

Spiritual Warfare



242) What is the spiritual realm?

- A. Before God created the physical universe and placed man in it, the spiritual realm existed. When God, the creator, spoke into the spirit realm, the entire universe was formed out of nothing but His words.
- B. Although invisible to the natural eye, the spiritual world is very real and constantly influencing our lives in the physical realm.
- C. Unlike the physical universe, the spiritual realm cannot be investigated using our five senses. It must be spiritually discerned.
- D. Because man has a spirit, he has access to the spirit realm. Sadly, not all men are aware of the spirit world. Many live their lives ignorant of both the joy of serving God and the consequences if they do not.

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2COR 4:18 NIV

"Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. [15] When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. [16] "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." [17] And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

2KINGS 6:14-17 NIV

"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. [13] This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. [14] The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. [15] The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: [16] "For who has known

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the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ."
1COR 2:12-16 NIV

243) Who are the major players in the spiritual realm?

- A. God and Satan.
- B. God is supported by a host of angelic beings, while Satan is served by demonic spirits.

"Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word."

PSA 103:20 NIV

"The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him."

REV 12:9 NIV

244) What is an angel?

- A. The word "angel" means "messenger."
- B. An angel is an immortal spirit being created to worship and serve God and at His direction, minister to man.

"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."

MATT 16:27 NIV

"Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

HEB 1:14 NIV

"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them."

PSA 34:7 NIV

"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their (the children's) angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

MATT 18:10 NIV

245) What is a demon?

- A. Demons are fallen angels. They were created to serve God, but choose to join Satan in his rebellion and are eternally doomed.

"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.'"

MATT 25:41 NIV

246) How does Satan differ from God?

- A. God is the infinite creator. Satan is a created being, a fallen angel. Unlike God, Satan does not know everything that is happening in the world, nor is he able to be everywhere present in the universe. Only God is all knowing and omnipresent.

- B. God and Satan are not equal (or almost equal) in power. Satan is a defeated foe and Christ, the reigning victor. God never loses when confronting Satan.
- C. Satan is a rebellious creature in God's creation, and as such, he must answer to God and will ultimately be judged and suffer eternal punishment for his rebellion.

"No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. [8] None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

1COR 2:7-8 NIV

"Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. [32] But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."

JOHN 12:31-32 NIV

"On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him."

JOB 2:1 NIV

"and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

COL 2:10 NIV

"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

REV 20:10 NIV

247) What is the structure of Satan's evil domain?

- A. Because of Satan's limitations, he is forced to rely on a demonic hierarchy to carry out his purposes.
 - 1. Satan is at the top of this hierarchy and is ultimately responsible for all the evil his underlings pursue.
 - 2. Serving under him are "principalities and powers." These demonic spirits are rulers over geographic areas such as nations and cities. They work to influence the leaders of government, business, and religious groups in such a way as to pervert society and draw the people away from God.
 - 3. At the third level are the demonic spirits we are most familiar with; spirits of lust, anger, fear, and unbelief, to mention a few. Their job is to tempt and trouble the lives of ordinary men and women.
- B. Although we speak of being tempted by Satan, it is unlikely that we have experienced his direct attention. Instead, we have most likely come face to face with different demon spirits whose purpose and behavior is identical to their father, the Devil.

"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."

EPH 6:12 NIV

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"But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me (an angel) twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ... [20] So he said, 'Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come;'"

DAN 10:13, 20 NIV

248) What is spiritual warfare?

- A. Spiritual warfare is a battle between demonic forces and the kingdom of God that is played out in the unseen realm of the Spirit. Although unseen, it has very real consequences in our "natural" world.

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. [18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2COR 4:17-18 NIV

249) Who is involved in spiritual warfare?

- A. Every Christian is engaged in spiritual warfare.

250) Who is our enemy?

- A. Our enemy is Satan and not people. Satan can and does use people, but they are more properly viewed as his victims and not our enemy. If we think of people as our enemy, we will always be fighting the wrong foe.

"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."

EPH 6:12 NIV

251) Why does Satan attack us?

- A. Satan hates God. He jealously desires the glory that belongs to God alone. As Christians, we love God. Satan hates us because of our love for God. Remember, you are a minor player in a much bigger battle.

"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons."

1COR 10:21 NIV

"Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also."

JOHN 15:20 NIV

252) What protection from attack does God supply?

- A. God provides us with spiritual armor to protect us from a spiritual enemy.

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. [11] Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. [12] 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. [13] 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. [14] Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, [15] and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. [16] In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. [17] Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. [18] 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."

EPH 6:10-18 NIV

253) What are the different parts of the Christian's armor?

- A. Belt of truth.
- B. Breastplate of righteousness.
- C. "Sandals" of the Gospel of Peace.
- D. Shield of faith.
- E. Helmet of salvation.
- F. Sword of the Spirit.
- G. Prayer (which can include praise and worship).

254) What is the belt of truth?

- A. The belt held the soldier's tunic (robe) in place and it was where he hung his sword. When we are tightly wrapped in truth, we are protected from all the enemy's lies.

"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. [32] Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." ... [36] So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

JOHN 8:31-32, 36 NIV

255) What is the breastplate of righteousness?

- A. The breastplate was that part of the armor that protected the vital organs. Our heart is protected by righteousness. If there is no sin in us, we will not be susceptible to Satan's temptations.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2COR 5:21 NIV

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. [11] But you, men of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness."

1TIM 6:10-11 NIV

256) What are the "sandals" of the Gospel of Peace?

- A. With his sandals on, the soldier was ready to move. As soldiers of the cross, we are always ready to share the Gospel with those in need. With our mind focused on the Gospel, we won't have time to worry about our troubles.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

MATT 28:18-20 NIV

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"

1PETER 3:15 NIV

257) What is the shield of faith?

- A. The shield was used to stop the arrows of the enemy. Our faith is that which prevents the lies of the enemy from destroying us. We know that what God tells us is true. As we invest our faith in God's Word, we are protected from the enemy's attack.

"In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

EPH 6:16 NIV

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."

1COR 16:13 NIV

258) What is the helmet of salvation?

- A. The soldier's head is important, for it directs the entire body. Salvation covers our head, which represents our mind. Every move we make is directed by our new life in Christ. In the heat of battle, we will be tempted to forget who we are. The helmet of salvation keeps us from forgetting and falling.

"You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men."

1COR 7:23 NIV

"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders [10] nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. [11] And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

1COR 6:9-11 NIV

259) What is the sword of the Spirit?

- A. The soldiers offensive weapon was his sword. Our offensive weapon is the word of God. We don't depend upon our own strength or intellect, but we fight back by using the Word of God.

"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."
EPH 6:17 NIV

"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."

HEB 4:12 NIV

"In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance."
REV 1:16 NIV

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. [2] After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. [3] The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." [4] Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" [5] Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. [6] "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." [7] Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" [8] Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. [9] "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." [10] Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" [11] Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him."

MATT 4:1-11 NIV

260) How does prayer serve as a spiritual weapon?

- A. The power of prayer lies in the authority we have from God. Prayer is powerful, because God hears the righteous when they pray and answers them.

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
JAMES 5:16 NIV

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. [5] 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."

2COR 10:4-5 NIV

261) How does praise and worship serve as a spiritual weapon?

- A. Praise & worship, coupled with a knowledge of God's Word, is a powerful weapon against the demonic.
- B. Satan has always coveted the worship that belongs only to God. When we direct our praise to God, we resist the devil and he flees the tormenting sounds of the glory of God.
- C. When we are under attack, we tend to lose our spiritual bearings. Praise and worship focuses our attention on our mighty God, rather than on ourselves and our problems.
- D. Praise changes the spiritual atmosphere. When the enemy attempts to overwhelm us with thoughts of discouragement and despair, the praises of God break through the lies and cause our faith to arise. As our faith in God grows strong, we rely on God to destroy the lies of the enemy and set our heart free.

"Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

EXO 15:11 NIV

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [8] Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

JAMES 4:7-8 NIV

"Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." [21] After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever." [22] As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated."

2CHRON 20:20-22 NIV

"May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, [7] to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, [8] to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, [9] to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all his saints. Praise the LORD."

PSA 149:6-9 NIV

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 19

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

1) What is spiritual warfare?

2) What weapons does God provide for us in spiritual warfare?

3) What is the breastplate of righteousness?

4) What is the shield of faith?

5) What is the sword of the Spirit?

6) Why is prayer such a powerful weapon?
