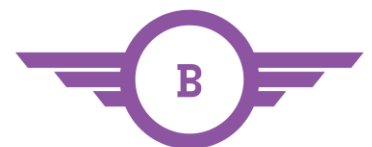


Walking Christian on Spiritual Warfare



Barry's Bureau

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Spiritual Warfare

Walking Christian

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

[\(Ephesians 6:12\)](#)



I. Definitions

“The god of this age [Satan] has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

[\(2 Corinthians 4:4\)](#)

A. Defining Spiritual Warfare

spiritual warfare

*“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of **this world** and of **the ruler of the kingdom of the air** [Satan], the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our **sinful nature [the flesh]** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”*

([Ephesians 2:1–3](#))

B. Considering the Opposition Three Enemies

- **The World**

“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” ([James 4:4](#))

- **The Flesh**

“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature [flesh]. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.” ([Romans 7:18](#))

- **The Devil (Satan)**

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’ ” ([Matthew 25:41](#))

C. Looking at Strongholds

- A military stronghold

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- A spiritual stronghold

*“Though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish **strongholds**.” ([2 Corinthians 10:3–4](#))*

Q “When will this spiritual battle be over?”

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ([Revelation 21:4](#))





II. Characteristics

"The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it."

[\(Proverbs 27:12\)](#)

spiritual warfare, enemies in

A. *World Warfare*

*“Do not love **the world** or anything in **the world**. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.”*

([1 John 2:15–16](#))

The world is an enemy

B. *Fleshly Warfare*

“The acts of the sinful nature [“flesh” in Greek] are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

(Galatians 5:19–21)

“From within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’ ”

(Mark 7:21–23)

Sinful human nature is an enemy

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C. Warfare with Satan

The devil is an enemy

- **Satanic attacks** from without ... **oppression**

“So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.”

(Job 2:7)

- **Satanic strongholds** from within ... **obsession**

“ ‘In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”

[\(Ephesians 4:26–27\)](#)

- **Satanic control ... possession**

“When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a **demon-possessed** man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.”

[\(Luke 8:27\)](#)

(Also read verses [26–39](#).)

Q “Can a Christian be demon possessed?”

“He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”
[\(Colossians 1:13\)](#)

spiritual warfare, as conflict

General descriptions of spiritual conflict





III. Causes of Defeat

spiritual warfare, causes of

“We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

[\(2 Corinthians 10:5\)](#)

A. Development of Strongholds

THE BATTLE BEGINS IN THE MIND

“In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”

[\(Ephesians 4:26–27\)](#)

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

1 Samuel chapters [9](#), [10](#), [18](#), [19](#), [28](#), and [31](#)

King Saul

“Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD; he did not keep the word of the LORD and even consulted a medium for guidance, and did not inquire of the LORD. So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.”

[\(1 Chronicles 10:13–14\)](#)

Q “I’m constantly defeated in my thought life. How can I gain victory?”

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” [\(Philippians 4:8\)](#)

B. Root Cause of Defeat

Wrong Belief:

- Investment in the World

“You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” ([James 4:4](#))

- Indulgence of the Flesh

“The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.” ([Proverbs 11:6](#))

- Ignorance of Satan’s Power

“The devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” ([1 John 3:8](#))

Right Belief:

“A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.” ([Proverbs 21:22](#))

Q “Why do some demonic spirits not leave a person?”

“This kind [of spirit] can come out only by prayer.” ([Mark 9:29](#))





IV. Steps to Solution

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

[\(Ephesians 6:10–11\)](#)

A. Key Verse to Memorize

"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one [Jesus] who is in you is greater than the one [Satan] who is in the world."

[\(1 John 4:4\)](#)

B. Key Passage to Read and Reread

[Ephesians 6:10–18](#)

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done

everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 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.”

GOD’S STRATEGY FOR WARFARE

Depend on God’s power for victory—[Ephesians 6:10](#).

Know your enemy—[Ephesians 6:11–12](#).

Be prepared for battle by wearing the battle gear—[Ephesians 6:13–17](#).

- Have on the ***belt of truth*** to combat Satan’s lies.

- Put on the ***breastplate of righteousness*** to overcome temptation.

- Wear the ***shoes of peace***, knowing God is on your side.

- Carry the ***shield of faith*** to withstand doubt and unbelief.

- Put on the ***helmet of salvation*** to protect your mind.

- Use the ***sword of the Spirit*** accurately.

Pray always—[\(Ephesians 6:18\)](#).

How believers are to fight

C. Overcome the World

Focus on _____ as _____

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” ([John 1:1–3, 14](#))*

acknowledge that _____ has overcome the world

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” ([John 16:33](#))

identify with _____ and know that His victory is your victory

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” ([1 John 4:4](#))

trust in the absolute truth of _____

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” ([2 Timothy 3:16](#))

hold up _____ as your measuring rod against the world’s standards

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” ([Psalm 119:11](#))

*“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our **faith**. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*

([1 John 5:4–5](#))

Q “If I sense that my loved ones are under spiritual attack, how do I pray for them? Will my prayers have any real effect?”

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your **faith may not fail.**” ([Luke 22:31–32](#))

D. Defeat the Flesh

- _____ the war between the Holy Spirit and your fleshly habits. (FLESH = a consuming passion to live life out of your own resources.)

“The sinful nature [flesh] desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature [flesh]. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.” ([Galatians 5:17](#))

- _____ you were born with a sin nature, a natural bent to sin.

“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” ([Psalm 51:5](#))

- _____ Jesus Christ into your life to save you from the penalty of your sins. Choose to go His way instead of your own way.

“Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” ([Matthew 7:14](#))

- _____ that Christ’s death on the cross for you brought death to the sin nature in you.

“We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.” ([Romans 6:6–7](#))

- _____ the “resurrection power” of Christ within you to break the power of sin over you.

“We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” ([Romans 6:4](#))

- _____ that you have been given a new nature.

“Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.” ([2 Peter 1:4](#))

- _____ that you are a new creation in Christ.

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))

- _____ Christ, who lives within you, to give you victory over self-centered habits.

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” ([Philippians 4:13](#))

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature [the flesh] with its passions and desires.”

([Galatians 5:24](#))

Q “Since God knows that our flesh is weak, why does He tempt us to sin?”

“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.”
[\(James 1:13–14\)](#)

E. Stand against Satan

- **Satan is not** _____.

“The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.” [\(1 John 4:4\)](#)

- **Satan is not** _____.

“The LORD said to Satan, ‘Where have you come from?’ Satan answered the LORD, ‘From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.’” [\(Job 1:7\)](#)

- **Satan is not** _____.

“Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.” [\(Ezekiel 28:17\)](#)

- **Satan has been** _____ **to** _____.

*“The LORD said to Satan, ‘Very well, then, everything he [Job] has is in your hands, but **on the man himself do not lay a finger.**’”* [\(Job 1:12\)](#)

- **Satan can't** _____ .

*"Submit yourselves, then, to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you." ([James 4:7](#))*

- **Satan** _____ **the** _____ **of** _____ .

"They [believers] overcame him by the blood of the Lamb." ([Revelation 12:11](#))

- **Satan is defeated by** _____ .

"They overcame him by ... the word of their testimony." ([Revelation 12:11](#))

"Stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then."

([Ephesians 6:13-14](#))

Q "Does Satan have the power to know our thoughts?"

"You alone know the hearts of all men." ([1 Kings 8:39](#))

