

Fighting Life's Battles by Putting on The Whole Armor of God

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When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, *and* a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” Deu 20:1

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Repairers of the Breach; Restorers of Paths to dwell in SDA

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Preface:

Many of you who are reading this booklet today made a conscious decision to pick this booklet up to read it. Perhaps this action was driven by curiosity or a longing that exists in the heart to overcome life's trials, or maybe it is both. Regardless of the reason, I welcome you to a journey in discovering a truth that many do not take the time to explore. A simple truth, that God has given to you and me. That truth is that we have weapons that once used, we need not be defeated by what life throws at us.

Those of you who are Christians, have also made another decision when you became a Christian. That unconscious decision, was to enrol yourself into the Army of God; to fight in a war that began years ago in heaven and in the "eyes of heaven," God is well pleased. For there is joy in Heaven over one soul who repented (Lk 15:7). And thus, we have been given the victory through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (1Cor 15:57).

That celestial war is continuing here on this earth and it is heating up as this earth comes to its close. This war is indeed not a physical one and whether you are a Christian or not you are on one of the two sides. There is no neutral position.

On one side God is the Commander, and on the other side Satan is the Commander. There are only two sides in this war.

Among the approximate eight billion people on this planet, the true Christians are in the minority. Those who have chosen to walk in obedience to God's commands and His convictions, to follow Him in obedience to where He wants you to go or to be, will always be few in number in contrast to the many who have chosen to serve Him not.

So, I want to speak to you, as I am also speaking to myself, by asking these questions. As Christians, are you sitting as bystanders in this war, or are you willing and are fighting in this war that began in heaven but is continuing here on earth?

Are you making sure that you are on the right side of the arguments that overthrew one-third of the angels in heaven?

Dear readers, are you fully aware of the implications of that decision that you have made to follow Christ?

The songwriter sang, “I will follow thee, my Saviour, wheresoever my lot may be, where thou goest I will follow, yes, my Lord, I will follow thee... and the Apostle Paul said, in Rom 8:35,38,39 says, “who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, or angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This therefore calls for a renewal of our commitment to God every minute of every day as we fight in this war, otherwise, we will forget what we are fighting for and what we are fighting against.

While asking God what to mediate on, this study came back to my mind. The struggles and the resisting of the many temptations that have been thrown in my directions have made this booklet a comforting reminder that Satan could only go as far as you, yourself allow him, by the choices that you make.

The need to understand the power in which God has given to us, has even made the understanding of the truths that lie within these pages a necessity to mediate and, more importantly, to live.

Many are the conflicts we as Christians have to go through, but if you use the weapons that God has given to us, we will come out victors after every trial and circumstance that God Himself will allow. He allows those trials not for our defeat but for us to build characters worthy to live with Him and His holy angels in heaven. Your muscles can only get stronger when exercised and strengthened, when they are pushed to its limits.

Therefore, I pray as you go through this study that many will renew their commitment to God and learn, even in a deeper way, how to fight and how to guide yourselves against the fiery darts of our enemies.

May God add His many blessings and supply the lack that this short booklet has fallen short to cover.

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Introduction:

The Bible tells us that there was a war in heaven.

That war was against God's nature, character, the very foundation of mercy and justice that comprise the Throne of Heaven.

As a result, Satan and his angels were defeated, and they were cast down here on earth. Rev 12:7-9 says,

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

With his arguments presented in heaven, Satan, with subtilty, caused both Adam and Eve to sin, and by believing His lies, they sinned against God, resulting in sin passing upon all men (Gen 3:1-5); Rom 5:12 says,

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Therefore, two classes of people were then developed – those who believe in God and those who believe in Him not. The two classes are referred to in the Bible; let us have a closer look.

- a. The children of darkness (Jn 8:39-47; 1Jn 2:8-11; 1Thes 5:1-4).
- b. And the sons of God or the Children of God (Jn 1:12; 1Jn 3:1; Matt 5:9; Rev 12:17).

In summary, we have those who walk or are walking in the light and those who have chosen the darkness.

These two types of people that exist in the world today cannot unite, for they both have different commanders and are in different armies.

2Cor 6:14 tells us, **“Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what fellowship have righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion hath light with darkness.”**

My dear readers, the battle is ongoing here on earth between these two classes of people, and whether you

realize it or not, you are either, by the choices that you make, on the side of God or the side of Satan.

The sides are distinct, and there cannot be any true unity between the two parties, for there is no agreement between God and Satan (11 Cor 6:15-18).

The question is asked in Amos 3:3: **“Can two walk together, lest they agree?”**

Therefore, we must be careful with whom we unite.

Satan will appear as an angel of Light, and so his subtleties cannot and should not be lightly regarded or foolishly overlooked.

Satan, his cohorts and all those who allow themselves to be used by him and have accepted his arguments against God, are therefore on this earth, fighting against God’s people as he roars like a lion, seeking whosoever he can devour. (1Pet 5:8).

Therefore, we need to be **sober and vigilant** and do not join hands with unbelievers or sit aimlessly among them, without upholding our God given purpose and mandate (Ps 1:1-2; Eph 5:11,15-21).

One cannot expect to, play or dance with the Devil and expect him not to follow you home.

That is why it is only when you “resist the Devil he will flee from thee.” James 4:7 and in Ephesians 4:7 says: “Neither give place to the devil.”

Dear readers, this war requires, one to be watchful. You cannot afford to let down your guard for a moment and not be inflicted by Satan’s wounds.

How often we become listless, unguarded and walk in this earth, like if we do not have a heaven to gain and a hell a shun or that we are in a war where our enemies, moment by moment is seeking to kill us.

It is only by the mercies of yours and mines heavenly Lord and Father that we are not killed. If God can remove the clouds from our eyes for us to see that battle that is going on all around us; and the many times He rescue us, even from ourselves, we will learn to love and serve God even the more.

However, we need you understand what is the nature of this war, so our weapons will be aimed at the right thing.

What is the Nature of this War

Firstly, in order for us in this war, to resist and to gain the victory, we must understand the **nature of the war.**

It is a war between good and evil, light and darkness, truth and error. It is a war where battles are going on all around us, but we cannot see the armies with our natural eyes, nor is it with our natural ability to fight, that will cause us to win in these battles.

And regardless of how physically strong we may think we are, it is not by our strength that we can defeat our enemies. Because the battle is a:

- a. **Spiritual warfare.** Let us look at Eph 6:12 **“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities (principalities are part of a broader hierarchy of spiritual beings opposing God's kingdom or adversaries working against the purposes of God), against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.”**

All these are enemies that are working against the Kingdom of Heaven and by extension His people.

I quote from Sis White in Christian Service pg 122 p 2.

” The lifework given to us is that of preparation for the life eternal, and if we accomplish this work as God has designed that we should, every temptation may work for our advance; for as we resist its allurements, we make progress in the divine life. In the heat of the conflict, while engaged in earnest spiritual warfare, unseen agencies are by our side, commissioned of heaven to aid us in our wrestling, and in the crisis, strength and firmness and energy are imparted to us, and we have more than mortal power. **But unless the human agent shall bring his will into harmony with the will of God, unless he shall forsake every idol, and overcome every wrong practice, he will never succeed in the warfare; but will be finally overcome. Those who would be conquerors must engage in conflict with unseen agencies; inward corruption must be overcome, and every thought must be brought into harmony with, and subjection to, Christ.** The Holy Spirit is ever at work seeking to purify, refine, and discipline the souls of men in order that they may become fitted for the society of saints and angels, and as overcomers be able to sing the song of redemption, ascribing glory

and honour to God and to the Lamb in the courts above.”

- b. The nature of this war **is a war that requires us to fight with FAITH.** 1 Timothy 6:12 says, **“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”**

This is a battle where you and I must hold on to the evidence of truth revealed to us; endure difficulties; resist temptations; manfully defend the truth that has been given to us, and constantly abide in the grace of Christ for our spiritual growth and victory.

Faith is what you and I believe that will cause the Devil to flee from us. It is the truth revealed to us that we believe and act upon. But Faith in and of itself is not believing. For all men believe but not all men have Faith. (1Thes 3:2).

Imagine for a moment that you are fighting in a war and you are require to hold on to Faith to conquer. For the Bible tells us that “and this is the victory that overcometh the world, **even our faith.**” (1Jn 5:4) but what if you have a wrong understanding of what Faith is.

If you stand in the middle of the battle and repeat “I believe” thinking that believing is Faith, your enemies will also be believing. So then if both you and your enemies have faith, since faith is wrongfully defined as believing, tell me, which one you think will gain the victory? (James 2:19).

I leave that thought with you so that the Holy Spirit can work on the heart of all those who seek a greater understanding of this very important topic of what Faith really is.

I beckon you to not use the worldly understanding of faith to colour your theological understanding of what the Bible says about faith. There are many words that we used, but when placed in the light of the understanding of truth, their meanings are entirely different. And the idea of Faith is just one of the many words that are filled with spiritual depth and meaning, in place against the light of heaven.

Since this topic will take a separate booklet, I will not elaborate further on this point but leave you with this thought, that without Faith it will be impossible to gain the victory nor to please God. (Heb 11:6).

I quote from **Christian Service**, by E. White pg. 114

“Day by day, and hour by hour, there must be a vigorous process of self-denial and of sanctification going on within; and then the outward works will testify that Jesus is abiding in the heart by faith. Sanctification does not close the avenues of the soul to knowledge, but it comes to expand the mind, and to inspire it to search for truth, as for hidden treasure; and the knowledge of God's will advance the work of sanctification. **There is a heaven, and O, how earnestly we should strive to reach it...** Believe that he is ready to help you by his grace, when you come to him in sincerity. You must fight the good fight of faith. You must be wrestlers for the crown of life. Strive, for the grasp of Satan is upon you; and if you do not wrench yourselves from him, you will be palsied and ruined. The foe is on the right hand, and on the left, before you, and behind you; and you must trample him under your feet. Strive, for there is a crown to be won. Strive, for if you win not the crown, you lose everything in this life and in the future life. Strive, but let it be in the strength of your risen Saviour.”

I quote from **Faith and Works**, by E. White pg. 48

“We are to do all that we can do on our part to fight the good fight of faith. We are to wrestle, to labor, to strive, to agonize to enter in at the strait gate. We are to set the Lord ever before us. With clean hands, with pure hearts, we are to seek to honour God in all our ways. Help has been provided for us in Him who is mighty to save. The spirit of truth and light will quicken and renew us by its mysterious workings; for all our spiritual improvement comes from God, not from ourselves. The true worker will have divine power to aid him, but the idler will not be sustained by the Spirit of God.”

So, now that we understand the kind of war we are in, we also need to grasp and understand three major points and questions.

We must understand:

- a. Why is there a need to fight?
- b. Who are our enemies?
- c. And how should we fight?

Why There Is a Need to Fight?

Simply put, if we do not fight then we will be defeated, and you and I have enemies that are not taking “prisoners of war”. We will suffer eternal death and will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

If we are not fighting in our daily battles and by extension this war, then we have forgotten that we are in a war and what we are fighting for. And so, there is a need to revisit our commitment that you once made to Christ.

That forgetfulness is a sin and is causing many to become complacent, easy-going, lukewarm, and careless.

We are indeed living in a lukewarm, Laodicean age, according to Revelation chapter 3:14-20, it says:

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness does not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Many are sleeping the sleep of death, yet thinking that they are alive but will only wake up when it is too late.

This condition is the condition of our age. However, while we are living in a lukewarm age, **we cannot be in a LUKEWARM STATE** which is indicated in the above text.

We know when we are in a lukewarm state, when there is a thinking that there is a need of nothing. Self-sufficiency, spiritual delusion - thinking that you are with Christ, when Christ has departed and has left

without, they even knowing. Christ is outside, knocking but the heart is closed up and will not allow Him in.

This person is therefore easily defeated by our enemies because, Christ is not with them. Enemies come up against them and they are defeated so very often and easily.

Why they are so easily defeated, you may ask? It is simple, they do not have Christ to give them the victory.

You see, as the faults in the characters come up, some do not know by practice the dynamics of how to overcome the sin, and therefore, there seems to be no way of gaining victory.

Hands are often raised in despair and desperation as life's trials and circumstances overcome them instead of, they overcoming them.

But the Bible tells us that we have a Savior, Christ Jesus, who has walked the same path before us. He proclaims to us in John 16:33, **“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye shall have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**

So, today I will emphasize and remind us all, why we should keep fighting so that we can enlist ourselves again in the army of God and rededicate our lives to His service.

You should fight because:

- a. **You are not of this world** while we are in it. (Jn 17:15-21; 1Jn 2:16-17; Jam 4:4).
- b. **You have a heaven to gain and a hell to shun.**
Therefore, let no one take away your crown (11Tim 4:7,8; James 1:12; Proverbs 4:7-9; 1 Cor 9:25).
- c. **We must fight for victory over our enemies,** which can only be gained with fierce battles (1 Pet 5:8-10; 11 Tim 2:3,4).
- d. God has set us an example and assurance that **victory will be ours, but we need to fight and cooperate with Him** (Jn 16:33; 1 Jn 5:4).

I quote:

“Satan assailed Christ with fierce and subtle temptations, but he was repulsed in every conflict. Those victories make it possible for us to conquer.

Christ will give strength to all who seek it. No man without his consent can be overcome by Satan. The tempter has no power to control the will or force the

soul to sin. He can cause distress, but not defilement. The fact that Christ conquered should inspire His followers with courage to fight the battle against sin and Satan.” E. G White - **The Great Hope** pg. 6:3

Who or What are our Enemies

As quoted above, we know that we are fighting against that which we cannot see, according to Eph 6:12.

So, our visual perception of things is no help to us in deciphering who our enemies are.

We need, therefore, to explore this further to discover who or what those things are that the eyes cannot see, nor our hands can touch, which are being considered as our enemies.

Therefore, brethren, since we are not fighting against that which is physical but spiritual, we cannot fight with human weapons to gain the victory in this war.

This battle that is going on is between good and evil, light and darkness, truth and error, righteousness and unrighteousness.

There are two armies with distinct leaders.

And the same question has often been asked throughout this study: which army do you belong to?

For we are not watching a war, we are **IN A WAR**. Thus, we must make sure that we are on the winning side, which is the **side of God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, together with His angels.**

Within this war, many battles will have to be fought to maintain the TRUTH OF GOD and His principles in the heart. For the battles in this War are battles being fought to **keep the abiding presence of Yahweh in the heart continually; to prevent our enemies from subverting the principles of God being God alone in our hearts,** thus causing us to sin.

The time is near at hand when we all must face a global crisis, which will test our LOYALTY towards God. Such a great time of trouble is just before us.

In the book called **Christian Service, pg. 77p2**. Sis White states:

“Let us arouse! The battle is waging. Truth and error are nearing their final conflict. Let us march under the blood-stained banner of Prince Emmanuel, and fight the good fight of faith, and win eternal honours; for the truth will triumph, and we may be more than conquerors through Him who has loved us. **The precious hours of probation are closing. Let us make**

sure work for eternal life, that we may glorify our heavenly Father....”

At last, the TRUTH will triumph, but we must allow the TRUTH to triumph in us.

It is only the Truth, my dear readers, that can bring success and victory. Therefore, our love for truth, our love for Righteousness, must increase. So much so, for such a time cometh when we may have to give up our lives **because of it and for it**. So, the question is being asked **are we getting ready?**

There are, therefore, focal points that we need to be mindful of as we keep up this fight.

Since we are not fighting against that which we can see, be convinced that it is NOT people that you and I are fighting against, although at times you may think so, as many of their hands, voices, and weaponry will be raised against us. But be NOT confused, for Christ Himself was not, when He rebuked Peter, but referred to someone else.

You see, Satan worked upon Peter’s faults in his character to cause him to disregard Christ’s purpose. In Matthew 16:21-23, I quote, “

“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and

suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men”.

This rebuke by Christ was spoken, not to Peter, but to the one who was trying to separate him from his Redeemer. “Get thee behind Me, Satan”.

Satan is, therefore, indeed one of our enemies, as we will see further, but he is not the only one, and **he is not our greatest enemy.**

So, now is the right time for us to discover and investigate ALL our enemies, so we will know who or what we are fighting against.

Who or what are our enemies:

a. **OURSELVES** – The untruthful ways in which we often think and act, which formulate the faults in our human character and produce the sins that so easily beset us.

Brethren, SELF is our greatest enemy; for Satan has no power over us, unless we give it to him. It is said that **“No man without his consent can be overcome by Satan. The tempter has no power to control the will or force the soul to sin.”**

We have to yield to his temptations for him to have control over us (James 1:12-15).

While Satan is the arch deceiver and sin originated in him, for sin began in and with him, and he is behind every temptation, he is NOT the cause of our sin. We sin because we choose to sin and accept the errors or lies that are presented as truth by Satan.

You see, dear Readers, Satan, presents himself as an angel of light, which is a new way he presents himself on this earth. He presents error as truth or he presents darkness like if it is light. But the light that he is claiming to now shine, is really darkness, but it comes as light to us. **This is the nature of deception.**

Thus, it is he who is called the “new Lucifer” as he presents a new way of dispelling light on this earth, which is darkness, to deceive us.

Instead of shining LIGHT, he is now 'shining darkness' and presenting it as light. He has disguised himself as an angel of light.

While Satan called Lucifer was in heaven, he put forth pure light and represented God in His beauty of holiness. It was that light bearing function that presented light or truth without error or darkness. That was the "old Lucifer".

But after his rebellion in heaven and was cast down to earth, he has now perverted the light and is presenting error as light. Therefore, his way of presenting "light" to us, but it is darkness, has now made him the "new Lucifer".

Therefore, when he tempts us, he tempts us by deception to cause us to accept darkness as light.

Thus, knowing this, what will now cause us not to yield?

We will answer and discover more of this when we go through the last portion of this study, as to how we should fight.

I quote part of Heb 12:1, which states “..... **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us**”,

I quote from Sis White in **Letters and Manuscripts Vol 12 (1897), p 6**, she said:

“Self is the greatest enemy with which we have to contend.”

And in **Mind, Character and Personality Vol 2, pg 381**. **Sis White** was speaking to someone, but relevant to us.

“You are your greatest enemy. Your wrong habits unbalance the circulation of the blood and determine blood to the brain, and then you view everything in a perverted light. You are quick and high-tempered, and you have not cultivated self-control. Your will and your way seem right to you. But unless you see the defects in your character and wash your robe and make it white in the blood of the Lamb, you will surely fail of everlasting life. You love the theory of the truth, but you do not let it sanctify your life. You do not carry out in your daily deportment the principles of the truth you profess.”

So, how do we fight against self? In fighting against SELF, you firstly need to know where and how sin exists in us.

1 Sin exists in the **thoughts or imaginations of the heart**. So, we must guard our thoughts and cast down every imagination (11Cor 10:5). Man, therefore, lusteth after the things of the flesh (**Gen 6:5**; Ps 56:5; Isa 55:8; **Mk 7:21-23**; Ps 81:12; Pro 6:25; Matt 5:28).

2 Sin can exist in the **emotions** due to having wrong thoughts. **The Bible calls it the body of sin** (Rom 7:5; Matt 5:28; Rom 1:24-28; **Rom 6:6,12**; Gal 5:24).

3 Sin is **also seen in the works** (1Sam 8:8; 2Kgs 22:17; Neh 9:35; **Isa 59:6**; 2Pet 2:15).

So, since sin first exists in the heart or the mind, it is where the battle starts, and it can only be defeated by the knowledge of truth or Righteousness dwelling within.

The carnal mind must be replaced by the spiritual mind (Ps 119:9-11; **Rom 8:6-10**).

“For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness”.

I quote:

“... there are hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil that must be overcome. The training and education of a lifetime must often be discarded that the Christian may become a learner in the school of Christ, and in him who would be a partaker of the divine nature, appetite and passion must be brought under the control of the Holy Spirit. There is to be no end to this warfare this side of eternity, but while there are constant battles to fight, there are also precious victories to gain, and the triumph over self and sin is of

more value than the mind can estimate. The effort put forth to overcome, though requiring self-denial, is of little account beside the victory over evil.” E. G White - Christian Education pg. 122.

b. Our next enemy is **Satan**. Sis White states:

“Let no one suppose that conversion is the beginning and end of the Christian life. There is a science of Christianity that must be mastered. **There is to be growth in grace, that is constant progress and improvement.** The mind is to be disciplined, trained, educated; for the child of God is to do service for God in ways that are not natural, or in harmony with inborn inclination. Those who become the followers of Christ find that new motives of action are supplied, new thoughts arise, and new actions must result. **But they can make advancement only through conflict; for there is an enemy that ever contends against them, presenting temptations to cause the soul to doubt and sin.** “

Let us now have a look at what the bible tells us, about this enemy in **Rev 12:9,17**, 11Cor 11:14; 11Cor 2:11; 1Thes 2:18; Lk 22:31; Acts 5:3; Matt 16:23.

- c. **The world.** This refers to the system and values of a culture that is not aligned with God's will. It can involve things like worldly desires, materialism, etc. and the pursuit of fame and pleasure that are not pleasing to God. All of which can be a form of temptations.

Let us have a look at some texts. (Jn 15:19; 17:14; **1Jn 2:15**; 1Jn 5:4; Jam 4:4; Jn 8:23; 1Jn 2:26).

So, from the above, my dear Readers we have learned why we should fight and who or what are our enemies, so the other point that remains for us is to learn how we should fight.

How We Should Fight

After all that has been said and explained during this study, we have now reached the point where we must examine “how we should fight,” and the Scriptures offer many practical examples that we will explore.

But firstly, you and I have been blessed by God to see another day. We woke up this morning in a world where evil is predominant. We are living in the last days of the earth's history, and the enemies of God are many. And each day, Satan's army is growing larger and larger while the army of God seems to be dwindling.

Iniquity is abounding and the love of many is waxing cold (Matt 24:12).

If you are not convinced yet that time is late and the second coming of Christ is near, then just listen to the news and what is happening around us.

Many are forsaking their **First love** and are growing weary, while some are not watchful enough over their souls to see where they are going wrong so that God can help them make that U-turn and return to Him before it is too late.

Many do not see that it is God's mercy being extended to them when their faults, sins, or wrongs are pointed out. Excuses and excuses are made until the gravity of the wrongs committed is not seen and the truth is lightly regarded.

Thus, Satan gains the upper hand; the heart is hardened, and before you know it, there is a continual departure from the truth, for sanctification is not the experience of the heart.

There is a need, therefore, for us to examine our hearts and cry, and wrestle with God.

For as David said in Psalms 26:2, **"Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."** And Paul admonishes us in 11 Cor 13:5 **"Examine**

yourself, whether ye be in the faith; prove yourselves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

When errors/faults are pointed out to us, do as Jacob did: wrestle with God.

The Bible tells us that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but it is MIGHTY through God to the pulling down of ALL strongholds (11Cor 10:4).

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds”

We are therefore admonished to put on the whole ARMOR OF GOD. This is not a passive war that you and I are in; it is active, and it is going on all around us. In Ephesians 6:11 says,

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Dear Readers, the first sign of gaining victory is when you **are willing to PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR**. It is your consent that God wants so that you can be enlisted into the army of God.

This ARMOR is of and from the Lord, and when you and I put it on, the whole of heaven is on our side, and I have never seen the Lord defeated in a battle.

So, when there are defeats, it is because we fail to put on the **WHOLE** armour of God.

The Armor of God is given to us so that we can discern Satan's deceptions and devious schemes. It is for our sanctification, so that the righteousness of God can be maintained within our hearts to defeat the enemies within and without. Satan has no power over us when we are clothed with the armour of God.

But why are we so often defeated? Is it because we do not use it, or that we do not know how to use the Armour that God Himself has given to us to gain the victory? Or is it both?

You see, to USE the Armour of God, we must be:

In a spirit of preparation, willingness, and in a state of readiness to fight. If one is not in that spirit, the Armour of God will not be used.

Let us have a look at Gideon and his army that God put together to go against the Midianites. This can be read in the book of Judges, chapter 7. But I want to quote

what is said in the Spirit of Prophecy, **Patriarchs and Prophets pg 548**

“Thus encouraged, Gideon led out his forces to give battle to the invaders. All the Midianites and the Amalekites and the children of the east were gathered together, and went over, and pitched in the valley of Jezreel. The entire force under Gideon's command numbered only thirty-two thousand men; but with the vast host of the enemy spread out before him, the word of the Lord came to him: “The people that are with thee are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, **whosoever is fearful and afraid**, let him return and depart early from Mount Gilead.” Those who were unwilling to face danger and hardships, or whose worldly interests would draw their hearts from the work of God, would add no strength to the armies of Israel. Their presence would prove only a cause of weakness.

Gideon obeyed the Lord's direction, and with a heavy heart, he saw twenty-two thousand, or more than two-thirds of his entire force, depart for their homes. Again the word of the Lord came to him: “The people are yet

too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.” The people were led down to the waterside, expecting to make an immediate advance upon the enemy. A few hastily took a little water in the hand and sucked it up as they went on; but nearly all bowed upon their knees and leisurely drank from the surface of the stream. Those who took off the water in their hands were but three hundred out of ten thousand; yet these were selected; all the rest were permitted to return to their homes. PP 549.2

By the simplest means, character is often tested. Those who, in time of peril, were intent upon supplying their own wants were not the men to be trusted in an emergency. The Lord has no place in His work for the indolent and self-indulgent.

The men of His choice were the few who would not permit their own wants to delay them in the discharge of duty. The three hundred chosen men not only possessed courage and self-control, but they were men of faith. They had not defiled themselves with idolatry. God could direct them, and through them He could

work deliverance for Israel. Success does not depend upon numbers. God can deliver by few as well as by many. He is honored not so much by the great numbers as by the character of those who serve Him.”

Then, once we are willing to use the Armour of God, we will simply put it on, and God will show us how to fight.

The winner of his or her battles and by extension, the WAR, will be won by you and me who know, not only that we have an ARMOR, but how we can use it and wear it continually, to destroy every stronghold within ourselves as well as without.

Below are, therefore, some steps and examples to teach us how to fight, to gain the victory:

a. One must have a repentant and humble heart against sin, so that SALVATION can be experienced.

This is how Jacob fought. Jacob had a repentant heart in acknowledging his wrongs. For any unconfessed or unforsaken sin, Satan will use it against you and me and conquer us. Furthermore, no unconfessed or unforsaken sin will be blotted out in the investigative judgment.

So, the beginning step to learn how to fight and to use the Armour of God is to put away sin. (Gen 32:24-30).

I quote:

“It was in a lonely, mountainous region, the haunt of wild beasts and the lurking place of robbers and murderers. Solitary and unprotected, Jacob bowed in deep distress upon the earth. It was midnight. All that made life dear to him were at a distance, exposed to danger and death. Bitterest of all was the thought that it was his own sin which had brought this peril upon the innocent. With earnest cries and tears, he made his prayer before God. Suddenly, a strong hand was laid upon him. He thought that an enemy was seeking his life, and he endeavoured to wrest himself from the grasp of his assailant. In the darkness, the two struggled for mastery. Not a word was spoken, but Jacob put forth all his strength and did not relax his efforts for a moment. While he was thus battling for his life, the sense of his guilt pressed upon his soul; his sins rose up before him, to shut him out from God. But in his terrible extremity, he remembered God's promises, and his whole heart went out in entreaty for His mercy. The struggle continued until near the break of

day, when the stranger placed his finger upon Jacob's thigh, and he was crippled instantly. The patriarch now discerned the character of his antagonist. He knew that he had been in conflict with a heavenly messenger, and this was why his almost superhuman effort had not gained the victory. It was Christ, "the Angel of the covenant," who had revealed Himself to Jacob. The patriarch was now disabled and suffering the keenest pain, but he would not loosen his hold. All penitent and broken, he clung to the Angel; "he wept, and made supplication" (Hosea 12:4), pleading for a blessing. He must have the assurance that his sin was pardoned. Physical pain was not sufficient to divert his mind from this object. His determination grew stronger, his faith more earnest and persevering, until the very last. The Angel tried to release Himself; He urged, "Let Me go, for the day breaketh;" but Jacob answered, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." Had this been a boastful, presumptuous confidence, Jacob would have been instantly destroyed; but his was the assurance of one who confesses his own unworthiness yet trusts the faithfulness of a covenant-keeping God. The error that had led to Jacob's sin in obtaining the birthright by fraud was now clearly set before him. He had not trusted God's promises, but had sought by his own

efforts to bring about that which God would have accomplished in His own time and way. As evidence that he had been forgiven, his name was changed from one that was a reminder of his sin to one that commemorated his victory. “Thy name,” said the Angel, “shall be called no more Jacob [the supplanter], but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed,” Patriarchs and Prophets.

- b. **Stand for the truth, with integrity for God.** This can be seen in how Joseph and the three Hebrew boys fought. Standing against all odds and maintaining their allegiance towards God. (Gen 39:7-12; Daniel 3:9-19).
- c. **Look at your GIANTS or obstacles or temptations in the right light and deal with them with grace in the heart.** This is how David fought. (1Sam 17:4-11,20-26,38-47).
- d. **Use prayer as a weapon of defence and offense.** This is how Daniel fought. As seen in (Daniel 6:7-12).
- e. **Stand firmly on the word of God and use it as your defence against the darts of the enemy.** This is how

Jesus, our perfect example, fought. (Matt 4: 1-11; Lk 4:1-13).

The Various Parts of the Armour of God

The Armour in which God has provided for us has already given us the means on how to gain the victory over all our enemies, within and without. But we need to have **ALL of the parts of the Armour** on continually.

No one can expect to win in this battle if the **entire armour is not on**, for our enemies can strike at any time and at any place; sometimes when and where you least expect it.

Therefore, we need to know our enemies. Know the weaknesses of your own heart – the faults that so easily besets you and fight against them; know the weaknesses of Satan. YES, Satan, that wily foe has weaknesses.

Do you know them?

- a. **He is of no match to us when we have on God's Armour.** Remember the battle between David and Goliath? Who won? The God in David and it is the same God in all of us, will gain that victory.

- b. **He cannot read your thoughts** but he attempts to interpret your actions or behaviour.
- c. The **word of God, spoken through our lips but lived out in our lives**, is powerful enough to defeat him. The song writer said, “one little word will fell him”.
- d. **He is restraint by God’s sovereignty**; he cannot do as he likes because he is already a defeated foe by the Plan of Salvation effected to save us.

Above are the weaknesses of Satan, mediate on them and learn how to defeat him.

The same way in which Satan studies us, we ought to study him, with the same Armour that God has given to us.

Therefore, **having some of the parts of the Armour on, and not ALL, will leave us expose and therefore we will be defeated.**

Each piece of the armour relates to the other and they are provided to protect and defend us.

THE ARMOR OF GOD



The Armor of God is the **spiritual weaponry for victory**, and one needs to have on to resist and defeat our enemies. We cannot be off our guard for any moment.

I quote:

“This is the scene that is presented to me. But the church must and will fight against seen and unseen foes. Satan's agencies in human form are on the ground. Men have confederated to oppose the Lord of hosts. These confederacies will continue until Christ shall leave His place of intercession before the mercy seat, and shall put on the garments of vengeance. Satanic agencies are in every city, busily organizing into parties those opposed to the law of God. **Professed saints and avowed unbelievers** take their stand with these parties. This is no time for the people of God to

be weaklings. We cannot afford to be off our guard for one moment.” E. G White - **Christian Experience and Teachings** pg 230.

So let us now read Ephesians 6:11-18.

- a. Loins girt about with truth – girted loins.
- b. Breastplate of Righteousness
- c. Feet shod (fitting with shoes) with the preparation of the gospel of peace.
- d. Shield of Faith
- e. Helmet of Salvation
- f. Sword of the Spirit
- g. Prayer

Girted Loins (lower belly or abdomen) with the belt of truth

We must be girted with truth, righteousness, strength, faithfulness (**Job 40:16**; Prov 31:17; **Isa 11:5**; 1Pet 1:13).

Your loins are girted up by a belt. The belt is truth by which you are sanctified by. (John 17:17). Therefore, one must have experience of sanctification (being made holy or set apart, unto the Lord).

In a physical demonstration, if your loins are not girted and your enemy hits you there, the reaction is to bend over and on bending over, it is easy for the enemy to cut off your head.

Also, if you do not have the belt that holds up the garments/pants, the pants will fall to the ground, and you will walk naked.

In Rev 16:15 says – **“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame”**.

So, with no gospel truth, you and I will be exposed. Try fighting with your pants down or not having the truth as your defence against error, you will certainly be conquered.

Breastplate of Righteousness:

This breastplate protects the vital organs. And the bible tells us that this breastplate is Righteousness, faith and love. (Isa 59:17; **1Thes 5:8**).

That Righteousness is from God, so it is God's Righteousness, God Himself dwelling in the heart (Jer 23:6) is our refuge and protection (Ps 91:2).

So, if God is not with you and me in our battles, defeat will surely be your experience. For in every battle that you face the enemy is right there ready to pounce on our weaknesses and it is only God and God alone with us that can help us to overcome. But you got to fight and be willing to follow Christ wheresoever He leads you.

Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of peace

Wearing the proper fitted shoes and being ready to go anywhere to preach the gospel.

The gospel or the glad tidings are what the Saints of God carry with them wheresoever they go, and their enemies will be under their feet. (**Isa 52:7**; Rom 10:15; Ps 119:59; 1Cor 15:25).

Shield:

This shield is a shield of our faith that will quench the fiery darts of the enemies. This cannot be believing. But it has to be Divine words - the truth, which you and I believe that is used to conquer. This is how Christ Himself conquered. (**Ps 91:4**; Ps 28:7; Ps 119:114; Ps 3:3; **2Sam 22:3**; 1Sam 17:45; Prov 30:5).

This faith, which can be as small as a grain of a mustard seed, it is still sufficient to move mountains of difficulties because it is the TRUTH.

This Faith has a Divine Origin, a Divine Content, and a Divine purpose that is revealed to us. (Gal 1:11-12; Heb 11:1; 1 Tim 4:6; Rom 10:8).

It is this that we always use to defend against the enemy attacks. It is said of Joseph in Gen 49:23,24 - that the archers have surely grieved him and shot at him, and hated him, but his “bow abode in strength.”

Helmet:

This Helmet is a helmet of Salvation. It is the experience of the saving grace of God in your life. You must have salvation to gain the victory (**1 Thes 5:8,9;** Isa 59:17).

The helmet was the last piece of armour to be put on before going to war. It protected the head, and it was the most vital piece of the armoury because all the enemy had to do was to hit the head, and the entire body becomes helpless, even unto death.

So it is, without an experience that God is saving you from sin; of having the truth as a guard against error,

you will be easily defeated. Doubts will come in and like Peter, you will begin to sink.

Sword:

The Sword of the Spirit is the only weapon of offense while it defends or protects us.

You see it can be used to attack our enemies, while defending ourselves against the temptations of the enemy. The other weapons above are weapons only of defence.

The Sword is the word of God, spoken. The Greek word for the word, “word” is Rhema, which refers to that which is spoken. (**Heb 4:12**; Rev 2:16;)

How sharp your sword is, the quicker you will be able to defeat your enemies without suffering any injury or getting a blow, yourself. That is why the word of God must be in our hearts continually.

Practice memorizing verses of scriptures so that the word will be readily available in your heart through your mouth.

The same way in which a soldier needs to learn how to use his sword, we too must be trained how to use the word of God.

When arguments or errors come your way, if you do not know how to attack those errors you will be defeated by the enemy, simply because you did not take the time to “sharpen your sword”.

That is why the scriptures say, in 1Tim 2:15, **“Study to shew yourselves approve unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”**

You must be diligent in learning and studying your bible.

Take one text and write on it, asking God to show you all the truths that can be gained from that one verse of scripture. And let the truth speak to your hearts and let it change you. For the Word of God is creative in nature; it cleanses us, it heals and delivers us (Ps 33:6; 107:20; 119:9,11).

It is not enough to know the theory of scripture; we must experience it and see the practicality of each word spoken or written. Every truth learnt has an accompanied action. For Faith must bring forth works.

For example, Christ said in John 14:15, “if you love me, keep my commandments”. In loving Christ, it is demonstrated by a work of doing what He commands.

So, it is in 1 John 3:18 “**My little children, let us love not in word, neither in tongue but in deed and in truth.**”

We have seen a perfect example of how to use the sword by Christ – Himself while He was in the wilderness. (Matt 4:4-10; Luk 4:4-12). **Study the word of God.**

Prayer:

Prayer is also part of the Armour, and it is the last that I want to talk about, for while it is not something that you wear, it is **THE KEY** which opens heaven’s storehouse for us on the battlefield and causes you to preserve in tough times. (**Eph 6:18,19; Rev 14:12; Ph 4:6; Col 4:2; 1Tim 4:5; 1Pet 4:7, Rom 12:12**).

We have seen above how Daniel used prayer to fight. It is not just about speaking to God it is also about listening to His voice, allowing God to speak to you. It is through communication that your relationship grows. It is so in the natural world as it is also in the spiritual world.

When you are on your knees, it is there many victories are won. When you talk with God, wait for Him to talk back to you. Listen to that small still voice of God; for it

does not come in the “noises” of the day. As Sis White puts it. “The silence of the soul maketh more distinct the voice of God.”

A prayerful heart makes us even more watchful; it will give us the strength we need, and it will strengthen your resolve to fight in God’s army, regardless of the many difficulties you face, you will preserve knowing that God is at your side.

You and I are not alone.

I have never seen anyone fail when God is at your side. We failed when we become self-dependent and think that we can do it alone.

But by dear Readers, if there is anything in this study that I want you to always remember is this, you are in an Army and if you are in the right Army you are destined to win **ALL your battles, once you put on the Armor of God.**

I want to close off the study with some mindful quotations from Sis White.

I quote:

“We must have on the whole armour of God and be ready at any moment for a conflict with the powers of darkness. When temptations and trials rush in upon us,

let us go to God and agonize with Him in prayer. He will not turn us away empty but will give us grace and strength to overcome and to break the power of the enemy. Oh, that all could see these things in their true light and endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus! Then would Israel move forward, strong in God, and the power of His might” **Christian Experience and Teachings** pg 103

“Every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ’s sake, is recorded.”—**Great Controversy** pg 481.

“God sees many temptations resisted of which the world, and even near friends, never know; temptations in the home, in the heart; He sees the soul’s humility given its weakness, the sincere repentance over even a thought that is evil; He sees the whole heart’s devotion to the upbuilding of the cause of God, without one tinge of selfishness; He has noted those hours of hard battle with self, battles that won the victory—all this God and angels know.”—**Letter 18, 1891.**

“Our great enemy is preparing for his last campaign. All who follow Jesus will be in conflict with this foe. The

more nearly the Christian imitates the divine Pattern, the more surely will he make himself a mark for the attacks of Satan.

“We have an enemy to meet, who is vigilant, who is not off his guard one moment.... If hardships are borne and trials endured by the soldiers fighting on behalf of their country, how much more willingly should the soldiers of the cross endure privation, self-denial, and any taxation for Christ's sake.” —**MS. Gospel Workers** pg. 199,1

“God has provided abundant means for successful warfare against the evil that is in the world. The Bible is the armoury where we may equip ourselves for the struggle. Our loins must girt about with truth. Our breastplate must be righteousness. The shield of faith must be in our hand, the helmet of salvation on our brow; and with the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, we are to cut our way through the obstructions and entanglements of sin” — **Acts of the Apostles** pg 502.2

Conclusion:

Soldiers of Christ arise and put your God given Armour on for the battle is ongoing and we need not be afraid

of our enemies for thousand shall fall at your side and ten thousand at thy right hand but none will touch you. He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings, shall you trust; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

Your victory, your hope, your reward, will always be in following Christ regardless of the rocky road you are facing or that is ahead of you.

Trust God's promises and His promises will be your shield and stay.

May God add His many blessings to you all.

AMEN.