spiritual boundary and circle of judgment (Ps 139:5) in the spiritual realm through the biblical practice of "binding" and "loosing" (Matt 16:19); and overpowering the "strongman" or demonic enemy (Matt 12:29, Luke 11:20-22) to establish spiritual rules of engagement, or boundaries, and judgment on findings.

Demonic Manifestation/Demonization/Oppression:

The degree of demonic influence exacted upon an individual or experienced in a person's life, ranging in frequency and severity (Eph 6:12, Lk 8:30, Matt 12:45, John 4:4, 1 Cor 10:20-21).

Delegated Authority:

The commissioned position and authority given by God to his children in Christ (Luke 10:18-20, Ephesians 1:18-23, 2 Cor 5:20, Matt 28:16-20).

Generational Bondage:

The generational iniquities, demonic agreements or assignments, and adverse patterns of behaviors and influences passed down through lineage. (Ex 20:4-5, Ex 34:6-7, Num 14:18, Due 5:9-10, Jer 32:18, 1 Peter 1:18)

Warring Angels:

Angels ready for battle and service to further assist in carrying out the good will of God towards His children and against his enemies (Hebrews 1:13-14, Ps 91:11-12, Ps 34:7, Matt 26:53).

WHO I AM IN CHRIST

APPENDIX B

Taken from Freedom in Christ Ministries - "Who I am in Christ," Freedom in Christ Ministries
(permission has been granted)

WHO I AM IN CHRIST

If you are a Christian, then the statements below are true of you.

I am accepted ...

- **John 1:12** I am God's child.
- **John 15:15** As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.
- **Romans 5:1** I have been justified.
- **1 Corinthians 6:17** I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.
- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.
- **1 Corinthians 12:27** I am a member of Christ's body.
- **Ephesians 1:3-8** I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.
- **Colossians 1:13-14** I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
- **Colossians 2:9-10** I am complete in Christ.
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

I am secure ...

- **Romans 8:1-2** I am free from condemnation.
- **Romans 8:28** I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.
- **Romans 8:31-39** I am free from any condemnation brought against me and I cannot be separated from the love of God.
- **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.
- **Colossians 3:1-4** I am hidden with Christ in God.
- **Philippians 1:6** I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.
- **Philippians 3:20** I am a citizen of heaven.
- **2 Timothy 1:7** I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.
- **1 John 5:18** I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.

I am significant ...

- **John 15:5** I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.
- **John 15:16** I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
- **1 Corinthians 3:16** I am God's temple.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
- **Ephesians 2:6** I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.
- **Ephesians 2:10** I am God's workmanship.
- **Ephesians 3:12** I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
- **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

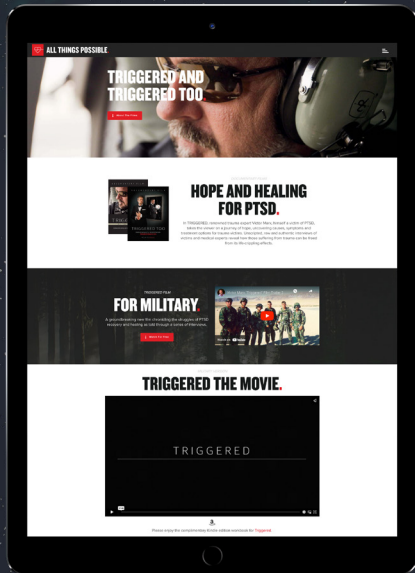
MINISTRY CONTACTS

APPENDIX C

All Things Possible Ministries	victormarx.com
Deeper Walk International	DeeperWalkInternational.org
Freedom in Christ Ministries	FICM.org
Living Waters	LivingWaters.com
Set Free Ministries	SetFreeMin.org
TCT Ministries	TransferableCrossTraining.org

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

APPENDIX D

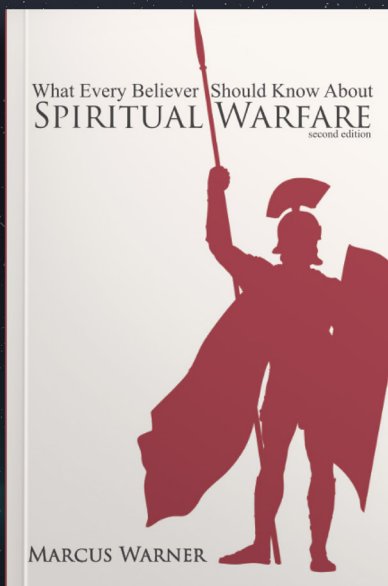


TRIGGERED, THE MOVIE

All Things Possible Ministries

HOPE AND HEALING FOR PTSD.

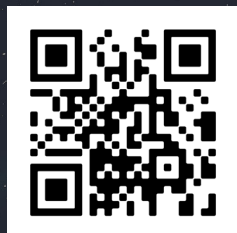
In TRIGGERED, renowned trauma expert Victor Marx, himself a victim of PTSD, takes the viewer on a journey of hope, uncovering causes, symptoms and treatment options for trauma victims. Unscripted, raw and authentic interviews of victims and medical experts reveal how those suffering from trauma can be freed from its life-crippling effects.

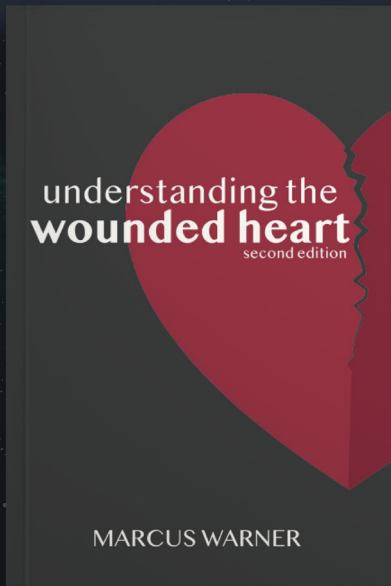


What Every Believer Should Know About Spiritual Warfare

by Marcus Warner

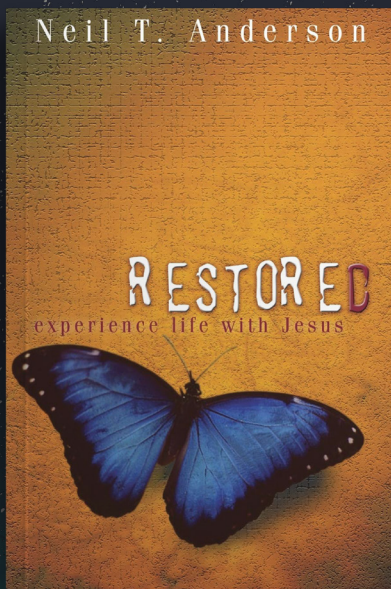
The Bible emphasizes understanding spiritual warfare as we are all in a battle against the devil. This book offers practical insights, strategies, and exercises to help Christians recognize and combat spiritual challenges, gain freedom from bondage, and walk in Christ's victory. prayer guides and exercises to help you experience the freedom that is yours in Christ.





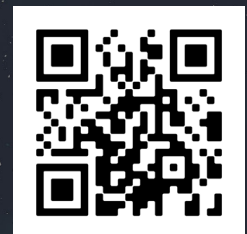
Understanding the Wounded Heart by Marcus Warner

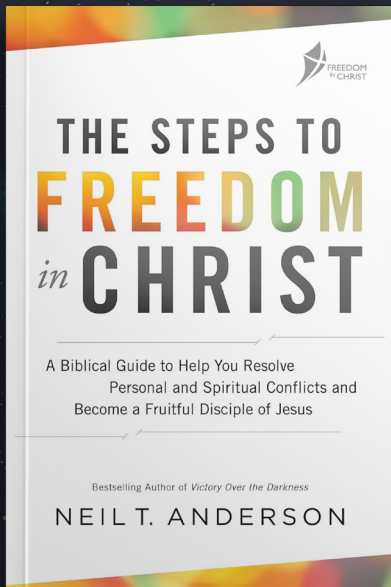
The world wounds us, the devil deceives us, and we often bear the fruit of our pain. This book presents a model for understanding the wounded heart and provides practical tools for healing and transformation through joy, capturing thoughts, forgiveness, and listening prayer. It builds on the Deeper Walk model of wounds, lies, vows, and strongholds.



Restored by Neil T. Anderson

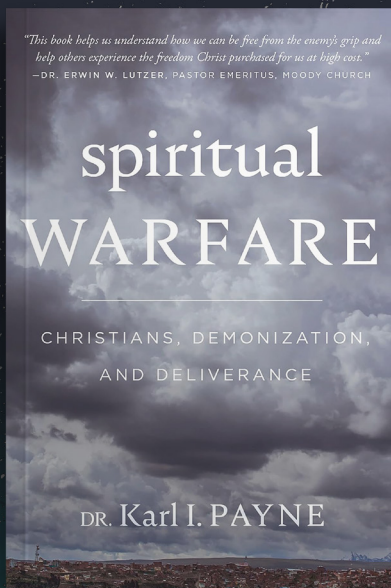
Best-selling author of Victory Over the Darkness, Bondage Breaker, and Steps to Freedom in Christ delivers Restored. Definition of the word Restored: re.stored (ri-'stor-d); to bring back to or put back into a former or original state Whether you are just learning about Jesus or have been a Christian for years, Neil Anderson awakens you to your true identity, showing you how to step free from your past and walk into life restored - the way God intended. This book starts literally at the beginning with, Creation, the Fall, the Gospel and move into how to have a deep abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.





The Steps to Freedom in Christ: A Biblical Guide to Help You Resolve Personal and Spiritual Conflicts and Become a Fruitful Disciple of Jesus by Neil T. Anderson

Grab the freedom in Christ and unlock your full potential as a disciple. "The Steps To Freedom In Christ" offers a refreshing spiritual check-up to deepen your connection with Jesus. Whether you're a new or seasoned Christian, this guide helps address challenges like condemning thoughts, wrong behaviors, spiritual struggles, and hopelessness.



Spiritual Warfare: Christians, Demonization and Deliverance by Karl Payne

The Bible identifies three types of opposition in our Christian journey: "the world," "the flesh," and "the devil." Many Christians struggle to recognize and respond effectively to these spiritual warfare attacks, often losing battles and missing the joy of their walk with God. In "Spiritual Warfare," Dr. Karl Payne provides a practical guide to understanding and combatting these challenges, offering biblically sound strategies for victorious Christian living beyond mere hope or clichés.

