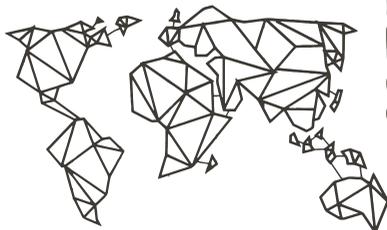




¹ Chip Ingram, *The Invisible War: What Every Believer Needs to Know about Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006), 26.

Notes:

**GREAT
COMMISSION
LEADERSHIP**
HOMEWORK
PACKET
FOURTEEN



LEADERS STAND STRONG ON TRUTH

It may be behind the scenes—in fact, it probably is, but in your house, your church, and your community there is a violent conflict between kingdoms. We’re on the winning side, but we have to be aware of the fight. We have to understand spiritual warfare.¹

Chip Ingram

BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, IS CHRIST ON THE THRONE?

If not, make sure He is!

MEMORY VERSE

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 [NIV]

STANDING STEADFAST ON GOD’S WORD

Leaders never deviate from God’s Word. Jesus taught the importance of living our lives based on the truth of His Word (Jn. 8:31-33). Daniel’s story illustrates this well. Daniel received a word from God (Daniel 10:2) and instantly committed himself to understanding what God had said (Daniel 10:12). Daniel prayed and fasted for three weeks and after that time was visited by a messenger from God who had been caught up in spiritual battle with the Prince of Persia (a demonic force, Daniel 10:13). What’s important to realize is that Daniel was actively involved in spiritual battle through prayer and fasting, as he stood on the truth of God’s Word (the vision he had received from God). The Christian leader must follow His example, living a life of commitment to God’s Word—the Bible—and fighting a spiritual battle in prayer.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Please read Ephesians 6. Remember the context of chapter 6 is chapters 4 and 5 which deal exclusively with unity in the Body and relationships. You should always remember that victorious spiritual

¹ Footnote

Notes:

warfare comes out of authentic and godly fellowship; you can't fight alone or divided. There are only two options in the spiritual battle you—as a believer—are involved in: victory or failure! I've heard that General Patton wrote his wife before a major battle in Northern Africa telling her, "I will either leave this battlefield a hero or a corpse." We need to have a similar sense of resolve concerning the spiritual battle we're involved in; our enemy sure does! If you aren't fighting the spiritual battle in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will crash and burn. As a leader, you're stepping into Satan's firing squad. Don't over-emphasize or under-emphasize the battle; know you're engaged in it, but guaranteed victory in Christ.

- **Where have you acquired your current knowledge of spiritual warfare (friends, books, media, sermons, movies, the Bible, etc.)? Is your source trustworthy? Why or why not?**

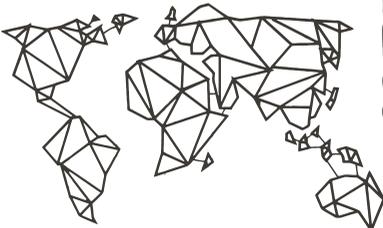
- **What do you think of spiritual warfare? Do you tend to over-emphasize it or under-emphasize it, and why?**

A CLOSER LOOK AT EPHESIANS 6:10-20

STRENGTH IN BATTLE

Eph.6:10, says, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." If you try to fight off Satan's attacks in your own strength you'll fail every time. You simply aren't strong enough to fight the temptation, deception, and opposition he will throw at you. You must be filled with the Spirit (refer to chapter 2) and stand strong in the Lord and His power.

- **Have you ever tried to stand and fight in your own strength rather than God's? What was the result? What will you do differently from now on?**



² StudyLight.org, "Methodeia Definition," <http://classic.studylight.org/isb/bible.cgi?query=eph+6:11&it=na&ot=bhs&nt=na&sr=1&l=en> (accessed January 8, 2014).

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THE ARMOR

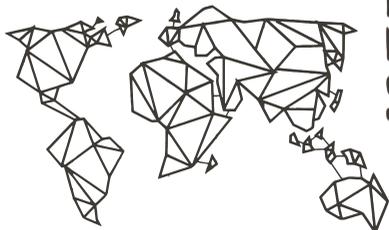
Ephesians 6:11 says, "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." There's a lot to get out of this verse. You need to know your enemy, the Devil, "schemes" against you. The Greek word used here for scheme is *methodeia* which means "cunning arts, deceit, craft, trickery."² 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (NIV). Our "enemy" roams the earth looking for someone (unaware and weak) to devour (remember Job 1:7). He steals, kills, and destroys (Jn. 10:10); deceives (Rev.20:10); accuses (Rev. 12:9-10); tempts (Mt. 4:3, 1 Thes. 3:5); and set's snares and traps for you and others (1 Tim. 3:7, 2 Tim. 2:26). He is constantly updating and switching up his attack and will hit you where it hurts most and when it is least expected. Have the right perspective. Jude challenges all believers on this issue, too (Jude 9). We have been given authority over the enemy (Lk.10:19-20), and it is imperative that we exercise the God-given authority over our enemy—not giving him a foothold (Eph. 4:27— read Eph.4:25-31 for a list of "footholds"). This said, we must never think that it is anything in us (apart from Christ) that our enemy respects. It is important that we remember that he responds to the One from Whom we receive authority—Jesus. In Christ's strength, by His grace, we are able to stand against Satan and his schemes by putting on the full armor of God.

- **How have you underestimated your enemy (the devil) in the past? What was the result?**

- **What do you think some of Satan's schemes against you are (hint: where does he seem to get you every time he tries)? How can you better prepare for those schemes in the future?**

YOUR ENEMY

Eph. 6:12, says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this



³ Jack Graham, *Unseen: Angels, Satan, Heaven, Hell, and Winning the Battle for Eternity* (Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2013), 100-104.

⁴ Studylight.org, "Anthistemi Definition," <http://classic.studylight.org/isb/bible.cgi?query=eph+6%3A13§ion=0&it=na&oq=eph%25206%3A11&ot=bhs&nt=na&new=1&nb=eph&ng=6&ncc=6> (accessed January 8, 2014)

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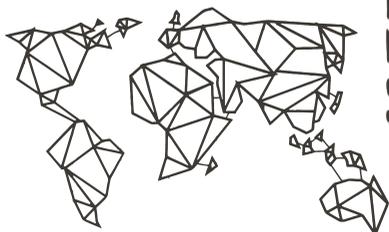
darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." As you consider your enemy, Satan, you should know he is just part of the attack—he has a formidable team on his side. The attack comes from Satan (as we just learned), but also from your own flesh, his greatest ally (Jer. 17:9, Rom. 7:18 and Php. 3:3), and the world, his dominion (2 Cor. 4:4, 1 Jn.2:15-17 and Rom. 12:1-2).

→ **How has your own flesh fought along side Satan against you?**

→ **How has the world fought along side Satan against you?**

THE IMMINENT ATTACK

Ephesians 6:13, says, "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm." Put on the full armor because the "day of evil" IS coming. Jack Graham describes five times when you should be especially on guard: after a spiritual victory, when you're alone and away from fellowship, when you're tired, when you're in church (distracting you from what God wants to do in your life), and when you're attempting something great for God.³ Don't be passive about your foe. Again, don't over-emphasize or under-emphasize the battle (Remember 2 Kings 6:15-17). The battle isn't a Christian version of ghost busters but it is very real. Don't get taken out of the battle. Every year Christians, including leaders, get taken out of the battle. We must do the ministry with a constant eye on the battle just like Nehemiah did when rebuilding the wall (Nehemiah 4:16-20). Be ready and pro-active not reactive. Think offensively! Always look to shore up your defenses & take new ground. Fight to win, not just to survive. The Greek word translated "to stand your ground" is *anthistemi* which means resist, set one's self up against, withstand, and oppose.⁴ The spiritual battle begins with intentionally resisting and setting yourself up against your enemy; it involves offense as much as defense (remember James 4:7-8 and 1 Peter 5:8-9). Do not get complacent about his traps and attacks. Satan is always shifting, tweaking and maneuvering to destroy you. 1 Cor.



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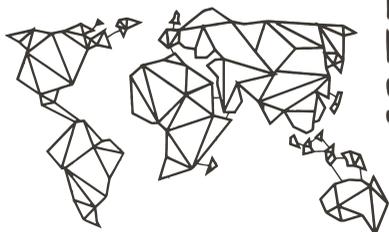
10:12 warns, "...if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall" (NIV). Eph.6:13 concludes encouraging us, once we've resisted Satan and put on the full armor, to stand. This last Greek word translated stand literally means stand. When you are fully equipped with the armor of God, fighting offensively and defensively in the power of the Holy Spirit you will be able to stand strong in the face of attack and in the day of evil.

→ **Describe a time you have stood strong, resisting the devil in the face of attack (use a ministry example if you have one). How did you stand strong?**

→ **How can you apply James 4:7-8 and 1 Peter 5:8-9 in spiritual battle?**

THE BELT OF TRUTH

Ephesians 6:14 begins describing the armor saying, "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist..." (NIV). It is not coincidental that the armor begins with truth, and concludes with the sword of the Spirit—the Word of God (v.17). In this case, the Word of God is our defense. The soldier's belt, in the time of Paul, held all the armor, clothing, and weaponry in place. Thus every piece of the armor of God rides on this: truth is as God reveals it through His Word—the Bible. Practically speaking, when we buckle the belt of truth around our waists by walking in the truth—when we read, study, meditate on, memorize, apply the truth found in God's Word (Ps. 119:142, Jn. 17:17)—we lay down a fortress of a foundation, off of which all other pieces of the armor of God hang. If we are unfamiliar with what God proclaims is true, we are easy targets for the enemy. After all, the enemy is also called "the father of lies" (John 8:44). You should also note this: the soldiers belt protected his waist and loin area. A foundation of truth is vitally important for spiritual multiplication (remember 1 Tim. 4:16). The longer we take to encourage a new believer to walk in the truth of God's Word, the more they are likely susceptible to the lies of the enemy—who wants to capture them to do his will (2 Tim. 2:24-26).



Notes:

→ **Consider how Jesus fought off Satan's attacks in Mt. 4 and Lk. 4. How has ignorance about Scripture hurt you and truth protected you in battle?**

→ **Remember Satan is a deceiver (Rev. 12:9-10 and 20:10) and the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). Have you ever been deceived? How did the truth of God's Word differ from or confront this deception?**

WHAT IS TRUTH?

As mentioned above, truth is important. Before going any further, let's look at 5 steps for evaluating anything to see how it lines up with what God says is truth. Work through each of these steps concerning the issue in question:

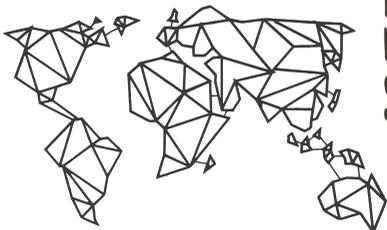
→ **Step 1: What does the Bible say specifically about the issue?**

→ **Step 2: What Biblical principles apply to the issue?**

→ **Step 3: Does it meet any of the following signs of deceit?**

» The following passages describe clear signs of false teaching, and warn us to avoid and expose false teachers. Please review these passages:

- › Matthew 7:21-23, 24:23-24
- › Rom. 16:17-18
- › 2 Corinthians 11:3
- › 2 Corinthians 11:19-20
- › Ephesians 5:6
- › Colossians 2:4, 18
- › 1 Timothy 1:3-7, 4:1-7
- › 2 Timothy 3:13
- › 2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-22



Notes:

- » The following 6 attributes of false teachers (described by the **DECEIT** acronym) come from the passages above. If you see even a hint of these **DECEIT** attributes, be very careful and check what you're hearing with God's Word:
 - › **D**istract. False teachers often distract from Christ. They often focus on side topics, unique interpretations, and peripheral issues. They don't prioritize God's Word.
 - › **E**nvious. False teachers are often envious and greedy. They are often materialistic and prosperity oriented.
 - › **C**ontrol. False teachers often control and manipulate. They steal people's freedom in Christ and saddle them with legalism.
 - › **E**mphasize special powers. False teachers are often overly preoccupied with miraculous powers and supernatural authority rather than on Christ and the gospel. They are often more interested in sensationalism than Scripture.
 - › **I**mmoral. False teachers are often immoral and carnal. They are often willing to bend ethical standards for their own benefit.
 - › **T**wist the truth. False teachers often take Scripture out of context and manipulate it to promote their own ideas. They manipulate God's Word to promote their own theories rather than submitting themselves to the truth.

→ **Step 4: What has been the historical occurrence of the issue?**

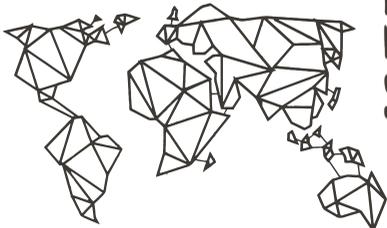
→ **Step 5: What is the fruit of the issue?**

If you apply these 5 steps to the teaching, teacher, or thought in question, you have reason to believe that it does not align with what God says is true if any of the following statements can be made about it:

- » The Bible says nothing about this or contradicts it.
- » It isn't in line with Biblical principles.
- » It meets any of the signs of deception.
- » It has traditionally been something rejected by the church or propagated by non-Christians.
- » It produces bad fruit.

If they are not in line with what God says is true, teachings and thoughts should be rejected, and teachers should be called out and corrected (in line with Scripture).

→ **Apply these 5 steps to an issue of ambiguity in your life now and see how it fares.**



Notes:

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

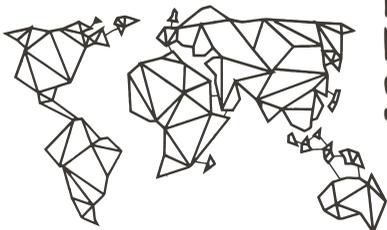
Ephesians 6:14 continues defining the armor, saying, “with the breastplate of righteousness in place” (NIV). The breastplate protected vitals in combat. The believer’s “breastplate” is the breastplate of righteousness. You are protected from guilt and shame as you walk in His righteousness (Php. 3:7-9). As you practice righteousness, walking in integrity and avoiding Satan’s deception, attacks, and the consequences of sin (1 Jn. 3:7 and Is.54:17), you are also kept safe. Practically, put on the breastplate of righteousness by walking in Jesus’ righteousness and practicing righteousness in His power as well.

- **How have guilt and shame from your past hurt you in the past? Have you experienced victory in the battle by standing in His righteousness? Explain.**

- **How have sin and a lack of integrity hurt you in battle? Have you experienced victory over sin that led to more victory in other areas as well? Explain.**

THE FOOTWEAR

Ephesians 6:15 mentions the third piece of armor, saying, “and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace” (NIV). The soldiers shoes were often studded with nails enabling traction and movement in battle. Our feet are fit with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. The gospel can’t be dissected. Accepting the gospel, living the gospel, and sharing the gospel, are each fundamental to having traction and movement in the battle. Remember Rom. 10:14-15. Practically, put on your spiritual shoes by always being ready to share, living life according to, and sharing the gospel! If you aren’t sharing your faith, you’re setting yourself up for defeat in battle.



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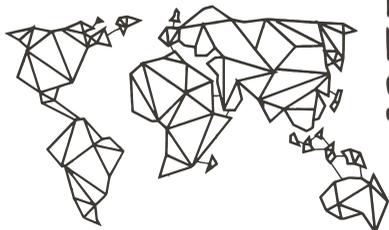
→ **What's been your experience with evangelism?**

→ **Have you seen evangelism contribute to victory in other areas or a lack of evangelism result in defeat in other areas? Explain.**

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Ephesians 6:16, describes the fourth piece of armor, saying, "In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one" (NIV). Fiery darts can take on many forms. They may look like good opportunities. Satan tempted Jesus with good things; he'll do it with you too. The good is often the enemy of the best. You must know your purpose in order to discern! Satan could use people as part of his attack. You'll likely encounter gossip and slander from believers and unbelievers alike. Respond to people's attacks with love and forgiveness. Circumstances can be some of Satan's favorite flaming arrows. Respond to circumstantial attacks with trust and walking by faith. Temptations will hit where many other attacks come up short. Respond to temptation by drawing near to Jesus (1 Cor. 10:13). Satan will often attack you hardest in your mind. Depression, anxiety, fear, doubt, insecurities, and the like, should not surprise you; recognize these as mental attacks. Extinguish fiery arrows with the shield of faith (more on that in a moment) and by placing that faith in God's Word alone! Defend yourself with Scripture.

Other forms of attack might even include demonic experiences: Respond to these by exercising your authority as God's child. Exercise authority over demonic issues as a believer (Acts 19:13-16), rebuking them in Jesus' name (Lk. 10:17-20, Acts 16:18), using Scripture (Mt. 4:1-11, Lk. 4:1-13), by faith (Mt. 17:18), believing and praying (Mk. 9:25-29), telling them to go (Mt. 8), come out (Mt. 5:8) & be quiet (Lk. 4:35). Whatever the flaming arrow happens to be, the fallout is always mental & emotional—Satan tries to wear you down. Remember Is. 26:3 and 2 Cor. 10:3-5. As you walk by faith you'll extinguish these attacks and the fiery darts are stopped at the shield—they never make it into your



Notes:

mental and emotional world; they never have an opportunity to penetrate your thoughts and feelings. Practically, we take up the shield of faith by walking by faith in God and His Word, and not by sight (2 Cor.5:7)!

- **How has the shield of faith protected you from the various flaming arrows of Satan?**

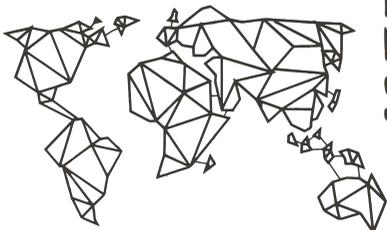
- **What area of attack do you need to fend off by deploying the shield of faith today?**

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

Ephesians 6:17 explains the fifth piece of armor, saying, "Take the helmet of salvation..." As Satan attacks your mind with temptation, deception, and doubt, it is imperative that you stay focused on the hope of your salvation in Christ (1 Thes 5:8) maintaining an eternal perspective in the battle (2 Cor.4:18). Practically, we put on the helmet of salvation first by being saved in an eternal sense and second by keeping our hope focused on Him for His salvation and solution in every circumstance!

- **Have you been freed from disillusionment by remembering the hope of your salvation? Explain.**

- **What "mental tapes," as some call them, (ex. I'm not good enough, people don't like me, etc) constantly run through your mind and how can you combat those with Scripture (2 Cor. 10:5)?**



⁵ C.H. Spurgeon, *An All Around Ministry: Addresses to Ministers and Students* (BookAndSuchNW, 2009), Ch. 5, Kindle.

Notes:

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 6:17 concludes the description of the armor with an offensive weapon, saying, “and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” We win the battle by going on the offensive, fighting with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Heb. 4:12). Spurgeon warns us not to become like those ministers who, “play with the sword of the Spirit ... instead of thrusting the two-edged sword into the hearts of men,” lamenting how they “never strike the heart, never convince men of sin, never drive a pharisee out of his own righteousness, never influence the guilty so that he casts himself as a lost sinner at the feet of Jesus.” God’s Word is the minister’s greatest tool. The Spirit reveals God’s Word to us by teaching us (Jn. 14:26, 1 Cor. 2:12), reminding us of Christ’s Words (Jn. 14:26), giving us Christ’s mind and thinking (1 Cor. 2:16) and guiding us into all truth (Jn. 16:13). He will enable you to fight the battle with Scripture like Jesus did in Mt. 4 and Lk. 4. Practically, we use the sword of the Spirit by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us and living moment by moment applying the truth of His Word in His power!

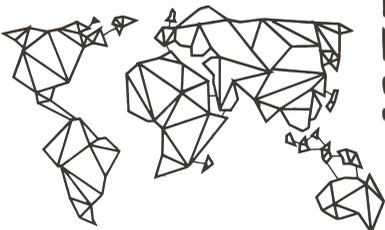
- **Describe a time where the Holy Spirit brought just the right passage of Scripture to mind to win some aspect of the battle.**

- **If you aren’t strong in God’s Word, you’re on the verge of spiritual defeat. How do you need to grow in your knowledge and application of God’s Word?**

PRAYER AND EVANGELISM

Ephesians 6:18, wraps up this discussion of spiritual battle, reminding us of the importance of two keys to victory, saying:

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,



⁶ Winston Churchill, "Never Give In! The Best of Winston Churchill's Speeches Quotes," <http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/26316-never-give-in-the-best-of-winston-churchill-s-speeches> (Accessed January 8, 2014).

Notes:

for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should" (NIV).

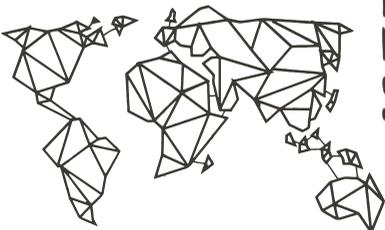
The two final keys Paul mentions are prayer and evangelism. Prayer is not an option, it is the solution (1 Cor.3:9), and the Holy Spirit will direct you to pray as you fight the spiritual battle, be sensitive to His leading. Remember Php.4:6-7. Bottom line, leaders pray (Remember Samuel's perspective on prayer for those he led in 1 Sam.12:23). Evangelism is where ground is gained in the battle. We will discuss this more in weeks to come.

→ **How is it difficult for you to stay diligent in prayer?**

→ **How have you seen prayer contribute to victory in the battle?**

A life of Christian leadership will inevitably include hardship, discipline, trials and adversities (Jn. 16:33). Persecution is likely (2 Tim. 3:12). Remember, God is more concerned with developing Christ-likeness in you than He is with your comfort level. Sometimes Satan's attacks are allowed for God's purposes and your growth, maturity, and discipline (2 Cor. 12:7-10). Keep persevering (Heb. 12:7, 11), trust Him (1 Peter 4:19), and consider all He uses to develop your character pure joy (James 1:2-4). Stay disciplined (1 Cor. 9:24-27), recognizing that your comfort zones will be crushed (2 Tim. 2:3-4). Persevere through the attack, allowing God to develop you into the leader He wants you to be. Sir Winston Churchill described perseverance saying, "Never give in—never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in ... Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."⁶ Keep learning and getting stronger (Ps. 18).

→ **What hardships have you persevered through that ended up making you stronger?**



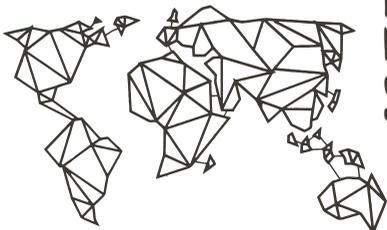
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THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

That was God's Word to Jehoshaphat in 2 Chr. 20:15. God delivered Judah from their invaders in a miraculous way. Similarly, He will give you victory in spiritual battle as you trust Him, walking by faith. He is building you and your ministry (Ps. 127:1). Meditate on God's Word constantly (Ps. 119:97). Pray continually (1 Thes. 5:17). Fight the battle by praising God (magnifying God, declaring His character and acts— 2 Chronicles 20). Stay strong with the perspective of Joy (Neh. 8:10). The battle belongs to the lord (1 Sam. 17:47) and God will save you in battle (ex. Hos. 1:7). Remember Rom. 8:37.

→ **How do you need to trust Him with the battle today?**

Remember, your weaknesses, inabilities, failures and past present no challenge to God's will for your life. Your willingness does. Be willing to be and do what God made you for. You don't have what it takes but God's Spirit in you does so be the leader He made you to be and turn this world upside down for Him!



Notes:

ACT NOW

ARM YOURSELF

Establish a game plan for walking in His armor.

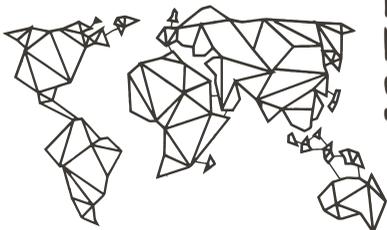
- **What's your daily game plan for practically buckling the belt of truth around your waist—by walking in the truth: reading, studying, meditating on, memorizing and applying God's Word?**

- **What's your daily game plan for practically putting on the breastplate of righteousness—by walking in Jesus' righteousness, practicing righteousness, and walking in integrity in His power as well?**

- **What's your daily game plan for practically putting on your spiritual shoes—by always being ready, living, and sharing the gospel?**

- **What's your daily game plan for practically taking up the shield of faith—by walking by faith in God and His Word and not by sight?**

- **What's your daily game plan for practically putting on the helmet of salvation—by keeping your hope focused on Him for His salvation and solution in every circumstance?**





Notes:

→ **What's your daily game plan for practically using the sword of the Spirit –by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you and living moment by moment applying the truth of His Word in His power?**

→ **What's your daily game plan for winning the battle through prayer?**

→ **Remember Ps. 119:11. We hope you've been memorizing each chapter's memory verse in this workbook. Make it a goal to memorize at least 1 Scripture passage per week. Get started here! Write out 10 more verses you'll begin memorizing.**

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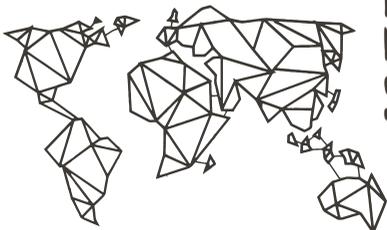
6.

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⁷ G. T. Doran, *There's a S.M.A.R.T. Way to Write Management's Goals and Objectives* (Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, 1981), 35-36.

Notes:

PERSONAL GROWTH

- Write out this lesson's memory verse (also, write it out several more times this week):

- List a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant & within a Time-frame) goal⁷ for this lesson and action plans for achieving it.
SMART Goal:

Action plan:

Action plan:

Action plan:

- How are you staying close to Jesus, walking by faith and in integrity, trusting Him and the power of His Spirit in life and ministry rather than yourself, and how can you more?

- Jesus insisted that serving Him and serving others was the highest attribute of leadership (Mt. 20:25-28). How are you growing as a servant leader?

- How will this lesson help you better accomplish the Great Commission and multiply Christ-like multipliers?

- List any last thoughts and then put everything you learned in this lesson in God's hands, trusting Him to build these things into your life.

