

SPIRITUAL WARFARE STUDY

Believers, do not give place to the devil!

INTRODUCTION: 11 Question Quiz [Information we will be covering in this study.]

1. Can you exercise demons from a person, person's house, city, country, etc.?

Pastor Keith Story: He was at a youth campout at Roman Nose, and stayed after a young guy who was spilling Scriptures. The guy's voice changed, he pointed at the sky and said he was "Servante" from there. If the demon was cast out of him, the demon might go into an unsaved teen.

2. Can you inherit a demon from a family member?

Pastor Keith Story: A lady, whose mother was a witch, was having all kinds of problems with her thoughts and other things. The lady was unsaved, so Keith gave her the Gospel, the only way she could handle the problems.

3. Can you have a curse be put upon you?

Pastor Keith Story: A lady had a curse put on her and called Pastor Keith.

4. Can a pagan object in your home cause you to do evil or have evil come upon you?

5. Can you pray a hedge of protection around someone and evil can't touch them?

Pastor Keith Story: A lady started speaking in a male voice and threatening, then put a knife into a table in front of Pastor Keith.

6. Can Satan or a demon make us sin?

Pastor Keith Story: Jimmy Swaggart on TV – his wife defended her husband for his sin, saying "The devil made him do it!"

7. Can the devil read our minds?

8. Can "positive thinking" take it all away?

Pastor Keith Story: Before he was saved and working at Dover Mill, he practiced mind over matter and could get four to six railroad cars to get moving and shaking. Keith was deceived, things can happen after we're saved, and he did try it again.

9. Can you sell your soul to the devil?

10. Can a Christian be demon possessed?

Pastor Keith Story: Keith and Corky moved to Montana for Bible School. They were told to watch out for a lady dressed in black in town, as she was demon possessed. Keith and family ran into a lady all in black. She got almost to the crosswalk, then she stopped, her eyes got big, but she walked out into the main boulevard (not in the crosswalk) while cursing Keith and his family. Keith used to be able to concentrate and levitate coffee tables and get pictures to swing on the wall. He was deceived and self-deceived. After Keith became a pastor, they lived in a little house on Grouse Creek. He was told there was a dog out in the yard and Keith went out (it was dark) and tried to call the dog. It came out by the Jeep, tail not moving. It approached Keith, about 30 feet from him the dog's eyes started glowing red. Used to have a family in the church that didn't believe any of this, called Keith to come over to their

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house. The husband (big logger type) was shaking. They just saw people with black cloaks on going around their house and looking in the windows. The wife added they had gone to the windows and there were no feet on the ground, they were hovering. They had thought it was neighbors pulling a prank until they saw that. Keith was coming home from Sandpoint one night about 11 PM, driving North on Colburn Culver Road, downhill to Northside School, and saw a shadow at the bottom of the hill across the road, there were no trees to make the shadow. Keith wasn't going to stop and honked and blinked his lights to get these guys out of the way. He drove right thru them and some went up and over, others were scooping them up. He called the police, no report was made. Keith is convinced that because of his past, God allowed a lot of these experiences. In the house at Grouse Creek, a man called who was going to be arrested soon, but wanted to be counseled by Keith first. They didn't know him. He first came in and checked each room for detection devices. This man was a child molester and was going to be arrested. In Idaho, you can't confess to someone and they not tell the law in the case of murderers and child molesters. He said he couldn't help it. Keith told him something and he launched at Keith, got him down and held a knife at his abdomen. He told him he couldn't do anything with that knife unless God let him. He backed off and went and sat down.

11. Are we powerless before such an onslaught?

3 T's of Satan: Time Tested Techniques [We should know them!]

Satan is not using anything new on you, rather what has worked throughout the centuries to trick people into doing his bidding. During this study, we will look at numerous schemes, wiles and tricks used by Satan; and how you should respond properly.

I. WAR (Spiritual)

- Warren W. Wiersbe said "The Christian life is not a playground, it is a battleground."

A. Nature of War

Q. How many of you have been in a war?

Q. In a war, how many battles are there?

Q. How many wars do you know of that were over in 20 minutes?

Many believers don't know they're in a spiritual war.

1. Many battles (spiritual nature) daily

- God is testing you; God wants you to pass
- Satan is tempting you; Satan wants you to fail

2. War is ugly and evil

- Many innocents get hurt in war as collateral damage

3. There is going to be casualties

- If you are a Job or a Paul, lots of things are going to happen to you
- God wants you to win; Satan wants you to be a casualty
- Acute depression and "stressed-out" shouldn't happen to Christians if we are walking with God

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- Exposure to ugly and evil things, you may be a casualty to acute depression or (to the far end of the spectrum) even to death, if you have not been handling things biblically.
- No loss of salvation!
- We may never figure out the why – we just need to continue to trust God through it. He trusts certain people to let certain things happen.

4. There are going to be victors

- God said so; He already made us victors
- We can choose to be victorious or become a casualty
- Keep short accounts and get right with God

5. No conscientious objectors

- You must fight!
- God tells us to fight and gives us the tools to be victorious
- Satan says ‘You don’t have enough’ or ‘Why me?’ or ‘You aren’t worthy’, etc.

B. Origin of Conflict

- Make sure to study Christ and who He is, along with the study of demons.
- Q. Why did God create Satan? Answer: He didn’t, He created an angel (Lucifer). God knew what was going to happen and it is all for the Glory of God.
- Q. Why doesn’t God get rid of Satan? Answer: He will.

1. Fall from Grace [Ezekiel 28:12b-19] Message for Tyre’s King goes beyond the King of Tyre [superhuman references] and talks about Lucifer and his fall from Grace.

- a. Before: Ezekiel 28:12b-15 - Description of Lucifer (the angel) and tells us the origin of sin:
^{12b} “You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ “You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering; the ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ “You were the anointed cherub who covers. And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ “You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.
 - b. After: Ezekiel 28:16-19 - Description of Satan’s fate and judgment [to come]: ¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you. ¹⁸ “By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries, therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you. And I have turned you to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you. ¹⁹ “All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have become terrified and you will cease to be forever.”
- Hermeneutically you can address something while something else is happening, here it goes beyond the King of Tyre. Example: Peter says Christ is not going to be crucified and Jesus says, “Get thee behind me, Satan.” Jesus is saying Peter’s answer is Satan’s answer and plan.
 - Here it’s the King of Tyre. God Says these things will happen. Here we have prophesy as to where this came from – Satan. The King of Tyre was never addressed as at the end

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of Ezekiel 28:12. Satan was behind the King of Tyre (c.f. 38:13a). Satan was in the Garden of Eden (28:14 “the anointed cherub”).

2. The Five “I Will’s” [describes what happened in Lucifer’s heart]

- Isaiah 14:12-14 How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! ¹³ But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north.’ ¹⁴ ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High’.
- a. “I will ascend into heaven.” vs. 12-15 was the before for Satan; vs. 16-19 after, this is the reason why and the judgment was carried out on him; v.14 anointed cherub; v.15 “blameless”
- b. “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.” – Possibly other angels.
- c. “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north” – Either assembly of angels or of Israel under messianic rule.
- d. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.” – Usurp the glory of God.
- e. “I will be like the Most High.” – Satan wanted to be the possessor of heaven and earth.
 - Lucifer was sent to Earth as a result of his sin against God.
 - God’s response: Isaiah 14:15 Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.
 - Satan knows what is in store for him one day
 - Satan watches you; he has been here for thousands of years and knows how humans work. There are about 500 billion stars, of all the planets, God sent Satan to Earth.

3. Lucifer went from sinless to sinful [he had a choice and made a bad choice]

a. Committed sin of pride [Satan’s wisdom has been corrupted because of his pride, he still thinks he can win and beat God.]

- Ezekiel 28:17 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.
- I Timothy 3:6 And not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

b. Cast out of heaven [Satan went from sinless to sinful; we all have the choice to sin or not.]

- Ezekiel 28:6 Therefore thus says the Lord God, ‘Because you have made your heart like the heart of God, therefore, behold, I will bring strangers upon you, the most ruthless of the nations. And they will draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor.
- Isaiah 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

c. Convinced others

- Satan must have been very persuasive if he convinced sinless angels to follow him.
- Revelation 12:4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child. [woman = Israel, child = Jesus]
- Revelation 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸ and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil

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and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. [the one and only war in Heaven]

- Revelation 20:7-9 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. ⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. [Devil is the cause of the first and last war with God]

C. Goals of the Devil

1. Don't let the Christ-child be born

- Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.
- The next plan was to kill him; worked through Herod's decree to kill firstborn. The wise men's gifts provided money for Joseph and Mary to flee to safety.

2. Murder the Redeemer

- John 7:30 So they were seeking to seize Him; and no man laid his hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

3. Prevent Salvation

4. Cripple and ruin lives

5. Hinder Believers [e.g., through lies]

D. A Mug Shot of Satan

- What Satan does not look like: 9' or 10' tall, bright red, with horns on his head, a tail with a point on its end, and cloven feet. He's not a cute reddish imp that sits on one shoulder and tells you what to do wrong. The media has made these false images up!

Following list: Thanks to Willmington's Guide to the Bible

1. **Satan** [means Adversary (used 36 times) and Opponent (used 16 times)]; Lucifer means "light bearer" or the Bright One [used 51 times as adversary, opponent, or enemy]

2. **Devil** [means Slanderer or Accuser, used 38 times]

- Jesus is interceding for us. The emergent church says there are no absolutes.

3. "prince of the power of the air" [meaning atmosphere around the Earth]

- Ephesians 2:2 In which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

4. "god of this world" [the Earth]

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

5. "him who had the power of death" [death dealer, God uses the devil]

- Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

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6. “ruler of this world” [the Earth]

- John 12:31 “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”

7. “ruler of darkness”

- Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

8. “twisted serpent” [dweller in the sea of humanity = Leviathan]

- Isaiah 27:1 In that day the Lord will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, with His fierce and great and mighty sword, even Leviathan the twisted serpent; and He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.

9. “the dragon”

- Revelation 12:7-8 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, ⁸and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

10. “deceiver”

- Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

11. “destroyer” [Hebrew = Abaddon; Greek = Apollyon]

- Revelation 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

12. Beelzebul [Ruler of Demons]

- Matthew 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard this they said, “This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.”

13. Belial [vile, ruthless]

- 2 Corinthians 6:15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

14. “evil one”

- Matthew 13:38 “And the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one.” Angels will sort out the tares (false ones that look like originals).

15. “tempter” [seduce, lure, entice us to sin]

- 1 Thessalonians 3:5 For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

16. “accuser of the brothers”

- Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”

17. “angel of light” [masquerades as one]

- 2 Corinthians 11:14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

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18. “liar” [perverts the truth, known as the ‘father of lies’, also the father of unbelievers, no truth in him]

- John 8:44 “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 does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

19. “murderer” [solicits people to eternal death]

- John 8:44 “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 does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

20. “enemy” [evil one, wicked one, “bad, malignant”]

- Matthew 13:39 “And the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.”

21. “roaring lion”

- I Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- Ephesians 2:1-3, & 1st word of 4 “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴But”

E. Satan’s Present Position

1. King of the World [Satan says the kingdoms of this world are his, Jesus didn’t disagree]

- Luke 4:5-6 And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory, for it has been handed over to me, and I will give it to whomever I wish.”
- Read: Accommodation Theory in *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*. Jesus, who truly loved people, accommodated them in their superstitions, according to the Accommodation Theory.
- Earth was handed over to Satan. If the Devil comes up to Christ, he’s allowed to come to us. He showed Christ all the Kingdoms of the World. Key word: allowed (by God).

2. Ruler of the World

- John 14:30 “I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming and he has nothing in Me.” [Jesus knew his time was up on Earth.]

3. Prince of the Power of the Air, Ruler of Darkness, god of this World, Ruler of this World

- [see previous notes from: D.3, 4, 6, 7]
- Q. Is Satan omniscient? (Q. 7 on beginning quiz.) Answer: No, only God is. Satan is not omniscient and cannot read our minds. But, he has studied mankind for thousands of years and humans are creatures of habit. Satan has been around since the beginning of Earth. He has always watched humans and he knows what we’re going to do. The devil’s time tested techniques work against humans. Satan can whisper thoughts in our minds. If God lets him, he can influence our dreams. The incubus and succubus are not real, but Satan can use these.

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- Satan doesn't have to flee immediately if we're right with God and tell him to "get out of here in Jesus' name!" The demon doesn't have to do anything if our heart is not right. Talk to God and not the demons, they are liars and deceivers. Beware of books like *Prayers that Route Demons* and *Prayers that Break Curses*, for they are not Scripture based!
- In 1950's four major Pentecostal churches. In 1960, Annie McPherson, who wore an angel outfit, founded the 4-Square Church. In 1960 a Lutheran pastor quit and was speaking in tongues – essence of Charismatic movement came into Catholics, Mormons, etc. Speaking in tongues, Azusa St. Revival, people barked at telephone poles, men were riding on women's backs down the aisles of churches, holy laughter. A Pentecostal church went by rules in I Corinthians 14 for speaking in tongues. The Charismatic church burst out of any rules.
- In Acts 2, Peter was preaching the Gospel and people heard their own language in their ears when Peter was talking and many came to Christ.
- Psalms 91 deals with night terrors. In the Bible you will not find a single true believer who is possessed by the devil or demons.
- I Corinthians 5:1-7 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife. ²You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. ³For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. ⁴In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you were assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. - Author is Paul, letter written to the Church of Corinth (carnal city), the problem is someone is sleeping with their stepmother. Paul first made charges to the leaders of the church. Church discipline was not done, so they are being rebuked for allowing this person to continue in sin (as a member of the church). Paul's decision has already been made (v.5). Judging vs. discernment; all believers are to be discerning based on the Truth.
- Q. 10 from beginning quiz: Can a true Christian be demon possessed? Answer: Demons can do things to and through Christians, but they cannot be possessed by demons. That's the point of the rope (squiggle line) before B in drawing on opposite page. Ephesians 4:27 says don't give place to the devil. If you start in porn, it gets worse and worse, until you act on it. The Holy Spirit will convict the believer, but the believer has to agree with God, confess and repent. The only thing that keeps you from God is yourself! Being a Christian won't keep you from sinning (if that is your choice), but it should keep you from enjoying it.
- God can use the Devil for punishment of sin. Paul [apostle] had that much power to turn someone over to Satan. The church was to discipline this sinning brother by committing him to Satan's domain, the world, and to Satan's chastisement (the destruction or ruin of his body) through sickness or even death. Persistent sin often leads to physical punishment. The man wanted to look and live like an unbeliever, so he was disciplined. If the person is truly repentant, then he should be restored to the Church.

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Discussion and Hermeneutics of the Claim: Believers could be demon possessed.

Testing the theory Charismatic's say Christians can be possessed:

A. Saul

- I Samuel 16:14 Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord terrorized him. "Spirit of the Lord" = Holy Spirit (does not say he was indwelt); "departed" = left alone, gone away; "from" = directed by God to go to Saul, He initiated the problems to come. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit didn't happen until Acts 2. The Holy Spirit would come upon people to equip for ministry.
- I Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." [We go by how people look; God looks at the heart]
- 2 people in the Old Testament were always indwelt with the Holy Spirit: John the Baptist and Jesus. After Acts 2, all born again believers are indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
- I Samuel 16:23 So it came about whenever the evil spirit from God came to Saul, David would take the harp and play it with his hand; and Saul would be refreshed and be well, and the evil spirit would depart from him. Only place in Bible where demons left because of music. Scripture doesn't say the demon was "in" Saul. David a man after God's own heart, sang Scriptures and praise songs.
- I Samuel 26:21 Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error." Saul is arrogant, jealous and envious; did he repent?
- I Samuel 27:1 Then David said to himself, "Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape into the land of the Philistines. Saul then will despair of searching for me anymore in all the territory of Israel, and I will escape from his hand." [David's response was to flee far away]
- Conclusion: No proof of indwelling demon possession of Saul, nothing in context or language to substantiate the claim Saul was possessed or saved.

B. Unnamed Woman Christ Healed

- Luke 13:16 "And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?"
- "Has bound" for 18 years; most likely demon possessed; "daughter of Abraham" was a woman from Israel, nationalist title; Christ healed her and removed her demons, but it doesn't mean she was saved.
- If a believer is giving place to the devil and confesses their sins, the demon has to leave. An unbeliever who is demon possessed, the demon must be cast out, if they become saved the demon has to leave. A believer can't be demon possessed, but can be demon led.

C. Judas

- James 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- There is no getting away from that this is possession. Judas was the son of perdition and it would have been better had he never been born.

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- How a believer can become an enemy of God; “double-mindedness” trying to be a good Christian and loves the world.
- James 1:12-15 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil and He Himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵Then when lust has conceived, it give birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. [devil does the tempting]
- John 13:27 After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”
- Satan entered Judas in the presence of Jesus and other believers; devil was allowed and took possession of Judas. “Entered” is demon grammar. *This is the only verse where Satan, not a demon, took possession. Judas could not have been a believer since Satan took possession of him.
- John 6:70 Jesus answered them, “Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?”
- John 13:10-11 Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean but not all of you.” ¹¹For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.”
- Washing just the feet is a metaphor: once you’re saved you only need to confess your sins to get right with God.
- John 17:12 “While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.” [“perdition” is Hell; Judas was the ‘son of perdition’]
- Judas had worldly sorrow and remorse, he hung himself (most likely it was in his death Satan left his body).
- 2 Corinthians 7:2-16 Make room for us in your hearts; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one. ³I do not speak to condemn you, for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together. ⁴Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction. ⁵For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side; conflicts without, fears within. ⁶But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus; ⁷and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more. ⁸For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it – for I see that the letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while – ⁹I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. ¹⁰For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹For behold what earnestness this very thing this godly sorrow, has produced in you; what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter. ¹²So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God. ¹³For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. ¹⁴For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame, but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be the truth. ¹⁵His affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling, ¹⁶I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.
- Be assured of his joy over their repentance.

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D. Peter

- Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”
- Peter was not possessed but was being addressed as if he was possessed. Peter was focusing on the world and not God’s will (so he was working with the Devil); example of personal demonic influence, Peter was never demon possessed; Peter was not thinking out of devotion and love of Christ, and he came up with an alternative plan.
- James 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.
- All earthly, natural wisdom is demonic; ‘wisdom’ is the Word of God applied correctly.

E. Ananias and Sapphira

- Acts 5:1-5 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ²and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles’ feet. ³But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” ⁵And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.
- Ananias and Sapphira’s sin was lying about how much they received. Lying to the Spirit is lying to God, because the Holy Spirit is God; Satan filled Anania’s heart, thus controlled him. God made a point of showing His disapproval of deception and lying in the Church.
- John 8:44 “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 does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
- The true reason for their failure to receive Christ was their relationship to the devil; Jesus was talking to non-believers who were of the devil.
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
- Paul used spiritual weapons in combating their arguments and pretentiousness.
- We are not responsible for what thoughts go into our mind; we are responsible for what we do with those thoughts. Do take the thought captive to the obedience of Christ! Fight with Scripture, prayer, spiritual songs, etc. We have everything we need not to give into the lies!
- I Corinthians 5:1-5 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father’s wife. ²You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst. ³For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. ⁴In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵*I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Conclusion: There are no examples of demon possession of a believer in the Bible. Some hold the previous above as examples of demon possession of a believer. Normally, a believer would have to cast a demon out of an unbeliever for the demon to go. But a person could get saved on their own in response to the Gospel and Satan would have to leave. Believers can experience personal demonic influence. In the Scripture, those

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who say to Jesus “Didn’t we cast out demons in your name?” and He responds “Depart from me, I never knew you” - those people did not actually cast out demons; they just thought they did.

F. Satan’s Schemes, Snares, Wiles, Strategies, Devices, and Activities [what the Devil does to you]

1. Schemes [usually has a negative connotation]

2. Snares

- 1 Timothy 3:7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. [Qualifications of godly characteristics in a believer as a leader; mainly pride is being addressed.]
- 2 Timothy 2:24-26 The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. [We should all be bond servants of God.]
- Only believers in a right relationship with God can correct those who are in opposition; the purpose of gentle and patient correction is remedial. Our job is to tell our opponents the truth in love; it is God’s job to decide whether He will grant repentance. Nowhere in the believer’s job description does it say the person has to get saved, that’s the job of the Holy Spirit.
- Can a believer be caught in the snare of the Devil? Yes! When someone sets a trap, it’s disguised. Look for what you’ve been fooled by.

3. Wiles

- Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. [KJV reads ‘wiles’]

4. Strategies

5. Devices

- 2 Corinthians 2:11 So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.
- [KJV reads ‘devices’; the Devil’s intentions are to keep you from getting saved or to ruin your Christian life if you are saved]

6. Activities: Summation of what the Devil does to you – he will do everything in his power to hinder your walk with God.

The Activities of Satan [Reference to Harold Willmington’s book ‘*Doctrine of Satan*’]

A. Ways in which Satan imitates God (he is a counterfeiter):

1. Devil has a false trinity: dragon, beast, false prophet

<u>Trinity:</u> -----	<u>False Trinity:</u>
God -----	Dragon (Satan)
Jesus Christ -----	Beast (antichrist)
Holy Spirit -----	False Prophet (worldwide religion leader)

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- Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.
- Revelation 16:13 And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.

2. Devil has false synagogues

- Revelation 2:9 I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. [Doesn't necessarily mean Jewish synagogues, he has always wanted the worship of the world. Jews in Smyrna were in reality instruments of Satan.]
- Gives him the ability to be Christ-like with his followers; yet Satan has to come across as someone else, otherwise people wouldn't want to follow him.

3. Devil has false, counterfeit doctrines

- I Timothy 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.
- 'Deceitful' is tricking us; 'doctrine' of demons is teaching lies disguised as truth.
- Example: there are no absolutes. Professing biblical church is saturated with counterfeit doctrines.

4. Devil has his mysteries [yet God knows everything about him]

- 2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.
- Revelation 2:24 But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them – I place no other burden on you.
- Mystery of lawlessness is already at work; antichrist is now being held back by a 'restrainer', the Holy Spirit

5. Literally where Satan's throne is

- Revelation 2:13 I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold fast My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.
- Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.
- Satan does have a throne on earth. [brief discussion of possible cities]

6. Satan has his kingdoms

- Luke 4:6-7 And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory, for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."
- I John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

God is allowing Satan to have Earth, Satan offered it up to Jesus, every time Jesus answered Satan, He replied with Scripture!

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7. Satan has his worshippers

- Revelation 13:4 They worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the best, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?"
- The dragon is Satan and he wants to be worshipped, so he will indwell the beast, and they will both be worshipped. There will never be another likeness to the indwelt beast; he will be a huge power, defeating all enemies, until the Lord's perfect timing to end all.

8. Satan has his angel army

- Revelation 12:7-8 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.
- Michael is the archangel (like the General in God's army).
- There is a spiritual battle we cannot see with our human eyes.
- $\frac{2}{3}$ vs. $\frac{1}{3}$ of all angels have been battling since Satan was thrown out of Heaven and will continue until the end when Satan and his followers are locked up (some are already locked up in the depths of Hell).
- Salvation is only for humans, demons cannot repent and join Michael's army.

9. Satan has his own preachers and ministers

- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.
- Servants of righteousness are false preachers (tares) who are hooked up with the Devil, they will look very good and have many followers. They are false apostles who influence the church negatively. Example: Health, Wealth, and Prosperity preachers and emergent churches.

10. Satan has his signs, wonders, and miracles

- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 That is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, ¹⁰and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.
- Revelation 13:13 He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men.
- Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you: DEART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS'.
- God is going to allow the antichrist to do great miracles. Today there are many demonic manifestations.

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11. Satan has his own sacrifices (and he has a lot)

- I Corinthians 10:20 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.
- Top 2 sacrifices in America today: unborn babies (abortions) and marriages (divorces).

12. Satan has communion fellowship

- I Corinthians 10:20-22 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²²Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? We are not stronger than He, are we?
- Taking communion unduly violates the purpose of communion. The devil has fellowship with his worshippers.

13. Satan has his host [translates: multitude, giant mass] army of angels

- Isaiah 24:21 So it will happen in that day, that the Lord will punish the host of heaven on high, and the kings of the earth on earth.
- Rebellious angels (demons) will be punished by God, their judgment has already been decided, but their sentences are yet to be carried out.

[End of Reference to Harold Willmington's book '*Doctrine of Satan*']

B. Satan sows the Tares among God's wheat

- Matthew 12:25 And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand."
- Tares are unbelievers who look like a Christian, only better than most Christians. The leaders of churches are not to separate tares, this is a job only for angels.

C. Satan instigates false doctrine [to cripple Christians]

- I Timothy 4:1-6 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ²by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, ³men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude, ⁵for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.
- Make sure what you're hearing is a sound doctrine. V.1 is the theology of Satan. The purpose of false doctrine is to cripple believers, so your testimony will be hindered. False teachings are inspired by demons. Christians should live affirmatively, neither renouncing the world for a life of self-denial nor plunging into indulgence. Both marriage and food are gifts from God to be gratefully used. [Pastor Keith said these verses refer to Christians who fall away from the faith.]
- The "Book of Life" is mentioned 6 times in the New Testament. The "Lamb's Book of Life" is only mentioned once in the New Testament.

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- From the Revelation study there are some who believe these are the same books of the works and motives of unbelievers are opened. Then there is a book of believers written down, because of the work of Christ on their behalf.
- Revelation 3:5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- [Pastor Keith found that it meant the names couldn't be blotted out because it's the "Lamb's Book of Life".]

D. Satan perverts the Word of God

1. Taking it out of context

2. Satan perverts Scripture

a. A Christian can lose his salvation

b. One must be baptized in water to be saved

- 8 different kinds of baptism mentioned in the Bible, only 1 uses water in context!
- Under Judaism, the Jewish people had water baptism to identify themselves with Judea law, they understood water baptism [immersed in water]. Christians got baptized to identify with Christ.
- Two main flaws with this: It's not taught in the Bible. If there is something you can do to earn salvation then why do you need Christ?
- Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".
- I Corinthians 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. [Apostle Paul's ministry was not to baptize people.]
- I Corinthians 15:1-4 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. [No water baptism in the Gospel.]
- We are commanded to get water baptized. We should do it as a matter of obedience.

c. Speaking in tongues is the sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit

- One of the main denominational doctrines of the Assembly of God church, this is viewed as evidence of salvation.
- Read: Acts 2 (whole chapter) and I Corinthians 14 (whole chapter).
- I Corinthians 14:4 One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.
- I Corinthians 14:19 However, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.

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- I Corinthians 14:40 But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.
- Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- Biblically speaking in tongues was unknown to the speaker but a known language to those listening. Glossolalia is Greek for speaking in tongues (known language previously unknown to the speaker).
- Most important spiritual gift is prophecy [I Corinthians 14:4].
- Women are not supposed to speak in tongues and the men who do are supposed to have an interpreter.
- Two book recommendations for further reading on ‘speaking in tongues’: *The Charismatics* and *Charismatic Chaos* by John MacArthur.
- John MacArthur believes tongues “closed” and was only used once.
- I Corinthians 13 when “the perfect has come” Pastor Keith believes is when the Scriptures were finished.

d. All sick Christians are sinning somewhere, because God desires all believers to be in excellent health

- Many churches are preaching: health-wealth-prosperity and faith heals.
- Matthew 8:17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: “He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases.”
- Bob Evans is a pastor in the Sandpoint-area “emergent church movement comes to Sandpoint” article in the Daily Bee (February 2013) Quoted as saying “fundamental Christianity suffers from the same kind of prejudices as fundamental Islam... in keeping with the reformed centric nature of the movement... called the ‘give and take’”. This equals no absolutes and ‘we can just get together and discuss it’ attitude. They meet at Lakeview Chapel. Evans said “our service is more spontaneous”.
- Pastor’s Corner in the Daily Bee on 5/17/13: The Samaritan Woman and Jesus by Reverend Bob Evans “Chap. 4 in John’s Gospel speaks to us on many levels... often it is understood only on the level of a woman sinner... who meets Christ and is forgiven... the conversation makes it obvious the author wants us to see something else. What if the woman represents those who have been excluded from traditional worship or standards for membership... or are members of the LGBT community... biased voices of tradition... [Jesus says] no tradition is the truth.”
- There is only one true interpretation while there are may be many applications. Beware when preachers say “there are many levels”, in other words, the preacher interprets a higher level than most can understand. Therefore, he has to tell them what it says.
- In John 4, Pastor Keith said “Jesus told the Samaritan Woman that He was what she needed, and He offered Himself to her (as the Living Water), the spiritual need of the woman was Christ’s focus.”

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- Answers in Genesis Newsletter (Ken Ham) 3/28/13... He is staying true to the Word. He states that an Arizona University professor, Lawrence Krauss, is pushing “homeschooled children of such Christian parents should be taken away from home”.
- The Devil’s plan is to continue to persecute the fundamentalist Christian church, including in America. The only friends that Israel has are born again Christians. Read Benjamin Netanyahu’s testimony for Christ. Satan leads in taking out of context, perverting and misinterpreting God’s Word.

e. A Christian may achieve sinless perfection in this life through sanctification

- We are Holy - I John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in Him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. [Key word “practice” meaning habitually and knowingly. If we continue to practice sin, we need to look at whether we’re truly saved.]
- Philippians 3:10-14 That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. [Paul makes it clear that he had not “arrived”, but was still very much in the race of Christian life, he never attained it this side of Heaven.]

3. Satan overemphasizes certain parts of the Scriptures.

- By stressing the sovereignty of God to the exclusion of the responsibility of man; by stressing the responsibility of man to the exclusion of the sovereignty of God. Over stressing one side of a doctrine and ignoring the other side, i.e., God is so loving, He overlooks everything.

4. Under stressing certain doctrines [e.g. Hell and sin]

E. Satan hinders the work of God’s servants

- He cannot do this, of course, except by the direct permission of God, who sometimes allows hindrances to teach the believer spiritual lessons. It can build perseverance in Christians or it may not be the right timing.
- I Thessalonians 2:18 For we wanted to come to you – I, Paul, more than once – and yet Satan hindered us. [God will allow the Devil to impede or slow down certain Christian work.]
- Chuck Swindoll wrote a book on Church Renewal – because church is a mess now, i.e., the emergent church.

F. Satan resists the prayers of God’s servants

- Daniel 10:12-13
- A demon(s) behind the Prince of Persia, warred with the good angels and Daniel’s answer to prayer was hindered for 3 weeks. If Satan can, he will hinder or derail our prayers.
- We are to keep praying if it’s not answered right away. God sometimes allows this waiting, God gives us a peek at the spiritual warfare behind our senses here. God hears the prayers of a

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Christian, especially in a right relationship. He will answer “yes”, “no”, or “wait”. We shouldn’t need “signs” or rely on our senses as to God’s will. We should always be in the attitude of “nevertheless, Your will be done”. Christians can pray that the demonic activity be hindered.

G. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers.

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving.
- It is only by God’s grace and mercy that anyone sees the Truth. Revelation (true revelation comes from God through His Word). Inspiration is the Holy Spirit moving men of God to write the mind of God (only in the Bible). Illumination is the Holy Spirit ministering to our hearts to “get it”. Enlightenment comes from God through His Truth.

H. The Evil One snatches God’s Word away from hearts.

- Matthew 13:18-19 “Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom the seed was sown beside the road. [If they don’t want to understand or believe, God may allow Satan to do this.]

I. Satan accuses Christians before God

- Job 1:7-12 The Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.” ⁸The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.” ⁹Then Satan answered the Lord, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰Have You not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹But put forth Your hand now and touch all that He has; he will surely curse You to Your face.” ¹²Then the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the Lord. [Satan accused God for Job’s protection and making it too easy for Job.]
- Job 2:3-6 The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like Him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause.” ⁴Satan answered the Lord and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face.” ⁶So the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”
- Satan puts blame for God into our minds.
- Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- Romans 8:33-34 Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- Colossians 1:9-12 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience, joyously ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.
- 2 Corinthians 2:11 So that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.
- Ephesians 6 - God says, “STAND!”

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Thanks again to Willmington's Guide to the Bible:

J. Up Close & Personal: The 16 Deadly D's of the Devil

1. **Disappointment:** Not getting what we want, unmet expectations

- One of the most common sins of the most godly people
- “All disappointments are His [God's] appointments” –Wilmington
- God is always in control, and His is measuring out the time and intensity of this to teach me something.
- To be disappointed is to forget Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. [Remember context of Romans 8:29—the good God is doing is becoming Christ-like.]

2. **Discouragement:** Lack of encouragement

- Second stage of disappointment . . . staying in sin leads to other sins
- To be discouraged is to forget I Samuels 30:6 Moreover David was greatly distressed because the people spoke of stoning him, for all the people we embittered, each one because of his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.
- If you get in the Bible, it is hard to stay discouraged—keep your mind on God!

3. **Despair:** To give up, without hope

- The third and final stage of disappointment
- The disciples experienced this on the Road to Emmaus after the crucifixion
- Joshua 1:7 Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go.
- To despair is to forget 2 Corinthians 4:8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing.

4. **Doubt:** To doubt about God's character and what He says

- “3 T's”—Satan's “time tested techniques”—first used in the Garden of Eden with Eve
- Satan uses the world and the flesh in his devilish tactics
- Paul & John the Baptist in the flesh experienced despair. If the flesh can derail us, the devil and demonic activity aren't needed, too.
- To doubt is to forget 1 Timothy 2:8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. [Keep short accounts and be in the Word.]

5. **Disbelief:** The final form of doubt

- This is how Satan tries to cripple believers by doubting truths in Scripture

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- To disbelieve is to forget Hebrews 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in anyone of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.
- 6. Distraction:** Anything that takes your attention away from where it should be focused
- Ghost Army of WWII: job was to fool the enemy, everything was inflatable, they were very effective and top secret – tactics from military are amplified in Spiritual Warfare
 - Pharisees tried to trap Jesus questioning the most important commandment, His answer: Love the Lord
 - Top distractions for most Americans today: family and work – we can turn our spouse and children into idols and become distracted from God
 - Quote: *“It has been rightly said the enemy of the best, is not the worst, but the good.”*
 - To be distracted is to forget Matthew 14:30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” (Peter took his eyes off Christ and became distracted.)
- 7. Double-mindedness:** two souled [or minded] person (justification for what they’re doing)
- Can God have you be wealthy? Yes! But serve and love God, not money.
 - Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”
 - Ephesians 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming. [Describes a double-minded person.]
 - I John 2:15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. [If a professing believer is very worldly, it throws skepticism to if they are truly saved.]
 - During Civil War, there were a number of civil “neutral” observers who watched the battles between the Blue and the Gray. Story of one person who was at a picnic when the battle tactics changed placing him in the middle of the battle, he took the pants from a Confederate soldier and a coat from a Union soldier – both sides riddled him with bullets.
 - Double-minded people desire social acceptance.
 - James 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
 - To be double-minded is to forget James 1:8 Being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
- 8. Dishonesty:** not be honest
- God hates lying, it’s an abominable sin. Man says it’s not going to hurt anyone; ‘just didn’t tell all the truth’, ‘little white lie’. Man justifies lying saying certain circumstances call for lying (situational ethics), examples: putting on airs, sarcasm, exaggeration.

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- Most common form of dishonesty today: stealing time – 2013 Quality Control survey found the average employee spends 59 minutes every day doing their personal business on company time.
- Q: Is there dishonesty in Christian giving? A: Yes! Q: Are you commanded to tithe? A: In the New Testament Church you give 100%. To understand giving we must have the proper attitude, be a cheerful giver. Average giving in America is 3%. The word “cheerful” comes from a Greek word literally meaning “hilarious.” We don’t have to have everything that everyone else has, we are to be lights. If you are giving to an organization, you should do your research to see how it’s run and where your money is going.
- There’s a multitude of ways to be dishonest and God will light those areas in your life. One of the most common areas to be dishonest is in your marriage. Our flesh wants to be dishonest, the world doesn’t have a problem with it, and the Devil wants you to be dishonest. Scripture says we are to be keepers and doers of our word.
- Doctrine in the Bible says there are times not to say anything, then to tell a lie. Be a truth teller, be a light in this dark world. To be dishonest is to forget 2 Corinthians 4:2 But we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

9. **Deceit:** to cheat, give false impressions, to bait, to snare, guile, deceiving

- Bible also refers to self deceiving (we can trick ourselves).
- 2 Corinthians 2:17 For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God. [What does it tell you about the hearts of those who make money peddling the word of God? When you speak in this Church, it should be what the word of God says with the right heart.]
- 2 Corinthians 4:1-2 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, ²but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.
- 2 Corinthians 11:13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. [Paul tells you what he’s like ministering, then about false teachers of the word.]
- 2 John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.
- To be deceitful is to forget Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is more deceitful than all else and desperately sick; who can understand it?

10. **Dullness**

- Hebrews 5:11-14 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

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- Q: If children must grow (to become potty trained, to walk, and talk) if they don't it's not considered 'normal' or accepted in society. So why do we accepted stunted spiritual growth in churches? A: We refuse to accept accountability before God.
- We need to use our gifts to grow people up and we don't want to be like the world (condemning and judging). Book of Hebrews is a giant doctoral lesson on Christ. Hebrews 4 is a description of how to run a church – equip saints to do work of ministry. The church is at fault if they're not a New Testament church.
- I Corinthians 3:1-3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, ³for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? [When we're not growing, we are worldly. The Philosophy of Life either has God at the center or someone or something else at the center.]
- Hebrews 5:11-14 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. ¹⁴But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not forsaking our own assembling together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- God will birth you and grow you spiritually. Your job is to cooperate by grace of the Holy Spirit. Corporate worship is God's idea, He commands us to do it (I Cor. 12 and Romans 12). Part of the growth process is to come together (church). You can do all this with the wrong heart and not grow (hypocritical religion).
- The Devil wants to keep people dull. Seeker-friendly church model: do what you need to do to make church work – Starbucks, don't talk about sin or accountability, preach a sermonet for 5-7 minutes (concept is we don't judge them, we just love them).
- The New Testament model for the Church is Acts 2:41-42, and for Church Leadership are books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus

11. Deadness: Unchecked dullness

- Ephesians 2:1-4, then 2:5-6 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 6:1-2 then 6:11, then 6:13 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ²May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ¹¹Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹³And do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

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- James 2:17 then 2:26 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. ²⁶For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead. [Scripture says no good works will earn your salvation, but if you are born again then you will produce good works.]
- The Devil wants you to be spiritually dull and that leads to spiritual deadness
- King theology = our right; Worm theology = no one deserved anything
- If you end up in deadness, you have forgotten Revelation 3:1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.’”

12. Delay: Procrastination

- The Devil wants you to delay doing what God wants you to be doing (tyranny of the urgent – signal don’t touch it).
- Hebrews 4:7-8 He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY, IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.” ⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. [A loving Christian would act today yet the Devil tempts you to put things off until tomorrow.]
- James 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” ¹⁴Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”
- Don’t count on the fact that you will be here tomorrow, or that the day will go as you planned.
- If you are in the sin of procrastination you have forgotten Proverbs 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

13. Discord: Disagreement

- There are right kinds of disagreement and wrong kinds of disagreement. The lack of harmony, conflict, and division boils down to your heart’s intent.
- Galatians 5:16 But as I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. [Walk in the Spirit or walk in the flesh.]
- There should be no wrong kind of discord in a church body that is glorifying Christ. It is the responsibility of people in the congregation to stop discord.
- Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, ¹⁹a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.

14. Defilement: To pollute, to profane, filth

- Do you know if you are acting in the Spirit or the flesh?
- I Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

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- We're supposed to be God's glove, that He can put His hand into and use. We are weapons of righteousness. We used to be slaves to sin, now we are slaves to righteousness. We are to be vessels, God needs clean and whole vessels. The world says it's ok to be a dirty, cracked vessel, everyone else is; our flesh is content to cooperate. When Christ went to the sinners, he didn't sin with them.
- I Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. [Biblical doctrine according to the Word, the moment you believed in Jesus, the Holy Spirit indwelt you.]
- God will hold us accountable for the choices we make: suicide is self murder, obesity, drugs and alcoholism, abortion, etc.. Many Americans are committing slow suicide with food, drugs/medications, the air we breathe, inactivity. Kids are being taught 'safe sex'. It's not an epidemic, it's a pandemic. The divorce rate in the church is the same as in the world, about 55%. Why is the church not different from the world? There are natural consequences are built in. Prescription drugs are measured by the 'billion of tons'.
- War always involves the spirit or the flesh. Ask yourself "if this is something I should be doing?" and "does it glorify God in the body?"

15. Defame: Belittling, gossip, character assignation, criticizing (this has to do with our heart's intent to point out the wrongdoing of another)

- Hebrews 6:10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. [God knows your heart, trust in Him.]
- Matthew 10:41-42 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. ⁴¹He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴²And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." [Who should we be serving? The person you need to be concerned about is God.]
- There is racism among Christians, certain people you want to minister to over others. Rule of Thumb, the ones you don't want to minister to are the ones you should be ministering to.
- Clicks are unbiblical, you should socialize with all members in our church body.
- If a person is in the sin of defaming, they have forgotten Psalms 101:5 [Our primary example was Jesus, he hates the sin but loves the sinner.]

16. Disobedience: Not being obedient

- Primary objective of the Devil, is to tempt us into doing something God doesn't want us to do.
- Book of I John tells what God wants to see in a believer – loving obedience.
- Someone who is disobedient is not following Romans 6:15-18 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! ¹⁶Do you not know that when you present yourselves

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to someone as slaves for obedience you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

- Before salvation, you went from consciously doing or not doing right things at your whim. If you are truly saved, you now have an urgency to do the right things and doing wrong truly bothers you.

Discussion: Doctrine: The Theological Method (from *Wilmington's Guide to the Bible*, p.589-590)

Doctrine is considered a bad word in many congregations. In seeker friendly churches, the concept of doctrine goes out the back door. Perhaps no other single word has been so successfully twisted by the devil today as has the biblical word "doctrine." In the minds of millions, doctrine involves the following concepts:

1. **Lie: Doctrine is that silly and useless practice of arguing** (in the spirit and tradition of medieval monks) **such things as:** "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" "**Could God create a stone so heavy that he couldn't lift it?**" "Could he plant an immovable post in the ground and then throw an unstoppable rock at it?"

Truth: True Biblical doctrine has nothing whatsoever to do with dancing angels, massive rocks, sturdy posts, and speeding stones! **The word doctrine, as found in the Bible, refers to the systematic** (and often simple) **gathering and presentation of the facts concerning any great body of truth.**

2. **Lie: Doctrine divides, whereas love unites.**

Truth: True doctrine does indeed divide. It divides light from darkness, right from wrong, and life from death. **But it also unites**, for God's love cannot be known or appropriated by sinful men without the involvement of doctrine.

3. **Lie: One cannot mix doctrine with soul-winning.**

Truth: These two not only can be mixed, they must be mixed if God's commands are to be followed. It is thrilling to note that the greatest soul-winner of all time and the greatest theologian who ever lived were one and the same – the Apostle Paul! The same man who went door to door, pleading with tears for men to accept Christ (Acts 20:20, 21, 26), also wrote some 50 percent of the New Testament, including that most profound of all doctrinal books, the epistle to the Romans.

4. **Lie: Doctrine is dull and impractical.**

Truth: To the contrary, doctrine will put both a fire and a song in the hearts of those who read and heed its tremendous truths.

- Luke 24:32 "And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"
- Ephesians 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."
- Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."
- Revelation 22:7 "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

5. **Lie: Doctrine is over the heads of most people.**

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Truth: This is simply not true, as refuted by Christ himself.

- Matthew 11:25, 28-30 “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

6. Lie: Why learn a lot of doctrine when we don’t live up to the light we already have?

Truth: To follow this twisted logic would mean never to go beyond the first commandment, Exodus 20:3 which says we are to have no gods or interests placed before the true God. But who has not on occasion been guilty of this? Should we therefore conclude that the sixth and seventh commandments (“Thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not commit adultery,” Exodus 20:13, 14) should not be kept simply because we do not always obey the first commandment?

7. Lie: The key goal is to let the Bible master us, and not spend our energies in mastering the Bible.

Truth: This statement is pious nonsense, for one cannot possibly be even remotely influenced, let alone mastered, by that which he or she knows nothing about. It is true that the goal of Bible study is to become Spirit controlled. But the fruit of the Spirit can never come apart from the root of personal study.

Important Advantages for Studying Doctrine:

1. Doctrine will help save us from theological food poisoning, I Timothy 4:1,13-16, 2 Timothy 4:1-4

2. Doctrine will help settle us, Ephesians 4:14

3. Doctrine will acquaint us with the details of God’s eternal plan

- a. Concerning the history of Israel, I Corinthians 10:1.
- b. Concerning the restoration of Israel, Romans 11:25.
- c. Concerning spiritual gifts, I Corinthians 12:1.
- d. Concerning the rapture, I Thessalonians 4:13.
- e. Concerning the destruction of this earth, 2 Peter 3:8,10)

4. Doctrine helps us edify God

- 2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

5. Doctrine helps us equip ourselves

- 2 Timothy 3:13-17 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
- Ephesians 6:10-17 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and

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having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

K. Wars: Winners and Losers

1. Battles: How you fight and how you persevere

- We are in a constant war, with daily battles. How are you fighting? How do you persevere? God will allow the devil after a victory to come right back at you. Satan will win as many battles as we let him.
- Matthew 4 – The devil comes up against Jesus, who handled him with the Truth.
- Society has become excellent with ‘passing the buck’ or shifting the blame.

2. Lengthy Peace: Will there be peace from the spiritual battles?

- Revelation 20:2-7 ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. ⁴Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. ⁷When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison. – Jesus is the ruler, it’s a theocracy (he is the only ruler on the planet), he will rule with an iron rod. Open rebellion will be instantly dealt with (death). For most people it will be a lengthy peace, at the end of the millennium Satan is loosed for a season. Man will rebel against Jesus when Satan is loosed. This shows the devil will never give up and man has a corrupt heart.

3. War: The battles begin

a. Spiritual Battles

- Started when Lucifer rebelled in Heaven, for mankind in Genesis 3:15 when the tempter made a slam at God: “did He really say?”
- If we are not doing what the Word of God says, we’re losing battles.
- Revelation 20:1-3, 7 ¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. ⁷When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison.
- Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

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II. THE WORLD

A. The Warning of Truth (this is a command, not an option to believers)

- I John 2:15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

If you are a believer, are you in the camp thinking you won't ever do this? We're not talking about sinless perfection. You can't stay as the same person and not change. Who we are, why we're here, what we're supposed to be doing and who gets the glory? A true believer should be miserable if they are willing to live in sin.

- John 15:18-23 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master'. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³He who hates Me hates My Father also." All of the disciples, save John who died of old age, died horrible deaths at the hands of the Devil and the World.
- Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. We were shaped, formed and molded by the World, religious people (the most dangerous). Believers are no longer to be shaped in the World's image, we are to be transformed. These truths cannot be head knowledge, they must become actions! The World will hate us if we live for Christ.
- Ephesians 2:1-3, And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. We were all spiritually dead, 5:6-10 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not be partakers with them; ⁸for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light. Live like you already are children of Light. None of us were ever in the Light in our unsaved state. The only reason we are in the Light is because we know Jesus. Based on that positional truth, we are commanded to walk as children of Light.
- Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. Something other than Christ. Isn't that what we should do, because so many other religious people are doing it? The "church" is saturated with this philosophy.
- I Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance. To be a child of God is not the best of God's will for us, we are to be willfully obedient children. People will give you springboards into conversations. If a person thinks the same and lives the same, they're probably not a believer. We've escaped from there (death in the World) don't go back to there. We are traveling through, this world is temporary.

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B. Meaning of 'World': Greek is 'Kosmos'

1. This created orb, planet earth

2. Satan's domain

- John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out." Talking about the person in charge of this world and what will happen to him. 14:30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me." Satan has no power over Christ, He's sinless. The Pharisees and Sadducees knew Jesus claimed to be God, that's why they plotted to kill him. 16:11 "and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." The Devil knows he's been judged but doesn't believe it. Christ can say confidently, Satan has already been judged.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4 In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

3. World's System: Humanity - it's philosophies, beliefs, teachings

- John 17:15-16 "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Jesus came into the world, lived here for 33 years and kept himself separate from the world (sinless).
- Every born again believer is a saint, they are set apart for a holy purpose. Scripture says we have everything we need to succeed in not being worldly. We are not to think and act like the World. VS.17 says sanctify them in the truth, Your Word is truth. Our number one weapon is the Word of God. The Devil and our Flesh want us to give into the World.

C. Definition:

- D. Edmund Hiebert: "... the mass of unredeemed humanity as an egocentric world system that is hostile to God. It's central aim is self-enjoyment and self-aggrandizement in disregard of or in open hostility toward God. So cultivate the world's friendship implies conformity to its principles and aims..."
- Dr. Jowett: "Worldliness is a spirit, a temperament, an attitude of soul. It is life without high callings. Life devoid of lofty ideals. It is a gaze horizontal never vertical. It's motto is 'forward' never 'upward'. Its goal is success, not holiness. Hearing no mystic voice, it is destitute of reverence. It never bows in rapt and silent wonder in the secret place. It experiences no awe inspiring perceptions of a mysterious presence. It has lusts, but no supplications. It has ambition, but no aspiration. God is not denied. He is forgotten and ignored."
- Dr. Gene Getz: "We mean a philosophy of life that is man-centered rather than God-centered; a life style that is selfish rather than unselfish, and feeds the flesh rather than the spirit. In short, the world system is controlled by Satan's influence rather than the Lord's."
- "Ethel Barrett: "So, when you're thinking fun-for-me, success-for-me, satisfaction-for-me, no time for God – you are thinking 'worldly'. Color it black." [full of consequences]
- How much of your life is about you and how much of it is about others? Biblical JOY – Jesus, Others, and You – it's a philosophy to live by. We can hear these worldly definitions and think of other people, and not apply it to ourselves.

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D. The Other Guy – Person

Cartoon in Pastor Keith’s office tells about a pastor who preached to a congregation of one who said, “Wonderful sermon, Pastor, everything you said applies to somebody I know!”

1. **Colossians 4:14** Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas. **Demas companion and fellow worker**
 - a. Left home and loved ones
 - b. Worked to spread gospel and strengthen believers, etc.
 - c. Faced dangers, including ridicule, imprisonment, beatings
 - d. Go home – how’d you like to have his resume?
2. **2 Timothy 4:10** For Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.
 - a. Deserted “left in the lurch”
 - b. “having loved” “this participle is explanatory, because he loved”
3. **Quote by C.J. Mahaney:** “So often we’re ignorant of the signs, the symptoms of worldliness. People can be attending church, singing the songs, apparently listening to the sermons – no different on the outside than they’ve always been. But inside that person is drifting. He sits in church but is not excited to be there. She sings songs without affection. He listens to preaching without conviction. She hears, but does not apply. A love for the world begins in the soul. It’s subtle, not always immediately obvious to others, and often undetected by the people who are slowly succumbing to its lies. It begins with a dull conscience and a listless soul. Sin does not grieve him like it once did. Passion for the Savior begins to cool. Affections grow dim. Excitement lessons for participating in the local church. Eagerness to evangelize starts to wane. Growth in godliness slows to a crawl. In this way, the person who was once genuinely passionate for Christ – like Demas – is, over time, taken capture by sin.”
 - a. Quote by C.J. Mahaney: “Today, the greatest challenge facing America evangelicals is not persecution from the world, but seduction by the world.”
 - b. Worldliness in Church, Pastor Keith’s Doctoral Thesis in Bible School 1975-1979
 - c. How should we then life? Book: *The Rise and Recline of Western Thought and Culture*, by Francis Schaffer, 1976
 - d. Deliver us from Evil Book: *Restoring the Soul in a Disintegrating Culture*, by Ravi Zacharias, 1996
 - e. The New Tolerance Book: *How a Cultural Movement Threatens to Destroy You, Your Faith, and Your Children*, by Josh McDowell and Bob Hostetler, 1998

E. Nope! Never Happened

1. Attacks against God of the Bible

- World says God is god of love and there is no hell, God’s Word has no absolutes (myth and errors), you decide your own morality, annoyance and attack of Bible believing

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Christians in America (examples: Hillary Clinton, Governor of New York, Army Reserve, etc), another ingredient in this worldly, satanic soup. Everyone is being brainwashed by what Satan is putting out there about God.

2. Man is not sinful, but inherently good (needs no Savior)

a. **Man's Logic:** Since there is no God (Biblical), the Word is not trustworthy (all myth and man's imagination, superstition), then no disobeying – fall – sin curse – fallen nature

b. **Evolution:** Man will evolve into a harmonious being, and realize his deity to its fullest

- Quote by Renald E. Showers: “This denial of man's sinful nature has led many to the false conclusion that humanity can live together as one harmonious unit without war, bigotry, and injustice if properly educated and if there is a radical change in social order. That new order must consist of the complete unification of mankind under a one world government and a one world religion. On the basis of this same denial, many naive souls have assumed that, if one nation lays down its arms and refuses to fight, all other nations will do the same.”

3. **Man defines his own standards** - Man in his own deification, goodness, and no sin nature decides what is right and wrong for him at the moment and open to change at the next circumstance or emotion.

F. What's the big deal if Christians are worldly?

1. **See II. A. Command – to not obey rightly is sin, sin is rebellion (hostility toward God)**

2. **With willful sin comes consequences**

3. **James 4:4** You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

a. Culprits (unfaithful ones)

b. Choice – friendship with the world

c. Consequence of hostility toward God – on the other side considered a traitor

d. Conclusion: friend of the world (by choice) makes himself an enemy of God

e. Illustration of Peter

1) Satan's name means adversary, opponent, enemy (see: I.D.1. – listed 51 times in NT)

2) Matthew 16:21-23 (Mark 8:31-33) 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 be raised up on the third day. ²²Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” ²³But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.”

3) Luke 22:31-32 “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³²but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Note the words “turned again” in v.32.

4. **Remember Titus 2:11-15** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹²instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the

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blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

¹⁵These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. **James 1:27** Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Ephesians 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- 5. How do you live? Choices? Barely or indistinguishable from unsaved neighbors/worldly?**
- Words/speech/conversation – we’re to choose our words wisely and use them discernibly
 - Media – tv, post, blog, tweeter, etc. - you are accountable for what you watch
 - Stuff – new, keep up with latest fads – stuff is to be used
 - Modesty – dressing, talking, actions are all signs of how we’re doing spiritually
- 6. MacArthur’s commentary on James 4:1** What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? MacArthur says this verse is talking about unbelievers and unbelieving professors in the church.
- The authors below all agree this verse is talking about believers.
 - Self /selfishness of believers 2 Timothy 3:4 Treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. [Pleasure seeking activities and friendships with the world.]
 - Articular construction from Tou Theou “personal identity, the God whom Christians know and acknowledge” D.Edmond Hiebert “Am I today better friends or worse friends with the world than I was a year ago? Your answer will show the way you are going spiritually.” Frank E. Gaebelein
 - Authors who have written about the Battle of Worldliness:
 - A.T. Robertson
 - Warren Wiersbe
 - D. Edmond Hiebert
 - David Jeremiah
 - Frank E. Gaebelein
 - Douglas Moo
 - Harold L. Fickett, Jr.
 - Robert P. Lightner
 - Bernard Thompson
 - Ethel Barrett
 - George Sweeting
 - Bill Meyers
 - R.V.G. Tasker
 - Dr. Harold L. Wilmington
 - John F. Walvoord
 - Roy B. Zuck
 - Jay Vernon McGee
 - Matthew Poole
 - Matthew Henry
 - Harry Trousdale (quotes Amos 3:3)
 - John Wesley
 - Wycliffe Bible Commentary
 - Robert Jamison
 - A.R. Fausett
 - David Brown
 - Marvin R. Vincent

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III. WAYLAY

A. Meaning: surprise, ambush, lay in wait for

1. **Related: lurk, prowl, skulk, slink**
2. **Idioms: lay in wait for, lie in wait for**

Genesis 4:6-7 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts.

Daily Bread reading from April 6, 2014 – Natural tendency to sin, compounded by blind spots that prevent us from seeing our own weaknesses, can lead to toxic choices that ruin us. It is only by submitting to God as He shows us our hearts in His Word that we can live a life that pleases the Master. James 1:14 Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

B. The Flesh

Triad of enemies – Devil, World, and our Flesh

1. Unger’s Bible Dictionary meanings of the word “Flesh”

- a. “In a general sense of the whole animal creation, man or beast” Genesis 6:13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy the whole earth.” [translates as “all people”]
- b. “All life on earth, except those inside the ark” Genesis 6:17 “Behold, I even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish.”
- c. “Male and female of every kind” Genesis 6:19 “And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.”
- d. “Biologically where all species come from” Genesis 7:15-16 So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life. ¹⁶Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered as God had commanded him; and the Lord closed it behind him.
- e. “Every living thing not on the earth, they all died” Genesis 7:21 All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind.
- f. “Within the species you can come up with anything, but you cannot mix 2 species and create a new species” Genesis 8:17 “Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you, birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.”
- g. “Only humans, the elect during the great tribulation” Matthew 24:22 “Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.” The great tribulation will be the worse times this planet has ever seen.
- h. “Span of life for humans” 1 Peter 1:24 For, “ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS, THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF.”

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2. Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary meanings of the word "Flesh"

Sarx has a wider range of meaning in the New Testament than in the Old Testament. Its uses in the New Testament may be analyzed as follows:

- a. "Substance of the body" whether of beasts or of men I Corinthians 15:39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.
- b. "The human body" 2 Corinthians 10:3a For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh...
- c. By Synecdoche, "of mankind, i.e., spirit, soul, and body" Matthew 24:22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.
- d. By synecdoche, "of the holy humanity of the Lord Jesus, in the totality of all that is essential to manhood, i.e., spirit, soul, and body" John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- e. By Synecdoche, "for the complete person" John 6:51-57 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." ⁵² Then the Jews *began* to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us *His* flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me.
- f. "The weaker element in human nature" Matthew 26:41 "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."
- g. "The unregenerate state of men" Romans 7:5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.
- h. "The seat of sin in man" (but this is not the same thing as in the body) 2 Peter 2:18 For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error.
- i. "The lower and temporary element in the Christian" Galatians 3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
- j. "Religious Ordinances Hebrews 9:10 Since they *relate* only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.
- k. "The natural attainments of men" 1 Corinthians 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;
- l. "Circumstances" 1 Corinthians 7:28 But if you marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. Yet such will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.
- m. "Externals of Life" 2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. [Responsibility of the believer.]
- n. By metonymy, "the outward and seeming" as contrasted with the spirit, the inward and real [Certain things believers shouldn't participate in.] John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

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- o. “Natural relationship, consanguine” 1 Corinthians 10:18 Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar?, or “marital” Matthew 19:5 And said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’?

C. Which one?

1. **We have a command in Galatians 5:16** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.
2. **#4561 òápé (Sarx)** is found 151 times in the New Testament, common word, widest translation is “flesh”
 - a. Sarkikos means carnal, fleshly; root of Sarx and Sarkinos – found 11 times in Bible
 - b. Sarkinos means fleshly – found only one time in 2 Corinthians 3:3 Being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

D. Hermeneutics

1. **Cone of Context (very top): word, phrase, or clause**
2. **Words are wedge shaped: broad and narrow meaning**
3. **Prime example of context determining**
 - a. Angelos: the general meaning is “messenger” not “angels” – not divine being, human being
 - b. Bapto: always means to dip, plunge or immerse – Romans 6 you are baptized with Christ

E. Old Man versus New Man

1. **We can choose to do right or wrong** - every believer ought to know this spiritual truth.

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; Paul is giving a spiritual truth to believers. God’s truth says our old self was crucified with Christ, it does not say we will reach a stage of perfection – we consistently sin. So how did it happen? We choose to sin! The Devil gets credit for his intelligence, his tricks and schemes. Ultimately it is our choice to sin.

Ephesians 4:22 That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit. Old is what we were before we were saved, new is new life we have in Christ; unbelievers don’t admit to an ‘old self’.

Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him. There are many Scriptures about lying, it’s a sin to lie – lying shouldn’t be found in Christians lives.

2. **How can we be old man, new man?**

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. [new creature = new creation]

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Old things passed away, decisive change salvation brings. We need to understand crucifixion – we are no longer slaves to sin. World’s answer to man’s sin problem is counseling and drugs. In America pharmaceutical drugs are sold by the *billions of tons*.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus who didn’t understand. We need to understand what it means and how it happens!

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. No water in this baptism! “Therefore” means it’s a done deal for believers. Baptism with the Holy Spirit joins the believer to Christ. Death, Satan, and demons couldn’t hold Christ in death – He rose from the grave! Believers experience changes in attitude that leads to behavioral changes. “Might” refers to personal responsibility.

Galatians 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. God knows ahead of time all we will do, God has things He wants to do in us and through us. Believers, you should be found in Church, serving others and glorifying God!

Ephesians 2:15 By abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace. No longer Jews, but the whole world – believers regardless of their age, height, gender, etc. You have become a part of the body of Christ. We are supposed to end up a new man. Christ will rule with an iron rod during the millennium.

Ephesians 4:24 And put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Discard the old man, be renewed and put on a new self. We are to be slaves to righteousness. Run it through the grid of Scripture!

Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him. Put on new self, it’s how we will have practical sanctification in our lives.

You can’t be unregenerate (old) and regenerate (new) at the same time. You need to decide if you are really saved. A new man is truly saved. You have the grace and power to not do the sinful things you used to do.

3. Sin nature

- a. **Not Eradicated:** *Harmonictia* – Greek for bend, prone, inclined to sin. Scripture says our sin nature is our own fault. Sin is not to reign (rule) in a believer’s life. Our sin nature is not through the bloodline or genes, but through the fall. We still have it somehow, but we’re not the Old Man because now we have the power to not give into sin. The Old Man is not with us anymore, but the sin nature still plagues us. We are saved sinners.
- b. **Crucified:** In Greek *crucify* is to be rendered ineffective, inoperative, helpless. Crucifixion is a means to an end, it was the cruelest death penalty. Look at the picture of a cross, most people were roped to it, Jesus was nailed to the cross. Details of Roman soldiers held the job of crucifying people; failure was not an option for a Roman soldier. They did their job with efficiency and skill, those crucified experienced an agonizing, torturous death. Our sin has

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been crucified with Christ, if only we believe it! Believers who sin have given into the flesh. For a believer to say “I can’t help it,” or “I can’t stop it,” they believe in a lie!

- c. **Why?** Isaiah 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.
4. **Count Upon Romans 6:11** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Wait until you know God’s will before you make a choice if you’re not sure.
5. **Put Off – Put On** - Get rid of bad things (sin) and put on righteousness (sanctification).

There’s a difference from residue and full strength (which the flesh is). As you grow in the Lord, the flesh gets weaker. We are creatures of habit, good habits and bad habits. We can create new good habits when we acknowledge sin in an area. Then the flesh can get weaker in that area.

F. Commentaries on Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

1. **Kenneth Wuest** – “The word flesh refers here to the totally depraved nature of the person, the power of which is broken when the believer is saved. Therefore, the lusts of the flesh refer to the evil desires, impulses, and passions that are constantly arising from the evil nature as smoke rises from a chimney. The evil nature is not eradicated. Its power over the believer is broken, and the believer need not obey it. But it is there, constantly attempting to control the believer as it did before salvation wrought its work in his being.”
2. **John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck** – [The promise of victory over sin.] “The answer to the abuses described in the previous verse is to live by the Spirit. The verb *peripateite* is a present imperative and is literally translated “keep on walking.” As a believer walks through life he should depend on the indwelling Holy Spirit for guidance and power. But the Spirit does not operate automatically in a believer’s heart, He waits to be depended on. When a Christian does yield to the Spirit’s control, the promise is that he will not in anywise (the double negative *ou mē* is emphatic) gratify (*telesēte*, “complete, fulfill in outward action) the desires of the sinful nature. Thus, while no believer will ever be entirely free in this life from the evil desires that stem from his fallen sinful nature, he need not capitulate to them, but may experience victory by the Spirit’s help.”
3. **Warren Wiersbe** – [The Spirit enables us to overcome the flesh.] “The conflict (v.16-17). Just as Isaac and Ishmael were unable to get along, so that Spirit and the flesh (the old nature) are at war with each other. By “the flesh,” of course, Paul does not mean “the body.” The human body is not sinful; it is neutral. If the Holy Spirit controls the body, then we walk in the Spirit, but if the flesh controls the body, then we walk in the lusts (desires) of the flesh. The Spirit and the flesh have different appetites, and this is what creates the conflict.

These opposite appetites are illustrated in the Bible in different ways. For example, the sheep is a clean animal and avoids garbage, while the pig is an unclean animal and enjoys wallowing in filth (2 Peter 2:19-22). After the rain ceased and the ark settled, Noah released a raven which never came back (Genesis 8:6-7). The raven is a carrion-eating bird and found plenty to feed on. But when Noah released the dove (a clean bird), it came back (Genesis 8:8-12). The last time he released the dove and it did not return, he knew that it had found a clean place to settle down; therefore the waters had receded.

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Our old nature is like the pig and the raven, always looking for something unclean on which to feed. Our new nature is like the sheep and the dove, yearning for that which is clean and holy. No wonder a struggle goes on within the life of the believer! The unsaved man knows nothing of this battle because he does not have the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9).”

4. **Jay Vernon McGee** – [Saved by faith and walking in the Spirit produces fruit of the spirit.] “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” – Galatians 5:16. This verse states the great principle of Christian living – *walk by means of the Spirit*. The word for *walk* is *peripateō*, which means just “to walk up and down.” This Greek word was used for a school of philosophy in Athens, Greece, in which the founder walked up and down as he taught. The principle for us is walking in the Spirit. If we do, we will not “fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

The word *lust* in our usage today has an evil connotation, which the Greek word does not have. *Lust* of the flesh refers to the desires of the flesh, many of which are not immoral, but are of the flesh (music, art, and works of do-gooders, etc.). There are many things which in themselves are not evil, but they can take the place of spiritual things. Some Christians can get wrapped up in a hobby which takes them away from the Word of God. Many Christians spend a lot of time worshipping before that little idiot box we call TV. Now don’t misunderstand – I watch TV. I am not under any law that says I can’t watch TV. There are a few programs one can enjoy. But watching TV is a desire of the flesh. If it takes you away from that which is spiritual, then it is wrong.

“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” (Galatians 5:17). A transliteration of this verse will help convey the meaning: “For the flesh *warreth* against the Spirit, and the Spirit *warreth* against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” that is, the things that the old nature wanted to do. This is very important to see the flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh.

A believer has a new nature. This is what our Lord said to Nicodemus when He said “That which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (John 3:6). The believer still has that old nature of the flesh, and he won’t get rid of it in this life. The idea that we can get rid of that old nature is a tragic mistake. John said, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). My friend, if the *truth* is not in you, then you must be a liar. That puts the “perfect” individual in the position of being a liar.

We have two natures – the old and the new. That is what Paul describes in the last part of Romans. He himself experienced the turmoil of two natures, and this has also been the experience of many believers. The flesh wars against the Spirit, and the Spirit wars against the flesh. Therefore, we cannot do the things that we would like to do. The new nature rebels against the old nature. They are contrary; they are at war with each other. Have you experienced this in your own life?

There is a song we sing entitled “Come Thou Fount” by Robert Robinson.

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,

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Call for songs of loudest praise.

It is a wonderful hymn. In the last stanza are these words:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love.

After this song was written, someone looked at it and said, “That is not my experience – I’ll change that.” So in some hymnbooks we find these words:

Prone to worship, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to love the God I serve.

Which is true? Well, both are true. I have a nature that is prone to wander, prone to leave the God I love. There are times when this old nature of mine wants to wander away from the Lord! Have you had this experience? Also I have a new nature that is prone to worship the Lord. There are times when I am riding along alone in my car, and I just cry out to Him, oh, Lord, how wonderful You are! I love You and worship You.” That is the expression of my new nature; my old nature never gets around to praising Him or loving Him. Every believer has an old and a new nature.

There are folk who say, “Well, I can’t tell whether I am walking in the Spirit or not.” Don’t kid yourself about this. You *can* know. Paul has spelled it out here so that you cannot miss it.”

- 5. John MacArthur** – “All believers have the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit (*cf.* Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19,20) as the personal power for living to please God. The form of the Greek verb translated “walk” indicates continuous action, or a habitual lifestyle. Walking also implies progress; as a believer submits to the Spirit’s control, that is, responds in obedience to the simple commands of Scripture – he grows in his spiritual life. The *flesh*, this is not simply the physical body, but includes the mind, will, and emotions which are all subject to sin. It refers in general to our unredeemed humanness. Scripture uses this term in a non-moral sense to describe man’s physical being (John 1:14), and in a morally evil sense to describe man’s unredeemed humanness, that remnant of the old man which will remain with each believer until each receives his or her glorified body. “*In the flesh*” here describes a person who is able to operate only in the sphere of fallen mankind – an unredeemed, unregenerate person (8:9). Although the believer can manifest some of the deeds of the flesh, he can never again be “in the flesh.” *Sinful passions*, the overwhelming impulses to think and do evil by which characterize those who are “in the flesh” (Ephesians 2:3). *Aroused by the law*, the unbeliever’s rebellious nature is awakened when restrictions are placed on him and makes him want to do the very thing the law forbids our members. The sinful passions at work in unbelievers produce a harvest of eternal death.”
- 6. Matthew Henry** – “That there is in every one a struggle between the flesh and the spirit (v.17): The *flesh* (the corrupt and carnal part of us) *lusts* (strives and struggles with strength and vigour) *against the spirit*: it opposes all the motions of the Spirit, and resists everything that is spiritual. On the other hand, the *spirit* (the renewed part of us) strives *against the flesh*, and opposes the will and desire of it: and hence it comes to pass *that we cannot do the things that we would*. As the principle of grace in us will not suffer us to do all the evil which our corrupt nature would prompt us to, so neither can we do all the good that we would, by reason of the oppositions we

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meet with from that corrupt and carnal principle. Even as in a natural man there is something of this struggle (the convictions of his conscience and the corruptions of his own heart strive with one another; his convictions would suppress his corruptions, and his corruptions silence his convictions), so in a renewed man, where there is something of a good principle, there is a struggle between the old nature and the new nature, the remainders of sin and the beginnings of grace; and this Christians must expect will be there exercise as long as they continue in this world.

That is our duty and interest in this struggle to side with the better part, to side with our convictions against our corruptions and with our graces against our lusts. This the apostle represents as our duty, and directs us to the most effectual means of success in it. If it should be asked, 'What course must we take that the better interest may get the better? He gives us one general rule, which, if duly observed, would be the most sovereign remedy against the prevalence of corruptions; and that is to walk in the Spirit (v. 16): *This I say, then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.* By the *Spirit* here may be meant either the Holy Spirit himself, who condescends to dwell in the hearts of those whom he has renewed and sanctified, to guide and assist them in the way of their duty, or that gracious principle which he implants in the soul of his people and which lusts against the flesh, as that corrupt principle which still remains in them does against it. Accordingly the duty here recommended to us is that we set ourselves to act under the guidance and influence of the blessed Spirit, and agreeable to the motions and tendency of the new nature in us; and, if this be our care in the ordinary course and tenour of our lives, we may depend upon it that, though we may not be freed from the stirrings and oppositions of our corrupt nature, we shall be kept from fulfilling it in the lusts thereof; so that though it remain in us, yet it shall not obtain a dominion over us. Note, the best antidote against the poison of sin is to walk in the Spirit, to be much in conversing with spiritual things, to mind the things of the soul, which is the spiritual part of man, more than those of the body which is his carnal part, to commit ourselves to the guidance of the word, wherein the Holy Spirit makes known the will of God concerning us, and in the way of our duty to act in a dependence on his aids and influences. And, this would be the best means of preserving them from fulfilling the lusts of the flesh, so it would be a good evidence that they were Christians indeed; for, says the apostle (v.18), *If you be led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*"

- 7. A. R. Fausett** – "The spirit and the flesh mutually exclude one another. It is promised, not that we should have no evil lusts, but that we should "not *fulfill*" them. If the spirit in us can be at ease under sin, it is not a spirit that comes from the Holy Spirit. The gentle dove trembles at the sight even of a hawk's feather. *For* - the reason why walking by the Spirit will exclude fulfilling the lusts of the flesh; viz., their mutual contrariety. *The Spirit* – not "lusteth," but *tendeth* (or some such word) against the flesh.' *So that ye cannot do* (so as to be an obstacle to your doing) *the things that ye would.* The Spirit (in the beginning stage of one's repentance) strives against the flesh and its evil influence; the flesh against the Spirit and His good influence; so *that neither the one nor the other can be fully carried out into action.* "But" (v.18) where "the Spirit" prevails, the struggle no longer continues doubtful. The Greek is, 'that ye may not do whatsoever things ye would.' 'The flesh and the Spirit are contrary one to the other.' *So that you must not fulfill what you desire according to the carnal self, but what the Spirit within you desires.*"

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8. **Homer A. Kent, Jr.** – [The obligation to walk by the Spirit.] “Walking is often used by Paul as a metaphor for daily living since it so aptly suggests the progressive round of activities which comprise the routine of life. Here the Holy Spirit is named as the agent who desires to regulate the believer’s walk. This is the meaning of another New Testament expression, “filled with the Spirit” (cf. Ephesians 5:18). When the believer submits his will to the control of the Holy Spirit instead of to the desires of his fleshly nature, his walk will be in the true liberty of the sons of God. It will “not at all carry out the desire of the flesh.” The negative is emphatic in the original text. The two procedures are opposites. If one is controlled by the Holy Spirit, he will of necessity be proceeding in a direction away from the sinful desires of the flesh.

Some have regarded *pneuma* in this verse as a reference to the human spirit rather than the Holy Spirit, largely on the supposition that flesh and spirit form a better pair of opposites than flesh and the Holy Spirit. However, a closer examination reveals that flesh and spirit are not true opposites, for the human spirit is part of the flesh (note the list of flesh sins in 5:19-21). The only way to make them opposites is to treat “spirit” as the regenerated spirit of man and then the Holy Spirit has been brought into the picture. It is preferable, therefore, to regard the contrast as between the old nature of man (“flesh”) and the new nature controlled by the Holy Spirit.”

9. **Dr. M.R. DeHaan** – “*For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself* (Galatians 5:14). But who can say that he has always done this? Instead, the next verse is too tragically, and often, true: *But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another* (Galatians 5:15). When then shall we do? Here is the answer (verse 16): *This I say then, WALK in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law* (Galatians 5:16-18).

Every believer still has within him the old nature – the flesh; it is not eradicated, but is to be made subject to, conquered by, the new nature. The terrible mistake made by so many misinformed Christians is trying to gain the victory by their own efforts, by the works of the law, instead of a complete yielding and surrender to the Spirit of God. Paul’s advice is: . . . *Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh* (Galatians 5:16).

Our hope of victory lies not in the law, or our good resolutions and intentions, but in complete submission and yielding to the Spirit’s word of grace. How clearly it is stated in Titus 2:11-12: *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.* And Paul states it again as follows: *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law* (Galatians 5:18).”

10. **Lehman Strauss** – “Now follows the remedy: *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh* (5:16). By “the lust of the flesh” is meant the sinful desires of the “Old Self” before conversion. Right here we arrive at the crux and climax of the Christian’s problem – the Spirit versus the Flesh. As sons of Adam we inherit the flesh; as sons of God we are given a new life and nature which is subject to the Holy Spirit. The two are contrary since their aims and purposes are diametrically opposed (5:17). Dr. Harrison has suggested that in one sense, the Christian has a harder time than other folks. If I am an unsaved man and want to do a thing, I go

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ahead and do it. If I am a saved man, I may want to do it and the Spirit may say, “No, you are not to do it.” Now by walking in the realm of the Spirit, for He is the One who can help us. A holy life is never produced by ourselves through our own strength, but by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Our department is not guided by the old nature. If it were, we could only fulfill the desires of that evil nature; but the Holy Spirit has been given to us to liberate us from the enslavement to sin, and free us to choose the right.

The conflict spoken of in 5:17 doubtless had been the experience of the Galatians. They discovered that the Christian life could not be maintained without a struggle, the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. Paul describes this struggle more fully in Romans 7:7-25. Now the believer must choose his master. Will his master be the law, which can produce only the works of the flesh? Or will his master be the Spirit of God?”

- 11. Dr. J. B. Lightfoot** - Between the *Spirit* and the *flesh* there is not only no alliance; there is an interminable, deadly feud. (You feel these antagonistic forces working in you; you would fain follow the guidance of your conscience, and you are dragged back by an opposing power.) And if you adopt the rule of the *Spirit*, you thereby renounce your allegiance to the *law*.

In this passage the Spirit is doubly contrasted, first, with the *flesh*, and secondly, with the *law*. The flesh and the law are closely allied: they both move in the same element, in the sphere of outward and material things. The law is not only no safeguard against the flesh, but rather provokes it; and he who would renounce the flesh, must renounce the law also. We have here germs of the ideas more fully developed in the Epistle to the Romans.

- 12. Dr. Marvin R. Vincent** – *Walk*. Frequent in a metaphorical sense for *habitual conduct*. See Mark 7:5, James 8:12, Acts 21:21, Romans 6:4, I Corinthians 3:3, Philippians 3:18. Never by Paul in the literal sense.

In the Spirit. Rather, *by the Spirit*, as the rule of action. Comp. Galatians 6:16, Philippians 3:16, Romans 4:12.

Fulfill. Bring to fulfillment in action. See or do the law, verse 3.

The lust. Frequent in Paul, and usually in a bad sense; but see Philippians 1:23, I Thessalonians 2:17, and compare Lamentations 22:15. The phrase *lust* or *lusts of the flesh* occurs also Ephesians 2:3, 2 Peter 2:18, I John 2:16. It means, not the mere sensual desire of the physical nature, but the desire which is peculiar to human nature without the divine Spirit.

Are contrary. The verb means to lie opposite to; hence *to oppose, withstand*. The sentence these *to the other* is not parenthetical.

So that. Connect with *these are contrary*, etc. Does not express *result*, but *purpose, to the end that* – the purpose of the two contending desires. The intent of each principle in opposing the other is to prevent man’s doing what the other principle moves him to do.

Cannot do. A mistake, growing out of the misinterpretation of “*So That*” noted above. Rather, each works *to the end that ye may not do*, etc.

The things that ye would. The things which you will do under the influence of either the two contending principles. There is a *mutual* conflict of two powers. If one wills to do good, he is opposed by the flesh if to do evil, by the Spirit.

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13. Dr. Harry A. Ironside – The present section of this epistle brings before us the truth, in a very marked way, of the two natures in the believer. It is important to remember that when God saves us He does not destroy the carnal nature which we received at our natural birth. The new birth does not imply the elimination of that old carnal nature, neither does it imply a change in it, but rather the impartation of an absolutely new nature born of the Holy Spirit of God, and these two natures abide side by side in the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. This explains the conflict that many of us have known since we have been converted. In fact, I need not have said, “many of us,” for all converted people know at one time or another something of that conflict between the flesh and the Spirit. Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh” – that is, the old nature – “that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” – that is the new nature, and these two natures abide side by side until we receive the redemption of the body which will be at the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ, when He will transform this body of our humiliation and make it like unto the body of His glory. Then we will be delivered forever from all inward tendency to sin. Until then we have to learn, and sometimes by very painful experiences, that the carnal nature, that old nature, “is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Romans 8:7).

That old nature is so corrupt, so vile, that it can never be sanctified, and the new nature is so pure, so holy, that it does not need to be sanctified. So there is no mention in Scripture of the sanctification of the old nature. What is it then that needs to be sanctified? It is the man himself, and he is sanctified as he learns to walk in accordance with the dictates of the new nature. He is directed by the Holy Spirit of God, for the believer is not only born of the Spirit but indwelt by the Spirit.

We are not to confound new birth by the Spirit with the reception of the Spirit. New birth is the operation of the Spirit of God. He it is who produces the new birth through the Word. We receive the Word in faith, we believe the Word, and the Spirit of God through the Word brings about new birth. The apostle James says, “Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth” (James 1:18). The apostle Peter says, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever... And this is the Word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (I Peter 1:23, 25). And when I believe that Word I am born again; that is an inward change. It is the impartation of a new life; it is eternal life. But there is something more than that. It was always true in all dispensations, from Adam down to the day of Pentecost, that wherever people believed God’s Word they were born again, but the Holy Spirit Himself as a divine Person had not then come to dwell within them. Now since Pentecost, upon believing, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of God. He creates the new nature, and then comes to indwell the one who is thus born again, and as the believer learns to recognize the fact that the Spirit of God dwells within him, and as he turn everything over to His control, he finds deliverance from the power of inbred sin.

Notice how the apostle puts it here: This I say then, Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust (or, the desire) of the flesh.” It is so easy to fulfil the desire of the flesh. We must not link with that word “lust” the idea that it always means things base and unclean. The word itself simply means “desire,” and whatever the desire of the flesh is it is always hateful to God. Here may be one who desire all kinds of carnal indulgences, and we have no difficulty in realizing the vileness of that, but here is another who desire worldly fame, the praise and adulation of his fellows, and that is also the lust of the flesh, or mind, and is as obnoxious to God

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as the other. Any kind of a carnal or fleshly desire is a lust, and if we would be delivered from walking according to these selfish lusts we must walk in the Spirit.

It is one thing to have the Spirit indwelling us, and quite another to walk in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit implies that the Holy Spirit is controlling us, and we can walk in the Spirit only as our lives are truly surrendered to Christ. Somebody says, “Well then, I understand you mean to tell us that all believers possess the Holy Spirit, but that many of us have never received the second blessing, and are not filled with the Spirit.” I do not find the term, “second blessing,” in Scripture, though I admit that in the lives of many Christians there is an experience that answers to what people call “the second blessing.” Many Christians have lived for years on a rather low, somewhat carnal, worldly plane. They love the Lord, they love His Word, they love to attend the ordinances of His house, they enjoy Christian fellowship, and seek to walk as upright men and women through this world, but they have never truly yielded themselves and all their ransomed powers wholly to the Lord. There is something they are keeping back, some controversy with God, and as long as this continues there will always be conflict and defeat, but when one comes to the place where he heeds the Word, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present (that you surrender, hand over your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1) – when one makes that surrender there is indeed in the life what answers to a kind of second blessing; that is, the Spirit of God is now free to take possession of that believer, and operate through him and use him for the glory of God in a way He could not do as long as that man or woman was not wholly surrendered to the Lord.

We speak a great deal about “full surrender,” and yet, I am afraid, some of us use the term in a very careless way. It is of no use to speak of being fully surrendered to God if I am still seeking my own interest. If I am self-centered, if I am hurt because people do not praise me, or if I am lifted up because they do, then the Spirit of God does not have His way with me. If Christ Himself is not the one object before my soul, if I cannot say, “For me to live is Christ,” if my great concern is not that Christ should be magnified in me whether by life or by death, then I am not yet wholly surrendered to Him. If I cannot say from the heart, “Not my will, but Thine,” there is no use in talking about being surrendered to Christ. The surrendered believer is no longer seeking his own but the things which belong to Christ Jesus. That is the man who “walks in the Spirit.” “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

The conflict is shown in verse 17: “For the flesh lusteth (or desireth) against the Spirit, and the Spirit against (or contrary to) the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other.” It is not exactly, “So that ye *cannot* do the things that ye would,” for God has made provision that we might do the things that we would, but it should be rendered, “So that ye *may not* do the things that ye would.” Here is conflict in the believer’s breast.

14. Dr. Alexander Maclaren – 1826-1910 Born in Glasgow, while in Manchester acquired reputation of “the prince of expository preachers”.

We are not to suppose that the Apostle here uses the familiar contrast of spirit and flesh to express simply different elements of human nature. Without entering here on questions for which a sermon is scarcely a suitable vehicle of discussion, it may be sufficient for our present purpose to say that, as usually, when employing this antithesis the Apostle means by Spirit the

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divine, the Spirit of God, which he triumphed in proclaiming to be the gift of every believing soul. The other member of the contrast, 'flesh' is similarly not to be taken as equivalent to body, but rather as meaning the whole human nature considered as apart from God and kindred with earth and earthly things. The flesh, in its narrower sense, is no doubt a predominant part of this whole, but there is much in it besides the material organization. The ethics of Christianity suffered much harm and were degraded into a false and slavish asceticism for long centuries, by monastic misunderstandings of what Paul meant by the flesh, but he himself was too clear-sighted and too high-toned to give his adhesion to the superficial notion that the body is the seat and source of sin. We need to look no further than the catalogue of the 'works of the flesh' which immediately follows our text for, although it begins with gross sins of a purely fleshly kind, it passes on to such as hatred, emulations, wrath, envying and suchlike. Many of these works of the flesh are such as an angel with an evil heart could do, whether he had a body or not. It seems therefore right to say that the one member of the contrast is the divine Spirit of holiness, and the other is man as he is, without the life-giving influence of the Spirit of God. In Paul's thought the idea of the flesh always included the idea of sin, and the desires of the flesh were to him not merely rebellious, sensuous passion, but the sinful desires of godless human nature, however refined, and as some would say, 'spiritual' these might be. We do not need to inquire more minutely as to the meaning of the Apostle's terms, but may safely take them as, on the one hand, referring to the divine Spirit which imparts life and holiness, and on the other hand, to human nature severed from God, and distracted by evil desires because wrenched away from Him. The text is Paul's battle-cry, which he opposed to the Judaizing disturbers in Galatia. They said, 'Do this and that; labour at a round of observances; live by rule.' Paul said, 'No! That is of no use; you will make nothing of such an attempt nor will ever conquer evil so. Live by the spirit and you will not need a hard outward law, nor will you be in bondage to the works of the flesh.' That feud in the Galatian churches was the earliest battle which Christianity had to fight between two eternal tendencies of thought – the conception of religion as consisting in outward obedience to a law, and consequently as made up of a series of painful efforts to keep it, and the conception of religion as being first the implanting of a new, divine life, and needing only to be nourished and cared for in order to drive forth evils from the heart, and so to show itself living. The difference goes very far and very deep, and these two views of what religion is have each their adherents today. The Apostle throws the whole weight of his authority into the one scale, and emphatically declares this as the one secret of victory, 'Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh.' What is it to walk in the Spirit: The thought which is but touched upon here is set forth more largely, and if we may so say, profoundly, in the Epistle to the Romans (ch.8). There, to walk after the flesh, is substantially the same as to be carnally minded, and that 'mind of the flesh' is regarded as being by fatal necessity not 'subject to the law of God,' and consequently as in itself, with regard to future consequences, to be death. The fleshly mind which is thus in rebellion against the law of God is sure to issue in 'desires of the flesh.'

G. Conclusion (of the Flesh)

1. **"Fifth – Columnist"** - There is a spy in our midst, the enemy is already inside us.
2. **Traitor: collaborate with enemy – is one** - their end is your destruction, they cannot be trusted, trying to do you in. We are a traitor when we collaborate with the flesh.

We have to be biblical fighters.

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IV. WARRIOR

A. Biblical

You may not think of yourself as a warrior, but you need to be a biblical warrior! Do it in the wrong way and you're in the Flesh, do it in the right way and you're in the Spirit.

1. **Names for believers:** slave, servant, child of God, joint heir, farmer, wrestler, soldier, etc.

2. **Warrior – lots of time?**

a. **Isaiah 9:5** For every boot of the booted warrior in the *battle* tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. Hebrew: soldier, shod, ready to do battle. In context what to look for in the Messiah, when He comes, there's no need for warrior's boots.

b. **I Kings 12:21** Now when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. Primary root: a fighting man to be a warrior.

II Chronicles 11:1 Now when Rehoboam had come to Jerusalem, he assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin, 180,000 chosen men who were warriors, to fight against Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam. Hebrew: a battler, a fighter.

B. Dictionary Meaning

1. **New Webster's Dictionary: "Warrior"** A man engaged or experienced in war, or in the military life; a soldier, a champion.

2. **Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary 1954: "Warrior"** A man engaged or experienced in warfare, a person who fights in battles and is known for having courage and skill.

3. **Soldier:** One who is engaged in military service; one who serves in an army; one of an organized body of combatants; a brave warrior.

C. **Gender Problem?** We only have a gender problem if we think warriors are only men. When it comes to a woman and spiritual warfare, women are absolutely included as warriors.

1. **Deborah: Judges 4:4-15** Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

⁵ She used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment. ⁶ Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, "Behold, the LORD, the God of Israel, has commanded, 'Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun.' ⁷ I will draw out to you Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his many *troops* to the river Kishon, and I will give him into your hand.'" ⁸ Then Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

⁹ She said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the honor shall not be yours on the journey that you are about to take, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

¹⁰ Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh, and ten thousand men went up with him; Deborah also went up with him. ¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite had separated himself from the Kenites, from the sons of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaanannim, which is near Kedesh. ¹² Then they told Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor. ¹³ Sisera called together all his chariots, nine hundred iron chariots, and all the people who *were* with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon. ¹⁴ Deborah said to Barak, "Arise! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hands; behold, the LORD has gone out before you." So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him. ¹⁵ The LORD routed Sisera and all *his* chariots and all *his* army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from *his* chariot and fled away on foot.

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2. **Dani Kins** – **A6** currently a Navy pilot, has served multiple tours overseas
3. **Rachel Flint** served in South Carolina
4. **Spiritual warfare** – **Women are to be warriors**, they are to fight their own battles in the Spirit.

D. Imaginary Fantasy/Dream Warrior Characteristics

Hollywood has created and popularized an unrealistic persona for the ultimate warrior. All believers are warriors, regardless of your age, race, or gender.

1. **Strong Physique, Muscular**
2. **Handsome**
3. **Tall**
4. **Shoulder Length Hair? Curly?**

E. Three Essentials a Warrior Must Be

1. **Fearless:** If you depend on your size or anything else about yourself, you're not fearless. God commands us not to be afraid; a spirit of fear is not from God! The world teaches fear is healthy, we default to fear. Many times in Scripture God commands us not to be afraid. Sometimes God wants us to step into a situation that we have to be totally dependent on Him. "Perfect love casts out fear." Fear vs. defense mechanisms – example: come around a corner into a grizzly bear.
 - a. **David** was a shepherd boy who fought Goliath. The Hebrew camp was full of scared soldiers, none would battle the Philistines.
 - b. **Elijah** ran from Jezebel, but took on 800 pagans.
2. **Well Trained:** Because of Spiritual Battles, new believers need to be trained and disciplined, they must receive teaching, counseling and preaching to grow. Study 2 Timothy 2:12, we are to teach and train others what we know.
3. **Obeys:** Loving obedience and willing obedience; a warrior obeys. Obedience is stressed in every book of the Bible.

F. Source of Strength

1. **Be Strong – Commandment (Past Tense):** Whether you want to or not, we are commanded to do something we can't do on our own.
 - Present tense = right now, in the moment, continually
 - Passive voice = the source of the action doesn't come from yourself
 - When God says to do something and we don't, then we are in sin!
 - Prepositional phrase "in the Lord" means it's supernatural, a nonbeliever can't do it
 - Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit. Holy Spirit control. Uses the illustration of drink, but can be applied to anything that consumes you, don't let anything else be in control of your life.

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2. **Literally “Be Continually Strengthened”** we must receive our strength from the Holy Spirit, we cannot do it on our own or make it happen.

3. **“In the Lord”** is the only way this can be done, it’s supernatural.

4. **“In” Location of Sphere, The Strength of His Might**

- Wuest: “The active efficacy of the might that is inherent in Him”
- Strength is available from God. As a warrior, we have been given marching orders: always be strong in the Lord. We are the breakdown when we refuse to be obedient. Looking at all God is – omnipotent (all powerful) God wants to give us His strength so we can show ourselves strong. We should be ready and willing!

G. Essential Order (Command) Scripture tells us how to put on the armor of God. We are to be strong at all times with the supernatural strength of God.

1. **“Put On”**

- This is a command. “Put on” means to clothe with, to position yourself inside of, be wrapping yourself with. It is a personal responsibility to put on the armor of God. He could do it for us, He’s a big God, but then we would lose free will. Our loving obedience comes from the right heart.
- I Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. When you figure up what has been done for us, it shouldn’t be hard to be lovingly obedient.

2. **“the”... of God**

- “The” is a definite article. Has to be the way God wants it done, any other way is sin. God’s armor is nothing man can manufacture or create a substitute for.
- 2 Timothy 2:3-4 Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier. Be careful because you can become so busy you don’t and/or can’t serve God.

3. **“full armor”**

- From Greek: each and every piece, it all has to be complete, you must be fully armed and not lacking any piece (we can’t pick and choose which pieces to wear).
- Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Focus on God, not the circumstances.

4. **“so, that”**

- Most professing Christians don’t know they’re in a war which is why they continually loose so many battles.

5. **“able”**

- “Be strong” is a command, you must be continually strengthened from God.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE STUDY

- Our life has to be run (controlled) by the Holy Spirit. He won't make it happen, we are to be obedient and yield to Him.
- We obey as we go through circumstances in God's strength, it's a witness to unbelievers. The strength of God is active in us, because we are obeying His command.
- Spiritual wars must be fought supernaturally. If you put on every piece of armor you will be able – God is saying “Do it my way and you will be able”.
- You can be terribly wounded, but win the battle, it's a battle in our hearts and minds (spiritual battles inside us).

6. “stand firm”

- Comes from Greek military term *posture* (offence and defense): one foot out, one foot back to keep you from falling and also allows you to go instantly forward. Roman soldiers were taught this stance.

7. “against”

- Adversaries listed in Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Notice *against* is listed multiple times, they are against us.

8. “schemes”

- Methods and crafts of the Devil. Scripture is clear that this is the Devil's planet, people live on a planet of lies and fantasy, the Devil intends to deceive everyone.
- When you look at where Christianity started and spread to, Christianity is miniscule in population because people are not putting on the armor of God.

9. Struggle

- “Struggle” or “wrestle” is a Greek athletic term for a close contact sport between two people whose goal is to overpower the opponent and pin them to the ground. The winner would hold his foot on the loser's neck to show he won. In ancient Greece, the loser in the wrestling contest had his eyes gouged out. The Christian's wrestling against the powers of darkness is no less desperate and fateful.

10. Not Negative

- Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. The one we're standing against is the devil. Emphasis is on each battle, if you lose a battle you will regret the loss.

11. “flesh and blood”

a. Sinners and Sinning Saints

- Our battles are not against flesh and blood (physical people) we think they are, but Scripture says differently.

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- We can get the wrong mindset and set ourselves up higher than others. We fall into one of two categories, lost sinners or saved sinners – but, we’re all still sinners.

b. We Can’t Outsmart, Overpower, Outnumber

- We can’t win against what we’re up against without God and without the full armor of God. We need to understand who we’re up against.

c. Did you know this when you were not saved?

John 8:37-47 I know that you are Abraham’s descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. ³⁸I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from *your* father.” ³⁹They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you are Abraham’s children, do the deeds of Abraham. ⁴⁰But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. ⁴¹You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.” ⁴²Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. ⁴³Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word. ⁴⁴You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁶Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? ⁴⁷He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God.”

II Corinthians 4:4 In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

- Our job is to give the gospel and live out the gospel.

12. Supernatural, Demonic, Innumerable

- Devil, himself** – the devil rules this planet, yet many don’t believe in a personal devil
- Archē** – the principalities and powers are the archē, “first ones, preeminent ones, leaders”
- Kosmokratōr** – the rulers of the darkness of this world, the *kosmokratōr*, “the world-rulers of this darkness” are Satan and his demons, there is structured leadership from generals down to privates in the devil’s army
- “Against” Underline 5 times, means to withstand, oppose**

Because our wrestling is not *against* blood and flesh, but *against* principalities, *against* the authorities, *against* the world-rulers of this darkness, *against* spirit-forces of perniciousness in the heavenly places. Archangel Michael wrestled with a demon that caused him to be delayed.

13. “therefore” – What’s the “there” there for?

“Therefore” is a pointy-word, going back to what has been taught before, based on everything that has been said, as a summation to “stand firm”.

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14. “Take Up”

Literally means to “take unto you” or to “take to one’s self”. This is our personal responsibility!

- a. **Command** – The verb is aorist imperative, the construction issues a command given with military snap and curtness, a command to be obeyed at once and once for all.
- b. **Wuest** – “The Christian is to take up and put on all the armor of God as a once-for-all act and keep that armor on during the entire course of his life, not relaxing the discipline necessary for the constant use of such protection.”
- c. **No Other Way**

II Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight; 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

15. Full Armor of God

- a. **Paul – Roman imprisonment Acts 28:30-31** And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters and was welcoming all who came to him, ³¹preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered. **(in or vicinity of Praetorian guard)**

- b. **Armor – Every Israelite Saw Daily**

Paul was a Roman citizen and it was the Roman military power ruled Ephesus, so everyone was familiar with how the Roman soldiers dressed because they saw the soldiers every day.

- c. **“so that” – see vs. 11b – pointy word = purpose**

A conclusion within a conclusion: so that you = it’s our individual responsibility. We need God’s armor in its completeness, without lacking any single part.

- d. **“you will” – can’t “be able” supernatural**

God gives us everything we need for the tests and trials He allows in our lives, but it is our responsibility to put on the armor in order to be successful.

- e. **“to resist” #436 listed 14 times in New Testament means to withstand/withstood, to set against, resist, oppose**

At home where you’re comfortable, you may need to stand against something and say, “This is wrong.” Even with adult children, God may lead you at times to talk to them in love about what is truth. Jesus’ hardest language was against the Jewish religious leaders. At the Bema seat we will be held accountable for what we did not oppose. We are to say something and/or vote against what is wrong.

- f. **“the evil day” why the – not a particular – yours**

God never intended even the best Christian to accomplish anything in the flesh. We have to live by faith, not by circumstances or our senses. Withstanding, opposing, resisting is the life of a Christian. This has to be done correctly and in love.

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- g. “stand firm” #2476 listed 155 times in New Testament, #7:636 means to be steadfast, secure, rooted

Don't have any sins hindering you from standing firm!

- H. **Full armor of God - Ephesians 6:14-18** Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. ¹⁷And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.

So what is the armor we're to wear? It's not physical, but spiritual armor. We should always have our armor on, because, there is no other way to fight these supernatural spiritual battles. We are in many battles every day, so moment by moment we need to be wearing our armor. It is our responsibility to put on each piece of armor. If we don't we're saying to God that we have a better way and we're in sin.

1. The Belt of Truth [Be truthful, genuine, real, integrity]

- a. *Alētheia* – translated as “truth content”, opposite of false, “truth as the Word of God”; it is an attitude or character of honesty, integrity, truth telling – “genuineness” “for real”

Satan will send teachings that are cunningly deceiving. Those false truths are the wiles of the devil. The only way you can resist the lies of the devil is to have the truth. Satan attacks with lies, since a believer is in a war, he must know the truth.

- b. KJV “loins girt about with truth”

NIV “belt of truth buckled around your waist”

NASB “having girded your loins with the truth”

AMP “having tightened the belt of truth around your loins”

“Naked” meant something different in the Old Testament and New Testament times, the outer garments were laid aside and they were “stripped down for action” to their girdle. Girding the loins meant gathering up the loose material of the tunic when getting ready to leave. It refers to readiness or preparedness. Roman soldiers wore a tunic that was a large square piece of material that had holes for the head and arms, and it hung low and loose over the body. A soldier never started on a journey with a loose tunic.

- c. **Belt – important, useful, necessary, now prepared**

Exodus 12:11 Now you shall eat it in this manner: *with* your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD'S Passover.

When the children of Israel were called by God to leave for the Promised Land, they needed to have their loins girded up. It was a common phrase for someone taking a journey. They rolled themselves round and round in the belt and tucked their outer garment into it to run. The Hebrew's underwear was called “linens.” The belt symbolizes preparedness. The belt is very important and very useful, absolutely necessary to be prepared and protected in spiritual battles.

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d. **Protect –most vulnerable**

I Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Roman soldiers fought in hand-to-hand combat. They didn't want anything entangling them, he would make sure his tunic was girded (secured) in a way to give him mobility and flexibility. The affairs of this life have the same effect on the Christian soldier. The mind is the most sensitive part for the battle, you must be prepared in your mind.

e. **Content – many have, to varying degrees, don't use**

Referring to attitude, not content. We're trying to prepare and protect our decision making process, the way we think. From Wuest, the belt is needed to make it, essential part of equipment of a soldier, a special part to keep the other parts in place. It means "openness, truthfulness, no deceit, no disguises in his communication with God." In order to walk with God, you have to walk in the Spirit and this is how it has to be as a true believer. God can work in and through this person, the others He is working on. When you put your belt on, you reveal an attitude of readiness and commitment, you need to fight without hypocrisy.

f. **Cf. Sword – later in list of armor**

It was common for a Roman soldier to wear a strap, it connected to the belt in the front, went over the soldier's shoulder, and connected to the belt in the back. He could attach his sword to it. The sword of the Spirit is attached to the belt of truth, indicating that truth is revealed in the Word.

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. [Dedicated service to God.] Transitional verses to go from believing the truth in the first 11 chapters, to practicing the truth as set out in the rest of Romans. You are not your own, you are not in charge – God is!

g. **Attitude/Character – committed, real, genuine**

We are to be committed to Christ. The safest place in the universe is in the center of God's will. God has given us all the resources we need to win our spiritual battles. We are most vulnerable in the loins of our mind, and we are commanded to renew our mind.

h. **Wait a minute – Doesn't God love believers who are hypocrites, angry, bitter, etc. in sin? Yes, but they don't have their armor on, they're in the flesh.**

What you do is based on what you believe. We should hate sin. If you are in known sin, then you don't have on the armor of God.

Belt of Truth Summary: Purpose of the belt is to protect and prepare us. We are to be genuine with God. We have to protect our minds, the most vulnerable and soft part of us, a major artery. The Belt of Truth is we have to be genuine and real and honest.

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2. The Breastplate of Righteousness [Practical Sanctification]

a. Previously

- 1) **Personal responsibility** of the believer to put on the armor of God
- 2) **Assuming it has been done** “having put on” means you have made the conscious choice to do it God’s way and have this armor on.

b. Breastplate

- 1) **Different models** – Chevy to Mercedes “the” breastplate is the one God has designed for us.
- 2) **Heavy material** – With protective plating fastened to front.
- 3) **Molded metal** – preformed, covered whole front, all of torso (front and sides)

c. Protects

In the kinds of battles the Romans were in, they need to protect the area from the neck to the thighs. The breastplate covered several vital areas: the heart, lungs, pancreas, liver, intestines, a major artery. In ancient days, the breastplate was considered to protect the heart and bowels.

1) Abdomen area

When the Hebrew referred to the bowels, he was referring to feelings and emotions. We ache in our stomach when we feel certain emotions, that’s why the Hebrew thought the bowels were a good way to demonstrate emotions.

2) Lungs

3) Heart – major veins, arteries

To the Jew, the heart symbolically represented the mind (the thinking process). Satan wants to attack a believer in two areas primarily: thinking and emotions.

d. Of Righteousness – there are 3 kinds of righteousness:

1) Self-righteousness/righteousness

There are people who think they’re righteous just because they’re good people. Satan is very powerful yet there are people who think they can handle him. If you think you can be righteous on your own, you are self-righteous and in sin.

2) Imputed righteousness

At the moment of your salvation God clothes you in the righteousness of Jesus. From that moment throughout eternity, whenever God looks at you, He sees the righteousness of Jesus. It’s a positional standing that you are “not guilty.” Being in a right relationship with God is moment-by-moment living a righteous life.

3) Practical or personal righteousness – used here as part of the armor

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How we choose to live, i.e. Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. Ephesians 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise.

Choosing to do all that God says to do and choosing to not do all that God says not to do is loving obedience. Consider the words from the song *Trust and Obey*.

The breastplate of righteousness protects our knowledge, understanding, will, desires, drives, affections, feelings, and emotions. We are saints and need to make our choices accordingly. God is in charge and He still lets us choose.

Paper Armor: John MacArthur said “Today, I see Christians tying on paper armor. You may be familiar with the paper bib you put on little children when you eat out at a restaurant. I see that as the typical Christian breastplate. It’s absolutely useless. It’s made up of a system, method, or program. If someone is having problems in his family, he is told that he needs ten to twelve sessions with a counselor. That is a paper breastplate. But that’s not what he needs. He needs about ten or twelve hours in the presence of God until he sorts out the unholy characteristics in his life and gets right with Him. We don’t need more programs and methods; we need holiness in our lives. Our society is drowning in a sea of immorality, materialism, and humanism. It has engulfed and victimized us to the point that we easily bypass personal holiness. Even in the name of Jesus Christ and under the banner of ministries we substitute paper armor: programs, techniques, and methods. I call that Christian *stuff*. It has no lasting beneficial effect.”

3. **The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace** [Standing firm to battle Satan, you know who you are in God and what you can do through Him.]
 - a. **“and having”**
 - 1) **Personal responsibility** of the believer to put on the armor of God
 - 2) **Outlook that it has been done** – You have to be established and securely rooted for this battle with the devil and his hoards. If he can’t destroy us, he wants to severely cripple us. Stand, stand, resist, stand firm!
 - b. **“shod”** – Shoe or footwear is properly secured, is to be a permanent piece of armor.
 - c. **“feet”** – Not shoe as we know it. The Roman soldier wore sandals which were bound by thongs over the instep and around the ankle, and the soles were thickly studded with nails. These shoes gave the soldier firmness of footing so he could stand in the battle, hold his ground and make quick moves without slipping, sliding, or falling.
 - d. **“with the preparation”** - The word “preparation” means to be “made ready or equipped.” Your feet should be made ready by being shod, they should be equipped and prepared.
 - 1) **Established, firm footing, secure**

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Unless you can stand on your feet, you're going to fall. It's so important to have a solid base.

- 2) **Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.
- 3) **Stand Ephesians 6:11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

e. "gospel of peace"

- 1) **Count upon who you are** - We are on God's side and He's on our side. The good news of right standing with God. You've been justified and are being sanctified daily. Before salvation we were enemies of God. God through His Son saves us. We're saved and we know it!

Romans 8:31-39 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³ Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴ who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." ³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 1:3-14 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2) **Count upon what (by God's grace) you can do** – God often asks us to step out and do something we're uncomfortable with. See what He can do through you.

Philippians 1:20-21 According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my

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body, whether by life or by death.; 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. We are to live a godly life, run well and finish/die well. A Christian should not have fear of death. If you die and go to be with Christ forever, what's the bad news?

Romans 6:6-14 Knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. ¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Because of what Christ did on the cross, our old self is dead. We can count on that and say “no” to sin.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Be strong not in the power of our will, secular psychology, etc. but in the Lord.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord. Steadfast, immovable, it's all about your right standing with God and what you can do through Christ.

Know who you are (in God) and what you're capable of doing through God. We are to fill our minds with Christ and never empty it.

Transition to next three pieces of armor: “in addition to all” – Ephesians 6:16 begins with the words, “Above all.” That does not mean the shield of faith is the most important piece of armor. Paul does not even deal with the issue of importance. All the pieces of armor are essential. Paul is saying in addition to your belt, your breastplate, and your shoes, to take “the shield of faith... and the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.” The phrase “above all” introduces the three remaining pieces of armor.

4. The Shield of Faith [Believing in God and everything He says.]

a. “Taking Up” participate

- 1) **Personal responsibility** of the believer to put on the armor of God
- 2) **Assuming it has been done** – God doubly protects His children. The remaining three pieces of armor: the shield, helmet and sword - provide double protection.

b. Shield

1) Many different sizes, shapes and materials

There were several kinds of shields used by different armies in Roman times. For the believer, the shield of faith is sufficient whatever the battle we face.

- 2) **Roman's shield** was large, thick plank of wood 2 ½' x 4 ½', covered with metal or leather, several inches thick, leather treated with a special oil to put out flames.

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A shield this size would provide total protection, they only had to stick it in the ground and get behind it. The shield was designed for full protection.

- All Roman soldiers held their shield on the left arm and their sword in the right hand. Theoretically the weaker arm held the shield.
- Phalanx is the first squad of soldiers, they became a tank, moving in unison. When the Roman army fought, they would form a wall with soldiers carrying shields who stood in front of the troops. As the army moved toward the enemy, the soldiers in front would plant their shields side-by-side, creating a huge wall of protection. From behind that wall the archers would fire their arrows at the enemy. In this manner, the army inched its way towards the enemy until they could engage in hand-to-hand combat.

c. Of Faith

1) Having confidence in, clinging to God and His promises

The shield is your protection, believe in God and His promises.

2) Believing, not just head and trusting

- “believe” also translated faith and trust – word always means clinging to, resting in, leaning on.
- Biblical faith is given by God, it protects us when we have it put on. The shield of faith is the consistent application of what we believe about God in regards to the issues of life. The more you know God, the more you will trust and believe Him.

d. All Flaming Arrows

- Anything that isn't from the Lord is a flaming arrow. Good example: wrong feelings.
- 2 Corinthians 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm.
- Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. ⁶Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.
- Psalms 18:30 As for God, his way is perfect: the LORD's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

1) Arrow – combustible material, soak in pitch, burn hotter, stay lit

Roman archers would put a cotton material on the tip of their arrows and soak it in pitch, which would burn slowly and very hot. Before they shot the arrow, they would light it.

Satan's fiery arrows are temptations, impurity, selfishness, doubt, fear, disappointment, lust, greed, vanity, covetousness, etc. Those temptations are all part of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Keep on guard against the devil's arrows.

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2) **Hit shield – pitch splatter, little spot fires, the devil tempts all, even Christ**

When the Roman arrows hit their targets, the pitch would splatter and start little fires on the clothing of the soldier or on a wooden target.

Satan literally bombards the believer with fiery darts of seductive temptation to elicit ungodly, evil responses. The best defense to quench the fiery darts from the devil is the shield of faith.

e. **Evil One**

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

John 17:15 I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

To have faith is to believe God. When God says something many times in Scripture, you know it's important. In a spiritual battle, we grab the shield of faith to put out the fiery darts of temptation by trusting God implicitly. There is no reason to lose the battle, because ultimately the victory is ours. If we put the armor on, we will win!

For someone who's truly saved, if you don't have the first piece of armor down, you can't convey it to someone else who needs it. If a person won't put on the belt of truth (attitude of character committed to truth) the person can't go onto the rest of the pieces of armor.

5. **The Helmet of Salvation** [Be secure in your salvation.]

a. **“Take”**

- 1) **Personal responsibility** of the believer to put on the armor of God
- 2) **Going to or have done it** – the helmet of salvation doesn't mean becoming saved. You wouldn't be wearing any of the pieces of armor if you weren't saved. To put on the helmet of salvation is to be secure in your salvation.

b. **Helmet**

In the earliest times helmets were made of willows or rushes, and were in the form of skullcaps. The skins of animals were sometimes used. The ancient Egyptian helmet was usually quilted linen cloth. It was thick and well padded, sometimes coming down to the shoulder to protect the back of the neck. The Assyrian helmet was a cap of iron. Some were furnished with back flaps that were covered with metal scales to protect the neck. The Philistine helmet was unique in that from the headband there arose curved lines, by which the outline of the helmet was hollowed on the sides and rounded on top. Goliath's helmet was doubtless of this shape, and, being made of bronze, must have presented a beautiful appearance. The form of the Hebrew helmets is unknown, but they probably did not vary widely from the Egyptian. Romans had an iron helmet on.

c. **Protects Head (physically and spiritually)**

- 1) **From Pokes**
- 2) **From Slices**

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- 3) **From Whacks**
- 4) **From Smacks (end of handle)**

d. **From Damage To...**

- 1) **Eyes**
- 2) **Ears**
- 3) **Nose**
- 4) **Brain**

e. **Brain Is...**

- 1) **Thinking, Reasoning, Deliberating**
 - It's very important your brain is covered the way God wants it to be covered.
- 2) **Decision Making, Conclusion**
- 3) **Taking Action – orders to the will to act of salvation**

f. **Already Saved – so what is this?**

Some people are confused about salvation and think they can lose it by something they do. The truth is we can never lose our salvation, it is permanent! Satan wants you to doubt God. If we're not doing this with fear and trembling, we're probably doing it out of religion instead of relationship. Are we going to live our life for ourselves or for our Lord and Savior, our Beloved?

g. **Philippians 2:12 “Work Out”** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

Reference to sermon on November 30th “Your Hope”. Salvation has past, present, future aspect. Salvation has happened, that's justification; it is happening, that's sanctification; and it will happen, that's glorification. Sanctification has two parts: positional – a done deal in Christ; and practical – choosing to live like a saint, choose to live in the Spirit. We can be absolutely secure in our salvation! If you choose to live a godly life, then God will grow you (spiritual growth). When our fruit shows, we are doing what God wants us to do. We then have a pure conscience and life a joyful, peaceful life. Future aspect: everything God has said about you and for you will occur. When you look at the future, God wins and Satan loses.

6. **Sword of the Spirit** [Specific truth, appropriate Scripture.]

a. **Take (understood)**

- 1) **Personal responsibility** of the believer to put on the armor of God
- 2) **Going to or have done it** you must make a conscious decision to take it up

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b. Description

- 1) **The New Ungers Bible Dictionary *Sword*** (Hebrew. *Hereb*) - The sword of the Greeks and Romans generally had a straight two-edged blade, rather broad and of nearly equal width from the hilt to point. It was worn on the left side.
- 2) **MacArthur – *Believer’s Armor*** - The Roman’s sword was anywhere from six to eighteen inches. It was carried in a sheath or scabbard at the soldier’s side and was used in hand-to-hand combat. It had to be used in a precise way to be effective.
- 3) **Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible** – Variety of swords used in ancient cultures; the Israelites swords were twenty-one inches or more, Egyptians used a relatively long-bladed sword, the Philistines used a long sword

When we think of a sword, it’s often the medieval soldier’s sword (very long and double-edged). This is not the type of sword the Roman soldier carried. The sword is the main weapon for offensive war. Sword could also refer to dagger.

c. Of The Spirit

- 1) **From the Spirit** – Our sword is spiritual and is given to us by the Holy Spirit (He illuminates the Scriptures for us). An unbeliever may have the Bible, but he does not have in him the resident truth teacher, the Holy Spirit, who makes the Bible meaningful.
- 2) **Utilized by or through Spirit’s power** - All earthly swords pale in comparison of the invincibility of the Word of God in the hand of a righteous saint.
- 3) **Every piece of armor** is necessary!

d. Author Scripture

II Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

e. Offensive & Defensive

- 1) **II Corinthians 10:3-5** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, ⁴for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵*We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Hebrews 4:12-15 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. ¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

Matthew 4:1-11 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. ³And the

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tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”⁵ Then the devil *took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,⁶ and *said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’; and ‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’”⁷ Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’”⁸ Again, the devil *took Him to a very high mountain and *showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;⁹ and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”¹¹ Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.

The sword is both defensive and offensive. Learn from Christ, He used precise Scriptures to respond to Satan.

2) Learn how to use it

Diligently study the Word of God to be able to use the sword of the Spirit effectively. The reason so many Christians fall to temptation is they don’t know how to apply God’s Word to their lives.

3) Use it – if you know how to use it, but don’t then you won’t win any battles

James 1:22-25 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

There are those who read the Bible going from one favorite passage to another but getting little from their reading. Others study but do not apply the teachings. We should be reading the Word, applying it to our lives, and be able to apply specific verses to tests and trials in our lives and in the lives of others.

f. Word of God

1) Logos – Not! – most general for Word

2) Rhēma – Yes! – specific, appropriate

Precepts and principles for combat and witnessing, counseling situation. To be effective, you need to be able to apply a specific verse for tests/trials.

7. Summary

“Here then, is the Christian’s complete armor... that is all you need. You do not need tranquilizers or expensive psychiatric treatments. You may need some physical therapy now and again, the Word of God has nothing against that, but you will not need all the remedies that science has made available to give us a chemical bolstering in the hour of anxiety or fear. No, you have the armor of God, if you are a Christian.”

“Now, think it through. Become familiar with this armor. Learn how to use it, and then actually use it when you are under attack. Practice going through this when you feel yourself under attack

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from Satan. Like a soldier in battle, put it to work. What good is armor if it rusts unused in a closet? No wonder Christians are constantly failing. Though they may have the armor of God, they do not use it. If you feel yourself growing cold or lukewarm, you are under attack from the wiles of the devil. If you find yourself depressed or discouraged or bothered with doubts, fears, and anxieties or if you feel the lure of lusts, the crush of pain, or the numbness of disappointment, what must you do? Then systematically, thoughtfully, deliberately, repeatedly, go through these steps... think through the armor of God.” – Ray Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*

8. Overview of Warrior’s Armor

Ephesians 6:10-12 has made it clear to us that we’re in a war. We are wrestling against Satan and his demons. But as Christians, we’ve been given resources in Christ. Satan tries to stop our productivity and stop us from living out our position in Christ. The only way to overcome his resistance is to have on the armor of God. All of our pieces of armor are spiritual because our battles are spiritual in nature.

a. Girded with Belt of Truth

The attitude of truthfulness. You are to gird up your loins, an old Jewish expression meaning readiness or anticipation. A soldier must be ready for battle. He must make a commitment. If we’re going to win, we need to be committed to victory from the beginning.

b. Breastplate of Righteousness

The Christian arms himself with purity, holiness, and practical righteousness. Imputed righteousness from Christ is the basis of our own righteousness. But we must maintain a pure life or Satan will hurt us in the vital areas.

c. Feet Shod with the Gospel of Peace

The gospel of peace is the good news that we are at peace with God. We were once enemies fighting against God, but we who believe the gospel have made peace with Him. The shoes allow us to stand firm against Satan because God is on our side. We can resist anything because His resources are available.

d. Shield of Faith

Satan shoots arrows of temptation. The only way we can quench them is with our faith. When you believe Satan, you sin; when you believe God, you don’t.

e. Helmet of Salvation

Salvation has three dimensions: past, present, and future. Our past justification results in sanctification, which promises glorification. The helmet protects us from discouragement and doubt. The future dimension of salvation should be a powerful force in our lives.

f. Sword of the Spirit

The Bible is the sword of the Spirit, and it is used both defensively and offensively. Know what God’s Word says, apply the teachings in your life, and be able to use specific verses for each trial/test.

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9. Overview of Spiritual Warfare Study

I Corinthians 16:13-14 “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴Let all that you do be done in love.”

- a. **War – Devil**
- b. **World**
- c. **Flesh**
- d. **Warrior**

10. Not Done Yet vs.18 Prayer “Prayer Warriors”

Amplified Bible “Pray at all times – on every occasion, in every season – in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. So that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God’s consecrated people).

Illustration: main communications, all incoming and outgoing through us – flash traffic fleet admiral – 6 Day War behind me – teletype.

“Through the instrumentality of every prayer and supplication for need, praying at every season by means of the Spirit, and maintaining a constant alertness in the same with every kind of unremitting care and supplication for all the saints.” – Kenneth Wuest

- a. **All prayer** - Prayer gives us communication and fellowship with God. If you’ve been saved and you don’t commune with Him, you’re denying Him the purpose for which He redeemed you.
- b. **Petition** - Request, attitude of character. No physical stance is wrong for prayer.
- c. **When** – If we’re not in constant communication with God, then we’re talking with the Flesh, the World, or the Devil. There is no time in our lives when we should not be in prayer, at the very least, an attitude of prayer. When are we to pray? Always!
- d. **In the Spirit**
- e. **On the Alert** – Be on the alert, think ahead. Biblical doctrine of heading things off at the pass, to be watchful.
- f. **All Perseverance**
- g. **Petition for all the Saints** – Only prayer of salvation is the one God hears from the unbeliever. God does not hear the prayers of a believer who is in sin and not right relationship with Him.

Ephesians 1:15-23 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers; ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. ¹⁸ *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all

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things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Philippians 1:3-11 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.⁶ *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment,¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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V. PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Note: The most important book, of course, is the Bible. God has revealed what we need to know. The Spirit will enlighten, teach, and enable us to carry out God's will in this war if we are willing. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list. There are many more appropriate books. This also doesn't include books with selected passages and chapters on appropriate doctrine. Nor does it include subjects such as the cults, occult, psychics, so called life after death experiences, non-biblical angel incidents, UFO's, etc.

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* These would be the best books to get for your personal library on the subject of Spiritual Warfare.