

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Christian Leadership*

*How to influence the ideas, opinions and actions of others for Jesus Christ.*

#### **Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day One) War: Physical and Spiritual**

War is a state of open and armed conflict carried on between nations, states or parties. It is a concentrated effort or campaign to put an end to something considered harmful. A battle is an encounter or skirmish (fight) between the opposing forces.<sup>1</sup>

World War II (1939-1945) is the name of the most famous and deadliest war that our world has experienced. The war began with Germany's invasion of Poland. Globally, over 100 million military personnel were mobilized; over 70 million, the majority being civilians, died.<sup>2</sup>

The forces or nations were divided into two opposing groups, the Allies and the Axis. For example, the United States joined with the Allies, and Germany was part of the Axis group. They fought against each other in numerous battles and in different countries. There was one war, but many battles.

World War II was a physical war; it took place in time and space. However, WWII and all physical wars are really being waged in the spiritual realm. This is a sphere or dominion that lacks material substance; it is not limited by time and space as we know it. The spiritual war that affects nations and individuals is being waged between the forces of God and the forces of Satan.

*And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

<sup>NIV</sup> Revelation 20:10

**1. Read Revelation 20:10. In the future, what happens to Satan (devil) and his leaders?**

---

God has already won the war. Jesus Christ defeated the devil when He died on the cross for the sins of the world. Satan's future is sealed. In spiritual warfare, it is critical to remember that we are fighting against a beaten enemy. However, God allows him to do battle and fight until his time on earth is over. Therefore, as a Christian leader you will encounter many battles against

---

<sup>1</sup> *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation. All rights reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia, the free Encyclopedia

## Lesson 13

the devil's forces during your lifetime. You may be involved on an individual level, a national or even international level, but be on guard: lives are at stake.

2. What is the longest length of time that a physical war may affect your life personally? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the length of time that a spiritual battle could affect your life? \_\_\_\_\_

If a person is not killed during one of the battles, the actual, physical war may affect a person's entire life span of perhaps 80 years. Then it is over. The consequences of spiritual warfare takes place outside of time and space and will affect lives for eternity.

We cannot see God or anything else that is occurring in this spiritual world unless He allows it. For example, about 850 B.C. the king of Aram was at war with Israel. In order to help Israel, God would tell His prophet Elisha the king's battle plans. Elisha would then go and tell the king of Israel so that the Israelites were always prepared for battle. The king of Aram learned of the prophet's ability to warn his enemy Israel and immediately sent men to capture him.

*When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked.<sup>16</sup> "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."<sup>17</sup> And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.<sup>NIV</sup> 2 Kings 6:15-17*

Read 2 Kings 6:15-17 and answer questions 4-6.

4. What did Elisha's servant see in the physical realm when he got up in the morning?

---

5. What did Elisha pray for his servant? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What was the spiritual reality of the battle Elisha and his servant were facing?

---

Elisha was operating from a deep, spiritual, awareness and intensity. God allowed him to see what was going on in the spiritual realm so that he was not afraid of the physical army that was coming to his door. God had spiritual forces surrounding and protecting Elisha and his servant.

The spiritual war is between the Kingdom of Light and the kingdom of darkness. You are a soldier in Christ, a warrior engaged in this epic war. The powers of darkness have a primary mission of thwarting God's purposes on earth for nations, groups and individuals. Yes, there are spiritual beings that will cause you problems. Most definitely they want to keep you from being an effective Christian leader and advancing the Kingdom of Light, God's empire. The members

## Lesson 13

of this dark world work hard to prevent non-believers from placing their faith in Christ and becoming soldiers and carriers of the Light.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application:** Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:12.

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*<sup>NIV</sup> Ephesians 6:12

Is your struggle against another person who has hurt you, either physically or emotionally?  
Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

Who are you really fighting against? \_\_\_\_\_

How will this change the way you view other people and circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Two) The Enemy**

It appears from Ephesians 6:12 that the kingdom of darkness has set up a hierarchy (chain of command) with territories to make sure that the earth is blanketed with deadly pressure and influence. As Christians, our Supreme Ruler and Leader is God. Who is ruling the dark world and rallying the troops against us? Who is this archenemy that is responsible for so much evil?

We know him by the name Satan. His name is the transliteration<sup>3</sup> of the Hebrew word satan (שָׂטָן) which means adversary, opponent or accuser. Devil, diabolos (διάβολος) is the Greek name used along with the name Satan in the Greek New Testament. It also means accuser and slanderer.

Satan is a real spiritual being who blames God's people of wrongdoing and maliciously lies about us to God. He opposes us in battle. He is our enemy and a most cruel opponent.

Satan's origins are not completely evident in the Scriptures. Augustine of Hippo in the 4<sup>th</sup> century proposed that Satan was originally created good, like all the other angels. However, he wanted to be like God with supreme authority and rebelled out of pride. This is how evil entered the world. He caused other angels to rebel also.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Transliterate means to represent by letters in one's language that of another language with a different alphabet.

<sup>4</sup> McGrath, Alister. Christian Theology An Introduction. Blackwell Publishing, University of Oxford, 2001.

## Lesson 13

There are two passages of Scripture that you may read for your own understating: Isaiah 14:12-15 and Ezekiel 28:11-17. The prophets seem to be referring to earthly kings but then the wording and description seem to encompass a much more powerful individual. Many scholars believe these passages are referring to Satan.

Scripture tells us that the Adversary has angels in his army (Matthew 25:41). Angels were given free will also and some chose to sin against God (2 Peter 2:4). From Scripture, it appears that some are held for judgment while others are in our midst. You or your sheep may not be tempted by Satan himself, for he is not omnipresent, but you can be assured some wicked, spiritual being is responsible for your downfall.

Rebellion is open, armed, and organized resistance to a constituted government; it is also an act or a show of defiance toward an authority or established convention. Authority is the power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge.<sup>5</sup> Satan rebelled against God's command. He was not willing to serve under God's authority. His rebellion was the start of the war between God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom.

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

<sup>NIV</sup> Genesis 3:1

Read Genesis 3:1 and answer questions 1-2.

1. Who disguised himself as one of God's good creatures, a serpent (Revelation 12:9)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do you think Satan's hidden agenda was in talking with Eve? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is Satan's agenda regarding you? \_\_\_\_\_

Satan is an aggressor. He went on the offensive (attack) when man was created. He went into the garden with the explicit intention of getting the man and woman to rebel against God and defy (go against) His authority. The devil won that first battle and continues to attack with vicious and brutal intensity.

Satan is a dangerous enemy and Christian leaders should not underestimate his military aptitude. He uses subtle and deceptive means to provoke rebellion. However, his tactics to incite rebellion will fail if we keep our warrior's eye on Jesus and rightly estimate His power and authority.

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.* <sup>NIV</sup> Colossians 1:15-16

<sup>5</sup> *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation. All rights reserved.

Lesson 13

4. Jesus is the image of the invisible God! According to Colossians 1:15-16 how did all things including a powerful being like Satan come to exist? \_\_\_\_\_

*The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.* <sup>NIV</sup> Job 1:12

5. Read Job 1:12. Who has authority and control over Satan? \_\_\_\_\_

Satan is a created being and his activities are limited by God. He has been judged by God for his pride (conceited, puffed up) and rebellion but has not yet received his full punishment (1 Timothy 3:6, Revelation 20:10). Christians and non Christians alike may wonder why God does not slay the devil and remove this evil from our lives.

6. Why do you think God allows Satan to be the “prince of the world” (John 16:11)?

---

---

7. Why do you think God allows evil and suffering in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

---

*Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?* <sup>NIV</sup> Habakkuk 1:13

8. According to Habakkuk 1:13, God is too \_\_\_\_\_ to look on evil. So what does the prophet ask? \_\_\_\_\_

---

*"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright-- but the righteous will live by his faith--"* <sup>NIV</sup> Habakkuk 2:4

9. How does God answer in Habakkuk 2:4? \_\_\_\_\_

God says that *the righteous will live by his faith.* By faith we know that God is good and created a good world. By faith we know God is pure and holy. By faith we trust God in allowing evil to exist at the present time, knowing its end will come at the proper time. By faith we know that God is in charge of how our world runs and we are not.

## Lesson 13

*Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said:<sup>2</sup> "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge?"<sup>3</sup> Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.<sup>4</sup> "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.*  
NIV Job 38:1-4

**10.** According to Job 38:1-4, could a mere human possibly understand the design and workings of the universe that God has created? Yes No Maybe (Circle One)

We may never totally understand why Satan has power and why evil exists. But we do know that Christ won the victory over sin at the cross (Colossians 2:15) and that the devil's time is short. Satan stands judged and condemned (1 Timothy 3:6). He will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur and tormented day and night for ever and ever (Revelation 20:10). The wicked will also be sent to hell (Matthew 23:33) and the righteous in Christ sent to everlasting life (Matthew 19:29). In the end God will wipe away every tear (Revelation 7:17, 21:4). We live by faith in God's purpose and plan for our earth and its people.

Although the pain and suffering that we and others experience is difficult, the duration is nothing compared to the joy that awaits us for eternity. God is just and will work out everything for our eternal good (Romans 8:28-29). He has a perfect plan that does not call for Satan's demise until sometime in the future. Until then, for as long as we live, we must fight this archenemy in battle after battle claiming the complete victory that our Savior has won.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application:** Meditate and memorize Psalm 18:34-35.

*He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.<sup>35</sup> You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.* NIV Psalm 18:34-35

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare** (Day Three) Evil Tactics

Now that we have identified the leader of the enemy forces, let us take a look at some of his tactics. That is, what are his methods for reaching his goal? Remember that this enemy's goal is to thwart God's purposes and usurp (seize) His authority.

Read John 8:44 and answer questions 1-3.

*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.* NIV John 8:44

**1.** Jesus told some of the Pharisees and Jews that they are carrying out their father's desire.

Who does Jesus say their father is? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name one of Satan's characteristics? \_\_\_\_\_

The devil wanted to stop Jesus and His disciples. Although most of the religious leaders had come to believe Satan's lies, there were many who were repenting and following Jesus. God was making an impact. Satan was working as hard as he could to make Jesus' mission fail.

Personally, I don't think Satan knew God's plan of redemption. He knew Jesus was God's Son but did he know Jesus would die for our sins? If he did, he would have been trying to keep Jesus away from the cross rather than inciting Judas to betray Him. After all, the cross meant his total defeat. Perhaps, like the Jews, he thought the Messiah would set up an earthly Kingdom.

3. How do you suppose Satan was a murderer from the beginning? (Genesis 3:4) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Satan was the cause of Adam and Eve's physical death (Hebrews 2:14-15). It did not come about immediately but as soon as they took the devil's bait and ate the forbidden fruit their bodies started to age. They were sent from the Garden of Eden into a now decaying world.

Most likely the devil felt he had thwarted God's purpose for mankind in the Garden by causing open rebellion. But God had a redemption plan (Genesis 3:15) that would give humans an opportunity to be restored and to be with Him forever. We now know that God's plan calls for trust and obedience in Christ, therefore this is where Satan and his army will attack.

Military tactics is the art that deals with securing objectives set by strategy in effecting maneuvers against an enemy.<sup>6</sup> Simply it is a plan against one's foe. Let's look at some of Satan's tactics so that we are not unaware of his schemes. Then we will look at our own tactics.

### **Tactic # 1: Lies, Lies and more Lies**

Just like Satan lied to Eve in the Garden, he continues to lie to us and those who would serve God. He spoke words that he knew were not true. Since that time he continually and deliberately tries to get people to believe things that are not correct. He is the great Deceiver (swindler, fraud, con artist). He does not want anyone to trust God and His Word because the truth sets captives free from His deadly grip.

Satan spoke his lies directly to Eve in the Garden and he spoke lies directly to Jesus in the desert (Luke 4:7-8). Exactly how he speaks his lies to us is not exactly clear. But Scripture clearly reveals his power and impact to our hearts and minds.

*Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"<sup>NIV</sup> Acts 5:3*

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

## Lesson 13

4. What does Peter tell Ananias in Acts 5:3? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Look who is behind the first recorded sin in the new church. Satan so filled Ananias' heart that he lied. Again we don't know exactly how Satan fills hearts or tempts us but clearly he does. Perhaps he speaks to our minds inaudibly and our subconscious picks it up; like radio waves.

In the same way Satan, or one of his demons will fill your heart with lies about yourself. You are not good. God does not love you. No one likes you. You are depressed. You will never be happy. You are a failure. You are still guilty of sins confessed in Christ. There is no hope. Nothing will ever change. Sound familiar. They are all lies. This is not the truth of who God says that you are.

Do we and others believe such lies? Certainly we do. This is an effective tool in Satan's arsenal. It keeps us distancing ourselves from God and makes us weak and ineffective in battle.

5. How do you recognize Satan's lies? \_\_\_\_\_

When Ananias' had the thought of keeping back some money for himself but telling the church that he was giving it all to them, he should have recognized Satan's signature tactic. He should have said, "Wait a second, what am I thinking? That would be a lie. I belong to God and I don't lie." The devil would have been defeated right then and there.

In the same way, when you start feeling bad about yourself (we are not talking about sin here) you need to recognize what God says about you and who God says you are (Jeremiah 29:11-13, 31:3, Romans 8:28-29, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 and many, many more).

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*<sup>NIV</sup> James 4:7

Read James 4:7 and answers questions 5-6.

6. How do you counterattack (return attack) the devil or his army of demons? \_\_\_\_\_

---

7. What does it mean to resist the devil and how do you personally resist evil? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Our Triune God is the King and Commander-in-chief of the forces of Light. We willingly place ourselves under His authority and rule. We are subject to Him and obey His command. Anything that goes against God's truth is a lie. We resist or oppose such deceit with the truth of God's Word. When we hold our ground and do not give in, the evil one must take flight.

**Tactic #2 Using Others with Wicked Intent**

*Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."*<sup>NIV</sup> Matthew 16:23

8. Read Matthew 16:23. Write in your own words what you think Jesus was saying to Peter.

---

Satan will try to influence you through others and vice versa (others through you). Perhaps one of the men or women that you are leading will say, "You deserve more recognition for what you are doing" or "You are a great bible teacher, I think you should charge money for what you do."

There are many ways that others, including family and friends, can adversely affect the calling on your life. They do not know they are playing into the hands of the devil. But you should by understanding this tactic. As a leader you must weigh what people say very carefully. Is this God speaking through this person or is it my enemy? The person is not your enemy but is unwittingly being used for the enemies' purpose of ruining God's plan for you and others.

**Tactic #3 Unforgiveness**

*If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven-- if there was anything to forgive-- I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake,<sup>11</sup> in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.*<sup>NIV</sup> 2 Corinthians 2:10

9. According to 2 Corinthians 2:10, what tactic of Satan is the apostle Paul warning against?

---

*"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."*<sup>NIV</sup> Matthew 18:35

10. Read Matthew 18:35. How does Jesus warn us further of the devils tactics when it comes to unforgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus tells us that we must forgive from our heart. We must really pardon our offenders from our spirit. That is, we hold no grudges or thoughts of revenge. We do not withhold love or affection from the person nor do we withhold kind and responsible actions toward him or her.

Make no mistake, this is spiritual warfare. Satan knows that if we harbor unforgiveness in our hearts, we will be out of God's will. The devil will give us plenty of reasons why our thoughts don't matter as long as we pretend to forgive by our outwardly actions.

Understanding that Satan can be the force behind the offender and your own self-righteous feelings will help you outsmart him. You outwit the devil by forgiving others from your heart.

Lesson 13

Whenever it gets difficult, think of Jesus on the cross and his prayer for the Father to forgive them (Luke 23:34).

**Tactic # 4 Takes away the Word**

*Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.* <sup>NIV</sup> Mark 4:15

**11.** According to Mark 4:15, when the gospel is preached and those who are lost hear it, what can Satan do? \_\_\_\_\_

In some fashion Satan can take away the words of the gospel. Exactly how Satan does this is unclear. Perhaps he whispers lies about the truth of the Bible and what the person's life will look like as a Christian. Pray that Satan and his followers are bound or kept from those to whom you are witnessing and sharing God's word.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application: War Zone**

We all live within the spiritual combat area between God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom. Everyone is subject to attack. We looked at some of the devil's tactics so that as a leader you are not unaware of his schemes and can take appropriate action. Read through the following verses and summarize other tactics of Satan.

*Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.* <sup>NIV</sup> 1 Chronicles 21:1

*For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ.<sup>14</sup> And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.<sup>15</sup> It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.* <sup>NIV</sup> 2 Corinthians 11:13

*For we wanted to come to you-- certainly I, Paul, did, again and again-- but Satan stopped us.* <sup>NIV</sup> 1 Thessalonians 2:18

*The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,<sup>10</sup> and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.* <sup>NIV</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:9

Summarize tactics of Satan from the above verses: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

## Lesson 13

### Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare (Day Four) Wisdom, Courage and Strength in Warfare

Fearing the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10) and carries us forward in becoming skilled in spiritual warfare. **War calls for wise, courageous and strong leaders.**

**Wisdom in Warfare.** Read Proverbs 8:12-14 and answer questions 1- 6:

*"I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.<sup>13</sup> To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.<sup>14</sup> Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power."<sup>NIV</sup> Proverbs 8:12-14*

1. Read Proverbs 8:12. What are three characteristics of having wisdom?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_

Three characteristics of having wisdom are prudence, knowledge and discretion. Jesus was wise and displayed all three traits in His earthly ministry. Let's look at a little closer at the meanings of these three characteristics.

**First**, those in command should think strategically or deliberately. They do not act rashly and run into battle without any foresight. A wise commander acts carefully, **prudently**. This is not to say that a leader does not act quickly when necessary.

**Second**, those in God's Kingdom must possess **knowledge** of God and the world around them. Christian leaders must have information to act and proceed in a wise manner. This would include knowing *Military Science*, (principles of military conflict and warfare) as it relates to spiritual warfare. The Bible is the handbook for *Spiritual Military Science*.

**Third**, a wise manner calls for good judgment. One needs to think out a plan and act upon it. This is what is meant by **discretion**. It can also mean showing caution in behavior.<sup>7</sup> Jesus acted cautiously and did not allow Himself to be taken until it was His time to die for our sins.

2. In Proverbs 8:13, when you \_\_\_\_\_ the LORD you \_\_\_\_\_ evil.

We do not embrace evil, sin or wickedness. We detest all acts and works against God. However, we are not free to hate our physical enemies. They are captives of the evil one and we pray that one day they will be freed to serve the Lord.

Jesus did not want to be "just one of the gang." He had a plan and a purpose for being among sinners and never veered (changed) from it. As with the rich young man, would be followers either accepted God's way or went away (Matthew 16:19-24).

3. What kind of disciples would Jesus have had, if He had compromised on Kingdom principles?

---

<sup>7</sup> Oxford American Dictionary consulted for definitions.

## Lesson 13

4. What are some ways that you can witness and befriend sinners without condoning or giving the impression that you approve of their evil behavior? \_\_\_\_\_

---

5. Read Proverbs 8:13b. List examples of evil behavior that God hates? \_\_\_\_\_

---

God hates pride, arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. These are part of Satan's repertoire (catalog). Don't fall into the devil's clever traps in regard to these sins. For example, the sin of pride could have you judging sinners and forgetting that you too are saved by grace.

6. Read Proverbs 8:14. What are four other characteristics of wisdom and of a wise leader?

a. Counsel and b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. Understanding and d. \_\_\_\_\_

As your sheep recognize that God is with you, they will seek your advice. Or you may need to give advice or instruction even when not sought. This is known as wise **counsel**. Take time to listen to the person carefully and make sure that you fully understand their problem or dilemma. In the same way, as you deal with counseling groups or larger numbers of people, make sure that you observe, listen and understand what the real battle is and how to proceed.

As you carefully observe and listen, you will discover the truth of the situation. Just think about being a captain on a physical battlefield. Would you tell your troops to advance without finding out what lies ahead? No, you would seek as much information as you could in order to make a **sound judgment** as to your next move. Life and death hang in the balance.

Assessing (reviewing, evaluating) information calls for **understanding**. The wise leader needs insight to know how to read signs and how to give the right advice to make right decisions. You need the right way of thinking that comes from a steady and faithful reliance on God.

As you pray intelligent and accurate prayers, God will give you the strength and **power** to lead with wisdom and success. He delights to answer prayers that make sense in His will. He does not delight to answer foolish prayers that lack wisdom.

### Courage in Warfare

In 486-465 B.C., King Xerxes of Persia ruled over a remnant of Jewish people who had been taken into captivity. Recall the Jews were God's people and it was through Abraham that all the nations would be blessed. In other words, the Messiah would be born through this people.

Satan had no problem seeing that God had a plan for the Jewish people. Satan had seen the powerful miracles God had done on their behalf and also that they were the only ones who knew

## Lesson 13

how to worship Him correctly. Satan and his followers will always be around looking to thwart God's plans. Therefore, an evil man by the name of Haman arose with a plan to kill all the Jews.

At the time Esther, a young Jewish woman, was Queen of Persia. She learned of the plot to kill her people and knew that the king could intervene, however the king had not called her into his presence for a month. Now the Queen did not have the authority that one might think. No one, not even the Queen could walk into the king's presence unless summoned.

Using wisdom she came up with a plan. However, the plan called for courage. She had to first show up in the king's inner court and seek an audience with him. Any man or woman, including the Queen, could be put to death by seeking such a meeting without first being summoned.

With the threat of death Esther declares her famous words, "I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16). Bravely and courageously she carries out the plan to save her people. Praise God, her plans and courage succeeded.

We all admire the brave, valiant, and noble men and women who overcome frightful circumstances for a greater good. In spiritual warfare, you must be that brave and courageous leader with the ability to control your fear even when facing extreme danger. You must also remember that no matter how formidable your satanic foe, God Almighty is stronger.

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*"<sup>NIV</sup> Joshua 1:9

Read Joshua 1:9 and answer questions 7-8:

7. Does God command leaders to be strong and courageous? Yes No (Circle One)

8. What is the reason God gives for being strong and courageous? \_\_\_\_\_

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.* .<sup>NIV</sup> Isaiah 41:10a

9. Read Isaiah 41:10a. Why does God command "do not fear"? \_\_\_\_\_

10. How does this knowledge of God being with you comfort and encourage you? \_\_\_\_\_

---

### Strength in Warfare

When Joshua took over leadership from Moses, God commanded him to be strong and courageous. God commanded him three times (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9) to be strong. What do you think God meant by being strong? Did he mean that Joshua was supposed to take up physical training and build up his muscles to be a strong man?

Lesson 13

No, that is not what God had in mind, although getting and staying in good physical shape is beneficial. Right after telling Joshua to be strong, God tells him to very careful to obey the law and not let it depart from his mouth. The new leader is to mediate on God's law day and night so that he will be careful to do everything written in it.

11. Explain what you think God had in mind when He commanded Joshua to be strong?

---

God is using strong in the sense of having the power of resistance to evil. God is saying you need to be strong so that you do not become broken or damaged in spirit. Joshua needed to be strong in God and in His ways or else he would be in danger of being captured by the enemy. The Israelites, the people Joshua was leading would be crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land and would be heavily engaged in warfare.

In the same way, you need strength in warfare to resist evil. You need to be strong so that your spirit in not in danger of being broken or damaged. You are leading people into the promised land of heaven and our enemy Satan and his forces will be engaging you in spiritual warfare.

*I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*  
<sup>NIV</sup> Isaiah 41:10b

*But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.*  
<sup>NIV</sup> 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Read Isaiah 41:10b and 2 Thessalonians 3:3 and answer questions 12-13.

12. Who do you rely on to strengthen, help, and protect you from the evil one? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are you a strong leader? Yes No (Circle One) Explain why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

---

*I can do everything through him who gives me strength.* <sup>NIV</sup> Philippians 4:13  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application:**

*Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.* <sup>NIV</sup> Revelation 3:2

Read Revelation 3:2. Jesus is speaking to Sardis, one of the seven churches in Asia. Today Sardis stands in ruins in the modern country of Turkey.

What is your responsibility in becoming a wise, courageous and strong leader? \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Lesson 13

*But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you will see."*<sup>NIV</sup> Deuteronomy 3:28

How can you strengthen others so that Jesus will find their deeds complete in the sight of God?

---

---

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Lesson 13: Spiritual Warfare** (Day Five) Authority in Advancing the Kingdom

*He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.<sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.<sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*<sup>NIV</sup> Luke 10:18-20

Read Luke 10:18-20 answer questions 1-3

1. What is authority and where does your authority come from? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Authority is the right or capability to give orders. The person with authority has power to make others obey and the liberty to take specific actions. Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18) and He is our source of authority. In other words, we have delegated authority. That means that our rights to rule or govern the spiritual world or the physical world come directly from Christ.

2. What do snakes and scorpions represent in Luke 10:19? \_\_\_\_\_

3. How do you overcome the power of Satan and his spirit forces? \_\_\_\_\_

Snakes and scorpions represent evil spirits. **In** Jesus you have the authority and power to win any battle against Satan and his crew of fallen angels and demons. In fact, as a Christian leader you have a grave responsibility to enforce Christ's victory in this epic War. However, remember two things: **One**, you must be abiding (living) in Christ and **Two**, you must trust Jesus by exercising your authority through faith.

*With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.*<sup>NIV</sup> Psalm 18:29

4. Read Psalm 18:29. How do you advance the Kingdom and destroy the troops of Satan? \_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 13

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. <sup>NIV</sup> Philippians 1:12

5. Paul was put in prison and it appeared that Satan had won a battle. Yet what does Paul say in Philippians 1:12? \_\_\_\_\_

Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. <sup>NIV</sup> Philippians 1:14

6. Read Philippians 1:14. What was one result of Paul being imprisoned and put in chains?

\_\_\_\_\_

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>NIV</sup> Ephesians 6:17

7. In Ephesians 6:17, what weapon does Paul liken to the word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

The word of God is the sword of the Spirit. This is your weapon. Like a master swordsman, continually practice using your sword so that you may wield its full power.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Personal Application:** Read Ephesians, chapters 1-3 and *think about your authority in Jesus.*

Ephesians 6:10-18 is one of the most popular passages on spiritual warfare. Read and mediate on these verses. Also Hebrews 11:32-38.

What are the weak links in your armor that Paul describes? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How will you shore up the weak links in your armor? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

But remember, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." <sup>NIV</sup> 1 John 4:

\*\*\*\*\*

**Next: Lesson 14: The Tender Heart of a Leader**

Rev 7-2010