



Being Pentecostal
 Week 10: Strategic Living
 August 16th, 2023

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|--|--|--|
| 6/7 – O Introducing the Spirit | 7/12 – O When the Spirit Goes
Mainstream | 8/2 – M – the HS opens our eyes |
| 6/14 – O Disciples in the Spirit | 7/19 – O When the HS Brings
Freedom | 8/9 – O – As the HS PIVOTS |
| 6/21 – M The Spirit’s Gifts | 7/26 – O The Spirit in the
Darkness | 8/16 |
| 6/28 – O The Spirit “Gets”
Organized | | 8/23 |
| 7/5 | | 8/30 |

Oliver, Jeff. (2017). *Pentecost to the Present: The Holy Spirit’s Enduring Work in the Church. Book one: Early Prophetic and Spiritual Gifts Movements.* Page ????. Bridge-Logos.

Oliver, Jeff. (2017). *Pentecost to the Present: The Holy Spirit’s Enduring Work in the Church. Book two: Reformations and Awakenings.* Page ????. Bridge-Logos.

Foundation:

First, need to identify the Holy Spirit as a person and part of the Trinity.

Then, how He works through Christ

The, how He works through the Disciples

H.O.

Fruit of the Spirit (As displayed in JC Life) – Week 1

Gifts of the Spirit (Hayford) – Week 1

Spiritual Gifts Inventory – Week 3

Spiritual Gifts Test – Week 3

Spirit Gets Organized – Week 4

NOTE CARD FOR FREEDOM CEREMONY –
 Week 6

Asking Questions In The Darkness – Week 7

Week 10: Prayer Ring.

Three Measurable Goals:

- Understanding** the person of the Holy Spirit
- Measuring** our understanding of the Holy Spirit by the amount of Fruit of the Spirit in our life.
- Expressing** the will of the LORD by what the Holy Spirit does through us and how He chooses to display Himself.

OUR relationship(interaction) **with the Holy Spirit**
provides the clarification(illumination) **of the scriptural path**
we walk on in our life with Jesus Christ.

Areas of Influence: Family. Work. Hobbies. Social media. Church. Neighborhood. Events. **DO YOU HAVE A LIST OF NAMES?**

Practicing the Gifts: Any Testimonies

- Praying very simply for healing/Using oil (James 5:14)
- Practice: Simply and Continually giving the HS addicting behaviors (and our egos that stop us from admitting they are present) AND/OR the lies of our culture that control/influence us.
- Answering the Questions on Week 7 h.o. “Asking questions in the Darkness”.
- How does the Holy Spirit open my eyes? (Awaken)

Now we are awake, what are we looking for? PIVOT

- HOW** does the Holy Spirit **PIVOT?**

He illuminates Truth. (the person, capital T). Miracles happening during services led by people who do not believe miracles are for today.

Goes where there is Unity. Leaves where there is Forced Faith. Goes where faith is available to Men, Women, Children

We practice noting where and how the HS moves(pivots) within Community.

John 3:5-8 HCSB (all verses unless otherwise noted)

⁵ Jesus answered, "I assure you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁵ Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom.⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' ⁸ God's Spirit^[a] blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit." **CEB**

Spiritual Warfare/Tactics/Supernatural Conflict/Engaging in the BATTLE.

[rope – toss it out to people to see if they catch/try to the other end. Natural response. In Tactical Spiritual Conflict, when should we grab the rope and when do we not?]

Supernatural Strategic Living

I. PREPARATION

A. Educate yourself:

ASK: When are you in warfare? Everyday. It is life. Question is, when/how do you recognize it?

- To Recognize the Enemy

Isaiah 14:12-15 Who is Satan? Fallen angel.

*Shining morning star,
how you have fallen from the heavens!
You destroyer of nations,
you have been cut down to the ground.*

¹³ You said to yourself:

"I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God.

I will sit on the mount of the gods' assembly, in the remotest parts of the North.

¹⁴ *I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."*

¹⁵ *But you will be brought down to Sheol into the deepest regions of the Pit.*

John 8:44 Father of Lies

*You are of your father the Devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because **he is a liar and the father of liars.***

Who destroys the Enemy? Jesus does, not us.

1 John 3:8

The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the Devil's works.

How do we conquer the Enemy? Jesus does, not us. We are not strong enough, hence DBR.

1 John 4:4

*You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the **One who is in you** is greater than the one who is in the world.*

B. You learn what the authentic is by:

1. Absorb Christianity by Living/Doing it.

- Attend church (member). ABSORB CHRISTIAN LIVING BY DOING IT.
- Read scripture.
- Study scripture.
"Who do you believe God is?" answer this in the course of study.
- Small group interactive study.

2. Devotions:

- Know Him and His presence. (Know in your gut know Him)
- Know the Word and its might. (By practicing it.)
- Know the Spirit. Easier to identify evil. (By looking for Him.)
- Serve. (In ministry, there is more supernatural activity going on.)

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.

I. We Prepare ourselves and then....

II. PRO-ACTIVE LIVING – Why?

A. It naturally/supernaturally repels sin.

2 Peter 1:3

*His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and goodness.*

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

⁴ since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments ⁵ and every high-minded thing that is raised

up against the knowledge of God, **taking every thought captive to obey Christ.** ⁶ And we are ready to punish any disobedience, once your obedience has been confirmed.

[Get used to saying “Scripture says....so that is a lie!”]

Colossians 2:8-9

⁸ Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elemental forces of the world, and not based on Christ. ⁹ For the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily in Christ,

[Be prepared for the ploys: Human tradition. Science and Reason]

James 3:14–18

But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don’t brag and deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every kind of evil. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without favoritism and hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace.

Pure = Not degrading.

Gentle = Not purposely hurting others.

Compliant = Not argumentative

Mercy = Compassionate

Good Fruits (Fruit of the Spirit)

Bite my tongue if it is not doing this. CAUTION: “It is not that big of a deal.”

(Don’t focus on not being bad...focus on growing in Him.)

Matthew 6:19-23

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. So if the light within you is darkness—how deep is that darkness!

[What is my eye trained on? Looking at? WHAT DO I SEE?]

¹⁹ “Don’t collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don’t break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[WHAT are my treasures?]

B. Putting it ALL into Action

Hebrew 5:11–14

The Problem of Immaturity [Those who are immature usually do not know that they are...]

¹¹ We have a great deal to say about this, and it's difficult to explain, since you have become too lazy to understand. ¹² Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the basic principles of God's revelation again. You need milk, not solid food. ¹³ Now everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced with the message about righteousness, because he is an infant. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature—**for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil.**

1. For Myself

In addition, believers have been given the whole armor of God “to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph. 6:11). Each piece of the armor is to be “put on” to help believers overcome the temptations and attacks of the Evil One.

Armor of God

An **expression** that **symbolizes** the combat equipment of a Christian soldier who fights against spiritual wickedness; the full resources of God that are available to all who take up the cross and follow Christ. Because our spiritual enemy is stronger than we are, we must “put on the whole armor of God” (Eph. 6:11, 13).¹

Ephesians 6:10-20 Christian Warfare

¹⁰ Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics^[a] of the Devil. ¹² For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. ¹³ This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and **having prepared everything, to take your stand.** ¹⁴ **Stand, therefore,**

with **truth** like a belt around your waist,

righteousness like armor on your chest,

¹⁵ and your feet sandaled with **readiness** for the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In every situation take the shield of **faith**,

and with it you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of **salvation**,

and the sword of the Spirit, which is **God's word**.

¹⁸ Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. ²⁰ For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough in Him to speak as I should.

¹ Youngblood, R. F., Bruce, F. F., & Harrison, R. K., Thomas Nelson Publishers, eds. (1995). In [Nelson's new illustrated Bible dictionary](#). Thomas Nelson, Inc.

To Stand:

- **Truth** (gird and guide) =
- **Righteousness** (living this way, not foothold to evil, proactive warfare) =
- **Readiness** (Sharing Gospel of Peace-Witnessing) = you need to know it to share it.
- **Faith** (shield) =
- **Salvation** =
- **Word of God** =
- **Praying always** =

2. For Others – Areas of Influence

1. Identify

What I am praying for/over.

This is an idea, thought, situation, person, area I will be praying/declaring over.

2. Organize

The verses of scripture that you can pray.

Where am I doing this?

3. Intercede

DO: Introduce the Prayer Ring [By 7:30PM]

(When a verse(s) quicken in you, write them on an index card for your ring.)

NoteS:

**THERE IS AN ENEMY
HE HATES YOU
YOU ARE LIVING IN HIS WORLD**

Luke 10:17-20 The Return of the Seventy

¹⁷ The Seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name."

¹⁸ He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a lightning flash. ¹⁹ Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing will ever harm you. ²⁰ However, don't rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7, KJV).

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father' " (Romans 8:15).

"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe" (Proverbs 29:25).

TRUTH =

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: THE ARMOR OF GOD

When a woman becomes a child of God, she not only inherits God's blessings but God's enemies as well. The Lord's foremost enemy is Satan, whose purpose is to destroy His work (John 8:44), but Jesus came in order to "destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

Satan is a fallen angel (Is. 14:12–15) and as such is only a created being. He is in no way equal to God, the Creator. While Satan is superior in intellect and strength to mankind, he is inferior to God in every way. Believers have the power of the indwelling resurrected Christ over them and protecting them (1 John 4:4).

In addition, believers have been given the whole armor of God "to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). Each piece of the armor is to be "put on" to help believers overcome the temptations and attacks of the Evil One.

1) Having Girded Your Waist With Truth (Eph. 6:14): The waist or abdomen area was generally thought to be the seat of emotions. To gird this area with truth is to commit your emotions to believe the truth. Often a person knowingly allows herself to believe a lie because of fear or self-pity. Believers must hold a commitment to truth regardless of the repercussions (John 8:32, 36).

2) Having Put On the Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14): The breast is generally thought of as the place of the soul. The heart must be kept pure and righteous because sin gives a foothold to the enemy. Confession and forgiveness on the basis of the blood of Christ cleanse the heart (1 John 1:9).

3) Having Shod Your Feet With the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15): Proper shoes enable the feet to go from place to place. The believer is to be about her Father's business, which is to spread the gospel of peace and reconciliation. An undaunted sense of this mission keeps the believer headed in the right direction (Matt. 28:19, 20).

4) Taking the Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16): The Wicked One is "the accuser of our brethren" (Rev. 12:10) and will send his fiery darts to instill doubt, fear, and guilt. Faith acts as an invisible shield that deflects such false accusations (Heb. 11:6).

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5) Take the Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17): A helmet protects the head, that is, the brain and thoughts. Assurance of salvation is a mighty defense against doubt and insecurity and the kinds of works bred by them (1 John 5:11–13).

6) Take the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17): The Word of God, the only offensive weapon in this armor, was used by the Lord Jesus against Satan (Luke 4:1–13). The living Word is powerful, effective, and instructive (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

7) Praying Always (Eph. 6:18): Prayer opens the channels between us and God. In the midst of battle, we as believers must keep in constant communication with our Leader for directions and encouragement. Our prayers for one another are important and effectual (James 5:16).

See also Neh. 4–7; Mark 5:2, note; Luke 11:14–26; Rom. 3:23, note; 2 Cor. 10:3–5; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9; chart on Strategies in Spiritual Warfare; note on Temptation (Heb. 2)

6:11 Satan's wiles or schemings are directed against the church corporately (Eph. 4:2, 21, 31–32; 5:5) and believers personally (Acts 5:3; 10:38; 1 Tim. 4:1–5). The devil lives up to his name through falsely accusing believers before God (1 John 2:1, 2; Rev. 12:9) and maligning God before believers (Gen. 3:1), as well as through stirring up turmoil in the world by his accusations (James 3:13–16; chart, Names for Satan; A Portrait of the Adversary).

An Expanded Exegesis on Ephesians 6

6:14 The picture of God's armor is of a Roman soldier's tunic, pulled up and tucked into his belt so that he could fight or work unhindered. Living a life of honesty and integrity enables the Christian to be one in purpose with Jesus Christ, who is the Truth, and to be unhindered in the battle against Satan, who is a deceiver and liar (see chart, A Portrait of the Adversary). The breastplate covered the body from neck to thigh and was usually made of bronze. Believers do not need to seek protection or right standing with God through works of their own; they can confidently stand in what Christ has done in their behalf (2 Cor. 5:21).

6:15 The soldier wore sandals with cleats made of sharp nails designed to give firm footing on even the most rugged terrain. "Preparation" may have the sense of readiness to share the gospel to others at a moment's notice. "Preparation" may also refer to a prepared foundation that consists of the gospel of peace with God (Eph. 2:17).

6:16 This long, oblong, or oval shield was crafted from two layers of wood covered with linen or animal hides, bound together with iron. When fighting side by side, soldiers could hold these shields together to form a long wall. Soaked in water, they served as adequate defense against the enemy's "fiery darts"—arrows that had been dipped in pitch and ignited. The shield of faith offers God's unlimited resources of power and wisdom (3:16–21) to resist the fiery darts of distressing circumstances and temptation to evil (1 Cor. 10:13).

6:17 The soldier's bronze helmet had leather attachments to hold it in place. Christians can experience protection from Satan's attacks as they rest confidently in their position as members of God's family (John 1:12, 13), set apart for His purposes (Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Thess. 2:13). Further, they can know God's present work of sanctification in their lives, experiencing deliverance from sin (Gal. 5:16; Phil. 2:12, 13; Col. 1:10) and having the guarantee of future, eternal deliverance from every kind of evil (1 Thess. 5:8). The short, two-edged sword enabled the heavily-armed soldier to attack deftly and defeat his enemy at close range. The believer's sword may be understood to be either "supplied by the Spirit" or "used by the Spirit." Paul further identified this sword as "the word of God" (see Heb. 4:12). "Word" (Gk. *rhema*) most probably refers to specific sections of Scripture the Holy Spirit brings to mind to meet a particular need. Jesus' use of specific sections of Deuteronomy in His encounter with Satan in the wilderness exemplifies this (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10).

6:18 Prayer is not listed as a separate weapon of warfare but is rather given an all-encompassing status. Prayer is to be constant (1 Thess. 5:17) as the Christian prepares for battle, engages in it, and rests from it. All kinds of prayer are to be offered through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing it all for love.

St. Therese of Lisieux

Hayford:

SPIRITUAL WARFARE, ADVANCING IN. Few truths have become so pronouncedly vibrant to the renewed church's life in this century as the place and power of prayer warfare. This call in no wise reduces the conviction that the Cross of Jesus Christ has accomplished all victory over the devil (Col. 3:14-15). To the contrary, this

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order of warfare depends on what He has finished! Just as the mission to evangelize the world is founded in the complete provision of salvation, the mission to precede our evangelistic endeavor with prayer power that paves the way to the overthrow of contemporary works of darkness is founded in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 12:9-12).

1. Spiritual Warfare (Eph. 6:10-18). Paul admonishes us to put on the whole armor of God in order to stand against the forces of evil. It is clear that our warfare is not against physical forces, but against invisible powers who have clearly defined levels of authority in a real, though invisible, sphere of activity. Paul, however, not only warns us of a clearly defined structure in the invisible realm, he instructs us to take up the whole armor of God in order to maintain a “battle-stance” against this unseen satanic structure. All of this armor is not just a passive protection in facing the enemy; it is to be used offensively against these satanic forces. Note Paul’s final directive: we are to be “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit” (v. 18). Thus, prayer is not so much a weapon, or even a part of the armor, as it is the means by which we engage in the battle itself and the purpose for which we are armed. To put on the armor of God is to prepare for battle. Prayer is the battle itself, with God’s Word being our chief weapon employed against Satan during our struggle.

2. The Invisible Realm and Victorious Warfare (2 Kin. 6:8-17). To believe the impossible one must first see the invisible—the lesson Elisha taught his servant. The text involves war between Israel and Syria, and the prophet Elisha’s informing his people of the enemy’s tactics through prophetic insight (v. 12). Here is the lesson: Prayer is the key to discerning our adversary’s stratagems. Further, the key to dispelling Elisha’s servant’s panic was his vision being opened to see the invisible. Note these crucial words: “Elisha prayed!” Elisha did not ask God simply to show the servant another miracle; he asked for his servant to see into another dimension. The answer came immediately: “The LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (v. 17). Seeing into the invisible is a key to victorious praying—discerning spiritual issues from God’s perspective rather than man’s, seeing the Adversary’s attack plan, and perceiving God’s angelic strike-force.

3. Divine Revelation and Spiritual Warfare (Jer. 33:3). God promised Jeremiah that if he would call to Him, not only would He answer him, but He would reveal to him “great and *mighty* things” that could not otherwise be known. The word “mighty” (Hebrew *batsar*) is better rendered “isolated” or “inaccessible.” The suggestion is that God would give Jeremiah “revelational insight,” revealing things that otherwise would be inaccessible or isolated.

Such “revelational insight” always has been essential for a clear understanding of victorious spiritual warfare. One cannot pray effectively without insight into how to pray, as well as into what things God truly longs for us to seek after in prayer.

4. Intimacy and Spiritual Breakthrough (Prov. 3:5-6). Two words in this passage are especially significant—the words “ways” and “acknowledge.”

The word “ways” (Hebrew *derek*) means “a road, a course, or a mode of action.” It suggests specific opportunities a person may encounter on a recurring basis. The most common “segment of opportunity” we experience regularly is each new day. It is as if this passage suggests that in all our “days” we should acknowledge God, and in so doing He will direct our paths.

Of equal significance is the word “acknowledge” (Hebrew *yada`*). Elsewhere *yada`* is translated “know,” meaning to know by *observation, investigation, reflection, or firsthand experience*. But the highest level of *yada`* is in “direct, intimate contact.” This refers to life-giving intimacy, as in marriage. Applied to a spiritual context, it suggests an intimacy with God in prayer that conceives and births blessings and victories. Our Proverbs text means, then, that if in all our “days” we maintain *yada`* (direct, intimate contact with God), God promises to direct our paths toward fruitful, life-begetting endeavors.

5. Faithfulness in Prayer and Spiritual Warfare (Acts 6:1-4). The early church learned quickly that their prayer had to be continuous because spiritual warfare is continuous. It became their first priority because Satan sought their defeat as his first priority. Thus, their earliest recorded administrative decision after Pentecost places the ministry of prayer (with the Word) as highest in importance.

As the church grew, circumstances required more of the apostles’ time. But realizing they needed more prayer, rather than increased activity, the apostles chose seven men to serve as deacons to care for the church. This freed them to focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word. Of the two, prayer, rightfully, is listed first. Faithfulness to prayer recurs throughout Scripture. Paul would later tell the church at Rome to “be kindly affectionate to one another...continuing steadfastly in prayer” (Rom. 12:10, 12).

6. Intercession in Spiritual Warfare (Ezek. 22:30). It is a sad day in Israel’s history when God commands Ezekiel to prophesy against the sins of Jerusalem, declaring He has no choice but to judge the land. This chapter describes this condition that deteriorates so shamefully that God finally cries, “Enough!” Then God makes a

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startling declaration: this could have been avoided if only one intercessor had stood before Him on behalf of the land. He says succinctly, “I sought for a man!”

The text says, “I sought for a man...who would...stand . . . before Me on behalf of.” This clearly identifies this passage with intercession. No single phrase in Scripture more accurately describes the work of an intercessor than the phrase “stand before Me on behalf of.” The intercessor always comes “before God” on “behalf of” others.

Also significant is the intercessor’s twofold responsibility. Not only would he “make a wall,” which suggests he would restore a breach caused by an enemy, but he would “stand in the gap,” or plug up that breach against that enemy throughout the building process.

7. Patterns in Prayer and Spiritual Breakthrough (Ps. 5:1-3). In this text David builds a case for consistency and order in daily prayer. The repetition of the phrase “in the morning” justifies an alternate translation: “morning by morning.” Also significant is the psalmist’s selection of the Hebrew word *arak* (“direct”) in his declaration that he would “direct” his petitions to God daily. *Arak* is most frequently used in Moses’ writings in reference to the priests “setting in order” the sacrifices to be brought to the Lord each day (Ex. 40:4); also to describe an army being “set in array” in preparation for battle (Judg. 20:20-22). Such usage indicates an “ordered strategy” has been prepared for battle. These definitions connote the thought that David’s “direct” prayer speaks of a well-thought-out order to his prayers, a *daily prayer strategy* with purpose and meaning.

8. Faith’s Victory Through Prayer (Acts 4:31-34). Following the healing of the lame man (3:1-6), Peter and John were commanded to cease their preaching in Jesus’ name (4:18). Recognizing the severity of the situation, they returned to the believers (vv. 23-24) and called for a season of prayer that would release their faith so as to increase the scope of their witness.

Note the progression of events following this prayer (vv. 31-35), resulting in a supernatural shaking. From that moment, further mightiness was manifest: (1) a supernatural fullness—all present experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit; (2) a supernatural boldness—this prayer led to a baptism of forthright fearlessness to proclaim the Word of God (v. 31); (3) a supernatural unity—the prayer participants were of “one heart and one soul” (v. 32); (4) a supernatural submission; (5) a supernatural fruitfulness—with a new power they went boldly, and fruit was produced for God’s glory (v. 33); and (6) a supernatural generosity—they were baptized into a spirit of sacrifice and generosity (vv. 34, 35).

9. Physical Acts in Warfare Prayer (2 Kin. 19:8-19). King Sennacherib wrote a letter suggesting that God could not stand against him. King Hezekiah, upon receiving the letter, took it and spread it out before the Lord in prayer (v. 14). This is one example where a physical act seems to parallel the establishing of spiritual authority in the invisible realm. In other words, a physical act becomes prophetically symbolic of a reality that impacts the invisible as action is being taken in the visible realm.

In Hezekiah’s case, a physical act of trust—spreading his case (letter) before the Lord—established a foundation for faith upon which Hezekiah prayed. The king was convinced that God would hear his prayer, and the Lord sent an angel that night who destroyed 185,000 enemy troops (2 Kin. 19:35; Is. 37:14-20, 36).

Other physical acts of people recorded in Scripture include vocal praise and shouting (1 Sam. 4:5-6; 1 Kin. 1:40), lifting hands and bowing heads (Neh. 8:6), dancing or leaping (Ps. 149:3; Luke 6:23), groaning in prayer (Rom. 8:26; Gal. 4:19), shaking or trembling (Acts 16:29; Heb. 12:21), intense weeping (Ezra 3:13; Lam. 1:16, 20) and many instances of prostration (Ezek. 1:26-28; Matt. 17:6; Acts 9:1-9; 10:9-14). Prompted by faith and motivated by a genuine intensity of prayer-passion, these are more than superstitious actions. They address the invisible as real—and gain victories.

10. Effectivity in Spiritual Warfare (James 5:13-18). James pictures a level of prayer that is beyond any believer’s normal capacity—it is divinely energized by the direct involvement of the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for “fervent” actually does not appear in the original text. It is an amplification of the word for “effectual” which does appear in the Greek text. The Greek word *energeo* means “effectual, or that which is effective.” Yet, to simply say prayer is “effective when offered by a righteous person” was deemed by the translators to be shallow in the context, and therefore “fervent” was rightly added to the text. To fully understand the word *energeo* one needs to examine another passage where the word is used. Paul used the word in describing the power of God’s Word as it works special energy in those who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). The foundational premise of the Greek word *energeo* is that something “effectively works.” Yet it only works in those who “believe.” Applied to this text, this suggests that our praying, when energized by the power of the Holy Spirit, causes things to happen. Our prayers work!

11. Seeking God and Spiritual Warfare (Jer. 29:11-14). Throughout Scripture we find repeated references to God’s people seeking after Him. Implied in these passages is a quest for God that includes a level of intensity beyond what might be termed ordinary prayer. The word “search” along with the phrase “with all your heart”

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suggests an earnestness that borders on desperation. The word “search” (Hebrew *darash*) suggests a “following after,” or close pursuit of a desired objective; it also implies a diligence in the searching process. In 2 Chronicles 15:2, Azariah promises the Lord will be with His people if they “seek” (*darash*) after Him—another indicator of God’s emphasis on intensity and diligence in prayer.

12. Fasting to Spiritual Breakthrough (Ezra 8:21-23). As the exiled Jews prepared to return to Jerusalem, Ezra called for a nationwide fast (v. 21). The purpose of the fast was threefold. First, they petitioned God to lead them in a “right way.” This was the *guidance* focus of their fast. Second, they petitioned God to protect their little ones. This was the *assistance* focus of their fast. Finally, they petitioned God to guard their possessions. This was the *substance* focus of their fast.

Fasting is repeatedly referred to throughout Scripture as a sacrificial form of prayer warfare that produces results available in no other way. This is especially emphasized in the demoniac’s deliverance in Christ’s day (Matt. 9:14-29). Fasting involves a sacrificial denial of necessary nourishment while turning one’s attention to seeking God during that denial. The duration of a fast may be as long as forty days, as in Moses’ case (Deut. 9:18-21), or as brief as a portion of a single day, as in Israel’s case (2 Sam. 1:11-12).

13. Angelic Activity in Spiritual Warfare (Rev. 12:7-11). The casting down of Satan results from a great battle between the hosts of heaven and the hordes of evil. In this battle, heaven’s warriors force Satan and his demons forever from the heavenly realm. We must note that victory is not achieved solely by the angels, but also by believers’ use of spiritual weapons. The angels fight, but God’s saints provide the “fire-power.” This is clearly shown by verse 11, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” The angels did not overcome the Accuser alone; the saints were in partnership through prayer-warfare; the angels were God’s means for administering the victory, which prayer enforced.

Notice the mention of Michael, the archangel (v. 7, one of four places where he is mentioned in Scripture). In each mention, spiritual warfare is clearly implied. This is true in Daniel 10 where Michael’s involvement in battle to victory is the direct result of Daniel’s fasting and prayer (see Dan. 10:1-4, 12-13).

14. Taking Authority and Victorious Warfare (Mark 11:20-24). Our Savior’s action in cursing the fig tree indicates a passion in prayer and faith that we need to learn. When the disciples later noticed with surprise that the tree had withered completely (v. 20), Jesus responded with a sharp command, “Have faith in God.” Then, calling His followers to “speak to mountains,” He led them to prepare for situations in which they would find it necessary to take direct authority in the spiritual realm to impact things in the natural realm.

15. Trumpets and Spiritual Warfare (Num. 10:1-10). The employing of trumpets has a unique relationship to the exercise of spiritual authority in prayer. Here two silver trumpets were sanctified for use by spiritual leadership in Israel. One was appointed for the calling forth of the assembly and the other for the mobilization of the camps when they were about to journey (v. 2). Thus, the first trumpet’s use was primarily to gather the people together, while the second trumpet meant it was time to “move forward,” usually in the sense of moving forward into battle. Regarding employment of the second trumpet, note especially the words of verse 9: “you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets...and you will be saved from your enemies.”

The sounding of trumpets in victorious spiritual warfare is especially significant in God’s final plan for the ages (Revelation 8-12). All of the culminating events of Revelation 12 result from the sounding of the seventh trumpet. Further, the sounding of the seven trumpets does not occur until the prayers of God’s saints are released with much incense (symbolic of worship) before the throne of God (see Rev. 8:1-6), quite possibly indicating that the prayers of God’s people release the final trumpet blasts that herald the coming and establishing of Christ’s eternal kingdom on earth. Hearing the clear sound of the trumpet alerts us to the Holy Spirit’s call to battle (see 1 Cor. 14:8).

16. Tears and Brokenness in Victorious Warfare (Ps. 126:5-6). Tears in Scripture play a unique role in spiritual breakthrough. Here we discover that the planting of seeds accompanied by a spirit of brokenness will not only bring a spiritual harvest of results, but will leave the sower with a spirit of rejoicing in the process. This passage, along with numerous others in Scripture regarding a spirit of brokenness, pictures a variety of purposes and functions related to what might be termed “the ministry of tears,” a ministry Charles H. Spurgeon defined as “liquid prayer.” First, there are *tears of sorrow* or suffering (2 Kin. 20:5). Second, there are *tears of joy* (Gen. 33:4). Third, there are *tears of compassion* (John 11:35). Fourth, there are *tears of desperation* (Esth. 4:1, 3). Fifth, there are *tears of travail*, or giving birth (Is. 42:14). Sixth, there are *tears of repentance* (Joel 2:12-13). Passion in spiritual warfare is clearly needed. D.E.

IX. THE BELIEVER’S CALL TO *SPIRITUAL WARFARE 6:10–20. The spiritual world is real, and it makes an impact on more than is obvious to most believers. Paul offers insight and direction for not being taken unaware in the midst of the invisible battle around us (*see* Withstand).

A. The reality of the invisible conflict (6:10–12). Our principal warfare is not against our circumstances or opposition from people who seem to stand in the way of progress. Our true enemies must be identified and then assaulted with the spiritual weapons at the disposal of the Christian.

B. Armor for the warrior (6:13–17). Believers must be protected from the spiritual conflict that surrounds them. The purpose of the armor of God is to “withstand in the evil day” (v. 13).

C. The action involved in warfare (6:18–20). Prayer and God’s Word are the two weapons of the people of God who are engaged in spiritual combat. The Word of God offers the terms of God’s purpose on the issues being “wrestled” over, and prayer is the spiritual exercise that ultimately brings the victory of God to our struggles. Jesus said, “Ask anything” in John 14:14; He also informs us that the agreement of the saints in prayer brings the action of God (Matt. 18:19).

“We do not wrestle against flesh and blood”

(6:10–18).The warfare of the believer is not against human resistance but against spiritual powers.Our demonic Adversary divides sincere brethren, causes stress in families, misdirects a believer’s attention, and tempts people to sin and eventual bondage.The Word of God (v. 17) and prayer (v. 18) are effective weapons for overcoming spiritual powers (v. 12) that cause havoc in our world.However, in the midst of battle Paul instructs us on the “whole armor of God” to protect us in the battle.

“That I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an *ambassador in chains”

(6:19).Paul solicits prayer from the Ephesians so that he might be a bold witness.To us this seems ridiculous; Paul is the very definition of boldness.However, we learn elsewhere that Paul’s witness as a prisoner is shaking the emperor’s palace in Rome (Phil. 4:22). Pray for God to anoint you with boldness to share the testimony of Christ with the people who need it most.

CONCLUDING REMARKS 6:21–24. Paul is sending the letter with Tychicus, who will “make all things known to you” as he continues and elaborates the ministry intended by the letter.mark 41tna1

TRUTH-IN-ACTION through EPHESIANS

Truth Ephesians Teaches	Action Ephesians Invites
<p>Guidelines for Growing in Godliness Simply put, godliness is living the way God wants us to. Few books speak as clearly and succinctly to this subject as does Eph. Here godliness is exhorted in terms of behavior, motivating dynamic, and example. Godly behavior is modeled after God Himself, especially as He has revealed Himself in His fullness in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>:1 <i>Understand</i> that your conduct is the most effective sermon you will ever preach. <i>Live</i> a life that will give consistent, undeniable evidence of the truth of the gospel. :1, 2 <i>Model</i> your life after Jesus, imitating Him rather than others. <i>Understand</i> that He is the perfect example of the love God requires. :18–20 <i>Be continually filled</i> with the Holy Spirit. <i>Overflow</i> with a continual song of praise and thanksgiving to maintain a Spirit-filled flow in your life. :18–20 <i>Give yourself</i> to constant, faithful prayer. <i>Let God change</i> your prayer life to a life of prayer.</p>

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<p>Steps to Holiness A major facet of holiness is living a life separated from the world. Jesus stressed this by saying that although we live in the world, we are not to be of the world.</p>	<p>:17 <i>Be careful</i> to avoid and reject the world’s way of thinking. <i>Realize</i> that thinking as the world does will unavoidably lead to sensuality and impurity.</p>
<p>Keys to Godly Relationships Eph. has much to say about building godly relationships. This is one of the major themes of the NT. Our relationships are to be loving, truthful, selfless, and submissive. Simply put, Eph. exhorts that we relate to others as Jesus relates to the Father and to us.</p>	<p>:25–27 <i>Diligently practice</i> honesty and truthfulness in all your relationships. <i>Deal with anger</i> quickly, not allowing it to influence your treatment of others. :21–6:4 <i>Maintain</i> a selflessly submissive attitude in all your family relationships. <i>Understand</i> that this will provide evidence that Christ rules your home. :5–8 <i>Do not be</i> merely a people-pleaser at work! <i>Serve the Lord</i> in all you do. <i>Recognize</i> that it is He who has assigned you to that post of responsibility.</p>
<p>How to Tame the Tongue Proper speech is crucial to effective Christian living. Proverbs points out that life and death are in the power of the tongue. How important it is for us to realize that our speech can be spiritually motivated.</p>	<p>:29 <i>Be careful</i> how you speak and what you say. <i>Reject</i> evil attitudes; and <i>develop</i> compassionate, forgiving attitudes toward others. :3–7 <i>Avoid and reject</i> any impure or immoral speech or behavior. <i>Be certain</i> that it contradicts your profession of faith in Christ.</p>
<p>Guidelines to Gaining Victory Eph. gives us insight into the nature of the spiritual warfare we face daily. Our combat is against spiritual forces, not men. Great is the protection and resources God has provided us to meet this enemy.</p>	<p>:10–13 <i>Stand in readiness</i> for spiritual combat. <i>Recognize</i> that your demonic enemies are behind much of what comes against you to harm you. :14–17 Each day, consciously <i>put on</i> the spiritual armor God supplies. <i>Learn and understand</i> the nature of this divine protection.</p>
<p>Keys to Wise Living Perhaps wisdom is what is most necessary in governing our use of time.</p>	<p>:15 <i>Use</i> time wisely, and <i>do not squander</i> it. <i>Be certain</i> that you will give an account of how you use God’s gift of time.</p>
<p>Keys to Generous Living Selflessness is most concretely expressed in generosity.</p>	<p>:28 <i>Think</i> of how you can give rather than how you can get.</p>

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“But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon”

(6:34). In Hebrew this literally means “the Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon.” Gideon needed to be empowered by the Spirit so that he might win the battles that lay ahead of him. Today we need the Spirit’s power (see Acts 1:8) and the armor of God (see Eph.6:11–18) so that we might stand against the wiles of the

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devil (v. 11). Through the power of the Spirit, Gideon won every battle (Judges 7—8). Empowered by the Spirit, we can do the same.

Peering Into Unseen Kingdoms
Week 8

Warfare Strategies: Dressed For Battle

SET OUT DRAWING

Three Kingdoms: God's, in which He placed Christ as King

Our's, which we were given at creation

- A. Principles Pursued Provides Power
- B. God will not do what He expects us to do
- C. Become Masters of Ourselves (Discipline plan)

Enemy's, which God allows for a short time

- A. Understand the enemy's kingdom (There is one, it is not a nice place, and he will try to influence you.)
- B. Identify where you are vulnerable

Warfare Strategies: The Example of Nehemiah

~~ASK: When are you in warfare? Everyday Tian life.~~

How do we respond to this everyday environment?

Warfare Strategies: Dressed For Battle (Go quickly over I & II or there will not be enough time for III.)

I. Understand God's Division of Authority shown in His empowering of the Three Kingdoms.

READ NIV Ephesians 6:10

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

Understand His Schemes (Satan's Kingdom)

- A. Temptations = Against our Personal Kingdom and we respond by Proactive Warfare. Living our Christian life.
- B. Attacks = Against the Body/Works of Christ (as seen in the life of Nehemiah) and we respond with Defensive Tactics.

II. Understand we are using SPIRITUAL Weaponry.

READ NIV 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, we have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that set itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*)

How does one take a thought captive? (Precursor: You own your thoughts. They are a part of your Kingdom.

1. Ask if it is true? 2. Yes: Respond. No: Do not allow yourself to dwell on untruth. Can't get it out of your head? Distract = Do something. Move. Replace with truth = Dwell on truth: Read scripture, listen to sermons & teachings, Christian music, Discuss with Christian friends.)

How do you know if it is not truth? BIBLE. Which will be echoed in messages, teachings (bible studies), Godly friends/counsel. [Godly friends = life of the Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control.]

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III. UTILIZING THE ARMOR OF GOD

READ NIV Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around you waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness (preparation) that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows (fiery darts) of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and request. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Paul continues with a personal prayer request.).

1) **Belt of Truth** buckled around your waist (Eph. 6:14):

What is physically enclosed in the mid-section of your body? Liver and GI track. Area between your rib cage and pelvic bone. Filters everything you ingest. Byproducts.

The waist or abdomen area was generally thought to be the seat of emotions/feelings.

Emotions/Feelings are the byproducts of what you believe.

Buckle (gird, like a girdle) this area with truth is to commit your emotions/feelings to believe the truth.

(John 8:32 "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.").

Repercussions = Not holding onto old thoughts, old ways even if they are comfortable or supported by our family and friends. Or society. YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF DIRECTING YOUR FEELINGS TO ALIGN WITH TRUTH.

2) **The Breastplate of Righteousness** in place. (Eph. 6:14):

What is physically enclosed in your chest area?

Heart and Lungs. Delivers life (oxygen to your body).

The breast is generally thought of as the place of the soul/heart.

The soul/heart must be kept free from sin: Purposeful, repeated acts of rebellion to God's laws.

Because sin gives a foothold to the enemy.

Confession and forgiveness on the basis of the blood of Christ cleanse the heart

(1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.").

(Word of God brings righteousness, as we will discover later.)

3) **Your feet fitted with the readiness (Preparation) that comes from the Gospel of Peace** (Eph. 6:15):

ASK: Sport hobby? Golf shoes, Running shoes, Walking shoes, Bowling shoes, Motorcycling boots....

Would you wear Golf shoes to ride your Motorcycle?

The right shoes = greater success at the sport.

Roman soldier: The soldier wore sandals with cleats made of sharp nails designed to give firm footing on even the most rugged terrain. Sure footing.

Readiness

1. **prepared for something:** prepared for something that is going to happen

- Are you ready to leave?

2. **finished and available for use:** finished or completed and so able to be used immediately

- When will dinner be ready?

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3. **on the point of doing something:** on the point of doing something or liable to do something
 - *This old roof is ready to cave in.*
4. **willing to do something:** eager, willing, or prepared to do something
 - *Don't be so ready to give in!*
5. **quickly produced:** quickly and easily given, provided, or available
 - *a ready response to questions about wrongdoing*
6. **prepared in advance:** prepared or blended in advance, and able to be used with very little additional preparation (*often used in combination*)
 - *available ready-sliced in small packets*
7. **intelligent:** intelligent, alert, and quick witted.

Prepared, Available, Willing, Alert to: **Spread the gospel of peace and reconciliation.**

(Evangelism Matt. 28:19, 20 *"Therefore, go and make disciples of ALL nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*)

(Reconciliation READ NIV Eph 2:12-18 Christ preached peace to both Jews and Gentiles. Life w/Christ is available to ALL.)

Do whatever you can to spread Christ: Action/deed – From HOW you live your life to INVOLVEMENT in ministry (doing what God asks of you) & Spoken Word – Being verbal about what you believe and sharing Christ's Truth w/others.

4) *Take up the Shield of **Faith** [confidence, belief, trust, reliance] (Eph. 6:16¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows (fiery darts) of the evil one.):*

Does Faith stop the flaming arrows? NO. It extinguishes them.
Extinguish:

1. **put out a fire or light:** to put out something that is burning or giving off light
 - *The lamps along the terrace had not been extinguished.*
2. **end something:** to take away or bring to an end something such as a hope, feeling, custom, or practice
 - *As the days went by, hope for more survivors was extinguished.*
3. **destroy somebody or something:** to kill or destroy somebody or something completely
 - *They came with a large army in order to be certain of extinguishing the enemy by force of numbers.*
4. **outshine:** to outshine or eclipse something or somebody by having greater brilliance
 - *Beauty that extinguishes all others by comparison.*
5. LAW **pay debt:** to pay off a debt
6. LAW **make something invalid:** to make something no longer valid or applicable
7. PSYCHOLOGY **decrease response:** to cause a decrease in a conditioned response through lack of reinforcement

[Early 16th century. Formed from Latin *exstinguere*, literally "to quench completely," from *stinguere* "to quench, prick" (source of English *DISTINGUISH* and *INSTINCT*).]

Faith snuffs out the enemy's kingdom effect on you.

Temptation and Attacks. (ie. untruths to instill doubt, fear, and ungodly guilt) Faith acts as an invisible shield that deflects such false accusations

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(Heb. 11:6 “*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*”).

YOU DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE, ALL THE REST IS JUST TALK.

SHOW ME YOUR 24/7 AND I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE.

5) *Take the Helmet of Salvation* (Eph. 6:17):

Your helmet protects your head. When you are brain dead, your body will eventually shut down.

So what do you wear to protect your core organ for sustained life?

All good people go to heaven?

It does not matter what you believe as long as you are sincere?

There is no absolutes so it does not matter what I do?

Muhammad is the supreme prophet and his teachings give us the path to Allah?

(1 John 5:11–13 “*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*”).

Without accepting this truth for yourself, you do not have life.

6) *Take the Sword of the Spirit* (Eph. 6:17):

The **Word of God**, the only offensive weapon in this armor, was used by the Lord Jesus against Satan (Luke 4:1–13). The living Word is powerful, effective, and instructive

(Heb. 4:12 “*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*”

2 Tim. 3:16, 17 “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching; rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*”).

Word of God brings truth.

So how do we incorporate it into our everyday lives?

Read

Study

Share

Discuss

Learn

Meditate

Pray

OPEN WITH?

7) *Praying Always* (Eph. 6:18):

ie. of Nehemiah.

Prayer opens the channels between us and God. In the midst of battle, we as believers must keep in constant communication with our Leader for directions and encouragement.

(James 5:16b “*The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*”).

Take Action – Do Something

Vision = Accepting the Ministry God has created you for

Prayer = Understanding and using the communication tool God has created for us

Leadership = Strap your **** on

Problems = Do they stop you or do you overcome them

Repentance/Revival = Understanding spiritual truths and acting on them. Making God central.

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but Jesus came in order to “destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8) *“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”*

6:11 Satan’s wiles or schemings are directed against the church corporately (Eph. 4:2, 21, 31–32; 5:5) and believers personally (Acts 5:3; 10:38; 1 Tim. 4:1–5). The devil lives up to his name through falsely accusing believers before God (1 John 2:1, 2; Rev. 12:9) and maligning God before believers (Gen. 3:1), as well as through stirring up turmoil in the world by his accusations (James 3:13–16).

An Expanded Exegesis on Ephesians 6

6:14 The picture of God’s armor is of a Roman soldier’s tunic, pulled up and tucked into his belt so that he could fight or work unhindered. Living a life of honesty and integrity enables the Christian to be one in purpose with Jesus Christ, who is the Truth, and to be unhindered in the battle against Satan, who is a deceiver and liar. The breastplate covered the body from neck to thigh and was usually made of bronze. Believers do not need to seek protection or right standing with God through works of their own; they can confidently stand in what Christ has done in their behalf (2 Cor. 5:21).

6:15 The soldier wore sandals with cleats made of sharp nails designed to give firm footing on even the most rugged terrain. “Preparation” may have the sense of readiness to share the gospel to others at a moment’s notice. “Preparation” may also refer to a prepared foundation that consists of the gospel of peace with God (Eph. 2:17).

6:16 This long, oblong, or oval shield was crafted from two layers of wood covered with linen or animal hides, bound together with iron. When fighting side by side, soldiers could hold these shields together to form a long wall. Soaked in water, they served as adequate defense against the enemy’s “fiery darts”—arrows that had been dipped in pitch and ignited. The shield of faith offers God’s unlimited resources of power and wisdom (3:16–21) to resist the fiery darts of distressing circumstances and temptation to evil (1 Cor. 10:13).

6:17 The soldier’s bronze helmet had leather attachments to hold it in place. Christians can experience protection from Satan’s attacks as they rest confidently in their position as members of God’s family (John 1:12, 13), set apart for His purposes (Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Thess. 2:13). Further, they can know God’s present work of sanctification in their lives, experiencing deliverance from sin (Gal. 5:16; Phil. 2:12, 13; Col. 1:10) and having the guarantee of future, eternal deliverance from every kind of evil (1 Thess. 5:8). The short, two-edged sword enabled the heavily-armed soldier to attack deftly and defeat his enemy at close range. The believer’s sword may be understood to be either “supplied by the Spirit” or “used by the Spirit.” Paul further identified this sword as “the word of God” (see Heb. 4:12). “Word” (Gk. *rhema*) most probably refers to specific sections of Scripture the Holy Spirit brings to mind to meet a particular need. Jesus’ use of specific sections of Deuteronomy in His encounter with Satan in the wilderness exemplifies this (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10).

6:18 Prayer is not listed as a separate weapon of warfare but is rather given an all-encompassing status. Prayer is to be constant (1 Thess. 5:17) as the Christian prepares for battle, engages in it, and rests from it. All kinds of prayer are to be offered through the power of the Holy Spirit.

NLT

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong with the Lord’s mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Use every piece of God’s armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared.* ¹⁶ In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan.* ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.