

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual Warfare might seem like a scary topic, but because God has created us in His image and God is Spirit, we are spiritual and live in a spiritual world. We have principles and tools in God's Word to guide us into the knowledge we need to have victory in this area. There is an obvious battle of Good vs. Evil all around us. We are in the "Last Days" of time before the return of our Lord Jesus and we need to know now more than ever before how to be victorious as the "Army of God"! We will look at this from both a personal level as well as from a corporate level.

1. Hosea 4:6a Some might quote the old saying that "Ignorance is bliss". But according to this verse is that really true?

Answer: ____

2. 2 Corinthians 2:11 So what are we as Christians not to be ignorant of?

Answer: We are not ignorant of his _____

So whether we like it or not, we cannot claim ignorance of Satan and his schemes as an excuse for the reasons that we might be experiencing ongoing failures and even oppression.

3. 2 Corinthians 4:4 What has the god of this world, (Satan), done to the minds of those who don't know God?

Answer: He has _____ their minds

4. 1 Peter 5:8 What two things and attitudes should we have knowing that Satan is constantly lurking like a roaring lion to try and devour anyone that he can?

Answer: Be of _____ and be on the _____

We cannot just kick back and hope everything will work out. Our adversary, Satan does not play fair, but does God have a counter plan?

The Bible does refer to the believers as part of the Family of God, with God as our Father and His followers called sons and Daughters. However, another very important description of us as believers is the Army of God. As soldiers we must learn what our capabilities are and how do we implement the tools and weapons that God has given us in order to "Fight the good fight of Faith"!

5. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 Are our weapons as Christians based upon our physical skills? What kind of power are our weapons based upon?

Answer: ____, _____ power

We know that God has not been and will not be defeated! And He also has a plan of victory for we as Christians to walk in! The next section will be dealing with what is commonly known as "The Armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-19). This is our spiritual preparation passage to equip us for battle!

6. Ephesians 6:10 Right away we see God declaring us as in a position of victory and power. Whose might and power are we exhorted to be strong in?

Answer: ____ might

So if we will do what He tells us to do we cannot lose, can we? Wow, let's see how we can win this and every battle!

7. Ephesians 6:11 What are we to put on if we are to "stand firm" against the schemes of the devil?

Answer: the _____ of God

Notice that it did not say that just a few preparatory pieces would be sufficient. This is serious business and we cannot just cruise through our Christian walk in a casual manner! Let's take a look at all of the pieces of the armor of God to get ourselves ready for battle!

8. Ephesians 6:12 Is our struggle, (or battle), really against people or against evil powers of darkness?

Answer: _____

9. Ephesians 6:13 Is God going to put on you all of His armor without you making any effort at all?

Answer: ____

There is an obvious obligation on the part of every Believer to do his or her part if we are going to be victorious soldiers. God's armor just doesn't fall on us.

10. Ephesians 6:14 One of the strongest evil forces opposing us in these "Last Days" are all kinds of perverted sexual spirits. No wonder that this is the first piece of armor that we are told to put on. So what are we told to gird our loins with in order to stand firm?

Answer: _____

We are talking about the truth of God's Word. If we don't know what the Bible says about morals then we can be easily deceived by our emotions.

11. 1 Corinthians 15:33 What is one example of how quickly our good morals can be deceived?

Answer: _____ corrupts good morals

12. Ephesians 6:14 What is the second piece of armor that we need to put on?

Answer: The _____ of _____

13. 2 Corinthians 5:21 What did Jesus do on our behalf so that we can be considered and called the "righteousness of God in Him"?

Answer: _____

In other words, our sin was substituted for by Jesus's blood that was shed for us on the cross. And we are now and forever more considered righteousness by faith because of this one amazing act of love.

14. Ephesians 6:15 With the part of the body being the feet shod (or fitted) with the Gospel of peace, what foundational action word do we assume is needed here in order for the Gospel to be effective?

Answer: We must ___ and make disciples

15. Ephesians 6:15 It also mentions that something has to occur with the Gospel of peace. What is that important characteristic?

Answer: the _____ of the Gospel of peace

The sharing or proclaiming of the Gospel takes applying yourself to knowing how to share the truth of the salvation message. It doesn't just accidentally happen. We will talk about this more in the study on the Great commission.

16. Ephesians 6:16 What part of armor is shown here that when properly used protects your heart?

Answer: the _____

17. Romans 10:17 How do you acquire faith in order to extinguish all of the flaming missiles of the evil one?

Answer: By _____ the Word of God/Christ

One's faith is developed by hearing and saying God's Word. By doing this we begin to see that God has already given each one of us authority over these missiles or accusations that the evil one is constantly trying to use to make us believe anything that is contrary to God's will.

18. Ephesians 6:17a The most important foundation in our lives is our Eternal Salvation. So no wonder that this next piece of our armor deals with the protection of our mind. The mind is where the real battle takes place. What is this armor that covers our head (or Mind)?

Answer: The _____ of Salvation

19. 1 John 3:1 What one powerful word stands out in this verse that supports and builds our faith in regards to this Helmet of Salvation?

Answer: See how great a _____ the Father has bestowed upon us

So by confessing the Love of God we build our confidence that He is in us and with us no matter what the circumstances might be!

20. Ephesians 6:17b This last piece of armor has the exact same impact as the word of God and can be used as an offensive weapon as well as a defensive one. What is it?

Answer: The _____ of the _____

21. Hebrews 4:12 What three things is the word of God in comparison to an actual physical sword?

Answer: _____, _____ and _____ than any two-edged sword

22. Ephesians 6:19 What are all of these important parts of armor really to be used for?

Answer: To _____ or _____

And not just to pray, but to enter into spiritual warfare, or rather intercessory prayer! One cannot just casually go into spiritual warfare. It takes preparation. It takes understanding. Many times it takes a combined team effort.

Let's now take a look at the 8 principles of war that is studied by the United States Navy War College. These principles are based on the teachings of an ancient Chinese general, Sun Tzu, who lived over 2500 years ago. Although these were not originally Christian in their roots, we will see that they all have biblical foundations that will help us in our quests to be an effective spiritual warrior.

The eight Principles of War that we will look at are: 1) Objective 2) Communication & Supply 3) Mass 4) Offense 5) Surprise 6) Simplicity 7) Security 8) Mobility

The first principle of war is Objective.

23. Habakkuk 2:2 What is another name for Objective that we are exhorted to record or write down?

Answer: Record the _____

We record the vision/objective so that others may clearly understand it and be inspired by the objective to go and do what the objective is designed to accomplish. To be able to accomplish the objective successfully we need to know who our allies and who are enemies are!

24. 2 Corinthians 10: 5 We have learned already that our battle is against evil spiritual forces, which are our real enemies. However, what three things are we exhorted to do to in order to take our stand against these evil forces?

Answer: Destroy _____ and every _____ thing; take every _____ captive

As we see here, the battle is fought in our minds and is won by our willful decisions to verbally cast down these ungodly thoughts!

Our second Principle of War is Communication and Supply. During the first Gulf War against the regime of Saddam Hussein the United States had a superior Air Force. So when they were able to bomb the

supply lines of Iraq at the onset of the war they immediately cut off the communication of the Iraqi forces. This paralyzed the Iraqi army and the United States was able to secure victory in just a few days! In the same way if we endeavor to have a superior Air Force we must have a Superior "Prayer Force". The entire victorious results that we are trying to achieve hinge greatly on effective prayer! And to be effective we must have good communication.

25. Acts 2:1 Jesus was the Great Communicator and this group of 120 followers fully understood his instructions as noted by the comment here of what they did. What did they Accomplish?

Answer: They were _____ in one place

Good communication is a great asset to unity! They were obedient and reaped great results!

26. Acts 1:4 What were those great results that set the stage for every future believer to encounter as well?

Answer: They were all _____ with the Holy Spirit

Our next principle is Mass. We have already discussed this principle in the chapter on Prayer. Something happens that is much more powerful when we pray together in unity. God leverages our prayers exponentially! Let's look at the Bible example again.

27. Deuteronomy 32:30 We see here that one person has the potential to put 1000 (Spiritual) enemies to flight, but how many enemies can two people put to flight?

Answer: _____

Our next principle is Offense. In the art of warfare an army that goes on a defensive strategy only will only have a stalemate at best and at worst, eventually lose. We do need defensive weapons as we have already studied in our observations of the armor of God. But God says that the weapons of our warfare are divinely powerful!

28. Ephesians 6:17 What is this divinely powerful part of our armor referring to that is called the sword of the Spirit?

Answer: The _____ of God

When we use the Word of God in its proper context and pray it in faith we will always be in God's victory!

The next principle is Surprise. In the story of Gideon from the Old Testament we see an awesome picture of this principle. Gideon's army had already been instructed by God to reduce their size to a quality group of only 300 men. This is showing firstly the principle of Mass that God would use to help destroy the Midianite army.

29. Judges 7:19-21 What two things happened in verse 21 as a result of the surprise attack on the Midianites?

Answer: All the army _____, _____ as they fled

The next principle is Simplicity. If there are too many details in a plan, especially if it's involving a large army or large group of people, the mission can get headed in the wrong direction, even if intentions are good. I like the acronym: KISS (Keep It Simple Saints).

30. 1 Corinthians 14:33 Regarding Apostle Paul's instruction about potential problems of too many people wanting to prophesy during Church services, what did he say that God was not and what did he also say that God was?

Answer: God is not a God of _____, but of _____

The next principle is Security. I think we all know that it is hard for most of us to keep a secret. And in spiritual warfare it can sometimes have unfortunate consequences if we share our secret plans with someone who will spread the plan publicly and therefore jeopardize the mission.

31. Matthew 7:6 Jesus gave us a stern warning that we could be literally torn into pieces if we did one of two things. What are those two things we must avoid doing?

Answer: Give what is _____ to dogs, Cast your _____ before swine

The last principle of war is Mobility. If you can't move freely then you won't be able to on the offense, or in other words, go where you need to be going, and be there at the right time. This also can include a justifiable retreat. It's alright to take time off to be refreshed. But mobility means we should always have a sense of readiness.

32. 2 Timothy 4:2 At what times should we be ready to share or even preach the Word of God?

Answer: Be ready _____ season and _____ of season

Peter and John showed us how this principle operated by the way they reacted to the lame beggar in Acts, Chapter 3 at what was known as the Beautiful Gate.

33. Acts 3:1-10 Instead of giving money to the beggar, what did Peter tell the lame man to do in verse 6 and what resulted in verse 8?

Answer: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-_____, he was _____ and _____ and _____ God

The title of Beautiful Gate here doesn't really mean pretty or pleasant to look at, but rather means the right time or timing of the Lord! Because so many people had seen this beggar there for 40 years, the timing of the miracle had a result of 5,000 men coming to salvation as recorded in chapter four, verse four! God's timing is a "Beautiful Thing"!

Scriptures for your essay: Isaiah 59:16-17; 1Timothy 1:18-19; Philemon 1:6; Jeremiah 23:29; Galatians 6:7-8

1. No
2. Schemes
3. Blinded
4. Sober spirit, alert
5. No, divine
6. His
7. Full armor
8. Evil powers of darkness
9. No
10. Truth
11. Bad company
12. Breastplate of righteousness
13. Became sin
14. Go
15. Preparation
16. Shield of faith
17. Hearing
18. Helmet
19. Love
20. Sword, Spirit
21. Living, active, sharper
22. Pray/intercede
23. Vision
24. Speculations, lofty, thought
25. All together

26. Filled
27. 10,000
28. Word
29. Ran, crying out
30. Confusion, peace
31. Holy, pearls
32. In, out
33. Walk, walking, leaping, praising