

SPIRITUAL WARFARE
THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

THERE IS A WAR

IT IS _____
IT IS _____
IT IS _____
IT IS _____
IT IS _____
IT IS _____

C. S. LEWIS

“THERE ARE TWO EQUAL AND OPPOSITE ERRORS INTO WHICH OUR RACE CAN FALL ABOUT THE DEVILS. ONE IS TO DISBELIEVE IN THEIR EXISTENCE. THE OTHER IS TO BELIEVE, AND TO FEEL AN EXCESSIVE AND UNHEALTHY INTEREST IN THEM.”

EPHESIANS 6:10-20

“¹⁰FINALLY, 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, THAT YOU MAY 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 HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,¹⁵ AND 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 MISSILES 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, ¹⁹AND PRAY ON MY BEHALF, THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN TO ME IN THE OPENING OF MY MOUTH, TO MAKE KNOWN WITH BOLDNESS THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, ²⁰FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS; THAT IN PROCLAIMING IT I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK.”

5 BASIC TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1) THERE IS AN INVISIBLE WORLD THAT IS JUST AS _____ AS THE VISIBLE WORLD. Eph. 6:12;

2) WE ARE INVOLVED IN AN _____ WAR, A COSMIC CONFLICT THAT HAS ETERNAL IMPLICATIONS.
2 Kings 6:15-19; 2 Cor. 10:3-5; 2 Cor.4:4

3) OUR FOE IS _____ AND HIS GOAL IS TO DESTROY US AND DISCREDIT THE CAUSE OF CHRIST. 1 Peter 5:6; Jude 9

- His name is _____.
- He is a _____. Col.1:16, Job1:3
- He is an _____. I. Matt. 25:41; Rev.12:7
- He is a _____. Ezekiel 28:14
- The highest of all _____. Ezek.28:14; Jude 9
- He was created perfect. Ezekiel 28:14
- He had heavenly estate. Jude 6
- He was the guardian of God's glory. Ezek.28

4) WE MUST _____ OUR FOE, BUT NOT _____ HIM-BECOME _____ OF HIS "METHODS," BUT NOT BE PREOCCUPIED BY THEM. Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 2:11

- HIS _____ REVEAL HIS TACTICS.
- S _____ = ADVERSARY
- D _____ = SLANDERER 1 PETER 5
- L _____ = SON OF THE MORNING
- B _____ = MATTHEW 12:24
- B _____ - 2 CORINTHIANS 6:15
- E _____ O _____ - 1 JOHN 5:19
- T _____ - 1 THESSALONIANS 3:5
- P _____ OF THIS W _____ - JOHN 12:31
- A _____ OF THE B _____ Rev.12:10

HIS GREATEST GIFT MAY BE _____.

- THOUGH NO SCRIPTURE CAN BE CITED, MOST BIBLE SCHOLARS BELIEVE POSSIBLY UP TO A THIRD OF THE ANGELIC HOSTS WERE DECEIVED INTO FOLLOWING HIS HEINOUS PLOT AND WERE CAST FROM HEAVEN WITH HIM. IN MARK 5:9 THE NUMBER OF ANGELS IS DESCRIBED AS "MYRIADS UPON MYRIADS" WHICH LITERALLY MEANS 1,000'S UPON 1,000'S. IN REVELATION 5:11-12 IT SPEAKS OF 10,000 UPON 10,000 (100 MILLION). DO THE MATH!

HIS KINGDOM IS _____.

- EPH. 6:11-12AGAINST THE RULERS, THE AUTHORITIES, THE POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD, THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS.
- DANIEL 10 TELLS OF DANIEL ASKING GOD TO HELP HIM. ON THE 21ST. DAY AN ANGEL COMES, SAYING HE WOULD HAVE BEEN THERE SOONER BUT THE "PRINCE" OF PERSIA HAD HIM LOCKED IN MAN TO MAN COMBAT UNTIL THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL HELPED HIM FIGHT THROUGH TO DANIEL.

HE ATTACKS GOD'S PROGRAM, _____, BY...

- FALSE _____ -COLOSSIANS 2:8
- FALSE _____ -1 CORINTHIANS 10:19
- FALSE _____ - 2 CORINTHIANS 11:14-15
- FALSE _____ - 1 JOHN 2:18
- FALSE _____ - MATTHEW 13
- FALSE _____ - 2 THESSALONIANS 2:7

HE ATTACKS GOD'S _____ BY...

- D _____ GOVERNMENTS- DANIEL 10:13
- D _____ MEN-2 CORINTHIANS
- D _____ LIFE- HEBREWS 2:14
- P _____ THE SAINTS- REVELATION 2:10
- P _____ SERVICE- 1 THESSALONIANS 2:18
- P _____ SCHISMS- 2 CORINTHIANS 2:10,11
- P _____ DOUBT- GENESIS 3:1-2
- P _____ SIN
 - ANGER-EPHESIANS 4:26-27
 - PRIDE- 1 TIMOTHY 3:6
 - WORRY- MATTHEW 13:22
 - SELF-RELIANCE- 1 CHRONICLES 21:1
 - DISCOURAGEMENT-1 PETER 5:6-8
 - WORLDLINESS- 1 JOHN 2:16
 - LYING- ACTS 5:3
 - IMMORALITY- 1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-2
- P _____ SECTS/CULTS- 1 TIMOTHY 4:1

HIS POWER IS _____

- HE IS CREATED, THEREFORE NOT OMNISCIENT OR INFINITE
- HE CAN BE RESISTED BY THE CHRISTIAN- JAMES 4:7
- GOD PLACES LIMITATIONS ON HIM- JOB 1:12

5) AS BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, WE DO NOT FIGHT “_____” VICTORY, WE FIGHT “_____” VICTORY.
IN CHRIST’S POWER WE ARE _____! Eph. 6:10

- PROMISES FROM GOD CONCERNING VICTORY OVER SATAN:
 - » 1 JOHN 4:4
 - » 1 JOHN 5:4-5
 - » REVELATION 12:11
 - » JAMES 4:7

PREPARING FOR ATTACK

EPHESIANS 6:13-15

“¹³THEREFORE, TAKE UP THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY 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 HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,¹⁵ AND HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;”

KNOW THE _____ V12 (PREVIOUSLY COVERED)
KNOW YOUR DEFENSE (_____)
KNOW YOUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF’S ORDERS (_____)
FOLLOW ALL ORDERS (_____)

OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF (JESUS CHRIST) “URGENTLY” COMMANDS US TO PICK OUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR AND PUT IT ON FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING _____ AND _____ TO WITHSTAND THE GRAVE AND DIFFICULT “DARK TIMES” WHEN THE ENEMY ATTACKS. AFTER PICKING UP OUR ARMOR IN PREPARATION FOR BATTLE, WE ARE THEN COMMANDED TO _____ AND _____ MAKE A SERIES OF _____ TO STAND OUR GROUND FIRMLY AND AND FEARLESSLY AGAINST THE ENEMY’S ASSAULTS AS HE SEEKS TO DECEIVE, ACCUSE AND DISCOURAGE US.

THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

USING THE METAPHOR OF A ROMAN SOLDIER’S ARMOR (WHICH PROTECTED HIM IN BATTLE) WE ARE GIVEN THREE SPECIFIC PIECES OF SPIRITUAL ARMOR THAT MUST BE “PUT ON” BY US AS BELIEVERS AS A _____ TO STANDING FIRMLY AND FEARLESSLY AGAINST DEMONIC ATTACK.

“HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH”

1) ROMAN SOLDIERS BELT

“_____” = CANDOR, SINCERITY, TRUTHFULNESS ROOTED IN THE OBJECTIVE REALITY OF THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD, BUT HERE REFERS TO THE SUBJECTIVE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF OPENNESS AND HONESTY IN ALL THINGS WITH GOD AND MEN.

SATAN’S FIRST ATTACK ON MANKIND WAS DECEPTION, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY MAN’S HIDING, DENYING AND BLAME SHIFTING.

APPLICATION = TRUTH HOLDS YOU TOGETHER. PRACTICE NO DECEIT NOR ANY DISGUISES. SEE PSALMS 139:23-24

“HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”

2) ROMAN BREASTPLATE

“_____” = UPRIGHTNESS, RIGHT LIVING, INTEGRITY IN ONE’S LIFESTYLE AND CHARACTER—CONFORMING OUR WILL WITH GOD’S WILL. ALTHOUGH ROOTED IN THE OBJECT

RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT WE ALREADY POSSESS IN OUR STANDING BEFORE GOD THROUGH THE WORK OF CHRIST, THIS BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (*THAT GUARDS AND PROTECTS OUR HEART*) IS THE _____ OF THE TRUTH TO OUR LIVES—i.e. LORDSHIP OF CHRIST
SATAN'S ATTACKS ARE NOT MERELY DECEPTION, BUT _____ (RESULTING IN GUILT AND CONDEMNATION) OF THE BELIEVER. WHEN WE WILLFULLY TURN AWAY FROM WHAT WE KNOW IS GOD'S WILL, WE OPEN OURSELVES TO DEMONIC ATTACK. (SAUL –O.T. / PETER N.T.)
APPLICATION = "THEREFORE TO THE ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT IS RIGHT TO DO AND DOESN'T DO IT, TO HIM IT IS SIN." JAMES 4:17

"HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE"

3) SOLDIERS FEET

"_____" = ESTABLISHMENT –THE MEANS OF A FIRM FOUNDATION; ALSO CONVEYS THE IDEA OF READINESS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WHICH BRINGS PEACE BETWEEN MAN AND GOD. SATAN NOT ONLY USES _____ AND _____ TO NEUTRALIZE BELIEVERS, BUT ALSO SPECIALIZES IN _____ ON THE VERY BASIS OF GOD'S GOODNESS AND THE MEANS BY WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED IT—THE GOSPEL.

THE ATTACK ON GRACE – 2 COR. 11:3-4

APPLICATION-

_____ & _____ THE CONTENT OF THE GOSPEL. 1 COR. 15:1-5;
EPHESIANS 2:1-9

KNOW THE BASIS FOR YOUR _____ (ROM.8:38-39;EPH. 1:13-14) & THE _____ OF YOUR _____. (1 JN.5:11-13)

FAITH IS BASED ON _____ NOT FEELINGS.

SAVOR IT, SHARE IT, SPEAK IT, SEND IT

ENGAGING THE ENEMY & WINNING - WIELDING YOUR WEAPONS EPHESIANS 6:16-17

- "16 IN ADDITION TO ALL, TAKING UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH WITH WHICH YOU WILL BE ABLE TO EXTINGUISH ALL THE FLAMING MISSLES OF THE EVIL ONE. 17 AND TAKE UP THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD."

"TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH"

- SHIELD
- "FAITH" =IN THIS CONTEXT IS OUR "ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE" IN _____, HIS _____, HIS _____, AND HIS _____ FOR OUR LIVES. ALTHOUGH ROOTED IN THE OBJECTIVE REALITY OF THE GOSPEL AND OUR NEW STANDING WITH GOD (JUSTIFICATION) THROUGH CHRIST (SAVING FAITH), THIS FAITH REFERS TO OUR "PRESENT FAITH IN THE LORD FOR VICTORY OVER SIN AND THE HOST OF DEMONIC FORCES.

THREE WAYS FOR OUR FAITH TO REMAIN STRONG WHEN ATTACKED:

1. TRUSTING IN GOD'S _____ AND THAT HE ALWAYS HAS OUR BEST IN MIND. PS. 84:11; ROMANS 8:32
2. TRUSTING IN GOD'S _____. NUM. 23:19; 2 PETER 1:2-4; PHILLIPIANS 4:19
3. TRUSTING IN GOD'S _____. JEREMIAH 29:11

17AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION,

HELMET

SATAN'S ATTACKS ARE MOST TIMES ON OUR _____. THEY ARE VICIOUS AND UNRELENTING, IN THE COSMIC CONFLICT THE FRONT LINES ARE BETWEEN YOUR EARS. THIS IS WHERE THE BATTLE RAGES FIERCEST..SO KEEP PUTTING ON YOUR HELMET! FOLLOW ROMANS 12:2!

SEE ALSO JOHN 17:17

17 AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD

SWORD- THE ROMAN SOLDIER ALWAYS HAD HIS SWORD WITH HIM. IT WAS A LIGHT, TWO-FOOT WEAPON USED IN CLOSE, HAND TO HAND COMBAT. IT HAD TO BE EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND READY FOR USE—AND THE SOLDIER HAD TO BE _____. IT WAS THE ONLY WEAPON THAT COULD BE USED WHEN THE ENEMY WAS CLOSE SO WARRIORS PRACTICED HOURS ON END WITH IT IN THEIR HAND.

CLEARLY THE SWORD IS THE WORD OF GOD.

MOST OF THE TIME "WORD" IS INTERPRETED IN THE GREEK AS "_____". NOT HERE; IN THIS CASE THE TRANSLATION IS "_____" MEANING THE SPECIFIC SPOKEN WORD (OR WORDS) GIVEN TO US BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD TO DO CLOSE HAND TO HAND COMBAT WITH THE LIES AND DECEPTIONS OF THE ENEMY. THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD QUOTED AND APPLIED TO THE SPECIFIC LIE OR DECEPTION OF THE ENEMY WILL ALLOW YOU TO TAKE "EVERY THOUGHT CAPTIVE TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST."

APPLICATION: JESUS MODELS FOR US THE USE OF THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT. MATT. 4:1-11 EVERY STATEMENT SATAN SAID TO GOD HAD TWO (2) DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS: 1) EACH HAD _____, and 2) EACH STARTED WITH THE WORD "_____". AS WE LEARNED EARLIER, THIS IS SATAN'S MO: LIES, DECEPTION, DOUBT, etc.

LIKEWISE JESUS' RESPONSE TO SATAN HAD TWO DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS: 1) _____ and (2) THE _____ "IT IS WRITTEN", "IT IS WRITTEN", "IT IS WRITTEN"

INCREDIBLY OUR LORD WAS QUOTING THE "LOGOS" OF GOD, BUT HE WAS BATTLING WITH THE "RHEMA" OF GOD – THE "LOGOS" APPLIED TO _____. WHATS IN YOUR SCABBORD?!?

IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD IN THIS INVISIBLE WAR, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE A MAN OR WOMAN OF THE _____!

PICTURE THE WORD AS PORTRAYED IN HEBREWS 4:12 "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."

"WE MUST NOT CONFIDE IN THE ARMOR OF GOD, BUT IN THE GOD OF THIS ARMOR, BECAUSE ALL OUR WEAPONS ARE ONLY MIGHTY THROUGH GOD." WILLIAM GURNALL

THE MISSING WEAPON

WEVE GONE THROUGH THE BASICS, YET THE FINAL ELEMENT OF OUR WARFARE IS THE GREATEST – AND MOST NEGLECTED - WEAPON WE HAVE. _____ IS PIVOTAL AND ESSESENTIAL IN ORDER FOR US TO BE VICTORIOUS.

18 WITH ALL _____ AND _____, _____ AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT, AND WITH THIS IN VIEW, BE ON THE ALERT WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND _____ FOR ALL THE SAINTS, 19 AND _____ ON MY BEHALF

VERSE 17 TIES DIRECTLY TO 18 TAKE UP THE SWORD WITH PRAYER AND CONTINUE (PERSEVERE) TO BE DILLIGENT!!

PRAYER IS THE MISSING INCREDIENT WHEN CHRISTIANS LEAVE FOR BATTLE. IT IS A HORRENDOUS MISTAKE. "PRAYER, DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!"

EPH. 6:18-20 CAN BE SUMMARIZED THIS WAY: THE MEANS BY WHICH BELIEVERS ARE TO WITHSTAND AND OVERCOME THE ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE IS BY _____, _____, _____ FOR ONE ANOTHER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PERSONAL APPLICATION OF THE ARMOR OF GOD.

THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON'S IMPACT

- PRAYER HAS A DIRECT _____ ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE. MARK 9:29
- PRAYER PROVIDES/ASSISTS IN THE _____ OF OTHERS WHO ARE UNDERGOING SPIRITUAL ATTACK. LK. 22:31-32
- POWER _____ WHERE PRAYER PREVAILS. ACTS 1:14; 2:42; 3:1; 4:24-35; 6:4-8; 8:14-16; 9:40-42 & 10:1-4. CHURCH HISTORY IS REPLETE WITH EXAMPLES.

TYPES OF PRAYER

1) _____ PRAYER-V:18a

“with all prayer and petition” = all _____ of prayer.

“pray at all times”= prayer on all _____.

“pray in the spirit”= in communion with and directed by the agency and power of the _____.

2) _____ PRAYER-V.18b

“be on the alert”= literally without _____

“with all perseverance”= _____, not giving up.

3) _____ PRAYER-V.18c-20

“for all the saints”= for _____ for all.

“utterance may be given” = God’s message will be clear and have _____.

SUMMATION

THE MISSING INGREDIENT IN MOST CHRISTIAN’S LIVES AND IN MOST CHURCHES IS THE COMMITMENT AND REGULAR PRACTICE OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER. SCRIPTURE INDICATES THIS IS AN _____ AND _____, _____, _____, AND _____ THAT WILL IN FACT “DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.”

“THE GREAT PEOPLE OF THE EARTH TODAY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO PRAY. I DO NOT MEAN THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT PRAYER, NOR YET THOSE WHO CAN EXPLAIN ABOUT PRAYER, BUT I MEAN THOSE PEOPLE WHO TAKE TIME TO PRAY. THEY HAVE NOT TIME. IT MUST BE TAKEN FROM SOMETHING ELSE. THIS SOMETHING ELSE IS IMPORTANT. VERY IMPORTANT, AND PRESSING, BUT STILL LESS IMPORTANT AND LESS PRESSING THAN PRAYER.” S.D. GORDON

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF TEACHING IN THE BIBLE HAS TO DO WITH ALERTNESS, PREPARATON, DEFENSE, AND BEING PROACTIVE TO PREVENT DEMONIC INFLUENCE FROM BREAKING OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST OR THWARTING GOD’S PROGRAM FOR OUR LIVES.

WHAT THEN SHALL WE DO?!

THE WINNING STRATEGY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____!