

Victorious Spiritual Warfare

*"The Son of God appeared for this reason, that He
might destroy the works of the devil."*

1 John 3:8b

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[All Scripture in this study is from the New American Standard version unless otherwise stated]

Introduction to the Course

Course Objective: To understand the principles of spiritual warfare and to apply them so that we can maintain our freedom in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thereby, become worshippers of Him and productive servants for His honor and glory.

1. This course is meant to be a help to those who have recognized the attacks of the enemy upon their lives and who have chosen to 'resist' him. It is referred to as a deliverance course; however, it may also be helpful to those who have not yet experienced freedom in their lives.
2. It is not meant to be an exhaustive coverage of the subject of deliverance, but rather a summary of truths and teachings essential to those who, having been set free, are determined to stay free and to grow in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"The need today is for a company of overcoming saints who know how to wage war for the release of those under the enemy's deception. A Christian life is an unending engagement in the battlefield. The Christian has no possibility of laying down his arms until he stands before the Lord. To remove warfare from the Christian's life is to render it unfruitful. A spiritual life is one of spiritual usefulness because it is lived to mount assault upon assault against God's spiritual enemy. May God raise up such warriors!" Watchman Nee, The Spiritual Man, Vol. 3

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Chapter 1 Living from Our Union and Position in Christ

Key Truth: Our Lord Jesus Christ holds the highest title in the universe, and as a child of God, I am seated with Him in absolute authority and victory over Satan and the hosts of hell. **Philippians 2: 9-11, Hebrews 1:2-4**

Lesson Objective: To understand and personally appropriate Christ's authority and what I receive through my position in Christ.

Key Verse: Luke 10: 19
" Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you."

Ephesians 1- 2:7; Colossians 1:13-29; Colossians 2:1-15

A. We were created to walk in God's authority over the powers of darkness here on earth, but we lost the right to do this through the sin of Adam and Eve—the Lord Jesus Christ recovered this authority and restored it to us.

1. We were created to rule over the earth and all God had made in it. *Genesis 1:28—And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it; and rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*
2. Through Adam and Eve's belief in the words of the "enchanter" they (and we with them) lost their position of authority given by God. They believed and put their faith in the lie: **that what God had given was not good, not complete, and that they needed to reject His authority to attain God-likeness. They desired "false discernment", the knowledge of good and evil, rather than true discernment that comes with a personal relationship with God.**

Read Genesis 3: 1-7

[Many Scriptures will be presented throughout this study. Please take the time to look them up read and meditate on them, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally about them. Write down your insights in the margins. This will allow the Holy Spirit to apply the Truth to you personally.]

3. One result of this was that man was unable to do what God told Cain he must do regarding his spiritual enemy, which was to “master it”.
What was this enemy? _____
Genesis 4: 7—“If 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.”
Note: If you said “sin” is the enemy that must be mastered you are correct.
4. Another consequence was that the entire world that God had created and put under man’s rule was subjected to bondage under a new illegitimate ruler.
Who was this illegitimate ruler? _____. Read Romans 8: 19-22.
Note: If you said “Satan” or “sin bondage” you are correct.

B. The Lord Jesus Christ would come and recover this stolen authority over the earth through His express mission to “*destroy the works of the devil*”. 1 John 3:8

1. This mission was expressed in Jesus’ life in several ways:

His Name	Literally means ‘Deliverance’	<i>“For it is He who delivers His people from their sins.” Matt. 1:21</i>
His introduction to ministry	Sent to set captives free	<i>“...proclaim release to the captives...to set free those who are oppressed...” Luke 4:18</i>
His Words	Had authority	<i>“for He was teaching them as one having authority...” Matt. 7:29</i>
His deeds	One third of Jesus’ recorded ministry was engaged in direct confrontation with evil spirits.	<i>“For He had been saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit.” Mark 5:8</i>

2. This recovery would be **ultimately** accomplished when God raised Christ *“from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion...and He put everything in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Ephesians 1: 20-23*

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, its honor, its reputation, its announcement, and its glory is in God’s hands and in ours. We are called to be co-heirs with the Lord God of hosts and to participate in spiritual warfare for the souls of mankind.

- C. **We are given our position in Christ when we accept Him as our personal Savior, submit to Him as our Lord and are "born again". The Holy Spirit then indwells us and gives us the power to live victoriously from our position in Christ in the heavenlies. We take our position when we appropriate what we have been given! We have received the following:**

New Family

*"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, even to those who believe in His Name." John 1: 12*

New Power

*"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, 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." Ephesians 1:13-14*

New Authority

*"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons, and because **you are sons**, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." Galatians 4: 4-7*

New Kingdom

*"For He has delivered us from the domain of darkness, and **transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son**, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1: 13-14.*

New Position

"God raised us up with Him (Christ) and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2: 6

Application:

Make a list of all the spiritual blessings you can find in the previous verses and the following four passages. Then ask God to open up your spiritual eyes to understand how to apply these truths to your life.

1. We have been given "fullness" in Christ, because we are His Body. His life gives us resurrection life so that we have everything we need to live a victorious life when we have Christ.

Ephesians 3: 19 "and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

My spiritual blessing:

2. We are filled with the Holy Spirit and partake of His divine nature through our union with Christ in every area of our life that is given to Him and is free from enemy control.

Colossians 2: 9, 10 *“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete and he is the head over all rule and authority.”*

2 Peter 1: 3 *“seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”*

My spiritual blessing: _____

3. Where is our Lord Jesus Christ?

Ephesians 1: 20- 23: God raised Christ *“from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion....and He put everything in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

1 Peter 3: 22: *“Jesus Christ who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”*

My spiritual blessing: _____

4. Where are we with respect to Christ?

God raised **us** up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2: 4-6 *tells us that “God being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) , and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.”*

My spiritual blessing: _____

D. Jesus Christ transferred His authority to us in the Great Commission. In Matthew 28: 18 & 19, Jesus tells His disciples, *“....all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore...”* These words clearly imply the transfer of His authority to us, His disciples.

1. Jesus called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure all diseases. What did the disciples do with Christ's authority ? _____

Luke 9: 1

Mark 6: 7-13

2. Christ's authority was designated not only for the twelve disciples but also for other disciples who had submitted to Him as Lord and were commissioned to go out in His Name and minister.

The Seventy were given authority to minister in His Name.

This exercising of spiritual authority in appropriating the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ over **all** the power of the enemy had made them realize that Christ's authority had indeed been transferred to them.

Luke 10: 17 - 19, *"And the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.' And He said to them, 'I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you.'"*

Application: What can you do in ministry because our Lord Jesus has transferred over to you His authority?

1. _____
2. _____

Warfare principle: Our confidence in confronting Satan and the hosts of hell lies in our victorious position in Christ far above all rule and authority.

Note: If your answers for D1 & D2 were: cast out demons, pray for the sick—you are correct!

3. How did Jesus secure this position of absolute authority and victory over Satan and his hosts of hell **for us**?

Our Lord Jesus is led after baptism into the wilderness to meet our enemy in mortal combat. To secure for us the right to confront the enemy and declare him defeated, Jesus had to first, personally, as a man overcome the Devil's power. He met him as the second Adam, as a holy Man. He walked Adam's road out to the demonic wastelands where Satan ruled. He was weak, tired and hungry. Not exactly what we would call battle ready in our terms. And yet, He meets Satan with the Holy Word of God then, in strong rebuke, commands him to "Be gone."

The stage is set, Satan is clearly revealed as Jesus' and our mortal enemy. Jesus is now ready to begin His proclamation of the Kingdom, of healing, and of deliverance from the kingdom of Satan. The Apostle John declared, *"for this reason the Son of God appeared that He might destroy the works of the devil."* 1 John 3:8. In dozens of other encounters with Satan in subsequent ministries, each time Jesus came against him and evil spirits with a strong verbal rebuke and commanded them to "Come out", "Leave", "Do not return".

Let us return now to the Luke 10 scene with the seventy believers. In their thrill over watching demons flee in His Name, Jesus gives the reason why the enemy had to obey them, "And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightening. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you." These disciples realized that indeed Jesus' authority had been transferred to them. Satan had to obey the disciples' commands the same way he had to yield to the authority of Jesus Christ, the Holy Son of man.

In **Mark 5** we find a man who was beyond all help known. Here Jesus allowed His disciples to see a demonstration of His authority in a most extreme case of demonization. He undoubtedly wanted them to see what demons can do to a human if left un-dealt with. Jesus wanted to give his disciples compassion for the demonized person and a passion against the devil. This man could not be bound. He was filled with rage, self-hatred, isolation, uncleanness, death, and torment. The demons were trying to destroy him. The demoniac fell at Jesus' feet and Jesus rebuked the legion of demons, allowing them to go out of the man and into the pigs to show the disciples the destructive will of all demons, and yet the redeeming power of God to free this man. It was after this that He commissioned them to go out and do the same. They were obviously a little nervous. So Jesus adds in verse 19, *"and nothing shall injure you."*

4. How do we, as believer's, practice Christ's authority?

Christ's authority and our authority in Him are expressed frequently in the context of deliverance. Jesus said that **it is our faith in Him that gives us the boldness to speak to the mountains**. Jesus did not say "Pray about the mountains". In Matthew 17: 14- 21, a demonized boy, whom the disciples were unable to free, was brought to Jesus and was delivered from a demon. The disciples asked, "Why could we not cast it out?"

He replied, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move: and nothing shall be impossible to you." Matthew 17: 20

In this passage it is clear that the disciples had Christ's authority but were still learning to stand in total dependence on Christ against the enemy. This key to using Christ's authority in our own lives is **faith**. Our Lord said that a very small amount of faith was all that was required to speak to the mountains (or strongholds in our life) and command them to be removed.

Application: Do you have faith as a mustard seed? Can you speak to the mountains in your life? __ Yes __ No

The disciples had proven that indeed they possessed the same authority over the demonic realm.

Such authority is given to ALL God's servants not just to the Twelve apostles, not just the seventy, but to you and to me.

What a great moment in human history this was! Christ's authority over Satan and his demons had successfully been transferred FOREVER AND EVER!!!

And to whom had this authority been given? To the wise and intelligent who had studied it all out?

No, but rather to people with childlike faith who took Jesus at His Word.

Jesus was so thrilled that He broke out in praise, verse 21, *"at that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You did hide these things from the wise and intelligent and did reveal them to babes. Yes, Father, for thus it was well-pleasing to You.'"*

Application: To whom was this faith given? Read Luke 10:21, then Check the correct answer.

_____ **to deep mature Christians only**

_____ **to believers with childlike faith who took Jesus at His Word**

5. Christ's authority is also clearly given to us for church discipline. Read Matthew 18:15-20, then see if you can list the steps for correct church discipline:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

After taking several steps in church discipline, and if the believer does not respond, Jesus tells us to move into the spiritual realm and bind the powers of darkness affecting this situation and believer. (See Session 3 for a full teaching on binding and loosing)

Warfare principle: Authority for the Christian is the right and permission to use the NAME, Lord Jesus Christ, against the enemy because we are seated in Him by faith.

ANSWERS FOR D5: 1. Go privately to your brother and tell him his fault; 2. Take 2 or 3 witnesses along; 3. Tell the church; 4. Treat him as a pagan or tax collector—love him back.

6. When did we receive this authority to confront Satan and the hosts of hell and win every time?

Christ transferred his authority to the Church at Pentecost promising that power would come upon His disciples when the Holy Spirit came. Acts 1:8.

7. Who is the source of power in your life?

Paul affirms the source of power as well as testifying of its reality in our lives. The Holy Spirit in us is our only source of power.

Ephesians 3: 16 the apostle Paul prays, "*I pray that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.*"

E. When we confront Satan and his hosts in spiritual warfare, it cannot be in our own strength or ability. We must be absolutely certain of the reality of our authority and our position in Christ.

*"And the Seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us **in Your Name**'." Luke 10: 17*

1. Because of our position in Christ, far above all evil powers including Satan himself, we have authority over all his works and purposes. **It is in the obedient exercise of our authority that we are victorious over Satan.**

"The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3: 8b

In John 4: 4, we read, "*You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*"

Colossians 2: 6-10 indicates that "*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. 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. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete and He is the head over all rule and authority.*"

2. We share in Christ's position and authority now and forever by being a joint heir with Him.

Romans 8: 14—17, "*For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.*"

Revelation 2: 26-27 gives a glimpse into our future role, "*and he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father.*"

Application: List what you consider to be two major benefits of our position in Christ?

1. _____
2. _____

F. We have the power through our spiritual weapons to demolish all the strongholds of the enemy.

1. In the same way a general has *military authority and power* to defeat the enemy, we also have *Christ's authority and power* to defeat Satan and his army. The general has power and authority through his position granted to him from his superior. He has the power available to defeat the enemy, because he is backed by the entire military force that stands ready to respond to his command. The general does not use his own power, but rather uses the forces supplied to him. If another person steps into the same position, he has the same power. In the same manner, we have the authority over all the power of the enemy in our position in Christ. **We have the most powerful weapons in the universe at our command to utterly defeat the enemy. The Lord Jesus Christ stands behind our command with His power and the entire army of heavenly hosts.**

G. The weapons of our warfare are supernatural. “...for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.” 2 Cor. 10:4

1. They include:
 - a. The blood of the Lamb of God
 - b. The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - c. The word of our testimony
 - d. Our crucified life which by faith allows the supernatural Son of God to live His life through us by His Holy Spirit.
 - e. The all powerful Word of God—the Holy Bible

Application: Please note which weapons are included in the following Scriptures:

Revelation 12: 11 blood of lamb, word of testimony,
life given to God.

2 Corinthians 10: 3 - 6 _____

Philippians 2: 9 -11 _____

Galatians 2: 20 _____

ANSWERS: Divine weapons, the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Christ living in me.

- H. When we submit to God fully, we can stand firmly against the devil and the hosts of hell.

Application: We, the Church, are to declare Christ's victory, and in His Name, announce defeat and destruction to the powers of darkness that have come against us.

Ephesians 3: 8-10, *"To me, the very least of the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God, who created all things; in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the **rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places**"*

**"The ultimate call to war
against the powers of
darkness is Revival! But the
ultimate of that Revival
which will come as the result
of victory over Satan is
Ascension Triumph: the
Millennial appearing of the
Lord Jesus Christ, and the
casting of Satan and all his
powers to the abyss."**

**Watchman Nee,
*The Spiritual Man***

In Christ, I am.....

1. A child of God (Romans 8:16)
2. Redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Psalms 107:2)
3. Forgiven (Colossians 1: 13, 14)
4. Saved by Grace through faith (Ephesians 2:18)
5. Justified (Romans 5:1)
6. Sanctified—made holy (1 Corinthians 6:11)
7. A new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17)
8. Partaker of His Divine Nature (2 Peter 1:4)
9. Redeemed from the Curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13)
10. Delivered from the powers of darkness (Colossians 1:13)
11. Led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14)
12. Kept in safety wherever I go (Psalms 91:11)
13. Getting all my needs met by Jesus (Philippians 4:19)
14. Casting all my cares on Jesus (1 Peter 5:7)
15. Strong in the Lord and in the Power of His Might (Ephesians 6:10)
16. Doing all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)
17. An heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus (Romans 8:17)
18. Heir to the blessings of Abraham (Galatians 3:13,14)
19. Observing and doing the Lord's commandments (Deuteronomy 28:12)
20. Blessed coming in and going out (Deuteronomy 28:6)
21. An inheritor of eternal life (1 John 5:11 - 12)
22. Blessed with all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3)
23. Healed by His stripes (1 Peter 2:24)
24. Exercising my authority over the enemy (Luke 10:19)
25. Above the circumstances, not beneath (Deuteronomy 28:13)
26. More than a conqueror (Romans 8:37)
27. Establishing God's Kingdom here on the earth (Matthew 16:19)
28. An over-comer by the Blood of the Lamb and the Word of my testimony (Revelation 12:11)
29. Daily overcoming the devil (1 John 4:4)
30. Not moved by what I see (2 Corinthians 4:18)
31. Walking by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)
32. Casting down vain imaginations (2 Corinthians 10:4 - 5)
33. Bringing every thought into captivity (2 Corinthians 10:4 - 5)
34. Being transformed by a renewed mind (Romans 12:1 - 2)
35. A laborer together with God (1 Corinthians 3:9)
36. The righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21)
37. An imitator of Jesus (Ephesians 5:1)
38. The light of the world (John 8:12)

Application: Meditate daily on two or more of these facts about who you are as a Christian. You will be strengthened to face each circumstance and battle with Christ's perspective and power.

*"There is no
neutral ground in
the universe; every
square inch, every
split second,
is claimed
by God and
counterclaimed
by Satan."*

C. S. Lewis

Chapter 2 The Armor of God

DEFENSES AGAINST RE-ENTRY

All the following chapters will equip you to stay free.

**Key Truth: The Lord Jesus Christ is
our armor.**

**Learning Objective: To memorize each piece of the
Armor of God and to learn how to wear it daily so that
we can stand firm in the battle against Satan and
discern his schemes.**

**Key Verse: Ephesians 6: 11
"Put on the full armor of God, that you may be
able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."**

Study passage: Ephesians 6: 10-18

A. Be strong in the Lord and His mighty power (vs. 10).

1. When we are cleansed by the Blood of Christ, free from all enemy strongholds, and filled with the Holy Spirit, we are strong in the Lord. We are endued with God's power that comes from without ourselves. This power comes when the Holy Spirit indwells us as we submit to God. The Holy Spirit is released from our innermost being and flows out as living water. We then can live the abundant life.

What truth can we claim in each of the following passages?

1 John 1: 9 1 Corinthians 16: 13 2 Corinthians 12: 9
Ephesians 1: 18-21 John 7: 38 Psalm 18: 29-36

B. We are commanded to put on the full armor of God so that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes (vs. 11).

Can you be deceived?

2 Corinthians 11: 3

Answers: _____

ANSWERS: Yes, someone to devour

Who does the devil seek?

1 Peter 5: 6-10

Answers: _____

1. We are commanded to **"put on"** and **"take up"** the full armor and then we are to **"stand firm"**. We must take these actions if we are to benefit from the full armor of God.

Warfare principle: When we put on the armor of God, we will discern and stand firm against the schemes of the devil. [See Ephesians 6:11]

2. The believer who has been redeemed is ready now to go to war against Satan. He must be equipped to stand and withstand in the battle.

Jesse Penn-Lewis, a mighty warrior for God, had this to say about the need for God's armor. Here are three important aspects of wearing the armor of God. Do you live in the full benefit of the Armor?

"The believer who takes up the whole armor of God as a covering and protection against foe, must himself walk in victory over the enemy. He must have (1) his spirit indwelt by the Holy Spirit, so that he is strengthened with the might of God to stand unshaken; (2) his mind renewed (Romans 12:2) so that he has his understanding filled with the light of truth (Ephesians 1:18) displacing Satan's lies, and destroying the veil with which Satan once held it; the mind clarified so that he intelligently understands what the will of the Lord is; (3) his body subservient to the Spirit (1 Corinthians 9:25-27), and obedient to the will of God in life and service." Jesse Penn-Lewis. War on the Saints

C. Our battle is against Satan and the demonic hosts of hell in his domain of darkness (vs. 12).

1. Satan's kingdom is a military hierarchy designed to effectively attack the Christian. He has worked against humanity since the Garden of Eden.
 - a. The prince of the power of the air is Satan. He rules his kingdom and possesses various titles. Here are some:
 - ⇒ the devil Ephesians 4: 27
 - ⇒ the evil one 1 John 5: 19
 - ⇒ Belial 2 Corinthians 6: 15
 - ⇒ the god (or ruler) of this world 2 Corinthians 4: 4; John 14: 30
 - ⇒ the antichrist 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-10, 1 John 4:3
 - ⇒ the dragon Revelation 12: 9

- ⇒ the serpent of old Genesis 3: 1 , Revelation 12: 9
- ⇒ the accuser of the brethren Revelation 12: 10
- ⇒ Satan, the adversary 1 Chronicles 21:1

- b. Attacks may come from different levels of the kingdom of darkness.
- ⇒ principalities, powers Romans 8: 38; Ephesians 6: 12;
1 Corinthians 15: 24; Ephesians 1:21
Ephesians 3:10; Colossians 1:16,2:10.
- ⇒ dominions, thrones Ephesians 1: 21; Colossians 1:16f;
2 Peter 2: 1.
- ⇒ princes, lords, forces of Ephesians 6:12; (see references
this darkness above)
- ⇒ evil spirits (devil's angels), 1 Samuel 18:10; Luke 8:27
- ⇒ messengers of Satan 2 Corinthians 12: 7 (and many more)
- demons

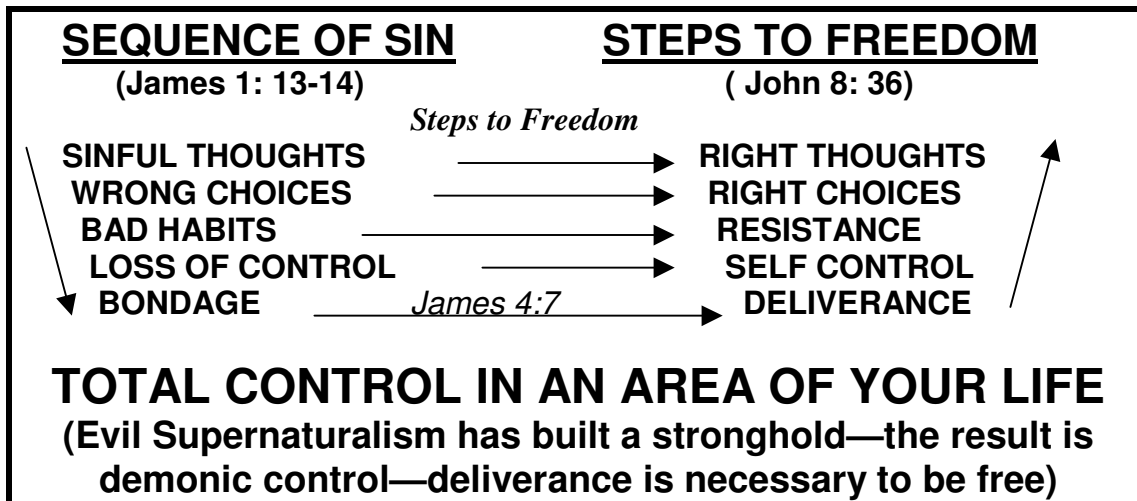
2. The enemy uses three avenues of attack: **the flesh, the world, and the evil supernaturalism.**

AREA OF ATTACK	THE PROBLEM	THE SOLUTION
The flesh	Galatians 5: 19-21	THE CROSS Romans 6: 6 Galatians 5: 24
The world	John 15: 18-19 1 John 2: 15-17 Lust of the eyes, boasting of what we have	THE CROSS Galatians 6: 14 1 John 5: 3-5
The devil, demons	Ephesians 6: 12 1 Peter 5: 8	SPIRITUAL WARFARE 1 John 3: 8 James 4: 7 Submit to God. Resist the devil.

**We are being trained for
spiritual warfare over the
nations.**

3. How do I know if I am in bondage?

The Continual Downward Spiral of Sin And Steps to Freedom



D. We will be able to resist and stand firm in the evil day when we wear the full armor of God. (vs. 13)

"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." vs. 13.

1. **"Take up"** means **"to seize"**. It is the picture of a soldier putting on his warfare gear, soberly and in proper order. Nothing can be out of place. Nothing can be missing.
2. **"The full armor of God"** - every piece of the armor illustrates a facet of Christ. We will see how each piece is applied to our victory.
3. **"Evil days"** are times or seasons of more severe attack. Job went through "evil days" that were satanically caused, but allowed by God to test, prove, mature and develop humble Job into a spiritually discerning man of God who was equipped to minister to his friends (Job 42:8). Now that you have been set free, **the warfare you face will serve God's purposes. What will be the result? Read the following verses first.**

1 Peter 1: 3-9

The purpose of warfare for me is _____

Note: Possible answers—refine me and teach me to pray and fight for others.

4. We "stand firm" by submitting to God, taking our position in Christ and resisting the devil. When we stand firm we are spiritually victorious. We are guaranteed that when the attack is over, we will still be standing firm and steadfast (1 Peter 5: 8-10).

*"There is never a holiday in the spiritual realm...Nothing but the full Armor of God will ever suffice us in this terrible conflict in which we are engaged. There is no protection, there is **nothing we can do that will ultimately protect us against this wily, subtle, powerful enemy but the full Armor of God Himself.**"*

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, The Christian Soldier

E. The Armor of God (vs. 13-17)

"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts." Romans 13: 14.

Warfare Principle: The putting on of the individual pieces of the armor all attribute to our ability to stand under demonic attack.

1. Put on the BELT OF TRUTH around your waist (vs. 14).

"Stand firm, therefore, having girded your loins with truth...." vs. 14

- a. **"Stand"** is an active military position that indicates that we are not to move out of position in an army. We don't have the same job, but we share the same military objective; defeating Satan's army through the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ and taking treasures out of darkness. Read Isaiah 45: 2-3. What do you think the 'treasures out of darkness are? _____

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: *the lost, souls of people who have not been saved, people in bondage*

- b. Literally, **"having girded your loins with truth"** means having our waist encircled or belted with the Truth. The Roman soldier wore a very wide belt. This was the foundational piece for his military equipment. At one place was a loop for the sword; another loop had three leather thongs dangling from it; there was also a sack of rations.

(See illustrations on pages 28-30)

- c. **Truth** reflects **the reality that is God**. He has shared with us Himself and that which is reality for our human dimension. He brought down this truth to earth in His Son. God speaks by means of the Holy Bible and His Son and the Holy Spirit to remind us of the Truth. Read the following verses and write your own definition of Truth:

John 8: 31-32

John 14: 16,17

Truth is _____.

Application: The belt of truth is activated when we take an unwavering stand on the Word of God in the face of lies.

ANSWER to E1c: the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth

2. Put on the BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (vs. 14).

- a. The Roman **breastplate** was made of bronze or iron. It was secured to the belt by three leather thongs already mentioned that hung from the belt. This breastplate functioned as protection for the vital organs of the body - the heart and lungs. (See illustrations on pages 28-30)
- b. The heart must be protected as the storage place for Scripture. The conscience and heart determine the mental attitude and behavior of the Christian soldier and must be free of accusation. We find importance of walking in Truth in the following verses:

Psalm 19: 14

Psalm 119:11

Proverbs 4: 20- 23

- c. What is **righteousness**? Righteousness is a right standing before God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is our moral uprightness, purity, wisdom and holiness. As we claim His Righteousness, the Accuser cannot penetrate us with his accusations.

*" But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and **righteousness**, and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, 'LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.'"*
1 Corinthians 1: 30, 31

What is your personal definition of righteousness?

- d. The prophet, Jeremiah, foretold this in Jeremiah 23:6, *"and this is His name by which He will be called, '**The Lord our righteousness.**'"*
- e. After Christ's death and resurrection, we read of that fulfillment in Romans 5:18, *"so then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of **righteousness** there resulted justification of life to all men."*
2 Corinthians 5: 21—"He made Him who knew no sin to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ."

- f. Application: When we purpose in our heart not to be defiled and to claim the righteousness of Christ as ours, we stand strong against Satan's accusations.**

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him, freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies." Romans 8: 31-33.

- g. Application: Thank the Lord Jesus Christ daily that you stand in His Righteousness. Set your will determining that you will not be defiled by sin, by the world or by Satan's accusations.**

3. "HAVING SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE"; or "ON YOUR FEET THE READINESS THAT COMES FROM THE GOSPEL OF PEACE "(NIV) (vs. 15).

- a. Your **feet** must be positioned in battle formation. The Roman sandals were leather thongs with spikes on the bottom for flexibility, mobility, and firm grip to hold a position while engaging the enemy.
(See illustrations on pages 31-33)

**Warfare principle: Never back down once you have engaged the enemy.
Hold your declared position firmly.**

- b. "**Readiness**" or "**preparation**" is the place we come to when we understand the full significance of the **Gospel of peace**, which reconciled us to God and our fellowman. This Gospel also is a declaration of the defeat of Satan's entire kingdom.
- c. What truths can you glean concerning this piece of armor from these verses?

1. Luke 12:35 _____
2. John 14:27 _____
3. Romans 10:15 _____
4. Ephesians 3:8-10 _____
5. Colossians 1: 20-23 _____
6. Colossians 3: 15 _____

d. **Application: Declaration of your victorious stand in the Gospel of peace:**

"I declare that I have been purchased with the precious Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The record of sin has been cancelled. I have been forgiven and stand in the Righteousness of Christ. I am at peace with God. I choose to forgive all who have offended me with the forgiveness of my Lord Jesus Christ, and I cancel their record of wrongs against me. I bless those who have cursed me and choose to do good to those who have spitefully used me. I stand firm in the Gospel of peace and claim the boldness of Christ to fearlessly declare the Gospel for which I am an ambassador."

Answers for E-3,b:1. Be dressed in readiness; 2. Jesus left His peace with us, not a fearful or troubled heart; 3. Those who bring glad tidings of Satan's defeat, and the good news of the Gospel have "beautiful feet"; 4. Satan and his workers are informed of God's wisdom; 5. We are reconciled to God and have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ; 6. We allow God's peace to serve as a ruler (umpire) in our heart.

4. **Above all take up the SHIELD OF FAITH so that you can extinguish all the flaming thoughts from the enemy (vs. 16).**

*"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your **faith**, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude" Colossians 2: 6-7.*

a. **"Taking up the shield of faith"** means to pick it up regularly for battle. The Roman shield was carefully laid out so it could be used immediately when needed. When preparing to enter combat, this shield was soaked in water to extinguish the flaming arrows of the enemy. To the Christian, the Word of God is the water that must soak our faith shield. In order to use our shield of faith, we must saturate ourselves in the Truth of God's Word, for this alone will quench the flaming thoughts and mental assaults of the enemy. (See illustrations on pages 28-30)

b. What is **faith**? Faith is personal trust in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is having Christ's perspective. It is trusting Him to meet our every need. In light of God's promises, our faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. **We choose to believe God's Word even when it does not agree with our perceptions, emotions, circumstances or the enemy's lies.**

c. **Application:**

What truths about your '**faith**' shield can you find in these verses:

Hebrews 11:1 _____

Proverbs 30:5 _____

Matthew 17: 19-20 _____

Mark 11: 22-24

Luke 17: 5-6

Answers for E-4,b: 1. Faith defined; 2. God and His Word are our shield of faith; 3. Mustard-seed size faith can move mountains and cast out demons; 4. Praying in faith gets answers; 5. Jesus states the role of small-sized faith as of gigantic importance in spiritual warfare.

d. There are five ways to fulfill the command to **"take up the shield of faith"**:

1. Intake the Word of God daily to strengthen your shield.
Romans 10:17
2. Claim God's promises by faith as the basis for all actions.
Hebrews 11: 17-18
3. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and demonstrate the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5: 18, Galatians 5: 22,23
4. Pick up the shield of faith immediately when in combat.
1 Peter 1: 6,7,13
5. Be occupied with Christ and your fellowship with Him.
1 Peter 1:8; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 12:1-2

e. The enemy has patterns in his strategy to undo our faith. Some common faith attackers are: doubt, fear, passivity, unbelief and apathy. These will be discussed in more detail in the chapter 5 on "Winning the Battle for the Mind".

f. Application: I take up my shield of faith and choose to believe and declare God's truth in place of the flaming lie or suggestion of the enemy.

5. Take the **HELMET OF SALVATION** (vs. 17).

- a. Since Christ is head over all things for the church, He is our Head. The **helmet of salvation** represents our position of victory; having received our deliverance from the kingdom of darkness and our permanent position as a child of God.
- b. The Roman helmet was crested in a stunning red to identify him. As the Roman helmet identified in which army the soldier fought, so our salvation identifies us to the enemy as soldiers of the Cross who march under the Blood of the Lamb.

"For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son." Colossians 1: 13.

- c. The mind of man is the battlefield where Satan and his evil spirits contend against the truth by injecting thoughts, suggestions, false reasoning, speculations, distortions and evil imaginations. The enemy fortresses that dwelt in the mind were destroyed and vacated at deliverance, but now the mind must be restored to the excellent state God intended by rebuilding it with God's truth. (see chapter 5 entitled "Winning the Battle for the Mind")

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking captive every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Corinthians 10: 3- 4.

What do these verses say to us about the mind?

Philippians 2: 12-13

Romans 12: 2

- d. Our Lord Jesus Christ is our salvation from our enemies.
Zacharias' prophecy concerning Christ is fulfilled.

*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant— As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—**Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us**; To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to Abraham our father, to grant us that we, being **delivered from the hand of our enemies**, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days." Luke 1: 68- 75*

- e. The helmet of salvation refers to our redemption and position in the Kingdom of Light as a soldier of Christ.

- f. **Application: How to deal with enemy assaults against our redeemed position in Christ and our abiding union with Christ.**
- 1. Don't let the thoughts or darts take root - that will involve you in sin. Refuse them when they first hit. James 4:7**
 - 2. Learn to identify the difference between your own thinking and the thinking of Satan and the demons. The enemy will often speak in the first person to make you think that it is your own thought. Example: "I am a failure." If what you are hearing is not true and does not match the Truth about God or who you are in Christ, then it is from the enemy.**
 - 3. The most common way Satan gets to you is through your mind. If he gets your mind, he has invaded your being. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. Immediately recognize his lies and speak truth in their place. This is the warfare principle of counterattack. The sooner the counter assault, the less damage is done.**
 - 4. When the enemy attacks your emotions, submit your feelings to the Lord Jesus Christ and claim His emotions and life as your response.**
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4: 13

6. Take the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT which is the WORD OF GOD (vs. 17).

- a. We use the **offensive weapon** of the spoken word of God just as Jesus did in the wilderness temptation when He said to Satan,

"Be gone, Satan! For it is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only. Then the devil left Him..."
Matthew 4:10-11.

Application: Speak an appropriate verse against the lie or strategy of the enemy and it will destroy Satan's plan against you.

- b. What does God say about the power and purpose of His Word?
1. *"Those who love Thy law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble." Psalms 119: 165*
 2. 2 Timothy 2:15 challenges us to handle the Word of God accurately and appropriately, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."*
 3. The power of God's Word is pointed out very graphically 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."*
- c. The Roman sword was known all over the world as double-edged, extremely sharp, and a weapon to be greatly feared. It never left the side of the Roman soldier by day or night. It was his primary offensive weapon. (See illustrations on page 33) So, likewise, we must know our weapon by reading and meditating on it day and night. When wrestling against Satan and his army, only skillful use of the Word of God will suffice to defeat Him. Satan trembles at God's Word. He knows that it is the weapon that will cause him to flee.

7. PRAY AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT and BE ON THE ALERT and MAKE PETITION FOR ALL THE SAINTS (verse 18).

- a. **Only the Spirit of God knows how we are to pray. When we pray, submit to the Heavenly Father first in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask Him to show us how to pray according to His will. Take time to wait on the Lord and listen to Him!!!!!!**
- b. We gain strength to fight the enemy and we gain ground back from him when we pray for the saints who also endure such trials and suffering. Prayer keeps us from falling into enemy traps. Jesus said to His disciples at the hour of His greatest tribulation, when He was interceding for every person,

"Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26: 41.

- c. Paul asked the saints to pray that he have boldness to declare the Gospel without fear. The Roman soldier was known for his fearless boldness. Ephesians 6:19-20. Like Paul, we Christians can pray for each other that we may be given boldness to fearlessly declare the Gospel.
- d. How do we know that we are **praying in the Spirit**? If you want to be sure that you are praying in the Spirit, pray using God's Word. Gradually you will gain more and more freedom in the Spirit to pray in the will of God.
- e. **Application: Here are principles to use in prayer for ourselves and others so that the kingdom of God can be advanced.**
 - 1. **Ephesians 1: 15- 23** - Pray for yourself first and others next.
 - 2. **Ephesians 3: 14- 21** - Pray for strength, power, the presence of Christ, and the ability to understand how Christ's love works in the church.
 - 3. **2 Corinthians 4: 3- 4** - Command Satan to take his blinders off the mind of the unbelievers for whom you are praying so that they can understand the Gospel and receive Christ.
 - 4. **Philippians 3: 10- 11** - Pray to know Christ, His power, to fellowship with Him in His sufferings.
 - 5. **Philippians 4: 6- 7** - Pray instead of worrying.
 - 6. **Ezekiel 22: 30- 31** - Stand as an intercessor for loved ones, the saints, and the nation as the Holy Spirit directs you.
 - 7. **2 Thessalonians 1: 11-12** - Pray that God's purposes will be accomplished through you so that our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you.
 - 8. **2 Thessalonians 3: 1-3** - Pray for yourself and other Christians that you will be delivered from evil men and strengthened for battle.
 - 9. **1 Timothy 2: 1-4** - Pray for all leaders and all men, as the Holy Spirit leads, so that they will be saved.

The Roman Legionary Armor And Battle Gear



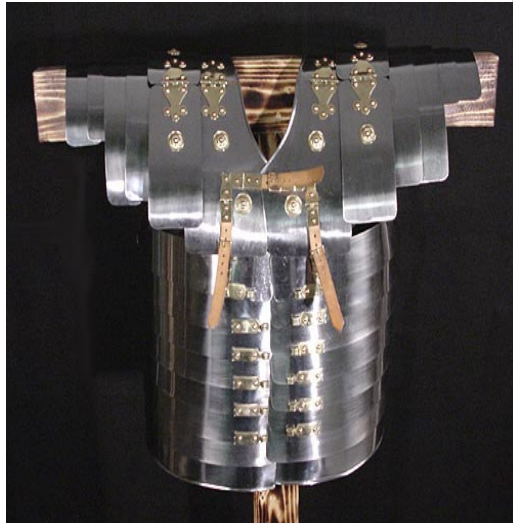
Roman Soldier—1st Century

The apostle Paul in Ephesians 6 describes the Armor of God. He was at the time chained to a Roman centurion who wore similar armor.

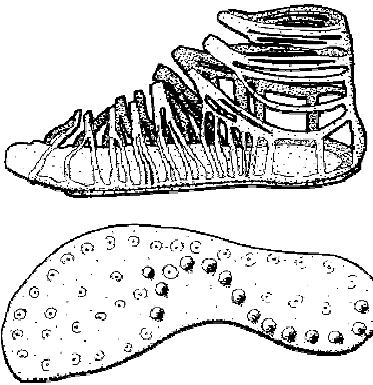


Roman Belt—Belt of Truth

Roman Armor –1st Century



Roman Breastplate—Breastplate of Righteousness



Roman Sandals worn in combat



Roman Shields—1st Century

Roman Legionary Armor



Red-crested Roman Helmet—Helmet of Salvation



Roman Double-edged Sword—The Word of God



**Roman Army in Full Gear Ready for Combat
We are soldiers of the Cross, well equipped with
the Armor of God.**

Chapter 3 **Binding and Loosing in Spiritual Warfare** **Matthew 12: 29; Capt. 16: 19; Capt. 18: 1**

Key Truth: We have been given the authority in Christ to bind Satan and the hosts of hell.

Lesson Objective: To understand how to engage in ordered battle and how to bind the powers of darkness and loose the person(s) from the enemy under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Key Verse: Matthew 12:29
"...how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."

A. Principles of combat.

1. We always **act in obedience** to the revealed will of God. Never take independent action, but rather wait to know the Father's will.
The following verses encourage us to obedience:
James 1: 22-25 1 Peter 1: 13-16
2. We always **maintain the warfare pattern** of submitting to God first and then resisting the devil.
James 4:7
3. We always **speak audibly** to the enemy. Our Lord audibly commanded the enemy to leave. Satan is not able to read our minds. Jesus set the pattern for us in the following verses by speaking aloud to the enemy:
Matthew 4:10 Mark 8: 33
Mark 9: 25
In Luke 10: 17, the Seventy rejoice at how the demons were subject to them when they spoke in Jesus' name.
4. When we are directly confronting the enemy, **we are never in prayer**. We are in battle position with our eyes open as we speak directly to Satan and his evil spirits. Our Lord modeled this time and again. Subsequently, so did His disciples.
Mark 9: 25 Acts 13: 9-10

Warfare principle: All spiritual warfare is done under proper authority and in obedience to our Lord's commands.

- B. We have been given the keys of the kingdom to bind and loosen in the spiritual realm in order to advance the Kingdom.

"Binding" in spiritual warfare is the verbal spiritual process by which we "tie down", "put in fetters", or "prohibit mobility or access" of Satan and the hosts of hell in a designated person or situation. [Greek—*deh' o*—to be in bonds]

"Loosing" is the verbal spiritual process by which we "release", "take off", "dismiss, dissolve, abolish or discharge" the control, influence or access of Satan and the hosts of hell in a designated person or situation. [Greek—*lu o*—to loosen, put off, dissolve, break up]

- C. Principles of binding and loosing in spiritual warfare

1. **God will not do for us what He has equipped us to do for ourselves.**

We have been given a free will that God will not violate. We must choose to use the equipment God had given us.

*"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven; and whatever **you** shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever **you** shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

Matthew 16: 19

*"...for truly I say to **you**, if **you** have the faith as a mustard seed, **you** shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you."*

Matthew 17: 20b

2. We must **only advance against the enemy under orders**. Since the Lord Jesus Christ is our Commander of the Hosts of Heaven, then when we submit to Him, we wait on Him to give us orders concerning spiritual warfare. We come to our Heavenly Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ in prayer and ask Him to show us how we are to bind the enemy and the hosts of hell in a particular situation or person.

a. God gives us wisdom for the battle Proverbs 20: 18

b. He equips us Psalm 18: 33-39

c. The Seventy returned in victory after following the battle plan Luke 10: 17-23

d. We are encouraged to follow the life plan God has prepared for each of us. Ephesians 2: 10

*Matthew 8: 8-9: "Lord, I am not worthy for Your to come under my roof, but **just say the word** and my servant will be healed. For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go' and he goes, and to another, 'Come' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."*

3. We need to understand that **the entire spiritual realm is operated by proper authority**. The Lord commended the centurion for such great faith based on his understanding of authority. We have already learned how, in Christ, we have been given the authority over **all** the power of the enemy. We can bind the enemy and loosen our lives from his control. We can also take authority over all the power of the enemy and bind him for those under our authority. Again, this binding and loosing is completely subject to the will of our Commander, the Lord Jesus Christ.
We must always secure our orders from Him before binding and/or loosing.
4. **All active engagement of our unseen enemy in the spiritual realm is done by faith in the Son of God and in the Word of God.** The centurion believed that Jesus indeed was the Commander-in-chief of the entire spiritual realm and these spiritual beings would respond to His orders. He knew that evil spirits had caused the illness in his servant.
5. **We also must choose to believe that we have been given His authority to bind and loosen in the spiritual realm as long as we submit to Him for orders.**
6. **Binding and loosing in the spiritual realm are tools given to us to advance the Gospel.** The enemy veils the mind of the unbeliever so that he will not come to the Gospel. When we bind Satan from an unbeliever's mind, will, emotions and flesh, we back him off so that the unbeliever can hear the Truth, be saved and set free.
 - a. Matthew 16: 19 - These are the keys: **binding** and **loosing**
"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound to heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
 - b. 2 Corinthians 4: 3-4 - When we bind, we back Satan off from blinding the mind of the unbeliever so he can understand the Gospel.
7. **We particularly have authority to bind and loosen on behalf of those who are under our authority.** The centurion understood this authority when he spoke with Jesus about his paralyzed servant. Jesus offered to go with him to heal the servant, and the centurion demonstrated his understanding of authority in the spiritual realm.

Matthew 8: 7-8

8. When we enter the strongman's house to carry away his possessions, we must **first bind the strongman**. The strongman is Satan. The context of these passages is deliverance. After we have bound the strongman, we can enter into his territory, bind his evil workers and command them to go to the abyss, so that we can reclaim the areas of our lives that were under his control. Jesus gives these commands in the following verses:

Matthew 12: 29 [key verse]

Mark 3: 27

9. We **bind and loose specifically**. We bind the strongman and loose those under his bondage. [see page 40]

We bind in the areas of:

- ◆ **the flesh or physical body, also, specifically, the tongue**
- ◆ **the intellect or the mind**
- ◆ **the will**
- ◆ **the emotions, the affections and desires**

- 1 Thessalonians 5: 23 describes two areas that need to be addressed in binding. What are they? _____, _____.

ANSWER: *Soul and body*

10. In **church discipline**, we learned that we have authority to bind the enemy and loosen the person from the powers of darkness, when a Christian will not respond to the Scriptural process for restoration. Jesus explained the process in:

Matthew 18: 15- 20

- a. When a brother or sister in Christ sins against you, Jesus gave clear and simple steps to resolve the issue:

Step 1: *"Go and reprove him in private. If he listens to you, you have won your brother."*

Step 2: *"If he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed."*

Step 3: *"And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax gatherer."*

Step 4: ***"Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven."***

- b. Jesus directs us to take authority over the demonic spirits that are blocking the person from receiving restoration. We can do this by binding and loosening the spirits that are offending him/her.

11. **Always bind and loose in the full name of the Lord Jesus Christ**. We have the honor of administrating the Gospel, the power of God, because we are His chosen people. There are many false Christs and false Jesus', but there is only one LORD JESUS CHRIST.

WARNING!!!!

Always confess all known sin and fully submit to the Lord Jesus Christ in every area of your life before entering into spiritual warfare.

D. Application: How to bind Satan and the hosts of hell. This we do for ourselves, for other believers and for unbelievers as the Lord leads.

1. **Bind Satan as the strong man, and then bind the evil spirits the Lord directs you to bind. Matthew 12:29; Mark 3: 27.**
2. When binding Satan, speak audibly with Holy Spirit boldness. This is not prayer, but rather a declaration of warfare.
3. Speak directly to Satan in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and take authority over him. Luke 10: 18-19.
4. Bind Satan's strength from the person's flesh and tongue, that he will not show himself strong in any way, and then you verbally loose the person's flesh and tongue from Satan's hold in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Next, bind Satan from the person's mind, will and emotions. You loose the person's mind, will and emotions from Satan's hold.
6. Wait on the Lord to show you if you need to bind Satan by specific names (father of lies, deceiver, accuser, destroyer, etc.). These would be ways in which the enemy has been attacking the person.
7. Sever all communication between Satan and evil spirits.
8. Cancel all orders that stand against the person.
9. Cancel all curses that have been put out against the person, those present in ministry and the ministry.
10. Quietly wait in prayer to consider what other areas of binding the Heavenly Father would have you do. Make sure the binding is thorough and complete.

ALWAYS SPEAK IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

11. Bind all evil spirits that the Holy Spirit directs you to bind. Again, this is done audibly and with authority.
12. Only bind those spirits that you are sure the Lord by His Holy Spirit is directing you to bind. **God often allows the person to travail under the influence of an evil spirit to accomplish His purposes.**
Paul was allowed to have a "messenger from Satan" as a thorn in the flesh to keep him dependent on the Holy Spirit for grace. 2 Corinthians 12: 7-9

.....
Warfare statements to bind Satan and the hosts of hell for yourself, or for someone in your life that is under your authority or for someone else in your life for whom you have been given permission by God to bind / loose on their behalf.

"Satan, I come against you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of His shed Blood and I take authority over you. I bind your strength in (Jim's) flesh . You will not show yourself strong in his flesh. I loose (Jim's) flesh from your control. I command you to loose his flesh in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Satan, I bind your tongue from (Jim's) tongue. You will not use his tongue to blaspheme or curse God. I loose his tongue from you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I command you to loose his tongue in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I bind you from (Jim's) mind, will and emotions in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I loose (Jim's) mind, will and emotions from your mind. I command you to loose (Jim's) mind, will and emotions.

I bind you as the deceiver, accuser, tempter, liar, destroyer, murderer and robber.

I bind the spirits of (fear, anger, lust, etc..) and all spirits that have had any involvement in these areas of (Jim's) life in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I loose your control over (Jim), and I command you to loose him and to come captive to the obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 10: 4-5)

.....

- E. Intercede regularly for the person for whom you are binding the strongman and the hosts of hell. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring conviction and repentance to him/her (John 16: 8-11). You can claim the promise that our Lord gave us that "He came to set the captives free." (Luke 4:18-19)

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

John 14: 12-13

SCRIPTURE TO BIND SATAN BY HIS NAMES

Satan as:

▶ the accuser,	Revelation 12: 10
▶ dragon, serpent	
▶ the deceiver	2 John 7
▶ the serpent	2 Corinthians 11:3
▶ the tempter	Matthew 4: 3
▶ the destroyer	Revelation 9: 11
▶ the father of lies	John 8: 44
▶ the murderer	John 8: 44
▶ the robber	John 10: 10
▶ the financial afflicter	Job 1: 6-11
▶ the physical afflicter	Luke 13: 16
▶ the destroyer	Job 1: 6-11
▶ the hinderer	1 Thess. 2:18

“Or again, how can anyone make his way into a strong man’s house and plunder his property unless he has first tied up the strong man? Only then can he plunder his house.” Matthew 12:29

AREAS TO QUESTION

NOTE: The major headings are called "Door-openers", defined as the patternable ways the enemy may gain a foothold in our lives. This list in agreement with the "Lighthouse Procedure Manual".

1. **TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES:**

death	divorce	child abuse	rejection
violent crime	betrayal	incest	abandonment
distrust	fear	emotional abuse	loneliness
severe hurt	serious accident	adultery	physical abuse
sexual abuse	pain	spiritual abuse	isolation
		severe medical intervention	
2. **LINEAGE HOLDS AND/OR CURSES:** familiar spirits from relatives involved in witchcraft, false religion, ancestral spirit worship, curses spoken by relatives or people in authority against the believer's character or physical appearance or abilities, also, any sin bondage; if adopted, the lineage from the birth parents and legal parents must be broken; sin bondages on both lineages. (see #3 and #4)
3. **WITCHCRAFT/ REBELLION:**

prayers to Satan	cursing God	Cults	false religions
horoscopes	astrology	New Age	drugs
occult activity	occult books	yoga	astral projection
channeling	magic	occult movies	spiritism
curses	incantations	levitation	spells
premonitions	clairvoyance	divination	Tarot cards
psychic power	blood pacts	astrology	fortune telling
nightmares	apparitions	satanism	sorcery
fetishes	idolatry	charms	amulets
		blood sacrifices	blasphemy
4. **SIN BONDAGE:**

addiction to any substance (ex. alcohol, drugs, caffeine, sweets, etc.)
addictive behaviors (ex. emotional addiction, food addiction, eating addictions, T.V. addiction, sexual addictions, etc.)

street drugs	prescription drugs	alcohol	nicotine
gluttony	anorexia	bulimia	violence
lying	stealing	pride	jealousy
envy	blasphemy	cursing	swearing
gossip	slander	critical	coveting
anger	rage	selfishness	hatred
judgmental	manipulation	control	greed

[These are only a few strongholds that can be present here.]

5. **MENTAL/EMOTIONAL BONDAGES:**

The most common ground of enemy access to the mind = passivity, deception, and attack on the emotions.

Some emotional areas:

loneliness	anxiety	guilt	worry
rejection	denial	frustration	self-pity
hopelessness	discouragement	fears (see #9)	emotional pain
despair	hurt	anger	rage
depression	condemnation	suicide	trauma

Some mental areas:

mental confusion	lack of concentration		indecisiveness
fantasy	distraction	negativity	hallucinations
pretension	avoidance	voices	phobias
schizophrenia	manic/depression	escape	paranoia
multiple personalities			

obsessive spirits = obsessions of any kind (ex. obsessive worry, obsession to someone, etc.)

compulsive spirits = compulsive behaviors (ex. compulsive buying, compulsive lying, compulsive gambling, etc.)

[These are only a few of the strongholds that can be present in these areas. The enemy can also counterfeit, intensify, or cause total suppression of the emotions.]

6. **SEXUAL IMPURITIES:**

lust	fornication	immorality	masturbation
sensuality	adultery	pornography	perversion
bestiality	sexual abuse	molestation	rape
incest	homosexuality	lesbian spirit	sexual fantasy
nightmares	abortion	prostitution	sexual shame
sexual curses	sexual rejection	harlot spirit	transvestite
Satanic sexual ritual abuse (used in ceremonial rites)			seduction
sexual attack by demons		sexual violence	

7. **BONDAGES IN AREA OF SELF-IMAGE:** (the names of spirits are in **BOLD**)

curses (spoken by someone: ex. "You're stupid")

self-curses (We listen to the enemies lies and speak them about ourselves. Ex. "You're ugly".) There may be many.

These curses may produce: **self-condemnation**

low self-esteem	worthlessness	inadequacy	rejection
self-rejection	self-destroyer	false body image	incapable
self-hatred	anorexia	starvation	bulimia
			death

self abuse (**cutters** = people who cut themselves)

self-mutilation (usually related to rituals)

false demonic personalities (usually after severe abuse or trauma)

When our self-esteem is distorted, the enemy may use:

pride	pretension	fantasy	isolation
escape	depression	fear of rejection	suicide

8. **UNFORGIVENESS:**

hurt	emotional pain	resentment	hostility
retaliation	revenge	rejection	bitterness
hatred	murder		

9. **FEARS:** [Other names for fear: terror, psychosis, panic attacks, paranoia]
fear of _____ (Only a few are mentioned)

God (negative)	rejection	abandonment	future
Satan	dark	supernatural	death
attack	failure	success	authority
loss of control	loss (ex. loved one)		insanity
illness	pain	hurt	sex
men (women)	intimacy	unknown	confrontation
public speaking			

water, drowning, snakes, spiders, people, heights, driving, accidents, etc.....

There can be a stronghold of fear of almost anything, if excessive and controlling.

10. **PHYSICAL OFFENDERS:**

Any prolonged illness, affliction or symptom that does not respond to normal medical diagnosis and treatment is suspect. Often these are bondages on the family lineage. Common ailments that have been frequently demonic are:

asthma	cancer	choking	constrictions
blood disorders	PMS	epilepsy	convulsions

reoccurring illness (ex: skin diseases, severe allergies, high blood pressure)
high blood pressure

severe or erratic pain (ex. migraines, pain that moves)

fever (when not normal symptom of ailment)

energy robber severe and prolonged fatigue nervousness

spirits that entered through false healing (usually allows other demons to enter in place of the one that left)

11. **SPIRITUAL BLOCKS:**

cursed God	prayed to Satan	rebellion	doubt
unbelief	distrust	discontent	legalism
deception	passivity	hypnosis	pretension
anger (to God)	performance	perfectionism	witchcraft
curses	false gifts	counterfeit Jesus	false visions

subjected to false ministry—hands laid in false ministry, false oil anointing, slain in the spirit, false "baptism in the spirit", false tongues or other spiritual 'gifts', false "laughing in the spirit", spiritual confusion, lack of concentration
dedications to 'saints' or 'the virgin Mary' or any one other than to God

12. **UNCONFESSED SIN**

Do you have any unconfessed sin? _____

This may result in bondage to:

guilt	deception	pride	hypocrisy
pretension	shame	blame	defensive
condemnation	self-righteous	legalism	performance
high reasoning	evil imaginations	rebellion	

spirits of false doctrine (changing your beliefs to accommodate the sin)

13. **HARASSING SPIRITS:**

There spirits may be assigned to continue to harass you with:

tormenting thoughts doubt fears accusations

After deliverance, these spirits may try to rob the believer of his/her deliverance and gain ground back by attacking in the same vulnerable areas.

14. **SPIRITUAL GIFTS:**

What are your spiritual gifts? _____

Have these gifts been tested according to 1 John 4: 1-3? [Chapter 6]

Explain to the believer that during the ministry time, he/she will be taught how to test the gift(s).

Here are some demonic supernatural counterfeits:

counterfeit tongues	false prophecy	false discernment
false Jesus / Christ	false healing	false anointing
counterfeit signs and wonders	false presentations of 'Mary' or 'Jesus'	
false visions—clairvoyance	false teaching	false doctrine
religious spirits	religious performance	rituals
incantations (false prayers)	false knowledge—premonitions	

There are many other false supernatural manifestations.

Chapter 4 Recovering Ground for the Kingdom of God

Key Truth: God has given us the tools of our warfare to take captives out of Satan's kingdom and to recover our lives, our families, and our communities for the Kingdom of God.

Lesson Objective: To understand the steps we came through from bondage to freedom and to understand how to spiritually cleanse our life and our home.

Key Verse: Galatians 5: 1
"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

1 Peter 5: 6-11; James 4: 7

A. What is spiritual warfare?

Spiritual warfare is the spiritual process by which ground is taken back from the enemy and claimed for the Kingdom of God.

B. **The battlefield** - the arena in which the Christian engages the enemy.

1. The world—1 John 2: 15
2. The believer's mind/heart, will, emotions and flesh—Romans 8: 5-15
3. The believer's walk —Galatians 5: 16
4. The believer's family, friends, circumstances—Matthew 10: 3
5. The believer's community, country, and the countries of the world—Matthew 28:19

C. **The combatants** - All who enter into combat against Satan and the hosts of hell:

1. The army of Light - 1 Corinthians 15: 24-28; Colossians 1: 12-13
 - a. God the Father, as Sovereign of the Universe
 - b. God the Son, the Lord God of Hosts, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Commander of the Angel Armies of Heaven.

- c. God the Spirit is the Field Commander on the ground with us here.
 - d. Angels are the heavenly warriors who assist us in battle.
Hebrews 1:14
 - e. The Christian soldier—we are Christ's ambassador and warrior.
2 Corinthians 5:20
2. The realm of Darkness - Colossians 1: 13
- a. Satan, as Usurper of man's domain and prince of the power of the air, god of this world system
 - b. Demons or evil spirits, as emissaries or workers of Satan
 - c. Unregenerate man, as Satan's ally
 - d. The world, as Satan's system

**D. The War Manual is the Word of God - Hebrews 4: 12;
2 Timothy 3:16, 17**

*"Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For **it is written**, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"*
Matthew 4: 10

E. The Weapons - 2 Corinthians 10: 3-5; Revelation 12:11

- 1. Defensive - the whole armor of God - Ephesians 6: 10-18
 - a. Truth
 - b. Breastplate of Righteousness
 - c. Gospel of Peace
 - d. Shield of Faith
 - e. Helmet of Salvation
 - f. Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God
 - g. Prayers of the saints
- 2. Offensive - Revelation 12: 11; Hebrews 4: 12; Ephesians 3:10
 - a. The Blood of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. The word of our testimony
 - c. A surrendered life to the Lordship of Christ - 1 John 5:18
 - d. The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ who is also the Lord God of Hosts
 - e. The spoken Word of God
 - f. Active participation in the fellowship of the saints against the powers of darkness to push back the kingdom of darkness and claim "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven".
Matthew 6:10
 - g. The power of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ which raised us up to sit with Him in heavenly realms.

F. How do we get ready for combat?

1. **Keep short accounts** with our Lord by confessing all known sin. There must not be any sin-door left open - 1 John 1:9
2. **Daily forgive** those who have offended you
2 Corinthians 2:10-11
3. **Submit** in every area of your life daily to the Lord Jesus Christ
Colossians 3:1-10
4. **Put on the full Armor of God** verbally in prayer.
5. **Bind Satan** over your mind, flesh and tongue.
6. Prayerfully consider what areas of bondage you may have.

*Application: Write down a list of strongholds that you are struggling with now. Then go to the next page and take back the ground that each evil spirit has had in your life. Please refer to the list of strongholds on **pages 38-41**.*

SAMPLE LIST OF STRONGHOLDS

<i>spirit of rejection</i>	<i>spirit of failure</i>	<i>Lineage spirits— Anger, addiction, sexual impurity</i>
<i>spirit of jealousy</i>	<i>spirit of anger</i>	<i>spirit of control</i>
<i>spirit of guilt</i>	<i>spirit of worry</i>	<i>spirit of pride</i>
<i>spirit of hurt</i>	<i>spirit of pornography</i>	<i>spirit of shame</i>
<i>spirit of doubt</i>	<i>spirit of fantasy</i>	<i>spirit of adultery</i>
<i>spirit of confusion</i>	<i>spirit of divination</i>	<i>spirit of performance</i>

SUBMISSION-RESISTANCE COMBAT PROCEDURE

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

DO THIS FIRST PART DAILY.

1. Daily submit to God.

Prayer of submission. "Heavenly Father, I give you control of my intellect, emotions, will and body. I invite you to be Lord of my life, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

2. Put on the armor of God.

Prayer to put on the armor of God. "Lord, I put on your provision of armor: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the preparation of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit." [Ephesians 6: 10-18]

3. Bind Satan.

Statement of binding and loosing. "Satan, I bind you. You will not have control of my intellect, emotions, will or body. I loose myself from every stronghold and all bondage in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

.....

IF YOU HAVE GIVEN GROUND TO THE ENEMY, submit and confess the sin and then resist and rebuke and cast out the spirit(s) that offended you.

4. **Prayer of confession.** "Father, I come to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have given place to spirits of _____. They are not from you and I do not want them in my life. I confess the sin I have committed in this area of my life. Forgive me for allowing these spirits to have control in my life. Thank you for forgiving me, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

5. Speak this to the enemy in resistance and rebuke:

Declaration. "Spirits of _____ I take authority over you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have submitted myself to God and you cannot stay. You will not have my mind or my body. I take back every area that I have given you in my life. I loose myself from all bondage to _____. I command you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave me now. I rebuke you and command you to go to the pit of hell right now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

6. Pray and invite the Holy Spirit to occupy all areas of your life.

Prayer of consecration. "Heavenly Father, I ask you to fill and control each of these cleansed areas of my life with your Holy Spirit in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

AFTERCARE FOR THE DELIVERED BELIEVER

Now that you have been set free from bondage, it is extremely important that you assume the responsibility to hold your freedom. The following steps will assist you in the maintenance of your freedom in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. You are a joint heir with the Lord Jesus Christ and share **all** the blessings and benefits through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank Him daily for your spiritual blessings. Worship Him in prayer and praise above all else.
2. Daily submit yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you. Put on the armor of God verbally in prayer every day. Use Ephesians 6:10-18.
3. You need to **keep short accounts** with sin by immediately confessing sin(s) and then invite the Holy Spirit to occupy the cleansed area and to completely fill you. It is Satan's continuing work to use various diverting tactics to draw the child of God out of the place of abiding in Christ.
4. Spend time with your Lord Jesus Christ daily in prayer and in His Word. The Holy Spirit will teach you and transform your mind by the Word of God. It is so important to set a time aside for worship, intercession, and meditation on the Word of God.
5. Face every situation and circumstance confidently in Christ. When you are hit with a lie, temptation, or doubt, don't hesitate to take action, but rather, rebuke it and declare the **truth** in place of the lie. Remember that you are in a battle as long as you are in this earthly body.
6. Maintain a sober and alert mind at all times. Never allow passivity to settle in. Evaluate your thoughts to see if they agree with the Word of God. Make wise decisions as to what you allow in your mind and life. Your body and mind belong to God, so maintain a clean mind and pure body before the Lord.
7. Become part of a local church that teaches the Word of God. Seek the Lord as to how you can serve Him in your church. Fellowshiping with other believers, studying the Bible together, praying with a group of believers, and serving others in the church will help you to grow strong in the Lord.
8. If you give ground to the enemy in any area of your mind, will emotions or flesh, follow the steps on the "Submission-Resistance Combat Procedure" card [see page 51] that you were given when you came in for deliverance. Remember that your victory and freedom is maintained as you continue to claim the Word of God by faith which says, "If, therefore, the Son of God shall set you free, you shall be free indeed" John 8:36.

G. How do we maintain our freedom?

1. Walk in the Spirit with the fruits of the Holy Spirit
Galatians 5: 22-25
2. Pray for the saints - Ephesians 6: 18
3. Actively resist Satan and the hosts of hell - James 4: 7
[see "Submission-Resistance Combat Procedure" card on page 53]
4. Use the gifts of the Holy Spirit granted to you for preaching the Gospel, edifying of the Body of Christ; for setting captives free and healing of the Body of Christ.
1 Corinthians 12
Ephesians 4: 11-13
5. Take back all the ground given to the enemy
2 Corinthians 10: 5
6. After you have submitted every area of your life to the Lord and taken back the ground the enemy had in your life, then you will need to clean your life and house of sin-related objects.
Deuteronomy 23: 14

H. Application: After personal deliverance, it is time to Clean House!

1. The Holy Spirit fills every surrendered area of your life now that you have been set free. We are told not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God
Ephesians 4: 30
2. We are in union with a Holy God. Our activities, actions, and environment are subject to His authority, and therefore, we need to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as He directs us to remove things from our life that grieve Him.
3. Remember, the Holy Spirit will convict you of what activities or possessions need to be removed.

*"Who among us can live with the consuming fire? Who among us can live with continual burning? He who **walks righteously**, and **speaks with sincerity**. He who **rejects unjust gain**, and shakes his hands so that they hold **no bribe**; He who **stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed**, and **shuts his eyes from looking upon evil**: He will dwell on the heights: His refuge will be the impregnable rock; His bread will be given him: His water will be sure." Isaiah 33: 14-16*

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way." Psalm 139: 23-24

4. HOUSE CLEANING LIST

- a. **Occult material** - Acts 19: 17-20; Deuteronomy 7: 25-26
 - 1. When you are the authority, you may clean all territory that is under your control. Moses destroyed the idol the Israelites had made after he had prayed for them and warned them.
Deuteronomy 9: 18-21
- b. **Music** that is connected to sin or the occult - Ephesians 5: 18-20
- c. **Books, magazines, videos, T.V. programs, sinful materials from internet** that stimulate unclean or false thinking. The Word of God is your daily guide. Philippians 4: 8; Psalm 119: 9-11
- d. **Art objects** that offend the Spirit of God in you.

"Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Thy ways." Psalms 119: 37

- e. **Artifacts**, especially if they have been used in rituals
Deuteronomy 7:5-6
 - f. **Excessive possessions**
"There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches being hoarded by their owner to his hurt." Ecclesiastes 5: 13
 - g. **Mind-altering or addictive substances** - alcohol, drugs, cigarettes, etc. One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is self-control
Galatians 5: 23
5. **Remove all offensive things from your home and life**, confess the sin, then resist and remove evil spirits from present and past occupants.

a. Application: Go from room to room making a prayer of confession and then war against Satan and the hosts of hell.

Prayer of confession:

"Heavenly Father, I come to you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and confess that I have sinned and have allowed and participated in sinful activities in this place (if this applies). I have had ungodly possessions. I confess this as sin and ask you to forgive me in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I confess that sin has been committed in this place by previous occupants and I ask You to cleanse this home of all defilement. I claim this home for the Kingdom of God, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen."

Resistance and rebuke: "Satan, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I come against you and all your hosts of darkness that have occupied this place. I break your power over this place and take authority over you and all evil spirits that have attached to this place. I take back the ground you held in this place, and I command every evil spirit bound. I command you to loose your hold here and leave this place and go to the pit of hell right now in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Prayer of dedication:

"Heavenly Father, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I ask you to cleanse my home (property, place) with the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and to occupy it with your Holy Spirit. I give my home and my possessions to You. Your Kingdom come and your will be done in this place. Set you angels at the boundaries of this property in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen."

6. Dedicate your home and property to the Lord Jesus Christ by anointing the doors with oil as a symbol of the Blood of the Lamb.

Leviticus 8: 10- 12

As you consecrate your home to the Lord, you are declaring that your home is **HOLY UNTO THE LORD**.

7. Cleanse and rededicate your home as an ongoing duty.
- a. Keep 'garbage' out.
 - b. Reoccupy with things that will glorify God.
Example: Scripture on the walls, Godly music, etc.

**I. After cleansing, reoccupy your home with God's treasures
Determine to take the ground back in your home and life by replacing the wrong influences with wholesome, right influences.**

1. What standard does each of these verses establish as a basis for determining all activities and influences that should be allowed in our homes and life?

a. Philippians 4:8

b. 1 Corinthians 10:31

c. Romans 13:14

d. Ephesians 5:10

e. 1 Corinthians 3:16

f. Romans 14: 13, 21

ANSWERS: a. Whatsoever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, good report. b. Whatever you eat, drink or do, do all to God's glory. c. Put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the flesh. d. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. e. I am a temple of the Holy Spirit. f. Do not put obstacles in your brother's path; if you think something is unclean, then to you it is; each has a different level of freedom.

Worksheet for chapter 4—Recovering Ground for the Kingdom of God
Please tear out this sheet and answer the questions as you study this lesson.

1. What were some of the yokes of bondage in your life?
For example: jealousy, fear, control, doubt, rejection, blame, anger, rebellion

2. In personal terms, what is spiritual warfare to you? Think of the bondage you had in an area of your life and what you do now to stay free.
Spiritual warfare for me is

Have you given place to a yoke of slavery, or sin bondage, again? Which one?

[Refer to the stronghold list in chapter 3 of this study book]

3. In what area does the enemy most frequently attack you? Check the areas.
____ the world—a desire to own more things
____ the mind / the heart—used interchangeably in the Bible
____ the will—when I want to do what is right, I can't
____ the emotions—especially the emotion of _____
____ the old nature—with the lies that you are only human
____ the family, spouse, relatives
____ friends—at work or elsewhere who influence me toward sin
____ money—economic circumstances
4. What steps do you take to prepare for spiritual warfare against Satan and his evil spirits? **Go to page 38** and enter into spiritual warfare in every area of bondage you have identified.
a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
5. Make a list of the things in your life or home that grieve the Holy Spirit:

6. Are you ready to make a declaration that will change your home into a holy place that is filled with the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ? After you have cleansed your home, make this declaration over your home:
“I declare that my home will be free of _____,
_____, _____, etc. I further declare that Jesus Christ is Lord and reigns here in this place.”

Chapter 5 **Winning the Battle for the Mind**

2 Corinthians 10: 3-5; Philippians 2:8

Key Truth: Our mind is the strategic battlefield in which decisive battles with the enemy are fought and won.

Key Objective: To learn how to identify the enemy's schemes against our minds and how to take our thoughts captive unto the obedience of Christ.

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 10: 3-5
"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 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."

- A. The mind of man is the battlefield where Satan and his evil spirits contend against the Truth and hence against the believer. Man's will and man's emotions are like a citadel that the evil spirits crave to recapture. The open field where the battle is waged for the seizure of the citadel is our mind. (see key verses and also refer to the [illustration on page 53](#))
1. All communication between human and satanic forces occurs in the organ of thought. Man was defeated by the enemy at the Fall by giving place to a satanically induced thought, believing it and acting upon it. After that, God said that every intent of the thoughts of man's heart/ mind was only evil continually. The result was corrupt, violent and sexually perverted behavior that escalated to the point that God saw the whole human race was corrupt or demonized except for Noah's family. He had to destroy all but a small remnant of the human race.
Genesis 3: 5- 9 Genesis 6: 5-9, 12-13
 2. Satan has had access to our mind since birth. The mind of the unregenerate man is an enemy fortress. Our parents or authorities protected some of us more than others. Others were taught to make good choices and to set the will against destructive thinking. But all of us have experienced and been influenced to some degree by the attacks of the enemy against our mind.

3. The avenues of attack have included the culture, the educational process, demonic lies introduced into our mind, and false belief systems. The Bible describes the state of our mind before salvation.

Look at these verses and write the word that describes the mind of natural man before he has been transformed.

- a. Romans 1:21 _____
- b. Romans 1:21 _____
- c. Romans 1:28 _____
- d. Romans 8:7 _____
- e. Galatians 4:3 _____
- f. Colossians 1:21 _____
- g. Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:3 _____
- h. Colossians 2:8 _____
- i. Matthew 15:19 _____
- j. 2 Corinthians 3:14 _____
- k. 2 Corinthians 4:4 _____

ANSWERS FOR A3: darkened, futile, foolish, depraved, carnal in bondage to evil spirits, alienated from God, hostile to God, captive and deceived, and defiled; blind to the truth of the Gospel by Satan's blinders.

THE KEY TO A SOUND MIND

A Christian should keep his mind in the peace of God at all times.

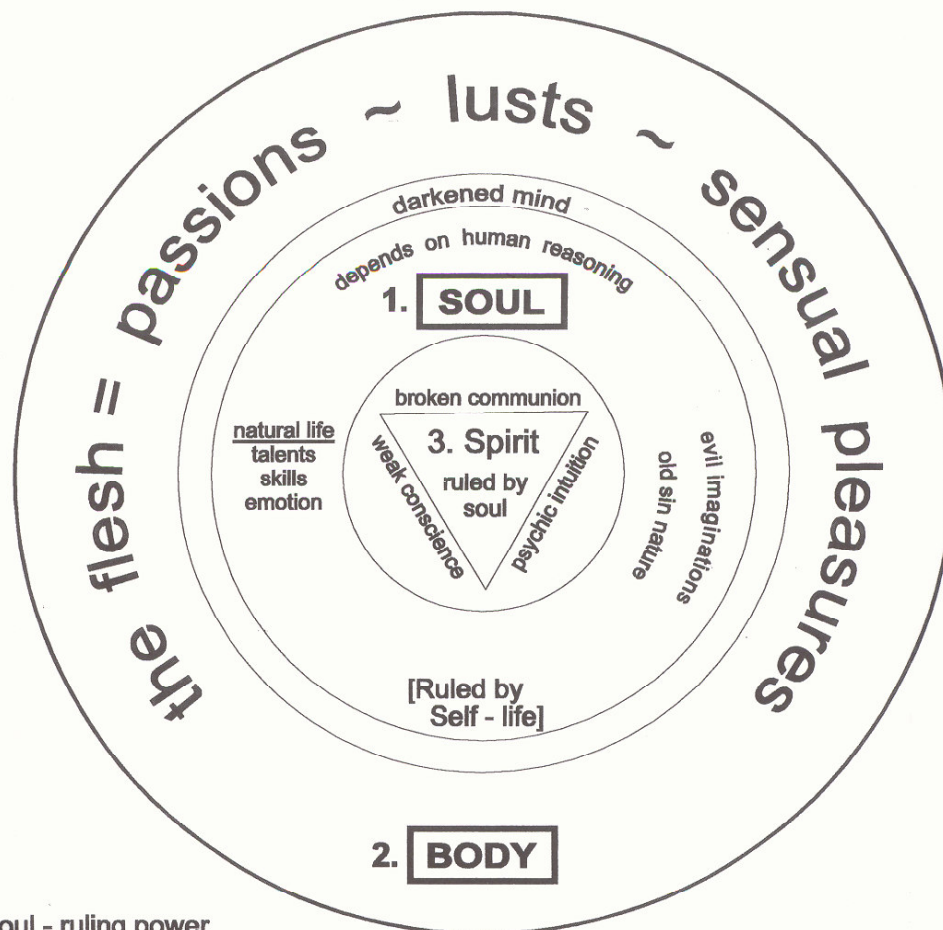
“You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord Jehovah is the Rock eternal.” Isaiah 26: 3-4

“Rejoice in the Lord always....Do not be anxious about anything, but in prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6-7

4. The unsaved man is a captive of Satan. His soul dictates his actions. The natural man before Christ redeems him depends on reasoning, emotions and will as the basis for decisions and behaviors. The body is a slave to the soul. The flesh with its lusts and passions strongly influence the behavior of the unredeemed. The spirit of the unsaved person is ruled by the soul. Darkness reigns in the spirit and the unregenerate man uses his conscience, psychic intuition, and human judgment to determine his decisions. It is easy to see how Satan can influence, deceive, tempt, and capture the sinner. He/she is a slave to sin.

Romans 6: 16 describes the state of the unregenerate man:
"Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slave of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"
 Study the chart below to better understand.

THE UNREGENERATE MAN



1. Soul - ruling power
2. Body - under the control of the soul
3. Human spirit - under control of the body & soul

AFTER THE FALL

Ephesians 2 : 1-3

B. The first act to gain back our mind from the enemy is repentance and salvation.

1. The word 'repentance' means 'a change of mind'.
Romans 10: 9, 10, 13 declares, *"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart (mind) that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.....for 'Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be save.'"*
2. We now have a mind that is no longer at enmity with God. Romans 8 compares the mind set on the flesh that is hostile to God with the mind set on the Spirit.
Romans 8: 5-6, *"For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."*
3. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to rebuild and transform our minds so that we can know the will of God and do it.
2 Timothy 3: 16-17, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; That the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."*

C. God wants to restore our mind, heart, will, emotions, affections, and desires to the excellent state they were designed to be, so that we may not only glorify God in our thinking, but, as a result, we will glorify Him in our walk as well.

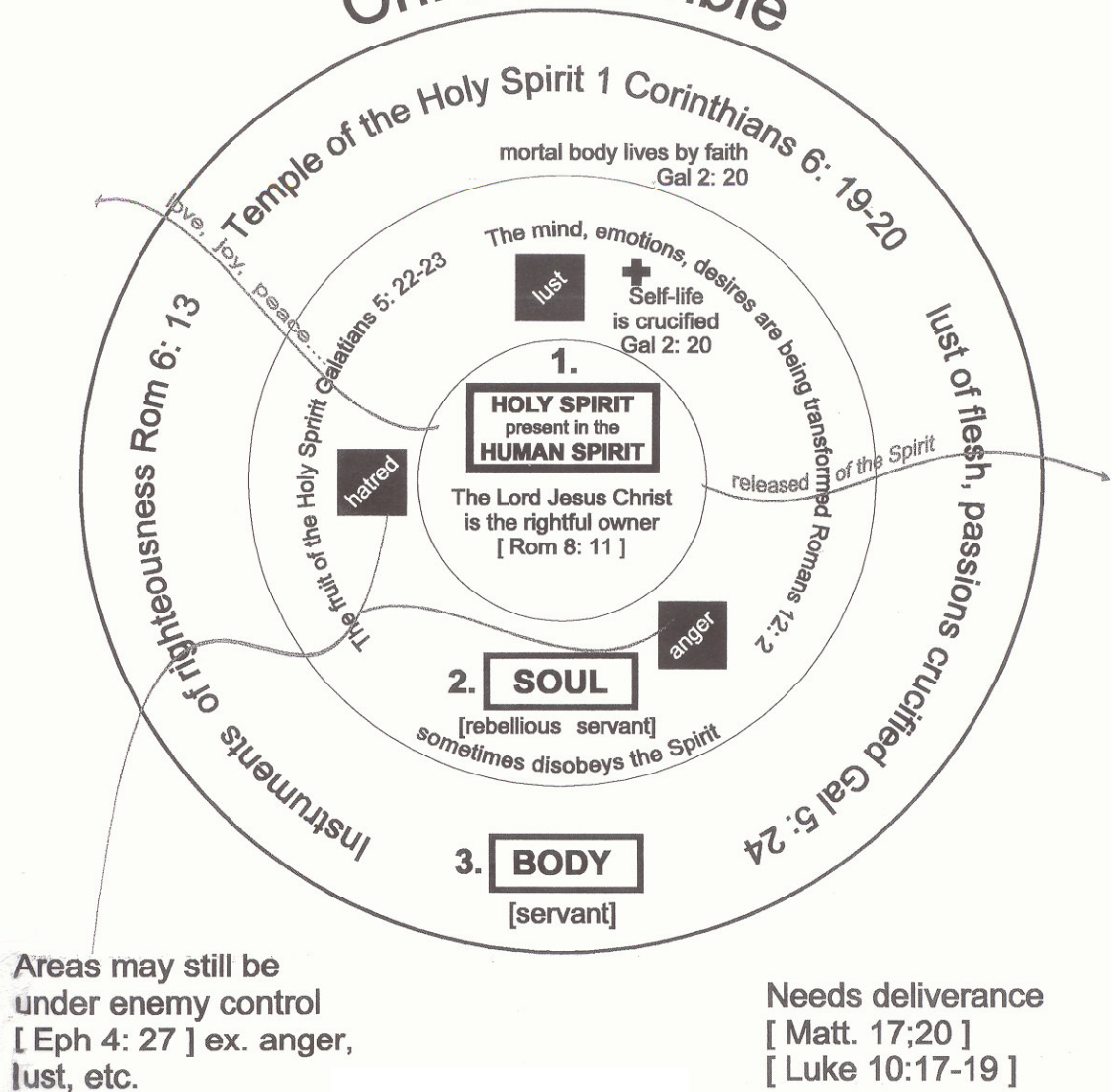
[Refer to the **illustrations on pages 55 & 56**]

1. A change of thinking will produce a change of behavior. The objective is to have the mind of Christ directing our mental and emotional activities.
1 Corinthians 2: 16, *"For who has known the mind of the Lord, that He should Him? But we have the mind of Christ."*
What has God promised we will know as we now have the mind of Christ?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:12 _____
 - b. Romans 12: 2 _____

ANSWERS: a. We will know the things freely given to us by God. b. We will know what the will of God is for our lives.
2. When the Holy Spirit enters at salvation, He becomes the seat of government. We have a new Master who will teach us to trust Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Word. We enter into a life long process of sanctification in which we will be conformed to the image of Christ. We are taught to submit our soul and body to His authority. We learn that our thoughts and emotions cannot dictate the decision-making process in our life.

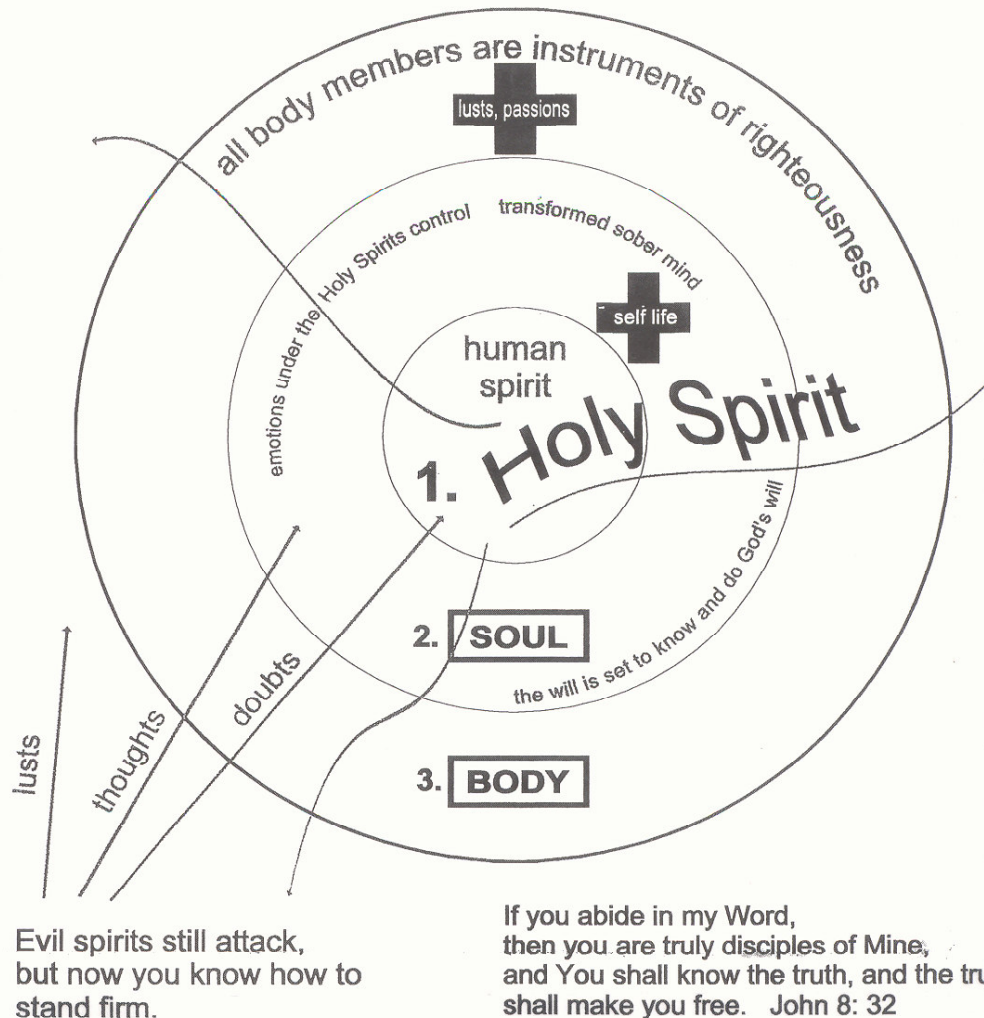
THE REGENERATE MAN (after salvation)

Christ is visible



The Christian who is saved may not be completely free from enemy strongholds in areas of his/her life. Deliverance from demonic bondage may be necessary. Then the believer can invite the Holy Spirit to occupy the areas of his/her life where the enemy had a foothold.

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN SET FREE



D. The mind needs to be recaptured and rebuilt in areas of the will, intellect, imagination, emotions, affections and desires.

1. The **will** is the organ of decision. It is the "helm" that determines the course of our life. God recognizes that we have a sovereign will. He does not interfere with the operation of our will, but rather, He presents Truth to us and allows us total freedom to accept or reject it. This is a vital principle to understand in the process of regaining control of our mind. God does not suddenly take over our mind and control our thoughts and actions. He makes clear that **it is our responsibility to take every thought captive with the tools He has provided: the Word of God, the power of the Blood and Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The following verses are important:
John 8: 31- 32

James 4: 7

Application: By an act of our will we submit to God's will, and then we are in a position to resist the devil and take back our mind so that we will have a sound and productive mind for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. God gave us **emotions** to enjoy the world around us and to express our delight in God. Our emotions respond to external input, as well as to the Spirit of God internally. The Bible has many examples of believer's emotional responses to God's magnificent works, such as:

Psalms 149

Luke 1:47

3. In the natural man, our response to what we sense is in the realm of our emotions. Our **feelings, desires, affections** are part of our emotions. The more we experience our natural emotions, the more we realize that they are undependable and changeable and cannot serve as guides in our life. Emotions are never to be the dominating force in our lives. When the Holy Spirit indwells us, He brings in the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control to bring our emotions under the control of the Spirit of God.

Galatians 5:22-23

Paul teaches in Ephesians 4:26-27, that our emotions can be sinful if not dealt with as God leads. Satan then gets a foothold in your life.

4. When Our Lord Jesus Christ was in the most intensely emotional hour of His life, He submitted His will and desires to God the Father. Then, He received strength to face the Cross. When we are tempted to give in to our fleshly weakness, impulses, desires, or emotions that would lead us away from the revealed will of God, we must submit our will to God. **Our emotions go through the Cross in that we do not allow them to rule our decisions. They become servants of our will, which is submitted to the Lord Jesus Christ.**

In Matthew 26: 37- 42, we see the pattern Jesus set for us.

Provision has been made at the Cross for our emotions:

"Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

Galatians 5: 24-25

5. Our Lord Jesus warned us that in our families and lives we would have emotional ups and downs, rejections and misunderstanding from those closest to us. He said that **the way to victory over our circumstances is to take up our cross, give up our agenda and submit to His will in every area of our life every day.** Let us read Jesus' words found in:

Matthew 10: 34-39

6. The devil tries to stimulate our emotions, appetites, affections and desires so that we will make a choice to sin or he tries to subdue our will into Passivity so that we can't make a good decision. (2 Corinthians 11:3) **Satan's goal is to bring us to the place where we give up our will and allow him or an evil spirit to control an area of our mind, will, or emotions.** Our will is a barrier to enemy invasion.

E. God always deals with us according to our heart/mind. God will never turn away from a broken and contrite heart.

Psalm 51: 17

Psalm 10: 17-18

1. David's prayer in Psalm 51: 10-12 need to be our own. In Isaiah 57: 15, the Holy God states that He dwells with the **contrite** and **lowly of spirit**.
2. **Humility** and **brokenness** are essential heart conditions for God to rebuild our mind.
3. We are to **humbly receive God's Word** as the source of Truth that will change and rebuild our mind.
4. As we accept our union with Christ, **we are given His lowliness of heart** and experience rest in our soul and emotions. They cease to be a dominating force in our life. This fact is spelled out clearly in both the Old and New Testaments:
Isaiah 66: 2 Matthew 11: 28 - 29

Warfare principle: As long as we remain constantly dependent on the living Christ within us for every circumstance, we will remain in a victorious position. Satan's primary objective against the Christian is to draw us from our position of victory and union with Christ.

F. We need a free, clean, alert and willing mind so that all God has purposed to do in and through us will be done.

1. The profile of a healthy mind is illustrated in the Old Testament prophet Daniel. He lived in the courts of the king of Babylon, the seat of satanic power. His coworkers were enchanters, magicians, charmers and soothsayers. With his simple faith and trust in God, Daniel was able to stand victoriously and advance the Kingdom of God. What made it possible for Daniel to be so mighty in spirit?
 - a. He **purposed in his heart daily** not to defile himself with enemy food.
Daniel 1: 8
 - b. He **daily submitted to God**, worshipped consistently, studied diligently and **lived boldly his faith** in every arena of his life. God gave him a strong God-centered mind.
2. Look at these Scriptures and write the qualities that God gave Daniel.
 - a. Daniel 2:14 _____, _____
 - b. Daniel 5:11-12 _____,
_____,

 - c. Daniel 5:14 _____
3. Application: God's Word describes a sound battle ready mind. We are to claim:
 - a. **Power, love** and a **sound mind** 2 Timothy 1: 7
 - b. A **transformed mind** by God's Word Romans 12: 2
 - c. A **renewed, truthful, self-controlled mind** Ephesians 4: 20- 32
 - d. A **humble mind**, willing to work together with other Christians to build the Church. Philippians 1: 27; 2:3,5
Philippians 2: 3, 5
 - e. A **mind that dwells on truth** Philippians 4: 8
 - f. A **mind that is set on things above** Colossians 3: 2
Matthew 5: 21
 - g. An **alert and steadfast mind** 1 Thessalonians 5: 8,9
 - h. A **mind that rejoices always** 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 - i. A **sober battle ready mind** 1 Peter 5: 8

ANSWERS to F2: discernment, discretion, wisdom, insight, understanding, the ability to solve difficult problems

Warfare principle: In the spiritual realm, the law of counteraction is always operative to gain any ground. Just as light dispels darkness, truth must be stated to defeat lies.

G. Recognize the dangerous traps Satan sets against your mind, will and emotions so that you can take up your spiritual weapons and aggressively destroy them.

1. **Spiritual apathy** - This dull mental condition gives ground to demonic harassment. We are to maintain a battle mentality. We are to stay alert and on guard, not apathetic. 1 Peter 5: 8
2. **Passivity** - This condition allows outside forces to activate us. A fundamental difference between the work of the Holy Spirit and that of an evil spirit is that the Holy Spirit never asks us to set aside our personality; an evil spirit demands us to be entirely inactive so that he may work in our place, reducing us to a robot. The Holy Spirit requires our free will cooperation and submission to Him. Our will must always be active but under the authority of the Holy Spirit to avoid the danger of passivity. Psalm 40: 8
3. **A blank mind** that is not focused provides the condition for evil spirits to insert their thoughts. Never allow a mental state of neutrality or emptiness. The Bible says that we are to stay alert and focused on Truth. 1 Peter 1: 13
4. **Unclean thoughts** - Evil spirits will constantly try to insert unclean thoughts. If we cherish a sinful thought, it becomes a mental choice and then an action. Then we need to confess the sin and resist the enemy in this area. To be tempted is not sin, but yielding to it is. James 1: 14 - 15
5. **Counterfeit sensations** of the supernatural - Beware of sensual religious experiences that take over your being. Again, God asks us to walk by faith not by sensations, perceptions or experiences. Romans 12: 3; 2 Corinthians 5: 7 [see Session 6 on "Developing Discernment"]
6. **Counterfeit gifts** may operate in a believer who has been deceived and not learned to test the spirits to see whether they be from God. [See Session 6]
7. **Accepting suggestions** concerning our future or others future or circumstances - evil spirits endeavor to give us supernatural abilities in the disguise of gifts. Every gift or message must be tested according to 1 John 4: 1- 3 [see Session 6]
8. **Impulsive thinking** - This condition produces a pressure to take immediate action. Evil spirits affect the mind with restless pressure and they endeavor to push us to fulfill their agenda before we take time to seek the Lord and see if it is an ordered action. They create inordinate desires for things. They insistently drive us to attain the desired suggestion or goal. The mind influenced by the enemy is marked by restlessness and turbulence. On the other hand, the Spirit of God is gentle and peaceful and He never forces us to action. He leads us calmly and step by step. If we feel driving pressure from a mental suggestion, it is usually not from God. John 10: 3- 4
9. **Strong emotional rushes** - If our vulnerable area is our emotions, we need to guard against emotionally based actions or impulses. All the paths of God are peace. God certainly allows us to express strong emotions under His Spirit's control but the fruit is always righteousness and peace. Strong negative emotions that rob us of the fruit of the Holy Spirit are not from God. John 14: 27
10. An **anxious mind** is marked by constant replay of events and negative thoughts accompanying the thought process. Often there is worry, tension, fear of the unknown, fear of the future and physical manifestations such as headaches, anxiety or insomnia. The Word of God stated the only cure for an anxious mind - cast all your anxieties upon the Lord in prayer. Philippians 4: 6 - 7
11. **Strong doubts** are always enemy induced in the guise of our own thinking. The enemy is always trying to destroy our faith in God and in His Word. Evil spirits insert lies about the character of God so that we will not trust Him. They

also try to get us to doubt who we are in Christ. These faith killers must be dealt with by openly confessing the Truth. John 8: 32

12. A **confused mind** is one in which two opposing views are being presented and no action has been taken to hold a position. A decisive choice to believe the Truth of God's Word counteracts the lies and dispels confusion. James 1: 8
13. A **past tense mind** is one that constantly relives negative events in the past. Once we have been freed from the sin issues of the past or the demonic strongholds that resulted from our past, we are commanded in Scriptures to not dwell on the sinful past, but rather to go forward to what lies ahead. Philippians 3: 13- 14

Warfare principle: The best defense is a continuous offense.

H. *Application: How to win the battle for the mind. Develop a daily habit of doing the following actions, and you will be amazed at the transformation in your mind.*

1. **Gird up your mind for battle action every day.** Accept the fact that we are in a fight against a formidable foe who seeks to rob and destroy us.
1 Peter 1: 13
2. **Submit** your mind, will, emotions and flesh to the Lord Jesus Christ every day and claim the mind of Christ. Put on the Armor of God.
1 Corinthians 2: 16
3. **Fill your mind daily with the Word of God.** Think truth, speak truth and walk in the revealed will of God for you every day.
Psalms 119: 11
4. **Guard, through the Holy Spirit, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.**
2 Timothy 1: 13- 14
5. **Avoid foolish speculations** and quarrels that disrupt the bond of peace.
2 Timothy 2: 23 - 26
6. **Abstain from all input that dulls you mentally and spiritually.**
Purpose in your heart not to be defiled by the enemy food.
2 Timothy 2: 19, 21 - 22
7. **Be thankful in all circumstances for that is the will of God for you.**
1 Thessalonians 5: 18
8. **Examine everything carefully according to God's Word.**
If it does not match the Word of God reject it immediately.
Acts 17: 11

9. Ask God to give you wisdom daily. James 1: 5
10. Commit to a life long process of transforming your mind into a Spirit-filled mature mind that God can use for His glory.
1 Corinthians 14: 20, Romans 12: 2

*“The steadfast of mind You will keep in
perfect peace, because he trusts in You.”
Isaiah 26: 3*

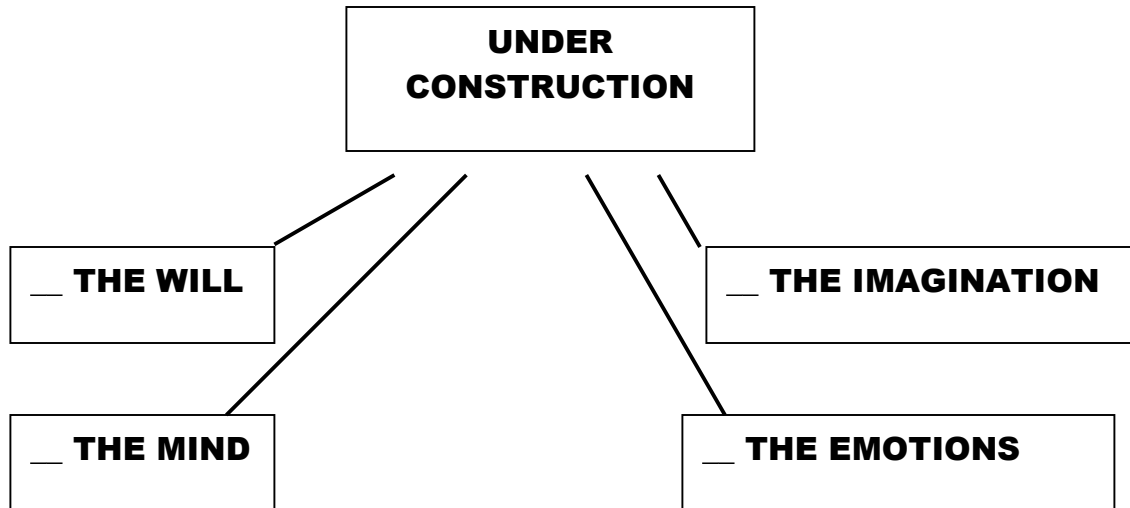
Worksheet for chapter 5—Winning the Battle for the Mind

Please tear out these sheets and answer the questions as you study this lesson.

Mark the appropriate answers for questions 1– 5 on the list in question 1.

1. What is the most common avenue of attack against you? Mark with +
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the eyes | <input type="checkbox"/> the ears |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the appetite, taste | <input type="checkbox"/> the emotions, passions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the weak will | <input type="checkbox"/> inappropriate sexual desires |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the desire to acquire more knowledge as a means of human wisdom | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the imagination | <input type="checkbox"/> the physical body—sickness, pain |
2. What is the area of least attack in your life? Mark the above list with a **X**
3. What do you think is the most common area of attack against the human race? Mark the above list with a **C**—common
4. Where did Satan invade man to the extent that God repented of having made man? Mark the above list with **D**—destroy
5. What areas of attack in your life are the same attack zones that caused the destruction of the human race (except for Noah and family)? Circle the answers in the above list. ☒
6. What are the avenues of attack since your childhood by which you came to believe many lies about God and others, and life?
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the culture | <input type="checkbox"/> the system of education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the demonic lies directly inserted | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the false belief systems—philosophies, theories, religion, etc. | |
7. What is the first step we must take to recover our mind from the control of the enemy?
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> read another book | <input type="checkbox"/> repent of all our sins |
|--|---|
8. Mark true—T or false—F about the following actions we should take to recover our mind for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- | |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> watch 3 hours of television a day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> confess with our mouth and believe in our heart that Jesus Christ is Lord |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sacrifice our body to God in prayer everyday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fill our life with worldly philosophies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> listen to the voice that says “Only this once or “It will not harm you” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> go out daily ready to be witnesses of what Christ has done for us |
| <input type="checkbox"/> focus on practicing the presence of Christ and His Word daily in my life |
9. Are there strongholds in your life that still have a strong influence over you? Mark the area with “yes” or “no”.
- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fortresses in the emotions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fortresses in the mind |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fortresses in the flesh |
10. Describe in your own words the process of how God, by His Holy Spirit, works with you to pull down strongholds and bring every thought captive. _____
- _____

11. What is “under construction” in your life right now? Mark with an ‘x’.



12. Write two influences that affect the emotions internally and two that affect the emotions externally, both positively and / or negatively.

EMOTIONS	
INTERNAL INFLUENCE	EXTERNAL INFLUENCE
___(negative thoughts)_____	_____
_____	_____

13. Complete the following sentence with what best describes the emotions—there may be more than one answer.

Emotions are: a. feelings b. ideas c. affections d. passions

14. Answer the following statements about emotions with true—T or false—F
Emotions:

- ___ can dominate the will
- ___ are uncertain
- ___ are natural and therefore should always be expressed
- ___ are unstable and changing
- ___ cannot be allowed to control our decisions
- ___ are vehicles we use to express love, peace, joy, and the presence of the Lord in our lives

15. What is the strongest emotion(s) you feel in which the enemy can gain a foothold in you?

_____, _____, _____

16. Fill in the blanks. Refer to **page 57 #4**.

- Our emotions must be put on the _____ so as not to allow them to _____ our decisions.
- My emotions must become servants of my _____ as I submit to my Lord Jesus Christ.

Answers to #16. Cross, control, will.

17. What are the conditions of our heart that allows the Lord to transform and rebuild our mind, emotions and will? Mark three.

___ pride ___ passivity ___ deception
___ humility ___ affliction ___ honesty with God

18. What are the dangerous mental traps Satan has used to trick you?

Mark with X. Please refer to pages 60 and 61.

___ spiritual passivity ___ mental passivity
___ a blank mind ___ false supernatural sensations
___ impure thoughts ___ impulsive ideas
___ an anxious mind ___ a worried mind
___ strong doubts ___ fantasies, daydreams
___ a confused mind
___ strong emotional rushes
___ a mind focused more on the past than on the present
___ a mind that is operating under the control of false gifts
___ thoughts and strong suggestions about the future

19. Write three constructive actions you can take to win the battle for your mind. Select from the list above one area to discuss.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

*For who has known the mind of the Lord,
that he should instruct Him? But we have
the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2: 16*

Key Truth: God gives Christians supernatural discernment from the Holy Spirit as we grow in our faith and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Word. God also equips the saints with supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body of Christ.

Key Objective: To understand how to discern and test the spirits behind words, gifts, supernatural manifestations and works.

Key Verses: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God: and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world." 1 John 4: 1-3

"Now, concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus is accursed'; and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."
1 Corinthians 12: 1-3.

This lesson on discernment can be applied by using the worksheet **on page 72.**

The foundation of all discernment is the Word of God.

A. Discernment for the Christian is the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure or hidden in darkness; the mature believer, who eats the solid Word of God and practices it, is marked by the ability to know good from evil.

"But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil," Hebrews 5: 14.

1. Definition of discernment

- a. In the original Hebrew language of the Old Testament, *to discern* is "to recognize, to distinguish or separate out." [Vine's, 1985, p.60]
- b. In the New Testament, the word discernment means "to separate thoroughly, to investigate by looking throughout". In Matthew 16: 3; also "to test and approve"; Luke 12: 56; and "to make a judicial explanation"; Hebrews 4: 12, the Word of God as "quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart," i.e., discriminating and passing judgment on the thoughts and feelings. [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, Unger & White, 1985, p. 171]

2. Purpose of discernment

- a. Paul prays that "your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment". Philippians 1: 9.
- b. Why have real knowledge and discernment? To recognize and/or pick out and approve the things that are excellent in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.

3. Motive of discernment

- a. What must motivate seeking discernment? Discernment must be motivated by God's love and our function in the Body of Christ. The Old Testament prophets were broken, weeping intercessors who loved their people, and therefore God could use them to discern and declare the will of God. (Jeremiah 9:1) Jesus discerned only out of love. For example in the case of the rich young ruler, the Bible says that "He loved him", so Jesus could then give him hard discerning words that uncovered the real issues and made judicial judgment on his situation. (Mark 10:21)
- b. Apart from God's love and the Holy Spirit motivating us, discernment can become a divisive tool in the hands of the enemy. The first and foremost strategy satan used against Adam and Eve was to offer them false discernment, "the knowledge of good and evil". In Genesis 3:5 the word 'knowledge' [Hebrew—*yada*] means 'to ascertain by seeing'. The enemy uses false discernment in the form of clairvoyance, premonitions, fortune telling and psychic knowledge. In this way, people who use these abilities possess knowledge without God's love and are motivated by false motives. The fruit of false discernment is fear, spiritual bondage, confusion, and curses.

The Holy Spirit, the vehicle of discernment, is in agreement with the Holy Scriptures. We can use this agreement as proof of correct discernment.

B. Our Lord Jesus Christ discerned every step of His ministry. As we remain in union with Him, the Holy Spirit will give us the truth needed to discern and accomplish the will of God.

1. Jesus knew in His Spirit what men were thinking in their hearts.

Mark 2: 8

2. Jesus revealed through precise discernment the real sin issue in the Samaritan woman without condemnation.

John 4: 17- 18

3. **By abiding in His Father's presence, Jesus was able to discern correctly every situation.** The meaning of discernment in Luke 12: 54- 57 is "to judge what is right". Jesus rebuked the Jews for having discernment for the physical world but none for the spiritual world. He implied the need to properly discern the present time.

C. The prophet Daniel had God-given discernment which was manifest through his extraordinary spirit, knowledge and insight, interpretation of dreams, explanation of enigmas, and solving of difficult problems.

1. Daniel explained that the revealing of what was a mystery was **not a natural ability that resided in him**, but rather God gave it to him for the advancement of God's purposes.

Daniel 2: 30

Daniel 5: 12

D. The Christians in the early Church discerned the leading of the Holy Spirit as the Church grew.

1. Often, they would boldly identify a false gift, motive or enemy spirit and deal with it and thereby advance the Kingdom of God.

Study these passages and write down the discernment given by God:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| a. Acts 5: 3 | |
| b. Acts 8: 29 | |
| c. Acts 10: 19- 20 | |
| d. Acts 13: 9- 10 | |
| e. Acts 16: 16- 18 | |

2. When we exercise discernment, we must depend on God to reveal to us by His Holy Spirit the necessary truth or direction to accomplish His purposes. **Discernment is given to us as believers for the Kingdom of God work and not for personal knowledge or convenience.**

ANSWERS TO D1: a. Peter discerned satan, the liar, in believers who were disciplined by death. b. Phillip was led by the Spirit to save a soul. c. God confirmed a vision to Peter that led to the salvation of Gentiles. d. Paul discerned the enemy in Elymas and rebuked him so that the Gospel could be shared with the proconsul. e. Paul discerned an evil spirit of divination hindering the Gospel in Ephesus.

Words given in discernment are never contradictory to the Word of God.

E. Spiritual discernment must be developed.

1. As we walk in the Spirit and stay in tune with Him, we develop in spiritual discernment.
Paul teaches this truth in:
1 Corinthians 2: 6- 16
2. Spiritual discernment is a sign of spiritual growth. Spiritual discernment is the result of all the senses God has given us and the gifts of the Holy Spirit being submitted to the Holy Spirit for His wisdom and truth to be made known.

F. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are used with discernment, but the "gift of discerning between spirits" is specifically used in spiritual warfare.

Let us look at:

1 Corinthians 12: 1- 11

1. The "gift of discerning or distinguishing between spirits" is found in this list of ministry gifts for the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good of the Body of Christ. In the ministry of deliverance, this gift is necessary to be able to know what specific strongholds are in a person's life.
2. The "gift of a word of wisdom", the "gift of a word of knowledge", the "gift of faith", the "gifts of healing", the "effecting of miracles", the "gift of prophecy", and the "gift of various kinds of tongues" and the "interpretation of tongues" are all gifts given by the Holy Spirit that function in spiritual warfare as the Lord determines they are needed.

G. Principles of discernment

1. Be clean, filled with the Holy Spirit, and dressed in the Armor of God before you seek the Lord for a specific word about a specific situation. Then wait quietly before the Lord. Note the specific instructions in the following passages:

Psalm 25: 4, 5

Psalm 27: 14

Psalm 62: 5

2. Jeremiah 23:28 points out the value of God's Word as opposed to dreams.
3. In Psalm 119: 66 and verse 99, the Psalmist requests discernment, and then he reveals how God is answering that prayer.
4. **We are commanded to 'examine everything carefully' and to 'test the spirits'. These are the Scriptural commands for testing the spirits.**
 - a. **1 Corinthians 12: 1-3** [key verse]
 - b. 1 Thessalonians 5: 19– 22
 - c. **1 John 4: 1-3** [key verse]

5. Test and examine "a word from the Lord" with Scriptures. The primary test for all supernatural acts and words received when the gifts are in operation is carried out by comparing them with the Word of God. Study intensely the real—the Bible, and you will be able to recognize the counterfeits. (Acts 17:11) Messages from other sources, we are also told in Scripture "to test the spirits to see whether they are from God". (1 John 4: 1-3, key verse)

H. *Application: Testing spiritual gifts, words, and works.*
1 John 4: 1- 3

HOW TO TEST THE 'SPIRITS'

1. The test is valid for all manifestations of the supernatural that are 'claimed' to be from God.
2. PRAYER OF SUBMISSION:

"Heavenly Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I ask You to reveal whether this word (or supernatural manifestation) is from You. I will test the spirit behind the message (or gift) according to Your Word. I pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

3. To test a gift or a word, it is not necessary that they be in operation. But if you are testing the spirit behind a "gift of tongues", then you may speak in the tongue during the test.

"According to God's Word, I test the spirit behind this message (or tongue or gift), 'Do you confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh?'"

4. Wait for a verbal response that you will speak. If it is from God, then the response will be from the Spirit of God in your own mother tongue declaring:

"Yes, Jesus Christ is/has come in the flesh." 1 John 4: 2, or
"Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God who has come in the flesh." or
"Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has come in the flesh." or
"Yes, Jesus Christ is Lord." 1 Corinthians 12: 3

5. If there is no response or a negative declaration, then the word, gift or supernatural manifestation is false. Confess having given place to a spirit of a false gift / word / vision / or other supernatural manifestation. The false word, false gift or evil supernatural manifestation needs to be confessed, renounced and rebuked.

"Dear Lord, I confess that I have given place to an evil spirit that entered through a false (tongue, gift, other manifestation). Forgive me for allowing it place in my life."

Now, rebuke the spirit(s):

" In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I renounce this false word (or gift). I take back all the ground I have given you in my life and I break your hold over me and lose myself of all bondage. I rebuke the spirits behind this word (or gift) and command you to go straight to the pit of hell right now, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

6. Ask God to fill you in every area of your life with His Holy Spirit. Ask for genuine gifts according to His will. 1 Corinthians 12: 11

"Heavenly Father, I ask you to cleanse me with the precious Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I invite your Holy Spirit to fill me in every area of my life. I ask you for the gifts of Your Holy Spirit that Your Spirit determines I need to minister, and I thank You for them in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ."

The Holy Spirit is the vehicle of discernment. He is always in agreement with the Holy Scriptures. We can use this agreement as proof of correct discernment.

NOTES:

Worksheet for chapter 6—Developing Discernment

Please tear out this sheet and answer the questions as you study this lesson.

1. List as many synonyms as you can for the word discernment:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. In a simple statement, write the primary purpose of discernment.

3. In a word, write down the motive of discernment: _____

Now complete the following sentence:

Correct discernment results in

4. What could Jesus do with ‘discernment in action’? Look at **page 68B**. After reading the verses, select the correct answer with the verses.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| ___ Mark 2: 8 | a. Jesus knew that the root of the woman’s sin and He saved her. |
| ___ John 4: 17—18 | b. Jesus rebuked the Jews for not being able to discern the present times. |
| ___ Luke 12: 54—57 | c. Jesus knew what people are thinking about. |

5. In review, what did Daniel do in order to have a healthy sharp mind that was ready to be used to discern? Look at **page 68C**. Check the correct responses:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ___ drank wine daily | ___ did not eat ‘enemy’ food |
| ___ prayed 7 times daily | ___ sought counsel from godly men |
| ___ knew he was spiritually better | ___ walked in humility before God and co-workers |

6. What resulted from Daniel having a ‘sound mind’?

Check the correct responses:

- ___ he had the gift of a word of knowledge
- ___ understanding
- ___ he understood the magic of Babylon
- ___ he had the ability to interpret dreams
- ___ he could explain mysteries—complex problems
- ___ he had a huge library of good books
- ___ he was granted more responsibility and a promotion
- ___ he could not leave the palace at will
- ___ he knew how to maintain constant communion with God
- ___ he saw every circumstance with spiritual eyes
- ___ he lost popularity in the court
- ___ he gained the confidence of his boss—the king

7. Every spiritual gift, 'word' from the Lord, vision, dream, tongue, interpretation or prophecy should be tested by: [Look at **pages 70 & 71**]
_____ the pastor _____ the elders _____ the Word of God
8. It is necessary to test the spirits because:
_____ there are many false gifts in the church today
_____ there are false prophets
_____ there are many false teachers
_____ there are many doctrines of demons being taught today
9. Think of a gift God has given you to serve in the church. It is certainly possible to have more than one, but let us examine and test just one. Complete the following statement:
"I think that God has given me the gift of _____. I am going to obey God's Word and test this gift according to 1 John 4: 1-3."
Let's test the 'spirit behind this gift' of _____ to see if it is from God or not. You have learned in this lesson how to test the spirits, so this is your opportunity to put into practice this vital test.
10. If you have other spiritual gifts, which ones are they?

Would you like to test them? ____ Yes ____ No

If you answered 'yes', then you already know how to do it and you have the assignment to do this in the coming week. Come with your results next week.

Chapter 7 Rebuilding Your Worship Center and Life

Key Truth: Our worship center, which is our body, the temple of the Holy Spirit, must be rebuilt and protected so that we can fulfill our design which is to be worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ and thereby maintain an intimate fellowship with Him.

Key Objective: To rebuild the worship center and the spiritual walls of defense in our lives so that the enemy cannot invade again and rob us of our spiritual treasure.

Key Verses:

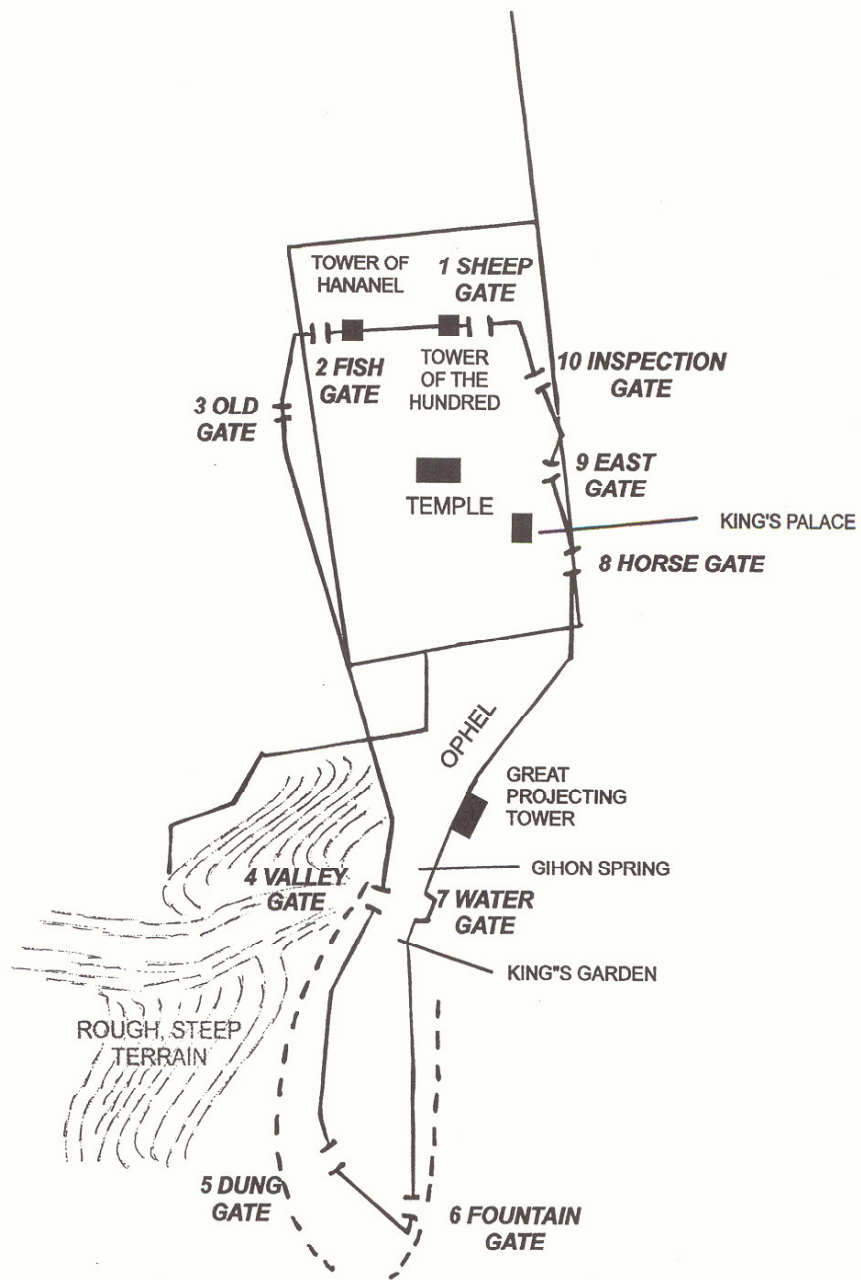
"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." 1 Corinthians 6: 19- 20.

"I urge you therefore 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. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" Romans 12: 1- 2.

Lesson Preparation:

Key Passages from the book of Ezra will be used throughout this session. To be prepared for this lesson, read the book of Ezra. Also read 2 Chronicles 36 to understand the historical and spiritual setting and why the people of God went into bondage.

[The map of Jerusalem is representative of the city at the time of the rebuilding under Ezra and Nehemiah. The date was approximately 550 B.C.]



JERUSALEM
~550 B.C.

STUDY FROM THE BOOK OF EZRA

A. We are God's chosen people who went into captivity because of the sins of our forefathers, and/or our own sin, or we became victims of the enemy because we were not spiritually protected.

1. The Israelites were also God's people who practiced sin and rebelled against God. Their children became victims of the enemy and fell into the sins of their forefathers. Even though God sent them prophets to warn them and to preach repentance to them, they refused to return to God. Because of the stubbornness of their hearts, they held onto heart sins of rebellion, idolatry, and witchcraft, and sexual bondage. **Heart sin is the habitual practice of sin that consumes the affections and turns the heart away from God,** eventually resulting in stubbornness and hardness of heart. God had to release Israel, then Judah to enemy invasion.

2 Chronicles 36: 9,11,12,16-21

1 Corinthians 10: 1-15. God warns us not to repeat the sins of Israel. There are five sins. Can you find them in this passage?

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

2. They went into the lands of the enemy and under satanic rule. God's people became slaves to a false master. They had lost their choice. They were in bondage. What an excellent description of the believer who turns away from his God.

Romans 6: 16

Galatians 4: 9

2 Corinthians 11: 3

3. Jerusalem, the city of God, had been the center of worship. It contained great treasures of the people of God, kept in the Temple in Jerusalem. When God gave them over to enemy tribes, they invaded and robbed the Temple of all its treasures. They took the Ark of the Covenant, the tablets of the Law, the artifacts of war, and the gold utensils used in worship.

Jeremiah 51: 51

Jeremiah 52: 7, 18-19

Lamentations 2: 7

Lamentations 4: 12-13

Lamentations 5: 6- 8

Ezekiel 20: 30; 22: 30

4. Jerusalem is called God's Holy Bride in the New Testament. We, the redeemed of the Lord, are the new Jerusalem. As the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are fitly joined together to form the Body of Christ, where He dwells by His Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit indwells us because we are His Temple. (see key verses)

Paul makes some statements about who we are as Christians. Read the following passages and then describe yourself in God's eyes.

Ephesians 1: 13- 14: I am

Ephesians 4: 16: I am

1 Peter 2: 9-10: I am

ANSWERS FOR A1: crave evil things, idolatry, immorality, test the Lord, grumble.

ANSWERS FOR 4: I am God's own possession, I am part of the body of Christ, I am part of a chosen race, a royal priest, part of a holy nation, a person of God's own possession.

5. The New Testament makes clear that we are the place where God places His treasure—the Kingdom of God. The condition of the city of Jerusalem at that time describes the believer who had given place to the enemy, who robs us of the spiritual treasures in our life (temple).

God placed His treasures in us: 2 Corinthians 4: 6-7

We are warned to flee immoral sins so as to not violate the temple of the Holy Spirit: 1 Corinthians 6: 18-20

In Peter's life, Satan wanted to give him a thrashing (sift him like wheat) and take all the good grain from him. (Luke 22: 31-32) Satan robs us of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and our identity in Christ and the gold utensils of worship such as our prayer life, our daily submission to God, and the sweet fragrance of the daily sacrifice of our bodies to Him. (see key verses)

Application: Are the gates of your life still open to your enemies?

"The gates of your land are opened wide to your enemies; fire consumes your gate bars." Nahum 3: 13

B. Our God is a covenant keeping God. He created us for relationship with Him. Even though His people go into bondage, God promises to deliver, restore, and heal them.

1. God's prophet Ezekiel declared to God's people in captivity that they would return to Jerusalem and remove all the vile images and detestable idols. God promised that He would give them a **new heart. and put a new spirit** in them. He promised to give them a heart of flesh and to cleanse them from all filthiness and idols.

Ezekiel 11: 18- 20 Ezekiel 36: 25-26 Jeremiah 31: 31, 38- 40

2. God is still the same covenant keeping God. We are now in a new covenant, the New Testament covenant, which was sealed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Redeemer, Deliverer, Healer, Sanctifier and Repairer of the breach, Restorer of the streets in which to dwell. Everything that has happened to us is designed to bring us into fellowship with the Son of God. In the following verses, write down what God does to restore us and renew covenant with us, and re-commission us:

- a. Hebrews 9: 14- 15 _____
- b. Hebrews 10: 9-10 _____
- c. Luke 22: 20 _____
- d. Titus 2: 14 _____
- e. Isaiah 58: 12 _____

3. The book of **Ezra** tells of the restoration of the Temple, the worship center, and the revival that resulted from the restoration of worship.

Nehemiah tells of the rebuilding of the walls and gates of Jerusalem to protect the worship center from enemy invasion. We can see how this applies to our life as captives that have been set free. We are commissioned to go and rebuild what the enemy had destroyed.

ANSWERS TO B2: a. cleanse my conscience with His blood. b. establishes a new covenant and sanctifies me. c. Jesus gives me the cup of communion to establish a new covenant in His Blood. d. purifies me from every lawless deed. e. uses me to rebuild the ancient ruins and raise up foundations and repair the breach, and to restore the street in which to dwell.

C. **Who are the rebuilders? "Everyone whose heart God has moved...prepared to go up and build the House of the Lord in Jerusalem." Ezra 1: 5 We are the rebuilders. Those who want to stay free are the rebuilders.**

1. **The enemy has to release what he has robbed.** God told a satanically controlled King Cyrus to give back the Temple treasures and to release the Israelites who wanted to return to rebuild the Temple. (Ezra 1:1-3,7,8,11) In deliverance, the enemy released us and the treasures were returned to us as the Holy Spirit occupied us. (Ephesians 5:18) Since we have been set free, we are commissioned to rebuild the altar and the temple for worship of our living Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Everyone who has been freed is commissioned to rebuild.**

The Israelites commissioned to lead out in the rebuilding of the altar and the temple have significant names in their original language of Hebrew that for us today seem to have significant application.

a. **Jeshua / Yeshua** was responsible for the rebuilding of the altar "*Jehovah is Salvation*" (see chart on page 90). (Ezra 3: 2-4)

1. The rebuilders were terrified that the enemies would come and attack them again, so they built the altar and offered sacrifices morning and evening. In worshipping God, their fear was dispelled, and God manifested His presence. (see Ezra 3: 3)

2. The rebuilders also celebrated the Feast of the Booths (or Tabernacles) to remember that their God had freed them from bondage and provided for them in the desert. (see Ezra 3: 4)

b. **Zerubbabel** rebuilt the Temple. His name means "*one who is of royal blood and is an offspring of captivity.*" He is the direct blood line of King David and appears in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1: 13. God gives Zerubbabel an astounding prophecy that will be fulfilled in the Messiah King Jesus. We are in this same lineage by the blood of Christ, so this is actually a prophecy that we are living under as we confront the demonic forces of darkness with Christ's signet ring of authority.

Haggai 2: 21-23—"Speak to Zerubbabel governor of Judah, saying, 'I am going to shake the heavens, and the earth. I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another. On that day,' declares the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make you like a signet ring for I have chosen you,'" declares the Lord of hosts.

c. The rebuilders are listed here. See if you can find application to your own life as a builder. Each of them represent a different facet of a builder.

STUDY AID:

Each person's name in Hebrew has a spiritual meaning significant to our understanding of the Biblical story of rebuilding. In order to go further in your study of Ezra and Nehemiah, we suggest you use the *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Look up the person's name first and then follow the number to the Hebrew dictionary in the back. Here you will find its original meaning. All the rebuilders of the altar, Temple, walls and gates are significant to our personal application as we rebuild our lives spiritually to protect the treasures we have within.

Are you a rebuilder?- Ezra 2: 2

These came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.” Ezra 2:2

Application: As you study the list of rebuilders and the meaning of their names, ask yourself the following questions and before you answer, look up the Scriptures.

NAMES	MEANING	SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
1. Ezra	<i>helper</i>	John 14: 26	Does the “Helper” live in you?
2. Zurubbabel—Governor of Judea, of the bloodline of David	<i>One who is of royal blood Offspring of captivity</i>	1 Peter 1: 18-19 John 8: 36	Are you of royal Blood? Have you been set free?
3. Jeshua—Built the altar	<i>Jesus, Savior, Jehovah is Salvation</i>	Revelation 1: 17	Is Jesus /Yeshua your altar?
4. Nehemiah—Built the walls	<i>The Lord comforts</i>	John 14: 16	Who is your Comforter and Helper?
5. Seraiah	<i>Jehovah is Prince</i>	Isaiah 9: 6	Do you have a Prince of Peace to rule over the affairs of your life?
6. Reelaiah	<i>Trembling caused by Jehovah(correct awe of God)</i>	Daniel 6: 27	Do you stand in awe of your God, who is able to deliver you from the jaws of the lion?
7. Mordecai	<i>The Jew, God’s chosen</i>	Colossians 3:12	Are you chosen? By whom?
8. Bishan	<i>Searcher of God’s truths</i>	Psalms 119: 33	Are you a searcher of God’s truths?
9. Mizphar	<i>One who writes, recorder who remembers</i>	1 Chronicles 16: 12, 15	Do you remember the things God has done for you?
10. Bigvai	<i>Israelite, returnee going back home</i>	Matthew 6: 25-26	Have you come home to rest in your Father’s care?
11. Rehum	<i>compassionate</i>	Ephesians 3: 14-19	Are you more compassionate now that you have been set free?
12. Baanah	<i>Affliction with self; to deal harshly with self</i>	Galatians 5:24	Do you deal with your self-life by pronouncing it dead in Christ?

If the answer is "Yes" to these questions, **you qualify to be a rebuilder.**
Now let us go forward to rebuild our life so that we will be the instruments of righteousness that God can use.

3. The people who were set free enjoyed their new freedom and went off to do their own thing, rebuilding their old life rather than the altar, Temple and walls of Jerusalem. Let us see the sequence of events from the following passages:
 Ezra 3: 1-The people were in their own cities.
 Haggai 1: 4- 7, 12- 14-The prophet warns them to "Consider your ways!".
 Haggai 2: 4, 5, 20- 23-The Lord encourages them in the task of rebuilding.
 - a. After reading these passages, ask yourself these questions:
 1. Are you aimlessly living your old life? __yes __no
 2. Have you lost courage in the rebuilding of your worship life? __yes __no
 3. Do you have a hard time seeing the big picture of why the battle to rebuild **must** go on? __yes __no
4. **God wants you to understand the big picture spiritually**, just as He did when He sent the prophet Haggai to the rebuilders in Israel to announce to them that they would be used as spiritual warriors over the nations and that they would wear the signet ring of God's authority.

"And I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another." 'On that day', declares the Lord of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, my servant,' declares the Lord, 'and I will make your like a signet ring, for I have chosen you'" Haggai 2: 22-23.

**We are being trained for
spiritual warfare over
the nations.**

5. **We will accompany the Lord Jesus Christ in His army when He returns to reign on the earth.**

"And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses."

"And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army."

Revelation 19: 14, 19

6. **As a rebuilders we need the support of our local church and elders.** The rebuilders were joined by the elders and the prophets of God who came to support them.
 - a. As you rebuild your worship life, you need the support of your church, and men and women of God who understand the plan for rebuilding and discipling. Solid personal Bible studies and regular Biblical teaching will strengthen you and give you an increasing desire to worship the Lord and stay in His Word.
 - b. The Temple was completed and dedicated to the Lord with sacrifice and joy. Let us read how the Bible details the events for us in
 Ezra 5:2; 6:14-17.

7. **Application:**

As we rebuild our altar and temple as our worship center, our joy will be restored, and we will fellowship with the Lamb of God who was slain for us.

- a. Daily, we enter into God's presence with sacrifices of praise, and we present to Him our body as a living sacrifice. (see key verses)***
- b. We place every part of our life on the altar, and give Him absolute control over the affairs of our life. 2 Timothy 2: 3-4***
- c. In this act of submission and worship of the Lamb of God, God the Father reveals Himself to us and imparts His life to us through the Holy Spirit. We then experience what it is to abide with the Father, the Son, and the Spirit in blessed union. John 5: 19-20***
- d. We become God-dependent in this true union with the Son of God by the Holy Spirit when we live daily before the altar.***
- e. The more God-dependent we become, the less man-dependent we are. We learn that only our Lord Jesus Christ can meet our needs.***
- f. Declare this daily: "There is no difficulty, outward or inward that my Lord is not able to meet in me today."***

Key Truth: Our life need new spiritual walls and gates to serve as protection against enemy invasion.

Key Objective: To develop a pattern of spiritual disciplines in our life that produces worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ and faithful soldiers of the Cross.

**Key Verse: "Violence will not be heard again in your land, nor devastation or destruction within your borders; but you will call your walls salvation, and your gates praise."
Isaiah 60: 18**

Key passages from the book of Nehemiah will be used throughout this session. To be prepared for this lesson, read this book.

STUDY FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

- A. Once the treasures were in the temple, the altar and temple rebuilt, the next project was to build the walls and gates of the city to protect the worship center from enemy invasion. Our city (life) needs new walls and gates to serve as protection against enemy invasion.
1. The book of Nehemiah is a description of the process the Israelites went through to rebuild the walls and gates of Jerusalem so that it could be secured from invasion. Remember, the value of the city was her treasures. (Nehemiah 2:17) Likewise, **the value of our life is that we have spiritual treasures in our earthly body.** Satan wants to rob us again if he can.
2 Corinthians 4: 7 John 10: 10
 2. **Our life is compared to the city of Jerusalem.** Every city needs certain functions, services, systems to operate well. For example: government, law enforcement, educational systems, disposal systems, parks and worship centers. Our life internally runs much like a city. If one system fails, then the whole city suffers. God said that He has chosen Jerusalem that His Name might dwell there. **We are the place where God has chosen to dwell by His Holy Spirit.** He desires to be the government of our life, our Teacher, our cleansing Purifier, our Counselor, our Quiet Place and the Worship Center of our life.

3. **The Holy Spirit will never force the rebuilding project on you.** The old walls were torn down by internal corruption (sin) and external attack (satanic opposition). Nehemiah, whose name means *"the Lord comforts"*, reviewed the condition of the city walls and made a plan for their rebuilding. He presented this to the elders and city residents who were the rebuilders. (Nehemiah 1:3b, 2:18) The Holy Spirit, whose name is "Helper" and "Comforter" is responsible to oversee the rebuilding process in our life.

Remember, He is in charge of the rebuilding, but like Nehemiah, He is gentle. He will never force you. He will present truth to you, and convict you of what needs to be done, but you must chose to cooperate with the Holy Spirit every step of the way.

John 14: 26

4. The **rebuilders** are defined in Nehemiah as:

"They are Thy servants and the people whom Thou didst redeem by Thy great power and by Thy strong hand" Nehemiah 1: 10.

5. The **walls** represent the **spiritual protection** and **boundaries** we build in our life.

The **gates** represent the **avenues of entry and exit in our life.**

a. In what condition are the walls and gates of your life?

b. How secure is your life from enemy invasion?

6. **The "old rubble" from the old life must be removed.** Nehemiah also reviewed the "old rubble" in the city. It would have to be removed before the walls were built. The "old rubble" represents the leftovers from our old life before deliverance. (In session 4, we began the process of removing the "old rubble" by doing a thorough house cleaning.)

7. The name of every builder and every gate are significant for application in our own life today. We will mention only a few examples as we unfold the plan for rebuilding our life.

B. The Sheep Gate - Rebuild worship first. Nehemiah 3:1

1. The Sheep Gate was used to bring the sheep for sacrifice into the courts of the Temple. This gate led directly to the Temple.
2. The rebuilders of the Sheep Gate, landmarks, and the meanings of their names:

NAMES

Eliashib, high priest
Tower of the Hundred
Tower of Hananel,
(citadel by the Temple)

MEANING

God will restore
Withstand the enemy
God has favored

Warfare Principle: God is committed to restoring our relationship with Him. Our worship time must be guarded at all costs. This is the primary purpose of spiritual warfare.

3. The Sheep Gate was built by the high priests and fellow priests. We have our great High Priest who lives to intercede for us in our rebuilding. We are also called a "royal priesthood" and therefore called to minister perpetually to the Lord Jesus Christ. The following verses spell out this Truth:

Hebrews 4: 15- 16

1 Peter 2: 9-10

Hebrews 7: 25

4. As we minister to the Lord by worshipping Jesus Christ who is the Lamb of God, we rebuild the "Sheep Gate" and restore worship, which is our primary responsibility. We also present our body as a living sacrifice daily to God, which is an act of worship. Let's look at the following verses:

John 1: 29

Hebrews 9: 11- 12

Revelation 5: 12

Romans 12: 1

C. The Fish Gate - Rebuild the Word of God into every thought and activity of your life. Nehemiah 3: 3

1. Fish were brought in daily from the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee to be sold in the market place. The people would rise early to purchase fresh fish before the sun caused them to smell and rot. **This represents our daily provision from the Lord.**

2. The builder of the Fish Gate was Hassenaah which means *"to prick, thorny"*.

- a. The Word of God is our daily portion of fresh food. The Word of God is living and sharper than any two-edged sword 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. (Hebrews 4:12) As we eat the Word of God, we are often pricked in our conscience as we try to consume it, so that we will stop and deal with the sin in our life. This is the function of the Holy Spirit using the Word of God to purify us. John 16: 7- 8. Who has the job of convicting us? _____

- b. As we intake the fresh Word daily, we are able to discern between good and evil in our daily life. (2 Timothy 3: 16-17) We learn to discard the bones and eat the meat. Hebrews 5: 14

- c. Our Lord gave prepared fish to His disciples. He provides us with daily food as we eat His Word. John 21: 12- 14

d. Application:

1. What fish did you eat today?
2. Was it hard to eat but profitable?
3. Are you taking fresh fish daily from the Lord?
4. Are you walking in the light with your brother and sister today?

ANSWER TO C2a: the Holy Spirit

D. The Old Gate or Jeshanan Gate - Rebuild defenses against all unclean activities coming from the sinful nature, Satan or the world. Nehemiah 3: 6

1. This gate was rebuilt and sealed so that it could not be used!
2. The Old Gate was rebuilt by Jehoiada which means *"to know Jehovah"*. The more we know Jehovah, the freer we are from old desires. The Apostle John underlined this truth in 1 John 2:15.
3. The old sinful life must stay shut out. We now close off all activities and relationships that connected us to the old life of defeat and bondage. Of course, there are some relationships that must continue, such as a marital union, nevertheless, we need to do inventory in all areas of our life and make decisions to not partake of anything from the bondage life. How do we do this?
 - a. We accept the death sentence on our old self-life by the Cross of Christ.
Romans 6: 6-7
 - b. We then walk daily by the life of the Spirit of God who lives in us.
Galatians 2: 20
Galatians 5: 24
 - c. We daily put on the "new self" who is being renewed into the image of Christ.
Colossians 3: 5-10

E. The Valley Gate - Be on guard against the secret and subtle attacks of the enemy. Nehemiah 3: 13

1. The Valley Gate was where the enemy usually attacked the because a hidden approach to the wall was possible.
2. The Valley Gate was built by Hanun which means *"to submit"*. Hanun and his fellow rebuilders were from the town of Zanoah that means *"to reject, forsake, to push aside"*. When we submit to God and ask Him to fill us with His Holy Spirit, we are strong in the Lord and in the power of His might and therefore, we are able to reject the subtle temptations of the evil one. The following passages clarify this process:
James 4: 7
1 Peter 5: 8- 10
3. **Satan has an old strategy file on you!** He will try to hit you where you were vulnerable before. Be on guard for the old tactics. If they don't work anymore then he will get more subtle and try some "Valley Gate" tactics. The key is to stay alert and maintain a sober, battle mentality.
 - a. **Valley Gate tactics are very subtle and often do not seem to be demonic attacks.**
 1. **Physical attacks in the form of tiredness, pain, tension, etc.**
 2. **Emotional/mental attacks in the form of discouragement, self-pity, loneliness, general critical or negative outlook, etc.**
 3. **Spiritual attacks in the form of apathy, discontent, distrust, unbelief, etc.**
 - b. **If you have lost the ability to rejoice in whatever circumstance you are in, then you have probably fallen to a "Valley Gate" tactic. You now know how to take the ground back; submit to God and resist the devil.**
 - c. **Application:**

What subtle tactics has or is the enemy trying on you?
What should you do about it? Identify the strategy, then practice the pattern of warfare you have learned in this study.

F. The Dung Gate - Daily clean out the sin rubbish. Nehemiah 3: 14

1. The Dung Gate was built by Malchiah which means "*son of Jehovah*". Only Jesus Christ can remove sin with His precious Blood.
2. This gate lead to the Valley of Hinnon, or Gehenna, which means "*a habitation of demons*". Unconfessed sin can become a habitation for demons. They feed on unconfessed sin. The accuser of the brethren, Satan, goes out to the dump and tries to accuse us of sin that we have already cast off and put out of our life.
3. Daily the garbage from the city would be carted out to the Valley of Hinnon. If the garbage was not removed, it would stink and infect the city with disease. We must keep short accounts with God. (1 John 1:9) We clean the sin rubbish out by daily confessing to the Lord our sin and claiming the cleansing Blood to wash us clean.

G. The Fountain Gate - We are to be cleansed after we have walked in the world. We need to stop to wash our feet and to drink at the fountain of life. Nehemiah 3: 15

1. The Fountain Gate was built by Shallum which means "*to restore*"
2. Jesus is our Restorer. Be cleansed by drinking the pure water of the Word of God. We drink living water from Jesus who is our fountain of life. Psalm 36:9
3. The residents of Jerusalem would come to wash their dusty hot feet at the Fountain Gate. Are you feeling dirty or polluted by the world? Go to the water of the Word, wash and be clean. Hebrews 10:22

H. The Water Gate - Go aside frequently to solitary places to be refreshed. Nehemiah 3: 15, 26

1. The Water Gate led to the King's Garden and the Gihon Spring. The King's Garden was a beautiful lush garden by the quiet Pool of Siloam where the king would come to enjoy solitude and restoration.
2. The name Siloam means "*to send away*". This same pool was where Jesus applied clay to the blind man's eyes and told him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. He obeyed and came back seeing. It is in the obedient act of coming apart to the quiet still waters of the Lord's presence that we will have our sight renewed and be fully restored. Jesus went away often to a solitary place to pray and be refreshed. Take time to study these passages and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to you.

Matthew 14:23
John 9: 1-11

Mark 1: 35
Psalm 23: 1- 3

Mark 6: 46
Luke 11: 1

3. The Garden is for fellowship. God first met with Adam in a garden (Genesis 2:8,3:8). The King's Garden inside the Water Gate represents the place of beautiful solitude. Our city (life) must have this quiet place where we meet our King. Jesus met His Father in the Garden on the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26: 36,39

4. The Water Gate led to the main water source for the city of Jerusalem, the Gihon Spring. It was here where the Scriptures were read publicly in an open area. (Nehemiah 8: 1,5,6,10)

The word Gihon means *"to gush forth"*. We need to gather with other brothers and sisters to read and meditate on the Word of God.

The gathering together of the saints for the study of the Word is like coming to a gushing spring to drink. When we take in the Word, the joy of the Lord becomes our strength.

John 15: 7- 11

I. The Horse Gate - Rebuild your battle mentality and be prepared for battle every day. Nehemiah 3: 28

1. The Horse Gate was opened when the King's horses and troops were marching out to war. The King's horses and troops were kept in a constant state of readiness.
2. The priests built this gate when they were not tending to their priestly duties. We are first called to be worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ and secondly, rebuilders and warriors. The defense of the city was perpetual. We need to understand that the battle is over when we reach heaven. Until then, we are called to "stand and withstand". Observe how the Bible phrases this truth:

Luke 12: 35

Ephesians 6: 13 (KJV)

3. God declared through the prophet Jeremiah that the city would be rebuilt and never overthrown again. It would be Holy to the Lord.

Jeremiah 31: 38- 40

J. The East Gate - Rebuild your hope in the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Nehemiah 3: 29

1. The Gate on the East had direct access to the Temple. It is mentioned in Scripture as the Gate through which the Lord Jesus Christ will come to take His rightful place as the Prince of Peace on earth. Today it still stands sealed. It is called the Gate of the Messiah.

Ezekiel 44: 1- 3

2. The East Gate was built by Shemaiah that means *"the Lord Jehovah has heard"*.

We know that the Lord is attentive to our cry

"Come Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20)

Our hope is the fact that our Lord is returning to gather us to Himself. Then, we will be with Him when He returns to rule and reign. We have a glorious future.

1 Corinthians 15: 51- 58

K. The Inspection Gate, also called the Corner Gate and Muster Gate- Inspect everything that seeks entry into your life. Nehemiah 3: 31

1. The Inspection Gate was also called the "Muster Gate". It was here that documents were inspected before visitors were allowed to come in. A sentry post was stationed at this gate.
2. The Inspection Gate was built by Malchijah which means *"appointed by the king"* or *"of the king"*.
3. We need to inspect by the Word of God all thoughts, sensual stimuli, books, music, or entertainment that seek entrance into our mind and life. God's standard is found in His Word. If anything wanting entrance into your life can pass this test, then it will be beneficial to you.

*"Finally, brethren, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is of **good repute**, if there is any **excellence** and if anything **worthy of praise**, let your mind dwell on these things."*
Philippians 4: 8

4. The Holy Spirit is our guard, but we are mutually responsible to guard the treasure that has been entrusted to us.

2 Timothy 1: 14

L. God's standard for the city (our life) is that we be the praise of His glory, a radiant life full of light, and a display of His grace.

Peace and righteousness will administer over our affairs.

*"He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to **the praise of His grace**, which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved"* Ephesians 1: 5- 6

*"Also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to **the praise of His glory**."*

Ephesians 1: 11- 12

*"Violence will not be heard again in your land, nor devastation or destruction within your borders; but you will call **your walls salvation**, and **your gates praise**. No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; but you will have **the Lord for an everlasting light**, and your God for your glory."* Isaiah 60: 18- 19

*"And I will make **peace** your administrators, and **righteousness** your overseers."*
Isaiah 60: 17c

As we approach the end of this study on rebuilding our spiritual gates and walls, let's remember why we are determined to secure our life from enemy invasion. It is all about maintaining our intimate relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Thoughts on worship from Gems from Tozer, written by A. W. Tozer
Excerpts taken from various works by Tozer.*

“We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God. God is Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.

Why did Christ come? In order that He might make worshippers out of rebels. We were created to worship. Worship is the normal employment of moral beings. Worship is a moral imperative.

Worship...rises or falls with our concept of God;

We are here to be worshippers first and workers only second. Labor that does not spring out of worship is futile and can only be wood, hay and stubble in the day that shall try every man's works.

The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to restore the lost soul to intimate fellowship with God through the washing of regeneration. Gifts and power for service the Spirit surely desires to impart, but holiness and spiritual worship come first.

Make your thoughts a sanctuary. To God, our thoughts are things. Our thoughts are the decorations inside the sanctuary where we live.. If our thoughts are purified by the blood of Christ, we are living in a clean room...If you would cultivate the Spirit's acquaintance, you must get hold of your thoughts and not allow your mind to be a wilderness in which every kind of unclean beast roams and bird flies....Put away every un-Christian habit from you....Begin to practice the presence of God.”

***"And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb."
Revelation 21: 23***

"And there shall be no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bondservants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever." Revelation 22: 3-5

M. Application: Warning and tips to rebuilders.

- 1. Expect enemy opposition. *Nehemiah 4: 1- 8***
- 2. Be alert always, day and night. *Nehemiah 4: 9***
- 3. The old rubble will tend to overwhelm you. *Nehemiah 4: 10***
 - a. Old thought patterns *Romans 12: 2***
(see Chapter 5)
 - b. Bad habits *Romans 6: 15- 23***
 - c. Fears *2 Timothy 1: 7***
 - d. Old relationships that connect you to the old life of bondage *2 Thessalonians 3: 6***
- 4. The ratio of warfare to building will gradually change as you progress.**
 - a. The pattern of warfare and rebuilding will at first look like:
*Fight! - Fight! - Build! - Fight! - Fight! - Fight! *Nehemiah 4: 13- 16****
 - b. It will gradually change as the enemy realizes that you are not giving in to his tactics or to discouragement. Once your will is set, the battle and rebuilding will look like this:
*Fight! - Build! - Build! - Build! - Fight! - Build! - Build! - Build!***
- 5. Keep your Armor on and your weapon (the Bible) in one hand while you build with the other. *Nehemiah 4: 17, 23***
- 6. Get together with other rebuilders when the battle gets rough. Remember the battle is the Lord's. *Nehemiah 4: 20***
- 7. The rebuilding will be completed with the help of God. *Nehemiah 6: 15- 16*
*1 Thessalonians 5:24***
- 8. Worship will be the predominate activity of your life. You will want to stay pure so that you can celebrate your Lord Jesus Christ. *Nehemiah 12: 27- 28, 30, 40-43***
- 9. The goal is to develop worshippers of the Lord Jesus Christ, who are full of love for an unseen Master. It is only in the process of being worshipped that God reveals Himself to us.**

Chapter 9 Standing in Christ's Victory

Key Objective: To know and memorize key Scriptures for successful spiritual warfare.

Key Truth: We share in every aspect of Christ's victory when we receive by faith and act upon every provision made for us.

Key verse: "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." Ephesians 6: 10

A. Christ is the foundation of victory

1. Promised in the Old Testament - Genesis 3: 15
2. The Cross declares the victory - Colossians 2: 14- 15
3. Christ was glorified and the Holy Spirit was sent to empower us to share in Christ's victory - John 7: 38 - 39
4. Christ is seated in the place of authority - Psalm 110: 1
5. Christ's present ministry is intercession for us - Hebrews 7: 25
6. Christ is superior over all beings - Ephesians 1: 20- 21
7. Christ has a burden for all people - Luke 4: 18

B. The believer has the position of victory in Christ

1. We are identified with Christ - Galatians 2: 20
2. We are seated with Christ - Ephesians 2: 5, 6
3. We share Christ's inheritance - Romans 8: 16, 17
4. We share Christ's total victory over Satan - John 16: 8, 11
5. We share Christ's life by Spirit baptism - 1 Corinthians 12: 13
6. We share in Christ's purpose - 1 John 3: 8

C. The believer's assets for victory in Christ

1. We possess the Armor of God - Ephesians 6: 10, 11
2. We have our powerful weapons in Christ - 2 Corinthians 10: 4
3. We have a communication system - Ephesians 6: 18
4. We have angelic help - Hebrews 1: 14
5. We have the power of united prayer - Matthew 18: 19, 20

6. We have sufficient strength - Isaiah 40: 31
7. We have the filling and controlling ministry of the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 5: 18
8. We have the wisdom for victory - James 1: 5

D. The assurance of victory in Christ

1. We have the hope of victory - Romans 15: 13
2. We have the greater power within - 1 John 4: 4
3. Our victory is guaranteed - 2 Corinthians 2: 14
4. We are conquerors, not conquered - Romans 8: 37- 39

E. Battlefield principles for victory

1. The battle is the Lord's - 2 Chronicles 20: 15
2. Utilize Christ's powerful Name - Philippians 2: 9- 11
3. Know your true enemy - Ephesians 6: 12
4. Resist Satan - James 4: 7
5. Bind or tie up the enemy before entering his territory- Matthew 12: 29
6. Praise before victory - 2 Chronicles 20: 22
7. Take back ground from the enemy - Matthew 18: 18-19
8. Stand in victory by faith - Mark 9: 23-24

F. The way to victory

1. Declare our loyalty to the Lord - Joshua 24: 15
2. Present ourselves to the Lord daily- Romans 12: 1-2
3. Establish priorities - Matthew 6: 33
4. Seek the Truth - John 8: 22, 36
5. Deal with sin - 1 Corinthians 11: 31
6. Pray about everything - Philippians 4: 6-7
7. **Submit to God. Resist the devil. James 4: 7**

G. Victory over the sinful nature

1. Recognize our responsibility for the sin nature - 1 John 1: 8
2. Declare our victory over the sin nature - Romans 7: 24-25
3. Count ourselves dead to sin - Romans 6: 11
4. Submit to spiritual surgery - Hebrews 4: 12
5. Keep short accounts on sin - 1 John 1: 9
6. Stop yielding ourselves to sin - Romans 6: 13
7. Allow God to reveal sin to us - Psalm 139: 23-24

H. Healing the mind through our union with Christ

1. The mind must be changed - Ephesians 1: 18
2. The mind must be renewed - Romans 12: 2
3. The mind must be controlled - 2 Corinthians 10: 5
4. The mind must be occupied with noble things - Philippians 4: 8

5. The mind must be occupied with "above" things - Colossians 3: 2
6. The mind must be occupied with Christ - Isaiah 26: 3

I. Protection in warfare

1. We cannot be touched - 1 John 5: 18; Luke 10: 19
2. We have angelic help - Psalm 91: 9- 11

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this study, we have learned how to care for believers who have been delivered from bondage. We discovered the principles of living from our union and position in Christ. As soldiers in God's army, we learned about each piece of the Armor of God, and how to make it a daily part of our attire in our battle against evil. Specific strategies of binding and loosing in spiritual warfare, recovering ground for the Kingdom of God, and winning the battle for the mind were examined. We also looked at developing discernment and important aspects as we move toward standing in Christ's victory.

In closing, we echo the prayer which Paul prayed for the Christians in Ephesus, "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3: 16-21

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