

## Week 10: Engaging the Enemy



## Scripture for the Week

*After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever. (2 Chronicles 20:21)*

## Overview

### Challenge Feedback

Ask if the Holy Spirit pointed a relationship which needs to be improved. Be sure to add this to your daily prayer.

### Main Focus

Now that we have found our place, we will learn how to go on the offensive in the war against masculinity, strength, and purity. We will talk about our spiritual and physical attitudes; learn how worship is used as a weapon; understand the authority we have in the spiritual world; go deeper into prayer for warfare; and learn how to use the Word as a sword against the enemy. Keep in mind, this is strategic level thinking, we will discuss practical steps, but our goal is to shift perceptions from just awareness to active participation.

### Daily Topics

**1. Attitude**

We need to adopt a proper attitude in preparation for combat. The wrong attitude can lead to distraction, or being misguided.

**2. Authority**

We are fighting from victory. Because Christ won the war the moment He died for our sins, we have authority in His name against the enemy.

**3. Worship**

Worship is an act of warfare against Satan. By giving God attention, we strip the enemy of his power.

**4.**

**5. Prayer**

It does no good to go into battle without the equipment you have been issued. Put on your armor every day. Become familiar with and understand it. The more often you wear it, the more comfortable it will become. Get in the Word. This is our training manual. The more we get into the Word, the less room there is for distraction and the more tools we have for combat.

**6. The Word**

Speaking and praying Scripture puts us in agreement with God – as we speak the Word of God, we yield His sword.

### Discussion Questions

- How much rest do you get?
  - Why is pride so difficult to put aside?
  - Why are authority and pride so intermingled?
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- Do you fear God?

## Take Aways

We are men created in God's image. We are warriors fighting against a defeated enemy who wants to take us down with him. God has given us a battle plan and equipment to actively engage, it's up to us to do it.

## Challenge

Memorize a Bible verse that can help you during an attack you fight on a regular basis.

## Next Steps

If this is your last week to meet, encourage the men to read the books much of this material was derived from. Remind and encourage them, this is not the end – it's the beginning of being leaders, of being men.

Unashamedly ask for them to seek out leadership opportunities in the church.

If you are going to do week 11, use that time to review everything learned and as a group, encourage and talk to each other about practical ways to put into practice everything discussed.

## Prayer

Father, Your Word says that no weapon formed against us shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). Therefore we declare that no weapon formed against the men of this group prospers this day or any day to come in Jesus' name. Your Word says that trouble will not arise a second time (Nahum 1:9). Therefore we declare that Satan cannot make trouble for us again, in this manner, as he did in the past in Jesus' name. We declare all of these prayers accomplished and brought to pass by trusting you through faith and expectation in the name of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, we confess to You all of our sins this day, yesterday, and every day past. We repent and renounce them, those known and unknown, those of omission and commission, in what we have done and in what we have failed to do. We lay down at Your feet all the sins of the flesh, the tongue, and of the heart, and all unholy thoughts and actions. Thank You, Lord, for shedding Your precious blood for us.

We stand on Your Word. The enemy is driven out from before us, above us, around us, and below us; from our home, workplace, church and its ministries, children, and loved ones; from our works and labors, land, and our presence. We declare that he is not able to stand against us, and his works are taken captive and destroyed. No weapon formed against us will prosper, for the Spirit of the Lord shall raise a standard against them. We declare all of these things accomplished by Your Word. Jesus, our Lord, we give You thanksgiving, praise, glory, honor, and worship for Your righteousness and holiness given to us by Your Word on our behalf.

Amen

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### Day 1: Attitude

We must approach this war in the same manner Jesus did, not with offense, but in love. It is our spirit being attacked. The casualty is our body, soul, and relationships. All the enemy needs to do is nudge us out from God's will and our flesh, the part of us that wants to be in the world, will start to scream for attention. More than any other weapon, our attitude will determine the outcome of the battles. In fact, this is what the pursuit of holiness is – a giant attitude adjustment.

Remember, as leaders, others look to us to base their actions on. If we are seen to react in the flesh – get angry, abusive, panic, or act cowardly – others will to.

Love – the greatest commandment

Fill in the blanks from 1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is \_\_\_\_\_, love is \_\_\_\_\_. It does not \_\_\_\_\_, it is not \_\_\_\_\_. It is not \_\_\_\_\_, it is not \_\_\_\_\_, it is not \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_, it is not easily \_\_\_\_\_, it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_. Love does not \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ with the truth. It always \_\_\_\_\_, always \_\_\_\_\_, always \_\_\_\_\_, always \_\_\_\_\_.

The implication of this is profound – if we maintain an attitude of love, attacks against us from the enemy should have no effect. There is no chink in the armor for an arrow to get through. As we go out into the community with love permeating our being, we have the ability to soothe the wounds in others.

Think of it this way: An attitude of love has no room for desires of the flesh. How can we watch porn, go to strip clubs, neglect our wives or daughters, degrade women with prostitution, or let others do the same?

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## Rested

*And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. And God blessed the seventh day, set it apart as His own, and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all His work which He created and done. (Genesis 2:2-3 AMP)*

To put this as plainly as possible, if God made a day of rest after He created the universe, why do we think we don't need rest?

In Exodus 16:23-30, Moses teaches the people about resting. It wasn't a request, a suggestion, or something to do if there was nothing else going on – it was a commandment from God.

Today, scientists don't know why we need sleep – but they know we need it. There is a reason most stress inoculation courses in the military and first responder communities involve sleep deprivation – it effects our ability to think clearly, interact with others, and function. Grossman talks about this in the context of ever increasing occurrences of PTSD.

Throughout history sleep has always been the soldier's best medicine. In World War I and World War II, troops would rotate out of the trenches or out of the front lines and the first thing they would do is sleep. But in Iraq and Afghanistan, U.S. troops coming off combat patrols would often return to their barracks and play video games, watch DVDs and television, and surf the Internet.

This form of escapism and false sense of control given by video games seem to be incredibly alluring as well as addictive to men and women in combat. In reality, this can be a self-inflicted wound that greatly increases their vulnerability to PTSD, and to illness since the immune system diminishes with sleep deprivation.<sup>83</sup>

While it may not seem as severe, long term sleep deprivation has a cumulative effect. In fact, the old saying you can't catch up on sleep is wrong. We build and maintain a sleep deficit which must be reclaimed somehow. The result is, over time, the symptoms of sleep deprivation become normalized behaviors and we don't realize there is a problem. In plain English – if we slowed down and got enough rest, anger management issues, inability to focus, memory problems, and constant fatigue would likely go away.

☞ *How much rest to you get?*

In the context of battle readiness, the world rewards those who work hard and selflessly give of themselves – until they drop dead from exhaustion. Working 60-80 work weeks, never seeing our families, or adding so many family activities they aren't restful anymore will result in long term sleep deprivation. When our mind and bodies are in a deprived state, we aren't able to hear God. If the goal of the enemy is to separate us from God, what

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*Think About It  
When we aren't tired and  
stressed, we have times to  
be silent – and hear god.*

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<sup>83</sup> On Combat p.24

better way than silencing Him through our own overachievement!

## Forgiveness

We must maintain an attitude in forgiveness if we plan to do battle with the enemy. Unforgiveness is the equivalent of spiritual constipation. By harboring feelings of anger, we give our enemy a foothold to exploit.

Write 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

Now write Mark 11:25

We've seen the structure of prayer – we must forgive to be forgiven. When we go into battle, we should be clean (forgiven) so remember forgiveness is a command, not a request. If we don't forgive we are in sin – and back to the foothold again.

## Humility

Write Philippians 2:3

When we put the interests of others ahead of ourselves, we become Christ-like in our attitude. James 3:13-18 tells us a good life and deeds are done in humility that comes from wisdom. When we exercise wisdom that puts another's interests above our own, we are in fact expressing love. Humility makes it very difficult for us to be offended because we have to push our pride to the side.

*Before his downfall a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor. Proverbs 18:12*

☞ *Why is pride so difficult to put aside?*

Remember we defined a gentleman as a chivalrous, courteous, or **honorable** man. If we are going into battle, we need to do so from the strength of Jesus –there is no room for pride here.

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## Day 2: Authority

*Little children, you are of God [you belong to Him] and have [already] defeated and overcome them [the agents of the antichrist], because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who lives in the world. (1 John 4:4 AMP)*

The blood of Jesus has overcome Satan. As believers, we are fighting from victory, not to victory. The veil has already been torn; the victory has already been won; Satan is a defeated foe. There is nothing separating us from God's presence! Now, we can be in an intimate relationship with Him. Like a groom, He has already declared and expressed His love for us; we need only to receive that love and learn how to love Him in return.

In a lot of ways, the current spiritual battlefield is like a peacekeeping mission – the war is over, but there are insurgents and groups who don't like the interim government, so they continue to fight until the final government is in place.

### Remember our identity is in Christ

*... Because He Who lives in you is greater (mightier) than he who lives in the world. (1 John 4:4 AMP)*

Christ lives in us. Because Christ won the 'war', we have His authority in us. Put another way: the armor of God we wear has an insignia, which carries with it the full power and authority of who it represents – God, through Jesus.

“To wage effective spiritual warfare, we must understand and use spiritual authority. Spiritual authority however, is not forcing your will upon another person. When you have spiritual authority, you have established God's peace in an area that once was full of conflict and oppression. Therefore to truly be able to move in authority, we must first have peace.”<sup>85</sup>

*Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by 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 4:4-7)*

If we have God in our life, we will have peace. God's peace will guard our hearts, from which all things flow. The areas we have peace in, we have let God take control, and no foothold remains.

“In the battles of life, your peace is actually a weapon. Indeed, your confidence declares that you are not falling for the lies of the devil. You see, the first step toward having spiritual authority over the adversary is having peace in spite of our circumstances. When Jesus confronted the devil, He did not confront Satan with His emotions or fear. Knowing the devil was a liar, He simply refused to be influenced by any other voice than God's. His peace overwhelmed Satan. His authority then shattered the lie, which sent demons fleeing.”<sup>86</sup>

We need to understand this critical concept about authority when we go into battle: it isn't us Satan fears, it's Christ in us. Never let our pride come into the picture, all authority rests with God.

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<sup>85</sup> The Three Battlefields p.p. 55-56

<sup>86</sup> The Three Battlefields p. 57

☞ *Why are authority and pride so intermingled?*

Peter learned this lesson the hard way.

Read Luke 22:20-34.

It's a story we are all familiar with – the Last Supper. Jesus announces one of the disciples will betray Him, and in the middle of the discussion, the disciples start arguing about who is better. Shock and outrage that someone in their midst turns into an argument about who is more worthy. The likelihood is Peter came out on top. After all, he had the Faith to walk on water with Jesus. He even said, *“Lord I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”* (v. 33). We of course know Jesus tells Peter he will betray Him three times. There is an interesting verse which occurs just before this though, *Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”* (v.31).

There was a shell of pride on Peter which needed to be broken in order to expose the kernel of goodness inside him.

While Peter and John were healing, Peter addresses a crowd of astonished onlookers, *Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. ... By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong.* (Acts 3:12-13, 16)

Satan's attempt to destroy Peter's faith resulted in removing the shell of pride and exposing a kernel of humility which gave glory to God.

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**Ask Yourself: What area in your life needs to be sifted as wheat, so you can have peace about it?**

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## Day 3: Worship

The heavenly host is not an angelic choir of fat babies, it's an Angelic ARMY of **worshipping warriors**. Here is a small challenge: Find a passage in the Bible where the appearance of an angel did not result in fear. When they come to help, their first words are usually, do not be afraid." Does the chubby baby image or some semi-ethereal effeminate creature invoke images of fear?

Worship is actually an act of warfare against Satan and demonic forces! Our worship puts the devil on the run and increases our ability to fight against powers of darkness in the heavenly realm. Psalm 149:6 says, *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two edge sword in their hand.*

*After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out **at the head of the army** saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever. (2 Chronicles 20:21 emphasis added)*

When you give God your high praises, it is warfare against Satan. When we give God all our attention, we strip the enemy of any power over our souls or our bodies. In His Presence, we are protected from all the schemes of the enemy. We become like Jesus who said the ruler of this world, *has nothing in Me. (John 14:30, NASB).*

How are we able to come boldly into the presence of God? The blood of Jesus. Hebrews 9:22 says: *Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.* And without forgiveness of sins there is no presence of God. The blood of Jesus has removed every spot and stain from your life and invites you into the presence of God.

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**Ask Yourself: Have I considered the power and privilege of my role as a worshipper?**

We were made to worship, you decide who it is, just remember God is jealous.

The one thing God wants more than anything else is our hearts. In Matthew 15:7-9, Jesus says there are people who honor Him with their words, *but their hearts are far away. Their worship is a farce.* Genuine worship come from a heart consistently connected with God.

Frangipane says, "You cannot successfully engage in warfare, nor pass safely through the wilderness of this life, without first becoming a worshiper of God ... The Lord knows that the heart that will worship Him in the wilderness of affliction will continue to worship in the promised land of plenty."<sup>87</sup> By putting God where He belongs, as the one and only thing we worship, we can actively engage the enemy, because there is no stronghold left. When we take our focus off God and let other things take priority – become an object of worship –the enemy gains advantage.

In order to worship there are a few things we need to do:

**Give Him our affection.**

*For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. (2 Chronicles 16:19 NLT).*

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<sup>87</sup> The Three Battlegrounds p. 90

If we are giving God our affection, the affection we give others will be in proper context. If we make women (sex) the primary object of our affection – it turns unhealthy.

**Remain committed.**

True worship means we praise God even when we don't feel like it. Read Daniel 3:17-18. Things may be bad, but we still worship.

**Include Him in your daily life.**

Write John 15:5

If we make God part of our life, he will be there all the time. He isn't about Sundays, he is there all the time, waiting for us. He wants all of you - because He cares about you and what happens to you. (1 Peter 5:7).

**Be obedient.**

*Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. (Hebrews 13:15)*

Write out verse 16:

The greatest sacrifice we can give to God is a heart of humility willing to serve Him with unconditional obedience. Read this promise out loud:

*The person who has My commands and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me. I will Myself be clearly seen by him and make Myself real to him. (John 14:21 AMP)*

**Show reverence**

Worship and fear of the Lord go hand in hand. Jesus said they are the same thing. During His last temptation, Jesus interchanges the words Worship and fear when he quotes Deuteronomy 6:13 saying: *You must worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him.*

*But the time is coming and is already here when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for anyone who will worship Him that way. (John 4:23)*

The Greek word for “worship” in this verse is proskuneo, which literally means to, “Kiss the master’s hand in reverence.” It indicates love and respect. Instead of fright, this kind of fear induces esteem and reverence. When we fear the Lord, we actually feel safe.

☞ *Do you fear God?*

One last note on worship:

Worship not only brings freedom in our lives, but it also has the power to set others free, In Acts 16:23-34, we find an incident of Paul and Silas in jail. They had been arrested, flogged, and were now in the depths of a prison. Here they are, weary, surrounded by darkness, stenches, and criminals, and what did they do? They worshipped.

*Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! (Acts 16:25-26)*

Salvation came to many that night, including the jailer and his entire family. That is the power of true worship!

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## Day 4: Prayer as a Weapon

### Weapons of Warfare

Col. Grossman explains the search for weapons like this, “The physical limitations of man are a key factor in his search for weapons. The need for force, mobility, distance, and protection has been the key requirements in this realm.”

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

### Armor of God

*Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. (Ephesians 6:13-17)*

#### **Belt of truth**

The belt was the foundation of a Roman soldier’s armor. It held everything together and helped him prepare for battle. The foundation of our battle is the truth – the opposite of Satan’s greatest attack strategy, lies.

#### **Breastplate of righteousness**

A breastplate is inherently designed to protect the heart. Righteousness in this verse means, “Uprightness, right living, integrity in one’s lifestyle and character.”<sup>88</sup>

This is nothing more than what we’ve already been talking about, conforming our will to God’s and submitting to His Lordship. We know the way of the world leads to death, God’s way – which protects our heart (from which all things flow) leads to life.

#### **Feet fitted with the readiness**

Roman sandals were the ancient version of cleats. They had studs or spikes which could dig into the earth and provide solid footing.

The word preparation in this verse means, “Establishment.” It conveys two ideas: knowing the gospel and being ready to share it. When we are well grounded in the mercy of God in Christ and are prepared to extend his mercy to others, we are on solid ground. This kind of readiness brings peace on both fronts – within our own hearts and between God and the people who need Him.”<sup>89</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> The Invisible War p.92

<sup>89</sup> The Invisible War p. 101

### **Shield of faith**

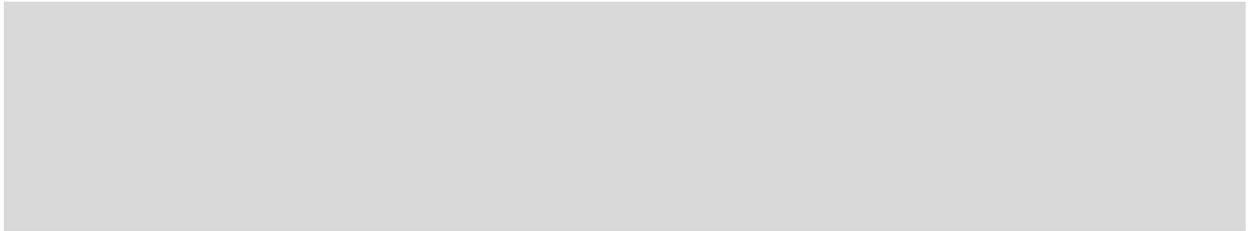
The shield in this passage is about four feet high and two and a half feet wide. It had hooks on the sides that link it to other shields in a line so that an entire row of soldiers could advance without exposing themselves to incoming arrows. It was common for enemies to dip their arrows in pitch, light them, and then pelt the opposing soldiers with thousands of destructive, flaming missiles. So the Romans made their shields with iron and two layers of wood, wrapped them in linen, and covered it all with leather. But they would leave a gap between layers so flaming arrows could penetrate far enough into the shield to be quickly extinguished. One soldier is said to have come in from the battle lines with two hundred once-fiery arrows still stuck in his shield. That's the metaphor Paul uses ...

Faith in this context means absolute confidence in God, His promises, His power, and His program in our lives.<sup>90</sup>

### **Helmet of salvation**

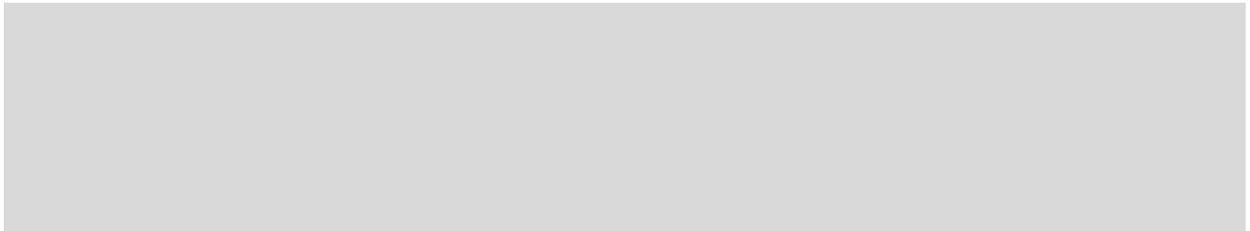
The helmet of salvation is a reminder we are saved. Salvation has occurred (justification), is occurring (sanctification), and will be saved (glorification).

Read Romans 8:6-7. What is the connection between salvation and the mind?



### **Sword of the Spirit**

Write Ephesians 6:17



Since the sword is the Word, and this is the sword of the Spirit, we can translate this to the Word of God through the Holy Spirit. This should strengthen our desire to have the Holy Spirit active in our lives and know Him personally. The one offensive weapon we have in this war is through the Holy Spirit.

On a practical level, this means we need to learn to pray the Word. Incorporating Scripture directly into your prayers gives them power from the Holy Spirit, with the full authority of God, because it is His Word.

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<sup>90</sup> The Invisible War p. 124

## Day 5: The Living Word

Write Hebrews 4:12



- God's Word is alive
- It is sharper than any sword

When we speak and pray Scripture, we can be assured we are in agreement with God's will.

Two key words: **SPEAK** and **PRAY**

To make the Word an effective weapon, it needs to be spoken out loud and in prayer. Do not underestimate the power of the spoken word. It impacts us and those around us.

While God knows our thoughts (Psalm 139:2), Satan and his demons cannot read our minds. If you are praying silently for deliverance, God can hear, but Satan doesn't ... think about that. Rather than quietly praying for help, use the authority you have in Christ to retaliate – and be heard!

By speaking God's word out loud, you are proclaiming victory has been won, and demolishing the argument and lie it isn't.

Today, the reading is deliberately short – it's time for you to get acquainted with your weapon. Have some alone time with the Holy Spirit and ask for guidance. Use the Concordance in the back of your Bible if you need to follow a topic, but get in and start learning your weapon!



## Take Aways

We need to adopt a proper attitude in preparation for combat. The wrong attitude can lead to distraction, or being misguided.

We are fighting from victory. Because Christ won the war the moment He died for our sins, we have authority in His name against the enemy.

Worship is an act of warfare against Satan. By giving God attention, we strip the enemy of his power.

It does no good to go into battle without the equipment you have been issued. Put on your armor every day. Become familiar with and understand it. The more often you wear it, the more comfortable it will become. Get in the Word. This is our training manual. The more we get into the Word, the less room there is for distraction and the more tools we have for combat.

Speaking and praying Scripture puts us in agreement with God – as we speak the Word of God, we yield His sword.

## Next Steps

### Challenge

Memorize a Bible verse that can help you during an attack you fight on a regular basis.

### Prayer

Father, Your Word says that no weapon formed against us shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). Therefore we declare that no weapon formed against the men of this group prospers this day or any day to come in Jesus' name. Your Word says that trouble will not arise a second time (Nahum 1:9). Therefore we declare that Satan cannot make trouble for us again, in this manner, as he did in the past in Jesus' name. We declare all of these prayers accomplished and brought to pass by trusting you through faith and expectation in the name of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, we confess to You all of our sins this day, yesterday, and every day past. We repent and renounce them, those known and unknown, those of omission and commission, in what we have done and in what we have failed to do. We lay down at Your feet all the sins of the flesh, the tongue, and of the heart, and all unholy thoughts and actions. Thank You, Lord, for shedding Your precious blood for us.

We stand on Your Word. The enemy is driven out from before us, above us, around us, and below us; from our home, workplace, church and its ministries, children, and loved ones; from our works and labors, land, and our presence. We declare that he is not able to stand against us, and his works are taken captive and destroyed. No weapon formed against us will prosper, for the Spirit of the Lord shall raise a standard against them. We declare all of these things accomplished by Your Word. Jesus, our Lord, we give You thanksgiving, praise, glory, honor, and worship for Your righteousness and holiness given to us by Your Word on our behalf.

Amen

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Journal – What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

A large, solid gray rectangular area intended for journaling or writing. It occupies the majority of the page below the question. A thin horizontal line is visible at the bottom of the page, below the gray area.