

# Prayer Partner Counseling Guide

## Spiritual Warfare Training Supplement

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***“Maintaining a Biblical Balance in Spiritual Warfare”***

### **Prayer Partner Counseling Guide**

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## Monday

Ask the counselee what they would like to see happen this week.

### **Understanding the Christian Life in the Context of Spiritual Warfare**

#### Our Focus Must Be on Christ: Hebrews 12:1-2

Satan's goal is to distract us from a proper focus by causing us to focus on ourselves, others (2 Corinthians 10:12), or our situation. He uses two distractions.

- "Weight": things that are wrong for us. It is when the Holy Spirit says to us, "Others may but you may not."
- "Sin": things that are wrong for all. (Sin defined: 1 John 3:4)

The glance and the gaze: we have to see what is going on around us - the glance; but we must keep our focus on Christ - the gaze. An illustration of this is when Peter walked on the water (Matthew 14:22-33). It was when he shifted his eyes off of the Lord that he began to sink.

In scripture when you see a sports analogy, it is discussing the Christian life. Later we will see that when military terms are used, it is referring to Spiritual Warfare.

\*\*A common problem with conservative families is confusing weight and sin issues. A family will have a conviction in an area and make a weight a sin issue, by imposing their standards on others. We must accept people where they are in their walk with the Lord at this moment!

#### Our Enemy: Satan

##### Satan's Three Goals: John 10:10

- Steal: He wishes to steal our spiritual fruit and our eternal significance.
- Kill: He wants us to see ourselves and our situation as hopeless. This is the basis for suicide.
- Destroy: He wants to destroy our relationships. (Parents get divorced, children rebel, churches split etc.).

##### Understanding the Origins of Thoughts: Matthew 16:15-7, 21-3

There are three sources of thoughts.

- Thoughts come from God. (17)
- Thoughts come from Satan. (23)
- Thoughts come from ourselves. (Peter didn't know the difference.)

Parallel Passages:

- 1 Chronicles 21:1 "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel."
- John 13:2 "the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot. . . to betray him;"

- Acts 5:3 “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?’”

## Our Responsibility

### Our Weapons: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Understanding strongholds: “pulling down of strongholds” This is the first area that comes under attack in the believer’s life.

What are strongholds?

In the Old Testament a stronghold was a “Walled City”, and God commanded the children of Israel to take them down (Jericho was the first one) but not all at once, just one at a time. If the Israelites did not take down the stronghold then the people of Jericho would continually torment them.

Definition 1

- A stronghold is something that has a “strong hold” on my life (It’s gripping me, and it won’t let go).

Definition 2

- “Strongholds are often the result of deep wounding, and that wounding usually takes place in my childhood. The problem today is not that I was wounded. (That is a historical fact; I can’t change that.) The problem today is the lies I believe because I was wounded.”
- Once a stronghold is revealed in my life I must take it down with truth, or the enemy will use it to harass me.

The foundation for a stronghold is always a false belief system. (Not everything that we’ve ever been told or taught is correct.)

There are 5 ways that strongholds can be formed in my life

1. through school—Not everything you were taught in school was correct.
2. through the media—Not everything you watch on TV is true.
3. through friends—Not everything your friends tell you is true.
4. through parents—Parents are not always accurate.
5. through church—Churches can teach falsehood.

Moses was instructed by God to send spies into the land of Canaan. The people rebelled so Joshua sent in spies to only spy out the first “stronghold”, Jericho.

A proper understanding of who God is: “Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.”—This is the second area that comes under attack in the believer’s life. Do you have a proper, biblical view of God?

- Proverbs 16:6 “By the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil.” The fear of the Lord is an awareness of His presence, a proper understanding of who He is.
- Satan’s first assault on God was questioning Him, “Yea, hath God said?” (Genesis 3:1)

The “name” of God is important. In Christ’s priestly prayer in John 17 He uses the term 4 times: (“That we would know God by name”)

- (6) “I have manifested thy name unto the men.”
- (11) “keep through thine own name.”
- (12) “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name.”
- (26) “And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: . . .”

If you want to learn God’s character, then learn the names of God because the names of God reveal His character.

In Exodus 17, the children of Israel fought the Amalekites and were successful as long as Moses “held up his hand.” It was here that the Lord was first known as Jehovah-nissi (The Lord is our Banner).

- If you have a distorted view of God then you will have a lousy prayer life or no prayer life at all—why pray to a God who doesn’t care?

Taking thoughts captive: “bringing into captivity every thought”—This is the third area that comes under attack in the believer’s life (Intruding thoughts).

How do we tell the difference between thoughts from Satan and thoughts from God?

Not every thought that enters my head is mine. We must understand this.

Thoughts or voices in second person are not my own.

Thoughts that we don’t want that keep coming are not of God (these are intruding thoughts). He commands us to “Set (our) affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” Colossians 3:2

Thoughts that are driven are not from God. (God never drives; He leads.)

- John 10:3: Jesus the Good Shepherd leads His sheep.
- Psalm 23: “He leadeth me beside the still waters.” & “He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness.”

“To take captive” is the picture of taking a “prisoner at spear point”. This may be as simple as saying/thinking, “I give no consent to that!”

We are given a checklist for what we are to think on in Scripture.

- Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.”

**\*\*In the last week of our Lord’s life, we see three specific attacks.**

1. Luke 22:3 Satan entered Judas. (Outside of Revelation, this is the only specific mention of Satan entering a person.)

2. Luke 22:31-32 Satan has permission to “sift” Simon Peter.

This can be used by God to purify our lives. (Sifting of wheat was done to remove the lumps and critters.)

3. Luke 22:52-3 Two different groups that want Jesus dead--- the religious leaders & the “power of darkness.”

## God's Protection

### God's "Hedge of Protection" in the Old Testament as Seen in the Life of Job.

Job 1:6-10 It was God's idea. Satan had to ask permission. Job did nothing wrong to "deserve" this.

- Satan is in the presence of God, and God is still Holy. (6-8)
- God suggests Job to Satan (it was GOD'S idea). (8)
- Satan accuses Job to God. (9)

Two times God gives a character reference for Job. (Job 1:8; 2:3)

- "perfect": One who is morally and ethically pure.
- "upright": Honest, upright and just in his business dealings.
- "one that feareth God": He was concerned about God's reputation and had a reverence for God
- "and escheweth evil": He had a repentant heart.

Job 1:10 Satan needed permission to reach within the Hedge of God.

- God is still sovereign. He would allow Satan to work but only within God's boundaries.
- "If you're living inside the hedge when the flaming missiles of the enemy are allowed to cross over the hedge, they are no longer the destructive missiles in the hand of Satan, they simply become the refining fire of God."---Warren Wiersbe

Job 1:13-19 Four separate attacks, none obviously demonic: the Sabeans, fire from heaven, the Chaldeans, & a great wind.

- Job 1:20-22: What was Job's response? "In all of this Job sinned not, . . ."
- David at Ziklag (1 Samuel 27-30); (Psalm 15)
- Job 2:9 Job's wife speaks Satan's very words: "Curse God and die". (see Job 2:5) I need to pray every day that I will not be a mouth piece in the hand of Satan.
- Job 2:11-13 Job's friends sit with him in silence for a week. Then they are used to shift Job's focus. He begins to defend himself.
- Job 3:25 Job confesses his fear.
- Job 42:1-10 Job repents.
- 42:5-6 The first step is repentance, Job repents but nothing happens.
- 42:10 Job redirects his focus from himself and his situation to the Lord and to praying for his friends.
- Hebrews 12:1-2 Our focus must be on Christ; Satan's goal is to shift this focus.

### God's "Hedge of Protection" in the New Testament.

Luke 22:31-32 Peter inside the hedge.

Which side of the hedge was Peter on? Hint: Satan had to ask permission.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit were both praying for Peter.

Sleepiness was an attack of the enemy. (22:46)

## 1 Corinthians 2:6-8

- (6) “Princes of this world” are demonic spirits. (See “Rulers of the darkness of this world” in Ephesians 6:12).
- (7) “Wisdom of God is a mystery, even the hidden wisdom” is declared in the Scripture, but hidden from the demonic. (See Ephesians 3:10: the hidden is declared by the church to the “principalities and powers”.)
- (8) Had they known, they would not have crucified Christ.

## Christ’s Work on the Cross

Colossians 2:13-15 God dealt with three things on the Cross.

Forgave sins: both of commission and omission. Our sins were all future at this time. (13)

- Sins of omission are described in James 4:17.
- Why then do we confess our sins now? For fellowship! (See 1 John 1:9)

Nailed to the cross those ordinances that were against us. (14)

Defeated the enemy: “principalities and powers”. (15)

**\*\*You can’t get victory this week. You already have it!!!**

Colossians 1:11-13: one of three Spiritual Warfare prayers in the Bible (others are in Ephesians).

Three words for power in the same verse: “Strengthened”, “might”, and “power”. (11)

The purpose: that we might suffer with patience and joy. (11)

Q: If Satan is defeated, why doesn’t he look like it?

A: Though he is defeated, his defeat can’t take away who he is: a liar and a deceiver.

Every attack of Satan has a lie in it!

A contrast is made between the light and the dark. (12-3)

- We are saints of the light.
- We are delivered from the power of the darkness, not the presence of the darkness.
- We are citizens of heaven, not earth. That is why we’re referred to as pilgrims, strangers, and ambassadors.

## Satan’s Two Titles and Our Victory

### Satan’s Titles: Revelation 12:7-11

A Deceiver: a man is deceived when his mind and emotions believe something that is not true. The Key: We must learn to believe objective truth as opposed to subjective feelings. Feelings do not make something true or not true.

The Accuser: he accuses us before God and accuses us to ourselves.

These are his only two weapons with Christians.

## Our Victory

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb” (11)

- This is Christ’s completed work on the Cross.

“and by the word of their testimony”

- “The word of their testimony” is not their salvation story; it is their verbal stand against the enemy.

“and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

- Their love for God was greater than their love for this world.

Ask the counselee to make an oral declaration against the enemy at this time. This is the same as Joshua did at the end of the book of Joshua. You can’t serve both!

- Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Have the counselee read Psalm 18, asking God for a *rhema* for their current situation.

## Monday’s Handouts:

### Reading assignments:

1. Developing your Secret Closet of Prayer: Principles for Intimacy with God by Richard A. Burr. Read Introduction and Chapter 1 for Tuesday, then a chapter a night.
2. Lord, I Want to Know You by Kay Arthur. Read 1 Lesson (not a chapter) a day.
3. “How to Get a *rhema* from God” and work through Psalm 18, asking God for a *rhema* that pertains to your current situation
4. Verse Reading assignments. Write out the assigned verses from your Bible and answer.

## Tuesday

Review Homework from Psalm 18.

## **Renouncing Occult Involvement**

### Background for the City of Ephesus

Ephesus to the people of Paul’s time would be like saying Rome to a Catholic today. In Ephesus there was a major cult worship that centered around the temple of Diana. It had:

1. Immoral worship that involved having sex with over 1000 “priestesses.”
2. They believed in demons.
3. It closely parallels the “new age” movement of today.

Paul understood that it was easier to get people out of the occult than to get the occult out of people.

## Paul's Prayer for the Believers in Ephesus: Ephesians 1:15-23

It is one of three Spiritual Warfare Prayers in the New Testament. The others are Ephesians 3:14 and Colossians 1:9-14. He prayed for them in 4 areas:

1. "Spirit of wisdom" (17)
  - Wisdom is the ability to see life from God's perspective.
  - The opposite is being "double minded." (see James 1:8)
  - Moses understood God's ways as opposed to only seeing the acts of God. (Psalm 103:7)
2. "Understanding" who we are "in Christ." (18)
  - Knowing what to do.
  - Understanding complements wisdom by putting into practice what wisdom sees. (see Proverbs 4:7)
3. The great power that is available. (19-20)
  - Notice the wording: "exceeding greatness of His power . . . His mighty power."
  - Compare the wording with Romans 8:37 "more than conquerors" and Ephesians 3:20 "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." All the words used illustrate the awesomeness of His power. Many people say "I know God is powerful but... you don't understand my situation". Satan wants me to have a big problem and a small God but Paul here is saying we have a big God and a small problem.
  - To grasp the amount of power that is available "in Christ," the author continues by demonstrating that the power that raised Jesus from the grave is the same power that is available today to His children! (20) Picture the amount of power used by NASA to put a space shuttle in space. That power is less than what is needed to raise someone from the dead. When you are dead what kind of a situation is it? A hopeless situation. God's Power works in hopeless situations.
4. Christ's position over the demonic realm. (21-3)
  - Christ is positioned far above all the demonic forces listed. No matter what name you can come up with Christ has more power. (20)
  - The enemy is positioned under the feet of Christ, the head of the church. (22-3) The warfare language is used in this passage. See Hebrews 10:12-13 where Jesus sat down "till His enemies be made His footstool." See also Joshua 10
  - There are two reasons that Christ has sat down (20)
    1. His work is finished. Hebrews 10:12
    2. It satisfied the righteousness of God.

KEY TO CHAPTER ONE: The enemy is defeated: "hath put all *things* under His feet."

## Our Past: Ephesians 2:1-3

- "Quickened" is to be made alive. (1)
- The course of this world is set by Satan. He is the "prince of the power of the air." This is primarily non-Christians but applies to Christians when they are disobedient. (2) (see John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11.)



- We used to live according to the course of the world, walking according to our fleshly cravings and desires. We still live in the world, but as ambassadors, not of the world. (3) Walking according to the course of this world means walking according to this world's philosophy of life.
- We are not to be conformed but transformed. (Romans 12:1-2)

### Our Present: Ephesians 2:4-6

- "But God" loved us while we were still in sin. (4) also see Romans 5:8.
- Can God love us any less when we sin? NO! He loved us while we were in our sin and is incapable of loving us any less!
- Key truth in Ephesians : I'm "in Christ." Used 10 times in the first 3 chapters!
- He made us alive "in Christ." (5)
- He "made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:" (6)
- There are two truths:
  1. Christ in me which is the "hope of glory." Colossians 1:27
  2. Me in Christ. Where is the enemy in relation to me? Under my feet!

There are four reasons that people get into the occult:

1. Power:
2. Guidance:
3. Healing:
4. Protection: amulet, charms,

Have the counselee renounce all occult activity at this time.

- If there has been occult involvement, pray against the enemy at this time. If there has been satanic practices they must be renounced.

## **Bitterness**

### Understanding Bitterness from Hebrews 12:14-15

- How can we "fail of the grace of God"? With bitterness!
- Fail is from a word that means to have need of, fall short of, or to miss.
- Bitterness has been defined as self-inflicted torture.

### Understanding our "Calling" from 1 Peter.

1 Peter 1:5-7 Our faith tried with fire brings praise, honor and glory.

- We are heavy through "manifold temptations." Just because you are going through hard times or have a heavy spirit does not mean you are unspiritual. (6)
- If our faith is tried like gold with fire, what is it that the fire does to the gold? It is used to purify!
- We are all going to go through the fires, but our response determines how we are going to end up. We have a choice; either we will come out better than we were before or else we will come out bitter.

1 Peter 4:12-13 Fires are normal.

- When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were cast into the furnace their ropes were burned, and the men who threw them in were slain. So the same trial that slew the non-Christian freed the Christian. You may not see Christ in your circumstances at the time, but others are watching and what is important is that they see Christ in our trials just as king Nebuchadnezzar saw Christ walking with the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace. See Daniel 3
- We can suffer for sin or suffer according to the will of God.
- We cannot always choose our suffering, but we can choose our response.
- We can commit our souls to God as we suffer if we are suffering according to the will of God (It is possible to suffer outside of the will of God, ie. AIDS due to sexual immorality). Your soul is the part of you that thinks, feels, and chooses (your mind, will, and emotions). 1 Peter 4:19

1 Peter 4:1-2

- Somehow suffering for the believer is a purifying experience because I am no longer living to my own secret human desires but to the will of God. I must however arm myself with the same mindset that Christ had.

1 Peter 2:18-20

- God is looking for people who do not take up a defense for themselves but who suffer for doing right patiently. Why?

1 Peter 2: 21 "Because even hereunto were ye called".

- What is every believer's calling in life? To suffer for doing right.
- The tough part of suffering is usually the source. It is either those whom we love or those to whom we are called to serve that cause our suffering.

There are two types of suffering.

1. Suffering as a reproof.
2. Suffering for refinement.

What is the mindset that Christ had that I must arm myself with?

- Verse 22&23 tells us. Jesus didn't do the two things that we're tempted to do. (22)
  - No wrong actions: "Who did no sin"
  - No wrong words: "neither was guile found in His mouth"
- Jesus didn't take judgment or retaliation into His own hands; rather He trusted the Father to work through the situation, to deal with the offenders, and to do the right thing. (23)
  - "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Romans 12:19
  - Q: Are you holding resentments toward someone whom you need to forgive?

## 2. Forgive from the Heart. (A decision that is an act of the will.)

Matthew 18:21-35 "The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant"

- There is a cost to forgiveness. It cost the king a large sum to forgive his servant.
- The "same servant" who was forgiven was unwilling to forgive a much smaller debt of his fellow servant.
- The absence of forgiveness brings the "tormentors." This is Satan's access to a Christian as a result of bitterness.

- As with flies on the back porch, once you've given one area of your life to the enemy he can then access other areas. You've given Satan a foothold!

## 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 "The Need of Forgiveness by a Church."

- In 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 the church was instructed to discipline a member who was committing fornication with his father's wife. In 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, Paul is instructing the church to respond to the man's repentance with forgiveness.
- This is a Parallel passage to Matthew 18.
- Paul was concerned that Satan not get the advantage. "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us:"
- This is one of the "devices" that Satan uses against Christians. "For we are not ignorant of his devices." Unfortunately, today much of the church is ignorant of his devices.

## 3. Understand the effect of forgiveness

Ephesians 4:30-32

- To grieve is to sorrow, grieve or cause a heaviness. I grieve the Spirit of God when I say yes to sin. (30)
- How much bitterness are we to put away? ALL! (31)
- Christ has forgiven me 100% and He wants me to forgive 100% as well. (32)
- Verse 26-27 do not teach that we are never to get angry; but when we are, it is to be short-lived. (Anger may be a symptom of bitterness.)

Three things must take place in forgiveness.

1. Forgiveness must be seen as an act of the will. It is a decision that we make.
2. Be willing to live with ongoing consequences of the offender's actions. Consequences do not disappear.
3. Be willing to live with the offender when there are continuing offences.  
The people that we forgive may not change.

Ask the counselee to list those whom he/she needs to forgive.

- Pray Psalm 139:23-24 with the counselee and ask God to reveal any other people that they may be holding wrong feelings toward from the following:
  1. family or extended family members
  2. friends or former friends
  3. any situation at school
  4. any church situation or pastor
  5. anyone they have worked for or with
- The counselee must pray through each person on the list of offenders. ie. "Lord I do forgive \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_"
- Ask the counselee to confess any bitterness toward God. ie. Though we don't forgive ourselves, we must accept God's forgiveness.

## The Opposite of Bitterness. 1 Thessalonians 5:18-19

Instead of becoming bitter, God wants us in everything to give thanks. (18)

- How does that differ from being thankful? It is not a feeling, but a decision!
- We thank God for His higher purposes. Bitterness or resentment is an affront to the sovereignty of God!
- Thankfulness comes when I see the benefit.

We are not to quench the Holy Spirit. (19)

- To quench is to say “No” to God. It comes from a word that can mean to put out a fire.

Homework in preparation for Thursday:

The reverse side to all of this is anyone that I have offended who may have bitter feelings toward me, do I need to go back and make right?

- Ask the counselee to make a list of people they have offended.
- This may require restitution as well.

## Wednesday

### Understanding and Conquering Pride

#### Why was Satan Kicked out of Heaven?

Satan's root sin was pride: Isaiah 14:12-14

It was conceived in his heart: “For thou hast said in thine heart”

Proverbs 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he . . .”

Psalms 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.*”

Satan's last “I will” is the most significant. He desired to “be like the most High”

“Most High” is a name of God: El Elyon

it means God most High or the Sovereign One that reigns in Heaven and Earth.

Satan wanted to be “like” God in control, but not in character.

Satan wanted to have final authority in his life.

Dickason states, “Satan became creature-centered as opposed to God-centered”

Thus, pride is enthroning myself and displacing God.

The center letter of the word PRIDE is “I.”

Satan's fall as recorded in Ezekiel 28:1-2

There was a literal place and a literal prince of Tyre. (1-2)

He, the prince of Tyre, exalted himself with pride. (2)

Then there is a shift with a second message from the prince of Tyre to Satan beginning in verse 11.

How do we know that this is not the same prince in verse 1?

There is a shift from prince to king. (12)

He was in the Garden of Eden. (13)

He was appointed as a cherub.

Notice that part of Satan was “tabrets” and “pipes.” Tabrets are tambourines and pipes are flutes. Music was part of who Satan was before the fall as well as after the fall.

Good music seems to drive away bad spirits. See 1 Samuel 16:23 where David played the harp for Saul and an evil spirit departed.

A famous composer stated, “If you can control the music of a nation, you can control a nation.”

KEY: We must be willing to surrender our music to God.

#### Three Levels of Motivation

1. Gain or loss for me (Self-Centered)
2. Gain or loss for others (People-Centered)
3. Gain or loss for God, and His reputation (God-Centered)

#### **Seeing Pride from God’s Perspective: a Study from Proverbs.**

- Proverbs 6:16-17 Pride is an abomination (strongest word in the Old Testament) to God. It is first on the list!
- Proverbs 8:13 Pride and arrogance are two expressions of the same sin. One is inward and one is outward. In the Hebrew the root used in both words is the same. It means pride in its totality.
- Proverbs 11:2 Shame is always preceded by pride.
- Proverbs 13:10 Strife and debate is a symptom of pride.
- Proverbs 15:25 The home (family) of the proud will be destroyed by the Lord.
- Proverbs 16:5 Pride is an abomination to God.
- Proverbs 16:18 Pride precedes destruction.
- Proverbs 28:25 (Pride is translated greedy in NIV.)
- Proverbs 29:23 Pride will bring a man low.

#### Three Steps to God's Power from James 4:6

- God offers more grace or power to do right.
  - It is never an issue of depleting God's power.
  - The trouble is that men love darkness rather than light. John 3:19
- A. Humility (6)
- Grace is God's empowerment to do what will honor Him.
  - Humiliation is a proud man who is embarrassed. This is not humility.
  - In Romans 8:31 it says, “If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?” But if God is against us, does it matter who is for us?
- B. Submit (7)
- To submit is to place myself under, to yield one's control to God.
  - Any area of my life that I withhold from God's control Satan will control.
  - Assignment: make a list of the areas of your life that need to be totally surrendered to the Lord.
- C. Resist (7)

- With humility, from a place of submission to Christ, we can resist!
- Two Key Questions: How can I resist an enemy that I cannot see?
- Why don't I recognize his involvement until it's too late?

## Understanding the Source of Temptations

### **Key: We are never tempted apart from Satan.**

We are instructed to:

- "make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." Romans 13:14
- "Flee also youthful lusts:" 2 Timothy 2:22 The perfect example is Joseph with Mrs. Potiphar (Genesis 39:12)

What about the world, the flesh, and the devil?

- 1 John 5:19 "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one."

James 1:13-6

- God does not tempt us, nor can He. If something is a temptation to pull me away from God, then I can know that it is not from Him.
- "Lust" is the common denominator used to draw us away. We are all tempted in the same way, "every man is tempted," but not in the same area.
- We don't recognize it because it fits us. If it didn't fit us it wouldn't be a temptation.
- If lust is not dealt with, then we sin.

1 Thessalonians 3:5

- Paul was concerned about these new Christians. He was afraid that the "tempter" may have tempted them. Thus we can see the "tempter" behind the temptation.

1 Corinthians 7:5

- Satan is seen as the tempter of married couples during a time of abstinence and fasting.

1 Timothy 5:14-5

- Younger widows that remain single are at risk of having Satan slander them. Those who would turn aside are turning "aside after Satan."

1 Timothy 3:6-7

- Those in church leadership who are new Christians are in danger of becoming prideful and being condemned by the Devil. (6)
- Those without a good report outside the church risk being snared by the devil. Thus, the devil is seen as a trapper. (7)

1 John 3:8

- The devil is, and has been from the beginning, behind all sin.

1 Timothy 6:9

- The desire to be rich is a snare of the devil.

2 Timothy 2:24-6

- We must see the bait and associate it with the tempter: Satan.
- We must also see not just the sin, but the consequences.

Hebrews 4:15-16

- We are instructed to “come boldly unto the throne of grace” which is the throne of power.
- And we are promised to “find grace to help in time of need” which is power when we need it.
  
- Christ was “tempted like as we are.”
- How was Christ tempted? By the devil, period.

Luke 4:1-3

- Jesus was filled with the Spirit and was tempted by Satan, not by evil!
- Key to understanding the temptation of Christ and how we are tempted by Satan:

Understanding that thoughts are not sin! Consider Jesus’ temptation:

- Did Satan speak to Christ? Yes
- Did Jesus hear Satan? Yes, He answered specifically.
- Did Satan tell Christ to do good or evil? If it wasn’t evil, it wasn’t a temptation.
- When the wrong words of Satan entered the mind of Christ, He heard them, and yet He was sinless because He didn’t respond in the wrong way.
- Luke 4:13 Satan returns at an “opportune time.” Satan’s opportune time is at my worst time.
- For Jesus it was in John 14:30.

Q: How do I get rid of pride?

A: You can’t! Pride is the one that you saw in the mirror this morning. It is you!

Three Key Verses in dealing with Pride.

Luke 9:23

- We must follow Christ on His terms, not ours.
- Who will run my life today, me or Christ?

Galatians 2:20

- We must learn how to live a crucified life.
- Before Paul met Christ, he ran his life; afterwards, Christ ran his life!

1 Corinthians 15:31

- What did one of the greatest Christians of all of history have to do? He had to “die daily.”
- The other key was to let go of the past. (Philippians 3:13)

## Thursday

### Authority

#### 2 Thessalonians 3:3

- God is able to establish (strengthen) us.
- He is able to keep us from the evil one.
- He places His character at stake: "But the Lord is faithful . . ."
- A similar situation occurs in 1 John 1:9: "He is faithful and just". To fail to keep his promise would be to violate His own character.

#### † 1 Timothy 4:16-18

- Paul was aware of God's presence, even when men forsook him.
- Proverbs 16:6 " . . .by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil".
- Paul forgave the people.

#### Jude 1:24-5

- He is able. Are you willing?

#### 1 Samuel 15:22-3

- Rebellion is a rejection of authority. "You have no right to tell me what to do!"
  - It is compared to witchcraft because it opens us up to direct demonic control away from the protection of God-given authority.
- Stubbornness is a slowness of response to those in authority.
- God protects us through God-ordained authority. This is a hedge of protection for us.
- The enemy wants us out from under this protection. Our rebellion places us outside this protection as does stubbornness.

#### Romans 13:1-5

(1) All authority is established by God. To submit is to place ourselves under authority.  
(2) "Damnation" is for those who resist God's authority. If you are resisting authority you are resisting God.

(3) Authority is a "minister of God" for our good.

- Kids that struggle must place themselves under their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3) "that it may be well" with them. There is a difference between:
  - Foolishness: Doing something without thinking, an immature response or action.
  - Disobedience: Knowing what is right and not doing it. Disobedience is always against the rules. Just because you are disobedient does not mean you are rebellious.
  - Rebellion: Challenging the right of those in authority to make the rules. Rebellion is always against the authority.
- We are commanded to pray for our authorities. We should run them up, not run them down (1 Timothy 2:1-2).



- Ask counselee to pray and confess to God any failures in the area of authority. Pray through the five areas: (These are like a five-sided fort. One wall down can mean disaster!)
  1. Family
  2. Church
  3. Government
  4. Employment
  5. Education
- Then have the counselee purpose to stay within God's provided protection of authority. Do NOT have the counselee make vows ("I will never rebel again").

How do you tell the difference between being judgmental and being discerning?

- both see the same thing
- the judgmental reach a verdict
- the discerning cries out to God for direction to see how he can be part of the solution.

## Gaining a Clear Conscience

1 Timothy 1:18-20

- "Mightest war a good warfare" is spiritual warfare. Hymenaeus & Alexander were believers who had made shipwreck of their faith.
  - "blaspheme" can refer to speaking reproachfully against, to curse, or some type of wrong teaching.
  - The context leads us to believe that they were teaching in error concerning either faith or a clear conscience. Since faith is obviously necessary, it is most likely that the error they were teaching was that a clear conscience was not necessary.
- In 1:5 we see three elements of the Christian life:
  - "Charity out of a pure heart" - Present motives (My current standing with God).
  - "Good conscience" - Past forgiveness (Clear conscience vs. guilty conscience).
  - "Faith unfeigned" - Future goals (Looking ahead for what God has --Phil. 3:13)

Acts 24:16 Two areas for a clear conscience: (This is God's exercise program.)

1. Toward God
2. Toward Man
  - The key is a willingness to go back if it is appropriate.
  - Several rules of thumb. There are of course, always exceptions. You must be sensitive to the prompting of God's Spirit for direction.
  - To go to someone, they must be part of the problem or part of the solution. Otherwise it is gossip (The circle of confession usually does not exceed the circle of offence).
  - Usually you don't address something that will hurt someone else or damage their future. We are clearing up stuff not "muddying the waters".

- If seeking forgiveness involves restitution, then forgiveness should include some plan of repayment.
- Assist the counselee in listing those people with whom he needs to seek forgiveness.
- Discuss what would be appropriate and what would not be. Is this a legitimate situation to go back on, and if it is, how do I word it? (This is very important)

## **Moral Freedom**

### Romans 6 The Negative

6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

- Though we are never totally free of sin in our lives, it should never rule us.

6:13 "Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin:"  
"instruments" is from the Greek work *hoplon* that means tool, weapon, or armor.

- Our members can be weapons in the hand of the Lord for righteousness or in the hand of the enemy for evil.

6:14 " . . . sin shall not have dominion over you: . . . "

- What begins as a choice, will ultimately rule us.

6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey"

- What I choose to do determines who I serve; there is no neutral option.

6:19 : " . . . for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity . . . "

- Our sin will become more sinful. We draw lines in our moral life and then step over the line, so we draw a new line and the process goes on...
- One man said, "My perversion has become perverted!"

6:21 " . . . for the end of those things [is] death."

- Pray through all moral failures during a time of prayer with the counselee starting at the beginning of their life to where they are currently.
- Details should be avoided. (Eph 5:12)
- Ask God to bring to mind those things that need to be confessed.
- Then ask God for forgiveness and to take back the ground.

### Romans 6 The Positive

6:12 "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

- Our flesh will always have desires, but they are not to rule us.

6:13 " . . . but yield yourselves unto God, . . . and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God"

6:14 " For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace"

- We now have God's grace (this is God's power to make right choices---Phil. 1:6, 2:13).

6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

- We are now free to choose to be slaves unto righteousness.

6:18 "Being then made free from sin . . ."

- This is freedom from sin's domination. This is not saying that I will never sin again.

6:13-19 Discusses yielding your members, then . . .

Romans 12:1 you are to present your whole body as a living Sacrifice

Two Key Questions:

1. (for a man) Have you ever struggled with being male?  
(for a woman) Have you ever struggled with being female?
2. (for a man) Have you ever struggled with feelings of being sexually inadequate?
  - If I reject an aspect of myself I cannot give it to God .
  - If the counselee has struggled then have them pray and ask God to forgive them and thank Him for the way He made them.

Ask the counselee to pray through a prayer of committing his/her body parts to God.

- Head (Mind): I will commit my thoughts to God.
- Eyes: Job made a covenant with his. (Job 31:1)
- Ears: Music, what we listen to, or refuse to listen to.
- Mouth: that I will not speak, except what the Lord wants me to speak. (Psalm 141:3)
- Sexual organs & sexual drives: both are given by God and must be under His control.
- Hands: we are to have "holy hands". (1 Timothy 2:8)
- Feet: that will not take me where the Lord does not want me to go.

Key promise: 2 Timothy 1:12 " . . . He (God) is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him. . ."

## Prayer

Ask the counselee if there is anything in their life that they have not totally given to God.

If there is nothing, then pray with them that God would clear their temple.

- Generational or iniquities.
- Familiar spirits (spirits that give occult ability)
- Any blessings that are curses in disguise.
- Any curses on the family.
- Soul: Pray against any spirits that are attacking the mind, will or emotions. Pray specifically about information that has been given through intruding thoughts, anxiety, fear, anger . . .
- Spirit: Ask: "Do you want any false spiritual enablement that is of the enemy?" Then pray against any religious spirits commanding them to leave.
- Body: Command any demons associated with the body to leave and go where Jesus sends them.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to fill all the areas of the life of the individual.
- Ask God if any areas have been missed:

## 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

- (18) Fornication is from the Greek word *porneia*. It means any immoral sexual looseness or metaphorically any act of idol worship.
  - We are commanded to flee all sexual immorality.
- (19-20) We are not our own:
  - We have no right to our own body. It now belongs to God.
  - We are to glorify God both in our spirit and in our body.

If our mind is committed to God, and our Body is owned by God, then

- Think on these things. (Philippians 4:8)
- If what we are thinking is in violation of this list, it is not of God!
- There is no room for perverted thoughts.

## Prayer Against the Enemy

"God if we have accomplished all that you want us to accomplish in the life of \_\_\_\_ this week, then we ask You to give a spirit of peace and a sense that all is well with their soul. We ask for the peace that Christ refers to in John 14:27 and the peace that is mentioned in Philippians 4:7 that passes all understanding. Your Word commands us in Colossians 3:15 to let the peace of God rule in our hearts. But Lord, if we have missed something that you wanted us to deal with, we ask that you would give this brother/sister a heaviness in their heart or a check in their spirit that something is radically wrong."

- If God brings a heaviness, then pray again and ask God to make it clear what has been missed:
  1. It could be something that we didn't deal enough with, or
  2. It could be something that is embarrassing that they didn't want to bring up, or
  3. It could have seemed insignificant to pray about but significant in the mind of God. Then confess and agree with God.
- Often you don't pray for peace again; it will be there.

## Friday

### Three Characteristics of Effective Ministry from the Life of Paul

#### 2 Timothy 4:16-18

- There are three key characteristics in Paul's life that made him effective in ministry:
  - He let go of the past: "forgetting those things which are behind" (Philippians 3:13)
  - His focus was forward: "and reaching forth unto those things which are before. . . Christ Jesus"
  - He was there for people. This is seen in his many letters that list name after name and in his journeys to see those he had already seen.
- Now Paul was on trial and could lose his life. He looked around for a friendly face and found that he was alone.

- Paul was aware of God's presence, even when men forsook him.
- The Key: His focus was on God, not on his circumstances or on the friends that should have been there. Paul forgave the people.

Jude 1:24-5

- He is able. Are you willing?

## The Armor of God: Ephesians 6:10-18

The purpose for the book of Ephesians is to understand the Armor. But before Paul could explain the armor, he needed to lay the groundwork in the preceding chapters. Thus Paul begins with, "Finally, my brethren. . . ." (10)

- Truths from the Book of Ephesians
  - Chapter 1 Satan is defeated.
  - Chapter 2 We are seated with Christ and Satan is under our feet.
  - Chapter 3 God is able "to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us."
  - Chapter 4 Don't give ground to the enemy and don't grieve the Holy Spirit.
  - Chapter 5 Be filled with the Spirit.
  - Chapter 6 Now we're ready for warfare!

Why do we need the armor? (11)

- So we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. The word "wiles" is translated from the word we get "methods" from. We must understand Satan's methods.
- "Put on" is to be clothed with; to get suited up for. The implication is a daily "getting dressed."

Notice the "we" in verse 12. He (Paul) is including himself in the battle. Notice the object of our struggle. It is not the flesh. It is not ourselves. It is not the people who hurt us. It is the spirit behind all of the above. Notice his description:

- "principalities" are prince over a "pality" or a geographical area. (See Daniel 10:13).
- "powers" are spirits that want to empower my personal life and attack me personally.
- "rulers of the darkness of this world" are spirits that are assigned to rulers to influence their decisions. This is one reason we are commanded to pray for our leaders. (2 Timothy 2:22)
- "spiritual wickedness in high places" are spirits that work in the religious realm.

"Wherefore. . . now that you have the armor, you are expected to stand. Notice the sequence of stands in verses 13-14: "withstand . . . stand . . . stand."

The purpose of standing is preparation and actual protection in the "evil day."

- The “evil day” is the same as “season” from Luke 4:13. It is our most vulnerable time.
- There is an enemy and his attacks are coming. Be prepared!

## The Armor

1. Belt of Truth: "having your loins girt about with truth" (Ephesians 6:14)
  - I must make a decision. Is it truth because I feel it is true or because God said it is true? (We must use objective truth against subjective feelings).
  - Logically the belt is not the first item when putting on a battle uniform, so it must be listed first for emphasis.
  - The source for truth is the Scriptures. “Thy word is truth” John 17:17
  - We use Truth to combat Satan the liar (John 8:44, Revelation 12:9).
2. The Breastplate of Righteousness (Ephesians 6:14)
  - This must refer to Christ’s righteousness, Mine would never make it.
  - Christ became sin so we could become righteousness. See 2 Corinthians 5:21.
  - We are covered with a righteousness not our own.
  - We use Christ's righteousness to combat Satan the accuser (Revelation 12:10).
3. Your Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace (15)
  - “Satan is walking about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour”(1 Peter 5:8). Satan wants me to make decisions in life based on fear (the lions roar) but God says don’t run on the basis of fear. Stand in my peace.

The first three items of the armor; the belt, the breastplate, and the gospel of peace, you have. “Stand therefore, having... (14)

The next four you are to take up in order to use: (“Above all taking”)

4. The Shield of Faith (16)
  - Faith is simply believing what God has already said to be true (Mark 4:35-41)
  - The shield of Faith is used to quench the fiery darts of Satan. These are his lies or partial lies.
  - Faith may require me to believe contrary to circumstances (it is natural to run from a lion).
  - Faith requires a warrant. A warrant is a legal document on which an action is based. As Christians, our authority comes from the Word of God (Our “warrant”).
  - Satan’s first temptation was to question God, “Yea, hath God said?” Genesis 3:1
  - “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17
  - Hebrews 11, the Hall of Faith, lists those who based their actions on what God said.
5. The Helmet of Salvation (17)
  - Salvation is sometimes translated deliverance. It means the same thing. In this verse it is best understood as deliverance from the enemy’s attacks. This is not saying “eternal security”.

- 1 Thessalonians 5: 8 “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”
- In the Greek, salvation here literally means deliverance, rescue or defender.

#### 6. The Sword of the Spirit (17)

- This is not the sword of the Christian, but the Sword of the Spirit. It is the Word (*rhema*) of God.
- *Rhema* and *logos* are the two Greek words that are translated “word.” *Rhema* refers to the content or the truth of the words. Thus, Christ in the wilderness quoted the *rhema* (applied truth) of Scripture, not a word perfect quotation.
- Its not my words that make Satan flee, it’s the word empowered by the Spirit of God.

#### 7. Prayer in the Spirit

- The second offensive weapon is Prayer.
- Praying in the Spirit is having Spirit-led prayer. Is God laying on your heart to pray for somebody or something?
- Prayer targets are specific people whom we pray for when we are tempted by a specific temptation. One Christian man would pray for Senator Kennedy every time he was tempted to lust.