

*Enduring*

**SPIRITUAL  
WARFARE**

*“Preparing the Kingdom for the Battlefield of Life”*

*GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST*

*Wednesday Night Bible Class Study Guide*

*Written by Ray Reynolds*

# **ENDURING SPIRITUAL WARFARE: Preparing the Kingdom for the Battlefield of Life**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lesson #1	<b><i>Who Is Our Enemy?</i></b>	3
Lesson #2	<b><i>Who Is Working With Our Enemy?</i></b>	5
Lesson #3	<b><i>What Will Happen To Our Enemy?</i></b>	7
Lesson #4	<b><i>Who Is On Our Side in this Conflict?</i></b>	9
Lesson #5	<b><i>What Is The Nature of Our Allies?</i></b>	11
Lesson #6	<b><i>What Is The Work of Our Allies vs. Our Enemy?</i></b>	13
Lesson #7	<b><i>How Does The Holy Spirit Aid Us in Battle?</i></b>	15
Lesson #8	<b><i>What Is The Armor of God?</i></b>	17
Lesson #9	<b><i>Why Do We Need Armor For The Battle?</i></b>	19
Lesson #10	<b><i>What Strength Do We Gain From the Armor of God?</i></b>	21
Lesson #11	<b><i>Which Side Are You On?</i></b>	23
Lesson #12	<b><i>Do We Already Have The Victory?</i></b>	25

*\* DISCLAIMER = Please be warned that the contents contained in this book must be viewed with extreme caution! This is not a study to enter into lightly. There is a good reason why witchcraft is condemned in the Bible (**Leviticus 19:26, Deuteronomy 18:14, II Kings 17:17, I Samuel 15:23, Acts 19:19**). It is considered dangerous to use things of a spiritual nature for entertainment. However, by no means should you view the material as "Top Secret" or "Classified," because God longs to bring you joy and everlasting peace through such a study. Our enemy likes to keep us ignorant to his schemes and does not want us to use material in our own spiritual walk. On the other hand, your Commander wants you to be informed concerning both the enemy and his tactics. The Lord is always with you! May God be with you in your study!*



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Lesson #1 = Who Is Our Enemy?

How do you define the battle between good and evil? How long has this battle raged?

What is God's role in this battle (**Genesis 1-3**)?

What is Satan's role in this battle (**Genesis 1-3**)?

What is man's role in this battle (**Genesis 1-3**)?

Is Satan your enemy (**Ephesians 6:10-12, I Peter 5:8, I John 3:8**)? Explain.

What is Satan willing to do to you?

What has he done in the past?

What can we learn from the names and descriptions of our enemy?

The serpent - **Genesis 3:4, II Corinthians 11:3**

Lucifer (the Morning Star) - **Isaiah 14:12, Ezekiel 28:11-19**

Beelzebub - **Matthew 12:22-27, Mark 3:20-30, Luke 11:14-26**

The father of lies - **John 8:44**

What can we learn from the names and descriptions of our enemy? Cont.

The prince (ruler) of this world - **John 12:31, Ephesians 6:12**

The perverter - **II Corinthians 2:11, Luke 8:12**

The god of this world - **II Corinthians 4:4**

Belial - **II Corinthians 6:15**

An angel of light - **II Corinthians 11:14**

The devil - **Ephesians 4:27, 6:11, II Thessalonians 2:9, I Peter 5:8-10**

Our adversary (like a "roaring "lion) - **I Peter 5:8**

The dragon - **Revelation 12:3-4, 12:9, 20:2**

How many "soldiers" work for our enemy (**Matthew 24:53, Luke 2:13, Hebrews 12:22, I Peter 3:19-20, II Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Revelation 12**)?

What can we learn about Abaddon (Apollyon - **Revelation 9:11**), Legion (**Mark 5:9**), and the many others that work alongside our enemy?



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Lesson #2 = Who Is Working With Our Enemy?

When were these enemy combatants created (**Genesis 3:4, 14, Job 38:4-7, Nehemiah 9:6, Psalms 148:2-5, Isaiah 14:12-20, Ezekiel 28:11-19, John 8:44**)? Why?

What has happened since their fall (**Genesis 3, Isaiah 14:1-23, Ezekiel 28:11-19, Matthew 25:41, Luke 10:18, II Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Revelation 12:4, 9**)?

How is the enemy and his army distinctly different from humans (**Psalms 148:1-5, Matthew 22:30, II Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Revelation 12:7**)?

What does our enemy hope to accomplish with this army (**Matthew 25:41, Isaiah 14:12-15, Luke 10:18-20, Revelation 12:4, 7**)?

Is it easy to confuse the army of our enemy with the army of the Lord (**Daniel 4:13, 23, 8:13, Matthew 25:41, II Corinthians 11:14, Hebrews 2:10, 5:9, 12:23, Revelation 12:7-9**)?

How strong is the influence of our enemy and his army in this world (**Job 1:9, Matthew 4:8-9, John 5:11, 12:31, 14:30, 16:11, Galatians 1:6-9, Ephesians 2:2, I John 4:1, Revelation 12:7**)?

What issues does our enemy have with us personally?

How does he use his influence in this world to harm us (**Job 1:9, 2:4, Revelation 12:10**)?

What issues does our enemy have with the heavenly host (**Ezra 1:1, Daniel 10:13, Zechariah 3:1, Jude 9, Revelation 12**)?

Does our enemy and his army fear God (**Matthew 25:41, I Timothy 3:6, James 2:19**)? Explain.

In the New Testament, what lengths did our enemy take to influence the apostles and the followers of Jesus (**John 6:70, 13:2, Luke 22:31**)?

In New Testament times, how did our enemy work in others to destroy the mission of Jesus and his followers (**Matthew 8:28-32, 9:32-33, 12:22, 15:28, 17:15, Mark 1:24, 5:2-13, 9:25, 16:9, Luke 4:35, 8:2, 8:33, 9:42, 11:14, 13:10-13, 22:3, John 6:70, 13:27, Acts 19:15, I Timothy 4:1-2, Revelation 16:13**)?

How did Jesus, the apostles, and the early church combat the enemy?

What tactics did they employ?

What hope does that give the church (**Acts 2-28**)?



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Lesson #3 = What Will Happen To Our Enemy?

What was the original fate destined for our enemy and his army (**Isaiah 14:12, Luke 10:18, II Peter 2:4, Revelation 12:10**)?

What role did Jesus play in the victory over our enemy (**John 19:30, Revelation 12:11**)?

How can they be viewed before, during, and after the cross (**Genesis 3:15, Revelation 20:1-3**)?

Who is the only one that can bind the enemy, defeat him, and punish him (**Genesis 3:15, Job 1-2, Matthew 28:20, Revelation 20:1-3**)?

Who is the only one that can put limitations upon our enemy (**I Corinthians 10:13**)?

Who is the only one that can loosen the chains upon our enemy (**Revelation 20:7-8**)?

What is the eternal fate our enemy's army (**Matthew 25:41, II Peter 2:4**)?

What is the eternal destination for the enemy and his army (**Revelation 20:10, Matthew 25:41**)?

Do we have a role in judging, condemning and/or witnessing the demise of our enemy and his army in eternity (**I Corinthians 6:3, Revelation 4-20**)? What does that mean?

Until they are eternally condemned, what is the objective of our enemy and his army today?

In the limited amount of time our enemy has left, between now and the end of this age, what does our enemy know? What will be the battle strategy of our enemy?

What does he have planned for you (**Ephesians 6:10-12, I Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:12**)?

What kind of things can we anticipate from our enemy (**Genesis 3:6, Luke 4:1-13, I John 2:16**)?

Are we alone in this battle (**Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:31, Philippians 4:13, Revelation 2:10**)?

Is there hope for us? Is there hope for the enemy? Explain

Did Jesus speak frequently about these things (**Matthew 13:41, 26:53, Mark 8:38, Luke 12:8-9**)? What can we learn from Jesus? What did He say?

Who is greater: our God or our enemy?

How can you be better prepared to face your enemy?



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Lesson #4 = Who Is On Our Side in this Conflict?

What does the Bible say about the number of those within the Lord's army (**Matthew 24:53, Luke 2:13, Hebrews 12:22**)?

What can we learn from the names and descriptions of our allies?

Sons of God - **Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7**

Stars of heaven - **Job 38:7, Isaiah 14:13 Revelation 12:4,7**

Michael (stands for the people) - **Daniel 10:13, 12:1, Jude 9, Revelation 12:7**

Gabriel (stands in the presence of God) - **Daniel 8:16, 9:21, Luke 1:19**

Who created our allies (**Nehemiah 9:6, Psalms 148:2-5, John 1:3, Colossians 1:15-17**)? Why?

When were our allies created (**Job 38:4-7**)? Why were they created?

What do we know about the nature of our allies? Is it easy to confuse them with humans (**Psalm 148:1-5, Matthew 18:10, 22:30**)?

What can we learn from the order and rank of our allies?

The Angel of the Lord (**Genesis 16:10-13, Exodus 3:2-6, 23:20, Judges 6:11-18, II Samuel 24:16, Zechariah 1:12**)

Archangel (**I Thessalonians 4:15, Jude 9, Revelation 12:7**)

Chief Princes (**Daniel 10:13**)

Seraphim (**Isaiah 6:2, 6**)

Cherubim (**Genesis 3:24, Exodus 37:6-9, I Samuel 4:4, Ezekiel 10:19-20, 11:22, Psalm 80:1, 99:1**)

Various other angels (**I Kings 22:19, Matthew 24:53, Luke 2:13, Hebrews 12:22**)

As for the Angel of the Lord, there is much debate as to His true nature and purposes. What have you heard about Him? What do the Scriptures teach about Him?

What fears do you have about the spiritual battles they engage in all around you?

Is it appropriate to have a healthy fear of our enemy and his army when we know we have the Lord on our side and His heavenly army?

Should we want to enlist the help of the army of God or the commander of the army? Explain.



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Lesson #5 = What Is The Nature of Our Allies?

What is the simple definition of the heavenly army (**Luke 20:36, Mark 12:25, Philippians 3:21, Colossians 1:16-18, Hebrews 1:7, 1:14**)?

Whose face is compared to these angels? What does that mean (**Matthew 18:10**)?

What do we know about their numbers (**I Kings 22:19, Matthew 26:53, Hebrews 12:22**)?

What do we know about their strength (**Psalms 103:20, Revelation 5:2, 18:21**)?

What do we know about their work (**Isaiah 6:2-6, Matthew 26:53, Revelation 8:13**)?

What do we know about their appearance (**Matthew 28:2-7, Acts 1:9-11, Revelation 10:1**)?

Do they have wings (**Exodus 25:20, Isaiah 6:2, 6, Ezekiel 1:6, Revelation 4:8**)?

What do we know about their role in heaven (**I Kings 22:19, Isaiah 6:1-3, Daniel 7:9-10, Revelation 6:11**)?

What about their role on earth (**Matthew 13:39-49, 16:27, 24:31**)?

Are they omnipotent (**I Peter 3:22, Revelation 12:7**)?

Are they omnipresent (**Daniel 9:21-23**)?

Are they omniscient (**Matthew 24:36, I Peter 1:12**)?

Are they eternal (**Job 38:1-7, Luke 20:36**)?

Can they procreate (**Matthew 18:10, 22:30, Mark 12:25**)? If not, what do we do about passages like **Genesis 6:1-8, Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7**?

They have the power to appear as humans (**Genesis 19:1-5, Hebrews 13:2**) and are considered to be a little higher than humans (**Psalms 8:4-5, Ephesians 6:12, Hebrews 2:9, 2:16**), but what happened in Bible times when angels revealed themselves to humans? Why?

Hagar (**Genesis 16:7, 21:17**)      David (**I Chronicles 21:15-16**)      Zechariah (**Luke 1:11-12**)

Abraham (**Genesis 18:1-2, 22:11**)      Elijah (**I Kings 19:5-7**)      Mary (**Luke 1:26-27**)

Lot (**Genesis 19:1**)      Nebuchadnezzar (**Daniel 3:24-25**)      The Shepherds (**Luke 2:8-14**)

Balaam (**Numbers 22:31**)      Daniel (**Daniel 8, 9, 10**)      Peter (**Acts 5:19-20, 12:7**)

The Israelites (**Judges 2:1**)      Joseph (**Matthew 1:20**)      Philip (**Acts 8:26**)

Gideon (**Judges 6:11-12**)      Jesus (**Matthew 4:11, Luke 2:43**)      Cornelius (**Acts 10:3**)

Manoah's wife (**Judges 13:2-3**)      Mary Magdalene (**Matthew 28:1-2**)      Paul (**Acts 27:23-24**)

What are some of the roles our allies fulfill in the work of the Lord (**Matthew 18:10, Acts 12:15, Genesis 18:9-10, Luke 1:13,30, 2:8-15, Genesis 18:16-19:29, Matthew 2:13, Genesis 19:13, II Samuel 24:16, II Peter 2:4, Jude 6, Revelation 12:7**)? Does that encourage you? Explain.



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Lesson #6 = What Is The Work of Our Allies vs. Our Enemy?

When angels appear does that always mean danger is near (**Psalm 103:20, Genesis 18:2, Daniel 10:18, Zechariah 2:1, Judges 13:6, Matthew 28:3-4, Luke 24:4**)?

When danger is near, what charge is given to our allies (**Psalms 91:11-12, Matthew 4:11, Hebrews 1:14, Acts 12:7, 27:23**)?

In Bible times the angels often guided and instructed good people (**Genesis 24:7, 40, Exodus 14:19, Acts 7:38, 53, Hebrews 2:2**). Does this happen today? Explain.

In Bible times the angels often appeared in human dreams and visions (**Genesis 28:12, 31:11, Matthew 1:20-21, 2:12**). Does this happen today? Explain.

In Bible times the angels protected the people of God (**Exodus 14:19-20, II Kings 6:15-17, Psalm 34:7, Daniel 3:28, Matthew 26:53, Hebrews 1:7**). Does this happen today? Explain.

We often see angels helping a wide variety of human needs, including relieving hunger and thirst (**Genesis 21:17-19, Mark 1:13**) and overcoming loneliness (**Luke 22:43**). Why?

Angels delivered God's people from danger (**Acts 5:19, 12:6-11**) and they have been known to affect God's judgments in the past (**Numbers 22:31, II Samuel 24:16, II Thessalonians 1:7-8**). Do you think God listens to them? If He doesn't need counsel why would He listen?

In Bible times, angels administer God's law to man (**Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 2:11-13**), worked among nations (**Daniel 10:1-3, 12-13, 20-21**), and revealed God's word (**Ezra 1:1-2, Isaiah 44:28, 45:1**). Why then does Paul warn us (**Galatians 1:8-9, II Corinthians 11:14**)?

What can we learn about angels from their work in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ?

Before His birth (**Luke 1:26-28**)

At His birth (**Luke 2:8-15**)

His temptation (**Matthew 4:11**)

During His life (**Matthew 26:53**)

His resurrection (**Matthew 28:1-7**)

His ascension (**Acts 1:11**)

Now subject to Him (**I Peter 3:22**)

Second coming (**Matthew 25:31**)

In Heaven (**Revelation**)

How can they work as guardian angels (**Daniel 12:1, Matthew 18:10, Acts 12:15, Revelation 2:1**) but not in a miraculous personal way (**I Corinthians 13:8-13**)?

Are angels active in the prayers of the righteous (**Daniel 9:20-23, James 5:16**)?

Are angels present and involved in our worship assembly (**I Corinthians 11:10**)?

Why are angels not permitted to bring souls to Christ (**Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 8:26, 10:3, 11:14, II Corinthians 4:7, Galatians 1:6-9**)? Would they become the objects of salvation or worship (**Luke 15:10, I Corinthians 4:9, Revelation 19:10, 22:8-9**)?

The Bible teaches us that angels can withstand Satan and his angels (**Zechariah 3:1-2, Revelation 12:7-12**), attend the souls of the righteous dead (**Luke 16:22**), and will herald the end of time (**Romans 10:1-6**). What role will they have in the final judgment scene?

What role will the archangel have at Christ's second coming (**John 5:28-29, I Thessalonians 4:16**)? What about other mighty angels (**Matthew 25:31, II Thessalonians 1:7-8**)?

In what ways can God's mighty heavenly army (**Isaiah 14:12-15**) compare with the Lord's earthly army (**Ephesians 6:10-20**)?

The allies we have in the Lord's army aid us in battle, but they do not fight the battle for us. Yet some people will pray to angels and wish for their unwavering support. Why would people seek the presence and aid of the angels when God is superior to all (**Romans 8:31**)?



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Lesson #7 = How Does The Holy Spirit Aid Us in Battle?

There are at least 52 names used to refer to the Holy Spirit (**Genesis 1:2, Matthew 4:1, Luke 4:18, John 14:16, John 15:26, Romans 8:9, 8:15, Ephesians 1:3**, etc.) What do these characteristics tell us about the Holy Spirit and His work?

When does the Holy Spirit enter a Christian (**John 3:3, 5, John 14:17, Acts 2:38-29, Romans 6:1-14, 8:5-8, II Corinthians 1:22, 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, Titus 3:4-7, I Corinthians 6:19-20**)? Why is this essential (**Romans 8**)?

**I John 4:4** reminds us of what terrific truth? Does this give you encouragement?

What kind of fruit does the Holy Spirit produce in our lives (**Galatians 5:22-23**)? How can that aid us in battle (**John 14:16-18, 26, 15:26-27, 16:7-8, Romans 8:26-28**)?

What were some of the supernatural gifts of the Spirit (**I Corinthians 12:8-10**)? Were these supernatural gifts intended to be temporary (**I Corinthians 13:8-13**)?

Who administered these supernatural gifts (**Acts 8:14-18, I Corinthians 12:12-31, 14:32**)?

What was the primary purpose of the supernatural gifts (**Mark 16:20, I Corinthians 12:7, 13:8**)?

How did the Apostles receive their gifts (**Acts 1:5, 2:1-4**)? Why are there no references of the Samaritans (**Acts 8:14-17**), Ephesians (**Act 19:1-7**), or Timothy (**II Timothy 1:6**), passing on the supernatural gifts that they received?

Are there any examples of men, other than the Apostles, that passed on the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit? Since all Apostles are dead, can these gifts be administered today? Explain.

Why didn't Paul use his supernatural gift to heal himself (**II Corinthians 12:7-10**), Timothy (**I Timothy 5:23**), Trophimus (**II Timothy 4:20**), and others that he knew that were sick? What does that tell us about the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit?

If the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit were temporary, how can the church receive comfort and edification today?

Are there natural gifts of the Holy Spirit that are permanent (**Matthew 25:15-30, Romans 1:11, 12:1-13, Ephesians 4:11-16**)? How are we to use these gifts? Are we accountable for natural gifts we do not have (**II Corinthians 8:12**)?

Why did Paul encourage humility in the use of these gifts (**Romans 12:3**)? Does this have anything to do with the principle Jesus teaches in **Matthew 10:8**?

What are some of the benefits to having the Holy Spirit in our lives? **Romans 8** reveals more than a dozen aids to having the Spirit of God. What are some of those things?

God's word tells us that the Holy Spirit can help us change direction (**Roman 14:17**), work well with others (**Galatians 5:22-23**), strengthen us from within (**Ephesians 3:16**), and bring us peace (**Ephesians 4:3**). How can those things aid us in battle?

What is the sword of the Holy Spirit and how does it protect the church (**Ephesians 6:17**)? How does the church use the sword of the Holy Spirit to survive (**Ephesians 6:18**)?

Jesus prayed to the Father for His disciples to be filled with the Holy Spirit (**John 14-17**)? Why? How would the Holy Spirit be a Comforter to them and to us? (**John 14:16-17, 26, 15:26**)

What role does the Holy Spirit play in prayer (**Romans 8:26-28**)? How does prayer aid us in battle (**Ephesians 6:10-20**)?

Is the Holy Spirit limited today? Are His hands bound? What does that mean? Explain.



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Lesson #8 = What Is The Armor of God?

What is the whole armor of God (**Ephesians 6:10-20**)? Do you think there is a spiritual significance to the seven pieces of the armor we are given to use in spiritual warfare? Explain.

There are two parts to the armor that cover the lower body:

The belt, around the waist, is truth (**Ephesians 6:14**). This is a biblical thought and there are other Scriptures that show us how others used belts in Bible times (**Exodus 12:11, I Kings 18:46, Isaiah 11:5**). A belt served multiple purposes: to tie, to tuck, to bind, even to hide or put something away (**Ephesians 4:25**). How is truth a belt? Is it effective?

The shoes, on our feet, are the preparation of the gospel (**Ephesians 6:15**). Standing on the gospel is a beautiful picture (**Isaiah 52:6-7, Romans 10:15, I Corinthians 15:1-4**)! When our feet are firmly planted on the gospel we will avoid worldly things (**I Peter 2:11**), walk in the spirit (**Galatians 5:16-17**), and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us (**Romans 8:5-13**). How can the gospel become our shoes? Is it effective?

There are two parts to the armor that protect the upper body:

The breastplate of righteousness protects our chest (**Ephesians 6:14**). We see breastplates used in the Old Testament especially by the priests (**Exodus 28:15**). Our righteousness comes from God (**Isa 59:16-17, Philippians 3:9**) and it can protect us from evil. Righteousness is often coupled with the heart (**Psalms 94:15**). We need to hunger and thirst for righteousness (**Matthew 5:6**). How does this work? Is it effective?

The shield of faith also protects us, but we have to hold it up (**Ephesians 6:16**). The Lord Himself can bring us victory, with the shield of faith, because He is our shield and our faith is in Him (**Psalms 3:2-3, Psalm 18:2, Psalm 28:7, Psalm 33:20, Psalm 35:1-9, Proverbs 2:7-8, Proverbs 30:5**). Peter declares that we are protected by the power of God (**I Peter 1:5**) because of our faith in Him. Paul tells us to fight the good fight of faith (**I Timothy 6:12**). John says that the victory is ours if we have faith (**I John 5:4-5**). What makes the shield so valuable? Is it effective?

There are two parts to the armor that protect the head:

We are supposed to wear the helmet of salvation (**Ephesians 6:17**). Isaiah references this part of the armor (**Isaiah 59:16-17**). In another text from Paul we see him speaking of "*the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of salvation*" (**I Thessalonians 5:8**). The Lord should be guiding and protecting our head (**Psalms 140:7, I Corinthians 2:16, Ephesians 4:14-16, Philippians 2:5, Colossians 1:18, I Peter 4:1**). Paul expounds on this part of the armor in **II Corinthians 10:3-5**. Why is it necessary? Is it effective?

As the Lord directs our head we should be praying always in the Spirit (**Ephesians 6:18**). There are hundreds of Scriptures that could be reference to emphasize the power of prayer. Who is the Commander of our army (**Joshua 5:13-15, 6:2, Revelation 19:11**)? Why is important to stay connected to the Commander?

Why are humans and angels unqualified to command the Lord's army? What examples in Scripture verify this point (**Acts 10:25-26, I Corinthians 4:9, Revelation 10:10, 22:8-9**)?

There is only one part of the armor that we can use as a offensive weapon: the sword of the Spirit (**Ephesians 6:17**). Why use a sword? Why not the bow, arrows, canons, etc.?

The word of the Lord is spoken it is described as a sharp sword (**Isaiah 49:2, Hebrews 4:12-13**). We can wield the sword with both hands but we must be careful when we use it (**Psalms 149:4-6, II Corinthians 6:7**). Is it possible to use these weapons inappropriately?

Clearly, the battle should belong to the Lord (**Exodus 14:14, Deuteronomy 20:3-4, I Samuel 17:47, Psalms 18:32-35, Zechariah 4:6, Romans 11:36**). Is it possible to gain victory on our own? Is it right for us to take credit for the victory?

In future lessons we will discuss why we need this armor, the strength we gain from this armor, and how to spot the holes in our armor. However, in the meantime, what should we do to ensure that our armor is on and we are ready for battle?



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Lesson #9 = Why Do We Need Armor For The Battle?

In our last lesson we discussed the whole armor of God (**Ephesians 6:10-20**). As a matter of review, what items are included in the whole armor of God? What is the purpose of each part?

What is the purpose of armor in battle (**I Samuel 17:38, Jeremiah 46:3-4**)?

What would happen if Christian soldiers attempted to fight our enemy without the proper armor? Would we be victorious?

Can any weapons, natural or supernatural, stop God's power (**Ezekiel 38:4**)? Explain.

How can righteousness serve as a spiritual weapon (**II Corinthians 6:7**)?

Are there any of God's weapons that cannot conquer Satan's strongholds (**II Corinthians 10:4**)?

If we are children of the light, should we hide our armor under the cover of darkness (**Matthew 5:14-16, Romans 13:12, Philippians 2:15, I Thessalonians 5:5**)? Explain.

As Christian soldiers, should we be listening for the sound of battle (**Malachi 3:2, I Corinthians 14:8**)? How is that possible?

How can we be prepared for battle (**Luke 21:36, I Corinthians 10:12-23**)?

What characteristics do we need to be on guard and stand firm in the faith (**I Corinthians 16:13, II Timothy 2:1**)?

What do you think Paul means when he says God is able to make all grace abound in us? How can that aid us in every good work (**II Corinthians 9:8**)?

If we are using the Lord's armor, and on the Lord's side, what should we fear (**Romans 8:31-39**)?

When the Lord uses us in His army, He gives us many gifts in addition to the armor we take up. How does Paul describe these gifts and their purpose (**Ephesians 3:7**)?

A favorite verse for many Christians is **Philippians 4:13** which says, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" What significance does this verse have in regard to our spiritual battles and the whole armor of God? Explain.

As God aids us with His glorious power, He gives us strength through his Holy Spirit (**Romans 8**). What will this strength allow us to do (**Colossians 1:11**)?

If we wear the armor properly, what can the Lord do with us (**Jude 24**)?

If we submit to God, and resist the devil, what will happen (**James 4:7**)? Why?

In our next lesson we will notice how the whole armor of God can give us strength to endure any battle we might face. We need this strength to give us hope. And we need to find contentment fighting in the Lord's army. However, could we be in danger of getting too comfortable with the armor of God? Explain.



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**GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT AUDITORIUM BIBLE CLASS**

*By Ray Reynolds*

Lesson #10 = What Strength Do We Gain From the Armor of God?

For the sake of review, please define the following parts of the armor of God:

The belt of truth (**Ephesians 6:14**)

The breastplate of righteousness (**Ephesians 6:14**)

The shoes of the gospel (**Ephesians 6:15**)

The shield of faith (**Ephesians 6:16**)

The helmet of salvation (**Ephesians 6:17**)

The sword of the Spirit (**Ephesians 6:17**)

The prayer life of a believer in the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 6:18**)

As Christians, we must realize that we cannot fight the battle alone. We need help from above. How does the rest of Paul's letter build up to this climax (**Ephesians 1:19, 3:16, 4:11-16**)?

According to **Ephesians 6:11** what is the source of our strength?

According to **Ephesians 6:11** what is the source of our power?

If the armor is not of ourselves, but of God (**Ephesians 6:11**), what hope does that give to a Christian? What does that do for our endurance?

Please notice that this armor must be worn ("put on"). When the battle comes, a Christian needs the power and strength of the Lord found in the armor of God. However, we have the responsibility of putting it on ourselves. How should this affect our daily walk?

If spiritual warfare is ineffective when we stand alone, and with God we can face anyone (**Romans 8:31, Philippians 4:13**), why do we often try to tackle things by ourselves?

In this series we have considered the tactics of our enemy. We have noted that the battle we face is not against the things of this world, but against the evil spirits (**Ephesians 6:11-13**). The Bible tells us that our enemy is crafty (**II Corinthians 11:3**), he is a deceiver (**II Corinthians 11:14**), he is powerful (**Ephesians 2:2**), and he is wicked (**I John 2:13**). But what have we noted about our Commander and his army? How can they give us hope?

What do we know about the nature of our God? What are some of his characteristics?

Moses told Joshua to be strong in the Lord (**Deuteronomy 31:6-7**) and he reiterated this to the Israelites (**Joshua 1:9**) before entering the promised land. What application can we make before we enter into spiritual warfare?

The Lord gave David's army strength to defeat their enemies (**II Samuel 10:11-12, I Chronicles 19:13, I Chronicles 22:13**). What can we learn from his example?

The Psalms offer praise to God's strength (**Psalms 18:2, 24:8, 35:10**) and the Proverbs remind us of His power (**Proverbs 14:26, 18:10**). How often should the power of God and the strength of the Lord be emphasized in our speech?

The prophets spoke quite often about the strength of the Lord and standing firm with Him (**Isaiah 27:1, Isaiah 31:1-9, Isaiah 40:10, Jeremiah 48:1, Jeremiah 50:34, Lamentations 2:5, Ezekiel 33:27, Joel 2:11, Micah 6:2, Nahum 1:7**). Shouldn't we preach about this subject more? How can we introduce this concept through our teaching?

John the beloved tells us that the Lord's strength will overpower our enemy when judgment comes (**Revelation 18:8**). What can we do to declare the strength of the Lord to the world before they have to experience His wrath?

If we fill ourselves with the hope and strength of the Lord, how can that help us in communicating the gospel message to those outside of Christ?



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Lesson #11 = Which Side Are You On?

When we study spiritual warfare many times our minds focus in on demon possession, specifically demon possession in the New Testament. Why did God allow demons to take possession of human beings in the first century?

What can we learn from the examples of demon possession Jesus and His disciples encountered in His ministry (**Matthew 8:28-32, Matthew 9:32-33, Matthew 12:22, Matthew 15:28, Matthew 17:18, Mark 1:27, Mark 5:2-13, Mark 7:29, Mark 9:25, Mark 16:9, Luke 4:35, Luke 8:2, 33, Luke 9:42, Luke 11:14, Luke 13:10-13, Luke 22:3, John 6:70, John 13:27**)?

What can we learn from the few examples of demon possession after Jesus ascended into heaven (**Matthew 7:22, Mark 16:17-18, Acts 16:16-18, Acts 19:15**)?

What did the Jews seek after (**I Corinthians 1:22**)? What about the Gentiles? Could the fewer cases of demon possession have anything to do with the spreading of the gospel to the world that did not need such a sign (**Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:46-49, Acts 1:8**)?

Throughout history God has requested the people of this earth to choose a side. We can either choose righteousness or wickedness. There is no middle ground. Our choice determines our eternal destiny. Which side should we choose?

**I Samuel 15:23** warns us not to give the appearance that we are aligning ourselves with our enemy. When we choose a side how clear should it be to those around us?

Jesus paints a clear contrast between those who are children of the Father and those who are children of the devil (**John 8:44-45**). All supernatural power comes, ultimately, from either God or Satan. God gives power to those who believe the truth, but Satan uses lies and deception. What does James tell us about true wisdom (**James 3:13-18**)? Why is this significant?

Aligning ourselves with the enemy starts with a rebellious heart and deepens when we focus on a lie. Witchcraft is based off of a lie (**Ezekiel 13:6-9, Isaiah 47:9**) and those who experiment with it can sense the power of the supernatural, but cannot control it. Satan would like for them to think that they can predict the future, alter destinies, and communicate beyond the grave. However, the Bible clearly warns this is a dangerous practice (**Leviticus 19:26, Deuteronomy 13:5, Deuteronomy 18:10-14, II Chronicles 33:6, Isaiah 30:9, Isaiah 47:12, Jeremiah 5:23, Jeremiah 14:14, Jeremiah 27:9-10, Malachi 3:5, Acts 8:9-11**)! Why is this dangerous?

What can we learn from Jannes and Jambres (**Exodus 7:22, Exodus 8:7, 18, II Timothy 3:8**)?

What can we learn from Balaam (**Numbers 22, Joshua 13:22, II Peter 2:15, Jude 11**)?

Consider how Jesus interacted with demons. He used various techniques including physical touch (**Luke 5:13**), healing from a great distance away (**Luke 17:12-14**), speaking calmly (**John 4:50**), rubbing spit and dirt in someone's eye (**John 9:6**), and even yelling (**John 11:43**). There is no predictable pattern by which He follows. This tells us he was not relying on one particular method or technique, but was submissive to the Father's will (**John 8:28-29**) and the power of the supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit (**Mark 3:13-19**). Why is that important?

The temptation of Jesus reveals that Jesus did not do the miracles on demand (**Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1-13**). There are even instances when he told people to keep silent about this supernatural power to thwart the adulterous spirit of fascination with signs and wonders. What does that reveal about His ministry? How can we learn from it?

Those who walk the path of darkness rebel against the light (**Job 24:13**). Their ways are the antithesis of godly living. Therefore, their practices must be avoided including spells (**Ezekiel 13:6, Lamentations 3:37**), card readings (**Isaiah 28:7-22, Jeremiah 23:25-38, Micah 3:6**), incantations and repetitive prayers (**Ecclesiastes 5:7, Matthew 6:7**), potions or deceiving diets (**Matthew 15:8-17, I Timothy 4:1-5**), horoscopes (**Isaiah 47:14-15, James 3:13-15**), and following oracles or spirit guides (**Acts 13:10-11, II Timothy 4:2-4**). Why does the Lord despise these things (**Deuteronomy 18:14, II Kings 17:17, Jeremiah 3:13, Acts 19:19**)?

Isaiah warned of superstitions, like those in the East, and also warned of divination, practiced by the enemies of the Israelites (**Isaiah 1:23, Isaiah 2:6, Isaiah 57:1-8, 10-12**). These were the practices of the pagans. What is their fate (**Micah 5:12, Revelation 21:8, Revelation 22:15**)? Why would we seek to align ourselves with them? Whose side are you on?



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Lesson #12 = Do We Already Have The Victory?

One memorable song in our hymn book is entitled "Faith is the Victory!" In fighting our spiritual battles we need assurance that we can be victorious. What have we identified, so far in the series, that might help us to establish that everlasting hope?

Consider Paul's words in **I Corinthians 15:51-57**. He saw our victory as clear and concise. What exactly does he say about our victory in Jesus?

A soldier of Christ can claim victory over the law. The law of Moses was to teach of physical and spiritual death (**II Corinthians 3:6**), it was engraved on stones (**II Corinthians 3:7**), and it was temporary (**II Corinthians 3:11**). What did Jesus do with the law of Moses (**Matthew 5:17-18, John 19:30, Romans 2:16, Romans 8:4, Colossians 2:14, Hebrews 10:9-10**)?

A soldier of Christ can claim victory over sin. Jesus came into the world to take the place of sinners in a perfect sacrifice (**Romans 6:10, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, Hebrews 7:27, Hebrews 9:12, Hebrews 10:4**). What has Jesus done with the power of sin? Does it hold any power over a child of God? Explain.

A soldier of Christ can claim victory over death. Just as Adam died, all men die. Just as Christ was made alive, all men can experience the resurrection (**John 5:28-29, John 11:22, Acts 24:15, I Corinthians 15:22**). What must we do to ensure that we will raise again with Christ on the last day (**John 3:3, 5, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 10:9-10, Revelation 2:10**)?

A soldier of Christ can claim victory over daily trials. It is obvious from Scripture that Christ has done the heavy lifting! He won the big victories over the law, sin, and death. He has also delivered the deathblow to our enemy and his army, and their fate is sealed. However, we still have choices to make every day. Why does God require us to make daily choices (**Luke 9:23, Romans 12:1-2, James 2:14-26**)?

The purpose of this series has been to increase our awareness of the spiritual warfare around us. However, we should also see the ultimate power of God! We cannot over emphasize the death of Christ and the power he displayed by Him rising again! How can His resurrection be a good motivator for those who hear the gospel (**II Corinthians 5:14-15**)?

Paul taught in **I Corinthians 15:17** that if Jesus had not risen, then His death would have been ineffective in removing our sins. His resurrection also allows us to be justified (**Romans 4:25**). With that in mind, how does Jesus' sacrifice lay the foundation for our faith?

What is Jesus say about foundations of faith (**Matthew 7:24-27, Matthew 16:16-18**)?

What substance would there be to Christianity if there was no resurrection (**Romans 1:4**)?

What other things can we learn about the resurrection of Jesus (**Matthew 12:38-40, John 20:30-31, Acts 17:31, I Corinthians 15:12-19, I Peter 1:3, 21**)?

How can we know that Jesus really rose from the dead (**Matthew 28:6, John 17:20, John 20:25-31, Acts 2:32, I Corinthians 15:6, II Peter 1:8, 16, I John 1:1-4**)?

The last book in the Bible gives us a picture of Jesus Himself saying, "*I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore*" (**Revelation 1:18**). Where is He now? Why?

Until He comes again Jesus sits at the Father's right hand interceding for His followers (**Hebrews 9:25**). What else is He doing (**Acts 7:56-60**)?

Everyone has a soul that will live throughout eternity (**Ecclesiastes 12:7, Hebrews 9:27**). We know that the Judgment Day is coming (**Acts 17:31**). One day Christ will come back for the faithful (**John 5:28-29, I Corinthians 15:24, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 2:10**). What can we do to be prepared? How can we prepare others?

Do you have the victory? If so, how can you exclaim your gratefulness to God for this victory?