

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual Warfare: Syllabus

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CLASS #1:

- I. Course Introduction.
- II. The Demands of War:
 - A. A War Brings Many Demands.
 - B. Demand for Unity.
 - C. Demand for Obedience.

CLASS #2:

- II. The Demands of War:
 - D. Demand for Suffering and Sacrifice.
 - E. Demand for Courage and Commitment.
 - F. Demand for Knowledge of the Enemy.
- III. The Weapons and Armor of a Soldier:
 - A. The Essentials of Preparing for Spiritual Battle.

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- III. The Weapons and Armor of a Soldier:
 - B. The Defensive Weapons of Spiritual Warfare.

CLASS #4:

- III. The Weapons and Armor of a Soldier:
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CLASS #5:

- IV. Missionary Experiences with Spiritual Warfare.
Exam.

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Spiritual Warfare: Exam

Possible 20 Point Questions

- 1) Discuss the demand for unity in spiritual warfare (pp. 286,287).
- 2) What is the greatest defense of all in spiritual warfare? Explain the meaning of that defense (p. 297).
- 3) Use Mt 4:4-10 to show how the use of the Word of God makes the Christian soldier stronger and stronger (p. 301).

Possible 10 Point Questions

- 1) Is Satan on the offensive or defensive? Refer to one Scripture in your answer (p. 288).
- 2) What is the main offensive weapon and defensive weapon of a Christian soldier (pp. 291, 292)?
- 3) What are the four major activities that build a dynamic Christian life? Refer to one Scripture (p. 293).
- 4) Explain the importance of purity for a Christian soldier by using Mt 5:8 (p. 296).
- 5) Define the word “struggle” in Eph 6:12 (p. 298).
- 6) Use one Scripture to show the connection between the deliverance ministry and the Holy Spirit (p. 303).

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I. Course Introduction.

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A. Spiritual Warfare and Missions.

1. What the devil hates more than anything is the spread of the gospel. The spread of the gospel is the thing that both converts men (whom he hates), and wins back the kingdom to God (whom he hates even more).
2. Thus, spiritual warfare and missions naturally go together. Missionaries who are not prepared for spiritual warfare put themselves in great danger. Missionaries who are prepared for spiritual warfare can be used for great victories.

Author's Illustration

The following is a letter from a missionary who worked in the jungles of New Guinea. He wrote these words to friends at home:

Man, it is great to be in the thick of the fight, to draw the old devil's heaviest guns, to have him at you with depression and discouragement, slander, disease. He does not waste time on a lukewarm bunch. He hits good and hard when a fellow is hitting him. You can always measure the weight of your blow by the one you get back. When you are on your back with fever and at your last ounce of strength, when some of your converts backslide, when you learn that your most promising inquirers are only fooling, when your mail gets held up, and some do not bother to answer your letters, is that the time to put on mourning? No, sir. That is the time to pull out the stops and shout Hallelujah! The old fellow's getting it in the neck and getting it back. Heaven is leaning over the battlements and watching. Will he stick with it? And as they see who is with us, as they see the unlimited reserves, the boundless resources, as they see the impossibility of failure, how disgusted and sad they must be when we run away. Glory to God! We are not going to run away.

Insert Your Illustration:

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B. The Contents of This Course.

Author's Comment:

We are in a spiritual war. We will try, in this course, to prepare ourselves for that war. We will try to learn how to be better soldiers for Christ, our Commander.

1. The course will be divided into three sections:
 - a. The demands of war.
 - b. The weapons and armor of a soldier.
 - c. Real experiences of missionaries.
2. Throughout the course, it should be kept in mind that engaging in spiritual warfare is an essential activity for all Christians, but especially for missionaries. Indeed, it is an essential activity for anyone who is willing to enter enemy territory by spreading the gospel.
 - a. At the end of the course we will refer to certain experiences of missionaries to promote class discussion concerning certain aspects of spiritual warfare.
 - b. Often, missionaries experience more spiritual warfare than others for two main reasons:
 - 1) They are on the front lines of battle and get attacked more often.
 - 2) On many mission fields (in more remote and primitive settings), the forces of Satan are much more obvious. Witchcraft and pagan worship make the war much more visible than is recognized in Western Countries.

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II. The Demands of War.

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A. War Brings Many Demands.

1. The reality of the war.
 - a. Although our “comfortable” type of Christianity may not recognize it, there is a spiritual war taking place. This war is real and constant. It is foreign to the comfortable, easy Christian lives that so many often live. It is consistent with, as Paul said, “Suffering hardship as a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Tim 2:3).
 - b. To some extent, it is possible for a Christian to avoid this war. If he does not bother the enemy, then he may (for a time) be able to live as though the war is not going on. However, the enemy will eventually overcome him because he is not prepared.
 - 1) As a Christian soldier, each believer needs to make a conscious decision to participate in the spiritual war. Our motive must be to please our Commander.
 - 2) Listen to the words of Paul (2 Tim 2:4):

“No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted Him as a soldier.”
2. This section assumes our acceptance of the reality of spiritual war and lists some of the basic demands that this reality places upon every Christian.

Discussion Point

Discuss what would happen if you lived in a region where there was a physical war taking place, but you attempted to ignore it and live as though it did not exist. What happens when Christians do the same thing regarding spiritual war?

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B. The Demand For Unity.

1. The surest way for an army to lose a battle is for it to be divided against itself. As Jesus said, “If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand” (Mk 3:25).
 - a. In unity there is strength (see Eccl 4:9-12).
 - b. An effective strategy in war is to divide the enemy.
 - 1) Satan uses this strategy often against his enemy, the Church.
 - 2) Unfortunately, the Church often does not prevent this.
2. It is during wars that we have seen the unity among those who could not be unified in any other way.

Author’s Illustration:

The United States and the Soviet Union were allies during World War I and World War II. Enemies, that could not be unified in any other way, found unity in the midst of a war.

Insert Your Illustration:

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- a. Conflict among Christians is to some extent, the result of a lack of recognition of the spiritual war that exists between Satan and the Church.
- b. Often we find that where the war is more obvious, Christians find it much easier to be unified.

Author's Comment:

This principle of unity is one of the first things that I noticed as a missionary. There was much more unity among the different types of Christians. They had no choice. The war was very near. Christians saw how much they needed each other.

This same principle can be seen in the midst of areas of persecution. Persecuted Christians tend not to have a problem with unity.

- c. We might say that in a war there is a demand for unity, and that unity demands that there be a clear recognition of the war.

Discussion Point

Who is your enemy? Do you see other growing churches or Christian churches with different doctrinal beliefs as your enemy? What would happen if we put away our differences and united to stand against Satan's efforts?

C. The Demand For Obedience.

1. Closely related to the demand for unity is the demand for obedience. A leader of an army cannot be successful unless his soldiers follow orders.
2. Satan understands this principle. He understands that he cannot be successful when Christ's soldiers are obeying him.
3. The victory depends on our cooperation with the Spirit's leading. It does not depend on Satan failing. It depends on the church listening to the victorious one (Jesus Christ). Satan's hands are tied. If we obey, there is nothing that he can do to stop us.

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4. Thus, as Christians we are on the offensive. Satan is on the defensive.
 - a. Note that in Mt 16:18 Jesus refers to the GATES of Hell. Gates are a defensive structure. His only strategy is to try to cause us to defeat ourselves.
 - b. Satan tries to cause us to defeat ourselves by:
 - 1) Making us unaware of the reality of the war around us (by offering us comfortable physical and spiritual lives).
 - 2) Promoting disunity within the army of God.
 - 3) Promoting disobedience to the General of the army.

Discussion Point

What happens to soldiers who refuse to obey their commander's order to advance against the enemy in a military battle? Relate this concept to Christian life and discuss.

D. The Demand For Suffering and Sacrifice.

1. Why must a soldier suffer? Because he is in **ACTIVE SERVICE** (see 2 Tim 2:3, 4).

Author's Comment:

War is not pleasant. Soldiers do not eat off expensive plates. They do not sleep in air-conditioned rooms that have room service and television sets.

- a. "War is hell" as one famous general put it. For the Christian, war is the struggle against hell.
- b. War does not result in a comfortable life (see Lk 6:24-26). It results in suffering and sacrifice (see 2 Tim 3:12). This is Paul's point that he wanted to make in 2 Tim 2:3, 4.

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2. What are the implications of these ideas regarding the way we live? How does a country at war spend its money? Does it spend it on pleasures? Or only on that which is essential for the war effort?

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Author's Comment:

It would not be uncommon to hear a citizen of a country that is at war say, "We must sacrifice now because we are at war." How much more should we as Christians be saying and living these words.

3. Someone once said that faith that costs nothing is worth nothing.
- a. The gospel is free. We cannot earn an entrance to heaven. However, it is costly because we try to keep what is not our own. We try to hold onto our lives and desires, instead of laying them down on behalf of the war effort. Soldiers must suffer. It is the nature of war.
 - b. Paul argued that his position as a soldier was valid because of that which he suffered (see 1 Cor 4:9-13 and 2 Cor 11:23-28).
 - 1) Note how Paul encouraged the Corinthian soldiers (just as he encouraged Timothy in 2 Tim 2:3, 4) to imitate him (1 Cor 4:16).
 - 2) We must ask ourselves, "Are we imitating Paul who imitated Christ Jesus?" "Are we living the lives of soldiers who are at war or are we living the lives of civilians who do not participate?" Remember, only the soldiers received medals. Civilians only applaud the soldiers!

Discussion Point

Discuss the principle of sacrifice and suffering during a war effort as it relates to our daily lifestyle and stewardship.

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E. The Demand For Courage and Commitment.

1. A soldier is committed to his general and to the other soldiers. If he is not committed, then he will become distracted.
 - a. Thus, Paul told Timothy not to “Entangle himself in the affairs of everyday life” (2 Tim 2:4).
 - b. A Christian soldier must keep his eyes focused on his General (Heb 12:2). We might note that in the context of Heb 12:2 we again have the exhortation to “Lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which easily entangles us” (12:1).
 - 1) Although the world says that it is fanatical, the Christian soldier must be one minded.
 - 2) He must be undistracted in his communication with the General (see Prov 3:5, 6).
2. A soldier is courageous. He cannot run when the enemy begins to advance. His armor (see Eph 6:13-18) does not include protection for his back. There is no provision for retreat because retreat is not acceptable.
 - a. Indeed if Rom 8:37, Rom 8:31, Phil 4:13, 1 Jn 5:4, and Jms 4:7 are all true, then there is no reason to retreat.
 - b. The Christian soldier is only worthy if he does not look back (Lk 9:62).

Discussion Point

Discuss the relationship between courage and trust in the Lord.
How do we develop and increase our courage?

Author's Comment:

There is also a Demand For Knowledge of our Enemy. The MoTMoT course titled, **Angels and Demons**, presents the importance of not being ignorant of the enemy. Ignorance leads to destruction. We must know our enemy and his ways so that we will be prepared to do battle with him.

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III. The Weapons and Armor of a Soldier.

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Author's Comment:

We are called to fight in the war (2 Cor 10:3-5). To be a Christian is to be a soldier. Especially for those who live in the midst of Westernized Christianity, this is sometimes difficult to understand.

We should take note of some of the words used by Paul in 2 Cor 10:3-5. He uses words like **WAR, WEAPONS, WARFARE, DESTRUCTION, DESTROYING, and TAKING CAPTIVE.**

This does not sound like a time of peace. It is wartime!

A. The Essentials of Preparing for Spiritual Battle.

1. We cannot begin to discuss spiritual warfare until we recognize and accept the biblical fact that we are at war. The enemy is real and he is attacking. Yes, it is wartime, and we are called to be soldiers in that war.
2. When a soldier gets ready for battle he puts on armor.
3. When a soldier goes to battle he takes his weapons.
4. While in battle the Christian soldier realizes that he represents the dominant and victorious army.
5. The Christian soldier must understand that his battle is both offensive and defensive.
 - a. Offensive.
 - 1) According to the New Testament, Christians have the ability to cast out demons (see Mk 16:17).
 - 2) The main offensive weapon is the word of command in the name of Jesus.

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b. Defensive.

- 1) Christians also have the probability of being attacked by the devil (see 1 Pt 5:8, 9).
- 2) The main defensive weapon is a sincere and dynamic Christian life.

Author's Comment:

The following sections present our defensive and offensive weapons of spiritual warfare.

Our main defensive weapon: A dynamic Christian life.

- Christian life as found in Acts 2:42.
- Righteousness and purity.
- Death to self.

The main offensive weapons:

- The Word of God.
- The authority of the believer.
- The name of Jesus Christ.

B. The Defensive Weapons of Spiritual Warfare.

1. A Dynamic Christian Life (according to Acts 2:42).

Author's Illustration:

A good athletic coach knows that a good offense depends on a good defense. The Christian's best defense is his own Christian life.

Insert Your Illustration:

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- a. According to Acts 2:42, there are four important activities in building a dynamic Christian life.
 - 1) Good teaching and Bible study.
 - 2) Fellowship.
 - 3) The breaking of bread.
 - 4) Prayer.
- b. Good teaching and Bible study.
 - 1) In time of war, ignorance is not excused. In a time of war, ignorance is suicide. The enemy will not honor the excuse, “I did not know”.
 - 2) Correct doctrine is like the foundation stone of the wall of a fort.
 - 3) Bible teaching, Bible study, and Bible learning are essential activities of the Christian soldier. Without them he will not be prepared to defend himself.
- c. Fellowship.
 - 1) There is strength in numbers (see Eccl 4:12). There is strength in unity. There is weakness in isolation and separation.
 - a) A soldier who is separated from his army unit during a battle is a soldier who is in much danger.
 - b) The same is true for Christian soldiers. Satan’s easiest targets are Christians who are not in fellowship with others.
 - c) Thus, in 1 Cor 5:5 we read in the context of withdrawing fellowship from someone that it is like “Delivering him over to Satan.”
 - 2) One of the Christian soldier’s greatest defenses is unity with other Christian soldiers. Do not try to fight the war alone. Remember, the Church is called the Army of God, not the soldier of God.

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- d. The breaking of bread.
 - 1) The sacraments.
 - a) The Lord's Supper and baptism certainly strengthen the defense of any Christian soldier.
 - b) The sacraments provide a way in which the soldier can identify with the General. He can demonstrate his allegiance to that General. When he does this he strengthens his commitment, and therefore, his own defense.
 - 2) The meaning of Eucharist.
 - a) Eucharist—the Lord's supper—refers to the giving of thanks. It points to the activities of praise and worship.
 - b) Praise and worship are an important part of the Christian's defense. The devil and his demons cannot bear to hear and remain in the midst of the worship of God.
 - (1) Consider the possible implications of Ex 17:8-13 with respect to this point.
 - (2) Also consider the implications of the Old Testament practice of sending Judah (praise) first (see Num 2:3, 9).
- e. Prayer.
 - 1) A Christian soldier who does not pray is like a soldier who cuts off his own supply lines. It is like a self-imposed blockade.
 - 2) Scriptural prayers are especially effective in spiritual warfare.
 - a) This is where the Christian soldier prays the Word of God to God, or actually fends off the evil one, or temptation.
 - b) Use the Bible to claim promises, protection and strength.
 - 3) The prayers and words of Scripture are far more powerful and well-founded than our own words. In the wilderness temptations, we see Jesus using the Word of God as a sword of defense (Matt 3).

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Author's Illustration:

In the midst of a demonic attack the Christian soldier could use Eph 1:18-21 and 1 Jn 4:4 to form a prayer:

Dear God who is above all gods, greater are you who is in me than he who is in the world. You are stronger. The enemy is defeated. Reveal to me the surpassing greatness of your power that is in me. I declare that the power in me is the same power that is far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. On the basis of the victory of Jesus I receive your protection and victory over any demonic forces. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Insert Your Illustration:

2. Righteousness and purity.

a. Who you are and how you live.

- 1) The strategy for spiritual warfare is more profound than simply following a set of step-by-step instructions..
- 2) Success in spiritual warfare depends on the person doing battle and how that person is living his life of readiness!

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- 3) Study Acts 19:15.
 - a) As the seven sons of Sceva found out, simply using the name of Jesus does not qualify someone to exorcise a demon.
 - b) The right words without a righteous person saying them are useless. It is not based on magic. It is based on relationship with Jesus. If that relationship does not exist, then the words will not be effective.
 - c) We might conclude from this passage that the ability to do exorcism depends on the quality of the life of the exorcist (we might say righteousness and purity). We must know Jesus and be in vital connection to Him for Him to so use our lives in this way.
- b. Righteousness (see Eph 6:14).
 - 1) Righteousness is like a breastplate. It is a heavy piece of armor that is used for our defense against the enemy. It protects us.
 - 2) A righteous life allows a Christian to enter enemy territory in confidence. He is right before God, and can therefore receive from God that which is needed for victory.
 - 3) On the other hand, undisciplined Christians are not effective soldiers. Those who have more of a hunger and thirst for sinful pleasures than for righteousness leave themselves unprotected, and may even be in danger of being overwhelmed by the enemy (also consider the implications of 1 Cor 9:27).
- c. Purity (see Mt 5:8).
 - 1) An important part of the Christian's defense is his ability to discern good and evil, the devil and God.
 - 2) Purity enables the Christian to see God and, therefore, discern between good and evil. Discernment is essential in spiritual warfare especially since we are fighting an enemy who is a master of disguise and deception.
 - 3) We also must consider purity of motives in spiritual warfare.

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Discussion Point

Are we seeking to participate in spiritual warfare because it is exciting? Do we desire the feeling of power more than the glory of Jesus? Do we want to be seen by others as great men of God who have power over demons, or do we want others to be set free and to see the power of Christ? What are our motives?

Study 1 Cor 9:27, then answer each of these questions while reflecting on this verse.
We must avoid pride in spiritual warfare. The glory can only go to God.

3. The greatest defense of all is death to self.
 - a. The person who has died cannot be killed.
 - 1) The Christian who has died to himself and given everything to Christ is well protected against the enemy.
 - a) Satan is frustrated with completely dedicated, committed, and selfless Christians.
 - b) Satan's greatest weapon against you is yourself. He uses your selfishness as a trap. When a Christian leads a selfless life he takes away the greatest weapon of his enemy.
 - 2) Read Heb 2:14, 15.
 - a) Satan is powerless when he cannot take advantage of the power of death.
 - b) Christians who have died to themselves do not fear death because they have already died. Thus, Satan is severely handicapped in his fight.
 - 3) It is difficult to threaten someone when the ultimate threat that you could make (killing him) is no threat at all (see Phil 1:21).
 - b. An "abandoned life" not only disarms the devil, but it gives us access to the **SECRET WEAPON** that was used by Jesus Himself: **SELFLESSNESS**.

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4. We can make some summary observations regarding our defensive weapons by studying Eph 6:10-18.
 - a. This passage serves as a summary of all that we have previously said. It summarizes the defense of a Christian by referring symbolically to the armor of a Christian.
 - b. We should observe the emphasis that Paul puts on the FULL armor of God (vs. 11, 13).
 - 1) It is important to put on all the armor.
 - 2) It is an active process. The armor must be PUT ON (v.11) and TAKEN UP (v.13).
 - c. We should note the emphasis on the connection between the armor and THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE (vs. 11, 13). Defense results in the ability to be a successful soldier.
 - d. We should note the repetition of the exhortation to STAND FIRM against the devil (vs. 11, 13, 14). This is the idea of defense. It is not to retreat. It is to resist and be unmoved by the advances of the enemy. Christians should be confident in their defense. They should not even be ALARMED (Phil 1:27, 28).
 - e. The word for “struggle” in v.12 is from a Greek word that is found in no other place in the New Testament. It is a word that refers to a hand to hand type of combat (wrestling).

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Author's Illustration:

Modern day warfare (which uses sophisticated technology) is a long distance warfare. Some soldiers never see those whom they are killing. They simply press a computerized button that sends a missile to destroy their enemy. This type of "easy" warfare may lead to a misunderstanding of spiritual warfare.

However, spiritual warfare is not like modern day technological warfare. Spiritual warfare is more like hand-to-hand combat. It is hard work. It is very real and up close. Modern day warfare diminishes the perception of the reality of spiritual warfare.

Unfortunately, some Christian soldiers try to fight the spiritual war as if they were fighting a modern day war. They want to be comfortable during the war. They do not want to sweat. They do not like the idea of confronting the enemy face-to-face or hand-to-hand. They want the war to remain far away as they push the buttons from time-to-time.

However, the Christian soldier must be willing to fight a daily battle and a close proximity battle. It is a real war.

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Insert Your Illustration:

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f. We might observe that the instruction to pray in v.18 is directly linked to putting on the armor. It seems to be that Paul is saying that the armor is put on through prayer.

1) How do you put on the helmet of salvation? How do you take up the shield of faith?

2) A large part of the answer seems to be: WITH ALL PRAYER.

C. The Offensive Weapons of Spiritual Warfare.

1. The Word of God.

a. Satan is a liar (Jn 8:44) who tries to accuse Christians (Rev 12:10).

1) The Christian soldier must replace the lies of the accuser with the truth that he is now acquitted (Rom 8:1).

2) The truth of God must be used as an offensive weapon against Satan.

b. We might say that the Christian soldier builds his arsenal with the Word of God, and fires his weapons by proclaiming that Word in faith.

c. The following is a progression of biblical truth that a Christian soldier can stand upon to attack the enemy:

1) The victory of Jesus gives believers a strong foundation to stand on and makes our victory sure (Mt 4:1-11; Rom 5:12-19).

2) Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil (1 Jn 3:8; Col 2:15; Heb 2:14,15).

3) Victory is attributed and given to believers (Eph 1:19-23; 2:4-6; Heb 1:13; 1 Pt 3:22).

4) Believers are legally set free from Satan's power through salvation (Acts 26:18; Lk 10:17; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:1-3; Col 1:13).

5) This freedom continues by submitting to God (Jms 4:7; 1 Pt 5:8), by not giving Satan an opportunity (Eph 4:27), and by putting on the armor of a soldier (Eph 6:10-18).

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- d. The Word of God is alive and powerful.
- 1) When the Word of God is proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit, it forces the enemy to be revealed and exposes Satan's influence (see Eph 5:6-14).
 - a) Thus, the Word must live inside of the Christian soldier.
 - b) It must be memorized, studied, and meditated upon. This is essential to success in spiritual warfare. We should note that it was the memorized Word of God that Jesus used as His weapon against Satan in the wilderness (see Mt 4:4, 7, 10).
 - 2) Each time that the Christian soldier uses the Word of God as his weapon, he strengthens himself and his position.
 - 3) Note the progression that Jesus Himself makes in terms of placing himself in a stronger position relative to Satan.
 - a) First, (Mt 4:4) Jesus simply proclaimed the Word of God: IT IS WRITTEN....
 - b) Second, (Mt 4:7) Jesus contradicted Satan and proclaimed the Word of God: ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS WRITTEN....
 - c) Third, (Mt 4:10) Jesus attacked Satan and proclaimed the Word of God: BE GONE, SATAN! FOR IT IS WRITTEN....
 - (1) Jesus moved from proclaiming, to contradicting and proclaiming, to attacking and proclaiming.
 - (2) Each proclamation of the Word of God strengthens the position of Jesus in the battle.
 - (3) Each victory makes us stronger for the next battle.

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2. The authority of the believer.
 - a. As we saw above, the more attacks that came from Satan, the more authority was exerted by Jesus. Finally, Jesus used the word of command with authority when he said, BE GONE, SATAN!
 - 1) Through Jesus, the Christian soldier has access to this very same word of command with authority.
 - 2) Believers today should be involved in the ministry of deliverance (casting out demons).
 - 3) The following three points can be used to show that the deliverance ministry is valid today:
 - a) The example of Jesus. It can be shown that over 1/4 of His ministry involved deliverance.
 - b) Believers are commanded and commissioned by Jesus to minister deliverance (see Mt 10:1, 8; Lk 10:17-20; Mk 16:17).
 - c) The example of the disciples of Jesus. His disciples did engage in this ministry (see Acts 8:6, 7; 16:16-18).
 - 4) Finally consider the obvious implications of Jn 14:12 regarding to the validity of the modern day deliverance ministry.
 - b. Read Mt 17:14-21.
 - 1) Without faith it is impossible to realize your authority.
 - 2) Faith and authority necessarily exist together.
 - c. Because we have authority we must be on the attack (offensive soldiers).
 - 1) Satan can try to disturb us.
 - 2) He can also try to make us comfortable enough that we will not disturb him.
 - 3) We must believe God for our authority and proceed with the job of attacking the strongholds of darkness.

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Author's Comment:

Christians can experience anxiety when they try to do God's assignments for Him. However, we are being lazy if we expect God to do our assignment for us.

It is a Christian soldier's assignment to attack the enemy. We must use the authority that God has given us.

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- d. The deliverance ministry and the Holy Spirit (see Acts 4:31).
 - 1) Being filled with the Spirit is directly connected to the authority of the believer.
 - 2) The more we are filled with the Spirit, the more authority we will realize in our ministries.
3. The name of Jesus (see Col 3:17).
 - a. The use of the name of Jesus is not based on magic. It is only authoritative if it is spoken by a true representative (see Acts 19:13-16).
 - 1) An embassy does not listen to an impostor.
 - 2) It does obey a true ambassador as it would obey the person (country) whom the ambassador is representing.
 - b. To pray in the name of Jesus is a God given legal right for the believer (see Jn 14:13; 16:24).
 - c. To pray in the name of Jesus is to present all that Jesus is. Certainly, we MUST present all that Jesus is when we come against evil. Thus, the name of Jesus is not an incantation. It represents a Person.

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D. Concluding Thoughts about Spiritual Weapons.

1. A Christian soldier's armor and weapons are not his own. They are God's!
 - a. When he puts on righteousness, it is God's righteousness.
 - b. When he uses the Word, it is God's word.
2. At the same time, it is he who is the soldier. He must go out and fight. When a command is given, he is expected to be obedient, faithful, and loyal.
3. The Christian soldier lives by faith. It is the shield of faith he carries with him into battle.
 - a. Roman soldiers carried shields that covered them from head to foot. However, it did not cover their backs. There can be no deserters! Faith does not turn back.
 - b. Faith looks ahead (see Heb 11:1).
4. Jesus is the key to having a successful spiritual military career.
 - a. It has been said that the best way to keep the devil out of your life is to keep Jesus in your life.
 - b. The two do not mix. You cannot serve two masters. The one you submit to will be your master.

IV. Missionary Experiences with Spiritual Warfare.

Author's Comment:

We conclude the course by relating some true stories and experiences of missionaries as they were involved in spiritual warfare. Several principles are given with the personal accounts as a help for Christian soldiers who are involved in spiritual warfare.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. Spiritual Warfare Accounts and Principles.

1. One missionary tells that it seems to be easier to have faith for the “bigger” battles than it is to have faith for the “littler” battles.
 - a. This common problem points to the need for steadfastness and consistency in spiritual warfare. It is one thing to be motivated to fight in the big battles that occur occasionally. It is another thing to be motivated to fight in the little skirmishes that occur daily.
 - b. The reason for this problem is that the bigger battles often highlight our helplessness. We have no choice but to depend on God. We have no choice but to walk by faith. The littler battles often appear to be won through our own abilities. We begin to depend on ourselves. Our faith is blocked.

Author's Illustration:

There once was a man who went over Niagara Falls (the largest water falls in North America) in a barrel. He did not even receive a scratch. A short time after that incredible event, he was walking down the street and slipped on an orange peel. He was rushed to the hospital with a broken leg.

Insert Your Illustration:

- c. Sometimes Christian soldiers are defeated in minor skirmishes when they are victorious in major battles.
- d. We must be consistent and steadfast in our warfare. We must realize that we are helpless without God even in the midst of the little fights.

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2. Another missionary told a story about a time when he had prayed for months for a person to be delivered from a “spirit of lust”. He spent much time screaming at the demon and rebuking it. One night the Spirit began to show him that Satan was not the source of the problem. The source of the problem was the person’s own flesh. There was no demon to rebuke in that case. There was the need to put the flesh to death.
 - a. He spoke to the man whom he was ministering to about his conclusion. The man fully agreed that it was not a demon, but that it was his own flesh. When the missionary asked him why he did not say something earlier, the man replied: “Because I was hoping that you could cast out the flesh!”
 - b. Here we must consider the importance of the discerning of spirits in spiritual warfare. You can not crucify demons and you cannot cast out the flesh.

Author’s Illustration:

The following fictional story adds to the missionary’s story:

Satan came to God and complained that he was bored. He said that he had no work to do and that he wanted God to give him something to do. God could not understand. He told Satan that he already had his job which was to lead people into sin. God told him that he would just have to try harder. Satan replied that it was not that easy. He ended his complaint by reporting to God that before he even gets a chance to say a word to anyone, that person has already sinned! He said that he felt useless.

Sometimes we give too much credit to Satan. Often, it is our own flesh that we must do battle with.

Insert Your Illustration:

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C. Practical Principles.

1. The reality of angels.
 - a. One missionary told the story of the time that he was in the middle of Africa during the beginnings of a revolution. There were sounds of machine guns all around him. People were being killed. He asked God to show him something that would be a sign of His protection. That night he woke up and saw two angels sitting on his table. God spoke to him that they were there to protect him.
 - b. Another missionary told the story of how soldiers with machetes came to kill him during the leadership of Idi Amin in Uganda. They entered his house and forced him into a corner. One of the soldiers lifted up his machete to strike the missionary over the head. At that moment, the missionary saw an angel turn the arm of the soldier, which made the blunt side of the machete strike his head. He was knocked out but not killed. The soldiers fled from the house because they thought he was dead. God used an angel to save him.
2. The names of demons.
 - a. A missionary was speaking in a church when a man stood to his feet and began to swing his arms violently. The missionary began to pray. Suddenly he received a word from the Spirit telling him that it was a spirit of violence. He immediately rebuked the spirit of violence and the man froze. One second later the man began to smile. He hugged the missionary and thanked him for “getting that thing out of me”.
3. Using Scripture.
 - a. One missionary told about an all night battle to cast out a demon. Finally Christians gathered around the afflicted person and began to worship God with Scripture songs. The missionary began to read Scriptures about the blood of Jesus and His victory over the devil. The demon screamed and came out.
 - b. Of course there are many other true stories that could be told here. The purpose of this section was to simply tell certain stories that would lead to certain types of class discussion.

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