

BRIAN BORGMAN & ROB VENTURA

SPIRITUAL
WARFARE

A BIBLICAL
& BALANCED
PERSPECTIVE

Spiritual Warfare Student Guide

Debra A. S. Burton

Based on *Spiritual Warfare: A Biblical and Balanced Perspective* by Brian Borgman & Rob Ventura

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by Brian Borgman & Rob Ventura (Reformation Heritage Books, 2014).

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Course Overview

This study guide was prepared for the women's Bible study program at Grace Church of the Black Hills in Rapid City, South Dakota in 2025. We are pleased to share it with others who are reading Pastor Borgman's and Pastor Ventura's excellent book on spiritual warfare. We learned much from this study as Pastors Borgman and Ventura defined the concept of spiritual warfare, explained its significance in the life of believers, and instructed us about what God expects from us in that warfare.

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Course Schedule

Week 1: General Introduction to the Topic of Spiritual Warfare

Assignment: Read *Spiritual Warfare* preface and introduction

Week 2: Being Strong in the Lord by Using the Armor He Provides

Assignment: Read chapters 1 and 2

Week 3: Know Your Enemy and the Nature of Our Conflict

Assignment: Read chapters 3 and 4 and Appendix 1

Week 4: Our Armor, Part 1. The Belt of Truth and the Breastplate of Righteousness

Assignment: Read chapters 5 and 6 and Appendix 2

Week 5: Our Armor, Part 2. Gospel of Peace Footwear and the Shield of Faith

Assignment: Read chapters 7 and 8

Week 6: Our Armor, Part 3. Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit

Assignment: Read chapters 9 and 10

Week 7: Warfare Prayer and Warfare Proclamation

Assignment: Read chapters 11 and 12 and Appendix 3

Week 8: Spiritual Warfare Debriefing

Assignment: Read chapter 13

Week 1

General Introduction to the Topic of Spiritual Warfare

Introductions: Let's get to know each other.

Course Overview:

- Why this topic?
- What resources will we use?
- Weekly schedule preview

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Homework for Today's Lesson:

Read the foreword, preface, and introduction to *Spiritual Warfare* and answer the questions below.

Foreword:

1. (p. vii). Why is it so easy for we Christians to forget that we are in a war?

Answer:

2. What three forces (foes) are at work in this war?

A:

Preface:

1. Author Brian Borgman asserts that the war we are in is a "real" war. Think about that statement for a few minutes and then pretend that you are arguing with someone who does not believe that Christians are engaged in a war. What evidence would you provide to try to convince them that we *are* in a war whether we like it or not and whether we can see the enemy or not?

A:

2. Why did the authors write this book?

A:

3. How would you answer the following questions: "What would our churches and families look like if we took the spiritual fight seriously? What would our marriages look like if

we remembered that our battle is not against flesh and blood? What would our evangelism look like if we were wide-awake to the battle that rages?

A:

4. According to Rob Ventura, what two problems result from teachers not including all components of spiritual warfare in their lessons?

A: (p. viii)

Introduction: “One Side of the Horse or the Other”

1. Why is it important to frequently remind ourselves of certain biblical truths? (p. 1)

A:

2. The key biblical truth this book focuses on is that Christians are “in a war of the most serious nature.” How is this war different than other wars humans experience?

A:

3. What two different approaches do Christians take to this war?

Approach 1:

Approach 2:

4. The 1700s ushered in an era known as the Enlightenment in which men increasingly emphasized rationalism over faith. Many Enlightenment thinkers discounted the possibility of anything supernatural. The worldview they espoused, which is quite common today is naturalism. How do the authors define *naturalism*? (p. 2)

A:

5. How is the biblical worldview different?

A:

6. What characterizes Christians who hold a worldview that mixes biblical and naturalistic viewpoints?

A:

7. What characterizes Christians who go to the other extreme and “treat spiritual warfare as the lens through which they perceive everything”?

A:

8. What do the authors mean when they describe people building “doctrinal skyscrapers” on “chicken coop foundations” and why is it dangerous? (p. 3)

A:

9. How will overemphasizing the influence of Satan and demons in our lives undermine our Christian walk according to the authors?

A:

10. What is the proper perspective that Christians should have about “spiritual realities and the spiritual warfare to which God calls us?”

A:

11. What is the origin of spiritual warfare in human history?

A:

12. How did Satan wage spiritual warfare on Adam and Eve?

A:

13. We have much evidence from Scripture that events in the Garden of Eden were only the beginning of a spiritual war that still rages on earth today. What do the following passages teach us about how humans are involved in this spiritual war on earth? (pp. 3–5)

Genesis 3:15:

1 John 3:10–12:

1 Peter 5:8–9a:

14. What does the following passage teach us about humankind’s bitter enemy, Satan, and his final destiny?

Revelation 12:1–17:

15. How do the following verses convey the fact that Jesus’s earthly ministry demonstrated His power and authority over Satan and his kingdom? (pp. 4–5)

Matthew 12:25–29:

Luke 13:10–16:

16. How do the following verses convey the fact that “the cross was an act of judgment evicting the ruler of this world”? (p. 5)

John 12:27–31:

1 John 3:8:

Colossians 2:15:

Hebrews 2:14–15:

17. How should the following passages encourage us as we endure spiritual warfare here on earth? (p. 6)

Romans 16:19–20:

Ephesians 6:10–20:

Selected End of Chapter Questions. (Paraphrased)

- What do you find encouraging about the history of this spiritual warfare?
- What area of your thinking or living was directly challenged by this history?

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Review and Ruminare: As you think back over the reading assignments for today’s lesson, what key points struck you as important? Jot them down and share with the class.

Week 2

Being Strong in the Lord by Using the Armor He Provides

Lesson Preparation:

1. Read chapters 1 and 2 of *Spiritual Warfare*.
2. Spend 5–10 minutes reading and meditating on 2 Kings 6:8–23. Note that this passage addresses both visible and invisible warfare. What insights does this passage give us about the nature of spiritual warfare? Be prepared to share your thoughts in class.

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Chapter 1: “Be Strong in the Lord”

1. What is “the first step in successfully waging spiritual warfare?” (p. 7)
A:
2. Look back at the discussion we had last lesson on Ephesians 6:10–20. This passage reminds us of the things that we need in order to be successful. What categories do the authors divide these needs into on page 1?(p. 7)
A:
3. Into what two parts is the book of Ephesians divided? (p. 8)
A 1:
A 2:
4. The authors note that Ephesians 6:10–20 is the crescendo of Paul’s letter to the Christians in the ancient city of Ephesus. What was Ephesus like in Paul’s day?
A:
5. What origin story did the citizens of Ephesus believe about their city’s founding and how did this story influence their religious practices?
A:
6. Aside from the worship of Artemis, what spiritual and occult practices were common in Ephesus in Paul’s day? (p. 9)

A:

7. Acts 19 details Paul's arrival and sojourn in Ephesus. He spent about three months teaching in the Jewish synagogue there and another two years teaching in the school of Tyrannus (Acts 19:8–10). What evidence does Luke give that God worked through Paul to bring light into the Ephesian spiritual darkness?

A 1:

A 2:

8. In light of what you have just learned about the city of Ephesus and the challenges that new believers faced there, why would the words of Ephesians 6:10–20 resonate so well with them? (p. 10)

A:

9. What does Paul's admonition "be strong" mean? Why is it so important for us to embrace this disposition in our daily walk with Christ?

A:

10. What two interesting grammatical points do the authors make about the way Paul worded the phrase "be strong?" (pp. 10–11)

A 1:

A 2:

11. What does being strong in the Lord look like in our own lives? (p. 11)

A:

12. Why does our perception about who Jesus is and who we are in Him make a difference in whether we are defeated or victorious in our daily spiritual battles?

A:

13. What truths about Jesus do the authors urge us to rehearse again and again to strengthen us? (pp. 11–12)

A:

14. The authors remind us that we are to be strong in the Lord "and in the power of His might." They quote Ephesians 1:17–23. What three manifestations of the power of God does this passage describe? (p. 12)

A:

15. Why should this passage embolden us? (pp. 13–14)

A:

Selected End of Chapter Questions. (Paraphrased).

- What causes us to fall into an attitude of self-sufficiency?” How do we avoid it?
- As we meditate on Christ’s life, death, resurrection, and exultation, what attitude should we have as we engage in spiritual warfare?

Chapter 2: “Put on the Full Armor of God”

1. In what interim time do we live? (p. 15)

A:

2. What does God mean when He tells us to “clothe ourselves” with His armor? (p. 16)

A:

3. What are some other examples of believers having “put on” something?

A:

4. Did you notice that God’s armor is part of the equipment of the “new man” that Christians need to “put on?” Wearing God’s spiritual armor is evidence of our new identity as believers who are “clothed with Christ;” it results in us striving to live differently than we did before we were “in Christ.” How do the authors describe what it means to put on God’s armor?

A:

5. What are some of the virtues of Christ that we have “put on” and that should be evidenced in our life? (p. 17)

A:

6. The authors emphasize that we are not to put on selected pieces of the armor but all of the armor that God has provided. Why is this so important?

A:

7. The authors also emphasize that it isn't just any armor that we are to put on, but *God's* armor. It is the same armor that Jesus was prophetically described as wearing in Isaiah 11:4–5 and 59:16–17. What attributes of God comprise this armor? (p. 19)

A:

8. Why do we need to put on God's armor according to Ephesians 6:11?

A:

9. The authors emphasize that, contrary to what we might think, standing is not a passive, relaxed activity. It requires extreme effort. What does Scripture mean when it tells us that we will be able to "stand?" (p. 20)

A:

10. What is a key characteristic of "standing" as described here and in 1 Peter 5:8–9 and James 4:7? (pp. 20–21)

A:

11. Of what truths should we remind ourselves as we strive to "stand" in the power of God against Satan? (p. 21)

A:

Selected End of Chapter Question. (Paraphrased).

- Think of a time when you lost spiritual ground to the enemy. What happened? What did you learn in this chapter that would have helped you prevent losing ground?

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Review and Ruminare: As you think back over the reading assignments for today's lesson, what key points struck you as important? Jot them down and share with the class.

Week 3

Know the Enemy and the Nature of Our Conflict

Lesson Preparation:

1. Read chapters 3 and 4 and Appendix 1 of *Spiritual Warfare*.
2. Spend 5–10 minutes reading and meditating on Isaiah 14:12–17 and Ezekiel 28:11–19. What insights does it give us into who Satan is and what his future holds?

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Why Today’s Lesson is So Important: [One of the most common lessons that is taught to military leaders is the importance of knowing your enemy. A famous ancient Chinese military text entitled *The Art of War* (c. 475 BC) says: “If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles.”] Scripture makes it clear that Satan is the enemy of Christians. The New Testament alone refers to him as our foe more than thirty times. Peter calls him “your adversary” (1 Peter 5:8) and John calls him the “accuser of our brethren” (Revelation 12:10). The English word “Satan” is derived from a Hebrew word meaning “adversary” or “accuser.” Scripture also makes it clear that, like it or not, we Christians are soldiers engaged in a spiritual war “against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). [Last week we focused on the “know yourself” aspect of this spiritual warfare. We learned that God has fully equipped us for the battle to which He has called us and that we are on the winning side because Jesus has already sealed the fate of Satan, sin, and death. This week, we will focus on the “know your enemy” aspect of preparation for spiritual warfare. Scripture provides ample insights into our enemy, Satan. It is up to us to study and master that knowledge so we will be more effective in our role as Christian soldiers.]

Chapter 3: “The Schemes of the Devil”

1. God tells us to put on *all* the armor He provides for us so that we can stand firm against the “wiles of the devil” (Ephesians 6:11). What is meant by the term, *wiles*? (p. 23)
A:
2. Another term used to describe Satan’s schemes against us is found in 2 Corinthians 2:10–11. It is the term *devices* and refers to a “bad purpose, design, or plot.” What key point about Satan do the authors want us to recognize? (p. 24)
A:
3. Why is it important that we know that Satan is actively plotting to find ways to attack us?

A:

4. **Bonus Question.** Although we know that Jesus's death and resurrection wrought victory in the war against Satan, it is possible for us as Christians to lose individual battles. How do those "losses" manifest themselves in our lives?

A:

5. What are some of the descriptions of Satan given in the Old and New Testaments? (p. 25)

Matt. 4:3; 1 Thess 3:5:

Rev. 9:11:

Matt. 6:13:

Rev. 12:3, 7–9; Rev. 20:2:

1 Peter 5:8:

2 Cor. 4:4:

Eph. 2:2:

John 8:44, 12:31, 16:11:

6. According to theologian, Frederick Leahy, how can Satan be "the ruler of this world" even though we know that God is sovereign? (pp. 25–26)

A:

7. Scripture teaches us that Satan is "crafty" and "subtle." What is his main goal? (p. 26)

A:

8. What was the first subtle suggestion Satan made to Eve in the Garden of Eden?

A: What are some of the subtle ways that Satan can cause us to question God's goodness? What circumstances in your life have caused you to doubt God's goodness? How did you overcome that doubt? (p. 27)

A:

9. Why is it critically important that we are well-versed in Scripture?

A:

10. In addition to getting Christians to misapply or twist God's Word, what are two other tactics that Satan uses against God's Word? (p. 28)

A:

11. What is Satan's principle weapon?

A:

12. What lies has Satan tried to sow in your heart and mind? How did you overcome them?

A:

13. Lies are just one of the weapons Satan uses against humans. What are some of the other things Satan can do?

A:

14. What are some of the sins Satan uses against us? (pp. 28–29)

A 1:

A 2:

A 3:

A 4:

15. What is Satan's ultimate objective when he targets Christians? (p. 29)

A:

16. How should Jesus's words in Revelation 2:10 encourage us as we fight our daily spiritual battles?

A:

17. How can knowing our enemy (Satan) help us to stand against his onslaught? (p. 30)

A:

Selected End of Chapter Question. (Paraphrased).

- What schemes, tactics, or lies has Satan successfully used against you in the past or tried to use against you? How did you respond?

Chapter 4: “The Nature of Our Conflict”

1. Why did the advent of technology, such as light bulbs, make it easier for people to discount belief in the supernatural realm of principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places? (p. 33)

A:

2. What is the main reason Paul gives for putting on *all* of the armor that God has supplied us? (Eph. 6:12). (pp. 34–35)

A:

3. Why did Paul use the sports metaphor of “wrestling” to describe our battle against invisible evil forces?

A:

4. What do each of the terms Paul uses to describe our spiritual enemies mean? (p. 36)

Principalities:

Powers:

Rulers of the Darkness of this Age:

Spiritual Hosts of Wickedness in the Heavenly Places:

5. Why is it so important that we accept the reality of demonic forces as fact? (p. 36)

A:

6. Why was it so important for Paul to paint a grim picture of our enemy, Satan? (p. 37)

A:

7. What important grammatical point do the authors make about the phrase, “that *you* may be able to withstand in the evil day?”

A:

8. How should our battle tactics mimic those of ancient Roman armies? (p. 38)

A:

9. What is meant by “the evil day?”

A:

Selected End of Chapter Question. (Paraphrased).

- What are some of the ways we can help each other as fellow believers to take up the armor of God collectively so we can stand together in spiritual warfare?

Appendix 1: “The Sovereignty of God and Satan”

1. This appendix addresses the question of whether God or Satan is in charge of affairs on the earth today. Many people believe that God is in charge of the “good stuff” and Satan is in charge of the “bad stuff.” Others believe that God tries to prevent Satan from scoring victories against us but that sometimes “Satan gets one by Him.” While it is true that Scripture identifies Satan as “the god of this age” (2 Cor. 4:4) and the “ruler of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), he does not have limitless authority. What biblical truths about Satan’s power can we glean from the accounts of Job and Paul in Scripture? (p. 111)

Job: (pp. 112–113).

Paul: (pp. 113–115).

2. So, who is the god of this age and who rules the affairs on this earth? (p. 115)

A:

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Review and Reflect: As you think back over the reading assignments for today’s lesson, what key points struck you as important? Jot them down and share with the class.

Week 4
Our Armor, Part 1
The Belt of Truth and the Breastplate of Righteousness

Lesson Preparation:

1. Read chapters 5 and 6 and Appendix 2 of *Spiritual Warfare*.
2. Spend 5–10 minutes reading and meditating on Job 1:1–12 and 2:1–10. What insights does this passage give us about the nature of spiritual warfare and the sovereignty of God in our lives? Be prepared to share your thoughts in class.

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Chapter 5: “The Belt of Truth” *“Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth.”*

1. What warning regarding spiritual warfare does Pastor John MacArthur make in the excerpt from his book, *Our Sufficiency in Christ*, quoted in this chapter? (p. 41)
A:
2. What action does Paul repeat for the fourth time in Ephesians 6:14? Why does he emphasize this action? (p. 42)
A:
3. What interesting dichotomy characterizes the life of believers according to the passage quoted from Stanley Gale’s book, *What is Spiritual Warfare?* (p. 43)
A:
4. What was the purpose of the belt on an ancient Roman soldier’s waist?
A:
5. Why does Paul call this piece of spiritual armor the belt “of truth”? (p. 44)
A:
6. What are the two aspects of truth Paul is referencing in Ephesians 6:14?
A 1:

A 2:

7. How do these dual aspects of truth (and truthfulness) work together in a believer's life according to the quotation from Harold Hoehner? (p. 45)

A:

8. The authors point out that if we don't embrace the truths of the gospel and strive to live out that truth in our own lives, "we leave ourselves open to be 'tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine'" (Eph. 4:14). They add that "Since God's Word is truth (John 17:17), and we have been saved by Jesus who is the truth (John 14:6), we are to walk in truth (3 John 1:3–4) so that we will not be tricked by the enemy or his emissaries, who love to twist the truth (Gen. 3:1; Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28–30)."

The authors give practical advice on how we are to wrap the belt of truth around us daily. What tips do they give for applying the *objective* aspect of the belt of truth? (pp. 45–46)

A:

9. What tips do they give for applying the *subjective* aspect of the belt of truth? (pp. 46–47)

A:

10. What is the danger of living hypocritically, i.e. of not having our actions match our calling to "walk in truth?" (p. 47)

A:

Selected End of Chapter Questions. (Paraphrased).

Before answering these questions, spend some time reflecting on your own life. Are you diligent to read God's Word every day? Do you consciously think about it throughout the day and strive to memorize key passages? Do you battle against sin daily, striving to "be holy as God is holy" or are you allowing a particular sin (or sins) to reside unmolested in your life?

- What are some areas of your life where truth is eroding? How will you bring God's truth to these areas?

- What steps can you employ to better learn the objective truths from God's Word and employ them in your life?

Chapter 6: “The Breastplate of Righteousness”

1. What should the words “put on” teach us about the armor of God? (p. 49)

A:

2. What were the breastplates worn by Roman soldiers in Paul’s day like? (p. 49)

A:

3. What metaphorical vital spiritual “organ” does God’s “breastplate of righteousness” protect? (p. 50)

A:

4. In Paul’s day, the heart wasn’t understood to be a pump that circulated blood; it was seen as the seat of emotions. How do the following Scripture verses reflect this ancient perception about the heart of man? (p. 50)

A:

Proverbs 4:23:

Deuteronomy 30:1–3:

Hosea 10:2:

Matthew 22:37:

5. What four aspects of man are rolled up in the term “heart” according to Jerry Bridges? (p. 50)

A:

6. Why is it so important that we protect our heart from Satan’s attacks? (p. 51)

A:

7. The authors describe two types of righteousness connoted by the term “breastplate of righteousness” The first is *objective righteousness*. What is it and how should it help us defeat the tactics of the devil? (pp. 51–52)

A:

8. The second type of righteousness connoted by the term “breastplate of righteousness” is *subjective righteousness*. What is it? (p. 53)

A:

9. How do we deploy *subjective righteousness* in our Christian walk to thwart the schemes of the devil? (p. 53)

A:

10. What point do the authors make about the relationship between objective righteousness and subjective righteousness? (p. 54)

A:

11. What point do the authors make about the danger of toying with sin in our lives? (p. 55)

A:

12. How do we avoid falling into this danger?

A:

13. What final advice about the breastplate of righteousness do the authors give us? (p. 56)

A:

Selected End of Chapter Question. (Paraphrased).

- Why is it important that we protect our mind and emotions?

Appendix 2: “Can a Christian Be Demon-Possessed?”

1. Why do the authors reject the concept that Satan can “possess” or “own” a believer? (p. 117)

A:

2. The authors describe various viewpoints on the issue of whether Christians can be owned or controlled by demons before giving their own response that is based on two truths from Scripture. What is the first truth they emphasize? (pp. 118–119)

A:

3. Though confident that unclean spirits cannot indwell a person in whom the Holy Spirit dwells, what second truth do the authors warn us not to ignore? (p. 119)

A:

4. The authors conclude that the New Testament emphasizes “that the devil’s influence on the Christian is primarily deceptive scheming and trickery, *not* indwelling and

controlling. What often characterizes the lives of Christians who believe they *can* be indwelt or possessed by demons? (p. 119)

A:

5. Though we shouldn't overemphasize the influence of demonic activity in our lives, what warning do the authors give about not taking demonic activity seriously? (p. 120)

A:

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Review and Ruminare: As you think back over the reading assignments for today's lesson, what key points struck you as important? Jot them down and share with the class.

Week 5

Our Armor, Part 2

Gospel of Peace Footwear and the Shield of Faith

Lesson Preparation:

1. Read chapters 7 and 8 of *Spiritual Warfare*.
2. Spend 5–10 minutes reading and meditating on Revelation 12:1–17. We mentioned this passage during our week 1 discussions. What insights does this historic and prophetic passage give us about the nature of spiritual warfare and of the means through which Satan will ultimately be vanquished? Be prepared to share what you learned in class.

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Chapter 7: “The Gospel of Peace Footwear”

1. The authors point out that footwear is an important part of our daily lives. We choose our footwear (sandals, tennis shoes, hiking shoes, etc.) based on the activity we are doing. Ephesians 6:15 instructs us to have our feet “shod . . . with the preparation of the gospel of peace.” What function did the footwear of a Roman soldier serve and how does our spiritual footwear serve a similar function? (pp. 59–60)

A:

2. Our spiritual footwear consists of the “preparation of the gospel of peace.” What is the first meaning of this phrase that the authors give? It has to do with “going on the offensive” against Satan and his kingdom. (pp. 60–61)

A:

3. What is the second meaning of the phrase “preparation of the gospel of peace” that the authors give? It has to do with “standing defensively” against Satan and his kingdom. (pp. 61–62)

A:

4. The authors write: “Just as the gospel is a powerful means for advancing God’s truth and delivering many from Satan’s clutches, it is also a powerful means for stabilizing us as believers, helping us to stand against his attacks.” What are some of the ways that Satan attacks believers? (p. 62)

A:

5. The authors point out that some Christians have a mistaken view that the gospel is somehow only a stepping stone to “deeper things.” What examples do they give to prove their assertion that, “in truth, nothing is deeper than the gospel?” The gospel “teaches us about:” (pp. 62–63)

A:

6. The authors conclude by stating: “These grand themes should fill our minds constantly.” How does thinking about these amazing truths and promises of God help us stand firm against Satan’s assaults? (p. 63)

A:

Selected End of Chapter Question.

- “Where in your life has the enemy scored repeated hits? What Scriptures can you bring to bear in this battle? What aspects of the gospel do you need to believe more firmly and rehearse to yourself during and after these attacks?”

Chapter 8: “The Shield of Faith”

1. (pp. 65–66). The authors describe the ancient Roman shield as a “large, heavy, rectangular shield [that] covered the warrior’s entire body.” It was about 4–6 feet tall and 2–3 feet wide, almost as big as a door. It was lined with metal so that it was fireproof. [Enemy armies often shot flaming arrows at each other in those days.] (p. 66). The authors emphasize that our shield is a shield of *faith*. What two types of faith does it involve?

A:

2. The authors point out that faith is not just an “intellectual assent in some abstract ideas concerning God,” nor is it “having some vague notions or feelings” about God and the Bible. What is faith according to Scripture and the authors? (pp. 66–67)

A:

3. What grammatical points do the authors make about our responsibility with regard to the shield of faith? (p. 67)

A:

4. What important encouragement do the authors give with regard to taking up the shield of faith? (p. 67)

A:

5. What tactic does Satan employ to weaken our faith? (p. 68)

A:

6. What must we do as Satan tries to get us to doubt God and to get us to move us even just slightly off course? (p. 69)

A:

7. What five steps can we take to keep our faith “active?” (pp. 69–70).

A 1:

A 2:

A 3:

A 4:

A 5:

8. The authors emphasize that “faith is our impenetrable covering” against Satan’s “fiery darts.” It doesn’t just nullify some of Satan’s attacks. It nullifies *all* of them. What are some of the “fiery darts” that Satan sends against humans? (pp. 70–71).

A:

9. The authors quote a sermon by Charles Spurgeon in which he describes how Christians are protected against attacks on our head [our mind] and our heart. How does faith protect us in each case? (pp. 71–72)

A: Attacks on our mind:

A: Attacks on our heart:

Pray regularly that God would give you the same assurance of God’s providence that Paul had. Recall his words to the frightened sailors onboard the storm-tossed ship bound for Rome:

“For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.” (Acts 27:23–25)

Do you believe as Paul did?

Selected End of Chapter Questions. (Paraphrased)

- Recall a time in your life when the shield of faith God gave you provided protection. What “fiery darts” were thrown at you and how did the shield extinguish them?

- Recall a time in your life when some of those “fiery darts” got through. What were the circumstances and why was your shield of faith ineffective? How did you ultimately repair it and overcome the trial?

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Review and Ruminare: As you think back over the reading assignments for today’s lesson, what key points struck you as important? Jot them down and share with the class.

Week 6
Our Armor, Part 3
Helmet of Salvation and the Sword of the Spirit

Lesson Preparation:

1. Read chapters 9 and 10 of *Spiritual Warfare*.
2. Spend 5–10 minutes reading and meditating on 2 Corinthians 10:1–6 and Matthew 4:1–11. What guidance do these passages give us for waging spiritual warfare? Be prepared to share your insights with the class.

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Chapter 9: “The Helmet of Salvation”

1. What does the “helmet of salvation” protect? (p. 74)

A:

2. What do the following verses teach us about the relationship between our minds and spiritual warfare? (p. 74)

A:

2 Cor. 4:3–4:

2 Cor. 10:3–5:

2 Cor. 11:3:

3. What is the relationship between our minds and our lives? (p. 74)

A:

4. Where do we get the helmet of salvation? (pp. 74–75)

A:

5. Paul wrote his letter to the Ephesians to believers like us. The literal meaning of the word “helmet” is “that which is around or encircles the head.” What three aspects of salvation does Paul want us to consider when wearing “the helmet of salvation?” (pp. 75–76)

A 1:

A 2:

A 3:

6. Which of the three aspects of salvation does Paul seem to be emphasizing when he tells us to put on the helmet of salvation? (pp. 76–77)

A:

7. What final encouragement do the authors offer us with regard to the helmet of salvation? (pp. 77–78)

A: Selected End of Chapter Questions. (Paraphrased)

- Why is it so important for us to protect our minds spiritually? What happens when we don't?
- “What are some signs that you might not be wearing the helmet of salvation?” What can you do to rectify this weakness in your life?

Chapter 10: “The Sword of the Spirit”

1. What is the “sword of the Spirit” according to Ephesians 6:17? (p. 79)

A:

2. What are the two different Greek words for “sword” used in the New Testament and how do they differ? Which word is used in Ephesians 6:17? (pp. 79–80)

A 1:

A 2:

3. Which Greek word for sword did Paul use in Ephesians 6:17? What type of combat was this type of sword particularly suited to? (p. 80)

A:

4. What is the source of the sword given to us for spiritual warfare? (p. 80).

A:

5. According to Clinton Arnold, in what way can Christians use the *machaira* sword as a defensive and offensive weapon in our spiritual warfare? (pp. 80–81)

A: Defensive.

A: Offensive.

6. What two Greek words are usually used interchangeably to refer to the “word” of God? Which one does Paul use in Ephesians 6:17 and how is it subtly different from the other word?

A:

7. Read Matthew 4:1–11. How did Jesus demonstrate the defensive use of God’s Word during His encounter with Satan in the wilderness after His baptism at the commencement of His earthly ministry? (p. 81)

A: Temptation 1:

Jesus’s response:

Temptation 2:

Jesus’s response:

Temptation 3:

Jesus’s response:

8. The authors describe six principles that should govern our use of the “sword of the Spirit.” What is the first principle? (p. 81)

A:

9. The authors describe six principles that should govern our use of the “sword of the Spirit.” What is the second principle? (p. 82)

A:

10. The authors describe six principles that should govern our use of the “sword of the Spirit.” What is the third principle? (pp. 82–83)

A:

11. The authors describe six principles that should govern our use of the “sword of the Spirit.” What is the fourth principle? (pp. 83–84)

A:

12. The authors describe six principles that should govern our use of the “sword of the Spirit.” What is the fifth principle? (pp. 84–85)

A:

13. The authors describe six principles that should govern our use of the “sword of the Spirit.” What is the sixth principle? (pp. 85–86)

A: Selected End of Chapter Questions. (Paraphrased)

- As you review the six principles of wielding the sword of the Spirit in your life discussed above, which are your weakest? What can you do to improve your swordsmanship?
- What sin or sins tend to be your “besetting” sins, i.e. the ones you often fall prey to? Find one or two Scripture verses that speak directly to these sins and write them here. Work on memorizing them over the course of the next few weeks.

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Review and Ruminare: As you think back over the reading assignments for today’s lesson, what key points struck you as important? Jot them down and share with the class.

Week 7

Warfare Prayer and Warfare Proclamation

Lesson Preparation:

1. Read chapters 11 and 12 and Appendix 3 of *Spiritual Warfare*.
2. Spend 5–10 minutes reading and meditating on Daniel chapter 10, especially verses 10–20. What insights does this passage give us about the nature of spiritual warfare? Be prepared to share your thoughts with the class.

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Chapter 11: “Warfare Prayer”

1. The authors point out that Paul emphasizes prayer in his letter to the church at Ephesus. Of its 155 verses, 31 (20%) of them mention prayer. According to Clinton Arnold, why does Paul put so much emphasis on prayer? (p. 88)

A:

2. What point do the authors make about the connection between verses 14 and 18 in Ephesians 6? (p. 88)

A:

3. What point do the authors make about our spiritual armor and its relationship to prayer? (pp. 88–89)

A:

4. The authors give five attributes of “warfare prayer.” What do they mean by their first attribute: “Warfare prayer is varied and intense?” (p. 89)

A:

5. What do they mean by their second attribute: “Warfare prayer is constant?” (pp. 89–90)

A:

6. What do they mean by their third attribute: “Warfare prayer is in the Spirit?” (pp. 91–92)

A:

7. What do they mean by their fourth attribute: “Warfare prayer is watching and persevering?” (pp. 92–93)

A:

8. What do they mean by their fifth attribute: “Warfare prayer is for all the saints?” (pp. 93–94)

A:

Selected End of Chapter Question. (Paraphrased)

- Why is prayer such a difficult discipline for Christians? Jot down some of the strengths of your prayer life and some of the weaknesses. How can you strengthen the weaker areas?

Chapter 12: “Warfare Prayer and Proclamation”

1. The authors discuss the fact that the types of things we ask others to pray about on our behalf reveal a lot about our spiritual state. What do they mean by that? (p. 97)

A:

2. Read Paul’s prayer request in Ephesians 6:19–20. What specific things does he confess and ask for? (pp. 97–98)

A:

3. What does it mean that we, like Paul, are Christ’s “ambassadors”? (p. 98)

A:

4. The authors point out the irony that although Paul (and we) are ambassadors of God and could expect to be arrayed in fancy clothing and jewelry as a representative of the King of kings and Lord of lords, and to be winned and dined as dignitaries, he (and we) are actually called to suffer for Christ’s sake. How should this recognition of our status as suffering ambassadors motivate our requests for prayers? (p. 99)

A:

5. What important point do the authors make about Paul’s willingness to ask the Ephesians (Colossians, and Thessalonians) to pray for him? (p. 99)

A:

6. What is the relationship between preaching [proclaiming the gospel] and praying? (p. 100)

A:

7. What is the first component of warfare proclamation? (p. 101)

A:

8. What is the second component of warfare proclamation? (p. 102)

A:

9. What is the third component of warfare proclamation? (pp. 102–103)

A:

10. What are the three things preaching (sharing the gospel) involves? (p. 103)

A 1:

A 2:

A 3:

Selected End of Chapter Question. (Paraphrased)

- What kinds of things do you ask others to pray for on your behalf? Do you honestly admit the struggles you are having in particular areas of your life? If not, how can you change this habit of withholding the truth of your struggles from your brothers and sisters in Christ?

Appendix 3: “Christian, Pray for Your Pastors!”

1. Read this appendix carefully, making note of the Scripture passages and insights from preachers like Charles H. Spurgeon about the importance of Christians praying for their pastors. Do you regularly pray for the pastor, elders, and deacons at your church? If not, what steps can you take to establish a habit of prayer for them. What specific things can you pray for on their behalf? (pp. 121–124)

A:

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Review and Reflect: As you think back over the reading assignments for today’s lesson, what key points struck you as important? Jot them down and share with the class.

Week 8

Spiritual Warfare Debriefing

Lesson Preparation:

1. Read chapter 13 of *Spiritual Warfare*.
2. Spend 5–10 minutes reading and meditating on Ephesians 6:10–18. Jot down the key insights emphasized in this passage in the space below. Also, jot down how your understanding of “the whole armor of God” has changed since beginning this course. Which part(s) of the armor do you find most useful in the daily spiritual battles you face? Why? Which part(s) of the armor do you want to learn to use more effectively? Be prepared to share your insights with the class.

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Chapter 13: “Spiritual Warfare Debriefing”

1. What is a “debriefing?” (pp. 105–106)
A:
2. What is the first “summary principle” that the authors want us to remember? (p. 106)
A:
3. The authors note that our struggles against the powers of darkness usually occur in the “mundane.” What are some of the examples of the “mundane” where Satan attacks?
A:
4. What question should we be asking when under spiritual attack?
A:
5. What is the second “summary principle” the authors want us to remember? (p. 107)
A:
6. What is the third “summary principle” that the authors want us to remember? (p. 107)
A:

7. Though we have the ability to stand fast against Satan’s attacks in the power of Christ, we do sometimes fail and temporarily succumb to his wiles. What encouragement do we as Christians have that we will not be “hanged as traitors?” (pp. 107–108)

A:

8. What is the fourth “summary principle” that the authors want us to remember? (p. 108)

A:

9. What is the fifth “summary principle” that the authors want us to remember?

A:

10. What examples do the authors give of applying Christ’s redemptive work in our lives? (They recommend praying that God would help you do each of these things.) (pp. 109–110)

A 1:

A 2:

A 3:

A 4:

A 5:

A 6:

A 7:

A 8:

The authors conclude with the reminder to all of us that “We are not lacking anything necessary for battle. We are strong in our victor, Jesus Christ, . . . In Him ‘we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us’ (Rom. 8:37).” Let’s live like we believe it!

Selected End of Chapter Questions.

- What can you do to remind yourself that you are in a battle?
- What is the most important lesson you have learned in this book?

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Review and Ruminare: As you think back over the reading assignments for today's lesson, what key points struck you as important? Jot them down and share with the class.