△ A God Journey

THE FIGHT OF FAITH
Some would say to present the church as an aggressive army of believers is improper and unacceptable in this day and age. **If that is the case then the conflict and warfare that the Bible speaks about is over!** Now if there is no war, no battle, no conflict and no danger then there is no recognized enemy, no organized effort to fight, no call to arms and of course no casualties to report.

**IS THERE A RECOGNIZED ENEMY?**

1.) In reading the challenge of **1 Peter 5:8**, what does the Bible call the Devil?

   - ___ Our friend
   - ___ Our helper
   - ___ Our adversary or enemy

2.) In the KJV Bible it uses the word “adversary”. Can you define this word?

3.) According to **John 8:44**, is the Devil a dangerous enemy?  YES___  NO___

   “...He was a __________________________ from the beginning...”

4.) After reading **Ephesians 6:12**, does it appear Satan has an organized army warring against believers?

   - YES___  NO___

5.) Take a closer look at this passage then answer the following questions below.

   * What key word shows believers are in a battle? ____________________________
   * Who is our fight not with? ____________________________
   * Who is our conflict really with?

   “...against ____________________________...”
   “...against ____________________________...”
   “...against ____________________________...”
   “...against ____________________________...”

   * Would you say the fight of faith is physical or spiritual? ____________________________

6.) Of course the good news is that even though we are in a spiritual conflict against Satan and his demonic forces, **1 John 4:4** boldly states:

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

---

**References. . . . .**

In-depth reference points designed to lay the groundwork for this lesson.

1 Peter 5:8,9  
John 8:33-47  
Ephesians 6:10-18  
1 John 4:4

**Insights. . . . .**

Gaining an understanding of the basic concepts of this lesson.

- **“Seeking Whom He May Devour”**: Satan’s desire and strategy is to seek and destroy the lives of as many people as possible.
- **“He Was A Murderer”**: The reason why we must take Satan seriously is because he has a clear history of mass destruction.
- **“Not Against Flesh And Blood”**: To spend our time and energy needlessly attacking those around us is to actually find ourselves playing into the devils hands.
- **“Greater Is He That Is In You”**: Those who have received Christ into their lives and who continue to live a life dominated by the power and presence of the Lord, are well able to stand against any and all of Satan’s strategies.

---

**Perspective. . . . .**

A personal application statement setting the stage for ultimate victory.

“To ignore the Devil as revealed in God’s Word is to prepare oneself for ultimate disaster!”
In attempting to prove believers are still in an ongoing conflict, we have already uncovered the fact that according to scripture there are satanic forces at work today, continually working to interfere with anyone who proclaims to have a real faith in Jesus Christ. Now if we really are in a spiritual conflict, not only is there a recognized enemy, but surely there must also be an organized effort to rise up and defeat this enemy.

**IS THERE AN APPOSING ARMY?**

1.) In Matthew 16:18, what is the apposing force Christ has established to stand against the forces of hell? ________________

2.) What phrase in this verse declares that satanic forces will not be able to stop the forward progress of the true church of the Lord?

3.) According to Ephesians 6:11, does this fighting force have their own battle garments?

   YES___    NO___

4.) Those garments are referred to as: ______________________________

5.) Take some time and read Ephesians 6:13-17 to discover more details about this critical armor, then list below all six of the different pieces of the armor on the lines below.

   ________________________________     ________________ 
   ________________________________     ________________ 
   ________________________________     ________________ 

6.) When looking at the above list, who does it remind you of? ________________

7.) Let’s see if Romans 13:14 agrees with your conclusion. This verse states:

   ________________________________ 
   ________________________________ 
   ________________________________ 

8.) According to 2 Corinthians 10:3,4, the weapons of this opposition force called the church are supernaturally powerful.

   YES___    NO___

9.) With that in mind, what critical weapon is mentioned in Ephesians 6:17?

   ____ Fighter jets    ____ Atomic warheads    ____ Land mines
   ____ Automatic rifles    ____ The Word of God
So far it seems extremely clear Christ intended for the Church to be like a mighty army, rising up against the strongholds of Satan. Now let’s see if there really is a mandate from God’s Word to enter into this fight of fights.

**IS THERE A CALL TO ARMS?**

1.) After reading Ephesians 6:10,11, does it appear believers are called to be aggressive or passive?  
   ___ Aggressive ___ Passive  
   “Finally, __________________________________________________________.”  
   “Put on the full armor of God __________________________________________.”

2.) In 1 Timothy 1:18, what activity does Paul tell Timothy to be involved in?  
   ________________________________________________________________

3.) According to 1 Timothy 6:12, what is the first thing Timothy is charged to do in this passage?  
   “___________ the good __________ of faith.”

4.) Take a good close look at 2 Timothy 2:3,4, then answer the following questions below.  
   * What was Timothy referred to as? ____________________________  
   * Who was the commanding officer mentioned here? __________________  
   * Was he supposed to be a disciplined soldier? YES___ NO___  
   * Was there any warning about possible difficulties ahead? YES___ NO___

5.) The mandate to fight seems very clear after reading James 4:7. When it comes to our adversary the Devil, what have we been called to do?  
   ___ Back Off ___ Prepare to resist ___ Simply Ignore him

6.) According to this same passage, what is the promised outcome to our resistance?  
   ________________________________________________________________

7.) Notice that even our commanding officer has set the pace in the area of fighting the Devil. Look up 1 John 3:8 then write the words to the last half of this verse on the lines below.  
   ________________________________________________________________
One final test should prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the believer is facing a spiritual conflict. If there is no war, no battle and no real conflict, then there are no casualties to report. Let’s see what the Bible has to say on this topic.

**ARE THERE CASUALTIES OR PRISONERS OF WAR?**

1.) Begin by taking a close look at Christ’s own words in Luke 4:16-21. Are there any hints about prisoners of war or those who have been wounded in this passage?

   YES___  NO___

2.) In Romans 7:23 we notice that a person who does not overcome the various temptations of sin will eventually become captive or a prisoner of sin.

   YES___  NO___

3.) Observe the statement found in 2 Timothy 2:26. Now write this verse below.

   ____________________________________________

4.) In fact, according to Ephesians 2:1 & 5, a sinner is a casualty of this spiritual conflict whether they know it or not.

   verse 1  “who were ___________ in trespasses and sins;”

   verse 5  “even when we were ___________ in sins,”

   ____________________________________________

5.) And in Romans 6:23 we read: “For the wages of sin in ___________.

6.) In the parable of the Good Shepherd found in John 10:1-17, Christ speaks of himself as the shepherd and refers to Satan as the thief. According to verse 10, what does Jesus teach is Satan’s ultimate desire? Keep in mind we are the sheep referred to in this passage.

   ____________________________________________

Please Note!!!

If the church is changing it’s militant image, then it can only mean one of two things at this point in time.

* Either the church has been victorious and the battle is over,
* Or the church has decided to surrender.

Since we have proven scripturally that there is still a spiritual conflict and that Satan still desires to destroy the lives of men and women as well as our youth; then those who have decided to refuse to be involved in the fight of faith have already raised the white flag and are now allowing Satan to continue unopposed!

7.) Is the Gospel of Christ worth standing up for in this life? _____________________
Now that we have established the fact that there is a spiritual battle raging, it’s time to focus our attention on the details of this conflict. Keep in mind from this point on that the key verse for the remainder of this series is found in James 4:7. You are encouraged to read it, write it, and then memorize it!

**WHAT IS SPIRITUAL WARFARE?**

1.) Write down the words of James 4:7. 

2.) After reading the above verse, does it appear that in the realm of spiritual warfare, a person must...
   - choose sides? YES___ NO___
   - make a commitment? YES___ NO___
   - become personally involved? YES___ NO___

3.) What would you say are the two key words of James 4:7? 

4.) The first word: "_____________", means to set in array under, to yield to authority. There are many verses in the Bible that help us get a handle on this critical concept.

   1 Peter 5:6 “_____________ yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”

   Psalm 100:2 “_____________ the Lord with gladness;”

   Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore brethren...that you __________ your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable...”

5.) In other words we are to give ourselves totally to God! YES___ NO___

6.) The second word: "_____________", means to set over against, to appose with force. There are also many verses in the Bible that help us understand this concept as well.

   Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armor of God, ________________

   1 Timothy 6:12 “_____________ the good fight of faith,”

7.) We are to exercise authority over the Devil! YES___ NO___

8.) Why do you think both of these concepts are critical to spiritual warfare?
Now the first key to successful spiritual warfare is to “submit” ourselves totally to God. The reason for this priority is that Satan has no fear of mere human strength and ability. In fact, Satan constantly defeats people who do not walk close to God. On the other hand a godly person in Christ can put satanic forces to flight. Let’s learn what it takes to submit or give ourselves to God.

IT TAKES BELIEVING IN GOD… FAITH

1.) Notice how emphatic the Bible emphasizes the importance of faith in God.

“But without _________ it is __________________ to please him, for he that comes to God ___________________ that he is, and that he is a rewar der of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

2.) In other words, to submit or to give oneself to God requires that a person is totally convinced that God is who he says he is, and that God will do what he says he will do.

YES ___ NO ___

3.) In fact, we find that the requirement of an absolute faith in God is emphasized over and over again throughout the Bible.

* What does it take to be saved according to Acts 16:31 & Romans 10:9?

* What does it take to receive healing according to James 5:15 & Mark 10:52?

* What does it take for prayers to be answered according to Mark 11:24?

* What was Christ’s constant reminder to his disciples as seen in Mark 11:22?

4.) Now in Hebrews 11:1 we have another interesting perspective of what faith in God is all about. After you have written down verse 1 on the lines below, take the time to compare it with Hebrews 11:6.

“Now faith is ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________.”

5.) To illustrate just how far people have gone in placing their faith and trust in the Lord as they worked to fully submit themselves to God, take some time to read the entire chapter of Hebrews 11. It appears it was an unwavering faith that enabled these people to march forward even in the face of seemingly impossible odds.

YES ___ NO ___
As we begin to understand what it means to submit to God, we know the starting point is our absolute faith in God. Without faith it is absolutely impossible to please the Lord. That’s why our faith in God must be strong and unfailing in every way. Next in line is to begin to know God personally. The more we know about him, the more solid our faith in God will become.

**IT TAKES LEARNING OF GOD...KNOWLEDGE**

1.) In 2 Timothy 3:14-17, Paul reminds Timothy of this critical area of submission to God. What was Timothy challenged to continue in which had been his focus even as a young child?

2.) A closer look at verses 16 & 17 reveals the importance of why we should give ourselves to the study of God’s Word continually. In this passage we discover the Bible was “given by inspiration of God”, or in other words “God breathed”, and is “profitable” or “useful” for what?

   “___________________” meaning to give solid instruction.

   “___________________” meaning to bring about conviction.

   “___________________” meaning to set things right.

   “___________________” meaning to show how to live right.

3.) What is the reason for all of this according to verse 17?

   ___ To secure a diploma ___ To impress others around you

   ___ To become fully equipped to serve God

4.) In fact, according to 1 Peter 2:2, if we will give ourselves to an appetite of feeding on God’s Word, what will happen to us spiritually?

   ____________________________________________

5.) Notice what the psalmist says helps to keep a person from giving into or submitting to sin? Read and then write down Psalm 119:11.

   ____________________________________________

   ____________________________________________

6.) According to Psalm 1:2, how often should a person give themselves to meditating on God’s Word if he or she wants to be blessed of God?

   ___ Very little ___ Now and then ___ Regularly

7.) Finally, which verse in Psalm 1 explains that a person in the Word of God will find themselves stable, fruitful, lasting, and prosperous?

   ________________________
So far our focus on submitting to God has emphasized two very important areas. A believer must have a strong faith in God, as well as a growing knowledge of God's Word. **As important as these two areas are, they are not enough!** How we apply what we know and believe is also extremely important. Here is where many people fall short when it comes to actually submitting or giving themselves to God.

**IT TAKES LIVING FOR GOD... OBEDIENCE**

1.) Read 1 John 2:3-6, then answer the following questions below.

* Would you say the key emphasis in these particular verses has to do with the subject of our obedience to Lord?
  
  YES____ NO____

* Would you say these verses emphasize the fact that the evidence or proof of someone who claims to believe in and know Christ is found in a life of obedience to the Lord?
  
  YES____ NO____

* What about a person who claims to know Christ, but does not live a life of obedience to God?
  
  ________________________________________________

2.) Christ our example not only demonstrated great faith and knowledge of the scriptures, but also demonstrated the walk of obedience as well. How are we to walk? Write down the words found in 1 John 2:6.

__________________________________________________

______________________________________________

3.) According to John 14:21,23, a person who lives a life of obedience unto the Lord is a person…

  who truly ________________ the Lord!

4.) According to Matthew 7:24, a person who is obedient to the Word of the Lord is considered…

  to be a very ________________ person!

5.) What command of obedience do we find in James 1:22?

__________________________________________________

______________________________________________

6.) In fact, we discover in James 4:17 that a person who chooses to disobey has chosen to sin against God.

  YES____ NO____

7.) If we disobey God’s Word in any area of our life, will that impact our ability to successfully defeat Satan?

  YES____ NO____
As we become dedicated to a life of faith, to growing in the knowledge of God and to becoming more obedient to his Word; we can be sure that even Satan will begin to take notice. Now there is one more important step of submission to God that we must emphasize at this time.

**IT TAKES CONNECTING WITH GOD...PRAYER**

1.) The Bible constantly emphasizes a call to a life of prayer! After reading each of the following scripture passages listed below, take some time to write down the challenges about prayer that you discover.

   - Luke 18:1
   - Luke 21:36
   - Ephesians 6:18
   - 1 Thessalonians 5:17
   - Colossians 4:2
   - Mark 1:35-39
   - Hebrews 4:15,16
   - 1 Chronicles 16:27
   - Psalm 16:11

2.) It appears God considers prayer a definite priority. **YES**  **NO**

3.) Even Christ himself considered prayer a priority as he walked this earth. Read Mark 1:35 and Luke 6:12 as examples of this fact. Did Jesus ever...
   - *...start his day with prayer?**  **YES**  **NO**
   - *...spend the night in prayer?**  **YES**  **NO**

4.) Hebrews 4:16 gives us a beautiful picture of what is happening when a believer enters into a time of prayer. Write this verse on the lines below.

   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________

5.) Does the believer have a personal invitation to come into the presence of God according to this passage?  **YES**  **NO**

6.) What benefits are listed in 1 Chronicles 16:27 and Psalm 16:11, for those who seek to spend time in God's Presence?
   - There are really no benefits at all  **YES**
   - It really is a waste of time  **NO**
   - In God’s Presence a person will experience renewed strength  **YES**
   - In God’s Presence a person will experience fullness of joy  **NO**
   - Spending time in God’s Presence is to encounter lasting pleasure  **YES**
Now it’s time to turn the corner and get a handle on the second key word found in James 4:7. That word is to “resist”. Satan does not want you to learn the fact that you can stand up to his constant attacks and even put him on the run. **He knows when believers learn this tactic, he is in real trouble.** With that in mind, let’s discover what it takes to resist any and all manner of satanic and demonic opposition.

**FAITH IN GOD RESISTS THE DEVIL!**

1.) When dealing with the armor of God in Ephesians 6, what is this shield that the believer has been given to resist the Devil as seen in verse 16?

______________________________

2.) What is this shield able to do when the enemy hurls his weapons against you?

___ It is absolutely useless ___ It neutralizes Satan’s fiery darts

3.) “Fiery darts” or “arrows” speak of an attack of harmful things hurled against the believer to bring ruin and devastation. After looking at 1 John 2:16, list the three categories of deadly temptations mentioned.

* Worldly pleasures: ________________________________
* Worldly possessions: ________________________________
* Worldly popularity: ________________________________

4.) Now notice the challenge presented in 1 Peter 5:8,9, then answer the following questions below.

* Who is our adversary or enemy? ________________________________
* What is he presently doing? ________________________________
* How are we to respond? ________________________________

5.) Satan is extremely fearful of a person with a firm faith in God. That is why he is always working to promote an atmosphere of **unbelief**! Read Mark 6:1-6 then write down verses 5 and 6 on the lines below.

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

______________________________

6.) It’s clear to see that the tactic of unbelief was the key factor which hindered the people from experiencing God’s best.

YES___ NO___
Satan knows he is in trouble when he faces people who have a strong faith in God. Now in this lesson we will discover that combining a strong faith along with a working knowledge of the Bible, is like a one two punch in the direction of our adversary.

**KNOWLEDGE OF GOD’S WORD RESISTS THE DEVIL!**

1.) Returning back to Ephesians 6, what does the Bible encourage believers to access which is referred to as a powerful sword? Notice verse 17.

2.) Hebrews 4:12 gives us similar insights concerning the Word of God.

   “For the word of God is ____________________________ _______
   and sharper than any ______________________ ____________…”

3.) When Christ was confronted and tempted by Satan in Luke 4:1-12, what did he use to combat and resist Satan?

   ___ His fists ___ A knife ___ The Word of God ___ A whip

4.) How many specific times in this passage did Satan attack Christ with his tactics of temptation.

5.) How many times did Christ resist Satan’s attacks by using the scriptures?

>>> COUNTER INTELIGENCE BRIEFING <<<

6.) Satan is extremely fearful of a person with a growing knowledge of God’s Word. This is why he is always working to promote ignorance of the Bible! Read Hosea 4:6, then write down this verse on the lines below.

   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

7.) In the above verse, what was it that seemed to have opened the door of destruction upon the children of Israel?

   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

8.) So the question is: Should a believer be a student of God’s Word, so that he is able to successfully appose the attacks of the Devil?

   YES___  NO___
As we continue on the course of building a strong resistance against the Devil; there is a third area that not only strengthens our stand, but causes nothing less than absolute frustration to any and all of Satan’s strategies. A life of obedience to God is a chilling reminder to the Devil that he is losing the battle.

LIVING IN OBEDIENCE RESISTS THE DEVIL!

1.) Now a life of obedience to God can be seen as putting on the rest of the armor listed in Ephesians 6:14-17. Other than the “shield of faith” and the “sword of the Spirit”, what other items are listed in this particular passage?

* The belt of ________________.
* The breastplate of ________________.
* The shoes of ________________.
* The helmet of ________________.

2.) Would you say the items above are more than just a list of ornaments, but rather a true lifestyle of a born again believer, walking in obedience to God’s Word?

YES ___ NO ___

3.) To get an even clearer picture of what this life of obedience represents, look at Romans 13:12-14. Specifically in verses 12 & 14, what are we clothing ourselves with, or what are we putting on?

__________________________________________ ____________
__________________________________________ ____________

4.) Therefore, a life of obedience to God can be seen as putting on the life of Christ.

YES ___ NO ___

5.) Think about it! When Satan confronts a true believer in Christ, in many ways he is once again confronting Christ himself. Would you agree?

YES ___ NO ___

6.) Satan is extremely fearful of a person who is walking in obedience for the Lord. This is why he is always working to promote disobedience to God’s Word! Read 1 Samuel 12:6-15, then write down verse 15 on the lines below.

__________________________________________ ____________
__________________________________________ ____________
__________________________________________ ____________
__________________________________________ ____________

7.) God clearly reveals to his people in this passage that disobedience to the Word of God causes God’s favor to be lifted! No wonder Satan’s number one tactic is to tempt you to disobey God. What area of disobedience are you struggling with at this time?

__________________________________________

References...

In-depth reference points designed to lay the groundwork for this lesson.

Ephesians 6:10-18
Romans 13:12-14
1 Samuel 12:6-15

Insights...

Gaining an understanding of the basic concepts of this lesson.

- “Truth/Righteousness Peace/Salvation”: In scripture we find that believers are clearly commanded to walk in all four of these areas; living in truth, in righteousness, in peace, as well as the saved, sanctified life.
- “The Armor Of Light”: Since this phrase is seen in contrast to the works or deeds of darkness; the armor of light is referring to a life producing the works or deeds of godliness.
- “Put ye on...Christ”: We are commanded to clothe ourselves with Christ. Patterning or following after the things that highlighted his life while on this planet.

Perspective.....

A personal application statement setting the stage for ultimate victory.

“Now I understand that to know God’s Word is one thing, but to obey God’s Word is where I produce on the outside what I say I have believed and learned on the inside!”
It's now time to engage in battle! Yes, a person with a strong faith in God, who stands upon the Word of God, and lives a life obedient to God, is now ready to step onto the battlefield of prayer. That's right! Prayer is more than just an avenue of worship and asking God to supply our needs. Prayer is also the place in which we step into the supernatural realm and confront all manner of satanic and demonic opposition.

**PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER RESISTS THE DEVIL!**

1.) Now read Ephesians 6:10-18 one more time, then answer the following questions below. See if you can now grasp the complete picture.

- *Who are we fighting against?*
- *What are we to put on?*
- *What are our defensive and offensive weapons?*
- *After we have put on all our armor and have taken up our shield and sword, what critical action are we to engage in next? Write down verse 18.*

2.) According to this passage of scripture:

- *We should only step onto the battlefield of prayer now and then.*
  - YES___ NO___

- *We should simply see prayer as a mechanical exercise of the flesh.*
  - YES___ NO___

- *If we do not see immediate results, we should simply give up.*
  - YES___ NO___

3.) For example: What destructive problems can be effectively dealt with while in prayer as revealed in James 5:14-18? Especially note verse 15.

4.) Satan is extremely fearful of a person who persists in prayer. This is why he is always working to promote prayerlessness! Satan realizes that if we struggle and fight, attempting to gain ground on our own, we will fail. Read James 4:2, then write the words of this verse on the lines below.