

Victory in Spiritual Warfare

Review - Summer Reading
2022



4

Zoom Info – Bible Study Meeting Information

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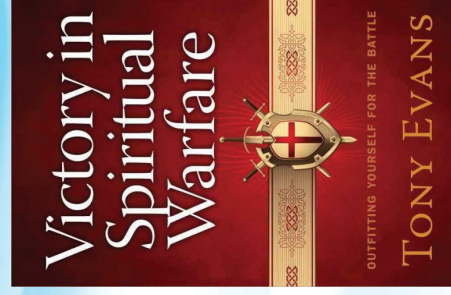
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2

Agenda

1. Your thoughts/testimony
2. Overview
3. Twenty-eight Important Take-aways



3

Overview

- Spiritual warfare is the cosmic conflict waged in the invisible, spiritual realm but simultaneously fleshed out in the visible, physical realm. To put it another way, the root of the war is something you cannot see, but the effects of the war are clearly seen and felt. This is because everything physical is either influenced or caused by something spiritual.
- Behind every physical disturbance, setback, ailment, or issue we face lies a spiritual root. Unless we first identify and deal with the root spiritual cause, our attempts to fix the physical problem will provide only temporary relief at best. In other words, everything that your five senses experience physically is first generated by something that your five senses cannot detect.

4

Overview

- In light of this truth, you and I need to engage a sixth sense—a spiritual sense—when doing battle in this war. We must employ that which goes beyond physiology and address the spiritual root before we can truly fix the physical fruit. Here is the key to experiencing and living out on earth the victory that God has already secured in heaven: to learn how to intentionally and effectively do battle in the spiritual realm.

5



True or False: I believe there is a battle in the spiritual realm

6

Overview

- I hear you, so let me break it down from the overview we just studied. If you're in a crunch—the “evil day” is upon you, and Satan and his demons are all up in your face—and you need help immediately, remember this one thing: remember Christ. Jesus Christ Himself is the fulfillment of each piece of the armor. He is the embodiment of abiding through prayer. He is the manifestation of the bread and blood in communion. Remember Jesus.
- **The belt of truth** “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). *Remember Jesus.*
- **The breastplate of righteousness** “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). *Remember Jesus.*

7



Overview

- **The shoes of the gospel of peace** “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). *Remember Jesus.*
- **The shield of faith** “...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 12:2). *Remember Jesus.*
- **The helmet of salvation** “There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). *Remember Jesus.*

8

Overview

- **The sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God...And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth...No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him” (John 1:1-2, 14, 18).
Remember Jesus. (page 154-155, The Sufficiency of Christ)

9

Important Take-aways

1. Satan can not take away your salvation, but he can ruin your life
2. If hell is happening in your life, it is because hell has been given permission to do so
3. Our battles originate in the spiritual realm—the heavenly places—so the only way to fight them is with weapons that work in that realm.
4. We are spiritually seated with Christ
5. Satan uses the physical realm to deceive you
6. Satan wants to reduce the glory you give to God
7. Satan wants to divide the body of Christ

10

Important Take-aways

8. Little things matter and should be brought under the Spirit's control
9. The opposite of faith is not doubt, it is disobedience
10. Satan has power, he just does not have authority
11. Put on the full armor of God
12. The truth you know is the truth that sets you free
13. Truth always involves more than just facts; it also includes the intention behind the facts
14. We have free will to demonstrate our love and obedience to him

11

Important Take-aways

15. Unconfessed sin breeds an even greater environment for it to continue
16. The Breastplate of Righteousness is designed to protect the heart
17. A person at peace is stable, calm, orderly, and at rest within
18. We are to stand firm
19. Faith is acting on truth, not necessarily how you feel
20. You don't need more faith, you need more truth
21. God has already deposited in the heavenly realm “every spiritual blessing” you will ever need.

12

Important Take-aways

22. Our good works must flow out of God's work of grace in our lives rather than out of a heart that's trying to earn His favor or reduce His wrath.
23. There are many things God can do but doesn't do simply because He has not been requested to do them
24. We're to pray at opportune, appointed times in relation to the "evil day"
25. Salvation is an all-inclusive word that summarizes all that Christ has provided for us: past, present and future
26. The saving process called sanctification
27. The Word of God – graphe, Logos and rhema
28. When you choose a man-made method to go up against a spiritual battle, you nullify God's power in your fight

13



Important Take-aways - Satan can not take away your salvation, but he can ruin your life

- Satan cannot take away your salvation, but he can ruin your life. He attempts to do just that by waging war in a way that keeps you from experiencing all that God has planned for you. His aim is to prevent you from realizing the full potential of your life and salvation. (page 65, *The Breastplate of Righteousness*)
- ..because Satan cannot take away your imputed righteousness, what he tries to do is restrict your personal practice of righteousness. He knows he can't take away your standing before God, so he looks for a way to break your fellowship with God by causing a breach between your position of righteousness and your practice of righteousness. (page 68, *The Breastplate of Righteousness*)

14



Important Take-aways - Satan can not take away your salvation, but he can ruin your life (continued)

- Satan knows he can't take away your salvation, so he attempts to make you a miserable Christian. He can't keep you out of heaven, so he tries to make you experience hell on earth. However, one way to move from defense to offense in spiritual warfare and bring a little bit of heaven right down to earth is to have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. (page 78, *The Shoes of Peace*)

15



True or False: There were times in my life when Satan made me a miserable Christian

16

Important Take-aways - Satan can not take away your salvation, but he can ruin your life (continued)

- Oftentimes, we think that the wrath of God will be revealed in hell, and it will—but there is another wrath that is already revealed. Many of us don't have to go to hell to be in hell. This is because we're living in our own personal hell with fires burning all around us. These flames come as a result of God's wrath against sin. Sin comes complete with God's wrath built right in it. Another way of saying this is that sin comes with consequences. We've all experienced consequences from our sinful decisions. In fact, many of us have probably lived with some of those consequences for years. This is because the very sin that we committed had the consequence for that sin built right into it. It's not that God in heaven is throwing down lightning bolts of wrath upon you. Rather, God's wrath is an outgrowth of the sin itself. (page 117, *The Helmet of Salvation*)¹⁷



True or False: When God forgives my sins the worldly consequences go away.

Important Take-aways – If hell is happening in your life, it is because hell has been given permission to do so

- If hell is happening in your life, it is because hell has been given permission to do so. Hell was told—either through sin or circumstance—that you were willing to yield. You communicated something like this:
- “Hell, it's okay for you to rule my mind. It's okay for you to rule my emotions. It's okay for you to rule my will or my body.”
 - “I give you permission to tell me that I'm not really a man even though I was born a male.”
 - “I give you permission to tell me I'm not really a woman even though I was born a female.”
 - “I give you permission to tell me that I want drugs, I need drugs, and I can't stop using drugs.”



Important Take-aways – If hell is happening in your life, it is because hell has been given permission to do so (continued)

- “I give you permission to tell me I need a drink, can't live without a drink, and can't go to sleep without a drink.”
- “I give you permission to tell me that I should wake up depressed, stay depressed, and go to bed depressed.”
- “I give you permission to tell me that I can't control my anger, my spending, or my desires; that I am not loved or that I will never amount to anything of significance.”
- Much like roaches that have been allowed to stay in a filthy kitchen, demons that have set up camp are difficult to drive off. (page 35-36, *The Opposition in the Battle*)

Important Take-aways – If hell is happening in your life, it is because hell has been given permission to do so (continued)

- Words are powerful, after all. Proverbs 18:21 tells us, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” Every time you repeat a negative, defeating statement or speak a hopeless thought, you are handing Satan a stick with which to beat you down. Every time you say, “If things get better,” or “If God comes through,” or “I just don’t know if I’m going to make it,” you are giving Satan permission to defeat you. You are loading the bullets into his empty gun. (page 152, *The Sufficiency of Christ*)

21

When it comes to the words I speak, I hand Satan a stick to beat me down

1. **Never**
2. **Rarely**
3. **Sometimes**
4. **All the time**

22

Important Take-aways – Our battles originate in the spiritual realm—the heavenly places—so the only way to fight them is with weapons that work in that realm.

- Here is the key to experiencing and living out on earth the victory that God has already secured in heaven: to learn how to intentionally and effectively do battle in the spiritual realm. Satan often tries to prevent you from taking the spiritual realm seriously. If he can divert your attention away from the spiritual realm, he can keep you away from the only place where your victory is found. If he can distract you with people or things you can see, taste, touch, hear, or smell, he can keep you from living a life of victory. (page 15, *The Nature of the Battle*)

23

True or False: I am so strong in the Lord, Satan can’t use me

24

Important Take-aways – Our battles originate in the spiritual realm—the heavenly places—so the only way to fight them is with weapons that work in that realm. (continued)

- People are simply conduits of the spiritual battle taking place in another realm. Our battle, according to the Word of God, is against the rulers, powers, and world forces of wickedness located in heavenly places. “Heavenly places” simply means in the spiritual realm.
- Whatever has gone on, is going on, or will go on in your visible, physical world is rooted in the invisible, spiritual realm. If you do not know how to navigate in the spiritual realm, you cannot hope to truly overcome in the physical realm. (page 15, *The Nature of the Battle*)

25



Important Take-aways – We are spiritually seated with Christ

- 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). We've seen that our blessings are located in heavenly places and that Jesus Christ is seated in heavenly places. Now we learn that we ourselves are seated with Jesus in these same heavenly places. Right this very minute, you and I are spiritually seated with Christ in the spiritual realm. This is an important truth to remember.

26



Important Take-aways – We are spiritually seated with Christ (continued)

- If you are focusing only on where you are sitting right now physically, you are not viewing your location as being in the same place as where the solutions to your problems actually exist. Where you are physically is not the only place you are located. You are equally located in another realm. Paul tells us that at the moment you trusted in Christ for your salvation, you were transported to another realm.
- In order to call on angelic help, you need to have a heavenly mind-set because angels do battle in heavenly places.

27



Important Take-aways – We are spiritually seated with Christ (continued)

- Thankfully, God has given us an item to use—a guide—that we are to look at in order to remind us of our true spiritual location, and that is His Word. When we read God's Word, we are reminded that all spiritual warfare as well as our solutions for that warfare are located in the spiritual realm. This world is not our home. As believers we are citizens of and seated in the heavenly realm.

28



Over the past week, I averaged _____
reading God's word

1. less than 5 minutes per day
2. less than 10 minutes per day
3. 10 minutes to less than 60 minutes per day
4. More than 60 minutes per day



29



30

Important Take-aways – Satan uses the physical realm to deceive you

- “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil” (Ephesians 6:10-11). The word “schemes” simply means “deceptive strategies.” Satan’s overarching strategy, which he carries out in many ways, is to deceive. He is the ultimate magician, operating not only with smoke and mirrors but also by sleight of hand. (page 15, *The Nature of the battle*)

Important Take-aways – Satan uses the physical realm to deceive you (continued)

- The reason Satan took on the form of a snake is because he and his demons operate best when there is a physical presence through which to work. Remember this principle: While spiritual warfare is being waged in heavenly places, our enemy is very skilled at locating available vehicles in the physical realm through which to influence, manipulate, and deceive. (page 25, *The opposition in the battle*)
- ...Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 11:14, “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.” This adds another dimension to the problems we face and fight in the spiritual realm because our problems do not exist only in the invisible spiritual realm; they also exist in the often unsuspecting vehicle Satan uses to get to you in the physical realm, which includes you—your mind, will, emotions, and body. (page 25, *The opposition in the battle*)



31

Important Take-aways – Satan wants to reduce the glory you give to God

- Satan uses deception in order to accomplish his agenda of bringing the world under his influence and control. He also seeks to make Christians ineffective in the spiritual battles waging all around us, thus reducing the glory believers give to God. Satan pursues his agenda by intentionally penetrating the same four realms that God works through to manifest His glory: the individual, family, church, and society. (page 25, *The Opposition in the Battle*)
- Satan wants to destroy you as an individual, but he wants to destroy your family even more. If he can destroy your family, he can do more damage than simply destroying the present generation.



32

Important Take-aways – Satan wants to reduce the glory you give to God (continued)

- By destroying your family, he increases the potential to destroy future generations. This is because if he can get to your children before you have a chance to mold, shape, direct, and guide them correctly, he not only has influence over your home but also has influence over their future homes. If they are given over to strongholds in their lives, they will be less equipped to raise their children in such a way that will teach them to live in obedience to Christ. If their children cannot raise their own children accorded to God's principles, then those children will also be ill-equipped to raise their children well. A cycle will repeat itself down through several generations. (page 27, *The Opposition in the Battle*)

33



Important Take-aways – Satan wants to divide the body of Christ

- If Satan can divide the body of Christ along class, racial, gender, and personality lines, he can deceive entire churches into making governmental and functioning decisions based on personal partiality rather than on God's viewpoint. Fellowship in the body of Christ is based on our allegiance to Christ. He is our standard. We may have different preferences of music, worship, or teaching, or we may even have idiosyncratic differences between various branches of the faith, but our one unifying factor is Jesus Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection. This is why God tells us in Ephesians 4:3 that we are to “preserve the unity” within the body of Christ. Satan seeks to divide us because in doing so he lessens our effect in advancing the kingdom of God. (page 28, *The Opposition in the Battle*)

34



True or False: The body of Christ is divided along racial lines

35



Important Take-aways – Little things matter and should be brought under the Spirit's control

- Satan tries to get believers to let him into their lives little by little just like that. First, it's just a foot in the door—maybe a movie you shouldn't have watched, a conversation you shouldn't have had, or a relationship that shouldn't have been redefined in such a way. At first, it seemed harmless. But as Satan makes his way in, it becomes easier to graduate to the next level and buy what he is selling.

36



True or False: This past week there was a TV show or movie I should not have watched



37

True or False: This past week there was a conversation I should not have had



38

Important Take-aways – Little things matter and should be brought under the Spirit’s control (continued)

- Victorious Christian living occurs when the Holy Spirit’s presence is free to manage—through our spirit—our feelings, emotions, and desires. That’s not to say we need to negate our feelings. We are human beings, and emotions are very real. But the placement of their expression must be brought underneath the Spirit’s control. (page 32, *The Opposition in the Battle*)



39

Important Take-aways – The opposite of faith is not doubt, it is disobedience

- Philipians 2:13 says, “It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” Victory in spiritual warfare involves intimacy and identification with Jesus Christ to such a degree that His will reveals itself as the dominant force in our own will. That is the difference between victory and defeat. Only when God’s will directs our lives are we then also equipped with the power to do what He wills us to do. God promises to give us this power if and when our will aligns with His. But to do this requires faith that God knows what He is talking about. The opposite of faith is not doubt. The opposite of faith is disobedience. (page 33, *The Opposition in the Battle*)



40

Important Take-aways – Satan has power, he just does not have authority

- Satan still dominates our world in many ways because he has retained his power. Satan is as powerful now as he has ever been. The things he does are real, damaging, and destructive. He is and will always be a liar, thief, and murderer with intentions to kill, steal, and destroy. It only takes a glance around our globe, around our communities and homes, or even in our own souls to see that Satan still operates with power. The truth we need to realize, and the truth that will set us free, is that Satan no longer has authority. That is the key. Authority is the right to use the power that you possess.
- Satan does not have the authority to use his power when you are living underneath your legitimate authority as a Christian.

41

Important Take-aways – Satan has power, he just does not have authority (continued)

- Therefore, he seeks to lure you out from underneath God's authority and rule in your life because he knows that you are secure underneath Him. The reason we don't experience more victory in spiritual warfare is that we've been duped into believing that attending church on Sunday and simply getting more information about the real kingdom is enough. Or maybe we think that adding a Wednesday night Bible study will be sufficient to affirm our allegiance to our King. Or maybe we'll toss in some serving and praise songs and think we've got it covered. But then we go back to work on Monday, or back to our routine at home with our mate or with our children, and we flip back over into our old way of thinking. We slide back into the other kingdom and operate under its authority.

42

Important Take-aways – Satan has power, he just does not have authority (continued)

- We align our thoughts with the wisdom Satan has set up in this world. We base our decisions on how we feel or what our friends are telling us or even what our fears are telling us. We transfer our allegiance from the conclusive and authoritative Word of God through Jesus Christ back to Satan's worldly schemes. We wind up not being victorious in spiritual warfare because we keep flipping sides. We come to church under one kingdom, but we operate on the job in another kingdom. We have our devotions in one kingdom, but we operate among our friends in another kingdom. We keep flip-flopping kingdoms and wonder why the victory is not there. We wonder why we can't get over the hump. We wonder why the enemy keeps calling the plays.

43

Important Take-aways – Satan has power, he just does not have authority (continued)

- We wonder why our prayers go unanswered, our battles end in defeat, and our power over our own lives runs out. The opposition keeps intercepting the ball and returning it for a touchdown. **But the answer is simple: The enemy is victorious in our lives because we are yielding the power to him by not standing firm in our identity in Jesus Christ. We are failing to firmly remain in the union we were designed to have with Christ, under His headship.** (page 43, *The strategy for the battle*)

44

Important Take-aways – Put on the full armor of God

- 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. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all of the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God (Ephesians 6:13-17). (page 52 *The strategy for the battle*)

45



Important Take-aways – The truth you know is the truth that sets you free

- When a believer understands the objective nature of God's truth—and operates in that understanding—all other areas in that believer's life are automatically stabilized.
- Rather, it is the truth that you "know" that will make you free. "You will know the truth..." is the part of the verse that should be emphasized because the truth that you know is the truth that frees you. And since God is the only one who cannot lie, He is the only one who lives and exists in a state of absolute truth. He is the Source of our freedom, our stability, and our victory.

46



Important Take-aways – The truth you know is the truth that sets you free (continued)

- Truth, at its core, is God's view of a matter. Truth is powerful enough to stabilize lives both in history and for eternity. The presence of truth brings clarity and victory, but the absence of truth leads to confusion and defeat. (page 57, *The belt of truth*)

47



Important Take-aways – Truth always involves more than just facts; it also includes the intention behind the facts

- Truth always involves more than just facts; it also includes the intention behind the facts. That's why Scripture tells us that God desires truth within us and not just outwardly in what we do. We read in Psalm 51:6, "Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom." God wants truth to resonate in our "innermost being" because that's the core out of which our intentions flow into our actions.
- A third principle of truth is that it must resonate internally in order to have any validity externally. What is true outside of us in our actions, decisions, conversations, and choices ought to be true inside our spirit because it is within our spirit that God relates to us. (page 60, *The Belt of Truth*)

48



Important Take-aways – Truth always involves more than just facts; it also includes the intention behind the facts (continued)

- Wearing the belt of truth means being real with God, being raw and unveiled before Him. When you get real with God, you will find it much easier to get real with yourself.
- If a person cannot be truthful with God, who already knows the truth, then Satan has stripped that person of the foundational piece of armor before the battle even begins.

49



Important Take-aways – Truth always involves more than just facts; it also includes the intention behind the facts (continued)

- Paul goes on to explain, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God” (verse 12). It is through the work of the Spirit that we gain the ability to know God and the truth that can give us the capacity to walk in victory in our day-to-day lives. Please note that we gain the ability to know God. The Holy Spirit never forces us to know God or be restored by His truth. But it is through the work of the Spirit that we are given the opportunity to exchange our viewpoint on a matter with God’s. (page 63, *The Belt of Truth*)

50

Important Take-aways – We have free will to demonstrate our love and obedience to him

Remember, though, that God does not dress you in the armor. In grace, He has simply given you everything you need to put it on in faith. Faith is reaching into grace and grabbing what God has graciously supplied through Christ. It’s reaching into the spiritual in order that it can be made manifest in the physical. If you do not put on grace by way of faith, you will not benefit from the things God has provided you in grace. For example, if I bought you something nice to wear but you didn’t wear it, it wouldn’t do you any good, even though it was completely supplied. (page 162, *The Sufficiency of Christ*)

51



Important Take-aways – Unconfessed sin breeds an even greater environment for it to continue

Doing wrong is wrong—sin is sin. However, unconfessed sin breeds an even greater environment for it to continue. Not only that, but it breeds an environment that demons will want to hang out in. Let me explain it this way: Having trash in your house is a bad thing when it’s not kept in a container and then taken out and emptied regularly. Trash or food left out on the counters or on the floor will breed an environment for roaches to come and live in. It’s almost like putting down a welcome mat for your new guests. The roaches will invite their cousins and make themselves at home in your trash.

52

I _____ sins I did not confess because I wanted to keep doing them

1. currently have
2. have had
3. never had



53

Important Take-aways – Unconfessed sin breeds an even greater environment for it to continue (continued)

Similarly, demons make themselves at home in sin—whether that sin is being committed or just remains around residually having not been addressed through confession and repentance. Unrighteousness and disobedience unlock a door that allows Satan and his demons to enter in and influence the environment or even take control of it. (page 71, *The Breastplate of Righteousness*)

Keeping us unaware of our own sin is one of Satan's strategies in spiritual warfare because he knows we will not confess that which we do not recognize. However, when we do confess the sin in our lives, God removes that stain and stench of sin from us.



54

I have truly repented if I did the same thing again in _____

1. Sixty seconds
2. Sixty minutes
3. 24 hours
4. 1 week
5. 1 month or more
6. Time doesn't matter



55

Important Take-aways – Unconfessed sin breeds an even greater environment for it to continue (continued)

We read in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Because of your positional righteousness in Jesus Christ, you are able to maintain relational righteousness before God at all times by confessing your sin to God. (page 69, *The Breastplate of Righteousness*)



56

Important Take-aways – The Breastplate of Righteousness is designed to protect the heart

- An important point to note about the breastplate of righteousness is what it is designed to protect—the heart. Why should we want to protect our hearts? Because the only reason the rest of us works is due to the heart. Once the heart stops, everything else stops. This is true not only in the physical realm but also in the spiritual realm. The book of Proverbs tells us, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life” (Proverbs 4:23 NIV). (page 72, *The Breastplate of Righteousness*)

57



58

For the two or three TV shows I regularly watch they _____ when it comes to guarding my heart

1. help
2. hinder

Important Take-aways – A person at peace is stable, calm, orderly, and at rest within

...in order for you to put on this third piece of the armor and experience victory in spiritual warfare, you need to understand and wear God's peace. The Greek word translated “peace” in the Scripture is *eirene*. This word is equivalent to the Hebrew word *shalom*. Essentially, *eirene* embodies completeness, wholeness, and an inner resting of the soul that does not fluctuate based on outside influences. A person who is at peace is someone who is stable, calm, orderly, and at rest within. The opposite of peace, of course, is inner chaos, anxiety, and worry. (page 79, *The Shoes of Peace*)

59



Important Take-aways – We are to stand firm

So when Paul instructs you to have your feet shod, he is talking about placing yourself in a stationary position to stand firm. This creates traction so that when Satan comes, he can't knock you off your feet. In fact, you are able to “stand firm” because the nails coming out of your “peace shoes” have dug deep into the solid ground beneath you. You know what it means to be knocked over from time to time. You know what it's like when your circumstances, situations, friends, finances, career, or any number of other things have removed you from your position of stability.

60

Important Take-aways – We are to stand firm (continued)

Things happen that make you feel unstable, shaky, and defeated. In fact, the economic downturn in our nation has no doubt led to a large degree of instability in many people's lives. What Paul is telling us in this passage is that it doesn't have to be that way. You don't have to slide or move with every hit or trial. Having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace creates a stability that even Satan cannot undo. (page 78, The Shoes of Peace)

61



Important Take-aways – Faith is acting on truth, not necessarily how you feel

Over the years, I have heard a number of people talk about faith who showed no outward connection to God's truth, and yet they still wondered why faith didn't seem to be working for them. Maybe you know people like that. They go through life thinking, "Well, if I can just get a little bit more faith, then what I am trying to do or get will happen." But even a large amount of faith—if it is not tied to the truth—will not be able to accomplish anything. Faith is only as valuable as the thing to which it is tied. For example, if faith is tied to your feelings—that is, if you have only as much faith as you feel—that faith will be empty faith. You might feel entirely full of faith but take no actions in response to that faith because you really don't believe in what you say you feel.

62



Important Take-aways – Faith is acting on truth, not necessarily how you feel (continued)

A person can actually feel very faith-filled but have absolutely no faith. Likewise, a person can actually feel faith-less but be very full of faith. That person may be willing to take a step of faith—or do an action in faith—simply because he or she believes that what God says is true. Faith is never based on how much faith you feel. Faith is always based on your feet—what you do in response to what you believe. Faith is acting on the truth whether I feel the truth or not. It's acting on the truth whether I like the truth or not. It's also acting on the truth whether I agree with the truth or not. Simply put, faith is a function of the mind that shows up in the feet.

63



In every trial and circumstance, I feel very faith filled knowing that God will provide

1. True
2. False, but I usually act in faith
3. False, and I rarely act in faith

64



Important Take-aways – Faith is acting on truth, not necessarily how you feel (continued)

For example, the Bible tells us we are to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. If you choose by faith to do a kind action to someone you perceive to be your enemy, the emotion of kindness toward that person will one day override the emotions of hate, anger, or bitterness that you feel. Your emotions will eventually catch up with your action if you continue doing it by faith. (page 97, *The Shield of Faith*)



65

Important Take-aways – Faith is acting on truth, not necessarily how you feel (continued)

One of the greatest hindrances to living a life of faith is that many of us simply know too much. We have our masters degrees in our various subjects, but we fail to know what the Master of all subjects has to say. If we were half as educated in the Word as we are in the world, we would be further along in living a life of victory. Faith begins by knowing the truth and then acting on the truth so we can see God move. (page 98, *The Shield of Faith*)



66

Important Take-aways – You don't need more faith, you need more truth

You don't need more faith. You need to know more truth. This is because faith is the point of access, not the source of power. The power is in what God has already declared and done in grace when He deposited the seed of His divine life within you. As the knowledge and presence of God nourishes that seed, it expands and grows, offering you access to all God has in store for you. All faith is doing is drawing on the grace that God has already put on deposit. (page 99, *The Shield of Faith*)



67

Important Take-aways – God has already deposited in the heavenly realm “every spiritual blessing” you will ever need.

The first concept we need to dig deeper into while we examine our salvation is grace. For starters, I want to remind you that grace has absolutely nothing to do with you. Grace is all about what God has done for you, independent of you. You have no part to play in grace. Grace includes all that God has already supplied for you. There is nothing God can do for you that He hasn't already done. In fact, there is nothing God can provide for you that He hasn't already provided. Everything God is ever going to do for you has already been done. Every healing He will ever give you in your physical body has already been provided.



68

Important Take-aways – God has already deposited in the heavenly realm “every spiritual blessing” you will ever need. (continued)

Every opportunity He is ever going to open up for you has already been opened. Every stronghold God is ever going to break in you has already been broken. Every victory you are ever going to experience has already been won. The joy you're desperately seeking already exists. The peace that you stay up at night praying and wishing that you could enjoy is already present. Even the power you need to live the life God has created you to live, you already have. This is because God has already deposited in the heavenly realm “every spiritual blessing” you will ever need. (page 113, *The Helmet of Salvation*)

69

Important Take-aways – Our good works must flow out of God's work of grace in our lives rather than out of a heart that's trying to earn His favor or reduce His wrath.

What religion often tries to teach us and get us to do is to access grace—God's favor and blessings—by works. Religion says if you come to church more often, God will bless you more. If you give more money, you will get more money. If you treat your neighbor nice, God will be nice to you. Lists are made about “seven ways you can get all that you want from God” or “ten things you can do to make God like you more.” The truth is, there is no such list. The problem is not those good things we do in themselves. The problem is in the motivation behind doing them. If you are doing good works to try to earn God's favor so you can access His grace, you have disqualified yourself from grace simply because your actions have shown that you don't believe in what grace truly is.

70

Important Take-aways – Our good works must flow out of God's work of grace in our lives rather than out of a heart that's trying to earn His favor or reduce His wrath (continued)

Religion will defeat you because it keeps you in a posture of trying to earn what has already been freely given. A lot of saints are trying to be delivered on earth by working hard, serving hard, and giving more...all the while not realizing they're working on the wrong assignment. We're saved by grace, through faith, and for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Our good works must flow out of God's work of grace in our lives rather than out of a heart that's trying to earn His favor or reduce His wrath. It's a subtle difference in the physical realm, but it makes all the difference in the spiritual realm. God knows our hearts. (page 113, *The Helmet of Salvation*)

71

Important Take-aways – There are many things God can do but doesn't do simply because He has not been requested to do them

- Simply defined, prayer is earthly permission for heavenly interference. It's earth giving heaven permission to intervene in the manifestation down here of the spiritual reality up there.
- There are many things God can do but doesn't do simply because He has not been requested to do them. But when you go to God and ask for His divine intervention based on His Word, His truth, His promises, and His character, He intervenes in response to your faith, your desire for Him, your submission to Him, and your acknowledgment of your need for Him.

72

Important Take-aways – There are many things God can do but doesn't do simply because He has not been requested to do them (continued)

- You can leave God out. He's given you that option. You can act independently of God all day long. But you can also bring Him into your situation and watch Him show up in ways you've never even imagined. That's done through prayer.
- But what prayer does is call on God to intervene in ways that He has already declared that He wants to intervene. He's just waiting for you to ask Him. This biblical truth is illustrated in James 5:16: "Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

73



Important Take-aways – There are many things God can do but doesn't do simply because He has not been requested to do them (continued)

- When God reveals to you His secrets—His promises in His Word—that is when you are able to take God's Word and send it right back to Him. That is when you can say, "God, You said in your Word..." Prayer is holding God accountable to what He has already said He will do. Prayer is not simply seeing something you want and claiming it. If God didn't tell you He's going to give you that nice new job with a corner office, then you can pray until you're blue in the face and that nice new job will still belong to someone else. The foundation of prayer is knowing what God has already said.

74



When I pray, I remind God of his promises from his Word

- 1. All the time**
- 2. Sometimes**
- 3. Rarely**
- 4. Never**

75



Important Take-aways – There are many things God can do but doesn't do simply because He has not been requested to do them (continued)

- God has given us literally thousands of promises in His Word. I encourage you to start there. We do ourselves a disservice when we don't take the time to learn and know God's Word. Our prayers become vague and empty, or they become full of things God never intended to do. Either way, we end up tossing our armor into the back of the closet and saying, "It didn't work for me." Then we often call someone or meet up with our friends and try to find a human solution, or at least someone who can give us sympathy for what we're battling. (page 141, *The Power of Prayer*)

76



Important Take-aways – We're to pray at opportune, appointed times in relation to the "evil day"

Paul wrote, "pray at all times," he specifically chose the much more distinctly defined Greek word *kairos*. *Kairos* has to do with a specific time. If I were to say to you that I will meet you for lunch at 12:15, you know that I'm going to meet you at 12:15. That's different from saying, "Let's do lunch sometime (*kronos*)" and leaving it at that. This specific time (*kairos*) of 12:15 has been chosen as an opportune, appointed time. So when Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:18 to "pray at all times," he's specifically pointing out that we're to pray at opportune, appointed times in relation to the "evil day" that he's just written about.

77



Important Take-aways – We're to pray at opportune, appointed times in relation to the "evil day" (continued)

Remember, the evil day is the day when spiritual warfare is in your face and all hell is breaking loose. At those times, Paul says, pray. It's at those times that the day demands the power of the armor connected with concentrated, specific prayer.

78



Important Take-aways – Salvation is an all-inclusive word that summarizes all that Christ has provided for us: past, present and future

However, the important truth to note is that while salvation refers to justification and the implanting of the new life in the form of an imperishable seed within our spirit, it does not refer to that alone. "Salvation" is an all-inclusive word that summarizes all that Christ has provided for us: past, present and future. Justification is what occurred at the point of salvation—it is salvation in the past tense for any believer. The present tense of the word "salvation" signifies the ongoing renewal of a person through the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit. This removes the power of sin over a believer and is called sanctification.

79



Important Take-aways – Salvation is an all-inclusive word that summarizes all that Christ has provided for us: past, present and future (continued)

Glorification is the future sense of salvation—the removal of the presence of sin. Thus, when the Bible speaks about salvation, it can be referring to justification, sanctification, or glorification. (page 111, *The Helmet of Salvation*)

80



Important Take-aways – The saving process called sanctification

The book of James refers to this process. “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). The first point we need to recognize from this passage is that James is writing to believers. A few verses earlier he has called them “beloved brethren.” Yet even though they are already “saved,” James says their souls need to be saved. This is because he is referring to the saving process called sanctification. Yet in order for the soul to be sanctified in righteousness, it needs to receive the word implanted. The New International Version says, “Humbly accept the word planted in you.” This occurs through the enablement of the Holy Spirit’s presence and power in our lives. (page 74, *The Breastplate of Righteousness*)

81

Important Take-aways – The saving process called sanctification (continued)

Likewise, the righteousness of God made known through His Word must reach from His Spirit into our spirit, feeding it as it grows to dominate our soul. The Bible is to the spirit what food is to the body. As the Word of God feeds your spirit and begins to influence your soul, your actions will begin to naturally reflect God’s viewpoint on a matter. They won’t just be reactions that you do for a time based on a good sermon, book, or encouragement you read or heard. Your desires and your propensities will organically change as they become influenced by the Spirit’s presence of truth and righteousness within you. As Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” True righteousness is released, not manufactured.

82

Important Take-aways – The saving process called sanctification (continued)

As Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16, “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.” True righteousness is released, not manufactured. When truth flows freely from your spirit because it has been received, accepted, and submitted to, it releases righteousness into your soul, thereby restoring it. As the soul breathes in the righteousness being released into it, it then tells the body, “You have to walk differently. You have to think differently. You have to talk differently. You have to dress differently. You have to choose your friends differently. You have to spend your money differently. You have to live differently. Because you are different.” (page 75, *The Breastplate of Righteousness*)

83

Important Take-aways – The Word of God – graphe, Logos and rhema

Logos is a very powerful word. We read about it in the first chapter of the book of John, where in the very first verse we read, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus is called the Logos in this passage because He was sent as God’s messenger to present God to human beings and to embody His message to us. The graphe is the message written, and the Logos is the message given. Logos is the understanding of the written record of stories, events, and letters that we come into contact with in God’s written Word.

84

Important Take-aways – The Word of God – graphe, Logos and rhema (continued)

In Hebrews 4:12, God reveals to us the nature and function of the Logos: “For the word [Logos] of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

When it reaches deep within you, the Logos goes about the job of dividing what makes up your soul (mind, will, and emotions) and what makes up the new spirit God has placed within you. This is necessary for living a life of victory because more often than not, your soul gets in the way of your spirit. (page 125, *The Sword of the Spirit*)

85



Important Take-aways – The Word of God – graphe, Logos and rhema (continued)

Your personality, the way you were raised, your orientation, your thoughts, your feelings, and your desires often keep God’s presence, truth, and power from functioning freely in you. We often point to outside forces behind our struggles, but really, most of the time our solution is right inside us if we will simply allow the spirit to dominate our souls.

Most of us have had a rhema experience with the Word of God but didn’t realize what it was. Have you ever read some passages in the Bible so many times over the years that you feel as if you know all there is to know about them?

86



Important Take-aways – The Word of God – graphe, Logos and rhema (continued)

And then one day, as you turn to one of these familiar passages, it’s like God has marked it with a yellow highlighter. One verse, word, principle, or truth leaps off of the page and speaks directly to the situation you’re facing. That is what is called a rhema—a word God speaks to you out of His written Word. (page 128, *The Sword of the Spirit*)

That’s why it’s so important to study God’s Word, learn it, and engage it as you abide with it. Since it’s so powerful, Satan knows that all he has to do is twist God’s Word and it will become a dull sword, unable to carry out its purpose both as an internal sword (logos) and as an offensive weapon (rhema). (page 129, *The Sword of the Spirit*)

87



Important Take-aways – When you choose a man-made method to go up against a spiritual battle, you nullify God’s power in your fight

Paul didn’t say “take up your sword,” he said, “take...the sword of the Spirit” and do battle with it. Even with your best intentions, you cannot compete with an enemy who is fighting in a capacity you or I could never function in. The only way to defeat this enemy and walk in a life of victory is according to God’s prescribed means. When you choose a man-made method to go up against a spiritual battle, you nullify God’s power in your fight. Scripture says in James 1:20 that “the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.” God says it a different way in Deuteronomy 32:35: “Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, in due time their foot will slip.” Knowing this, Paul warns Christians everywhere, “Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God” (Romans 12:19).

88



There is a companion book of prayers



89

90

**Your thoughts/testimony
Sharing is strictly voluntary**

**Your thoughts/testimony
Sharing is strictly voluntary**

91

92

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