

*A Do It Yourself
Guided Study on*

Spiritual Warfare!

Produced by
The Discipleship Ministry

Spiritual Warfare!

The Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ the Son of God to "Make Disciples of All Nations" by equipping Christians to "Win, Build and Send" people for Christ!

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Guided Studies

on

Spiritual Warfare!

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1. Know The Situation!

Unbeknownst to most people, we all live our lives within two distinct **Realms**. One *visible*, the other *invisible*. One *physical*, the other *spiritual*. One *temporal*, the other *eternal*. And unless and until Christians learn to live victoriously in both, they will never experience all that God intends for them.

Everyone is familiar with the first ... the **Physical Realm**, but not as many are familiar with the second ... the **Spiritual Realm**. It is *imperative* for us as Believers to understand the *nature* and *authority* of each, for within them exists **Kingdoms** which are waging war for the *souls* of all people who have and who will ever live.

Christians, whether they know it or not, are participants in this war. Our ignorance will spell our defeat and failure, so it is of utmost importance that we *educate* and *prepare* ourselves to engage in the battles and emerge *victorious* for our **King** to Whom we *belong*!

The **Apostle Paul** describes the situation in this manner.

Ephesians 6:12

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

What does Paul mean when he points out that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood"? _____

What is Paul is saying in this verse? _____

So often we struggle against other people, be they our *boss*, our *parents* or our *spouses*. But Paul is saying look beyond them, for our enemy is *not* that person, but the *spiritual entities* that are working through them to steal God's Joy and Peace from our lives. So if you ever thought your boss was the 'devil', you're not too far off! But we need to view the world through God's eyes in order to detect our true adversaries. They dwell unseen in the *Spiritual Realm* and are dedicated to our demise! **Beware!**

The Kingdom of God

God's Kingdom exists wherever He alone is Sovereign, where His Will is done ... whether it be within an entire Realm as in Heaven, or within an individual's life ... evidenced by His Joy, Holiness and Peace.

The Kingdom of Darkness

The Kingdom of Darkness exists wherever God's Will is defied and His Rule denied ... whether it be within an entire Realm, nation or life.

Christians Belong to God

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

"For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body."

1Corinthians 6:19-20

Ephesians 6:12 (Observations)

Underline what our 'struggle is not against'.

Circle all the things it is against.

Underline where wicked spiritual forces dwell.

The words Paul uses to refer to the spiritual entities in this passage were commonly used words to describe those in positions of authority, such as governors and judges. This implies that just as those exercising authority in our physical world are organized by responsibility and power, the same is true in the **Spiritual World**.

"Spiritual forces of wickedness" are given *jurisdictions*, or *territories*, within which they exercise their power, ranging from those assigned to specific *individuals*, to entire *cities* and *nations*, all the way up to satan who '*prowls*' around the world over which he rules as god. We stand against an *organized army of spiritual beings*, which is why Paul gives instruction on how we can and must resist ... instructions which we will cover in following Lessons.

You may not have had enemies in your life before, but as a Christian, you have them now!

1 Peter 5:8

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.

Your adversary,

the devil,

prowls around like a roaring lion,

seeking someone to devour."

Describe what it means to be "sober" and "alert". _____

How should Peter's description of the devil affect the way we live?

If we choose to live our lives oblivious to the *Spiritual War* being waged against us, our lives will not reflect the presence of God within it. In fact, we will begin living like any non believing person would.

Ephesians 4:

17 *So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord,*

that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk,

in the futility of their mind,

18 *being darkened in their understanding,*

excluded from the life of God

because of the ignorance that is in them,

because of the hardness of their heart;

19 *and they, having become callous,*

have given themselves over to sensuality

for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Why does Paul describe the Gentile's (non-believer's) mind as futile?

Why does a futile mind and 'darkened understanding' lead to a life of

'sensuality', 'impurity' and 'greediness'? _____

1 Peter 5:8 (Observations)

Circle the two things we should be.

Circle who our 'adversary' is.

Circle what he is like.

Underline what he is seeking.

Peter's instructions for us to be 'of sober spirit' and 'on the alert' are in the form of **commands**. In our war against Spiritual Forces of Wickedness, Christ has given us an *order* through His Apostle, and we must obey.

"**adversary**" = Grk 'antidikos' = one who brings a charge or suit against you in court. Accuser of Christians.

Ephesians 4:17-19 (Observations)

v17

Underline how we should no longer 'walk'.

Underline how the Gentiles walk.

v18

Circle where they are 'darkened'.

Circle from where they are 'excluded'.

Underline the two reasons why.

v19

Circle what they have become.

Underline what their callousness has caused them to do.

Underline what they practice.

Ephesians 4:17-19 describes what a life without an awareness of God often becomes ... a life focused completely on the *Physical Realm* including its 'sensuality', leading to all kinds of 'impurity'. Perhaps you can identify with Paul's description, and remember the futility that this kind of life brings. If we, as Christians, fail to live *soberly* and *alertly*, we will fall back into this kind of lifestyle, focused on our feelings and the *Physical Realm* instead of faith in **God** and His **Kingdom**.

The previous passage revealed the battle ground of **Spiritual Warfare** ... our **Minds**. As it showed, if our thinking becomes *futile*, and our understanding *darkened* and *divorced* from **God**, we will be in danger of slipping into the *abyss* of a life consumed by 'sensuality' and all kinds of *lusts*. **But we are not defenseless!**

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- 3 *For though we walk in the flesh,
we do not war according to the flesh,*
4 *for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,
but divinely powerful
for the destruction of fortresses.*
5 *We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing
raised up against the knowledge of God,
and we are taking every thought captive
to the obedience of Christ,*

What kind of 'speculations' do people raise up against God today?

How do we take 'every thought captive to the obedience of Christ'?

God addresses the battle of our Minds through the *Apostle Paul* in *Romans 12:2*.

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
so that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and acceptable and perfect."*

The word translated 'transformed' commands us to continually transform ourselves completely from within. It is a continuous process that we have a part in. What is the significance of this?

How does the 'renewing of (our) mind result in a 'transformed' life?

*"for as he thinketh in his heart,
so is he."*

Proverbs 23:7

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

(Observations)

v3

Underline how 'we do not war'.

v4

Circle what our 'weapons' are not.

Circle what our weapons are.

Underline for what reason.

v5

Underline what we are destroying.

Circle what they are raised up against.

Circle what we are taking captive.

Underline to what.

The Greek word translated 'speculations' is 'logismos'. It doesn't take a Greek scholar to figure out that it is where we get our word 'Logic', and refers to *ideas* and *beliefs*. **Satan** and **this world** have raised many *arguments* against God, His existence and the Christian Faith. We must capture these false ideas and counter them with **God's Truth!**

Romans 12:2 (Observations)

**we will examine this first phrase in a later lesson.*

Circle what we are to be.

Underline how.

Underline why.

Circle the three words describing God's will.

As indicated from the start, the Christian must learn to live victoriously in both the **Physical** and **Spiritual Realms**. This requires a **complete transformation** in the way *perceive* things, especially in the unseen world. This can only occur with a complete *transformation* of our Minds as we *continually renew* our minds with **God's Word** by the **Power of His Spirit** in order to *think* and *live* in accordance with **God's Truth** and see things as they are. Then we will not be *deceived* by the forces of darkness!

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe the "Situation" of the Christian.

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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2. Know Your Enemy: The Devil!

"If you know the enemy and know yourself,
you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. ...
"If you know *neither* the enemy *nor* yourself,
you will succumb in every battle."
Sun Tzu "The Art of War"

6th Century BC Chinese General, **Sun Tzu**, recorded the above advice in his masterpiece, "*The Art of War*". 2500 years later, it is still good advice, which we will apply in this and the following lessons.

The first thing we need to know is *who* and/or *what* are our enemies. We obtained a glimpse of our primary enemy in the first Lesson, the very real spiritual entity called *the 'devil'* or *satan*, who "prowls around like a roaring lion" seeking to destroy us.

It was through the devil that *sin* was birthed, corrupting God's Creation. It entered into this world, and from it grew a **System of Beliefs** (*The World*) that is diametrically opposed to **God**. Through Adam, Sin *corrupted* the very **Nature** of all people, transforming us from God's *children* into His *enemies*.

So who is this entity known as the *devil/satan* and what is *his Objective*?

Isaiah 14:12-14

- 12 "How you have fallen from heaven,
O star of the morning, son of the dawn!
"You have been cut down to the earth,
"You who have weakened the nations!
13 "But you said in your heart,
'I will ascend to heaven;
'I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
'And I will sit on the mount of assembly
In the recesses of the north.
14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
'I will make myself like the Most High.'

Describe the devil's objective: _____

How might he fulfill it on Earth? _____

Road to Victory

One of my favorite lessons learned from **Dr. Howard Hendricks** is,

*"A Problem Well Defined,
Is a Problem Half Solved."*

Sixth century Chinese Philosopher and General **Sun Tzu** wisely defined the first step to victory in **Spiritual Warfare**. We will take his advice and **define our enemies**, and then **define ourselves**, for until we know our enemy and ourselves, our victory will always be in doubt.

Isaiah 14:12-14 (Observations)

- v12 **Circle** from where he fell?
Underline what he is called.
Circle to where he fell.
Underline what he did.
v13 **Circle** three things he will do.
Underline where he said this.
v14 **Circle** two more things he will do.
Underline Whom he will make himself like.

Satan originally had a high position in heaven. He was *the 'star of the morning'*, which is translated **Lucifer**, or 'morning star' in the Latin Vulgate. He was a beautiful creature as we shall see in the next passage, which may have contributed to his delusional thinking, and his unbelievable proclamations that resulted in his downfall. Known as the five "I wills", *satan's* objectives are all frightening, but none so much as the final one. A study of each gives us a glimpse of the dark delusion into which sin can lead us. **Have you noticed its presence in your life?**

The Devil's Origin: The passage below is addressed to the 'king of Tyre', but most Bible scholars believe it speaks of the **devil** himself, and describes his *original state* and *subsequent fall*.

Ezekiel 28:12-15

11 *Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,*
 12 *"Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him,*
 'Thus says the Lord GOD,
 "You had the seal of perfection,
 "Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
 13 *"You were in Eden, the garden of God;*
 " Every precious stone was your covering:
 The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;
 The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;
 The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;
 And the gold,
 the workmanship of your settings and sockets,
 Was in you.
 "On the day that you were created They were prepared.
 14 *"You were the anointed cherub who covers,*
 And I placed you there.
 "You were on the holy mountain of God;
 "You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.
 15 *"You were blameless in your ways*
 From the day you were created
 "Until unrighteousness was found in you."

List things we learn about satan in this passage: _____

How did the devil's magnificence cause him to sin? _____

What lessons can we learn from the devil's demise? _____

In the previous passage, we caught a glimpse of the devil's *ambition*. In this passage, we will see what may have inspired it.

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Ezekiel 28:12-15 (Observations)

- v12 **Circle** Who is speaking.
 Underline what the devil had.
 Circle what he was full of.
 Circle what he was 'perfect' in.
 v13 **Underline** where he was.
 Circle what covered him.
 Observe the stones God says he was covered with.
 Circle the one metal mentioned.
 Underline on what 'day' they were prepared.
 v14 **Underline** who God says he was.
 Circle Who placed him there.
 Underline where he was.
 Underline where he walked.
 v15 **Circle** how God says he was in his ways.
 Underline from when he was 'blameless'.
 Circle until what was found in him.

This amazing passage paints an incredible picture of satan. He was once 'perfect' in every way! And he looked it, too! If you let your imagination soar, and visualize the vestments or perhaps armor with which he was covered, the picture that emerges is of a creature beyond compare. He would make those celebrities who walk the red carpet look like they were wearing rags in comparison! God's description of satan, one of his greatest creations, utilizes numerous superlatives. Till we come to that last jarring and accusing phrase describing his downfall, "**Until unrighteousness was found in you.**"

It shows us that no matter how beautiful, no matter how smart, no matter how successful or how 'perfect' we may be, our downfall is but one misstep away. We must constantly remind ourselves that it is **God** who places us in positions of honor and continually humble ourselves before **Him**, lest 'unrighteousness' be found in us and we be brought low in our pride.

We have learned that the devil, called *satan*, was one of God's most magnificent creatures, who lost his place in heaven when 'unrighteousness' was found in him. It seems evident that *satan's sin* was that of **pride**, for which he was condemned to the confines of Earth, the abode of another important creation of God, a Man and a Woman, whose fall he engineered through temptation. **So what is the situation we now find ourselves?**

1 John 5:19

*"We know that we are of God,
and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."*

Why does John preface this verse with the Believer's assurance?

What does the second part of this verse mean? _____

How does this impact our lives as Believers? _____

The Devil's Work

2 Corinthians 4:4

*"in whose case the god of this world
has blinded the minds of the unbelieving
so that they might not see the light of the gospel
of the glory of Christ,
who is the image of God."*

In what ways is the devil the 'god of this world'? _____

Why does he blind the 'minds of the unbelieving'? _____

In his instructions regarding the kind of person he recommended for church leadership, the **Apostle Paul** warned,

"not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil." 1 Timothy 3:6

The sin of the devil is 'conceit' or **pride**.

1 John 5:19 (Observations)

Underline what 'we know'.

Circle where 'the whole world lies'.

It is sometimes necessary in Warfare to situate soldiers behind enemy lines in order to free captives and secure victory. **God** has placed His church in *enemy territory* to free those imprisoned by the devil through the *liberating power* of the **Gospel of Christ**. Sometimes those who are supposed to free others become captives themselves because they were not careful how they walked in enemy territory. We must be alert in how we live while in *satan's world*, for our enemy is always seeking to ensnare us and make us his slave.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Observations)

Underline what the 'god of this world' has done.

Circle what he wants to keep them from seeing.

Circle whose glory the light of the Gospel displays.

Underline who Christ is.

For reasons unknown to us, God has given *satan* a chance to fulfill one of his objectives ... to be 'like the Most High.' But to secure his position, he must keep everyone under his power and in the dark as to the identity of the **true God** manifested through **Christ**. He does this by *blinding the 'minds'* of the *unbelievers* as to who **Jesus** is. It is our task as *Believers* to enlighten them with the 'light of the Gospel', and free them from their *bondage* to the god of this world.

The Devil's Forces

Lest we mistakenly think we are only opposed by a single spiritual entity called satan, the Scriptures give us clues on how many fallen angels really oppose us.

Revelation 12:4a

"His (The Dragon's) tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

Revelation 5:11

"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;"

Most Bible scholars believe Revelation 12:4a describes how satan drew away a 'third' of the angels in Heaven. Revelation 5:11 reveals the number of angels who remained with God. Do the arithmetic: $10,000 \times 10,000 =$ _____

If this number represents the two thirds that remained with God, how many joined with satan? _____

What makes their *quantity* more daunting is the *quality* of angels that joined satan. Ephesians 6:12 reveals their quality.

Ephesians 6:12

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

What does the opening phrase mean? _____

Why does the Apostle Paul use words that reflect authority for

the fallen angels? _____

What are some possible areas in our world influenced by fallen

angels today? _____

Satan is assisted by a core of very *powerful angels* who joined him in his rebellion and are now with him on the Earth, working to set up **a counterfeit kingdom** while sending many souls to hell in the process!

Revelation 12:4a (Observations)

Circle how many 'stars' were cast down.

Revelation 5:11 (Observations)

Circle what John heard.

Underline where these angels were.

Circle how many there were.

The phrase '10,000 X 10,000' may simply be an idiom that people in those days used to indicate a great many. In Hawaii, we say '*ukumillion*', '*uku*' being the Hawaiian word for fleas, with the more familiar word '*ukulele*' meaning '*jumping fleas*' referring to the fingers of the player.

In any case, that numerical phrase would indicate the number of angels joining satan might be as high as **fifty million!** This is on top of the '*demons*' that are allied with them and are a completely different spiritual entity.

Revelation 6:12 (Observations)

Circle what Paul says we do not wrestle against.

Circle each of the categories of angels.

The words Paul uses to describe various classes of fallen angels are words used to describe *human rulers* of different ranks. This indicates to us that the fallen angels are very *organized* and recognize *authority* even among themselves. This should not be surprising as God's angels are also organized by task and rank as well!

But what we can learn is that the Believers' adversaries are very organized and powerful, and committed to their downfall. They are familiar with the exercising of power and authority, and use that experience to influence human organizations, from the lowest to the highest. These organizations may include the *Music and Entertainment Industries, News Media, High Tech Industries, Military, Education and Government agencies and leaders.*

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe Our Primary Enemies.

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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3. Know Your Enemy: The World!

The devil is not alone in opposing the Believer in Christ. He is aided by two allies dedicated to oppose our desire to glorify our **Lord Jesus Christ**. They are **the World**, a *System of Beliefs opposed to God*, and **the Sin Nature**, which is *the remnant of our 'Old Man' still residing in our Flesh*, which we will study in the *next Lesson*!

In the previous Lesson, we considered our situation behind enemy lines. Here, *satan* has established his own kingdom, the **World System** opposed to the One True God, over which he rules as a god ... blinding and enslaving *all* who live within it, save for the *children of Light* who walk in **God's Kingdom**.

The World

Romans 12:2

*"And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,"*

How does the World pressure us to conform? _____

List various Worldly values/ideals we are pressured to accept:

What makes the Apostle Paul's advice the most effective way to counteract the World's pressure for us to conform?

Deuteronomy 18:9

*"When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you,
you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things
of those nations.*

Why did Moses give the Israelites the above advice? _____

In his quest to be like God, *satan* created the **World System**, a *counterfeit* of God's Kingdom designed to provide the things that people seek to live a *fulfilling* life: **Security, Self-Worth** and **Significance**. But it's all an *illusion*. It instead offers *False Security, False Self-Worth* and *False Significance*, for in the end, this World is subject to *decay* and *death*.

The Apostle Paul, well aware that the Christians in Rome were at the centre of the 1st century World and vulnerable to the World's *deception*, exhorts the Believers there in his letter to them.

Romans 12:2 (Observations)

Circle what they must *not* be.
Underline how they should be transformed instead.

The Greek word translated '*conformed*', presents the picture of something being pressed in a mold so that it emerges in the very shape and likeness that the mold is designed to make. **The World** is the shape into which *satan's* Mold is pressuring everyone. In our time, the shape may be what is '*politically correct*', or *morally convenient*. **Christians** will almost always find themselves at odds to the currently acceptable and popular values, and unless they have *renewed* their minds, they will find themselves unable to resist the pressure to conform.

Most people tend to be **conformists**, not wanting to '*rock the boat*' or '*cause trouble*.' But God wants His children to be '**transformists**', *agents of change* toward a **Godly** way of living and thinking!

Just prior to entering the *Promised Land*, **Moses** gives the following advice.

Deuteronomy 18:9 (Observations)
Underline what Moses advised them.

The cultural practices of '*those nations*' included *child sacrifice, divination, witchcraft, fortune telling, sorcery, casting of spells, spiritism and necromancy*. Basically, *satanism, devil worship or luciferianism*.

In this World, you are either in *satan's kingdom* or *God's*. **There is no in between!** The Apostle Paul makes that clear when he reminds the Believers in Ephesus ...

Ephesians 2:1-2

1 *"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,*
2 *in which you formerly walked*
according to the course of this world,
according to the prince of the power of the air,
of the spirit that is now working
in the sons of disobedience."

How were we 'dead' in our 'trespasses and sins'? _____

What does the Apostle Paul mean when he says we 'walked according to the course of this world'? _____

What does the Apostle Paul mean when he says we 'walked ... according to the prince of the power of the air'? _____

Ephesians 2:4-6

4 *But God, being rich in mercy,*
because of His great love with which He loved us
5 *even when we were dead in our transgressions,*
made us alive together with Christ
(by grace you have been saved),
6 *and raised us up with Him,*
and seated us with Him in the heavenly places
in Christ Jesus,

What is God's ultimate solution to *satan's World*? _____

If I asked you if you have ever been a follower of *satan*, most would say, 'No way!' But according to the Apostle Paul, we may very well have been.

Ephesians 2:1-2 (Observations)

Circle what we were in our 'trespasses and sins'.

Circle according to what we 'formerly walked'. (two things)

Underline where *satan's 'spirit'* is now working.

The Apostle Paul teaches that before we were 'born again' by **God's Spirit**, we were 'dead' as far as God was concerned, and unable to comprehend nor communicate with Him as surely as a corpse can comprehend or communicate with the living. We were cut off from God, and walking in the *world of satan*, according to *his* will and *his* spirit, and **against God's**.

We were completely without hope apart from God's mercy. The World was our home and the course we followed, indulging in its lusts, if not fleshly, then certainly in our minds and hearts. And thus we were objects of **God's wrath**, destined for *eternal punishment*, with no way out.

Then a lifeline was thrown our way called the **Love of God** through **Christ Jesus**, and we grabbed on to **Hope**.

Ephesians 2:4-6 (Observations)

v4

Circle how God is described.

Underline why He is described so.

v5

Underline what we were even when God loved us.

Circle what God did to us with Christ.

Circle how we are 'saved'.

v6

Circle what God did to us with Christ.

Underline where God seated us.

This is one of my favorite passages in Scripture! It details how *God* saves us from *satan's grasp* by **transferring** anyone who **believes in Jesus** and is sick of living an empty life of sin ... **into His glorious Kingdom!** And this, not because of any thing we have done, but completely by **God's Grace through our faith** in what **Christ has done for us! Amen!**

So what should our attitude be toward the World? The **Apostle John** gives us the answer ... *and more!*

1 John 2:15-17

- 15 "Do not love the world nor the things in the world.
"If anyone loves the world,
the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 "For all that is in the world,
the lust of the flesh and
the lust of the eyes and
the boastful pride of life,
is not from the Father,
but is from the world.
- 17 "The world is passing away,
and also its lusts;
but the one who does the will of God
lives forever."

Why does the Apostle John command us not to love the World?

List examples of the following:

'the lust of the flesh': _____

'the lust of the eyes': _____

'the boastful pride of life': _____

What is significant about the fact that 'the World is passing away'?

What is significant about the truth that the 'one who does the will of God lives forever' in light of the World passing away?

1 John 2:15-17 (Observations)

v15

Underline what we are *not* to do.

Circle what is *not* in us if we love the World.

v16

Circle the *three* things in the World.

Circle from where they are *not*.

v17

Underline what is happening to the World.

Circle what else is passing away.

Underline *who* will live forever.

All three words translated '*love*' in verse 15 come from the Greek word '*agape*' which describes how people value, or cherish, things or persons. It is in the *imperative mood* which labels it as a *command*. Whereas we often see **Love** as a *feeling*, Scripture most often describes it as **a choice** we make in light of the Truth of God's Word.

We are commanded *not* to love the World, primarily because it is *fleeting*. Why treasure something so *temporal* when God provides that which is *eternal*! Sure, the World offers us *pleasure* and all manner of things that cater to our *egos*, but in the end, **everything** in the World will *disappear* as surely and as quickly as an ice cube on the hot desert sand.

Those who seek to find their *significance, security and self-esteem* solely in the things of this World will inevitably be disappointed, for those *things* will eventually **pass away** taking with them our *hopes*, our *self-worth* and our *reasons for living*.



**"He is No Fool
Who Gives
What He Cannot Keep,
To Gain
What He Cannot Lose."
Jim Elliot**



Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe The World and why we should never Love it.

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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4. Know Your Enemy: The Sinful Nature!

So far we have looked at two spiritual enemies: **satan**, our often overlooked adversary who seeks to 'devour' us, and **the World** he uses to sideline us. These two work from *without*. We will now look at a *third spiritual enemy* that works from *within*.

If it were not for this *third enemy*, our first two enemies would not have the impact they do. In a very real way, because this third enemy works from within, it is the most difficult to overcome, for it is devious! **But from where did it originate?**

The Origin of Our Sinful Nature

Romans 5:12

*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world,
and death through sin,
and so death spread to all men,
because all sinned--*

Who is this 'one man' spoken of in this verse and why? _____

How does this verse explain the predicament of Mankind? _____

In his Psalm of Confession, King David explains why he sinned.

Ps 51:5

*"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me."*

How does David explain the reason he sinned? _____

Does this excuse us from sinning? Why or why not? _____

The Fall of Adam

The Bible tells us that when God originally created the first Man and Woman, He did so in His **own image** (Genesis 1:27). They were made in *sinless perfection*, with a *Nature* made to please and enjoy God *forever* ... until satan, in the form of a serpent, *tempted* them to sin with the false promise of achieving *Godhood*.

One of the consequences of the Fall was the *corruption of man's Nature*, from **Godly** to **Sinful**. Whereas our original Nature naturally pleased God, our corrupted or Sinful Nature made it natural to rebel against God.

Romans 5:12 (Observations)

Circle how 'sin' entered the world.

Circle what else *entered* with sin.

Circle where *death* spread.

Circle how many sinned.

And after the *original Nature* was corrupted, that *damaged Nature* was passed on to every succeeding generation. It's *depravity* was soon evident just one generation later when Adam's first born son, *Cain*, murdered his second born (Genesis 4:8). Like a *congenital disease*, sin's corruption spread through **all Mankind**.

King David's Confession

After *sinning grievously* against *Bathsheba* and her husband, *Uriah the Hittite*, **David** composed Psalm 51 as penance. In it, he pinpoints the cause of his weakness and crime.

Psalm 51:5 (Observations)

Circle how David says he was born.

Circle how he says he was conceived.

In this verse, **King David** reveals the *problem* with us all. We are all '**conceived**' in sin and born **sinners**. In other words, we are not only sinners *because* we sin, but we sin *because* we are **born** as sinners! **It is who we are!** Sinning is part of our very Nature, a *Nature* which *cannot* be changed by a set of laws, or principles or man made systems. It takes a **miracle** to change us, **a miracle** that only *God Himself* can effect **in our hearts!**

The Nature of Our Sinful Nature

Our Sinful Nature *naturally* sins! But it not only *naturally* sins, it actually **wants** to **sin**! It is a *wild beast* we keep in check within us. But know this. If people *knew* they could *get away with all kinds of sins and crimes*, society would soon sink into *anarchy* and *depravity*. It is only *societal pressure* and *law enforcement* that keeps us from societal breakdown and allows us to live in peace with each other. The **Prophet Jeremiah** described our horrible condition.

Jeremiah 17:9

**"The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?"**

How does our heart deceive us? _____

The words "desperately sick" means "incurably wicked". Knowing this, how can humanity ever bring about world peace on its own?

The Apostle Paul lists some of the '*deeds*' of the **Sinful Nature**, here called the '**flesh**'.

Galatians 5:19-21

- 19** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are:
immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 *idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy,*
outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,
21 *envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these,*
of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you,
that those who practice such things
will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Why do you think Paul lists these 'deeds' for the Galatians?

What would you add to the list today? _____

The Lord knew that most people would consider themselves *good* and would never *outwardly* break the law. So He challenged them with the "*spirit of the Law*". Though we may not have outwardly murdered someone, we may have *in our hearts* (*Matthew 5:22*). The same is true with sexual immorality (*Matthew 5:28*). We may not sin outwardly, but have we sinned **in our hearts?**

Jeremiah 17:9 (Observations)

Circle in what the heart is more than all else.

Circle what Jeremiah says it is.
Underline Jeremiah's rhetorical question.

Jeremiah 17:9 is one of the most vivid descriptions of the **Sinful Nature** corrupting the heart. It is not only *sick*, it is *really* sick. In fact, Jeremiah says it is so *sick*, no one can really understand it.

In the early 1930's, a radio drama entitled "**The Shadow Knows**" would begin with eerie music over which a sonorous voice would announce ... "**Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows...**" followed by evil laughter. How often have we read news accounts of a serial killer with neighbors testifying, "*He was such a nice guy.*" **Who knows ... for 'sooth'!**

Galatians 5:19-21 (Observations)

v19

Circle what the '*deeds of the flesh*' are.

v19-21

Note each *deed*, using a **dictionary** if necessary.

Underline what will result for those who '*practice such things*'.

The Apostle Paul says that the '*deeds of the flesh*' are '*evident*', or *obvious*. The idea is that *they are clearly seen*. We are all *aware* of them because we see them every day. These behavior are not learned but manifest naturally from our **Sinful Nature**. It is often the *proper behavior* that can be *unnatural* and necessary to be *learned*. **Every parent knows this!**

This is proof of the *fallen state* of all humans. *Sinful behavior* and *evil thoughts* come so *naturally* to us, even when we *wish not* to do them!

The Quandary of Our Dual Natures

The Apostle Paul spoke about the dual nature of the **Believer**: possessing **the Sinful Nature** of the **First Adam**, which is the person we **used** to be, and **the Divine Nature** of the **Second Adam, Christ Jesus**, who we are now. The Believer **died with Christ** and is **raised with Him** to a **New Life**. He/she is a **New Creation**, freed from **the Law of Sin** through **Christ's Death** and **made alive to God** through **Christ's Resurrection**. This **New Person**, the **Real Person**, is now imbued with the **Holy Spirit** and **wants** to please God ... **always!** If you are a **true Believer**, **born again** by God's Spirit, the **New You** which is the **Real You** wants to do God's Will, and in fact, will do no other! So **why do we continue to sin?** Learn from what the **Apostle** teaches.

Romans 7:18-23

- 18 **"For I know that nothing good dwells in me,
 that is, in my flesh;
 for the willing is present in me,
 but the doing of the good is not.**
- 19 **"For the good that I want,
 I do not do,
 but I practice the very evil that I do not want.**
- 20 **"But if I am doing the very thing I do not want,
 I am no longer the one doing it,
 but sin which dwells in me.**
- 21 **"I find then the principle that evil is present in me,
 the one who wants to do good.**
- 22 **" For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,**
23 **but I see a different law in the members of my body,
 waging war against the law of my mind
 and making me a prisoner of the law of sin
 which is in my members.**

**What is an area of your life where you struggle to do the good
you want to do.** _____

What does Paul mean in verse 20? _____

**Is Paul saying we are no longer responsible for sinning? Why or
why not?** _____

How does Paul view the Sinful Nature? _____

The Sinful Nature in the Believer

The moment any person believes in Christ as Savior and Lord, God performs a miracle in their lives. They are reborn spiritually as **New Creations** and made partakers of the **Divine Nature**. They become completely **New Persons** in Christ with **New Natures** that delight in pleasing and obeying God.

But what happens to the Sinful Nature? Unfortunately, a **remnant** continues to live on in our **Flesh**, and will continue to do so until our bodies are changed in the **'twinkling of an eye!'** (*1 Corinthians 15:51-52*)

Romans 7:18-23 (Observations)

v18

Circle what dwells in 'me.'

Underline where it dwells.

Circle what is present in me.

Underline what is not present.

v19

Underline what we 'do not do.'

Underline what we practice.

v20

Underline Paul's conclusion when he does what he doesn't want to do.

Circle what is doing it instead.

v21

Underline the 'principle' Paul discovers.

Circle what is 'present' in him.

v22

Circle where Paul 'joyfully' agrees with God's law.

v23

Circle where Paul sees a different law.

Underline what it is doing.

Circle what it is making him.

Circle where the 'law of sin' resides.

The Sinful Nature not only continues to **live in our bodies** but exerts its will to **incite** sin in us! It is an evil entity that we cannot escape. In fact, unless and until we learn how to live as a **New Person in Christ**, the **Sinful Nature** is the default setting which will direct us toward well worn paths **forged** through a lifetime of sin.

The incredible thing is that God acknowledges that we are **New Persons in Christ** who truly desire to please Him, and knows that we really **do not** want to sin against Him any longer. We live under His **Grace** and **Forgiveness**, but we do not want to use this as an **excuse** to sin. Instead, we must learn to live **by Faith** in the **newness** of life by **God's Holy Spirit** who lives through our **New and Divine Nature!** (*Romans 8:1-2*)

Every Believer must eventually face the *formidable enemy* within. As we just learned, the **Sinful Nature** will often manifest itself even when we do not want it to. It *betrays* us, causing us to *give in* to satan and the *deception* of the World. But **God** has given us a way to victory, as the **Apostle Paul** instructs the *Galatian Believers*.

Galatians 5:16-18

**16 "But I say, walk by the Spirit,
and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.
17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit,
and the Spirit against the flesh;
for these are in opposition to one another,
so that you may not do the things that you please.
18 "But if you are led by the Spirit,
you are not under the Law.**

Paraphrase verse 16 in your own words? _____

According to verse 17, what is happening within the Believer?

The phrase 'walk by the Spirit' is a command in the present tense. What role do our wills play in making this command a reality?

Why are those who are led by the Spirit 'not under the Law'?

"But the worst enemy you can meet will always be yourself;"

Friedrich Nietzsche



Galatians 5:16-18 (Observations)

v16

Underline Paul's advice on how not to 'carry out the desire of the flesh.'

Circle by Whom we are to walk.

v17

Circle what sets itself against the Spirit.

Circle what sets itself against the flesh.

Underline why they are set against each other..

v18

Underline the result of being 'led by the Spirit.'

The key to living the Christian Life is understanding **who you are**. A quote attributed to both C.S. Lewis and George MacDonald, states:

"You Don't Have a Soul,

You ARE a Soul

That Has a Body."

Every person, Believer and Non Believer alike, is a **living Soul** possessing a **Body** for existence in the *physical world*. As we have learned, our bodies are *corrupted* with the *Sinful Nature*.

However, the moment a person **Believes** in Christ, God brings forth our **Spirit**, which is imbued with the *Divine Nature*, and *endows* us for life in Heaven, the dwelling place of God!

But God doesn't want us to wait till we get to Heaven to live *Spiritually*. God expects us to live in the Spirit **now**!

Whereas living in our *Bodies* is second nature to us, having already gained lots of experience trusting in our senses, *living in the Spirit* is a completely new experience altogether. It requires greater *Faith* because the spiritual World is *unseen*, but no less real. Our **Primary Guide** is **God's Word** and **His Holy Spirit**. We must *transform* our *minds* with His **Word** that we may **prove** what His **Will** is, and the longer we pursue this, the *stronger* we will be in our *Faith* and in our *Ability* to live *Spiritually* in the *physical World*.

So, as a Living Soul, we must decide daily whether we will live through our *sinfully oriented Bodies* or through our *heavenly oriented Spirits*!

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe the Sinful Nature and how to achieve victory over it.

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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5. Know Your Enemy's Strategy!

Our enemies are intelligent, and *coordinated* in their attacks. This is why the **Apostle Paul** warns us to ...

Ephesians 6:11

*Put on the full armor of God,
so that you will be able to stand firm
against the schemes of the devil.*

Though we will cover the 'armor of God' in a later lesson, what does Paul's use of this term tell us about how he views the Christian Life?

What do you learn about the 'devil' in this verse? _____

If you are able to discover your enemy's *strategy*, you may then gain an advantage over him. During *World War II*, the Allies were able to break the secret codes of the Axis powers: the *Enigma* in Europe and the *Naval Code* in the Pacific, which helped them achieve victory. **Fortunately**, we have discovered *satan's strategy*, which is outlined by the **Apostle John** below.

1 John 2:16

*For all that is in the World,
the lust of the flesh and
the lust of the eyes and
the boastful pride of life,
is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

Complete the following: The 'boastful pride of life' is the lust of the ...

How do the 'lusts' mentioned here relate to the 'World'?

How does satan use these 'lusts' and the 'World' to get us to sin?

Satan was probably one of the first creatures created by **God**, even before the World came into being. He may have been there when **Adam** was animated from the ground and knows the inclinations of this new creature.

Ephesians 6:11 (Observations)

Underline what we are to put on.

Circle what we must be able to do.

Underline what we must stand against.

The word translated '*schemes*' is the Greek word '*methodeia*'. I don't even have to ask which English word was derived from it. The devil has a *method* or a *strategy* that he has used successfully to *enslave* people to sin, even from the very first in *Eden*. He is so confident in its *effectiveness* that he continues to use it to this day, even on you and me!

In this Lesson, we will examine his *Modus Operandi* ... his MO, which has worked so well through the ages.

We will observe how he used it against the first Adam so successfully, and against the second Adam (*Jesus*) so miserably. And in the process, **we will be able to see how he is using it against us!**

1 John 2:16 (Observations)

Circle the two things that lust.

Underline the third element that is '*in the world*.'

Circle Whom they are '*not from*'.

Circle what they *are* from.

The word translated '*lust*' is not inherently an evil word. **Jesus** used it when He said to His disciples "*I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;*" (Luke 22:15). But it is primarily used to describe the *passionate desires* that emanate from the **Sinful Nature** in our **Flesh** ... the *longing* for what we *see*, for what we *feel*, for what is *pleasurable* and even for what gratifies our **pride** and **ego**.

Satan knows that if he can discover what our *prime 'lusts'* are, he has found a *weakness* in our '*armor*' that can be exploited for our destruction. **That is his strategy which he has used to destroy countless people from the beginning.**

Scripture includes many instances of *satan's* quest to tempt *Mankind* to join his *rebellion* against *God*. We will examine two from which to learn *how he operates* and *how we can thwart his scheme*.

Genesis 3:1-6

- 1 **Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.
And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"**
- 2 **The woman said to the serpent,
"From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;
3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"**
- 4 **The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!**
- 5 **"For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."**
- 6 **When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.**

What is the intention of the serpent's question in verse 1? _____

How well did the woman know God's instruction? _____

What is the purpose of the serpent's statement in verse 4? _____

Which 'lust' did the serpent target in verse 5? _____

How did satan use the three 'lusts' in the temptation (verse 6)? _____

Why did her husband eat the fruit? _____

Genesis 3:1-6 (Observations)

v1

Underline how the serpent is described.

Underline what the serpent said.

v2

Circle from where the woman said they may eat.

v3

Underline where the forbidden fruit tree was located.

Circle each prohibition God put on that tree.

Underline the *result* of violating the prohibition.

v4

Underline the serpent's reply.

v5

Circle whom the serpent accuses.

Circle the two things the serpent says will happen.

Underline how she would be like God.

v6

Circle what the woman saw.

Circle what the fruit was to her eyes.

Circle what she believed the fruit would do.

Underline what she did.

Circle to whom she also gave the fruit.

Circle where her husband was.

Circle what he did.

This passage reveals the very first application of *satan's tried and true strategy* to tempt Mankind to *rebel* against God. And *it has never been changed!* Why? ***Because it works!***

Even as you read the serpent's words, you can detect a *slippery*ness to them as they emerge through a *derisive* smile. The woman and her husband seem almost *naïve* in their innocence, allowing the serpent's words to *mold* their *thoughts*. That was her *first* mistake. ***You never allow other people's thoughts to enter unchallenged into your mind!*** You *capture* them 'to the ***obedience*** of Christ' (2 Corinthians 10:5).

But as described, *satan* is *craftier* than any of us. He discerns the desires of our ***flesh, eyes*** and ***egos***. Satan exploited her desire for ***food***, for ***novelty*** and for ***wisdom***, leading to her *fall*. She was *deceived*. But what was her husband's *excuse*? Simply that he had come to so *idolize* his wife that he could not live without her! ***And men are like that to this day!***

Satan Tempts Jesus

Matthew 4:2-10; Luke 4:13

- 2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights,
He then became hungry.
- 3 And the tempter came and said to Him,
"If You are the Son of God,
command that these stones become bread."
- 4 But He answered and said, "It is written,
'Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"
- 5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city
and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,
- 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God,
throw Yourself down; for it is written,
'He shall command His children concerning you';
and 'on their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"
- 7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written,
'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
- 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain
and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;
- 9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You,
if You fall down and worship me."
- 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written,
'You shall worship the Lord your God,
and serve Him only.'"
- 13 When the devil had finished every temptation,
he left Him until an opportune time.

What seemed to contribute to Jesus' vulnerability? _____

How do the temptations exploit the lust of the flesh, eyes and ego? _____

How does Jesus resist each temptation of satan? _____

What is ominous about verse 13? _____

Matthew 4:2-10; Luke 4:13

(Observations)

v2

Underline how long Jesus fasted.

Circle what Jesus became.

v3

Circle who came to Jesus.

Circle what Jesus is conditionally called.

Underline the test to prove Himself.

v4

Circle Jesus' initial statement.

Circle what 'man' shall not live on alone.

Underline what he should live on.

v5

Circle where the devil takes Jesus.

Underline where he made Him stand.

v6

Circle what Jesus is conditionally called,
again.

Underline what Jesus is asked to do.

Observe satan's quote (Psalm 91:11-12)

v7

Circle how Jesus begins His response.

Underline what you should not do.

v8

Circle where the devil takes Jesus.

Underline what he *shows* Jesus.

v9

Circle what the devil will give Jesus.

Circle what he requires Jesus to do.

v10

Circle Jesus' rebuke.

Underline what is 'written'.

v13

Circle until when did satan leave Jesus.

How to Resist the Tempter

After tempting mankind successfully for millennia, the *irresistible force* of **satan** ran into the *immovable object* of **Jesus**. And this when Jesus was at His *weakest*, having fasted for 40 days and nights!

Just as with the temptation of *Adam* and *Eve*, *satan* uses his tried and true strategy of attacking the weakest point, which for Jesus was *physical hunger*. The weathered stones looked just like freshly baked loaves of bread, but Jesus said, '*It is written...*', and *resisted*!

How do you resist satan's attack? With the spiritual sword of God's Word!

Satan's deception must be met with **God's Truth!** The temptation of the *bread* exploited the **lust of the flesh**. The temptation of the *Temple* exploited the **lust of the ego**. And the temptation of the *kingdoms* exploited the **lust of the eyes**. But be sure of this, **satan will always return at 'an opportune time'!**

Don't Give Satan an 'Inch'!

Like a predator, the devil is always looking for an '**opportune time**' to pounce. And it doesn't have to be a major issue either. He will use even a minor disagreement and build it into a mountain. All he needs is '**an opportunity**' and he's got us if we're not prepared. The **Apostle Paul** cautions us in the area of *anger* in the passage below, which is especially applicable to people in relationships.

Ephesians 4:26-27

26 Be angry, and yet do not sin;

do not let the sun go down on your anger,

27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

How can you be angry and yet not sin? _____

Why does the Apostle Paul warn us not to stay angry for long?

How does the devil take an opportunity in our anger? _____

***“Keep watching and praying
that you may not enter into temptation;
the spirit is willing,
but the flesh is weak.”***

Matthew 26:41

Satan will take every opportunity to enslave us in sin. The word '**opportunity**' in Ephesians 4:27 comes from the Greek word '**topos**' from where we get '**topography**'. It describes a small area that is part of a larger whole. Satan knows that if he can take hold of just a *small* part of us, he will eventually conquer the *whole of us*!

Ephesians 4:26-27 (Observations)

v26

Circle what we should not do in anger.

Underline what should not happen.

v27

Circle what we should not give the devil.

Did you know anger by itself is not necessarily sinful? Even **Jesus** got angry! But *He got angry at the right things and for the right reasons*. When we do get angry, we must ask ourselves, '*Is it for our own benefit or for God's?*'

But the Apostle Paul *does* warn us not to *stay* angry for too long. Why? Because it will eventually create *bitterness and evil intentions*, and may even emerge in acts of *destruction*, usually for the sake of our *egos*. The same can be said of other emotional states as well, such as Fear, Anxiety, Jealousy, etc. They can all become a *portal* through which *satan* can enter and *take hold* of our lives!

We should not stay angry because it gives the devil an *opportunity* to get his foot in the door of our lives and gain a *presence* in our *minds and hearts*. Eventually, he will own us as he *incites* our *thoughts* until we are **consumed** with *hate*.

It is best to confess any lingering anger and bitterness to God **quickly** and take away *any* opportunity for *satan*!

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe satan's Strategy and How We Can Resist It:

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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6. Know Your Defense!

If you have ever practiced martial arts, you know that it is not enough just to *know* your opponent. You also need to learn how to *defend* yourself and how to take the *offensive* to *defeat them*! We will use a passage in **Ephesians 6**: to learn how to *engage* our enemies and emerge *victorious*!

In this Lesson, we will focus on our *defensive armor*, while in the next, we will look at our *offensive weapons*.

Ephesians 6:13-17a

- 13 *Therefore, take up the Full Armor of God,
so that you will be able to resist in the evil day,
and having done everything, to Stand Firm.*
- 14 *Stand firm therefore,
having Girded Your Loins with Truth, and
having put on the Breastplate of Righteousness,*
- 15 *and having Shod Your Feet
with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.*
- 16 *in addition to all,
taking up the Shield of Faith
with which you will be able to extinguish
all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*
- 17 *And take the Helmet of Salvation,*

What is the significance of including the word 'Full' in v13?

What is the significance of having to 'take up' the Armor of God?

"Gird Your Loins with Truth"

John 17:17

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth."

How does the Truth of God's Word 'sanctify' us? _____

Our enemies are formidable and their intentions *evil*. But our Heavenly Father has equipped us to '*stand firm*' against them.

In my younger days, when I spent years in a Judo Dojo, I learned the importance of maintaining *balance*, not just with footwork, but in utilizing *offensive* and *defensive* skills. God wants us to not only be able to *defend* ourselves against satan's attacks, but to *counterattack* as well.

Ephesians 6:13-17a (*Observations*)

v13

Circle how much '*armor*' we must '*take up*'.

Underline for what *purpose*.

Circle what we are to do, having done *everything*.

v14

Circle with what we '*gird our loins*.'

Circle what we must put *on*.

v15

Underline with what we '*shod*' our feet.

v16

Circle what *else* we must take up.

Underline what it will *extinguish*.

v17

Circle the *final* piece of our armor.

It will do us little good to put on only *one* piece of armor. That would leave a large part of us *exposed* and *vulnerable*! We must put on the '*Full Armor of God*'.

But just the thought of having to put on God's Armor should give us pause and wake us up to the *reality* of our spiritual situation. We are at '*War*' with unseen enemies, and the sooner we realize this, the better our chances of remaining *steadfast*, and to *resist* their attempts to get us to *betray* and *forsake our Lord*!

There are few words in Scripture as important as the word **Truth**. In the original, it means that which is *Real*, or *Reality* itself. **God's Word** reveals the *Truth*, or *Reality*, of the World we live in. It makes '*visible*' the invisible. It is what *sanctifies*, or *sets us apart*, from this *non-believing* world. Without it, we would continue in *darkness* and *deception*, which is why *satan* seeks to annihilate it every chance he gets. **Truth** is worn like **a vest** on which the rest of the Armor hangs. Unless we are *persuaded* of the **Truth of God's Word**, the *Full Armor of God* will have *no power* to protect us!

"The Breastplate of Righteousness"

2 Corinthians 5:21

*He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin
to be sin on our behalf,
so that we might become the righteousness of God
in Him.*

*Explain the transaction that took place between the sinner and Jesus
when He died on the cross: _____*

How does knowing this protect us against satan's accusations?

"The Preparation of the Gospel of Peace"

Romans 10:

- 13 *for "Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord
will be saved."*
- 14 *How then will they call on Him
in whom they have not believed?
How will they believe in Him
whom they have not heard? And
how will they hear
without a preacher?*
- 15 *How will they preach
unless they are sent?
Just as it is written,
"How beautiful are the feet of those
who bring good news of good things!"*

*According to this passage, how will people call out to Jesus to save
them? _____*

How does this relate to us as Believers? _____

2 Corinthians 5:21 (*Observations*)

Underline who knew no sin.

Circle what He *became* on our behalf.

Underline what we become.

Circle where we become righteous.

One of the most important pieces of Armor is the *Breastplate* for it protects our heart and other vital organs. It is one of the *key targets* of our adversary who tries to infuse our heart with *guilt* and *doubt*. In fact, as soon as a person *believes* in Christ, satan gets to work trying to *convince* him that he is a *worthless sinner* and not *good* enough to *deserve* God's Love and Promises.

The Breastplate protects the Believer from satan's accusations, and assures him that it is not *his* works, but *Christ's* work that makes him *worthy*. We are *sanctified* in *Christ* and by *His* Righteousness, not our own!

Romans 10:13-15 (*Observations*)

v13

Circle who can call on the Lord.

Underline what they must do.

Circle what they will be.

v14-15

Observe the *logical progression* of the *questions*.

Underline what is written.

Circle what the 'feet of those' bring.

The Apostle Paul uses questions in a *logical progression* to bring the reader to the only *conclusion*: Unless we take the Gospel to the *world*, *Nonbelievers* will *never hear* and *'be saved'*.

Believers shod their feet with the *Preparation of the Gospel of Peace* for this is our *purpose*. As *Christ's foot soldiers*, we are *storming* the *Gates of Hell* and setting captives free with the *liberating* message of the Gospel that brings *Peace* between a *Holy God* and *sinner*s! We move with *purpose* and we stand on the *Gospel of Christ*, *immovable* and *never retreating*. Our footing is *firm* and our *direction* is always *forward*.

"The Shield of Faith"

Numbers 23:19

*"God is not a man,
that He should lie,
"Nor a son of man,
that He should repent;
Has He said,
and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken,
and will He not make it good?"*

How is God not like men? _____

What can we count on God to do? _____

Hebrews 11:6

*And without faith
it is impossible to please Him (God),
for he who comes to God
must believe that He is
and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

Why does God take pleasure in faith? _____

What is significant about the first thing a person must believe?

What is significant about the second thing a person must believe?

How can faith extinguish the evil one's flaming arrows? _____

Numbers 23:19 (Observations)

Circle both things God is *not*.

Circle both things God will *not* do.

Underline the two things God will do with what He says.

The Shield is the most versatile piece of Armor God provides. I once witnessed a *tribal fight* in a remote area of the **Papua New Guinea Highlands**. The men of one village launched an attack on another. I saw the women and children run screaming out the far side while their husbands and sons set up a defensive perimeter with **large wooden shields**. Then I saw a torrent of arrows arching toward them followed by the *thud, thud, thud* as they struck the shields and *fell harmlessly* at their feet.

Satan shoots lies at us all the time, but our **Shield** is our **Faith** that what ever **God** says or promises, **He will do!** (Romans 4:21)

Hebrews 11:6 (Observations)

Underline what is not possible 'without faith'.

Circle to Whom 'he' comes.

Circle what 'he' must believe.

Circle what God is of 'those who seek Him'.

It is our Faith in God and His Word that *pleases God!* Why? Because our **Faith** reveals that we *believe* **God** exists, and *demonstrates* our **trust** in **Him**. **Faith** acts as a *conduit* through which God *channels* His *blessings* and *promises* that are ours in *His Son*.

God is always present everywhere at once, *unseen* and *hidden* from the unbelieving, but *unveiled* to all, young or old, rich or poor, wise or foolish, who have **Faith** that He **is** and is a **rewarder** of those who *keep pursuing Him!*

Through our Faith in the **True God**, satan's 'arrows' and the world's allure are shown to be what they really are: *empty, superficial* and *false deceptions*. A *mirage*, a 'Vanity Fair', a *false reality*.

"The Helmet of Salvation"

Acts 4:10,12

**10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel,
that by the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene,
whom you crucified,
whom God raised from the dead--
by this name this man stands here before you in good health.
12 "And there is salvation in no one else;
for there is no other Name under Heaven
that has been given among men
by which we must be saved."**

How is verse 10 related to verse 12? _____

How is Jesus set apart from all other religious leaders? _____

Against what kind of satanic attacks will the Truth of this passage
protect you? _____

Why do you think the Apostle Paul used the example of a Roman
soldier's Armor in this Epistle? _____

What lessons can you draw from all the pieces of the God's Armor?

Acts 4:10, 12 (*Observations*)

v10

Underline to whom it should be known.

Underline by whose Name it is.

Circle who crucified Christ.

Circle Who raised Him from the dead.

Circle how 'this man stands ... in good health.'

v12

Circle in Whom there is salvation.

Underline what there is under Heaven.

Underline why that Name was given to us.

The Helmet protects another vital area of our bodies, *our head*. In *Kendo*, the Japanese art of sword fighting, of the 8 permissible scoring strikes, *three* are to the head. Satan's second prime target is the head as he seeks to deal non Believers a *fatal blow* by filling their minds with *lies*, and keep them from *perceiving* and *receiving* the Gospel.

But once a person receives God's *Forgiveness* and *New Life in Christ*, God makes him a *New Person*, able to perceive His *Truth* and discern satan's *lies*. It is still important to protect our thoughts because our enemy will seek to instill *doubt* in our minds regarding our Salvation, and especially in the Truth that there is salvation in '*no one else*' but the One who alone can save us.

Our enemy will tempt us with the idea that **Christ** is *not enough* ... that we need to do *more* to add to His work on the cross. **That is a lie**. Do not even *entertain* those thoughts but *capture* them and *expel* them from your mind.

Keep the Helmet of our *Salvation* ever on our minds lest satan's '*flaming arrows*' breach our defense and find their mark and spread their *poison of doubt*. Be ever ready with the **Shield of Faith**, the **Breastplate of Righteousness** and the **Helmet of Salvation**, held together with **Truth** and advancing with the **Gospel of Peace**. Amen? **Amen!**

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. What are the specific Pieces of the Armor of God for?

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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7. Know Your Offense

Before we study our offensive weapons, let's review a passage we have already studied and take a look at what it is saying, especially in relation to the *weapons* we wield in *spiritual warfare*.

Divine Weapons to Fight Spiritual Foes

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

- 3 *For though we walk in the flesh,
we do not war according to the flesh,*
4 *for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh,
but divinely powerful
for the destruction of fortresses.*
5 *We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing
raised up against the knowledge of God,
and we are taking every thought captive
to the obedience of Christ,*

You may have heard from coaches that the *best Defense* is a good *Offense*. If you are living the Christian Life ever on your *heels*, you will eventually stumble. We must live it on the *balls* of our *feet* and *press* toward our adversaries, and put *them* on *their* heels. So let us now examine the *offensive weapons* which God has given to us to do just that!

"The Sword of the Spirit ... the Word of God"

Ephesians 6:17b

- 17 *And take ... the Sword of the Spirit,
which is the Word of God.*

How is a sword used in battle? _____

How is the Word of God like a Sword? _____

Why is it called the 'Sword of the Spirit'? _____

How does the spoken Word pierce through men's hearts? _____

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

(Interpretation)

v3

*The Apostle Paul differentiates between living in the **flesh** and warring in the **spirit**. v4-5*

*Our battles are fought on a **spiritual level**, which is why our weapons are forged by **God Himself** to destroy the devil's '**fortresses**', made up of all the **false doctrines, arguments, thoughts** and **accusations** raised up to **denigrate** the '**knowledge**' of **God** and the **Truth** of His **Word**.*

*In **Spiritual Warfare**, we must always remember that our enemies are **spiritual** and attack us with weapons aimed at our **minds** designed to **undermine our faith in God and His Word**. And if they can accomplish that, we are lost, for as Scripture teaches, "**The just shall live by Faith**." (Romans 1:17)*

Ephesians 6:17b (Observations)

Underline what we are to take.

Circle what it is.

*There are two Greek words translated 'Word' in the New Testament: "**Logos**" and "**Rhema**". '**Logos**' is used for both the *written* and *spoken* Word, as well as for **Christ**, the **Living Word**.*

*'**Rhema**', on the other hand, is used primarily for the *spoken* Word. It is '**Rhema**' that is used in Ephesians 6:17.*

*The **Sword of the Spirit** is the *spoken* Word of God. Its *efficacy* is dependent on how much of the **Logos** you know! When you **speak** the Word of God, men and demons alike are pierced by the Spirit of God Who slices open our motives and intentions and thoughts!*

Remember, **satan*, unlike God, cannot *read* our minds. Therefore, it is the Word spoken **aloud** that *wounds him*! Is it any wonder that **Christ** is pictured with a *two edged sword emerging from His mouth* in the Book of **Revelation**?!*

Essential Sword Training

2 Timothy 2:15

***Be diligent to present yourself approved to God
as a workman who does not need to be ashamed,
accurately handling the Word of Truth.***

What does it mean to be 'diligent'? _____

Why are we to be 'diligent'? _____

What is significant about how we are to handle the Word of Truth? _____

I have been fortunate to have attended two Institutions that provided me Biblical and Theological training. If you desire *intensive Bible training* and are able to invest the *time* and *finances* to attend a Bible College or Seminary full-time, then by all means *do so*. But most do not have those options.

Fortunately, we have the **Internet** today, and there is a *plethora* of *videos* and *websites* that provide good teaching through YouTube or ministry websites. I am a Bible 'junkie' and continuously watch or listen to Bible Teachers on the Web to satisfy my insatiable desire to learn. (*If you see me with earphones on, you can bet I am listening to a sermon or lecture by one of my favored teachers via the internet.*) I have listed just a few of these teachers in the column on the right. (***Beware of false teachers for there are many of them as well!***)

If your goal is to earn a *Certificate, Diploma or Degree* for professional reasons but cannot attend a school full-time, check out the *online Bible Training Schools*, such as the **Christian Leaders Institute** at <https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org> that offer low cost alternatives.

Whatever your choice, be '**diligent**' to study God's Word and so fill your **arsenal** with *God's Truth* by which the *Holy Spirit* is able to bring to your mind the *right Scripture* to use as a **Sword** during times of *temptation* or outright *spiritual attack*!

Remember:

***The Greater your Knowledge of God's Word,
the Larger your Sword,
and the Less Chance of Being Deceived
by our Adversary's 'flaming arrows'!***

2 Timothy 2:15 (*Observations*)

Circle what we are to *be*.

Underline for what *purpose*.

Underline what kind of 'workman' we are to *be*.

Circle how he *handles* the Word of Truth.

Increase Your Knowledge of Scripture!

Are you 'diligent', or *conscientious* in your study of the Word of Truth? If you have not been trained to study the Bible, download the *third Discipleship Studybook* from **BibleStudyCD.com** and teach yourself a simple method on how to study the Scriptures. join with other Believers and learn together!

Just as a warrior trains to properly handle the sword in combat, even so, handling the Word '*accurately*' is essential, for it is akin to sharpening the blade so that it performs its task effectively. A dull blade is like the Word inaccurately handled. It will be good for naught and may even cause injury to the user.

Internet Teachers:

Ravi Zacharias

Josh McDowell

Ron Rhodes

Jacob Prasch

Ron Dunn

R.C. Sproul

et al.

Apologetics: <https://carm.org/>

Caution: Obtaining more Bible knowledge *does not* guarantee greater spiritual growth, just as eating more food does not guarantee becoming physically stronger. You would probably just get fatter, *unless* you couple that food intake with physical exercise and training. In the same way, increasing our knowledge of Scripture must be coupled with the *active application* of that knowledge through **faith** and **obedience**. Only in this will we witness spiritual growth evidenced by **greater faith** and **deeper holiness**.

Attacking with God's Word!

Temptation: To Lament the Lack of Money and Wealth.

SWORD: "It is written ...!"

**"For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil,
and some by longing for it
have wandered away from the faith
and pierced themselves with many griefs."**

(1 Timothy 6:10)

**"And my God will supply all your needs
according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."**

(Philippians 4:19)

Temptation: To be Anxious or Fearful.

SWORD: "It is written ...!"

**"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.**

**"And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."**

(Philippians 4:6-7)

**"The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?**

**"The LORD is the strength of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

(Psalm 27:1)

Temptation: To Fornicate and Commit Adultery.

SWORD: "It is written... !"

**"Or do you not know
that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
who is in you,
whom you have from God,
and that you are not your own?**

**"For you have been bought with a price;
therefore glorify God in your body."**

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

**"Marriage is to be held in honor among all,
and the marriage bed is to be undefiled;
for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**

(Hebrews 13:4)

Might I challenge you to complete this list with temptations that may be especially *relevant* to your *personal life*, and with the appropriate **Scriptures** that thrust to the heart of those temptations? Then, when the enemy attacks, you will be prepared to **counter attack** with the **Sword of the Spirit**, which is the **Word of God!** Don't forget to **speak them out loud** (*Rhema*) and so apply the full force of **God's Word** at the point of attack.

The Power of God's Word!

We in the West have often viewed words as merely abstract symbols by which we communicate, as evidenced by the age old children's rhyme:

"Sticks and stones

may break my bones,

"But words will never hurt me."

Of course, anyone who has been *hurt* by unkind statements knows that words do *indeed* have power to hurt, sometimes even *more*, and even *longer*, than 'sticks and stones' do. When I am hurt this way, I simply allay the hurt by applying the *healing Words of God and His Love*. **How He thinks about me trumps anything anyone else thinks about me!**

But God's Word has a *Power* even more than that. With it, God spoke all of Creation into existence. With it, He raised up a nation through which He etched out *His Commandments* and raised up a young virgin through whom He would send *His Only Begotten Son*.

His Words Teach, Rebuke, Correct and Train us for 'every good work'. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) And like the *Star Trek Phaser*, they can be 'set to stun' and cause men to collapse just by the force of them, as happened when Jesus affirmed His identity to the guards who came to the Garden with Judas to arrest Him, and sent them falling to the ground. (John 18:5-6)

But its most fearful power is displayed in the *Book of Revelation* when **John** sees the **Heavenly Christ** revealed in all His Glory which causes **John**, whom **Jesus** loved and chose to care for His mother, to fall on his face 'like a dead man' for fear. And even more fearful would be to see a 'sharp two edged sword' emerge from His mouth. (Revelation 1:12-17)

But that revelation will not be fully appreciated until **Christ Jesus** comes charging down from Heaven on His white steed to defend His chosen people, and strike down the 'nations' with the Sword from His mouth. I personally believe it is the same 'Sword of the Spirit ... the Word of God' mentioned in *Ephesians 6*: that will literally cut through the invading armies and spill their blood to the height of the horses' bridle. (Revelation 19:15; 14:20)

Prayer and Petition

Ephesians 6:18-20

- 18** *With all Prayer and Petition
Pray at all times in the Spirit,
and with this in view,
be on the alert with all Perseverance and Petition
for All the Saints,*
- 19** *and pray on my behalf,
that utterance may be given to me
in the opening of my mouth,
to make known with boldness
the mystery of the gospel,*
- 20** *for which I am an ambassador in chains;
that in proclaiming it
I may speak boldly,
as I ought to speak.*

How would you differentiate between Prayer and Petition? _____

Why does Paul emphasize the need to pray 'in the Spirit'? _____

What does Paul's prayer request tell us about him? _____

Why does Paul call himself 'an ambassador in chains'? _____

Prayer vs. Petition

Most people would probably say **Prayer** and **Petition** are synonymous. But if that were so, why would the **Apostle Paul**, who was probably writing this while chained in a prison cell, mention them successively? **Prayer** is the spiritual experience of communing with our Heavenly Father. **Petition** is the specific act of bringing our requests to Him. Of course, as **Jesus taught**, our **Heavenly Father** knows what we need even before we ask Him. But we petition Him anyway as an act of worship and acknowledgement that we are but creatures and are dependent on Him for our total welfare.

Ephesians 6:18-20 (Observations)

v18

Circle when and how we should pray.

Underline how we should be on the alert.

Underline for whom we should pray.

v19

Circle what they should do on Paul's behalf.

Underline what they should pray for.

Circle how Paul wants to make known the Gospel.

v20

Underline what Paul says he is.

Circle how he ought to speak.

"Pray ... In the Spirit"

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made mention of Gentiles (*heathens*) praying with 'vain repetitions'. This practice of repeating words or phrases over and over again, like a *mantra*, is still in use today.

Jesus told the woman of Samaria that the 'true worshippers' would worship God in *Spirit* and in *Truth*. And this is how Paul says we should pray, for when we are in the Spirit, we are *linked* to *Christ's Mind*, and He is now able to *communicate* as well as *commune* with us.

In warfare, it is important to keep communications *open* between the *battle field* and the *Headquarters* in order to *coordinate* the movement of all the troops. By linking spiritually with *Christ*, He is now able to *direct us* as we *assail* the '*gates of hell*' in our effort to *liberate* those *imprisoned* by *satan*. **The Church** is composed completed of *liberated prisoners*!

Prayer: God's Air Support

When military units need help on the battle field, they call in *air support*.

Few things give ground troops more comfort than to see their *air force* *above* supporting their position.

Prayer is like that. When Paul needed *boldness*, he asked for *prayer*. He also requested prayer for '*all the saints*'.

Prayer brings Divine intervention from above when it is needed most!

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. What are our Offensive Weapons and how should we use them?

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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8. Know Your God!

Earlier, we learned from Sun Tzu's "Art of War" that victory is best achieved "if you know your enemy and know yourself." But now, I'm going to add a third component that tips the balance in our favor in a huge way, and that component is **GOD**. With all due respect to Sun Tzu, the most important principle in *Spiritual Warfare* is to **know your God!**

GOD Alone is Sovereign and All Knowing

Isaiah 46:9-10

- 9 *"Remember the former things long past,
 For I am God, and there is no other;
 I am God, and there is no one like Me,*
- 10 *"Declaring the end from the beginning,
 And from ancient times
 things which have not been done, Saying,
 'My purpose will be established,
 And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';"*

What 'former things' might God be referring to in v9? _____

How does v9 destroy satan's lie to Eve? _____

What does the first part of v10 mean? _____

What does the latter part of v10 establish about God? _____

The Sovereignty of God is *foundational* to who God is. There is no being *higher* than Him nor *equal* to Him. **He alone is God!** And being God, it is He who *establishes* what *has* been, what *is* and what *will* be. He knows 'the end from the beginning,' not because He has *foreknowledge*, but because *He* has *established* all things. **Now, who can defeat a God such as this?!**

God is Sovereign

"The sovereignty of God may be defined as the exercise of His supremacy. Being infinitely elevated above the highest creature, He is the Most High, Lord of heaven and earth. Subject to none, influenced by none, absolutely independent; God does as He pleases, only as He pleases, always as He pleases. None can thwart Him, none can hinder Him. So His Word expressly declares: 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.' (Isaiah 46:10)" Arthur W Pink in "The Attributes of God"

Isaiah 46:9-10 (Observations)

v9

Underline what we are to remember.

Circle who is God *besides* God.

Circle who is *like* God.

v10

Underline all that God declares.

Circle what will be *established*.

Circle what will be *accomplished*.

It's Best to Trust God!

Throughout chapters 43-46 of Isaiah, God states that He alone is God no less than *nine times!* To prove it, He tells His people to "Remember the former things", referring to all the miracles He performed in their presence.

Isaiah was a prophet from the time of the Northern Kingdom's exile by the Assyrians through the period before the Southern Kingdom fell to the Babylonians. Throughout this time, Isaiah spoke on God's behalf to the kings of Judah, encouraging them to *trust in God and not their alliances with heathen nations*. It is for this reason that God continually reminds them that He *alone* is God and in *control* of the affairs of nations. God knows 'the end from the beginning' because He *determines* everything from the *beginning* to the *end*!

This is a good reminder for us *not* to trust in men but to trust in *God!* We, too, should remember the many times God has proven Himself *faithful* so that in times of testing, we will *not forget* that our best path is to trust in *Him*, for He *alone* will surely *establish* His good 'purpose' in our lives!

GOD Alone is All Mighty!

Besides His Sovereignty and Omniscience, God is also **Omnipotent**, or *All Powerful*. God would not be God unless He has the **power** to do what He has **purposed** to do!

Psalm 33:6

6 *By the word of the LORD
the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth
all their host.*

**We studied the power of God's Word in the previous Lesson.
According to Psalm 33:6, what are the limits of that power?**

**What is significant about God being able to create the heavens
by just speaking them into being?** _____

Jeremiah 32:17

17 *"Ah Lord GOD! Behold,
You have made the heavens and the earth
by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm!
Nothing is too difficult for You,"*

What is the essential message of the above verse? _____

**If you had the power to stretch out your arm and speak anything
into existence, what would be the result?** _____

If we are on God's side, of whom should we be afraid? _____

"The power of God is that ability and strength whereby He can bring to pass whatsoever He pleases, whatsoever His infinite wisdom may direct, and whatsoever the infinite purity of His will may resolve ..."

Stephen Charnock

Psalm 33:6 (Observations)

Circle how the 'heavens were made'.
Circle how 'their host' were made.

God Spoke the Universe Into Existence

The Hebrew word translated 'word' in Psalm 33:6 describes the *spoken* word, much like the Greek word 'Rhema'. God simply said, "Let there be ..." and there was! With no exertion, no straining, no sweating. He simply *spoke* the word and the world came into being. The *limits* of His power is only restricted by the *limits* of His vocabulary, and since God is *infinite* in Knowledge, He is also *infinite* in Power.

Jeremiah 32:17 (Observations)

Circle what the Lord God *made*.
Underline how they were made.
Circle what is 'too difficult' for God.

The prophet Jeremiah interprets the *Genesis Creation* account with a succinct conclusion concerning God's power and abilities. When you couple this verse with the previous one, then truly, 'nothing is too difficult for' God.

In warfare, you always want to have superior firepower over your enemy. The same is true in *spiritual warfare*. So if there is no greater power than **God**, and there isn't, then it would be the height of wisdom for us to be on *His* side of this eon long battle between the kingdom of *darkness* and the *Kingdom of Light*. If you are a Believer in Christ, *you have chosen well!* As the **Apostle Paul** declared in *Romans 8:31*, "**If God be for us, who can be against us?**"

GOD Alone is Victorious!

Revelation 19:11, 16

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He (Christ) who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

What is significant about Christ's Name and what He does?

Revelation 20:1-2, 10

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

How is it possible for one angel to imprison satan? _____

What does this tell us about satan? _____

What is significant about the severity of satan's punishment? _____

Unrepentant sinners will also be thrown into the 'lake of fire'. What does that show us about how God views sin vs. how we do?

Revelation 19: (Observations)

v11

Circle what 'opened'.

Circle what John saw.

Circle what the rider was called.

Underline what the rider does.

v16

Circle where a name is written.

Underline the name.

When Jesus returns, He comes as the **King of kings** to **wage war** against His adversaries and **judge** them in **righteousness!** The **Age of Grace** is ended and the **Day of Reckoning** will be at hand.

Revelation 20: (Observations)

v1

Circle what came down from heaven.

Circle what he held.

v2

Underline what he 'laid hold of.'

Circle who the dragon/serpent is.

Circle what the angel *did* to him.

v3

Circle what *else* he did to him.

Underline why.

Circle for how many years.

v10

Underline where the devil was thrown.

Circle who *else* is there.

Underline what will happen to them.

Circle for how long.

The Day of Reckoning/Judgment

doesn't just come for a rebellious *mankind*, but also for the original rebel himself, *the devil* called *satan*. It will be a day when the *wrath* of God is *displayed* and His long-suffering has reached its *limit*.

He will send just a *single* angel, imbued with Divine Power and Authority, such that the devil himself will be forced against his will into *submission* and *subjection* to a *thousand years* of *confinement*, after which he will be thrown into *the lake of fire and brimstone* where he, along with his own false christ and false prophet, and all who worshipped them, "*will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*" There is no more dreadful a sound than to hear the sentence of the damned meted out by the **Supreme Judge** of all Heaven and Earth.

GOD Alone is Greater!

1 John 4:4

**You are from God, little children,
and have overcome them (false spirits and false teachers);
because greater is He who is in you
than he who is in the world.**

Who is John referring to with "he who is in the world"? _____

How is God in us 'greater' than satan in the world? _____

Matthew 28:18-20

- 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,
"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**
- 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you;
and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

What is significant about the amount of authority given to Jesus?

**What is the significance of Jesus' commission to His disciples in
light of satan's third temptation (Matthew 4:8-9)? _____**

The Israelites tended to insulate their religion from the Gentiles.

How does Jesus differ from that kind of thinking? _____

Why does Jesus make His promise at the end? _____

1 John 4:4 (Observations)

Circle where the 'little children' are from.

Underline who they overcame.

Circle who is greater.

Circle whom He is greater than.

In the early church period, even as today, there were those who denied that the **Christ** had come in the flesh. The **Apostle John** did not hesitate to identify those people as **antichrists** fomented by **satan**, who is the **god of this world**. **John** declared that **Christ** in us is **greater** than **satan**, for on the cross, **He** destroyed, once and for all, **satan's** power over mankind and secured his doom **forever** and **ever**!

Matthew 28:18-20 (Observations)

v18

Circle who is speaking.

Circle what has been given to Him.

Underline where it extends.

v19

Underline the verbs in this verse.

Circle what we are to **make**.

Circle where we are to go.

Underline in whose **name** the 'disciples' are to be baptized.

v20

Underline what we are to **teach** them.

Underline what Jesus **promises**.

Circle how **long** He will be with us.

Anyone reading an organizational diagram outlining the **hierarchical** structure of a company, knows that the person with the **greatest** authority is the one on the **top**. So it is in God's hierarchy. **God reigns supreme** over all of His creation! And this is why **Jesus' words** are so critical, for they place Him at the **very top** as well ... **co-equal** with **God the Father**.

"All authority!" That means **complete, limitless, unending**. Jesus has taken away satan's authority over this earth and over all the nations, and has **authorized** us to **claim** them for Him! We are given **God's authorization** to go to all nations and **liberate** people from sin and death. So whether we **live** or **die**, in the **Name of Jesus**, and by **His Authority** we go with **Christ**, and **'make disciples'** of **all nations** until **He establishes His Kingdom!**

GOD Alone is Most Loving!

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)

But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,

"Nor have entered into the heart of man

"The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

What is this verse saying regarding what 'God has prepared for those who love Him'? _____

How should this Truth affect our attitude toward this world which we can see and hear? _____

What does this say about God's attitude toward those who love Him? _____

1 Corinthians 2:9 (Observations)

Observe what is written.

Circle what has not seen

Circle what has not heard.

Circle where it has not entered.

Underline what has not been seen, heard nor imagined.

Circle for whom God prepared these things.

Before Jesus left, He promised His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them and that He would return to bring them to be with Him forever. I personally believe He was speaking of the **New Jerusalem** described in **Revelation 21:2ff**.

Many have tried to imagine what it would look, sound and be like. All I know is that whatever image, sound or experience you conjure, it's probably **wrong**. Why? Because **1 Corinthians 1:9** says our **new home** will be like **nothing** we've ever seen, or heard or even imagined! It will make us forget about **this world** faster than you can say **'breathtaking!'** It's beauty will be **indescribable** and the experience of living there would be like ... **Heaven ... of course!!!**



"New Jerusalem Descending"

Abstract by Pat Wagner

Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. What things you have learned about God have stood out the most in your mind?

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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*"Mahalo" (Hawaiian = Thank-You!)
for Completing This Study!*

*I pray that God has Blessed your Study of
His Word, to Him be all the Glory!*

