

Spiritual Warfare

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Introduction

For the last 6,000 years, mankind has been ruling earth with human governments. We have chosen to do things our way. Just like Adam and Eve choosing the wrong tree in the Garden of Eden, we have chosen flawed forms of government. We have chosen flawed leaders.

One result of our fall from the Garden of Eden is fighting between humans. Cain fought against Able. Abraham and his servants fought in Genesis chapter 14. In the book of Joshua, we learn how the Israelites battled to conquer the Promised Land. In the time of King David, many wars were fought to protect God's people from surrounding kingdoms.

The natural fighting that we read about in the Bible and even see in the world around us all points to a spiritual war going on around us right now. The moment you received the Holy Spirit, you entered into a battle being fought all around you. While this battle is invisible, it carries on continually. Though you cannot see the battle with your natural senses, your senses can see and even feel its effects. This is similar to the wind, which we cannot see; we still see the effects from it.

In this booklet, you will learn about the spiritual war going on around us and how to fight in it.

Chapter 1

Who Is Our Enemy?

Before we can fight in this spiritual battle, we must recognize who are our enemy is. Who should we guard ourselves against? Who should we focus our attack on?

To learn about our spiritual enemy, we must go to the very beginning of time. Our enemy has been around a lot longer than we have! In the process of planning and creating the Universe, God decided to make angels. These angels were created to steward creation. They were His servants.

The very first characteristic of angels is that they are made of spirit material. “Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire” (Psalm 104:4, KJV). This means that they are invisible to the naked eye. In the very beginning, they were completely obedient to the Words of God. In fact, the earth was created as the home for them. “4 “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measures, if you know? Or who stretched the line on it? 6 What were its foundations fastened on? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7 when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4-7).

The Hebrew phrase for “sons of God” in this verse refers to the angels. The angels shouted for joy at the earth’s creation because it was created for them! It was to be their habitation. One of the top angels was named Lucifer, meaning light-bearer. He was placed over the earth. Lucifer was created perfect, as were all the other angels. He covered God. Special instruments were built into his body so he could lead worship. We learn about him in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-17. Let’s take a look at Ezekiel 28:15-17.

Ezekiel 28:15-17

“15 You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. 16 By the abun-

dance of your commerce, your insides were filled with violence, and you have sinned. Therefore I have cast you as profane out of God's mountain. I have destroyed you, covering cherub, from the middle of the stones of fire. 17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty. You have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I have cast you to the ground. I have laid you before kings, that they may see you.”

From these verses, we learn invaluable insight! Lucifer began to look at himself. He saw how beautiful and wise he was, but he did not look to God who made him that way. He began to trust in his own abilities. He trusted in the powers God imbued to him rather than to God who gave them. He became filled with violence and led a rebellion among some of the angels. This rebellion was defeated. In Revelation 12:3-4 we learn that he deceived one-third of the angels.

This angel, once perfect, was now COMPLETELY imperfect. He was given over to evil. Remember that the angels were created solely out of spiritual material. Once they turned away, they became permanently twisted. They are not able to repent like humans.

In the Bible, Lucifer is most often called satan or the devil. Satan is a Hebrew word that simply means “adversary”. Devil is a word that means “slanderer” or “accuser”. This reveals to us a little more about how Lucifer convinced some of the angels to rebel. He slandered God! He slandered His words, His character, and His image. He twisted and perverted the things of God. Lucifer is not the creator, so he sought to pervert God's creation. He is also called the ancient serpent (Rev. 12:9).

Recall the Garden of Eden. Satan caused man and woman to question what God originally said about the two trees. Then he accused God: “The serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die, for God knows that in the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil’” (Gen. 3:4-5).

The serpent accused God of withholding knowledge and power from Adam and Eve. He slandered God. God made Adam and Eve. He wanted every good thing for them. He even gave them the Tree of Life. In John 8:44, Jesus said, “You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn’t stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.”

Satan is called the father of all lies. Therefore all lies, no matter the source, originate from his being. This allows us to see the force influencing the people around us and in our lives.

“For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world’s rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

In Ephesians, Paul told us that our battle is not against flesh and blood. While the devil is a spiritual being, he often uses people to do his work. He used a serpent in the Garden.

This creates a tough situation. We must resist the temptation to release our frustrations on people who are being used by the devil. Just because we can see people does not mean they were the root cause of the problem.

We must learn to look past that which we see and go straight to the source or root of the problem: the enemy we wish to defeat. As Paul stated, our war is not against flesh and blood. We have to look at the power that is controlling the person.

Unlike natural warfare, we cannot take a sword and chop the devil. We cannot shoot him with a gun. We have to fight with spiritual weapons. This means we must be aware of his tactics and how to overcome them.

Chapter 2

How Does the Enemy Attack Us?

One thing to keep in mind is that God is everywhere. “The LORD’s eyes are everywhere, keeping watch on the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3). Satan is limited in that he and his helpers can only appear at one place at one time.

In Ephesians 2:2, we learn, “...in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience.” Satan here is called the prince and power of the air (and the air waves). He works through those who are disobedient.

One way that these demonic powers influence people is by saturating the air with ATTITUDES. They broadcast attitudes, emotions, thoughts, and impulses of hatred, evil, lying, death, and strife over a region or area. This is similar to a radio station broadcasting radio waves into the air.

When you tune in to a radio station, the message you hear is being communicated through the air by a particular station. The station has your attention. Satan and his angels broadcast attitudes over an area to gain the attention of other people. Through these spiritual broadcasts, they hope to manipulate and control the thoughts and will of mankind. They also use culture, education, politics, entertainment, media and every other possible means of communication to cause humanity to turn against itself and God.

Through the serpent, satan deceived Adam and Eve in Genesis chapter 3. He did so by speaking to them. As we read in the last chapter and in Ephesians 2:2 (above), satan is also a spirit. This means that we cannot see him with our natural eyes, but we can see the effects of him working. This is much like the wind.

Satan can speak to us through thoughts, impulses, desires, attitudes, and even other people’s words. If you wake up one morn-

ing feeling lazy and decide not to read your Bible, then the attitude of laziness came from Satan. If you suddenly have hatred, enmity, or envy towards someone – that impulse came from the enemy. If you begin to doubt God and feel as if you want to give up – that is an attitude of the enemy. These are just some examples of how the spirits of satan broadcast in the air and into your life.

Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 11:14-15 that satan appears as an angel of light: “14 And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light..” Satan does not always appear as an ugly creature. He appears subtly and even innocently at times. He appeared as subtle or cunning in the Garden (Gen 1:1).

When satan attacks you, he uses whoever and whatever he can to influence you. This can be other people, but also our own human desires. It may appear to be a good thing. Consider for a moment how satan tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden. He got man and woman to focus on the tree they were not supposed to eat. He then appealed to their senses—seeing, tasting, smelling, touching, and eating.

Genesis 3:5-6

“5 ‘for God knows that in the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took some of its fruit, and ate. Then she gave some to her husband with her, and he ate it, too.”

So many times satan will have us chasing what we want with our senses. If you read Genesis chapter 3, you will see that satan started by twisting God’s word and then he slandered his character (as we reviewed in the last chapter). Next, he wants you to think you can disobey God’s Word and still be blessed. His whole purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy you and others you know. There are specific areas of our life that satan attacks us. We will review these in the next few chapters.

Chapter 3

The Daily Walk

When you become a child of God, the very first thing you should establish is a **daily walk** with God. What does this mean? It means setting aside time every day to seek the face of God in prayer and reading His Word. It also means applying the Word to your daily life.

I usually recommend people read the Bible about 30 minutes a day. I recommend praying about 15 minutes or more. Get more of these two items if you can, but you want to set that standard. When you do this, it sets up a consistent place and time where you communicate with God. This will build your faith and keep you focused on Him. Every relationship requires time. We have to spend time with the Lord.

I usually recommend that you establish this daily time with God when you wake up. The Bible tells us that "... if the Lord is not the builder, the builders build in vain" (Psalm 127:1). You know your schedule better than anyone. Find the time that works for you. When we build the foundation of our daily life in Him, it will give us strength in our time of need. It keeps the momentum of your spiritual walk going. As you read the Word, apply it in your life.

SATAN is going to come against your daily walk. Why? He knows that when you set your heart and mind to pursue the will of God, it will change your life. Remember that Satan comes to kill, steal, and destroy. He is a liar! He wants to steal your time with God; he wants to kill your connection to God; and he wants to destroy you. He wants to stop your momentum.

As you set aside this time, Satan will attack you. Something will keep you up late at night so you sleep late and miss that precious time with the Lord. Someone will call you as soon as you wake up. Things will happen! The devil also wants to keep the Word from being sown in your heart. He wants to choke it out.

Remember, you are called to overcome!

Paul said it this way, “No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Rom. 8:7). How do we overcome these daily attacks? By fighting back!

If you miss your Bible time, The reaction should not be “oh well, I just missed out”. The reaction should be righteous anger “Really? I will find another way to get this in today”. You can easily get your Bible reading in throughout the day through different ways. Use your lunch break at work or other breaks you might have – even if you have to get 5 or 10 minutes at a time. Get it in after work. Maintain that standard of 30 minutes in the Bible. The devil hates it when God’s people hold up a standard that honors the Lord. He wants to destroy the standard.

Do the same thing with prayer. The point is that you are always fighting. Remember something very important! Paul said the “...for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the throwing down of strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:4). Reading your Bible and praying consistently are engaging in spiritual warfare. However, they take place in the NATURAL Realm. Your weapons are spiritual, but you access them is in the natural realm. Do not over spiritualize things. Take the time to make it happen.

I plan my daily walk according to a method called “immersion”. A wise person once shared this with me. This is a method of daily discipline that includes consistent reading of the Word of God and prayer, as I have described. However, it goes a step further. With “immersion”, you are listening to Christian music, the Bible, or a sermon in your car. You have something on at home, even if it is softly playing in the background. It is a way of immersing your life so that your mind stays focused on Him. It guards your environment from the spiritual broadcasts of satan. You are reminded of Him. This strengthens your helmet of salvation, which I will discuss in the last chapter.

The goal of warfare is to distract you, destroy your relationship with God, and steal your reward in the Kingdom. Find other ways to keep your mind focused on the Lord. Sometimes I put sticky notes with Bible verses on them around my house so when I walk by the verse I see it. Write verses on notecards and leave them around the house. Be creative. Ask the Lord for direction; meditate on it. You have a unique life and relationship with God. He will give you specific ideas that work for you.

I do discourage listening to secular music because it distracts your mind and spirit from the God. I challenged myself once to go 30 days without listening to secular music and it changed my life.

I have a personal conviction that I do not watch most movies. It is not a sin to watch a movie, but the images and music in movies are powerful. Movies can influence you; this is especially true regarding horror movies, heavy action/shooter movies, and any movie with passionate scenes between men and women. They can lead you into sinful behavior or thoughts. With significant exposure over time, these types of movies can rob you of your empathy towards people. This is a personal experience I have noticed over the years and for the last ten years I have stopped watching most kinds of movies.

Your relationship with God is the most important thing in your life. It is more real than the family you have, the house/apartment you live in, the job you work at, or anything else you possess. Treat it with the honor it deserves. Remember that Jesus died for you to have eternal life. He paid the price. He is worthy.

(Pornography should never be watched by a child of God. If this is something you struggle with, ask God to help you overcome this area. It can destroy your brain and rob you of intimacy with your spouse [or future spouse].)

Chapter 4

The Fight Against Sinful Urges

Another area where we must learn to fight is the desire to sin. One of the names of Satan is “the tempter” (Matthew 4:3). He tempts us into sin. We also have sinful desires within our heart and mind.

The Apostle Paul gives us a sample list of sinful behaviors: “19 Now the deeds of the flesh are obvious, which are: adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these; of which I forewarn you, even as I also forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God’s Kingdom.” (Gal. 5:19-21) The Ten Commandments also explain sin to us. I have briefly listed them. A more detailed version is found in Exodus 20:1-17.

1. You shall Have no other gods before Him.
2. You shall not have any idols.
3. You shall not use his name in vain.
4. Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not lie.
10. You shall not covet.

Look at the list Paul gave us above and the Ten Commandments. These behaviors are natural to mankind. Humans have a desire for sex. The problem is that humans want to have sex with whoever they want whenever they want. This is not God’s will. God desires for this action to be expressed in the realm of marriage. This is a forever commitment between one man and one woman. They are not meant to be separated.

Some of the other behaviors that Paul lists above are hatred, fits of rage, selfishness, and envy. As humans, it is easy for us to feel this way. When someone wrongs us, we want to get back at them. We want to curse them. This is the sinful nature of humanity rising up in us. The Bible tells us, “Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse” (Romans 12:14).

When people wrong us or we feel slighted, it is easy to gain factions around us. It is easy to want to destroy someone else with alliances. If we live this way, we cannot be children of God.

Many times in the Bible, the human skin (also called flesh) is used as a physical representation of the sinful nature of humanity. Sin is what we naturally desire as humans. It is part of who we are in the natural. When we come to Christ, we must make the decision to daily subdue sinful urges, thoughts, and desires.

Every person struggles with something different. Recognize where you are falling short and ask God for strength in that area.

If we even think about breaking the Ten Commandments, it is also a sin. Jesus explains this for us. “28 but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it away from you. For it is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna. 30 If your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off, and throw it away from you. For it is more profitable for you that one of your members should perish, than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna” (Matthew 5:28-30). He also tells us that hatred in our heart is murder (Matthew 5:21-26). If we allow these desires to overcome us, then we cannot be children of God. We will be cast into the Lake of Fire, which is the second death.

Having said all of this, It is important to make the distinction being tempted to sin and the actual act of sinning. James said it this way: “Let no man say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by

God,' for God can't be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. 15 Then the lust, when it has conceived, bears sin. The sin, when it is full grown, produces death. 16 Don't be deceived, my beloved brothers." (James 1:13-16)

The Word DESIRE in the verses from James can also mean LUST. It refers to a longing, desire, or burning passion for what is forbidden. The Word of God, especially the Ten Commandments, tell us what is forbidden. Paul gave us a sample list in Gal. 5:19-21 to leave no room for doubt.

Notice the words of James very closely. He tells us that WHEN desire is **conceived**, it gives birth to sin. In the natural world, conception occurs when a man's sperm impregnates the woman's egg. When the sperm and egg join together, it forms a zygote. A new human is formed. James uses this natural process to teach us how we can be deceived into sin.

Sometimes Satan broadcasts an attitude into your mind. He gives you a thought, an idea, or an impulse to lead you into sin. Sometimes our own human nature has a desire to sin. This is similar to the sperm that races toward an egg. Our job is to recognize the lie and close ourselves off to it. We are children of God; we have received His seed. While we may have a desire to sin or act a certain way, the KEY is that we do not ACT according to the desire.

Let's use a practical example. If a sexual desire arises in your body or mind, but you do not accept the thought or act upon it, then you did **NOT** sin. If you are wronged by someone and hatred begins to rise up in you, but you let it go – you did not sin. In both of these examples, you did not let the desire settle inside of you. You did not accept the thought or act on it.

It is important to recognize that the sudden urge, impulse, or thought to sin is not sin. It becomes sin when we hold on to it and accept it in our heart, mind, or spirit. It also becomes sin when we act upon it. Desire must conceive in us to be sin, as James ex-

plains.

We fight the sinful urges of our human nature first by learning to HATE those items. “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good” (Romans 12:9). The word translated as abhor can mean hate.

First of all, understand that you are going to make mistakes. We all will. Paul even admitted that he made mistakes. He wrote one-half of the New Testament! The key is that we must not let sin become a habit in our lives.

Salvation is a process where we use the Holy Spirit to overcome sin. There is an initial point where we are saved, but we are continually being saved from our sinful desires. This requires that we must admit that the Law of God is the guiding principle in our lives. Our transgression of that law is SIN.

Romans 7:7

7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? May it never be! However, I would not have known sin, except through the law. For I would not have known coveting, unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”

We must recognize the Law as the moral guiding principle for our lives. This is how we recognize the thoughts, intent, urges, and impulses within us as either from God or from the enemy. The enemies goal, as described earlier, is to lead you into sin.

Literally, satan uses thoughts and attitudes as a trap or decoy to pull you into sin. He will put thoughts in your mind that you will feel good or receive great benefit. In the end, sin makes you feel empty. It cannot fulfill the great purpose God has for your life.

Chapter 5

Learning to Fight Back

While we are in a war or battle against satan and our sinful nature, God has given us the most powerful weapons in the Universe. These tools will help us to WIN and OVERCOME!

As a child of God, you are called to OVERCOME! It is your divine destiny! It is yours to claim! Those who overcome are the ones who voluntarily choose to fight back. We cannot be complacent. They refuse to let the devil rule their lives.

God works all things out with His purposes (Eph. 1:9-11). This means that when we choose to fight WITH God and not AGAINST God, we can be overcomers. As the Apostle John wrote, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world” (I John 4:4). God is greater than all other forces. When we allow Him to operate in our lives, the battle is already won. We become victors. God gets the glory.

Paul said it this way, “No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Rom. 8:7). Remember that Christ lived a perfect life. He never sinned. When he lives in by His Spirit, we are more than conquerors. Christ the ultimate conquerer is within us! But we must choose to contend. “I was constrained to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3). We must fight! “Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you confessed the good confession in the sight of many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12).

The first two steps in the process of fighting back were discussed in the last chapter. We must learn to LOVE what is good and HATE what is evil (Romans 12:9).

The first and greatest weapon to help us fight back is the sacrifice of Jesus. His blood wipes our sin away. When we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us.

“9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we haven’t sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (I John 1:9-10).

To confess our sins requires we admit what we have done wrong. This is the hardest thing for humans to do. If we cannot do this, then we cannot be forgiven. Confession requires that we get to the place where we can see our wrong behavior, thought, or intent. We then ask God to forgive us. Something simple such as “God, I ask that you forgive me for _____(sin). I ask for your grace to cover me. Help me to overcome this by the power of your Holy Spirit.” This is a very simple prayer, but when you are genuine, it has powerful results.

Notice in the sample prayer above that I mentioned two things. 1) asking God for grace to cover you and 2) asking for God to help you overcome. Recognize that you cannot do it alone. When you ask God for strength, He will empower you to make the right decision next time.

When you ask for forgiveness, your sin is wiped away because of the sacrifice of Jesus. It is as if it NEVER happened! “I will remember their sins and their iniquities no more” (Hebrews 10:17). This is powerful. You get a fresh start. This is how we can walk in hope. Forgiveness disables the memory of sin. This enables you to overcome.

Learning how to properly apply forgiveness is called growing in grace and knowledge. Peter said, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:18). What does this mean?

Grace is the covering you need while you are learning right from wrong. Grace means that when we fall short, God is going to give us another chance to do the right thing. When you sin, recognize it as sin. Acknowledge it. Go to God and ask for forgiveness. “He who conceals his sins doesn’t prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy” (Prov 28:13). If you have wronged another person, you may also have to ask forgiveness from him/her.

We do not seek God’s forgiveness so we can continue sinning. This is called abusing God’s grace. Paul said, “15 What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? May it never be! 16 Do not you know that when you present yourselves as servants and obey someone, you are the servants of whomever you obey; whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?” (Romans 6:15-16). If we just ask for forgiveness without a desire to change then we are still slaves to sin and death. This leads to a permanent death in the Lake of Fire.

As discussed earlier, ask God for strength to help you make the right decision next time. Ask Him to help you recognize that situation when it happens again. Growing in grace is learning to use grace, God’s special covering over your life, to help you overcome.

As part of this process, ask God to impart to you more Holy Spirit power to overcome. The Holy Spirit is the power of God. It is a gift of His grace that empowers us to overcome. When we have the Holy Spirit, the same power that parted the Red Sea dwells within you to push through the storms and seas of life.

What does it mean to grow in knowledge? Paul told us earlier that the Law is the knowledge of sin. As we study the Law of God and the entire Word of God, we learn more about what God requires of our lives. We learn the depths of our sin and the greatness of God’s forgiveness. We learn how to fight when we know the Word. We will discuss this more in a later chapter.

The Bible tells us how God views certain behaviors and what He expects from us. It is His love letter to guide us. God is interested in the best for us, but we must want the best for ourselves. As we grow in the knowledge of God's Word, we can recognize the attack of the enemy and specific strategies to fight back.

Another important aspect of fighting for God is forgiving others. In Mark 11:24-26, Jesus explained that if we do not forgive others, then we cannot be forgiven. You cannot share in the hope and joy of forgiveness unless you are willing to give that same grace to others. Many people hurt us because they are hurting. Release the release the hatred and pain towards others. Ask God to increase your love for them; pray for them to be changed by God.

Another tool we have in this battle is learning to take thoughts captive. As mentioned earlier, sinful thoughts count as sin as well. In 2 Corinthians 10:5, Paul wrote, "...throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ". Whenever a thought comes into your mind, learn to take that thought captive. If a sinful thought enters your mind, begin to think about pure things. Re-focus your mind. Ask God to help you in this area. You can also pray in the Spirit. You can read more about this in our booklet "Be Filled With the Spirit".

A final key in the fight against sin is to stay away from an environment that leads you into sin. If you struggle with sexual desires, limit what crosses your eyes – TV, internet, phone, or elsewhere. You should never watch pornography, period! Ask God to help you overcome. If you struggle with drunkenness, stay away from places that have alcohol. If certain people tempt you to sin, then you must pull away from them. You must be separate. If your speech is a problem, be discerning as to what you say. Starve the cravings of the sinful nature and it will gradually lose influence in your life.

You fight the devil where your weakest point is. We all have flaws. The devil attacks you where you are the biggest threat to

Him. Some people struggle with lust (lust is not just sexual – you can lust after physical things such as food or material objects). You will hurt the devil the most when you overcome lust.

Also, the areas of weaknesses in your life are the areas where God desires to manifest His strength. Too many times the devil just has his way with us because we refuse to attack the source of our problems. We just try to avoid things instead of confronting the problem.

Paul wrote: “He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me” (2 Cor. 12:9).

To wage war effectively, you must fight against the very thing that causes your struggle. For instance, if you struggle against lust, you must fight against lust. If you struggle against a foul mouth, you must fight against your foul mouth. Do you complain? Stop.

Learn to catch yourself. Ask God to help you recognize those moments when you fall into these pitfalls. Your life is the battlefield that the enemy wants to overrun. Sin is the problem; it shows us where we must fight to win. Use the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to help you fight.

Guard yourself in these areas. Surround yourself with Godly people who will encourage you in these things. Again—I always emphasize—ask God to help you in this process; you cannot do it alone.

Chapter 6

The Full Armor of God

Paul gives us specific armor to assist you in Ephesians 6:13-17: “13 Therefore put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having fitted your feet with the preparation of the Good News of peace, 16 above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the spoken word of God; 18 with all prayer and requests, praying at all times in the Spirit, and being watchful to this end in all perseverance and requests for all the saints.”

When Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians, he was in prison. He was guarded by Roman soldiers. The armor and weapons he described came from their armor. In this chapter, we will look at each piece of armor and what it does for us.

The Belt of Truth – The belt represents the Word of God (John 17:17), starting with the Torah (first five books of the Bible). We must understand all of the Bible; the first five books (Torah) is the foundation for the rest. If our understanding of it is perverted, then the other pieces of armor can be out of place (2 Peter 3:17).

Breastplate of Righteousness in Place – This piece represents the righteousness of Christ. As we submit to the Spirit of God within us, the righteous life of Christ begins to manifest in your life. Your inward and outward obedience will come into unity with each other (Romans 8:1-8).

Shoes for the Gospel of Peace – This refers to ACTS of SERVICE for the Kingdom of God. We must be prepared to act for the Kingdom to talk to people, hand them literature, or operate in the gifts of the Spirit. These shoes are an offensive weapon that keeps the enemy off balance (2 Timothy 4:2, I Peter 3:15).

The Shield of Faith – The shield of faith is our confidence in God. The enemy’s fiery arrows are distracting thoughts and attitudes to shatter your confidence or belief in God’s Will and God’s Word. He will send thoughts to make you doubt God exists (Hebrews 11:1-6).

The Helmet of Salvation – We have to be constantly reminded that we have salvation through Christ and that we are God’s children. The helmet of salvation protects your mind from condemnation. There is a difference between conviction and condemnation. Conviction comes from God to help you live right. It is a revelation of sin that encourages you to do the right thing. Condemnation is a reminder of sin to put you down, discourage you, and make you give up. This is where understanding forgiveness is extremely important. When you are forgiven, the sin is forgotten by God (Romans 8:1).

The Sword of the Spirit – This is the sword of the spoken Word of Jesus. The Roman sword was attached to the belt. Earlier, we reviewed that the belt represents the truth of the Word. As you walk with Jesus, He speaks to you. The Sword of the Spirit refers to strategies and behaviors God reveals to you that help you fight in specific situations (See I Sam. 23:1-5, 2 Sam. 5:17-25). These cut to the heart of the enemy’s plans.

The written Word of God is also called a sword (Hebrews 4:12). This means these personal, revealed Words of Christ will not contradict what is written. The Sword of the Spirit can be a revelation in your personal life, the life of someone else, or even in service to the Kingdom. We talk more about the voice of God in the booklet “Essential Keys to Prayer”.

Roman soldiers also carried two javelins called pilums. They can represent prayer and praise. Our prayers are hurled from where we are to where we need them to be. Our praise travels like a javelin. It sends the message that their attacks are not working! These show the enemy that we have faith in God’s provision.

Chapter 7

The Fight for Balance

When you first become a Christian, much of your fighting involves resisting satan and your own sinful urges. In fact, you will always have to guard yourself against these two things. As you overcome and gain victory, these areas will become progressively easier to fight in. When this happens, the battle expands where you are taking the fight to the enemy.

This battle expansion occurs when you make the decision to tell others about what God is doing in your life. This is called **testifying**. In this process, you will even quote the Bible to your friends to help them see the truths you are learning. Another way you take the fight to the enemy is by serving at church. Instead of just fighting in our own lives, we are now fighting to help others overcome. We are being used as an instrument of God to invade enemy territory.

As you fight in your own life and even expanding the Kingdom of God, it is crucial that your natural life is ordered. As mentioned in an earlier chapter, the weapons of our warfare are spiritual, but our access to them is in the natural. As you order your natural life, you will find yourself more effective in spiritual warfare. We must have balance.

There are four places in your natural life the devil always hits you: your commitments, finances, health, and time. We need to be strong in each of these areas and clean up sources of weakness. If your finances, health, or time are thrown off balance, then you will be hindered in your fight.

Your basic commitments involve having a job and a family. Be on time to work. Work hard and be easy to work with. Tend to your relationships.

You have financial commitments, such as a house/rental payment, car payment, utilities, gasoline, phone, food, and/or others. Be

sure to make your payments on time. Create a budget to help you manage expenses. Keep the car maintenance up to date. Your health is of utmost importance as well. Eat right. Get plenty of rest. Exercise and take vitamin supplements. The little things make a big difference over time. It can be hard to wage war when these areas are compromised.

Lastly, stay on top of your time. Your time is valuable, and the enemy will try to overwhelm you. He will send busy work. He will send other people with 'good ideas' and 'events' to occupy your attention and time. These will make you ineffective.

Many attacks of the enemy come to create an imbalance in these natural areas. The enemy wants you to be so spiritual you are not naturally dependable and so natural that you are not spiritually minded. The enemy can also attack us when we do not keep these areas properly maintained. It can be difficult at times to maintain balance in each of these areas; with the help of God it can be done.

Conclusion

This booklet offers a brief overview of spiritual warfare. There are much deeper subjects to cover as it relates to this topic, such as the importance of communication and learning the timing of the enemy.

To learn more, order our book “An End-Time Revelation of Spiritual Warfare” through our website www.hungryheartsministry.com.

The moment you received the Holy Spirit, you entered into a battle being fought all around you. While this battle is invisible, it constantly rages on. As a Child of God, you are more than conquerors. You are an overcomer. In this booklet, you will learn who the enemy is and practical ways to fight against him. You will learn to walk in victory.



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