

Week 4

The Weapons of the Warrior

**Day 22: Battle Plan***Monday, October 21st*

“The enemy always fights the hardest when he knows God has something great in store for you.”

Dr. Tony Evans, 2007, Spiritual Warfare Sermon Series

**Today's Challenge: Single Meal Fast**

The day had begun before the sun had peeked over the horizon. A UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter lifted off from Balad Air Base and headed South toward Baghdad. The Commander and First Sergeant sat side by side reviewing the briefing that they would be required to give during the Battle Update Briefing (BUB) to the Commander of the 52nd Military Police Brigade.

Suddenly their attention was pulled away from the briefing information as the bird abruptly canted the East. The First Sergeant looked toward the instrument panel of the aircraft to see the arrow of RPM Tachometer pushing into the red zone. The bird was traveling across the Earth and maximum speed headed somewhere. “Where are we going?”, the First Sergeant thought.

The bird made a series of tight turns over a tiny village in the middle of nowhere before it dropped in elevation rapidly. They flew in a swaggering fashion, zipping back and forth until the bird came to rest in a Pick Up Zone (PZ) on the South side of the town. The Commander and First Sergeant looked toward the town and wondered why they were on the ground in a potentially hostile village. The Crew of the aircraft frantically looked around through the canopy's that surrounded the aircraft. The Commander and First Sergeant looked at each other and then joined the crew in looking outward; not knowing what they were looking for. The sand, debris, and trash that were blown up from the aircrafts rotor wash made it difficult to see.

The First Sergeant could see that the small open area was surrounded by single-story, rock structures and a fence to the North of the PZ. There appeared to be only two or three people standing

around the area and he could tell that they were not armed. That is to say they were not armed with rifles anyway. He could see nothing but buildings on the Commander's side of the bird. He looked back toward the North and could see the silhouettes of additional townspeople approaching the PZ. As the rotor wash blew away most of the loose debris around the open area, they could start to make out additional Iraqis standing around the town.

Without warning, the pilot lifted the bird from the deck and shifted it directly South. The aircraft sharply turned back toward the North in a long roundabout pattern around the North side of the town. The centrifugal force of the choppers pattern mashed the two Military Policemen tight into the nylon seats of the powerful helicopter. The First Sergeant grabbed the blacked, nylon webbed seat belts and pulled himself up in the seat enough to look out the left side of the aircraft to see some kind of disturbance within the town. The Crew Chief on his side of the helicopter leaned into his M240 machine gun and gripped the "D" Shaped handles. Whatever they were there for, it was now quite obvious to the Commander and First Sergeant, that it was not good.

The aircraft traveled along a different route than they had approached the town initially, but once again neared the Southside of the town. The Crew Chiefs' quickly but calmly released the locks on both of the cargo doors and the doors flew open toward the rear of the chopper, coming to a locked position with a thud. The First Sergeant was thrown forward as the helicopter rapidly decelerated and plummeted toward the Earth.

When they were on the ground again, he could see that they were in the same spot as before. The surroundings of the Pick Up Zone had significantly changed, however. Now there was a rather large crowd of between 100 and 150 people around the PZ, just on the other side of the fence on the North side. The Crew Chief's attention turned toward the crowd as they began to slowly moved toward the bird. The First Sergeant turned the buckle on his seat belt and the three pronged belt retracted and fell away from his torso. He slid out into the floor of the bird onto one knee. He withdrew a 30 round magazine from an ammo pouch and placed it into the magazine well of his M4 rifle, tapping it on the bottom to make sure it seated into place. He pulled the weapons charging handle to the rear and the bolt slammed home, seating a 5.56 millimeter round into the chamber of the weapon. He drew the weapon into his shoulder looking out over the top of the sights and pointing it toward the advancing crowd.

He looked to his right and saw the Crew Chief poised behind his machine gun with the gun oriented toward the crowd as well. He looked back toward the crowd and then back to the Crew Chief. He reached out midway up the gun and rotated the sight of the weapon upward. When he executed this action the crowd stopped and began to disperse. The First Sergeant grinned and and curled his lips under watching the Iraqi's back away. He nodded to the Crew Chief. The Crew Chief quickly pointed to the First Sergeant to return to his seat. No sooner than the First Sergeant got buckled in, the chopper

lifted off the deck. This time the bird was headed away from the town. He wondered if they were going to circle back around but they did not. They resumed their course toward Baghdad.

Later after they had touched down at Virginia Pad on Camp Victory, the First Sergeant saw the Crew Chiefs walk through the terminal. He caught up to the two young Sergeants and bought them each a cola. "So, why did we put down in that village?" he asked still confused by their diversion. "There were some Special Forces (US Army Green Berets) guys in that village that had been discovered. We were there to pull them out." one of the Crew chiefs concluded. The First Sergeant nodded and the young NCOs disappeared out of the terminal area.

The First Sergeant looked at the wall of the terminal that showed large pictures the unit patches of all of the major units that were in Iraq. He looked to a blue arrowhead shaped patch with a yellow sword with three yellow lightning bolts through it. It had a blue colored tab above the patch with the word "Airborne" in yellow letters. This was the patch that US Army Special Forces Soldiers wore. He wondered if the Green Berets in the village, that they had been sent to pick up, made it out or not. He knew that most likely he would never know. De Oppresso Liber ("To free the Oppressed" - Motto of the US Army Special Forces)...

"So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world." _ 1 Peter 1:6-7



Daily Reading

In spiritual warfare, just as with worldly warfare, there are many unknowns. The First Sergeant and his unit faced many unknowns in combat in Iraq. The First Sergeant did indeed never find out whether or not the Special Forces Team made it out of the village or not. There will be times that we will never see or know the outcome of actions that we take to advance God's Kingdom in this fallen world. Today we will focus on the importance of having a Battle Plan to fight the spiritual battles that we face daily.

Military planners today use a myriad of processes, systems, data feeds, sources for intelligence and information, tools, and techniques to anticipate, forecast, plan, and prepare for battle. The US

Army conducts a formalized drill called the Military Decision Making Process (or MDMP) when making its war plans. Planning of the great battles throughout Biblical History can be seen in brief in the scriptures that talk about those battles. In the 2015 Christian Drama, “War Room”, written and Directed by Alex and Stephen Kendrick; we are introduced to Miss Clara (played by Karen Abercrombie). In one of the most popular scenes of the film, Miss Clara shows Elizabeth Jordan (played by Priscilla Shirer) her War Room. It is a simple closet within the elderly woman’s house, but as Elizabeth finds out, this small, seemingly insignificant room, produces miraculous results. During the dialogue between the two women, Miss Clara tells Elizabeth about writing a “Prayer Strategy” for every aspect of her life. The wise, old Saint, takes Elizabeth under her wing, and without giving away any spoilers for those who have not viewed the film, let’s just say Elizabeth’s life is miraculously changed after she learns how to “fight”.

Just as Miss Clara did in the film, I believe that it is important in our paradigm shifting from a defensive to an offensive mindset, to have a Prayer Strategy or “Battle Plan”. In every worldly battle, in every wordly war, a different strategy and tactics may be needed to be employed to win that fight. With this being said, for me to present a “one size fits all” template for a Spiritual Battle Plan would not be practical, or even Spirit led. This subject could encompass an entire sermon series within itself, so I will keep it brief. I would like to offer a bit of input to everyone before you sit down to develop your Battle Plan.

In his 1991 edition “Self Confrontation: A Manual for in-Depth Biblical Discipleship”, Dr. John C. Broger, did groundbreaking work in the area that he entitled “Life Dominating Sin”. In chapter 20 of the text he identifies 8 fundamental areas of life that I believe that we need to develop our battle plan around (Broger, 1991, P. 361):

Personal Life (not his title, but mine): Integrity, faithfulness, discipline, Peace, Joy, schedule

Personal Health (not his title, but mine): Exercise, Nutrition, Sleep/Rest

Church : Bible Study/Devotions, Prayer, Evangelism (I would add: collective worship, discipleship, outreach/service)

Marriage : (I would add in relationships for non-married, dating couples) Loving communication, physical intimacy (I would add: respecting feelings, foster harmony in the home, commitment to companionship, provide mutual support, align in one purpose (to serve God))

Children : Loving Care, Instruction, Discipline, Being an Example

Relationships : Friends, Social Activities, Esteem for others

Work and School

Personal Finances : Home budget

As we can see from this list, many of the above areas fit into the 4 major areas that we examined on Day 1, where Satan tries to attack us. By identifying major emphasis areas within your life you can build a Battle Plan to fight like a Warrior!

Prayer must be the central focus of our Battle Plan. When I think about prayer I reference the famous verse in 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18, “¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (NKJV). It is stated “pray continuously” in the NIV. We examined prayer when we looked at accessing our authority on Day 12, and have reiterated its importance throughout this study. Once we identify our major emphasis item areas, we can develop an individual player plan or strategy for each. We will look in greater detail at a way to develop a Prayer Strategy on Day 24 of this series.

Analyze the “terrain” that you are fighting on. In Day 27 we are going to talk about how to analyze your environment and how Satan can attack you. You have to look at it from two perspectives - His perspective and yours. You must know the terrain that you are on (that must be defended from attack) and the terrain that you intend to deny or sieze from the enemy.

As a main part of our Battle Plan, we should have a mission statement that we will detail this part of the plan on Day 25. On Day 26 we will discuss handing over our schedule to the Lord and developing a “Battle Rhythm” from which we can better manage the time we have been given to fight.

Offensive Operations versus Defensive Operations. Here are those terms again that we have alluded to through the study. Tomorrow on Day 23 we will get down to the nuts and bolts of what these two types of operations are. Back in Day 14 we gave you just a taste of the weapons that we will use to fight this warfare - The Whole Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). On Day 28 we will detail these powerful weapons and how to employ them as part of your daily Battle Plan.

To close out today's study, I want to emphasize that I firmly believe that the Lord wants us to have a Battle Plan. We must however, be conscious of what Proverbs 19:21 says, “Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.” Before developing a Battle Plan we must reflect on our lives and ensure that we are seeking the Lord’s purpose and not our own. If we understand the Lord’s Purpose for our life, then we can build a solid and sound plan that will do His Will...



Kid Friendly Ideas

1. What is a plan?
2. What are some areas of your life that you think need to be prayed over?
3. What are some ways that we can ensure any plans that we develop are in accordance with God's Will?

**Day 23: Offense vs. Defense**

Tuesday, October 22nd

“It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.”
George S. Patton, General, U.S. Army



Today's Challenge: Pray for 30 Minutes

The First Sergeant entered the auditorium again. He entered the building for the same reason that he had been here twenty other times before. This marked the twenty-first time that he had entered through the main entryway to see the picture of a Soldier positioned on a table just outside of the main doors in the lobby. The Soldiers awards and decorations were displayed across the table with the Purple Heart (the award that US Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines are issued for being wounded or killed in battle) being at the center of the table just below a folded, American flag. The First Sergeant readied himself to go into the crowd of desert camo uniforms to take a seat so that the ceremony could begin.

He looked around the room seeing other First Sergeant's and Commander's that he knew from coming to so many of these ceremonies, assembled at the direction of the Post Command Sergeant Major (CSM). “A Commander and First Sergeant's place of duty is here, during these ceremonies!” The CSM had stated in one of his Monday Morning Meetings that the First Sergeant always had to attend. Even though the First Sergeant strongly agreed with the CSM, he did not like coming to them.

They all took their seats and the ceremony began, the same way that they all did; to the familiar sound of the “Hymn of the Fallen” from the movie ‘Saving Private Ryan’. The First Sergeant just droned through the ceremony as he listened to another Commander, another First Sergeant, and other Soldiers, speak of the fallen warrior that was being honored in this day's “Final Salute Ceremony”. He watched as a portly, female Soldier stood behind the podium with her M4 rifle slung across her front. As she remembered the fallen Soldier, she tried to hold back her sorrow, but it was impossible. She

moved her shaking hand from a salute to her face to wipe away the tears that streaked down her cheeks. She cried, letting out a deep cry of sorrow that could be heard through the auditorium.

Just as it always was, at the end of these ceremonies everyone would be dismissed row by row, starting from the front to the rear of the auditorium, and file by the stage. They would stop in front of the symbol for the Final Salute Ceremony: a pair of Desert Boots at the foot of an M4 Rifle stuck into a wooden frame with an M9 Bayonet. A helmet was placed atop the buttstock of the weapon and the Soldiers ID Tags were draped around the pistol grip and front of the rifle, hanging toward the floor, just as the Soldier wore them.

When it was the First Sergeant's turn to file out, he was by himself this time. The Commander had been called to Baghdad, to meet with the Brigade Commander on an issue. It felt even more odd than normal to stand up there by himself. The First Sergeant didn't know the Soldier personally. To date, he had not known any of them personally. But that didn't matter. It was his duty to honor this fallen warrior, in one of the most time-honored traditions that US Soldiers honor one another with – the hand salute.

As the First Sergeant slowly lifted his right hand toward his right eyebrow, the chill that always fell over him at that point, was not present. The hair that usually stood on the back of his neck did not react. He could usually feel some pressure in his eyes from where his tear ducts were reacting, but not this time. His breathing was normal, where it typically felt forced. He held the salute for the required five seconds and then just as slowly lowered his hand back to his side turning to his left to leave.

Later that evening, in his trailer he sat in his chair, in the dark, watching the movie 'Gladiator'. He had watched it so many times since being here he wondered if the DVD would stop working at some point. When it came to the end of the movie, the hero of the film, is killed in a battle with the villain. After his death, the Soldiers of Rome honored him, by carrying his body out of the great Roman Colosseum. The First Sergeant had now attended twenty-one Final Salute Ceremonies for fallen warriors. Those warriors had been honored like the Roman Soldier's had honored their fallen hero. In profound sadness, the First Sergeant reached up and felt silent tears that streaked down his face. The First Sergeant made an intentional decision. He would have to keep going to Final Salute Ceremonies, but he would not keep count of them from that point forward...

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13 (KJV)



Daily Reading

During military operations there will be casualties! As we spoke about in week one, those casualties come in the form of Wounded in Action (WIAs) or Killed in Action (KIAs). We will lose people in spiritual warfare as well. We must prepare ourselves for these losses, as best we can. I can assure you from being a Soldier who attended MANY Final Salute Ceremonies in Iraq, they never get easier and if they do then there is something very wrong.

Today we will talk about perhaps the most important focus of this entire series, so stay with me warriors! This will be a bit of a longer read today because in order for us to learn how to shift our paradigm to the Offense we must understand the characteristics, differences and similarities of each type of operation. The average Christian Warrior in the American Church today has a Defensive Mindset when it comes to fighting spiritual warfare. Before we continue on with developing our Battle Plan we must understand the important difference between these two paradigms of operations.

In the US Army Field Manual (FM) 3-90, entitled “Tactics”, the definition for Offensive and Defensive Operations are defined. I will begin with the concept of Defensive Operations since that’s where most warriors are currently fighting from:

“So the defensive form of war is not a simple shield, but a shield made up of well-directed blows.” This famous quote from Carl Von Clausewitz, in his book “On War” published in 1832, still holds true today. Defensive Operations are defined as and are used to “defeat an enemy attack, buy time, economize forces (or for OUR forces to recover or get what we need to fight the next battle), **or develop conditions favorable for offensive operations** (or set OUR forces up to go on the offensive. This is what the Warrior Challenge is designed to do). Defensive operations alone normally cannot achieve a decision (they cannot win a battle and certainly not a war!). Their purpose is to create conditions for a counteroffensive that allows Army forces to regain the initiative” (FM 3-90, HQ Department of the (US) Army, 2001, P. 8-1).

So now that we understand the definition of Defensive Operations, you might say okay Seitz, that’s fine for worldly warfare, but how do we apply that to the spiritual battlefield? We apply the tactics the exact same way in spiritual warfare that we do on our Earthly battlefields. We just use spiritual weapons and methods (1 Corinthians 10:3-5). Here are some of the ways that we fight the defense:

Retaining decisive terrain or denying a vital area to the enemy. In Proverbs 4:23-27, scripture tells us what this “decisive terrain or vital area(s)” is, that we must “deny the enemy” from taking, “²³ Above all else, guard **your heart, for everything you do flows from it** (Matthew 5:8, Proverbs 3:5, Ezekiel 36:25) . ²⁴ Keep **your mouth** (we must use our speech to build others up



and not tear them down! (Thessalonians 5:11, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 4:15-16) free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips (Ephesians 5:4-6). ²⁵Let **your eyes** look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you (do not be tempted by the lust of the eyes (1 John 2:16)). ²⁶Give **careful thought** (part of this key terrain is the mind (2 Corinthians 10:5, 2 Timothy 1:7, Philippians 4:8)) to the paths for **your feet** (this is how we put our Faith into action) and be steadfast in all your ways. ²⁷Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.”

Attritting or fixing the enemy as a prelude to offensive operations. Our enemy has been doing this for millions of years. They don’t need much preparation time to execute their operation, but as we talked about in the 4 major areas that they will attack us in, sometimes in a strong Christian mind or environment, prep work will need to be done. We must always be on the lookout for this. When we see division rearing its ugly head in our church, we must cut the head of that snake off immediately. When there is strife between a husband and wife it must be dealt with, so that it does not give that “foothold” to the Devil. We must “Attrit” or execute “the action or process of gradually reducing the strength or effectiveness of someone or something through sustained attack or pressure” (Merriam-Webster, 2019). In order to attrit the enemy we must “Fix” his position. The military definition of “fix” is “to see the enemy where he is”. We must keep a close eye on where the enemy is because he is all around. He can even send “wolves in sheep’s clothing” that will preach the “Doctrine of Demons (NKJV)” (1 Timothy 4:1-2) into our lives and churches.

Increasing the enemy’s vulnerability by forcing him to concentrate his forces. In a strong Christian defense position (a church, a small group, outreach function, even our homes) the enemy will have to gather his forces, which is called “massing” to penetrate those defensive positions; because generally they are “harder” targets. When the enemy has to mass his forces he will be less effective in other areas (because the enemy has only a certain number of forces and cannot be in two places at once (no omnipresence)) . In short there might be another church, group, or home that might not be as strong as ours, that the enemy may have to pull forces away from to attack us - IF we are a “Hard Target”.

While the offense is the most decisive type of combat operation, the defense is the stronger type. Generally when we are in the defense (or defensive mindset, in spiritual warfare), we consider ourselves to be in a “safer” state. This of course is an illusion; however, because even if you’re in a defensive mindset, the enemy will still hit you. In a defensive position you are generally more well protected, but the costs of fighting a totally defensive campaign can end in at best in only a stalemate. When you have a brother or sister to your right and your left, with your shields are locked, the enemy has to work harder to get to you. In short most Christians THINK the risk to themselves, their families and their church is less when in the defense. I truly think that this is why most Christians are borderline afraid to go on the offense. After all, look what the devil did to Job right! But risk is part of the life that

we assumed; that we chose, when we became Christians. I will make the following example for any Christian who is “on the fence” between a defensive and offensive mindset:

Imagine if a carpenter from Nazareth, had looked to the sky one night and said, “Father, I know what you want me to do, BUT I think I’m just going to stay here and keep building tables. I have plenty of work here. I need to stay here and help my mother. It’s too risky for me to venture out into this world. The Romans are in control and if I try to oppose them, I’ll be sorry. I’ll be even more sorry if I try to oppose Satan and his forces. I’m just going to stay here. Sorry.”

(I curse)! Did anyone else’s heart sink into their stomach by that example? The thought that Jesus could have denied the Father and stayed right where He was is inconceivable to think about, but it could have happened. As I am writing this, there is some Iraqi sand getting my eyes right now, thinking about how catastrophically differently the world be if Jesus would have stayed in the defense!

Alright, now hang with me. Here’s where it gets good! The great American General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson said in 1863, “To move swiftly, strike vigorously, and secure all the fruits of victory, is the secret of successful war” (FM 3-90, HQ Department of the (US) Army, 2001, P. 3-0). Per FM 3-90 the definition of Offensive Operations are “operations aimed at destroying or defeating an enemy. Their purpose is to impose US will (in our case God’s Will) on the enemy and achieve decisive victory. A commander may also conduct offensive operations to deprive the enemy of resources, seize decisive terrain, deceive or divert the enemy, develop intelligence, or hold an enemy in position.

Now as we have already studied, the ultimate “decisive Victory” has already been achieved in the war right? Right! God has already Won! But there are going to be as many battles, between this second and the end of Linear Time, that God allows. Is it not our jobs as Christian Warriors to win the WAR - It’s our job to fight the battles. Now before we get puffed up at the thought of marching off into a physical battle to fight; consider this scripture, “⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this **is not from yourselves**, it is the gift of God- ⁹**not by works, so that no one can boast.** ¹⁰For we are **God’s handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” We all understand the context of this verse is about Salvation through Jesus. But the wording can be applied to us in the battle, We are not going to fight on our own. That would be a smooth and sure victory for the enemy. We will fight through the authority and power that we have FROM Jesus to win. In our victories (works) we should not boast (of what have done). I have received multiple accolades for writing this series from many people, but I didn’t write it. God used my fingers to write these words. We are God’s handiwork. He put us here to be Soldiers! Remember how God “crowned man in Glory” over the Angels? We still have that position in God’s heart. We are still the object of His ultimate love. Don’t believe that? Then why did he give us Salvation and Grace?

In offensive operations we must “seize, retain, and exploit the initiative”. Okay some people might be saying hold on Seitz, you’re doing that military term thing(ee) again. Let me break it down:

Seize - A tactical mission task that involves taking possession of a designated area using overwhelming force (FM 3-90, 2001, P. Glossary - 24). Once a month Crosslife Church “seizes” the sidewalk area outside of the Central Library in downtown Indianapolis from the enemy. We conduct our monthly Homeless Outreach and we “deny” the enemy that terrain for the time we are there. I have taken ground from an enemy in the physical realm, surrounded by the finest Soldiers that God ever blessed the Earth with. I know what it feels like and that’s how I feel everytime we “seize” that ground, in “force” from the forces of Darkness. Another way to think about seizure from a biblical perspective is the campaigns that Israel fought to take the Promised Lands. The Israeli Army, under Joshua’s leadership, had to push into the land and “seize” terrain from their enemies. Led by God and directed by His Will, they fought many successful offensive battles which resulted in great victories. King David continued this offensive push as he continued to expand the kingdom of Israel.

Retain - A tactical mission task in which the commander (in our terms, our forces) ensure that a terrain feature already controlled by a friendly force remains free of enemy occupation or use (FM 3-90, 2001, P. Glossary -23). We will talk in great detail about “terrain features” on the spiritual battlefield on Day 26, so for now we will substitute the words “terrain feature” with “position”. When we deny the enemy entrance into our homes, we are “retaining” our position. Sometimes we pray over places (churches, schools, businesses, homes, etc), for God to force any Spirits out or keep them from entering. We must “retain” possession of our hearts and minds.

Exploit(ation) - a type of offensive operation that usually follows a successful attack and is designated to disorganized the enemy in depth (FM 3-90, 2001, P. Glossary - 11). When we seize the ground from the enemy during our Homeless Ministry, we also exploit it. After we have taken the ground (attacked) and set up our position (usually with several boxes of food and coolers of drink), people begin to provide food to folks who come up to our position. Generally warriors go out in front of our position to expand our footprint, to push back any dark forces that might be there. We build “a wall” around our position. This is where the exploitation starts. We take people’s hands and we pray. Prayer (in this situation is an exploitation operation) WILL disrupt enemy operations in an area. We will talk further about this in tomorrow's devotio;.But, when we exploit the area with prayer (in Jesus Name), I can guarantee to you the forces of darkness flee!

“¹⁹ I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not



rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” This powerful verse from Luke 10:19-20, depict the Father giving all power and authority to “Christ and His people in particular, Christ has a power over all his power, his whole posse of the Devils, even the power of the air, of which he (the Devil) is the prince; and He communicated this power to His Disciples...” (Gill’s Exposition, 2019, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/luke/10-19.htm>). Gill further expands in verse 19, “and nothing shall by any means, hurt you; not the most hurtful and poisonous animals, nor the most malicious persecutors on earth, nor all the devils in hell: as the former venomous creatures, when took up in their hands, should not hurt, their bodies; so the other, whatever they might be permitted to do with respect to their lives, and outward estate, **should never hurt their souls, and the eternal welfare of them; nor even hinder the work of God prospering in their hands.**” (Gill’s Exposition, 2019, <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/luke/10-19.htm>). Christian Warriors don’t think that this means that the Devil and his forces cannot harm us physically. They can! They will pummel us. They can grind our physical bodies into the ground. They can take our very lives, but what they cannot take away from us, is our Salvation!!!! Which is found in Christ alone. If we go on the offense we become more of a threat to Satan and he will intensify his attacks upon us, but being on the offense is why we are here! Paul may have said it best in 1 Timothy 2:3, “Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus”.

A well rounded Christian Warrior knows when to use offensive operations as well as defensive ones. They both have their uses and their times for employment. It is up to us to seek God’s Wisdom and do His Will, to know when to employ each type of operation; to fight the most effective battles so that we can to bring Glory to the Kingdom...



Kid Friendly Ideas

1. What are some times that you can think of that you have done God’s Will in your life?
2. When was a time you stood up for God and other people might not have liked it?



Day 24: Wounded

Wednesday, October 23rd

“Warriors are not always the fastest or strongest men. Strength and speed can be developed through training. Warriors are those who choose to stand between the enemy and all that he loves or holds sacred.” Rough Cut Men, 2017



Today's Challenge: Invite Someone to Church

The First Sergeant exited the Headquarters Building of LSA Anaconda with a grim look across his face. He grasped the pistol grip of his M4 Rifle and buckled the chin strap of his helmet with the other hand. He prepared himself for the long walk back to their company area, in the blazing sun.

He turned toward Sapper Circle, the Northernmost and busiest traffic circle (roundabout) on the East side of the LSA. A U.S. Air Force Airman was gogging by in the distinctive USAF Physical Training Uniform going the opposite way. He had come from the West side of the LSA where all of the Air Force personnel were housed on Balad Air Base.

The First Sergeant turned his head the East to see the Airman begin to round the traffic circle, just a horrendous explosion erupted on the Traffic Circle. It thrust the First Sergeant from his feet with a tremendous concussion. He fell forward to his knees hitting the ground, seeing a dark piece of shrapnel fly by just inches in front of his face. He shook his head trying to recover from the daze that the concussion had thrown him into. his vision was blurry, the right side of his body was numb, and he could not hear in his right ear. He looked over his torso quickly to find no visible wounds from shrapnel that the impacting mortar shell (rocket) had thrown throughout the area.

The First Sergeant pushed himself to his feet and stumbled forward to where the Airman laid in the street against the scorching pavement. He looked down to see the man squirming around on the ground. The skin on his lower legs was shredded and the muscle hung loosely from the bones, which were exposed the unsanitary Iraqi landscape. The First Sergeant called through radio back to the MPOC and requested that they dispatch an immediate Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) vehicle. He called in

the location and awaited for emergency responders to arrive. He was disoriented and he had an intense ringing in his right ear. He sank to his right knee which felt as though it was on fire. He looked at himself and could see no visible injuries.

The First Sergeant anxiously waiting for help to arrive, trying to calm the hysterical airman down. He looked up to see an ambulance pull up close the scene so he withdrew back away into the center of the Traffic Circle. Still in quite a disoriented state he once again sank back to the ground to his knees. "First Sergeant, are you alright?" One of his MPs asked coming up from behind him and placing his hand on the center of his back. He looked at the MP with an uncharacteristic soft stare and nodded his head. "First Sergeant you called in your position wrong. We're on Sustainer Circle not Sapper Circle. That's why it took us so long to get here." the man explained helping The First Sergeant to his feet. "Are you sure you're okay?" He asked as another short, female MP moved beside him and slide in under the First Sergeant's right shoulder securing him. "I'm good. I'm good." The First Sergeant echoed shaking his head.

Later at the Air Force Theater Hospital (or the AFTH) The First Sergeant walked into a large open area where the airman was. He was so relieved to see that the Airman had survived the terrible ordeal. He watched the man lay unconscious for a few seconds and then he turned to go. He stopped clutching his M4 rifle and then looked back toward the man that he had been powerless to save. His ears still rang, the disorientation was still in his head, and the regret from his inability to act; even though he was sure he had been wounded in the attack as well, weighed on him like a ton of bricks...

"I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them." _ John 7:26



Daily Reading

Just as the First Sergeant was physically wounded in battle, many people have received emotional wounds from the spiritual effects of warfare bleeding over into the physical realm. In today's challenge we are urged to invite someone to our church. Especially consider inviting someone that you know that might have been "hurt" in a church, in some way. We have all been wounded in some way by the effects of spiritual warfare, but in today's lesson we're going to talk about how we can OFFENSIVELY hit back at our spiritual enemies.

So how do you as a corporeal being fight against a spiritual being? Just as we've said all the way through this series, by using spiritual assets. On Day 12 we learned in order to access our authority to

fight we must pray. Prayer is a powerful weapon. Prayer is an offensive weapon! Prayer is our fire support as Christian Warriors. But in order to effectively employ fire support against a spiritual enemy we must know how to pray.

On Day 22, I promised that today we were going to talk about “Prayer Strategies”, but before we get into that, there are a couple things we need to cover.

In 1 John 5:14-15 we are told, ¹⁴“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of him. God answers prayers that are in agreement with His will and responds in a way that is in our best interest (Jeremiah 29-11). We are also told in John 16:24 that, “Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” With these assurances that our prayers will be answered we can proceed in confidence.

We need to develop a prayer strategy to cover the 4 aspects of life that Satan will attack us in. On Day 22 we gave an even more extensive breakdown of 8 areas where we should prepare these strategies. But there is also another area that up to this point we really haven’t talked about yet. Prayer for our “enemies”. Now some are probably shaking their heads thinking, Seitz again you have lost your mind. You told us all throughout this series that the enemy is out to get us. Why should we pray for them? Because we are commanded to. In fact even beyond praying for them, we are commanded to love them. “But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,...” (Matthew 5:44). By the way, in most study bibles those words are printed in red letters. Still not convinced? Try this verse then, ¹⁹“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the LORD. ²⁰On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:19-21). Still not convinced? Okay, let’s look at Proverbs 25:21-22, ²¹“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. ²²In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.” Yep, two different verses, in two different books of the bible, separated by hundreds of years that say the exact same thing.

But let me ease your mind a bit. We are not talking about Satan and his Angels when we say pray for and love the enemy. Remember when I said early on in the study that Satan uses people in the physical realm to do his work? Those are the enemies that we are talking about. Those poor souls that have been blinded by the Great Deceiver’s lies. A perfect example of these enemies are our lost brothers and sisters who follow the religion of islam. This violent and hateful religion has deceived millions of people into believing that their God (one who is dead by the way) is the true lord of the universe. Any religious belief outside of Christianity is evil, period. If it pulls us away from Jesus, it is evil!

I was struck when God laid this verse upon my heart when preparing this series, “Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Or the LORD will see it and be displeased, And turn His anger away from him. Do not fret because of evildoers Or be envious of the wicked; For there will be no future for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out” (Proverbs 24:17-20). So with all of this being said about prayer for our enemies, what should we pray for?

Pray for their conversion. I have interacted with Muslims in the Middle East that one day could be my Christian brothers and sisters. But conversion does not come without work or sacrifice. Many missionaries have been working tirelessly throughout the world to take the Gospel to the nations. My daughter is one of those courageous souls that has worked with people from all different religions and backgrounds in an attempt to convert them. She has seen this conversion first hand. She has helped them to see the light. It is amazing what a person can see, when they simply open their eyes.

Pray for evil to be restrained. Recently the US military waged an offensive campaign in the country of Syria and Northern Iraq, called Operation Inherent Resolve. The purpose for this operation is “to eliminate the ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) terrorist group and the threat that they pose to Iraq, Syria, and the wider International Community” (<https://www.inherentresolve.mil/>, 2019). God uses Earthly assets to do His Will in the world too. “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,” (Romans 1:18). For those whose eyes can’t be opened, they must be restrained.

Pray that they all receive Divine Justice. “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord” (Romans 12:19)(NKJV). It is not wrong for us to pray that our enemies receive justice. We saw in Exodus where Pharaoh’s heart was hardened to the point where he could not accept God, even after all of the miraculous things that he had seen. As badly as we do not want to see this, there will be some brothers and sisters that will be lost, “Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

Now that we have addressed that portion of our Prayer Strategy let’s talk about building the rest of it. I suggest when you develop a prayer strategy for the 8 aspects of your life (and any others that you feel are important in addition to those) that you first Stop! Before starting to brainstorm over these areas to identify what you think needs to be addressed in each area, seek God’s Will. The Spirit will lead us if we yield to its power and authority. At one of our Wednesday Night studies during this series, I told the story of how God made me realize that I needed to “wait” and “yield” to Him, after I retired from the military. This waiting and yielding is sometimes hard, but it is always worth it. You can’t get get to where God needs for you to be until you surrender to Him.



Let's also consider again how we are directed to pray. Going back to that famous Sermon on the Mount teaching in Matthew 6:5-15, Jesus gave us those instructions. There is a literary device known as an Acrostic which can assist us with praying. It is the simple word P-R-A-Y:

PRAISE **God for what He is and what He has done.**

“Our Father who art in Heaven hallowed be your name” Verse 9

REPENT **Of your sins & commands that we have broken.**

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” Verse 12

ASK **For the needs of others and for ourselves.**

“Give us today our daily bread (Verse 11), And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one” (Verse 13)

YIELD **Our will to God's Will; our plans and agenda to God's.**

“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Verse 10), For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.” (Verse 13, KJV)

So after we build our prayer strategies around the major functional areas within our lives and lift them up to the Lord using the P-R-A-Y acrostic we must always finish those prayers “In Jesus Name”. This is what gives our prayers power! When we invoke the name of Jesus Christ, it transfers all of the power and authority that God gave to it!...



Kid Friendly Ideas



Day 25: The Mission!

Thursday, October 24th

"It has become a settled principle that nothing which is good and true can be destroyed by persecution, but that the effect ultimately is to establish more firmly, and to spread more widely, that which it was designed to overthrow. It has long since passed into a proverb that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Albert Barne, 1895



Today's Challenge: Download Open Door Prayer App. You can download the app or bookmark this page: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/>

The First Sergeant stepped out of the tactical vehicle and immediately viewed the rooftops all around. Seeing nothing out of the ordinary he exited the relative protection that the vehicle offered and stepped toward a group of Iraqi Police (IP) Officers. They all stood in a gaggle at the entrance to an alleyway where people were gathered around. He looked around the corner of the alleyway and then again to the rooftops of the structures that surrounded the ally. As he neared the crowd the wind changed and the First Sergeant knew why they were gathered around the scene.

He stepped through the crowd of people, maintaining a firm and ready grip around his M4 rifle, ensuring that the selector lever had been rotated from safe to semi-automatic (fire). The people dispersed as more American Soldiers and IPs followed the First Sergeant's lead. The First Sergeant directed the IPs to set up a perimeter around the entrance to the ally and move the people along.

At the entrance he and Wilson stood surveying the horrible sight. A Muslim woman laid in the ally, only partially covered in an all black burka. It was clear in looking at the woman's head that she had been severely beaten, from the streams of blood that ran down her face. She laid face up in the middle of the ally, in the trash and raw sewage that plagued the streets of Baghdad.

Wilson covered her mouth, as they were assaulted by the intense odor of the woman's corps. She turned away and began to gag. The First Sergeant grabbed her by the shoulder and pushed her

back toward the vehicle. Then he turned back toward the body. The pungent smell was making him feel ill as well. "What could have happened here?" he thought removing his eyes from hers.

After securing the scene for several minutes an Iraqi Police Investigator showed up on the scene to conduct an investigation. The First Sergeant watched from inside his air conditioned vehicle, while the investigator questioned people that were loitering around outside the scene. After only a few minutes the investigator appeared to have concluded his visit. He went over to the lead IP and briefly spoke with him.

The First Sergeant exited his vehicle with Hussan (the unit interpreter) and questioned the lead IP, about what they had found. After a brief exchange of Arabic Words, Hussan turned to the First Sergeant. The Lead IP turned to go back to his vehicle. "Where the (he cursed) is he going?" the First Sergeant asked Hussan. "This was an "sharaf al-qattal"." Hussan replied looking toward the ally and then back to the First Sergeant. The First Sergeant gave Hussan a hard stare and asked, "What is that?" Hussan held up his hand and looked skyward. "In English it means "Honor Killing". his interpreter said in a matter of fact tone.

The First Sergeant looked toward the two IP vehicles that they had been escorting and saw that the IPs were inside ready to go. "So she was murdered?" The First Sergeant voiced with a frenzied look on his face. "This happens here. The woman committed adultery against her husband." the former, Iraqi, Air Force Officer replied throwing his hands into the air. "And what are they going to do about it?" he demanded looking toward his vehicle and then back to Hussan. "Nothing."

Later back at the MP Station on Camp Victory, the First Sergeant sat with his Supply Sergeant, outside under the camouflage netting (pieces of flexible plastic woven together to hide vehicles or positions from aerial observation) that covered the area between the station and supply trailer. "And that's all they did?" his Supply Sergeant asked, taking a drag from his cigarette. "Yep. And it was done. They just left her there. Laying in the trash and the (he cursed)." The First Sergeant could not shake what he had seen. He had seen dead bodies before. But not like this. This the first time that he had ever seen anyone murdered. He could not shake the callous attitude of the Iraqi Authorities. He wondered at that point exactly why they were there. 'Were they really helping the Iraqis?' he questioned. He had seen the true barbarity of the religion of Islam that day. He still smelled it in his nostrils. He saw it in his mind. He tasted it in his mouth.

He had never doubted in the merits of their mission or why they were there until that day. This momentary lapse of faith quickly passed. While he walked back to his trailer, the First Sergeant reaffirmed his commitment to their cause. Today's events were the ultimate example of why they were

there. That was why they had to keep going out into the streets everyday. That was why they had to keep fighting the insurgents that threatened all that the Iraqi's were trying to build...

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." _ Romans 12:14



Daily Reading

The fear of persecution cannot hold us back from our calling. I don't remember reading in His Word, where Jesus ever said being a Christian would be easy. In fact on the contrary in John 16:33 Jesus told us this, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Trouble will come on the "Day of Evil", but when it comes, let it find us engaged in our mission!

On Day 20, when we examined the Duty of the Warrior we touched on Matthew 28:18-20. These verses normally referred to as "The Great Commission" is quite literally our "mission" as Christian Warriors.

A military mission is defined as, " 1) The task, together with the purpose, that clearly indicates the action to be taken and the reason therefore; 2) In common usage, especially when applied; to lower military units, a duty assigned to an individual or unit; a task" (JP 1-02, US Department of Defense, pp. 220-221). Merriam-Webster's Dictionary also make light of an additional definition that might help us to connect the mission to our lives as Christian Warriors, "2) the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith."

With the definitions lined out above we can clearly see that the Great Commission is a mission statement for all of us. So let's dissect our mission:

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." _ Matthew 28:18-20

The “Task” is in two parts, but those parts are to be done simultaneously and are mutually inclusive to each other:

Task 1: “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

So in this task we are called to make Disciples! As part of making these Disciples we are to Baptize them. Pretty simple right? Well wait. Let’s look at Task 2.

Task 2: “²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

This is the part of this scripture that people often leave out. Sometimes it’s much more difficult to accomplish this task.

Alright, we’ve identified the task now the definition says that, “together with the purpose, that clearly indicates the action to be taken and the reason therefore”. So let’s look at the specific purpose for each task:

Purpose 1: To bring people to their initial encounter with Salvation. To allow people to publicly testify and identify that they are followers of Jesus (Baptism).

Purpose 2: After the initial experience of being “saved” or “born again” passes, then we must begin the real work, to faithfully disciple new Christians. This teaching, mentoring, guiding, and developing, is what allows them to become a “mature” Christian and gives them the ability to be able to apply God’s Word to their life. It allows them to have a firm foundation on which to build a rock solid relationship with Jesus. It gives them what they need to be Warriors!

Now that we have our Mission (Matthew 28:18-20) and our Task and purpose defined as Christian Warriors, let’s look at the last requirement for the definition of a mission, “...especially when applied; to lower military units, a duty assigned to an individual or unit...” We are the “lower military units” or the “individual” it’s talking about and verse 18 is where Jesus (our ultimate Command Authority) has been given the authority to issue us that mission.

Let me make light of part of our mission that most military missions do not have. Look back at the second sentence of verse 20. Do you see it? That’s right, in military missions in physical warfare, how many commanders can make this guarantee to their Soldiers? Jesus will be with us through the fiercest battles that we face in life. No matter how much pressure the enemy is placing upon us, He will be there! WOW! Who wants to go punch a giant now?

So some may be asking alright Seitz, now we have our mission, but how do we accomplish it? Through a myriad of means. That’s the best answer that I can give you because and I cannot answer that question for YOU. Only God can answer that one. You must seek His Will, through fervent prayer, study, and discernment to find the path that you will need to walk to accomplish this mission.

One final item regarding our mission we should discuss is our Testimony. All throughout this study we have been learning the key verses of the “Romans Road” method of explaining the Gospel using verses from the Book of Romans. This simple, yet powerful method of explaining why we need salvation, how God provided salvation, how we can receive salvation, and what are the results of salvation; can be greater understood if we can articulate our experiences as a Christian. Being able to effectively tell about our struggles and trials; and, perhaps more importantly, how we were able to overcome them by finding strength in the Lord, brings Glory to God. It also gives us a powerful spiritual weapon for our arsenal. In Revelation 12:11 it tells us, “They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” Your experiences from the past are testimonies of the power of God. They provide evidence to others that God still heals and can make all things new...



Kid Friendly Ideas

**Day 26: Take the Hill!***Friday, October 25th*

“There are three types of people in this world: the sheep who go about their business, the wolf who feeds on the sheep, and the sheepdog who protects the flock.”

David Grossman, Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (Retired), 2015

**Today's Challenge:** Encouragement Call/Text

Tensions were high at the unit. The Provost Marshal (PM) (the Senior Officer in charge of Military Police Operations) had just returned from a meeting with the Post Commander and she was in a frenzy. She had already been up to the desk twice asking to see the unit's Troop to Task Matrix (TTM) (a document that the unit used to track where personnel were on missions daily). The Desk Sergeant was trying to locate it on the unit server; however, he did not see it. The Desk Sergeant called out to the First Sergeant's Office getting no answer. The First Sergeant was at a meeting himself.

Upon the First Sergeant's return he entered the Military Police Operations Center (MPOC) and checked in with the Desk Sergeant, who informed him of the PM's furious mood. The First Sergeant shook his head and sighed. The PM was an officer that the First Sergeant respected, but from time to time she would have manic moments that made him question her motives. The First Sergeant was overall responsible to manage the Troop to Task Matrix daily, but the PM liked to get her hands into "the pie" from time to time. She usually did this when the First Sergeant or the Commander were not around. If both of them were out of the area, the First Sergeant usually did not mind this "interference" into his lane. He could only speculate on what hair brain scheme that the Post Commander had come up with for them now.

He entered the unit Operation Cell (an area where MP Operations were planned, coordinated, and orders were developed for execution. This area included a cell where classified SECRET information could be accessed.) "First Sergeant, where is the Troop to Task Matrix?" the PM asked in a



snide way that the First Sergeant had become used to hearing over the last several months that they had served together. “The same place it’s been since day one, ma’am.” he snapped back to the Lieutenant Colonel. “Well we have to resource a Customs Mission (a mission where a unit’s shipping containers were searched for contraband materials prior to shipping the unit back to the United States) with four MPs in less than an hour.” The First Sergeant chuckled and shook his head.

“Ma’am, we don’t have anyone to send that mission.” the First Sergeant informed her. He stood behind her and brought up the TTM on the unit server, displaying the matrix across the screen. “Ma’am, as you can see we are tapped out right now.” the First Sergeant explained continuing, “In fact the only Soldier we have that is not tasked right now is you.” The PM stood up forcing him back away from the desk.

Now the PM and First Sergeant “stood toe to toe”. That is what she liked. She liked confrontation. She liked people who would argue with her. The First Sergeant had learned this all too well, and in this instance, he was more than happy to oblige her. He could see the red mark that traveled up the sides of her face when she became emotional, becoming present. She was about to explode. The First Sergeant could respond in several ways, but he knew in this instance exactly how he would respond.

When she exploded in rage and he let her vent and then curled his lips under with a slight smile, which seemed to enrage her even more. He calmly and clearly told her again in detail that the unit could not support the request. “We have two Soldiers on quarters. We can use them.” she spouted off looking at the matrix. “Ma’am those Soldiers are restricted to quarters for 24 hours by the Troop Medical Clinic (TMC) for possibly having the flew. We are not sending them.” he replied again in a calm but firm tone.

The PM gave the First Sergeant a hard stare and he stared right back, not even flinching at his five foot two inch tall PM. She curled her lips under and clenched her fists saying, “I guess I’ll just have to tell the Post Commander we can’t fulfill a mission requirements.” she spat. “Ma’am, that’s not our mission to conduct. We have to stop volunteering for every mission that comes down the pike. We are running our Soldiers into the ground because of mission creep (a term used for missions or tasks that are assigned to a unit, which are not part of their normal course of duties, and usually are detrimental of their actual mission). Ma’am, we need to say no sometimes.” he concluded becoming a bit emotional himself. The PM stormed out of the Operations Cell slamming the door against the wall as she exited. The First Sergeant shook his head and chuckled.

For almost 24 hours no one in the unit saw the PM. She had “barricaded” herself in her trailer except for attending daily meetings. That evening when the First Sergeant left the company office, he made it a point to stop by her trailer. He knocked on the door but there was no answer. He knocked

again and she opened the door. “Just wanted to check on Ma’am. Everything good to go?” he asked looking into the dark trailer. “I’m okay.” the PM said with a smile. “Copy that ma’am. I’ll see you in the morning.” he replied with a nod. As a First Sergeant he was constantly torn between two competing priorities: executing the units mission and taking care of the units Soldiers. Often the mission came first, especially here. But when the mission was not absolutely necessary for the success of combat operations, he had to protect his Soldiers. Sometimes that protection had to be from the unit’s own chain of command...

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,” 1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NKJV)



Daily Reading

Sometimes in our personal lives, families, churches, and communities we must protect our “flocks” from the enemy. Enemies can come in different forms and can come through many different avenues as we will talk about in today’s lesson. As we continue to develop our Battle Plans we must understand how to assess the terrain that the enemy will use to get at us.

The word “terrain” is defined as “a geographic area; a piece of land; the physical features of a tract of land” (Merriam-Webster, 2019). To further expand on the basic definition we must look at the military term, “Key Terrain”. This terrain is “Any locality, or area, the seizure or retention of which affords a marked advantage to either combatant (JP 2-02, US Department of Defense, p. 135).” It is this “Key” Terrain which we must concern ourselves with. In the US Army, we use an acronym to analyze terrain. We can effectively employ this acronym to analyze terrain on the spiritual battlefield as well. OCOKA is our acronym: Observation and Fields of Fire, Cover and Concealment, Obstacles, Key Terrain, and Avenues of Approach:

Observation and Fields of Fire: Observation is how we “see” on the battlefield. “Seeing” comes not just from our sense of sight, but from the other five senses as well. This is any way that we can interpret what is going on around us. We must observe the other four areas that are contained within our acronym to “see” where the enemy is preparing to and anticipating where he will try to hit us from. Fields of Fire are the areas where we employ our fire support assets (prayer, reading the Word, fellowship with other Christians, service, etc). When planning these “Fields of Fire” we must consider the effectiveness of the fire we are employing (effectiveness, specificity, and frequency of prayer;



application of the reading of the Word to support offensive operations; service projects that affect the enemies hold upon an area, etc).

Cover and Concealment: Cover is defined as protection from physical or spiritual harm (enemy fire). Cover can also provide concealment. Concealment is something that hides us from enemy observation, but it does not provide protection from harm.

Obstacles: These are things that we can actively employ against the enemy to keep him from getting to us. These can stop, hinder, or slow his advance.

Key Terrain: This is terrain that gives us a marked advantage if we control it.

Avenue of Approach: This is a “route” that we or the enemy can use to approach our objective or a piece of key terrain in our path.

Now that the key terms are understood, let’s look at how to assess the terrain within our homes, churches, and societies. This is no one complete and comprehensive listing of all possible terrain that we may encounter on the spiritual battlefield. We must assess every piece of terrain as we face it, but below are some common terrain that we should consider when developing our Battle Plans:

Observation & Fields of Fire

Prayer –

Primary Weapon; direct communication with God; primary means of asking for help; defeats the enemy’s schemes; places us into an offensive mindset; that we realize where our authority comes from; how to use that authority; exact right time and place to use it; that we will fight from the power of Christ

Reading Scripture –

Only offensive weapon of God’s Armor; helps us to grow and mature; Draws us closer to God; helps us to know God’s Truth from Satan’s Lies (can use the Word against Satan as Jesus did in Matthew 4); gives us a basis for objective truth to run our homes/churches from (to combat the progressive & other liberal society movements)

Fellowship –

Helps us stay connected with other believers (to be able to fight together OR for them); to reinforce Christian Warriors who may have become spiritual casualties; to free Christian POWs



Worship –

Help to bring our forces together in a unity of mind and purpose; assist in preparing or “shaping” the battlefield for offensive action (shifting mindset – paradigm shifting); must use new and innovative ideas and technologies to connect the maximum number of Warriors possible; can disrupt enemy operations in a given area or for a specific time

Discipleship –

Preparing other Christians to fight (training for war); raising the next generation of Christian Warriors; to be an encouragement to Christians that feel defeated or overwhelmed; ensure that sound doctrine is being taught to combat the “doctrines of demons”

Good Works –

Help us by doing God’s Work (to fulfill our purpose and use our spiritual gifts); helping our families by providing them the opportunity to serve, or by us serving them; reaching out into our communities to show the love of Christ; making a difference in ourselves, our families, community, and the world; can serve to be a direct or indirect counter to the schemes of the enemy

Cover and Concealment

Prayer –

We will be protected as we “pray without ceasing”; that we will allow prayer to guide our lives; it will allow us to STAND FIRM; covers us in spiritual (and in some cases physical) protection

Reading Scripture –

Gives us a basis for objective truth to run our homes/churches from (to combat the progressive & other liberal society movements); scripture covers us with the very Word of the Lord

The Armor of God –

The Belt of Truth (Ephesians 6:14): keeps us on course through our Christian walk; The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph 6:14): protects our heart; The Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 6:15): stand upon the Gospel, standing on “the Rock” we cannot be moved, the Peace of God will protect us; The Helmet of Salvation (Eph 6:17): protects our minds from Satan, allows us to maintain self-control, patience, and mental endurance, maintain our focus where it belongs - on Jesus; The Shield of Faith (Eph 6:16):



allows us to act upon Truth, our direct protection from Satan's attacks; The Sword of the Spirit (Word of God) (Eph 6:17): we must use it every day; denies the devil a foothold to get to us

Repentance of Sins –

Leads to salvation and leaves no regret; gives us earnestness and eagerness to clear ourselves; gives us an alarm, a longing, a concern to see justice done; will lead to healing of the relationship between us and Jesus that was broken by our sin; denies the enemy access to rob us of our blessings

Marriages –

Helps you grow in Christ; places you below God, but above themselves; shared commitment and common Faith; provide mutual support to one another; rears children to be the next generation of warriors; strong marriages will deny the Devil entrance into the relationship and will maintain a strong Christ centered home

Parental Protection –

Help children to grow in Christ; provides discipline when needed; guide and direct in the ways of discipleship; ensure that biblical truth is the standard from which children base truth; stops, delays or denies Satan access to children

Fellowship –

Provides a safe, non-judgmental environment for Christians to build each other up; prevents us from being separated from other believers; denies or at least delays Satan from being able to wear us down (when we are cut off from a body of Believers)

Accountability Partners/ Groups -

Holds us accountable to do the right thing; allows for a non-judgmental, yet truthful and biblical perspective to right us when we are wrong; can provide helpful insight to us when we have been blinded or misled by the enemy

Obstacles

Prayer/Prayer Strategy –

Helps us to submit ourselves to be led by the Spirit; God will lay ministry opportunities before us; that we will live with hearts that are turned toward Him and are ready and waiting for opportunities; we will



ourselves to execute upon these opportunities as the Spirit leads; blocks the enemies advance DIRECTLY if applied and executed correctly (and specifically)

Reading Scripture –

When we see the enemy attacking us, our families, churches, or communities we seek specific scripture to counter that attack (then applying this scripture to prayer for the attack); reveals ways that we need to action certain situations by comparing situations and circumstances to scripture; when enemy attacks are identified correctly, the appropriate scripture can be identified (and used with prayer) can stop enemy advances or attacks

Battle Rhythm –

Gives us a guide to maintain our time around; helps to keep us focused; helps us to forecast and anticipate future events; helps us to resource future events; helps to manage distractions that the enemy could use to derail our efforts or focus

Rest/Sleep –

Helps reduce stress; can improve our memory; can lower blood pressure; strengthen the ability to fight infection; can help maintain a healthy weight; better ability to stay, calm, controlled and reasonable; keep the heart healthy; can improve mood; blocks or delays the enemy from being able to hit us due to sleep deprivation

Proper Nutrition –

Can help to reach and maintain a healthy weight; reduce risk of chronic diseases (like heart disease and cancer); promote overall health; blocks or delays the enemy from being able to apply physical ailments against us as effectively

Established Boundaries –

Boundaries to maintain our relationship with God (from competing priorities); can create separate identities, responsibilities, and privileges; can protect us from unwanted or undue evil influences (especially in the areas of online activity); protects us from inappropriate relationships; creates necessary “space” between us and individuals to ensure our mental/emotional health; creates a barrier between us and influences that the enemy will use to attack us

Discipline –

Yielding, waiting and submission to God; we align our timing with God's Timing; we try to align our ways with God's Ways; choosing the hard right over the easy wrong; being able to determine our courses of action based from Biblical Truth, not in the "heat of the moment" emotions or desires; be able to step out of our comfort zones even when is painful or uncomfortable for the greater good

Will of the Warrior –

Ensure that our will, matches God's Will for our life; keeps our course true; allows us to make sound and timely decisions based on God's Word and leading from the Holy Spirit; we align our will with God's

Spirit of the Warrior –

Gives us a Warrior Spirit to engage in the battle; allows us to instill the Warrior Spirit in others; allows us to hold on after others may have let go; separates TRUE Christian Warriors from casualties & POWs;

Love of the Warrior –

Allows us to love as Jesus loved so that all will know that we are His Disciples; The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)

Courage of the Warrior –

Allows us to do what's right, not what's easy; allows us to make a conscious choice instead of giving into an emotional reaction (fear); can inspire others to be brave

Legacy of the Warrior –

Allows us to pass down institutional and experiential knowledge to the next generation of warriors; leave a legacy that can inspire generations to come;

Collective Worship (church) –

Allows us to put a formal time of worship onto our schedules; invites the presence of God; brings victory (helps us to know that the battle is not ours but the Lord's); satisfies the souls; brings deliverance from depression; instills joy; allows men to lead; draws people to God; strengthens our faith; in short Hell cannot stop it!



Key Terrain

Our Hearts & Minds –

These two areas are the key to the entire battle; by controlling our thoughts and feelings we deny the enemy a foothold into them, thus defeating his efforts to make us sin

Other Believers Hearts & Minds –

We must keep these key pieces of terrain under Christian control for the same reason as we must control our own; this can take accountability, teaching, mentoring, and discipleship

Christian Homes –

Provide the basis for the Christian family; provides an example of what a Christian father/mother should look like; provides a safe environment for the family to feel loved; ensures an environment that fosters spiritual and physical growth; serves as the second line (personal faith is the first line) of defense against spiritual attacks

Christian Churches –

Provides the basis for teaching the Word of God; provides the facility for corporate worship; provides facets and resources to the community in the area of charity, service, and discipleship; serves as an important third line of defense against spiritual attack

Missions –

Allows for the spreading of the Gospel to sometimes unreached people groups throughout the world; serves to inspire Christian Soldiers to fight; can provide hope to persecuted Christians around the world; can provide essential functions and resources usually beyond the reach of a local church; is the primary tool that God uses to directly and indirectly block, delay, and even stop the advance of the enemy in a designated area

Service Organizations –

Serves much the same purpose as the local church and missions organizations, but usually focuses on a specific area of service (i.e. food pantries, homeless ministries, children's services etc); can provide resources to Christian Soldiers and churches to fight; can partner with other organizations to reduce the effect of enemy attacks; can usually provide specific training and guidance in their specialty areas;



in short these organizations can be utilized to target the enemy in specific areas, where the Christian Warrior and Church is more concerned with the execution of the day to day war

Minds & Hearts of Non-Believers –

These are every bit as important as believers' hearts and minds; by seizing these key pieces of terrain we deny the Devil and his forces additional assets to apply against God's people in the physical realm

Avenues of Approach

Our Hearts and Minds –

The Devil will try to take control of our thoughts to gain a foothold into our minds; random and complex thoughts can be used to invade our minds; The Devil will use areas of our thoughts where we are weak (sinful) to hit us; he will try to exploit every possible avenue into our minds to break down our self-control, ability to think clearly and focus; he will try to twist our emotions starting in the heart using fear and doubt to try to override our thought processes with irrational emotions; we must counter this by taking every thought that enters into our minds "captive" (1 Corinthians 10:3-5) and ensuring that that thought bring Glory to God; we must control our emotions tempering them being led by the Holy Spirit

Other Believers Hearts and Minds –

Sometimes Satan can derail us or our churches by using other believers that he has been able to influence or gain control over; we must make an effort to deny him access to other believers' thoughts and feelings as we do our own

Minds & Hearts of Non-Believers –

Satan will surely use non-believers against us; we must always, cautiously be on guard when interacting with non-believers, not to be influenced by things that we know are not God's truth; by spreading the Gospel we help to negate Satan's use of these people; we can never control all non-believer's actions, thoughts or feelings, only our own responses to them

Media/TV/Movies –

We must weigh the appropriateness of all media (TV/Movies/Video Games/books/magazines, etc) against the same criteria that we use when taking thoughts captive; use parental supervision to protect young children from inappropriate content; if a form of media cases us to sin we might need to curtail or totally stop using that media;



Social Media –

Use parental controls; use established safety protocols to protect accounts from Satan’s Soldiers in the physical realm; as with other forms of media in cases where it causes us to sin, we might need to curtail or totally stop using that media

Alright if you’re still with me, that was a lot. But it is important to understand the terrain of the spiritual battlefield and how we can use it to our advantage to win every battle...



Kid Friendly Ideas

**Day 27: Battle Rhythm!***Saturday, October 26th*

“Know your enemy and know yourself and you will always be victorious.” Sun Tzu, Chinese Tactician

**Today's Challenge:** Pray for a Persecuted Country

The day had come. The First Sergeant rose up early, stripping his body armor down of all its pouches and support gear, to facilitate handing off his body armor and helmet in Kuwait. This was the first travel day of his 21 day leave period. He would fly South to Kuwait and then fly to Germany on his 20-hour journey home. He placed the equipment into his locker and looked around his tiny trailer placing his helmet on his head.

Upon arriving at Camp Doha, The First Sergeant turned in his body armor and helmet and stepped outside into the sweltering Kuwaiti heat. Kuwait being right off the sea was much more humid than the drier heat of Iraq. He couldn't wait to get out of there, but yet there was still a guilt that he was going home. He wanted to see his family so much, but he also knew that in the 23 to 25 days he might be gone, that his Soldiers would still be in harms way. After a day of waiting in Kuwait, he was able to catch a flight to Ramstein Air Base in Germany. From there he was quickly loaded onto a plane to be flown to the states.

The First Sergeant did not know exactly what to expect upon arriving at Atlanta International Airport. What would it be like to be back in America? Surrounded by people who weren't trying to kill him every day. What would it be like to walk down the street without body armor or an M4 rifle? How would the people treat them? He stepped off the plane with his guard up, looking around into a crowd of civilians that were standing at the gate. To his surprise they all started cheering and holding up signs to welcome them home. He was floored.

As they were escorted through the terminal, by members of the USO, everywhere they went people moved aside, clapped and cheered in appreciation for them. The First Sergeant looked around

quite embarrassed by all the attention. A sense of pride fell over him as he traveled through the masses of people to his gate. "Thank you for your service." He must have heard at least 20 times.

Upon boarding the plane that would take him to Indianapolis, he was informed that his seat had been upgraded to first class, by a passenger that had given up their seat for him (a common practice during that period of time). He asked the stewardess if there were any other Soldiers (of lesser rank than him) that had not had their seats upgraded, with a willingness to give up his seat for one of them. "No sir. They have all been taken care of." The beautiful, blond haired stewardess replied with a huge smile. He reluctantly took his seat and readied himself to go home.

When the plane touched down at Indianapolis International Airport the Pilot came over the intercom and requested that everyone remain in their seats, to allow all the Soldiers aboard to depart first. The First Sergeant again was shocked at this gesture of extreme kindness. To his surprise everyone complied with the request. As they all stood up the crew and many of the passengers applaud as the Soldiers began to depart. The First Sergeant shook the pilots and took a deep breath as he turned to the ramp that separated him from his family.

Upon exiting the ramp, he did not see anyone that he knew initially, but then he saw her. His beautiful 10-year daughter dressed in a beautiful blue dress that she used to attend a wedding not long before he had deployed. He walked toward her not knowing exactly how to approach her after not seeing her for six months. As he neared her, she ran toward him and slammed into his legs giving him a huge hug. He picked her up taking her into his arms, fighting back the tears. Then he saw his mother. She came forward and they all embraced.

On the 17 day of his 21 day leave period, he was able to go to his wife's Army unit to visit. It was strange to see Soldiers not armed and so many of them that did not have patches on their right arms. His wife led him to a classroom where all the Soldiers were assembled and waiting to hear what he had to say to them. There was a good bit of anxiety over what he would say to them. The First Sergeant was not shy about getting up in front of Soldiers, in fact he quite enjoyed it. But this was different. He was speaking to Soldiers, most of which had never experienced combat. What would he say? How should he act? How much detail was too much detail? He had prayed about this. He was confident that God would lead him in what to say.

The First Sergeant entered the room, with his wife, who was the First Sergeant for this unit, and the entire room pushed up from their chairs onto their feet. Once they were seated again his wife introduced him with a solid knife hand toward where he stood in front of them. He looked around suddenly very humbled by this experience and the opportunity that God had given him to share his experiences. By the end of the First Sergeant's talk, the Soldiers were on their feet giving him a standing ovation. He felt so blessed. To be here with them. To be able to inspire them in such a way, by simply telling his story.

The end of his 21-day leave came all too soon. He was broken inside at the knowledge of having to leave his family again. If it had only been about him, he would have chosen not to come home, but

remain in Iraq. But he had not come home for himself. He had come home for them. They neared the gate (at that time Soldier's family were able to travel beyond security checkpoints to see their Soldiers all the way to the gate) where he would depart. He was torn apart inside. He wanted to cry so much to show the intense feelings of grief that he was suffering, but that was not going to happen. He would remain strong for his wife and daughter. He embraced his wife as his desert camouflage clashed against her green camouflage uniform. Then came time for him to do what he knew would be the hardest part. He knelt in front of his daughter; whose cheeks were already streaked with tears. Her sadness pierced through his heart like a knife. He took her tiny face into his hands and kissed her warmly. "I love you." He said with a finality that caused her to cry out loud wrapping her arms around his neck tightly. He stood back up, holding her in his arms. He looked toward his wife who at this point had tears running down her cheeks. He put his daughter down and his wife restrained her.

He turned from them with tears in his eyes; fighting to control his emotions. He quickly walked toward the door that would take him down a corridor and back onto a plane, that would take him away from his family. He was going back to the war. He was deeply distress, but he was also anxious to get back to his unit. He wanted to be there with his Soldiers. He wanted to be there for them. He was ready to go back into the fight...

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." _ Romans 8:35-37



Daily Reading

Just like the First Sergeant was given a break from the war, even in this spiritual war that we are caught up in every day; God will give us a break from time to time. This doesn't mean, however, that we can let our guard down for one second. One way for us to ensure that we're effectively managing our "down time" is to have a "Battle Rhythm".

In the military a Battle Rhythm is defined as "A deliberate daily cycle of command, staff, and unit activities intended to synchronize current and future operations" (US Army Field Manual 6-0, Department of the (US) Army, 2003). In other words, it is our daily schedule and how it relates to the things we have to get done. It's all of the things that we must or want to do. This rhythm helps us to prioritize the available time that we have on any given day. The thing to remember about our battle rhythm is that while it should be a daily guide to help us plan and execute tasks, we should never let the "schedule" interfere with opportunities that the Spirit leads us to; those opportunities for service. Also with this being said, there are some components of our daily schedules we do not have control

over: work schedules, school schedules, travel times, in some cases meals, time to take medications, and other required duties.

Please do not confuse a battle rhythm with a To-Do list. The To-Do List (if you use one) generally supports your battle rhythm. A battle rhythm is a listing of the “Big Block” events on your daily, weekly, or monthly schedule. Use your battle rhythm as a weapon to manage your time and keep your efforts focused, so that the enemy can’t distract you from your work for the Kingdom. Everyone should have the following big block events in their lives daily:

Sleep/Rest Cycle/Period - Usually 6 to 8 hours every 24 hours

Meals - Usually 2 to 3 every 24 hours

Prayer Time(s) - The number of formal prayer times/periods within every 24 hours

Devotional Time - At least 1 time per every 24 hours

Scheduled Work/School/Mandatory Activity Times - The number of formal work/school/activity periods with a 24 hour period

Almost everyone has unique events, situations, and requirements that they have in their lives and these needs to be “plugged into” our battle rhythm, to ensure that we are capturing all *essential* items that we need to accomplish. Notice that the word essential was written in italics. That means that it is important. Only things that are important should be listed on the battle rhythm. Small, mundane tasks, unless they are essential in your daily schedule should not appear.

In the Day 19 Challenge you were required to write out how you spend your time. This challenge was somewhat strategic in its placement, but at the same time, was surprisingly, Divinely placed to get us all to think about how we were spending our time. During this challenge we were to, “jot down how you spend your time. Add it up and see how much eating, sleeping, working, praying, reading, watching TV, exercising, etc... you have done. Give your schedule to the Lord. Ask Him to lead you in how to best spend your time.” So if you kept a written record as the challenge asked you to, you already have the first hurdle completed to drafting a battle rhythm. If not, you’ll need to execute the Daily Challenge for Day 19 to find where your spending your time. Once you have identified where you are spending your time and approximately how much time you are spending on the major tasks (or big block events) of your day, you can start building your battle rhythm.

It doesn’t matter what program, format, or media that you use to record your battle rhythm on or in, just that you get it written down. I have seen very elaborate battle rhythms that are displayed on huge pieces of paper, so big they had to be printed on a plotter, and I’ve seen handwritten ones that simply hang on the refrigerator. I use an excel formatted rhythm that I keep on the desktop of my computer. However you elect to do your battle rhythm be assured it will need to be updated from time

to time. As major life changes occur (changes in careers, expansions and contractions of family members, marriages, birth of children, etc) the Lord will change where you need to spend your time. Follow His leading!...



Kid Friendly Ideas



Day 28: Using Spiritual Weapons!

Sunday, October 27th

“Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory.”

George S. Patton, General, U.S. Army



Today's Challenge: Paul's Epistle Reading

In today's challenge select one of Paul's Epistle's and read that letter. If possible, read the letter straight through, without stopping. If you must break your reading down over the course of the day, remember to pray that God will open your heart and mind to the lessons that He wants you to glean from reading the letter, each time. (1 Corinthians - Titus)

The First Sergeant, Commander, and HR Sergeant had just touched down on the airfield after a rough two days in Baghdad. They were greeted by Wilson and Waters who stood just off the airfield in their full body armor and helmets. “What's with all the gear?” The First Sergeant asked as he hoisted his patrol pack onto his shoulder. “There's something going on at the North Gate. There's been some small arms fire.” Waters said taking their packs. “Then let's get up there!” he belted out.

The First Sergeant breathed in and out deeply trying to shake the airsickness that had overtaken him on their flight back to Balad. A slight headache dominated his thoughts. The pain was becoming increasingly more intense. Putting his helmet back on was like placing his head into a vise. Then he directed Waters to drive into the North Gate Complex from the West, using the 10 foot high, nearly 2 feet thick, concrete “T Wall” barriers as cover.

The five Soldiers dismounted the vehicle and moved toward where they saw one of their unit's patrol vehicles, posted just inside the final Entry Control Point. They took cover behind the vehicle after seeing several other Soldiers in covered positions pointing their weapons outward. “We had two Vehicleborne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED - Car Bombs) drive up to the gate. One of the

vehicles exploded, but they got the other driver before he could set his off.” one of the First Sergeant’s Soldiers explained. “One of the dogs is out there right now.” he continued pointing the Chief Dog Handler, who was cautiously guiding his dog around the car.

The First Sergeant shook his head trying to shake off the pain that pierced through it. “You alright First Sergeant?” Waters asked crouching behind the patrol vehicle. The First Sergeant rolled his eyes and nodded his head, feeling like he was about to vomit. But there was no time for that. This VBIED was a serious threat to the security of the post. If he was going to throw up it would have to be on his own time.

After several tense minutes the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit rendered the car bomb inert and they towed it away from the gate. Moments later and a few hundred yards outside of the wire, a thunderous explosion jolted the entire area, as the EOD crew blew the unexploded ordinance in place ending the drama. The First Sergeant removed his helmet and rubbed his temples. “Let’s go back to the station.” he let out getting into the passenger side of one of the vehicles.

“Thanks for coming up to check on us First Sergeant!” his patrol officer spouted looking over at his green around the gills First Sergeant. “Hooah.” he simply said not feeling as though he could articulate much else. As bad as he felt there was no way that we would have left his Soldiers in that situation. He could not be with them in every dangerous situation that they faced on a daily basis, but when he could, he would always be there for them. To face the danger beside them...

“You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.” _ Psalm 91:5-6



Daily Reading

In today's vignette the First Sergeant displayed his willingness to go into harms way, even though he could have chosen the easy wrong over the hard right. Today we will look at another way to face those hard rights by wrapping up our look at the Armor of God. In Days 13 and 14 we looked at the components of the armor and briefly detailed what each piece was used for. Again yesterday we saw how this armor is used as part of the “terrain” on the spiritual battlefield. Today we will look at how to apply the armor through daily prayer.

Remember in Day 14 we talked about keeping this spiritual armor on at all times, except for the Shield of Faith and the Sword of the Spirit? In case you took off the other four components, you’ll need

to suit up again before we proceed. While researching the Armor of God from many different sources I found some interesting prayers surrounding these pieces of spiritual armor. I'm not a formatted, one size fits all, person when it comes to prayer, but the ways that these prayers have been arrayed and pieced together fits nicely into how the armor was meant to be used.

The Belt of Truth: “with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.” _ Ephesians 6:14

Dear Heavenly Father, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Show me your Divine truth I so desperately need today. Expose the lies that I am not even aware that I believe. Allow me to use that truth as an objective symbol for what is right and wrong. Always allow me to stand firm in your TRUTH! When hardship comes my way please command my thoughts to honor you and yield to your authority.

The Breastplate of Righteousness: “with the breastplate of righteousness in place,” _ Ephesians 6:14

And yes, Lord, I wear Your righteousness today against all condemnation and corruption. There is no other that is more righteous than you. As I strive to be more like you please fit me with Your holiness and purity — defend me from all assaults against my heart.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace: “and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.” _ Ephesians 6:15

Lord, you are my Peace. I do choose to live for the gospel. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Do not let me become complacent in my walk. Thank you for the Peace that you have blessed me with. When times of confusion or uncertainty come, help me to put my trust in Your perfect peace for my life.

The Shield of Faith: “In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” _ Ephesians 6:16

Father, I lift the confidence that You will sustain me against every lie and every assault of the enemy. You have good in store for me. You have told us to have faith like a mustard seed. I find my travels more difficult when my faith in you is wavering. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me.

The Helmet of Salvation: “Take the helmet of salvation” _ Ephesians 6:17



Thank you, Lord, for my salvation. The world is full of people who do not know this salvation. I pray that these lost souls will come to know you. I especially want to lift up my enemies to you father. I want to pray for their conversation. I ask that their evil will be restrained. I ask that they receive Divine justice. Please give me boldness to share Your free gift of Salvation and Eternal Life. I declare that nothing can separate me from the love of Christ and the place I shall ever have in Your kingdom.

The Sword of the Spirit: “and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” _Ephesians 6:18

Father, allow the spirit to show me specifically today the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the snares of the enemy. Bring them to mind throughout the day. Allow me to be able to write your Word upon my heart so that I may use it as a powerful weapon when needed. Please increase my desire to read and obey the Scriptures on a daily basis. Guide me with your word, to keep my course straight. When I need comfort allow your word to be a refuge to me. When I need courage may I find strength in your Word.

Pray: “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the LORD's people.” _Ephesians 6:18

Finally, I agree to walk in step with You in everything—in all prayer as my spirit communes with You throughout the day. May you continue to light my path. May you give me a desire to deny myself, to pick up my cross, and follow you daily. May I always stand ready to take a stand against the devil’s schemes. Please allow me to put on and never take off the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, I may be able to stand my ground, and after I have done everything, to stand, that I will Stand firm and bring honor and Glory to your Kingdom, and all God’s people said, Amen!

Now that we are armored up and prayed up let us look to weeks four and five to learn to overcome the strongholds that lay in our paths...



Kid Friendly Ideas

THE CROSSLIFE WARRIOR CHALLENGE

Weekly Theme: The Weapons of the Warrior

