

***THE WAR***  
***LEADER'S GUIDE***

***A STUDY TO PREPARE BELIEVERS TO STAND FIRM  
AGAINST THE ASSAULTS FROM THE DEMONIC REALM***

***MARTIN PURYEAR***

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## **THE WAR**

### **LEADER'S GUIDE**

#### **ORIENTATION**

Let's begin with the objective of this course, found on page 1. "The War" seeks

"to prepare believers to stand firm against the assaults from the demonic realm."

This study is meant to equip us to maintain our composure during our struggle with Satan and his forces. We will be learning both offensive and defensive maneuvers.

[Ask someone to read 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 22:35-40, 47-49: page 3.]

[Have everyone turn to "A Snapshot of the Course," page 5.]

The primary figure in this course is not Satan. Our purpose is not to exalt a defeated foe. The primary Figure in this study is the One Who defeated Him, the Lord Jesus Christ. Our goal as believers is – as always – to exalt our victorious Savior.

You will find that this course has been constructed in such a way that it will alternate, back and forth, between truth that is very bright and truth that is dark:

On pages **6-8**, "The Reality of Spiritual Battle," we will become *oriented* to the war in which we fight.

Then on pages **9-40**, "A Profile of Our Enemy," the tone of our study will become *historical*, stretching all the way back into eternity past. We will watch as an individual rises to the pinnacle of privilege in the heavenlies, only to plummet – with his followers – to the pit of Hell.

On pages **41-54**, "The Assurance of Spiritual Victory," our study will have a *theological* bent as it outlines the different victories over Satan that Christ Jesus won on His own behalf – and ours – at His Crucifixion, His Resurrection, and His Exaltation to the right hand of the Father. Here, the tone of the course is filled with assurance and strength.

On pages **55-78**, with "The Tenacity (and) Tactics of the Demonic Realm," the course once again becomes sobering. Here, we will receive *counsel* to be on the alert to Satan's strategies.

Then, on pages **79-108**, “The Battle Gear of the Christian Warrior” and “The Battle Plan of the Triumphant Church,” we turn once again to truth that is filled with hope as we consider in detail each piece of our armor and strategy to fully experience the triumphs our Savior has secured for us. The tone of this section is largely *practical*.

? Does anyone have any comments or questions or clarification before we get started?

**THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL BATTLE**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **6-8**.]

[Have someone read footnotes **1, 2, and 3**, page **8**.]

“What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?”

“Was there any information that was *confusing*?”

“Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?”

(“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”)

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? What do you hope to get out of this course?

[Summarize their answers.]

## **A PROFILE OF OUR ENEMY**

### **THE ORIGINAL STATUS OF "STAR OF THE MORNING," "SON OF THE DAWN"**

#### **His Original Nature**

##### **He Is a Creature**

[Have someone read footnote 4, page 17.]

[Ask someone to read this section: page 9.]

? What does this section tell us about Satan's person? [*He is not God's equal but is, instead, a created being.*]

"What information was the most *interesting* or *helpful* or *new* to you?"

"Was there any information that was *confusing*?"

"Was there any information that you *disagreed* with?"

("Comments, Questions, Clarifications?")

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? Why do you think we need to know this, that Satan is **not** God's equal? [*At times we may begin to believe that Satan is as strong as God and, therefore, can sometimes win over God ... that, at times, his power is too great to overcome.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

##### **He Is an Angel**

[Ask someone to read this section: page 9.]

? What does this section tell us about Satan's person? [*He is an angel, holding the rank of cherub.*]

Notice that the last verse in this section was Ezekiel 28:14.

[Have someone read footnote 5, page 18.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### He Was Created Sinless

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **9-10**.]

? What does this section tell us about Satan? [*When he was created, he did not have an evil disposition. He was created sinless.*]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### His Original Titles

[Ask someone to read this section: page **10**.]

? What were Satan's *original* titles? [*“Star of the morning,” “Son of the dawn”*]

? What does that suggest regarding his original character? [*His original character was “full of light”: pure, spotless, blameless, in full fellowship with God.*]

Notice that the verse in this section was Isaiah 14:12.

[Have someone read footnote **6**, page **18**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### His Exquisite Perfections

[Ask someone to read this section: page **10**.]

? What does this section tell us about Satan's original perfections? [*He was flawless in moral perfection, strong in wisdom, and beautiful in appearance.*]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### His Exalted Status

[Ask someone to read this section: page **10**.]

[Have someone read footnote 7, page 18.]

- ? What does this section tell us about Satan's original status? *[He was created a cherub, perhaps the highest order within the angelic realm. The role of the cherubim is to guard God's glorious presence and holiness.]*

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? What have we learned so far about the profile of this individual? *[He is a creature with limitations. He is an angel. He held (and may still hold) the rank of cherub. He was created sinless. His titles were "Star of the morning" and "Son of the dawn." When he was created, he was flawless in moral perfection, strong in wisdom, and beautiful in appearance. And his status was exalted as (one of) the high-stationed guardians for God.]*

### **His Distinguished Stewardship in Heaven: "the Anointed Cherub"**

[Ask several to read this section: pages 11-12.]

- ? What does this section tell us about Satan's elevated status among the cherubim ... his special stewardship and Who entrusted that stewardship to him? *[He was exalted above other cherubim as one who was "anointed" with great authority and power. He apparently was "the (only)" anointed cherub. It was God Who handed him this trust.]*

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### **His Distinguished Stewardship on Earth: "the Ruler of this World"**

[Have someone read footnote 8, page 18.]

### **The Age of Angels**

[Ask someone to read this section: page 12.]

- ? According to this section, were the angels created *before, at the same time, or after* the earth was created? *[They were created sometime before the earth was created.]*

[Have someone read footnote 9, pages 18-19.]

? According to this section and footnote 9, how old are the angels? *[We do not know the age of the angels.]*

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### **The Earthly Stewardship of this Holy Cherub**

[Ask someone to read this section: page 12.]

[Have someone read footnote 10, page 19.]

### **The Scope of His Authority and Power**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages 12-13.]

? According to the author, when did “the anointed cherub” receive this second stewardship, “the ruler of this world”? *[Sometime after the creation of this material universe but before his failed attempt to seize the throne of God.]*

This stewardship gave him at least one right (and perhaps others).

? According to this section, what authority does this stewardship give him? *[According to Matthew 4:8-9, “the ruler of this world” apparently has the right to place individuals in positions of political authority.]*

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

[Have someone read Romans 13:1.]

*EVERY PERSON IS TO BE IN SUBJECTION TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES. FOR THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD, AND THOSE WHICH EXIST ARE ESTABLISHED BY GOD. (ROMANS 13:1)*

? It was stated in this section that Satan “apparently has the right to place individuals in positions of political authority.” How can that be true and Romans 13:1 be true at the same time? *[Satan’s authority over the nations cannot supersede the supreme authority of God. God, however, will sometimes use evil men (and governments) to accomplish His*

*holy purposes (Genesis 50:15-21). To do so, God grants Satan permission to place evil men in positions of political authority.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read footnote **11**, pages **19-20**.]

### **The Means by which He Received His Authority**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **13-14**.]

This section concludes with the statement, "... the title, 'the ruler of this world,' was neither *self-appointed* nor was it *violently seized by a rebel*. It was *voluntarily granted to a trustworthy steward by the owner of the property*."

? What support was given for this view? [*"The star of the morning" received this authority from another party. He, therefore, was not acting alone. Nor could he have seized the world from the omnipotent Creator. The Greek word "paradidomi" carries the idea of a stewardship.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read footnote **12**, page **20**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### **The Source of His Authority**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **14**.]

According to this section, God is most surely the One Who assigned this stewardship, "the ruler of this world," to this high-ranking angel.

? What reasons were given to support this? [*There is no record of any other creature having authority over the world. But we do know that "the earth is the LORD's" and, therefore, it is His property to entrust to another. Furthermore, we know from the Scriptures that it was God Who had assigned him the position, "the anointed cherub."*]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? Do you think that God knew what the future actions of “the star of the morning, son of the dawn” would be when He appointed him “the anointed cherub” and “the ruler of this world”? [*being all-knowing, yes*] [*already discussed*]
- ? If so, why do you think He chose *him* to have such authority? [(1) *to provide both the angelic population and humanity with a choice between obedience and disobedience. He wants both to voluntarily follow Him or deliberately reject Him. And to do so, they must be faced with a choice. (2) Furthermore, the presence of sin allows God (Who seeks to fully display His perfections to His creation) to display His mercy, His grace, and His justice.*] [*already discussed*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### **The Time He Received His Authority**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **14-15**.]

- ? According to this section, when was this stewardship, “the ruler of this world,” entrusted to this angel? [*Apparently, this stewardship over earth's realm was “handed over” to this angel sometime after the earth's creation but before the angelic rebellion.*]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### **Summary**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **15**.]

### **The Weight of Stewardship**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **15-17**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? What responsibilities do *you* have as a steward of God properties?

[Summarize their answers.]

? *As a believer, what do you think is the greatest stewardship you have been given?*

[Summarize their answers.]

## THE FALL OF THE HOLY CHERUB

[Ask someone to read this section: page 21.]

### His Sin

[Ask several to read this section: pages 21-23.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

God could have stopped Satan and his followers from sinning against Him. For that matter, He could have stopped Adam and Eve from sinning against Him. But He did not.

? *Why do you think He did not do so? [He wants those who follow Him to do so willingly, from “hearts” of loyal devotion. To test one’s devotion, the individual must not only be given a choice but the ability to make that choice for himself.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### His Judgment

[Ask several to read this section: pages 23-25.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

The judgment of Satan and his army of demon-rebels is in several stages. But why? As soon as they failed in their insurrection against His Throne, God could have immediately cast them all into the Lake of Fire.

? *What reason was given for these different stages of judgment? [God continues to use these evil beings to accomplish His holy purposes. Although God does not ever commit*

*evil, He uses evil as a means of testing mankind, tempering His saints, and guiding the affairs of the world to accomplish His plan.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### THE PRESENT STATUS OF SATAN

[Ask someone to read this section: page 26.]

#### His Present Status among the Angels

[Ask several to read this section: pages 26-27.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

It was stated that our holy and sovereign God uses evil angels to fulfill His *holy* purposes. One way He does so is by allowing Satan to send his demons to assault God's people. Satan's purpose is, of course, to destroy them; but God's purpose is for their good.

? Can you think of any instances in the Bible where such assaults against God's people are traced back to *demonic activity*, yet result in the benefit of God's people? [(1) *Job's growth in his knowledge of God was the result of Satanic attack (Job 1:6-19; 2:1-7; 42:1-6)*, (2) *Israel's purification through divine discipline was the result of Satan inciting King David to violate God's will by take a census of the nation (compare 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 21:1 with 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 24:1, 10-17, 25)*, (3) *The Apostle Paul's humbling and power was the result of "a messenger from Satan" sent to torment him (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:7-10)*]

[Summarize their answers.]

#### His Present Status over the Earth

[Ask several to read this section: pages 27-29.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

[Have someone Romans 13:1.]

*EVERY PERSON IS TO BE IN SUBJECTION TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES. FOR THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT FROM GOD, AND THOSE WHICH EXIST ARE ESTABLISHED BY GOD. (ROMANS 13:1)*

? According to this verse, who establishes each nation's governing authorities? *[God]*

[Have someone read Revelation 13:1-4.]

*AND THE DRAGON (SATAN) STOOD ON THE SAND OF THE SEASHORE. THEN I SAW A BEAST (THE ANTICHRIST) COMING UP OUT OF THE SEA, HAVING TEN HORNS AND SEVEN HEADS, AND ON HIS HORNS WERE TEN DIADEMS, AND ON HIS HEADS WERE BLASPHEMOUS NAMES ...*

*AND THE DRAGON GAVE HIM HIS POWER AND HIS THRONE AND GREAT AUTHORITY ... AND THE WHOLE EARTH WAS AMAZED AND FOLLOWED AFTER THE BEAST; THEY WORSHIPED THE DRAGON BECAUSE HE GAVE HIS AUTHORITY TO THE BEAST; AND THEY WORSHIPED THE BEAST, SAYING, "WHO IS LIKE THE BEAST, AND WHO IS ABLE TO WAGE WAR WITH HIM?" (Revelation 13:1-4, parentheses added)*

? According to this verse, who gives the antichrist his power and authority? *[the dragon, i.e., Satan]*

Our sovereign God allows Satan to appoint evil political figures to advance his *evil* purposes. In doing so, God's *holy* purposes are accomplished.

? What do you think is *Satan's* ultimate purpose in raising up evil governments? *[that the nations will join him in his rebellion against God by submitting to his will and by bowing before him in worship]*

? What is *God's* purpose in allowing "the ruler of this world" to raise up evil governments? How can they further God's will? *[An evil government – unwittingly – forces a nation that is "gray" (morally) to become a nation that is "black and white." They do so by drawing a dividing line, forcing a separation between those who are righteous and those who are evil. Evil governments "separate the sheep from the goats."]*

*[They do so by placing those with a living faith in situations that force them to prove their faith (through obedience to God). By standing on the righteous side of the line, these will suffer at the hands of their government but will share in the glory of Christ throughout eternity.]*

*[Those with a dead faith or no faith will prove their unbelief (through obedience to Satan). By standing on the evil side of the line, they may survive the tyranny of that government; but they become "ripe" for God's just judgment (Genesis 15:13-16).]*

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read footnotes 13 and 14, page 35.]

? According to this section when will Satan *stop* being “the ruler of this world”? [*He will no longer hold this title once he is banished from the earth at the end of the tribulation.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read footnote **15**, page **35**.]

### **His Reign over a Dominion of Rebels**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **29**.]

### **His Leadership over Rebel Angels (Demons)**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **30**.]

### **His Dictatorship over Rebel Humans (Unbelievers)**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **30-31**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? Why do you think unbelievers are *more than willing* to follow the lies of “the god of this (present evil) age”? [*Because they love their sins. They love to satisfy the cravings of their flesh. They love to rebel against the authority of God. It is their nature to do so.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Romans 1:18-32.]

*FOR THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNGODLINESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MEN WHO SUPPRESS THE TRUTH IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE THAT WHICH IS KNOWN ABOUT GOD IS EVIDENT WITHIN THEM; FOR GOD MADE IT EVIDENT TO THEM. FOR SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD HIS INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES, HIS ETERNAL POWER AND DIVINE NATURE, HAVE BEEN CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD THROUGH WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE. FOR EVEN THOUGH THEY KNEW GOD, THEY DID NOT HONOR HIM AS GOD OR GIVE THANKS, BUT THEY BECAME FUTILE IN THEIR SPECULATIONS, AND THEIR FOOLISH HEART WAS DARKENED. PROFESSING TO BE WISE, THEY BECAME FOOLS, AND EXCHANGED THE GLORY OF THE INCORRUPTIBLE GOD FOR AN IMAGE IN THE FORM OF CORRUPTIBLE MAN AND OF BIRDS AND FOUR-FOOTED ANIMALS AND CRAWLING CREATURES. THEREFORE GOD GAVE THEM OVER IN THE LUSTS OF THEIR HEARTS TO IMPURITY, SO THAT THEIR BODIES WOULD BE DISHONORED AMONG*

*THEM. FOR THEY EXCHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD FOR A LIE, AND WORSHIPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE RATHER THAN THE CREATOR, WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER. AMEN. FOR THIS REASON GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO DEGRADING PASSIONS; FOR THEIR WOMEN EXCHANGED THE NATURAL FUNCTION FOR THAT WHICH IS UNNATURAL, AND IN THE SAME WAY ALSO THE MEN ABANDONED THE NATURAL FUNCTION OF THE WOMAN AND BURNED IN THEIR DESIRE TOWARD ONE ANOTHER, MEN WITH MEN COMMITTING INDECENT ACTS AND RECEIVING IN THEIR OWN PERSONS THE DUE PENALTY OF THEIR ERROR. AND JUST AS THEY DID NOT SEE FIT TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD ANY LONGER, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A DEPRAVED MIND, TO DO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT PROPER, BEING FILLED WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, WICKEDNESS, GREED, EVIL; FULL OF ENVY, MURDER, STRIFE, DECEIT, MALICE; THEY ARE GOSSIPS, SLANDERERS, HATERS OF GOD, INSOLENT, ARROGANT, BOASTFUL, INVENTORS OF EVIL, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING, UNTRUSTWORTHY, UNLOVING, UNMERCIFUL; AND ALTHOUGH THEY KNOW THE ORDINANCE OF GOD, THAT THOSE WHO PRACTICE SUCH THINGS ARE WORTHY OF DEATH, THEY NOT ONLY DO THE SAME, BUT ALSO GIVE HEARTY APPROVAL TO THOSE WHO PRACTICE THEM. (ROMANS 1:18-32)*

[Have someone read footnotes **16** and **17**, page **35**.]

## His Fields of Operation

### Access to Heaven

[Ask several to read this section: pages **32-33**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

[Have someone read Job 1:8-11 and 2:3-5.]

*THE LORD SAID TO SATAN, "HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT JOB? FOR THERE IS NO ONE LIKE HIM ON THE EARTH, A BLAMELESS AND UPRIGHT MAN, FEARING GOD AND TURNING AWAY FROM EVIL." THEN SATAN ANSWERED THE LORD, "DOES JOB FEAR GOD FOR NOTHING? HAVE YOU NOT MADE A HEDGE ABOUT HIM AND HIS HOUSE AND ALL THAT HE HAS, ON EVERY SIDE? YOU HAVE BLESSED THE WORK OF HIS HANDS, AND HIS POSSESSIONS HAVE INCREASED IN THE LAND. BUT PUT FORTH YOUR HAND NOW AND TOUCH ALL THAT HE HAS; HE WILL SURELY CURSE YOU TO YOUR FACE." (JOB 1:8-11)*

*THE LORD SAID TO SATAN, "HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MY SERVANT JOB? FOR THERE IS NO ONE LIKE HIM ON THE EARTH, A BLAMELESS AND UPRIGHT MAN FEARING GOD AND TURNING AWAY FROM EVIL. AND HE STILL HOLDS FAST HIS INTEGRITY, ALTHOUGH YOU INCITED ME AGAINST HIM TO RUIN HIM WITHOUT CAUSE." SATAN ANSWERED THE LORD AND SAID, "SKIN FOR SKIN! YES, ALL THAT A MAN HAS HE WILL GIVE FOR HIS LIFE. HOWEVER, PUT FORTH YOUR HAND NOW, AND TOUCH HIS BONE AND HIS FLESH; HE WILL CURSE YOU TO YOUR FACE." (JOB 2:3-5)*

According to Job 1-2, Satan knew who Job was. He knew his name, and he knew his circumstances. It is likely that he also has this same information on you.

? If so, how would that affect his strategies of assault upon you? *[Knowing our weak points, he would know how best to compromise our witness.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

Being ever mindful of that is one way we can "be on the alert."

### Operates from the Heavens

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **33-34**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? If our struggle is with an army from a spiritual dimension, what kind of weapons *must* we use against them? *[We must use spiritual weapons to fight a spiritual war. (These will be discussed below.)]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### Active on Earth

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **34-35**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

From this section it is obvious that the sovereignty of God is in full operation during Satan's attack of the believer. His assaults are *allowed* by God, they are *kept in check* by God, and they even *accomplish the purposes* of God. When we are experiencing demonic resistance, we should keep that in mind, that our sovereign God is in control of Satan's assaults.

? How would keeping this truth in mind strengthen you during times of affliction? *[It would remind us that just because we are suffering does not mean that God has lost control of Satan and that this enemy is winning. We can have confidence in knowing that Christ will have the ultimate victory ... and we are on His side. We, too, will eventually be victorious.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

## **THE PRESENT CHARACTER OF SATAN**

### **He Is a Habitual Sinner**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **36**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### **He Is a Murderer**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **36-38**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

[Have someone read footnotes **18** and **19**, page **37**.]

### **He Is a Liar**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **38**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### **He Is an Oppressor of the Saints**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **38-39**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

### A Warning

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **39-40**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

We have just finished a brief look at the “profile” of Satan. We discovered what his character and status were before his sin against God. We considered his attempted coup against the throne of God and the different stages of his judgment. We know that he has retained certain levels of authority within the angelic realm and over the world’s political and religious authorities. And we have been oriented to his immoral character: he is a habitual sinner, a murderer, a liar, and an oppressor of the saints.

We have also been warned to “be ready for him, for the clash between our two forces is inevitable.” Yet, in many cases the Church seems oblivious to spiritual war. You would think that if a church were being slammed by Satan, they would be trying to figure out what is happening to them and what they can do about it.

? Why are not more churches trying to understand how they can stand against the onslaughts of an evil creature? *[Perhaps many churches do not experience the full brunt of Satan’s assaults because they are no real threat to him. Because the lives of many church members are not guided by the Word of God or (consequently) empowered by the Spirit of God, they have not had to grapple with spiritual warfare. (There is no need for them to put on the full armor of God.)]*

[Summarize their answers.]

? What do you think every believer should do to get ready for this fight? *[Absorb the Word of God. Learn how to use the Word of God as a weapon. Trust God for His wisdom and strength for the fight. Be resolved to obey the Word of God.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**THE ASSURANCE OF SPIRITUAL VICTORY****ACCOMPLISHED BY THE SON OF GOD**

~

**SHARED WITH THE SAINTS OF GOD**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **41-42**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

Our attention was directed to the tense of a certain verb in 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:8.

? What is the significance of the verb “appeared” being in the *past* tense? [*Christ’s destruction of the devil’s works has already been accomplished.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

? Why do you think it is important for believers to know that Christ has *already secured* every single victory over the devil? [*The Body of Christ needs to know that She is triumphant now. She does not have to wait until the Return of the Savior to experience Her victories.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone re-read the list of “the works of the devil” that have been destroyed, starting with the words “Our adversary no longer has authority or power ...” (page **42**).]

Our adversary no longer has authority or power

- to snatch away the Christians’ assurance of eternal life
- to keep the holy ones “chained” to their former lifestyles of sin
- to prevent the saints from experiencing their new life in Christ
- to terrify the believing community with eternal death
- to hold believers under his evil authority
- to defeat the faithful through persecution, temptation, and oppression
- to keep the redeemed from growing in Christlike character and fruitful service
- to mislead God’s Church through false teachers

? According to this list, what *specific* group of people has been delivered from “the works of the devil”? [*the believing community, the holy ones, the saints, the Christians, the faithful, God’s witnesses, God’s people, God’s Church*]

[Summarize their answers.]

Only those born of the Spirit of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ have been granted these triumphs over Satan.

- ? What does that mean for those who are *not* the saints of God? *[They continue to lie under the dominion of Satan. For as long as they remain in unbelief, those who reject the Cross of Christ will remain under his authority and power.]*

**By the Death of Christ,  
the Penalty for Sin Was Paid in Full**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **42-43**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? Why did it take a death to solve this problem? *[Death was the sentence the sinner was under, and only by a death could that debt be paid.]*
- ? Why did it take the death of a spotless, blameless, innocent Person to solve this problem? *[If Christ Jesus had been a sinner, the only sins He could have died for would have been His Own. It was the purity of our Substitute that allows us to be made pure in God's sight.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

- ? In what circumstances do you think *you* would use this truth?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone re-read Colossians 2:14.]

*... (GOD) CANCELED OUT THE CERTIFICATE OF DEBT CONSISTING OF DECREES AGAINST US, WHICH WAS HOSTILE TO US; AND HE HAS TAKEN IT OUT OF THE WAY, HAVING NAILED IT TO THE CROSS. (COLOSSIANS 2:14, PARENTHESIS ADDED)*

**By the Death of Christ,  
the Power of Sin Was Shattered**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **43-44**.]

[Have someone read footnote **20**, page **44**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

If we are not living victoriously, if we are living according to our old sinful patterns of behavior, it is because we are allowing Satan to do what he no longer has authority to do to us.

? In what circumstances do you think *you* would use this truth?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Romans 6:6-7.]

*... KNOWING THIS, THAT OUR OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, IN ORDER THAT OUR BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DONE AWAY WITH, SO THAT WE WOULD NO LONGER BE SLAVES TO SIN; FOR HE WHO HAS DIED IS FREED FROM SIN. (ROMANS 6:6-7)*

### **By the Resurrection of Christ, Believers Can Walk in Newness of Life**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **45-46**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

[Have someone read footnotes **21** and **22**, page **45**.]

Again, if we are not living victoriously, if we are living according to our old sinful patterns of behavior, it is because we are allowing Satan to do what he no longer has authority to do to us.

? In what circumstances do you think *you* would use this truth?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Romans 6:4.]

*THEREFORE WE HAVE BEEN BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH, SO THAT AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD THROUGH THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, SO WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. (ROMAN 6:4)*

**By the Resurrection of Christ,  
Satan's Power to Terrify the Believing Community with Eternal Death Is Crushed**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **46-47**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

If our lives show fruitful evidence of the rebirth, but we are defeated by doubts over our eternal life, it is because we are allowing Satan to do what he no longer has authority to do to us.

? In what circumstances do you think *you* would use this truth?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Hebrews 2:14-15.]

*THEREFORE, SINCE THE CHILDREN SHARE IN FLESH AND BLOOD, HE HIMSELF LIKEWISE ALSO PARTOOK OF THE SAME, THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT RENDER POWERLESS HIM WHO HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL, AND MIGHT FREE THOSE WHO THROUGH FEAR OF DEATH WERE SUBJECT TO SLAVERY ALL THEIR LIVES. (HEBREWS 2:14-15)*

**By the Resurrection and Exaltation of Christ,  
Believers Are Now Free from Satan's Evil Authority**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **47-49**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

If we are defeated by demonic oppression, it is because we are allowing Satan to do what he no longer has authority to do to us.

? In what circumstances do you think *you* would use this truth?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Ephesians 2:4-6.]

*BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED), AND RAISED US UP WITH HIM, AND SEATED US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS. (EPHESIANS 2:4-6, 1:21)*

**By the Exaltation of the Son of God,  
Satan's Power to Triumph over Those in Christ Has Been Defeated**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages 49-50.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

If our witness is being silenced by *the world's* persecutions, it is because we are allowing Satan to do what he no longer has authority to do to us.

And if we are defeated by *demonic* oppression, it is because we are allowing Satan to do what he no longer has authority to do to us.

? In what circumstances do you think *you* would use this truth?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read Ephesians 2:4-6.]

*BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY, BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE WITH WHICH HE LOVED US, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST (BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED), AND RAISED US UP WITH HIM, AND SEATED US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS  
.... (EPHESIANS 2:4-6)*

**By the Exaltation of Christ / the Indwelling Holy Spirit,  
the Saints Can Become Christlike in Character and Fruitful in Service**

[Ask several to read this section: pages 50-51.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? So, which is true? The *individual believer's body* is a temple of the Holy Spirit? Or every *assembly of true believers* is a temple of the Holy Spirit? Which is the residence of the living God, the believer or the true and living church? *[They both are. The Spirit of God has "made His home" in every reborn follower of Christ. Each individual Christian is a Temple of God. Furthermore, every assembly of true believers is indwelled by the Spirit of God.]*

- ? What “triggered” this magnificent blessing, the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell the believing community? *[Christ sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers after His Ascension to the Father.]*

[Have someone read the list of blessings on page 51: “According to the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit’s “help” includes ....”.]

- ? As you read this list, did any of these blessings stand out as being especially meaningful to you at this point in your life?

**By the Indwelling Spirit of Truth,  
Satan’s Power to Deceive Believers through False Teaching Is Thwarted**

[Ask several to read this section: pages 51-54.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? In what circumstances do you think *you* would use this truth?

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:6-8, 10-11.]

*YET WE DO SPEAK WISDOM AMONG THOSE WHO ARE MATURE, A WISDOM, HOWEVER, NOT OF THIS AGE NOR OF THE RULERS OF THIS AGE, WHO ARE PASSING AWAY. BUT WE SPEAK GOD'S WISDOM IN A MYSTERY, THE HIDDEN WISDOM WHICH GOD PREDESTINED BEFORE THE AGES TO OUR GLORY, THE WISDOM WHICH NONE OF THE RULERS OF THIS AGE HAS UNDERSTOOD; FOR IF THEY HAD UNDERSTOOD IT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY ... FOR TO US GOD REVEALED THEM THROUGH THE SPIRIT; FOR THE SPIRIT SEARCHES ALL THINGS, EVEN THE DEPTHS OF GOD. FOR WHO AMONG MEN KNOWS THE THOUGHTS OF A MAN EXCEPT THE SPIRIT OF THE MAN WHICH IS IN HIM? EVEN SO THE THOUGHTS OF GOD NO ONE KNOWS EXCEPT THE SPIRIT OF GOD. (1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS 2:6-8, 10-11)*

- ? According to this passage, how is it that the Holy Spirit Who lives within you *can* reveal to you the thoughts and wisdom of God? *[The Spirit of God “searches all things, even the depths of God.”]*

- ? Why is it that, when you talk to an unbeliever about God’s Word, he cannot understand you? *[He does not possess the Spirit of God.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

? If obedience plays no part in “getting saved” or “staying saved,” what part *does* it play in the life of someone who is *already saved*? *[It is an expression of his love for the One Who saved him. The one has been called to “be holy” wants to represent the Holy One to a world in desperate need to see a clear picture of the One true God.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

? In what circumstances do you think *you* would use this truth?

[Summarize their answers.]

### **WHY THEN ARE WE STILL IN THIS WAR?**

[Ask someone to read this section: page 54.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

**THE TENACITY OF A CONQUERED FOE**

[Ask several to read this section: page 55.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

[Have someone read Revelation 20:10.]

*AND THE DEVIL WHO DECEIVED THEM WAS THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, WHERE THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET ARE ALSO; AND THEY WILL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER AND EVER. (REVELATION 20:10)*

Satan can quote Scripture. He did to Eve (Genesis 3:1); and he did to Jesus (Matthew 4:6). It is true that when he uses Scripture, he “twists” it to accomplish his evil purposes. Nevertheless, Satan is familiar with God’s Word which means that he probably knows about Revelation 20:10. It is likely that he knows about his coming judgment. Yet, he seems to believe that he can thwart God’s plans and purposes.

? What are some things Satan is trying to destroy in your life and in the life of your local church? *[Initially, an individual’s salvation. His continued life on earth. His faith in God’s Word. His representation of Christ (his sanctification). His witness. The local church’s unity.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE TACTICS OF THE DEMONIC REALM**

[Ask several to read this section: page 56.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

Believers who are ignorant of the tactics of Satan are vulnerable to certain hazards.

- ? What might happen to those who are unaware of his different methods of assault? *[He may first be surprised ... confused (“Why is this happening to me?”) ... discouraged over those whom he thought were “on his side” ... disillusioned over God’s abandonment of him ... resentful / critical that God is letting this happen to him or that God is the One doing this to him ... angry that God does not deliver him as soon as He should ... tempted to give in to Satan’s temptations (painkillers) (“If God is not going to deliver me from this pain, then I’ll turn to sin to do so”)]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **SATAN WILL TRY TO UNDERMINE THE WITNESS OF GOD’S WORD**

[Ask someone to read this section: page 57.]

#### **“The Evil One”**

#### **Will Try to Prevent God’s Word from Being Received**

[Have someone read footnote 23, page 63.]

[Ask someone to read this section: page 57.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? Why is the Word of God such a threat to Satan? *[God’s Truth exposes the lies of Satan, thus thwarting his purposes.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**The “Serpent of Old”  
Will Try to Corrupt God’s Word by Means of False Doctrine**

[Have someone read footnote **24**, page **63**.]

[Ask someone to read this section: page **58**.]

**Satan Wants to Confuse Us with His Lies**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **58-59**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

“One’s level of spiritual discernment is determined – in part – by his level of Biblical understanding.” Those who are unable to distinguish between truth and error will be an easy prey to the different heresies they encounter.

? So, how does one grow in spiritual discernment? Certainly, Bible knowledge is important; but is that the only requirement for spiritual maturity?

[Have someone read Hebrews 5:11-14.]

*CONCERNING HIM (MELCHIZEDEK) WE HAVE MUCH TO SAY, AND IT IS HARD TO EXPLAIN, SINCE YOU HAVE BECOME DULL OF HEARING. FOR THOUGH BY THIS **TIME** YOU OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS, YOU HAVE NEED AGAIN FOR SOMEONE TO TEACH YOU THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF THE ORACLES OF GOD, AND YOU HAVE COME TO NEED MILK AND NOT SOLID FOOD. FOR EVERYONE WHO PARTAKES ONLY OF MILK IS NOT ACCUSTOMED TO **THE WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, FOR HE IS AN INFANT. BUT SOLID FOOD IS FOR THE MATURE, WHO BECAUSE OF **PRACTICE** HAVE THEIR SENSES TRAINED TO DISCERN GOOD AND EVIL.  
(HEBREWS 5:11-14)*

? From this passage, can you see any other “ingredients” for being able to “discern good and evil”? [*“the Word of righteousness,” “time,” and “practice” (obedience). To grow in discernment, one must practice the Word of righteousness over time.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

**“The God of this Age”  
Will Try to Impair One's Ability to Understand God's Word**

**Satan Seeks to Blind the Minds of Unbelievers**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages 59-60.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

Some of the hardest people to reach with the Gospel are those who “grew up in church,” those whose lives display a mere outward form of the Christian religion but who lack any real understanding of God's Word. They sit in their pews Sunday after Sunday; but “the light is not on.”

? According to this section, what is causing such blind indifference to God's pardon through Christ Jesus? *[They have not responded in faith to the truth they hear week after week (even if it is only a little truth). Every time they dismiss God's Word, their minds become more hardened to His Truth, including the Gospel.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**Satan Wants to Stunt the Spiritual Growth of Believers**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages 60-61.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? How can this problem of spiritual immaturity be solved if the believer does not attend a Bible-centered church? *[He can read the Bible himself, applying its truths to his life. He can listen to solid Bible teaching on the internet, television, or radio. If there is one in town, he can change churches.]*

? How can this problem of spiritual immaturity be solved if the believer realizes he has allowed the “things of this world” to capture his heart? *[He can separate himself from whatever has captured his heart. He can set aside a certain block of time each day for Bible reading and prayer. He can pray for God's help to grow in love for Him and His Word.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**“The Devil”  
Will Try to Discredit the Integrity of God's Word**

**Satan Wants Us to Doubt What the Bible Says about God's Character**

[Have someone read footnote 25, page 63.]

[Ask someone to read these two sections: page 61.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? Under what circumstances can Satan most easily succeed in getting you to question God's character? [*adverse / painful situations*]

We should, therefore, *be on the alert* when we find ourselves in these kinds of circumstances.

[Summarize their answers.]

**Satan Wants Us to Doubt What the Bible Says about God's Works**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages 61-62.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

To be *confused* about a situation in which our Sovereign Lord has placed us is one thing. But to be *angry* toward Him for doing so is something else. It is *never* appropriate to be angry at God.

? If you realize that you are angry toward God for allowing some situation to happen to you, what can you do to readjust your attitude from unbelief to trust? [*Confess your sin of unbelief to God. Ask Him to guide you through this situation with His wisdom and with the composure of Christ. Meditate upon certain verses that focus on His character and His promises. Remember His past wonderful works in your life. Ask a friend you can trust with the knowledge of your situation to pray for you ... and, perhaps, counsel you.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### Satan Wants Us to Doubt God's Promises in the Bible

[Ask someone to read this section: page 62.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

The only way to fight anxiety and despair is to dwell upon God's Truth. This would apply to the uncertainties of your situation. Concerning these uncertainties, what *exactly* has God promised He would do for you? Not what do you *hope* He will do for you ... or what you think He *should* do for you ... or what *a Christian friend* thinks He should do for you. But what has *He* promised *in His Word* – written in black and white on the pages of Scripture – to do for you?

? When you find yourself anxious about your circumstances, what can you do to discover the promises of God that pertain to your situations? *[Recall those promises you learned over the years in your study of the Scriptures. Ask the mature believers in your circle of friends to point you in the direction of God's promises that apply to your situation.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### Satan Wants Us to Doubt God's Warnings in the Bible

[Ask someone to read this section: page 62.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

One of the most important of life's truths that parents can teach their children is *the reality of consequences*, something they will face throughout their entire lives. Every other authority under which they will ever live – teachers, policemen, employers, civil authorities, church leadership – will require them to observe certain laws, laws that have consequences if obeyed ... or disobeyed. Certainly, the supreme authority under Whom they will live is God; and He, too, has laws ... moral laws ... by which He expects them to abide. If they do, they will enjoy a blessing; if they do not, they will suffer a penalty.

? How does one teach the reality of consequences to another person? *[By giving the promised consequence of blessing to the one who does what is right or the promised consequence of discipline to the one who does what is wrong.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **SATAN WILL TRY TO RUPTURE THE WITNESS OF THE CHURCH**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **64-65**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? According to this section, whose reputation is the Church trying to protect as we strive to “preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”? [*God's and His Church's*]

? When we repay a wrong *with a wrong*, whose name are we trying to protect? [*our own*]

[Summarize their answers.]

This question is meant to provoke thought. I want to give us all something to think about. (So, please do not answer this question out loud.)

? According to the way you typically respond to wrongs inflicted upon you, whose name is more important to you, God's ... or your own?

### **SATAN WILL TRY TO SILENCE THE WITNESS OF A BELIEVER'S LIFE AND MINISTRY**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **66**.]

#### **Using the World, “the Great Red Dragon” Will Persecute**

##### **Satan Will Use Peer Pressure in his Attempt to Silence Our Witness**

[Have someone read footnote **26**, page **78**.]

[Ask several to read these sections: pages **66-67**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? What can you do to be made strong *before* facing the temptation to deny your Savior ... to prepare yourself with the resolve, “By God's help, I will not compromise my faith”? [(1) *Certainly, one should pray for the strength to remain faithful to Christ. (2) He should study the Scriptures that he might “present himself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of Truth.” (3) He should be*

*prepared to say, when asked a question he cannot answer, "I do not know all the answers to all your questions. But I do know that Jesus Christ is changing my life." (4) He should pray for "the composure of Christ" while facing such pressure.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **Satan Will Use Persecution in his Attempt to Silence Our Testimony**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **67-68**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? Have any of you ever faced any of these types of persecution? If so, how did you respond *or* how would you respond if you had it to do over again?

*[Facilitator: If no one responds with "Yes, I have," choose one of the scenarios and then ask ...]*

? How should we respond if we face this situation?

[Summarize their answers.]

### **Using the Believer's Flesh, "the Tempter" Will Entice**

#### **Satan Will Tempt Us to Play the Hypocrite**

[Have someone read footnote **27**, page **78**.]

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **68-69**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? It is easy to see how a believer's hypocrisy destroys his *own* integrity. But how does a believer's hypocrisy destroy the integrity of Jesus Christ? *[It portrays the Christian faith as nothing but a pretense. "There is nothing genuine about this 'religion' or its God. The Christian God is just as much a phony as His followers. It is all just a big fake."]*

[Summarize their answers.]

**Satan Will Try to Weaken Our Sense of Dependence upon God  
by Cultivating an Attitude of Self-Reliance**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **69-70**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

Have you ever viewed yourself as “unfit” for a task to which God has called you? You are certain that someone else is more qualified for this ministry than you. You pray for confidence; but those prayers go unanswered. (You continue to feel unsure of yourself.)

? How could this sense of inadequacy be the very thing you need to succeed in this calling? *[Without this sense of confidence, we tend to rely more upon ourselves and less upon God. He wants us to know that His “power is perfected in weakness.”]*

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:7-10.]

*BECAUSE OF THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF THE REVELATIONS, FOR THIS REASON, TO KEEP ME FROM EXALTING MYSELF, THERE WAS GIVEN ME A THORN IN THE FLESH, A MESSENGER OF SATAN TO TORMENT ME – TO KEEP ME FROM EXALTING MYSELF! CONCERNING THIS I IMploRED THE LORD THREE TIMES THAT IT MIGHT LEAVE ME. AND HE HAS SAID TO ME, “MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS.” MOST GLADLY, THEREFORE, I WILL RATHER BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY DWELL IN ME. THEREFORE I AM WELL CONTENT WITH WEAKNESSES, WITH INSULTS, WITH DISTRESSES, WITH PERSECUTIONS, WITH DIFFICULTIES, FOR CHRIST’S SAKE; FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG. (2<sup>ND</sup> CORINTHIANS 12:7-10)*

? Now let’s look at the other side of the coin. Against what kind of temptations should we be on guard *once we experience success*? *[The temptation of self-reliance. The temptation to take credit for the success ... to exalt ourselves rather than God]*

**Satan Will Use the Cravings of Our Physical Bodies to Entice Us to Disobey God**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **70**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

It is possible to use Satan's temptations as your "cue" to pray. For example, let's say that you often find yourself criticizing your pastor's sermons. Each time you realize you are doing so, turn those thoughts into a prayer. Ask the Lord to guide him in his sermon preparation and empower him in his preaching on Sundays. Satan will not continue to use that tactic once he sees that it produces righteous behavior in your life. He will "flee."

The fact is, we all struggle with some form of weakness. We all want to indulge ourselves in something to the point of excess. Therefore, it would be a good idea to come up with some plan of "counterattack." When I am tempted to give in to this sinful practice of my flesh, this is what I am going to pray.

### **Satan Will Try to Dilute Our Zeal for Christ by the World's Pleasantries**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **70-71**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

Believers who face trying situations that give them a strong sense of helplessness typically find themselves fervently pleading to God for deliverance.

? Do you think it is possible for a believer to sense that same "felt need" for Christ *without* such a trying situation? If "Yes," how so? If "No," why not?

[Summarize their answers.]

### **Using the Believer's Mind, "the Accuser of Our Brethren" Will Try to Suppress Our Victory in Christ Under the Weight of Mental Oppression**

#### **Satan Wants Us to Feel Like Defeated Losers**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **72-74**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? So, how does one overcome the lies of Satan? [*By reminding myself of God's truths*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### **Satan Wants Us to Doubt What Is True about God**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **74-75**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

It may be that one or more of you are facing a problem right now ... something that is troubling you. If so, perhaps you are willing to let us help you carry that burden through prayer. I hope you will. But it may be that you do not feel comfortable describing the situation to us.

? If not, would you be willing to tell us *something you know about the true and living God*, a truth you are clinging to – by faith – as you work through this situation? How can God, being the way He is, help you with this problem?

[Have someone read a verse that presents an attribute of God, qualifying Him to be the Solution to this problem.]

[Ask someone to pray that God would provide this brother or sister with the ability to focus on His character, enabling him or her to respond victoriously to this situation.]

### **Using the Believer's Circumstances, "Satan" Will Disrupt Our Labor for the Kingdom in his Attempt to Resist God's Will**

[Have someone read footnote **28**, page **78**.]

[Ask several to read this section: pages **75-76**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? What should be our first response when any of these disruptions happen? *[We should acknowledge (through prayer) that our sovereign God has a purpose for allowing Satan to do this ... that His purposes are always good, meant to sanctify His people and (ultimately) bring honor to His Name ... that His purpose will be fulfilled in His timing ... and that His timing is always perfect. If our response is not of faith, then it will be a response of frustration or anxiety. (The better we know Him, the more we will trust Him.)]*

[Summarize their answers.]

## CONCLUSION

[Ask someone to read this section: page 77.]

## **THE BATTLE GEAR OF THE CHRISTIAN WARRIOR**

### **THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **79-80**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? I thought we were already victorious over Satan. Why is this discussion about “putting on the full armor of God” even necessary? *[Believers have a role to play in experiencing the victories Christ has secured for them.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **THE BELT OF A SINCERE AND READY COMMITMENT TO FIGHT**

#### **A Description of Roman Armor: the Belt**

[Ask someone to read this section: page **80**.]

#### **The Spiritual Significance of “Girding One’s Loins with Truth”**

[Ask several to read this section: pages **80-81**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

A spiritual belt is to be used to “gird one’s loins with truth.

? In your own words, what does it mean to “gird your loins with truth”? *[It means to have a sincere commitment and readiness to fight ... an “I’m all in” attitude.]*

? How does a believer end up being *less-than-committed* in this battle for the cause of Christ? *[Perhaps he has forgotten the greatness of his salvation. Perhaps he has a love for what this world has to offer, causing his devotion to Christ to take second place in his life.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

## THE BREASTPLATE OF APPLYING GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

### A Description of Roman Armor: the Breastplate

[Ask someone to read this section: page **81-82**.]

### The Spiritual Significance of "Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness"

[Ask several to read this section: pages **82-83**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? In your own words, *what does it mean* to "put on the breastplate of righteousness"? [*By faith, the believer accepts as true that he has "become the righteousness of God" (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21). In doing so, he can remain secure in his salvation. Additionally, by trusting the Holy Spirit to empower him to live out the righteousness of God, his obedience will cause Satan to "flee" (James 4:7) and his soul to be strengthened.*]
- ? How does a person "put on" the breastplate of righteousness? [*Righteousness imputed: He must first trust in Jesus Christ to rescue him from the consequences of his sins (eternal death). Righteousness imparted: A daily reading of God's Word. A daily fellowship with the Lord through prayer. A resolve to trust the Spirit of God to provide everything we need to obey the will of the Father. Practical steps toward obedience. A separation from influences that lead to immorality or distraction from close communion with Christ.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

[Have someone read footnote **29**, page **100**.]

## THE BOOTS OF CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S STEADFAST SUPPORT

### A Description of Roman Armor: the Boots

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **83-84**.]

### The Spiritual Significance of "Shodding One's Feet with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace"

[Ask several to read this section: pages **84-85**.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? In your own words, what does it mean to "shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace"? *[To have confidence in God's steadfast support of him in his battle with the enemy. By faith, he knows that God is not against him but is, instead, at work on his behalf. It is to have confidence that "God is on my side!"]*

? Why would that be important, for the Christian warrior to know that God is "on his side" ... especially in the heat of spiritual battle? *[If God were **not** on his side, the outcome of his fight against a more powerful enemy would be certain defeat. Also, this belief would "steel" him with a commitment to persevere when the battle draws out longer and becomes more intense.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

## THE SHIELD OF FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISED DELIVERANCE

### A Description of Roman Armor: the Shield

[Ask someone to read this section: page 86.]

### The Spiritual Significance of "Taking up the Shield of Faith"

[Ask several to read this section: pages 86-88.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? In your own words, what does it mean to "take up the shield of faith" in the heat of spiritual warfare? *[It is to submit to the good and sovereign purposes of God ... as the believer resists the devil's temptations ... obeys God ... and patiently endures the battle. It is to trust God to deliver one from defeat when he is attacked. (It does not mean to trust God to protect one from attack. God has not promised to do that.)]*

? How does one cultivate this life of faith? *[By hearing and reading the Word of God. By remembering the past works of God in his life. By learning from the testimonies of other believers as to how they trusted God to provide something they needed.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

## THE HELMET OF DELIVERANCE FROM SIN'S PENALTY, POWER, AND PRESENCE

### A Description of Roman Armor: the Helmet

[Ask someone to read this section: page **88-89**.]

### The Spiritual Significance of "Taking the Helmet of Salvation"

[Ask several to read this section: pages **89-93**.]

[After "*The Past Aspect of Salvation*" is read, have someone read footnote **30**, page **100**.]

[After "*The Present Aspect of Salvation*" is read, have someone read footnote **31**, page **100**.]

[After "*The Future Aspect of Salvation*" is read ...]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? In your own words, what does it mean to "take the helmet of salvation"? *[It means to be fully assured (1) that the penalty for our sins has been forever paid in full, (2) that the authority and power of sin are being broken, and (3) that our struggle with sin will one day be over.]*

[Have someone read Hebrews 12:1-2.]

*THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES SURROUNDING US, LET US ALSO LAY ASIDE EVERY ENCUMBRANCE AND THE SIN WHICH SO EASILY ENTANGLES US, AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US, FIXING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF FAITH, WHO FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND HAS SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD. (HEBREWS 12:1-2)*

To endure the shame and suffering of the Cross, Jesus "focused His faith" on His future exaltation to the right hand of God. We are then told to "fix our eyes on Jesus" (as our Example to follow) as we run our own "race of endurance."

? Why do we believers need to know that there is a "finish line" to this war we are in and that, like Jesus, we should "focus our faith" on our own day of glory? Why is that so important? *[Weary believers need the encouragement of these guaranteed rewards to keep us strong in a battle that seems to have no end.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

## **THE SWORD OF GOD'S WORD**

### **A Description of Roman Armor: the Sword**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages 94.]

[Have someone read footnote 32, page 100.]

### **The Spiritual Significance of "Taking the Sword of the Spirit (the Word of God)"**

[Ask someone to read this section: page 94-95.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

It was stated, "Just as a physical battle requires physical weapons, *a spiritual battle requires spiritual weapons.*"

Sometimes we may find ourselves trying to fight a "flesh and blood" enemy, at the moment we are attacked, using tit-for-tat insults. That is, we are trying to fight the wrong enemy, at the wrong time, in the wrong place, with the wrong weapons. Have you ever felt like that ... that you are in a battle, but you are handling it "all wrong"?

? How do you know whether you are trying to conduct a spiritual fight with spiritual battle gear ... or not? [*One sure way is by honestly answering the question, "How much time do I spend in prayer?"*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### **"Forging" the Spiritual Sword**

#### **The Role of the Holy Spirit in the Fight**

[Ask someone to read this section: page 95.]

"Comments, Questions, Clarifications?"

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? What does the Holy Spirit do to turn your physical Bible into a spiritual sword? *[By His ministry of illumination, the Spirit of God “awakens” my mind to understand Its principles. He “shines His light” on the Scriptures, giving me the capacity to correctly interpret its God-intended meaning. He empowers me to apply God’s Word to my life.]*

### **The Role of Bible Study in the Fight**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages 96.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? We have seen what the Holy Spirit must do to turn His Word into a spiritual sword. What must you do to turn your physical Bible into a spiritual sword? *[I must get to know the Word of God (by reading and studying It) before I can apply It to my life. Furthermore, Truth must be believed and applied before it becomes a spiritual weapon. When it is, that weapon will be too powerful for the demonic realm to stand against (James 4:7).]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **Using the Spiritual Sword**

#### **The Defensive Use of the Sword**

[Ask several to read this section: pages 96-98.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? What does it mean to use the Scriptures “with precision” and “with pinpoint accuracy”? *[To combat specific temptations, one should use verses that specifically address the assault. The more specific the Truth, the more effective one can “thrust” this spiritual sword into the heart of Satan’s lies.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

#### **The Offensive Use of the Sword**

[Ask several to read this section: page 98-99.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

- ? According to this section, how does one use the Word of God offensively? *[He prepares himself for the next battle by studying God's Word; and he prepares others for the next battle by teaching them God's Word.]*
- ? In your own words, what does it mean to “take the sword of the Spirit (the Word of God)”? *[To place our confidence in God's Truth to stop the enemy's oppressive lies and to stabilize the believer in his faith for future conflicts.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### SUMMARY

[Ask someone to read this section: page **99-100**.]

### **THE BATTLE PLAN OF THE TRIUMPHANT CHURCH**

[Ask several to read this section: page **101**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

It was stated, “Now identified with the Victorious One, the redeemed of God are no longer under the thumb of Satan. They have been liberated from the spiritual prison of their former dictator.”

? According to the quote from John MacArthur, how can a Christian turn the victories Christ has secured for him into a daily reality? What must he do to *experience* the victories Christ has won for him? *[He is to embrace by faith – with unreserved confidence – the truths regarding each of his victories God has revealed to be true.]*

[Summarize their answers.]

### **READ AND MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD**

[Have someone read 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2.]

*... LIKE NEWBORN BABIES, LONG FOR THE PURE MILK OF THE WORD, SO THAT BY IT YOU MAY GROW IN RESPECT TO SALVATION. (1<sup>ST</sup> PETER 2:2)*

[Ask someone to read this section: page **102**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

We have been exhorted to turn our minds into an “arsenal of Truth,” allowing the entire counsel of God – all 66 books of the Bible – to cleanse our minds of this world's lies. To do so is a lifelong process.

? If someone said to you, “I would like to start reading the Bible; but I do not know where to begin,” what would *you* tell him?

? How would you counsel him to continue in his reading once he is finished with that book of the Bible?

[Summarize their answers.]

### QUOTE GOD'S WORD

[Have someone read Psalm 119:11.]

*YOUR WORD I HAVE TREASURED IN MY HEART, THAT I MAY NOT SIN AGAINST YOU. (PSALM 119:11)*

“treasured” (Hebrew, tsaw fan') – comes from a *root word* meaning “to hide” (by covering it over) ... “to hoard” something. Because of its value, the owner tries “to protect” it. This word means “to hide” or “to lay up” something (in a secret place) because of its esteemed value. That’s why the King James Version translates this word “hidden.”

[Ask several to read this section: pages **102-104**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

We have been exhorted to respond to Satan’s lies by quoting God’s Truth – whether mentally or verbally – to ourselves and others. To do so, we need to “treasure” or “hide” God’s Word in the “arsenals” of our minds.

? Can you think of any ways – either obvious and creative – to “hide” God’s Word in our minds and hearts to prepare us for the battles we face?

[Summarize their answers.]

### CLING TO GOD THROUGH PRAYER

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **104-105**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

Spiritual war is conducted on three fronts: the devil, the flesh, and the world. The devil will oppress us directly. He uses our flesh to entice us. And he also the world to persecute and entice us.

? If a believer responds to these attacks by clinging to God through prayer, what *guarantees* does he have. That is, what can he be sure God will do for him? [*to be given the composure of Christ: His peace, His wisdom, His self-control, etc.*]

? What *guarantees* does he *not* have? [*an improvement in his circumstances*]

[Summarize their answers.]

### **OBEY GOD**

[Ask someone to read this section: pages **105-106**.]

“Comments, Questions, Clarifications?”

[Be sure to discuss each *issue* that is brought up.]

? Why would our obedience cause Satan to “flee”? [*Perhaps one reason is because he sees that his efforts to cause us to stumble are having just the opposite effect. Perhaps his rapid departure is to prevent any further promotion of God's Name and kingdom.*]

[Summarize their answers.]

***CONCLUSION***

[Ask several to read this section: page **107.**]

***PSALM 91:1-16***

[Ask several to read this section: page **108.**]