

[A Devotional Study *on* Spiritual Victory]

LORD,
Is It Warfare?
Teach Me
to Stand



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CHAPTER 1

1. If you are a child of God, what can you know about warfare? Whom is the warfare with? Why can you be certain that it will come? What must you know in order to stand and not be deceived?

2. The book of Ephesians focuses on the Christian's warfare like no other book. What are some of the significant historical facts about the city of Ephesus in Paul's day that help in understanding this book?
 - a. What was the religious environment like? Whom did they worship? What kind of a goddess was she? Where did they believe she came from?

 - b. In 1 Corinthians 10:19-21, what power does Paul say an idol has?

 - c. What was the temple like? What were some of the activities that went on in the temple? Why was the temple so important to the commerce of the day?

 - d. What were some of the other evil practices that were common in Ephesus?

3. The events in Acts 19 took place in Ephesus. How do these events further explain the historical and religious background of Ephesus?
 - a. How long did Paul stay in Ephesus? How and to whom did he proclaim the gospel?
 - b. How was the power of God specifically manifested? What did you learn about evil spirits and the Jewish exorcists? What were these exorcists attempting to do?
 - c. How did many in Ephesus respond to the preaching of the gospel? What did those who believed do with their magic books? How does this event reveal the work of the enemy in Ephesus? What does it show about the power of God?
 - d. What was the conflict the gospel brought? Who was involved? Why?

4. When the children of Israel entered the land, what were God's warnings concerning these same evil practices that were taking place in Ephesus (Deuteronomy 18:9-14 and Leviticus 19:26-28)?
 - a. What did God specifically tell them not to do? Why? What did He tell them to do?
 - b. How do you see these kinds of things in our Western culture today? Have you ever been involved in any of these? If you have, what do you need to do?
5. According to the book of Ephesians, what is true of you if you are in Him? What has happened to you?
 - a. What has God blessed you with? What do you have through His blood? What have you obtained in Him? With whom have you been sealed?
 - b. Where is Christ now seated? Specifically, what is He seated above? Why is this significant in spiritual warfare?
 - c. Who were you? What were you like? What did God do?
 - d. As a believer, where are you now seated? Where does this place you? Why is this significant in the light of warfare? What is your position?
 - e. What did Jesus do for both Jew and Gentile?

6. In Ephesians 4–6, what specific instructions does Paul give concerning your walk?

7. The Christian's struggle is explained in Ephesians 6:10-20. According to these verses the struggle is with whom?
 - a. What does the Greek word translated struggle or wrestle mean? What does that tell you?

 - b. What does the Greek word for schemes mean?

 - c. What specific instructions are given in these verses?

 - d. Describe the Christian's armor that is to be put on for this struggle. What are the weapons?

8. Do you understand your position in Christ? Are you walking as you ought?
 - a. What will have to change in your life as a result of this study?

 - b. Will you determine that the Word of God will have priority in your life so that you can know how to stand firm against the enemy?

3. Where did Satan come from?

- a. According to Ezekiel 28:11-15, what are some of the names that he was called? Where was he? How did he get there? What was he like? How do you know he was not a man?

- b. What happened to him according to Ezekiel 28:16-19? Why is there controversy over this passage?

- c. How did Satan become the adversary of God and man in Isaiah 14:3-15? What was Satan called? What did his name mean? What were his five “I wills”? What place did he want? What happened to him?

- d. What was the sin that Satan committed? What happened as a result? How does 1 Timothy 3:6 support the belief that Isaiah 14:12-14 is referring to the devil? How does this passage compare with Ezekiel 28:11-19?

- e. According to Psalm 75:6-7, where does exaltation come from? How does Daniel 2:20-21 explain who reigns?

- f. Do you have any “I wills” in your life? According to James 4:13-17, if you say “I will,” what are you doing? What should your attitude be according to Philippians 2:5-11?

4. Where did demons come from? Key: What was Satan called in Isaiah 14?
- a. According to Job 38:4-7, who are the morning stars? How does that term parallel the term “sons of God”?
 - b. What did you learn in Job 1:6 and 2:1 about the “sons of God”? What did you learn from these verses about Satan? How do they parallel Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14?
 - c. What did you learn about the stars in Revelation 1:20 and 9:1-2? Who are the stars?
 - d. What happened to a third of the stars according to Revelation 12:3-4 and 12:7-9?
 - e. Is there redemption for Satan or the angels who defected with him? What has been prepared for them?
 - f. According to Job 38:7, when God created the heavens and earth, where were the angels?

5. What did you learn about the serpent and his tactics in Genesis 3? How was he described?
 - a. Was the serpent Satan? How does Revelation 12:9 describe Satan? How does this parallel Genesis 3?
 - b. Whom did he attack or whom did Satan cause to doubt God? How did he question God's Word? How did he deny God's Word? How did he exchange God's Word for a lie?
 - c. What did Satan say that eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would do for Eve? How did this parallel the sin that resulted in his own fall?
 - d. What did you learn about Satan's future? What did God promise on that day? What has been true since that day?
 - e. Because Adam lost his right to rule the earth, what did Satan become according to Ephesians 2:1-3?

CHAPTER 3

In week two you looked at the origin of Satan, his sin, his fall, and the angels he took with him. You learned that Satan was created blameless by God. But you saw too that because of his desire to make himself like the Most High, God cast him from the holy mountain, along with the angels who rebelled with him.

You also saw that Satan's desire is to control man. You studied the fall of man in the Garden of Eden and examined Satan's tactics. You saw that Satan, in essence, lured Adam and Eve into the same sin that caused his fall: pride.

You were reminded that immediately after man's fall, God cursed the serpent and promised a Redeemer. The Redeemer has paid the price of death for your sin, has been raised by God, and seated at His right hand far above all rule and authority. All powers are in subjection to Him, and you are seated with Him in heavenly places.

1. Who is in charge anyway? Is the devil in charge, or is God in charge? What is the devil like? What does he do? What are his limits, and what is his relationship to God?

2. Who is the enemy? What is the meaning of the Greek word for devil and the Hebrew word for Satan, and what do these reveal about the enemy?
 - a. What has the devil done from the beginning (1 John 3:8)? What did Jesus call the devil (John 8:44)?

 - b. Does Satan work alone? Who works with him (Ephesians 6:12)?

3. What does Satan do? Specifically, what do these scriptures reveal about his work?
 - a. What control does he have over those dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:2)? How does this explain his work?
 - b. How does he disguise himself (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)? What does this indicate about the way he works?
 - c. What has he done to the minds of the unbelieving? Why (2 Corinthians 4:4)?
 - d. What does the enemy do to the one who hears and does not understand (Matthew 13:19)?
 - e. What influence did the enemy have on Ananias in Acts 5:3? Any parallel with John 8:44?
 - f. What truths did you learn about the enemy's work when Jesus told Peter that Satan desired to sift him like wheat (Luke 22:31)?

4. What are Satan's limits? What is his relationship to God?
 - a. What is God sovereign over? Who is included in the army of heaven (Daniel 4:34-35)?
 - b. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 God says that He will not allow you to be tempted beyond that which you are able to bear. What does this show about God's sovereign rule over Satan's power?
 - c. What did you learn about Satan's limits in Luke 22:31 when Jesus told Peter that Satan desired permission to sift him like wheat?

5. How does the book of Job illustrate Satan's character, his work, his limits, and his relationship to God?
 - a. What does the fact that Satan presented himself before God show you about Satan's access to God?
 - b. What does Satan's roaming the earth indicate about his awareness of man?
 - c. What did God bring to Satan's attention? What did God say about Job? What does this tell you about Job?

- d. Why did Satan say that Job had served God? How did he know that God had placed a hedge about Job? What does this show that God can do?

- e. Could Satan deal with Job as he wanted? Why not? What did he have to do? How did Satan attack Job? What do these attacks show about Satan's power?

- f. How did Job respond to each of Satan's attacks? What does this show about the kind of man Satan targets? What happened in the end?

- g. How can you reconcile this account of Satan's attack on Job with God's words "I have wounded and it is I who heal...causing well-being and creating calamity" (Deuteronomy 32:39; Isaiah 45:6-7)? Who was in control?

- h. Did Job lose his integrity? What did Job say that he had not denied (Job 6:10)?

- i. How did Job's trial end? When did God restore Job's fortunes? What were Job's final words (Job 42:5-6)?

6. According to 1 Peter 5:6-11, what were those who received this letter undergoing?
 - a. What is Peter's warning? How is the devil described? What does he do?
 - b. b. What does Peter say that you are to do? What is God going to do?

7. What will many fall away from in the last days? Why (1 Timothy 4:1)?
 - a. What kind of time is coming upon this earth (Revelation 12:7,12)?

 - b. What did you learn about the lawless one who is coming at the end times? What will he be like (2 Thessalonians 2:9)?

8. Will you be on the alert? Will you stand firm?

- c. What were Satan's tactics? What were the serpent's first four recorded words in Genesis 3:1? What was Eve's response in Genesis 3:3?

- d. How did Satan deny God's Word? When Satan said, "You surely shall not die," what was he doing? How did he make a subtle accusation against God? What was the ultimate temptation (Genesis 3:4-5)?

- e. What was Eve's response? Adam's? How is Eve's response explained in 1 Timothy 2:14? Why was Adam not deceived? What does this tell you about his sin?

- f. What was the judgment pronounced on the serpent in Genesis 3:14-15? What was the promise?

- g. What was the result of Adam's sin, according to Romans 5:12? What happened to the whole world as a result of his sin? From that point on, the whole world has been in whose power (1 John 5:19)?

- h. What did Satan become (Ephesians 2:1-3)? What responsibility had originally been given to man (Genesis 1:27-28)?

4. How does Paul describe those dead in sin in Romans? What is man like, or what can man be like apart from God?
 - a. The wrath of God is revealed against what? Whom is His wrath against? Why? What about God is evident to men? Where is it evident (Romans 1:18-20)?
 - b. When men reject the knowledge of God, what happens? What exchanges are made? What does God do? What course of life begins? Where does it end (Romans 1:21-32)?
 - c. What did you learn about those without God in Romans 3:10-18? What are they like?
 - d. What were you like when Christ died for you (Romans 5:6-8,10)?
 - e. What is Paul's warning concerning the last days in 2 Timothy 3:1-8? What will men be like? Does this sound like man is going to get better and better?

5. How is it possible for you to be freed from Satan's domain, to have a life of righteousness and peace? How did God accomplish this?
 - a. Explain how you were saved, according to Ephesians 2:8-9.
 - b. What has God done for you, according to Ephesians 2:4-7? Why? Where were you, according to Ephesians 2:11-13?
 - c. What is His purpose in saving you (Ephesians 2:10)?
6. What belongs to you if you are in Him, according to Ephesians 1?
 - a. What has God provided in Him that takes care of your sins? In Him you have what?
 - b. Whom has God sealed you with in Him?
 - c. Where has He seated Him? What does that provide for you?
7. What is your security in Him, according to John 10:27-30?
8. Have you been doubting God's Word, God's character, His love, His goodness? Have you thought you might be better off if you ran your own life? Or have you come to Him, crying out to Him to save you, giving Him rulership over your life?

CHAPTER 5

In week four you looked at the state of the lost. You saw that they are walking in sin, living under the rule of Satan, and indulging the flesh and the mind. You learned that God created man in His image to rule the earth; but as a result of Adam's disobedience, Satan gained the rulership of the world. Sin and death entered the world by one man, and from that point all others were born in sin. You saw that the lost can be freed from Satan's domain and have a life of righteousness and peace by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. What is the difference between life under Satan and life under God?

2. What is life like under Satan?
 - a. What is the state of the lost person? Whose control is he under? How did he get there? Where is he in relationship to Christ (Ephesians 2)?

 - b. What did you learn in Revelation 20:11–22:21 concerning the future of the lost? At which judgment do the lost have to stand? How are they judged (Revelation 20:11-13)? What happens to them (Revelation 20:14-15)? Specifically, who will be cast into the lake of fire? How are they described (Revelation 21:8)?

3. What is life like under God?
 - a. What is the grace of God? What does His grace include?

 - b. What were you like when God loved you (Ephesians 2:4-5)? What did God do for you because of His grace (Ephesians 1:5-9; 2:4-7)? Why?

- c. What is the relationship of God's grace to salvation? How were you saved? How is faith explained? How were you not saved? What is the place of works (Ephesians 2:8-10)?

 - d. How does Romans 8:31-32 explain what grace is?

 - e. What is God's mercy? What is the relationship between God's mercy and salvation (Titus 3:5)? How did God cause you to be born again (1 Peter 1:3)? How did Paul describe his own salvation (1 Timothy 1:16)?

 - f. Once you receive God's mercy, what are you called to do (Romans 12:1)? What will happen to those who give mercy (Matthew 5:7)? What will happen to those who refuse to show mercy (James 2:13)?

 - g. What is the peace of God? What brings peace (Romans 5:1)? What prevents a person from having this peace?
4. If you do not have the peace of God in your heart because you cannot accept the fact that Jesus has taken your guilt, what might the problem be? What insight do the following scriptures give?
- a. What did you learn about unbelief from this illustration concerning the children of Israel? Why did some of the children of Israel not enter the land (Hebrews 3:18-19)? What is synonymous with un-belief?

6. If the enemy's tactic is to isolate you and cut you off from fellowship with others, what do you need to remember? If you have been saved, what has happened to you?
 - a. What is your relationship to God? What has He done for you (Ephesians 2:11-22)?
 - b. Will He ever leave you (Hebrews 13:5-6)? Will God forget (Isaiah 49:14-16)?
7. If the enemy does not leave when you stand, what are you to do?
8. In Ephesians 1:18-19, Paul prays for three things that you need to know in holding your position. What are they?
 - a. What is the hope of His calling (1 John 3:2-3)? What will the future of the redeemed be like, according to Revelation 20:11– 22:21? What will God do in this new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:3-4)?
 - b. What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints? Based on Ephesians 1–2, what is His inheritance in the saints?
 - c. What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward you who believe? What kind of power is it (Ephesians 2:6; 3:7,16,20)?
9. Will you stand against the enemy's attack, confident because of what God has done for you, looking in hope to the future?

CHAPTER 6

In week five you looked briefly at those who are under Satan. You saw that those under Satan are dead in sin, are living under the control of Satan, and are without God and without hope in the world. You saw that one day they will stand at the Great White Throne judgment, that they will be judged according to their deeds, and that ultimately they will be cast into the lake of fire.

You also looked at those who are under God. You saw that they are saved by His grace and His mercy and that the result of justification is peace with God and the removal of guilt over sins.

You evaluated the fact that although the result of salvation is peace with God, this peace often eludes believers. You saw that when peace eludes, the problem is usually one of two things: either unbelief or an attack from the enemy.

You saw that if the problem is unbelief, then the solution is to accept by faith God's forgiveness. If the problem is an attack from the enemy, the solution is to stand firm against him. You saw that being seated with Christ in heavenly places is your position of power over the enemy.

You also saw that the future hope of the believer is that one day he will dwell with God in the new heaven and the new earth.

1. Was God caught off guard by Satan's temptation and man's sin in the Garden of Eden? What was God's plan for redemption? How is this plan seen in the law of the kinsman redeemer? How did Jesus fulfill the law of kinsman redeemer?

2. Was God caught off guard by Satan's temptation and man's sin in the Garden of Eden? How does Paul explain this in Ephesians 1:9-10 and Ephesians 3:8-10? What does the word administration mean? What was God's plan?
 - a. When was God's plan of redemption first revealed to the devil? What happened to mankind as a result of Adam's sin? What did God tell Satan would happen?

 - b. How was Abraham a part of God's plan? Who came forth from the nation that God made of Abraham?

- c. Why did Jesus have to be born of a virgin and of God? How did that qualify Him as the Redeemer? Why did Satan have to tempt Jesus?
 - d. What did the crucifixion and the resurrection offer?
 - e. After Jesus' ascension, whom did He send? What did those indwelt by the Holy Spirit become?
 - f. According to Ephesians 3:8-10, after being freed from sin's slavery and Satan's dominion, what then would the church reveal to the angelic and demonic hosts? In the end, what will Jesus deliver up to God?
3. What Old Testament teaching contained God's plan of redemption? What did the kinsman redeemer have the right to do?
- a. What are the three Old Testament words for redeem? What do these three words have in common?
 - b. How was the law of the kinsman redeemer explained in Leviticus 25:47-55? What qualifications of the kinsman redeemer are seen in this passage? Why would a person need redeeming? Who had the right of redemption? What obviously did the redeemer have to have? Could a man redeem himself? How? What determined the cost of redemption?

- c. How was the law of the kinsman redeemer explained in Deuteronomy 25:5-10? What was the responsibility of a brother if his brother died and left a widow? Why? What was a kinsman to do if he did not want to marry the widow? What qualification does this show that a kinsman redeemer had to have?

 - d. How does the book of Ruth illustrate the law of the kinsman redeemer? Why did Ruth need a redeemer? When Boaz offered the nearest kinsman the opportunity to redeem the property and Ruth, why did he refuse? What must the kinsman redeemer be willing to jeopardize (Ruth 4:6)? What qualification does this show that a kinsman redeemer must have?
4. How did Jesus fulfill the qualifications and responsibilities of the law of the kinsman redeemer to become your Kinsman Redeemer?
- a. What is the first qualification of the kinsman redeemer? What relationship did the kinsman redeemer have to be (Leviticus 25:47-49)? What did Jesus have to partake of in order to become your Kinsman Redeemer? Why (Hebrews 2:14-16)? How was this accomplished (Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35)?

 - b. What was the second qualification for the kinsman redeemer? What did the kinsman redeemer have to have the ability to do (Leviticus 25:47-49)? What are the Greek words for redeem?

 - c. What would be the price to redeem from the slave market of sin (1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 1:7-8)? Why blood (Leviticus 17:11)? Why not the blood of animals (Hebrews 10:4-10)? What does Jesus' blood free you from (Colossians 1:13-14)?

- d. How does John 8:34-36 relate to the teaching on the kinsman redeemer? What does committing sin do to the sinner? According to this passage, what does Jesus do?

 - e. What was the third qualification of the kinsman redeemer? What must be the kinsman redeemer's desire (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)? How did Jesus fulfill that qualification? How is His desire to redeem you explained in Hebrews 10:4-10?

 - f. What was the fourth qualification of the kinsman redeemer (Ruth 4:6)? How did Jesus fulfill this qualification? What was Jesus' cry to the Father in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42,44; Matthew 26:36-44)? How was Jesus' suffering in the garden explained in Hebrews 5:7-9? What did Jesus lay aside (Philippians 2:6-7)?

 - g. What is the significance of the story of Boaz in relationship to Jesus, your Kinsman Redeemer?
5. Have you thanked and worshiped Jesus for His willingness to redeem you?

CHAPTER 7

In week six you looked at the fact that God was not caught off guard by Adam's sin in the garden but that God had a plan for man's redemption. You saw that the Old Testament teaching of the kinsman redeemer gives a picture of the redemption that you have in Jesus Christ. You saw that in order to redeem another, the kinsman redeemer had to be a blood relative and further that he had to have the ability to redeem, the desire to redeem, and a willingness to jeopardize his own inheritance. You saw how Jesus fulfilled each of these qualifications in order to become your Kinsman Redeemer. You looked at the story of Ruth and Boaz as an illustration of the law of the kinsman redeemer. You also saw how this story relates to Jesus, your Kinsman Redeemer.

1. What will you do when you are tempted by Satan?

2. What was the responsibility of the kinsman redeemer concerning the murder of a blood relative? What was he to do? Why?
 - a. What law did God give concerning murder in Genesis 9:5-6? Why did God say that He gave this law? What commandment was given in Exodus 20:13? Does Exodus 20:13 contradict Genesis 9:5-6? Why?

 - b. What happens to the man who murders another? Why (Deuteronomy 19:10-13)?

 - c. Who was the avenger of blood? How does the meaning of the Hebrew word for avenger of blood explain who the avenger of blood is?

 - d. According to Numbers 35:16-34, if the murder was deliberate, what was the blood avenger to do to the murderer? What if the killing was unintentional? What was the manslayer's protection from the blood avenger?

 - e. What evidence was necessary in order to convict the murderer? Could there be a ransom for murder? Why? What does murder do to the land?

3. How does this responsibility of the kinsman redeemer as the blood avenger relate to Jesus Christ, your Kinsman Redeemer? Why do you need a blood avenger?
 - a. Who did Jesus say that Satan is in John 8:44? Why? What did Satan do to God's creation in the Garden of Eden? Whose blood had to be avenged? How would this avenging begin to take place? How is this explained in the prophecy given in Genesis 3:15? When did this crushing of the serpent's head take place?
 - b. What did Jesus say was going to happen to Satan (John 12:23-33)? When Jesus talked about being lifted up and all men being drawn to Him, what was He talking about?
 - c. When will your blood avenger put Satan to death and fulfill Numbers 35:17,19?
4. Is it your responsibility to take revenge?
 - a. What does God say about taking revenge on another (Romans 12:17-21)? If you have been wounded, how are you to respond? Why? What is God's assurance in regard to your enemies?
 - b. Does this mean that the lawless go unpunished? Whom was the law made for (1 Timothy 1:9-11)? What if the guilty go unpunished (Romans 2:8-10)?

5. What was the kinsman's responsibility concerning the land that had been lost by a relative? What was he to do (Leviticus 25:23-25)?
 - a. How does this responsibility relate to your Kinsman Redeemer? What land needs redeeming? When man sinned, what happened to the land that he had been given authority over?
 - b. What is Satan's position in the world? How did Jesus and Paul refer to him (John 14:30; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4)? Is this a permanent position?
 - c. What does Paul say about Jesus in Colossians 2:9-10? According to Colossians 2:11-15, what did Christ accomplish in His death, burial, and resurrection? How does this compare with John 12:23-33? How do these passages explain Satan's head being crushed?
 - d. How does Hebrews 2:14 further explain what Jesus did as your Kinsman Redeemer? What is the power of death? Why is it critical to know that your sins are forgiven?
 - e. In the Gospels, what did the demons do when they recognized Jesus as the Son of God (Mark 5:7-8)? What did Jesus let them know (Matthew 12:28)?

- f. What did the demons know (Psalm 110:1)? What does it mean to be under someone's feet?

 - g. According to Revelation 5:1–6:1, what will it be like when your Kinsman Redeemer stands as the just avenger and begins His final cleansing? What did you learn about the book? What will the Lamb do? How does this book compare with the scroll in Jeremiah 32:6-15?

 - h. Ultimately, what will happen to the devil and his angels, along with death (Revelation 20:10,14)?
6. Why is Jesus' temptation critical to man's redemption? How does His temptation relate to His ability to open the title deed to the earth?
- a. When did the devil's first temptation of Jesus come (Matthew 4:1-11)?

 - b. In what ways did the devil tempt Jesus? How did Jesus respond each time? How did Satan respond to Jesus? How does Jesus' temptation parallel with Adam and Eve's?

 - c. If Jesus had yielded to any of these three temptations, would there have been temporal benefit?

 - d. If Jesus had yielded to any or all three, how would it have affected His relationship with God?

 - e. How did Jesus finally get rid of the devil?

7. What are you going to do when you face the temptation of the enemy? What will you do when you come face to face with demons?

a. What have you learned about your Kinsman Redeemer that shows who you are, what has been done for you, and how you can stand?

b. What are some of the principles from Jesus' temptation that can teach you to stand victoriously in warfare?

3. How are you to walk if you are going to have victory over the enemy?
 - a. In Ephesians 4:1–6:9, what specific instructions are given concerning your walk?
 - b. Why is obedience to these instructions so crucial in warfare?
4. What are the three enemies of the believer? How did they become enemies? How do these enemies relate to one another?
 - a. What is to be your relationship to the world (Romans 12:1-2)?
 - b. What is to be your relationship to the flesh (Galatians 5:16)? How did you walk before you were saved (Ephesians 2:1-3)?
 - c. What is to be your relationship to the devil (James 4:7)?
 - d. What are Satan's three objectives? Why does he want to destroy your unity with God? Why does he want to entice you into sin? Why would he want to lead you into false teaching?
5. What are you to do in order to have victory over the enemy?
 - a. What are the first two specific instructions concerning your warfare with the enemy that are given in Ephesians 6:10-11?
 - b. What does it mean to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might?

- c. What is the meaning of the Greek word for full armor? When was each piece of the armor provided?
 - d. What does the Greek term for stand firm mean? What are you to stand firm against?
6. According to Ephesians 6:12, your struggle is with whom?
- a. How long will this struggle with the enemy last? What kind of a struggle will it be? How does the word wrestle (kjv) indicate the kind of combat?
 - b. What did Paul mean by the phrase world forces of this darkness? How was this Greek term used?
 - c. What did God say about astrology and the consequences of participating in it (Deuteronomy 17:2-7)?
 - d. If you have been involved in any form of astrology, what should you do (1 John 1:9)? What did some of the Ephesian believers do in Acts 19?
 - e. Who are the “spiritual forces of wickedness”? What do they do?
 - f. In your struggle with the enemy, what do you need to remember (1 John 4:4; Revelation 12:11)? When tempted, what did Jesus command the enemy to do? What are you to do?

7. What two instructions does Paul give in Ephesians 6:13-14? Why? What does the term take up mean? What must you have done in order to stand firm (Ephesians 6:14-18)?

8. What is the first piece of the armor that is mentioned?
 - a. Why does Paul begin with the belt of truth? What did the belt do for a soldier? What is the parallel?

 - b. What did you learn in John 17:17 regarding the Word?

 - c. In recent years how has the enemy had a victory concerning the truth of the Word?

9. What do you believe about the Word of God?
 - a. What did God say about how the Word was given and why it was given (2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)?

 - b. What did Jesus say about the Law in Matthew 5:17-18? In Luke 24:25-27, what did Jesus say about the prophets? What does Jesus' reference to Jonah in Matthew 12:40 and to the creation account in Matthew 19:4-6 indicate?

 - c. What was Paul's concern about the gospel in 2 Corinthians 11:2-15? What did Paul warn about Satan's strategy?

 - d. What did Peter tell you to do with your mind in 1 Peter 1:13? What was his warning about the devil in 1 Peter 5:9?

10. According to 1 Timothy 4:1-3, what can happen to people who do not keep on the belt of truth? What does it take to keep from being deceived (1 Timothy 4:6-8)?

a. What is the result of being properly equipped? What if a believer is led astray? Who is behind such tactics? Why? What should you do (Ephesians 4:15)?

b. How does the belt of truth relate to walking in truthfulness (Ephesians 4:25)? What happened to Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)? Why? What role did the enemy play?

11. What about your belt of truth? Will you discipline yourself to study the Word of God? Will you walk in truth?

CHAPTER 9

In week eight you saw that the book of Ephesians shows you how to battle the enemy by establishing your position with Him and by instructing you in how to walk and how to stand. You looked at the three enemies of the believer and their relationship to one another.

You also looked at Satan's three objectives: to destroy your unity, to entice you into sin, and to lead you into false teaching. You saw that you are to "be strong in the Lord" and that you are to "put on the full armor of God" and to "take up the full armor of God."

You looked at the fact that you are in hand-to-hand combat with the rulers, the powers, the "world forces of this darkness" and "spiritual forces of wickedness" in the heavenly places.

You also learned what it means to have "girded your loins with the belt of truth." You saw that if you are going to stand firm in battle with the enemy that you must stand in the truth of the Word of God and that you must walk in truthfulness.

1. What are the next two pieces of armor that the believer must put on in order to stand firm against the schemes of the devil?

2. To stand firm against the enemy, the believer must put on the breastplate of righteousness. What is the breastplate of righteousness? What is involved in putting on the breastplate of righteousness?
 - a. What did the Roman soldier's breastplate cover? What is the parallel?

 - b. According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, how does the child of God receive the breastplate of righteousness? What happened to your sins? What power does Satan no longer have over you?

 - c. What do you need to remember when you face condemnation from the devil concerning sins that you know have been forgiven (Romans 8:1-2)? Can you be separated from the love of God? Why (Romans 8:31-39)?

3. Is being declared righteous all that there is to the breastplate of righteousness?
- a. What does God say about immorality and its physical and spiritual consequences (Romans 1:22-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)?
 - b. How was adultery defined, and what was the penalty in Leviticus 20:10-20?
 - c. What command was given to believers concerning immorality in 1 Corinthians 6:18? Why? In Ephesians 5:1-13, why did Paul say that impurity is not even to be named among them?
 - d. What did you learn about immorality in the church and the responsibility of believers from the passage in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5? What was the sin? What was the punishment to be?
 - e. According to Ephesians 4:17-20, what command is given to believers concerning their walk? How do the Gentiles walk?
 - f. What did you learn about the “old self” versus the “new self” in Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3:9?
 - g. What does Paul mean by the “old self” or the “old man”? What has happened to the old man and why (Romans 6:5-6)?
 - h. What specific instructions are given in Ephesians 4:25-32 concerning what to do and what not to do?
 - i. According to Ephesians 4:27, what does sin give to Satan? What is the Greek word for opportunity? How can sin in a believer’s life become an open door to the enemy?

4. Why is the breastplate necessary to stand firm in warfare? What must you do to put it on?

5. To stand firm, your feet must be shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. What does it mean to shoe your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace? What is the believer's responsibility?
 - a. Describe the Roman soldier's sandals and why he needed them. What is the parallel?

 - b. How does Romans 10:15 relate to the responsibilities to shoe your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace? Is evangelism the only emphasis here?

 - c. Who is your peace (Ephesians 2:14)? According to Ephesians 2:14-17, how and why did Jesus bring peace between Jew and Gentile? How did Paul say you are to walk in Ephesians 4:1-3?

6. What are some of the things that can keep you from walking righteously, affect your peace with God and others, and open the door to the enemy in your life?
 - a. What did you learn about anger and bitterness in Ephesians 4:25-32? When does anger become sin according to Galatians 5:19-20? How does letting anger rule or harboring anger give ground to the enemy?

 - b. If you are bitter and there is no peace in your heart, what are you to do (Ephesians 4:32)? What does bitterness do according to Hebrews 12?

7. What is the best defense that a Christian can have against the devil?
 - a. Instead of anger and bitterness, what is to be your response when wronged by others? How are you to relate to and forgive others (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-15)?
 - b. In 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 why did Paul say that they were to forgive the one who had been punished? How would Satan take advantage if they failed to forgive? What is the warning to you?
 - c. Briefly explain the parable in Matthew 18. According to this parable, what happens to those who don't forgive?
 - d. What is to be your attitude toward your enemies (Matthew 5:44-47)?
8. What changes will you have to make in order to walk in righteousness and to do all that you can to live at peace with all men?

CHAPTER 10

In week nine you looked at the fact that in order to stand firm in warfare, the believer must put on the breastplate of righteousness. You saw that putting on the breastplate of righteousness includes not only being declared righteous but also walking righteously.

You learned that in order to stand firm, you must shoe your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. You saw that this shoeing of your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace not only involves peace with God but also living in peace with man.

Finally, you saw that anger, bitterness, and unforgiveness can keep you from walking righteously and having peace and can open the door for the enemy to gain a foothold in your life.

1. What are the next two pieces of armor that the believer must take up in order to stand firm against the enemy? What do you need to know concerning the enemy's objectives? What principles concerning warfare do you need to understand?

2. To stand firm against the enemy, the believer must take up the shield of faith. Why (Ephesians 6:16)?
 - a. Describe the Roman soldier's shield. What were the fiery darts like that were aimed at the Roman soldier? What is the parallel?

 - b. What is the purpose of the shield of faith? What is a fiery dart?

 - c. Is there any fiery dart that cannot be extinguished?

 - d. Why is the belt of truth not enough (Hebrews 11:6)?

 - e. What does this tell you about your need to know the Word of God?

 - f. What are some of the flaming missiles the enemy has directed at you? Can you think of any promises or teachings that extinguish these missiles?

3. The next piece of armor that the believer is to take up is the helmet of salvation. What was the purpose of the Roman soldier's helmet? How was it made?
 - a. What is the helmet of salvation? What does it mean to take up the helmet of salvation?
 - b. What three aspects of salvation does the helmet cover?
 - c. Whose mind do you have (1 Corinthians 2:16)? What kind of a mind is it (2 Timothy 1:7)?
 - d. What is your security? What will God never do (Hebrews 13:5-6)?

4. Why do you need the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation? What is Satan's primary objective? What is his primary target? Why?
 - a. Why are you told to watch over your heart in Proverbs 4:23? What is the relationship between who you are and what you think (Proverbs 23:7)? What comes out of the heart (Matthew 15:18-19)?
 - b. What are you to think (Philippians 4:8)? What happens when a thought goes unchecked?
 - c. What are you to do to be useful to the Master (2 Timothy 2:20-22)?
 - d. How are you to respond to those caught in the devil's snare? Why? What has happened to them (2 Timothy 2:24-26)?

5. What principles can be learned about warfare in 2 Corinthians 10:3-6? What is the context of these verses?
 - a. What was the attitude of some of the people in Corinth toward Paul? How were they looking at things? What were their thoughts? What did these thoughts become?
 - b. What did you learn from Paul's example? What did he say that he was doing with these thoughts? Based on these verses, how are spiritual battles fought?
 - c. How are strongholds of wrong thinking erected in your mind? When the wrong thought comes, how is it to be evaluated (Philippians 4:8)? What is to be done with it (2 Corinthians 10:5)?
 - d. Why are you not to allow a wrong thought to continue?
6. What did you learn from Jehoshaphat's example concerning how to meet the enemy (2 Chronicles 20:1-23)? What principles can be seen in these verses that can be applied in warfare?
 - a. What were the circumstances that Jehoshaphat faced?
 - b. What specific things did Jehoshaphat do, and in what order did he do them?

7. Why has Satan targeted the family for destruction (Ephesians 3:15)? What family relationships and instructions are mentioned in Ephesians 5:22–6:4?
 - a. What is the enemy's strategy for breaking up the family unit (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5)?
 - b. What is God's instruction to the family when only one of the parents is a Christian (1 Corinthians 7:14)? Why would this situation be a target of Satan?

8. When it seems that the enemy has won the battle, what do you need to remember?
 - a. How does it appear that the enemy won in Job 1:12-19; 2:7? Did he?
 - b. What did you learn concerning Paul's thorn in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9?
 - c. What did Satan do in 1 Thessalonians 2:18 and in Revelation 2:10?
 - d. What will happen to Satan and his angels (Revelation 12:9-12)? What battle will be fought (Revelation 16:12-16)?
 - e. When the Lord returns, what will happen to Satan (Revelation 19:11–20:2)? What is his ultimate end (Revelation 20:7-10)?

9. What will you do with the fiery darts from the enemy? Will you take up the shield of faith? Will you put on the helmet of salvation?

CHAPTER 11

In week ten you saw that in order to stand firm against the enemy, you are to take up the shield of faith, using specific truths from God's Word to counteract the devil's lies and accusations.

You also learned that to take up the helmet of salvation is to know with absolute certainty that you belong to Christ. You looked at the fact that Satan's target is your mind and his desire is to build strongholds in your mind. You saw that his target also is the family. You learned principles of warfare from Paul's and Jehoshaphat's lives.

You also saw that although Satan sometimes appears to be the victor, his ultimate end will be the lake of fire.

1. What are the believer's two offensive weapons? How are these weapons to be used, and what is the believer's power and authority in using them?

2. In Ephesians 6:17 Paul says to take the sword of the Spirit. What is this sword? Describe the Roman soldier's sword.
 - a. What is the significance of the Greek word used for sword? What does the sword symbolize? How does Jesus' response to the devil at His temptation illustrate this?

 - b. How does the sword of the Spirit differ from the belt of truth? How does it differ from the shield of faith?

3. What did Jesus' triumph over the devil accomplish? Why and how do you have the authority that you do?
 - a. What deliverance did God bring about for you through Jesus (Colossians 1:13)?

 - b. What did Jesus' partaking of flesh and blood do to the devil (Hebrews 2:14)?

- c. What did Jesus do to the rulers and authorities (Colossians 2:15)?
 - d. How could you use these verses as your sword in warfare?
4. How was Jesus' power and authority over Satan demonstrated in His public ministry?
- a. When Jesus healed the demon-possessed man in Matthew 12:22-32, what did the crowd accuse Him of doing? How did Jesus say that He cast out demons? What did Jesus say casting out the demons showed? How did it show it?
 - b. When Jesus read from Isaiah in the synagogue, what things did He say were being fulfilled (Luke 4:18-21)? How does this relate to Jesus' healing of the demon-possessed man in Matthew 12:22-32?
 - c. How did Jesus exercise His authority over unclean spirits (Luke 4:31-37)?
 - d. What does the fact that Satan had to have permission to sift Peter show about Jesus' authority (Luke 22:31)?
 - e. How do these passages help you to see how to use your sword?

5. What authority did Jesus give the twelve in Luke 9:1-2?
 - a. In Luke 10:1-20 how many did Jesus send out? What were they sent to do? What authority did Jesus give them?
 - b. When they came back, what were they excited about? What had Jesus seen? What were they to rejoice in?
 - c. Why did Jesus tell them not to rejoice that the demons are subject to them, but to rejoice that their names are written in heaven?

6. In Matthew 16:15-20, what was Jesus' promise to Peter about the church?
 - a. What do the "gates of hell" represent? What does it mean that the gates of hell shall not overpower it?
 - b. What is the church? What did Jesus mean when He talked about the keys of the kingdom of heaven and binding and loosing? What are the limits of the believer's authority and power?

7. What power and authority belong to the believer?
 - a. When Jesus said, "Greater works than these shall [you] do," what did He mean (John 14:10-15)?
 - b. In Matthew 28:18-20 when Jesus gave the command to go and make disciples, what was His promise?

- c. In Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21, what does he pray that you will know? What is God able to do for us?
 - d. What did Jesus tell the apostles that they would receive (Acts 1:8)? How is your power explained in 1 John 4:4?
8. What is warfare prayer? What does Paul instruct concerning prayer in Ephesians 6:18-20? What two aspects of warfare prayer do these verses show?
- a. What is the defensive aspect of prayer? What does "be on the alert" mean? What does the word perseverance mean?
 - b. How does this command to "be on the alert with all perseverance" relate to Jesus' instructions to ask, seek, and knock in Luke 11:9-10?
 - c. In Luke 22:31 when Satan desired to sift Peter, what did Jesus say that He had done?
 - d. What is the offensive aspect of prayer that you see in Ephesians 6:19-20?
9. Practically, how are authority and power over the enemy to be exercised?
- a. What does it mean to submit to God, resist the devil, and draw near to God?
 - b. b. What is involved in putting on the armor of God?

10. If there are areas of disagreement with others on this subject, what are you to do (Ephesians 4:1-6)?

a. What are the seven essentials of unity?

b. Will you walk this way? Will you stand firm against the enemy?

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