



# Stealth Attack Study Guide

Version 5.0

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You can order this book by clicking on the link below:

[Stealth Attack](#)

**This study guide is written to make *Stealth Attack* more useful to you. It is designed for personal study, small groups, discipleship groups, Sunday School classes, and to assist pastors and other Bible teachers in preparing sermons and lessons.**

**You will notice that this is Version 5.0. That simply means it is a work in progress. We plan to add other material to this study guide in the future. If you have additional material to suggest, please email it to [Ray@KeepBelieving.com](mailto:Ray@KeepBelieving.com).**

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**Thanks for reading this study guide. Let us know how God uses it in your life and ministry.**

**Ray Pritchard**

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# INTRODUCTION

*"The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battleground."* —Warren Wiersbe

The world changed forever on September 11, 2001, and for those of us who lived through it, it was only the beginning. In the confusion of those early hours, we had not yet heard about the heroes of United Flight 93, nor of a terror organization called al-Qaeda. The name Osama bin Laden had not yet become familiar around the world.

We had yet to live through the anthrax scare or the attack on the Taliban in Afghanistan, and the color-coded alert system was still in the future. Several years would pass before the invasion of Iraq and all the controversy that would flow from it. Still in the future were suicide bombers and shoe bombers and subway bombers and train bombers.

I think I started writing this book in my mind sometime during that long day, when we all sat glued to the TV, watching with horror as billows of black smoke streamed heavenward from Lower Manhattan where the World Trade Center had once stood.

*Stealth Attack* is a new look at an old war, a struggle that has been going on between good and evil since the beginning of time. It's about spiritual warfare in an age of terror. Since I happen to believe there is a close link between the physical and the spiritual, that what happens in the unseen realm directly affects the world around us, I have looked at the shattering events of the early years of the twenty-first century to help us understand our place in the great cosmic battle between God and the devil, light and darkness, good and evil. In that battle we are all frontline soldiers, and no one gets a vacation.

1. Where were you on 9/11 when you first heard the news of the terrorist attacks? What do you remember about those first few days?
2. Right after 9/11, sporting events were cancelled and comedians stopped cracking jokes. It didn't take long however, for our country to return to distractions and diversions. Why do you think we resist staying on "high alert" for an extended period of time?
3. *"The Christian life is not a playground; it is a battleground."* Name four signs that someone is treating the Christian life as a playground, not a battleground.

A.

B.

C.

D.

4. Why is it particularly important that we understand spiritual warfare now, in an age of terror?

5. Read Romans 13:11. In what ways are you "slumbering" right now? List two specific steps you are willing to take as you begin your study of *Stealth Attack*.

**A Truth to Remember: *The lessons of history are lost to us unless we learn from the past and apply it to the present. Now more than ever, the end of the ages has come upon us.***

*A Fighter Verse to Memorize: "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).*

### **Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Psalm 90:12** Teach us to number our days.

**Isaiah 40:15-17** The nations are but a drop in the bucket.

**Isaiah 40:28-31** The Lord is the everlasting God.

**Matthew 5:13-16** You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

**Matthew 7:24-27** Build your house on solid rock.

**1 Thessalonians 5:4-11** We are sons of light.

**1 John 2:17** This world is passing away.

**James 4:14** Your life is a mist that quickly passes away.

## CHAPTER ONE: "A New Name for a Very Old War"

*"Once we have a war there is only one thing to do. It must be won. For defeat brings worse things than any that can ever happen in war." -- Ernest Hemingway*

Asymmetric means something that is out of balance. *In warfare it refers to a smaller force using unconventional means to battle a much larger force.* The current war on terror is a classic example of asymmetric warfare. Because the terrorists do not "fight fair," they are difficult to find and to defeat. They use means such as hijacking, suicide bombing, guerrilla warfare, kidnapping, and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) along with the threat of radiological, biological and chemical attacks. In asymmetric warfare, the goal of the smaller force is not military victory. The terrorists intend to demoralize and disrupt the larger force through a series of unexpected attacks. The matter is made more difficult because the terrorists exist in small, loosely organized cells spread across many nations. They are willing to die for what they believe.

In asymmetric warfare time is on the side of the smaller force. Through constant attacks, they can divide and demoralize opposition, thus winning even though they are badly outnumbered.

One writer summarized it this way: "War need never be declared again because we are always at war." You could hardly find a more important statement to describe the Christian life. *Satan is the Ultimate Terrorist who led the first rebellion in the history of the universe. His attempt to unseat God was the first insurgency in history.* Though he never had a chance of succeeding, he continues to fight against God to this day.

Satan attacks us asymmetrically. He rarely attacks us head on, preferring to "play the angles" and hit us from many directions at once. He plays with our minds, sets up roadblocks, and does whatever he can to disrupt our walk with Christ.

His chief weapons are fear, doubt, anger and discouragement.

**The whole point of asymmetric warfare (from Satan's point of view) is to discourage us to the point that we feel hopeless about our own spiritual progress.**

In thinking about spiritual warfare from this perspective, keep two things in mind:

- 1) Satan's goal is to discourage you so that you feel like giving up.
- 2) Satan doesn't fight fair.

**Key Thought:** God has ordained that our spiritual progress should be measured not by huge battles won or lost but by a thousand daily skirmishes no one else knows about.

**Key Definition:** Asymmetric Spiritual Warfare happens when we are attacked . . .

**Unexpectedly,  
Repeatedly,  
Randomly.**

1. Put the phrase "asymmetric warfare" in your own words. What example do you see of this today?

2. There is a long list of phrases (with accompanying Bible verses) on pages 18-19 describing the nature of our Enemy. Which would you rank in the top three from your personal experience?

3. Satan's attacks are often staggered. Describe a time when you thought you could take no more and then something else catastrophic happened. Why is this an effective strategy for Satan?

4. Ponder this statement: "We are always at war." Do you believe this? What are some things you can do to remember this?

5. Read 1 Peter 5:8. A roaring lion strikes fears into its prey. List five of your fears. How does the evil one use these fears to cause your faith to falter?

6. If Satan was defeated at the cross, why do you think so many of us live as if he is all-powerful? How do you reconcile Satan's ultimate defeat with his present victories? Discuss how you can keep all of this in perspective.

7. *"God has ordained that our spiritual progress should be measured not by huge battles won or lost, but by a thousand daily skirmishes no one else knows about"* (page 23). Look up Song of Songs 2:15 and discuss why victory over the "little foxes" is so important.

8. Do you think every person has at least one fatal flaw or an area of extreme vulnerability? In what area are you the weakest? Find someone this week to help hold

you accountable. As one person has said, "We're only as sick as our secrets." It's time to bring it into the light.

9. Are you engaged in the battle right now or have you disengaged? If you're not active in church, it's time to plug in. In what ministry can you start serving? Is your financial giving where it should be? Are you praying for your pastor? Practicing the spiritual disciplines? It's not too late to start...but make sure you start.

10. Discuss this story about three demons who were sharing ideas about the best way to mess up the human race: The first one said, "*I know, let's keep them from going to church.*" The second one said, "*That's pretty good but I have a better idea. Let's keep them from reading the Bible.*" The third one flashed an evil grin and said, "*I've got something even better. Let's just tell people that they have plenty of time.*" In what ways can procrastination be an effective strategy of Satan? What have you been putting off?

**A Truth to Remember: *Satan is not going to fight fair. He's not going to give you an even break.***

A Fighter Verse to Memorize: "***Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour***" (1 Peter 5:8 NLT).

#### **Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Genesis 3:15** The Seed of the Woman will one day crush the serpent's head.

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction.

**Isaiah 14:12-14** Lucifer's five "I wills"

**Ezekiel 28:14-18** Lucifer's pride caused his expulsion from heaven.

**Luke 10:18** Satan fell like lightning from heaven.

**Romans 8:35-39** We are more than conquerors.

**Romans 16:20** God will crush Satan under your feet.

**Hebrews 2:14-15** By his death and resurrection Jesus broke the devil's power.

**1 John 3:8** The Son of God came to destroy the devil's work.

## CHAPTER TWO: “Snake Eyes”

*“The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he doesn’t exist.”*  
—Charles Baudelaire

The Bible makes no sense unless we understand the first few chapters of Genesis. These chapters answer a crucial question: Where did we come from, and how did we get from where we started to where we are today? Obviously something has gone wrong with that world, because evil is found in abundance today. Now the roses have thorns, and we have made bombs powerful enough to kill ten or twenty million people at a time. What happened to the paradise God created? The Bible answers that question with the little word *sin*. Sin has come into the world, and nothing has worked right since.

Genesis 3 teaches us an important truth about how the devil tempts us today. Though these events took place thousands of years ago, they have an amazing relevance to the twenty-first century. We ought to study this story of the first temptation in the same way that a general studies his enemy. Before committing his force to battle, a good leader studies his opponent carefully. Where does he like to attack? How? When? How often? And under what conditions? If you go into battle armed with that information, your chances of victory are much stronger. Reading Genesis 3 is like reading the devil’s playbook.

Temptation often comes when we least expect it. When things are going well, we should expect some form of asymmetric warfare. Remember that the first temptation actually seemed quite innocent. We could say it this way: “Would you like some fruit?” Fruit is good for us, we need fruit for our health, and yet it was eating forbidden fruit that brought sin into the human race.

1. Read Genesis 1-3 and contrast what the world was like before the fall and after Adam and Eve sinned.
2. Put yourself in Eve’s position for a moment. Why was she so utterly unprepared when the serpent spoke to her? In what ways does Satan use subtlety to get us to sin today? Eve had no idea what was going to happen that day in paradise. Discuss how having an expectant mindset toward temptation will actually help us handle it when it arrives.



3. Read Genesis 3:1-5 carefully. Does it surprise you that Satan seems to know God's Word better than Eve does? What does this teach us about the importance of having a precise knowledge of the Word?

4. *"When everything is going well in your life, beware! You are a prime candidate for satanic attack."* How has this proven true in your life?

5. Read Matthew 4:1-11. At what point in time did the tempter come to Jesus? What weapon did Jesus use to combat Satan? On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you know the Word of God? What steps can you take to memorize Scripture so you'll be able to use it during those times when you're tempted?

6. 1 Corinthians 10:13 is a "must" verse to memorize for believers. Take some time right now to commit it to memory. Write it out. Say it out loud. Repeat the phrases over and over. Put it on a post-it note. Send yourself an email containing this text. Do whatever it takes to ingest this section of Scripture.

7. Why was the first doctrine Satan denied the doctrine of God's judgment (p. 36)?

8. "I need something I do not have in order to be happy." Why is that such a seductive temptation?

9. Read the story on Page 38 and then explain in your own words why self-pity is such a dangerous emotion.

10. Put yourself somewhere on this continuum:

|-----|

Rejection/Anger

Submission/Praise

What specific steps can you take to move towards submission? What one thing is holding you back from complete surrender?

11. The chapter ends with a call to say this phrase out loud: *"The Lord is God and there is no other."* Go ahead and do that right now. Why is it important that we verbally affirm the Lord's supremacy?

**A Truth to Remember: *Every temptation is a lie wrapped in a promise of freedom.***

*A Fighter Verse to Memorize: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"* (John 10:10 NIV).

**Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Job 1:6-11** The devil receives permission to attack Job.

**Psalms 18:31-39** God trains us for spiritual warfare.

**Matthew 4:1-11** The devil tempts Jesus.

**John 8:44** The devil is the father of lies.

**Romans 6:11-14** Consider yourselves now dead to sin but alive to God.

**Romans 7:15-25** We all battle against indwelling sin.

**2 Peter 2:18-22** False teachers promise freedom but enslave those who follow them.

**Revelation 12:10** The devil accuses us before God day and night.

**Something to think about:** Luke 4:1-14 tells of Jesus' victory over the devil in the wilderness temptation. Verse 1 says he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Verse 14 says he returned from the wilderness in the power of the Spirit. In what way did Jesus experience new power as a result of his victory over the devil? How can that same thing happen to us when we stand strong in the face of temptation?

## CHAPTER THREE: *“War in Heavenly Places”*

*“These are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or the repose of a pacific station, that great characters are formed. The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties.”* —Abigail Adams

### Three Mistakes We Make About Spiritual Warfare

- 1) Give Devil too much credit.
- 2) Ignore him altogether.
- 3) Focus on the spectacular.

“War in Heavenly Places” not only describes this chapter; it also tells us what Daniel 10 is all about. This often overlooked chapter reveals a cosmic struggle between the forces of good and evil. It tells of angels and demons locked in a kind of mortal combat somewhere between heaven and earth. This is like Star Wars; only this isn’t science fiction. It’s real.

Whenever the Lord makes an advance into the realm of darkness, the empire of Satan always strikes back. Daniel 10 helps us understand why we encounter delays and difficulties in our service for Christ. It especially helps us understand why our prayers are sometimes hindered and delayed for long seasons, sometimes for many years.

1. Describe some ways in which you have seen Satan attack your church, fellow Christians, and your own family. What can you do to engage in this battle?
  
2. Discuss the implications of this quote from Geoff Thomas: *“Whenever the church advances dark principalities are at work.”* Do you think this is only true in other countries? In what ways is it true here?
  
3. Read Daniel 9 and Daniel 10. Why is confession foundational to intercession? What specific things does Daniel confess? Why is it important to confess not just “individual sins” but “corporate sins” as well?
  
4. Describe a time when you had to wait a long time to receive an answer to prayer. Did you doubt during this time of waiting? What lessons did you learn?

5. Daniel 10:20-11:1 indicates that Michael fought against the "Prince of Persia." Do you think there is a "Prince of America"? If so, what do you think he is doing to discourage believers and destroy the moral fabric of this country?

6. *"Our battle is not against other humans."* When have you witnessed or felt someone was being used by unseen spiritual forces for evil in this world?

7. Do you agree with this quote from Robert Odom? *"There is no shortage of people talking about Christ, but there is a shortage of people living like Christ."* What percentage of Christians do you think are fully surrendered to the Savior? What do you think the difference is between being a "disciple" and being a "Christian"?

8. Daniel fasted for 21 days while he sought the Lord. What benefit do you think this gave him? Do you think God is impressed when we fast? Have you ever fasted? Why can this be a good spiritual discipline? What cautions should we keep in mind?

9. *"We mess around in prayer because we think it doesn't matter."* Do you think this is true? In what ways do your prayers cause the evil one to tremble?

10. Read Luke 10:17-20. What does Jesus want his people to rejoice about? Why? What does this suggest about our ultimate spiritual priorities?

11. Why do you think persecuted Christians do a better job of praying than we do? In light of that, how do you think the spiritual temperature of the American church might change if we faced persistent persecution? How would our churches be different than they are right now?

**A Truth to Remember: *Life is a struggle that will continue till the day we die. There is no release from the battle. If we go AWOL, we simply find a bigger battle on the other side of the hill.***

**A Fighter Verse to Memorize: "Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere" (Ephesians 6:18 NLT).**

## **Going Deeper in the Word:**

**2 Kings 6:15-19** The army of the Lord surrounds Elisha and his servant.

**Psalm 34:7** The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him.

**Mark 3:11** Evil spirits recognize Jesus is the Son of God.

**2 Corinthians 11:14** Satan masquerades as an angel of light.

**Luke 8:25-39** Jesus casts out a legion of demons.

**Acts 12:5-11** An angel delivers Peter from prison.

**Colossians 2:15** Christ disarmed the rulers of darkness.

**Hebrews 1:14** Angels sent to minister to the people of God.

**Hebrews 13:2** You may entertain an angel without knowing it.

**1 John 4:4** Greater is he who is in you.

## CHAPTER FOUR: *“The Devil’s Foothold”*

*“No man can think clearly when his fists are clenched.”* —George Jean Nathan

Anger isn’t always wrong. We know, for instance, that anger is one of God’s emotions. We know that God never sins, yet the Bible speaks of His anger in more than a hundred different passages. We also know that there are times when anger is justified and even righteous. Ephesians 4:26 says, “In your anger do not sin.”

However, anger can quickly lead us in the wrong direction. Rather than bringing us to right the world’s wrongs, it can lead us to putting our own desires ahead of our loved ones. The same verse that says, “In your anger do not sin,” adds this phrase, “Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry” (Eph. 4:26b). That is, don’t go to bed angry. Ephesians 4 looks at anger in our relationships. *Even if your anger is justified, don’t go to sleep that way.* Deal with it, talk it out, pray it out, walk it out, but don’t try to sleep it off. That won’t work.

The very next verse in Ephesians offers this warning: “Do not give the devil a foothold” (4:27). All rock climbers understand that verse. In order to get up the side of the mountain, you’ve got to get a firm foothold. That’s what Satan wants to do in your life—he wants to use your anger (even your legitimate anger) to get a foothold in your heart.

1. How does the tempter use your temper to get you to sin? What shrapnel flew the last time you blew your top? Anyone you need to apologize to right now?
2. Read Ephesians 4:26 and then write it out in your own words. How would making a vow to not ever go to bed angry revolutionize marriages today? To what degree is unresolved anger the root of your relational ruptures? What will you do about it today?
3. Why does Satan want to get a foothold in families today? How can you fight the footholds he has already gained in your family?
4. Read Ephesians 4:29. In general, is your speech like a “flame” or like a “flower”? Now, let’s get specific. Find someone who knows you well and ask this question: *“Am I critical or gracious? Do I tear-down or do I build others up with my words?”*

5. Every time you speak carelessly, you hurt four people. Of the four, who do you hurt the most?

- \_\_\_\_\_ The one you speak about
- \_\_\_\_\_ The person you speak to
- \_\_\_\_\_ Myself
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit

6. Read Ephesians 4:30-32. Do a relationship inventory right now. Are you angry with anyone? Been nursing a grudge? Any bitterness brewing? It's time to let it go by releasing him/her from ever having to pay you back. You may need to meet face-to-face to complete the forgiveness process. Make that phone call right now to set up a meeting.

7. According to 2 Corinthians 2:10-11, what happens when we refuse to forgive those who have sinned against us? Is Satan "outwitting" you right now because of your anger toward someone else?

8. "Nothing that a man does takes him lower than when he allows himself to fall so low as to hate anyone." According to page 69, how does hatred give the other person a "double victory"?

9. "D. L. Moody commented that he had never known God to bless a church where the Lord's people were divided." Do you agree? Can you think of an example of a church whose effectiveness was destroyed by internal strife?

10. If you have not fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit, now is the time to do so. Don't put it off any longer. After you do so, call a friend or a pastor and ask for some accountability.

**A Truth to Remember: *What is God saying to us? No more stinking speech!***

*A Fighter Verse to Memorize: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits" (Proverbs 18:21).*

### **Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Psalm 34:11-13** Keep your tongue from evil.

**Proverbs 4:23** Guard your heart at all costs.

**Proverbs 15:1** Harsh words stir up anger.

**Luke 6:27-36** Love your enemies.

**Luke 23:34** Father, forgive them.

**Romans 12:17-21** Overcome evil with good.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-7** Love has a bad memory.

**2 Corinthians 1:5-11** Unforgiveness allows Satan to outwit us.

**Ephesians 5:3-13** Walk as children of the light.

**James 1:19-21** Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.

**James 3:6-12** The tongue is set on fire by hell.

**1 Peter 4:8** Love covers a multitude of sins.



## CHAPTER FIVE: *“Lessons from Chairman Mao”*

*“You can be sure of succeeding in your attacks if you only attack places that are undefended.” —Sun Tzu, The Art of War*

Almost everyone knows that the Bible is the bestselling book in history. Few people know that the "Quotations of Chairman Mao" is second only to the Bible. A perusal of Mao's "Little Red Book" explains how an outmanned and outgunned band of Communist guerrillas was able to defeat not one but two armies in the 1940s and ultimately come to power in China in 1949. Mao's revolution started as a classic example of asymmetric warfare. He speaks at one point of the importance of not going into battle unless you have overwhelming numerical superiority. In the beginning the Communists were a minority on the battlefield. Their only hope was to pick spots where they could win one battle at a time. This quote explains the heart of his strategy: "Without preparedness superiority is not real superiority and there can be no initiative either. Having grasped this point, a force that is inferior but prepared can often defeat a superior enemy by surprise attack" Mao understood the fundamental axiom of asymmetric warfare: *Find out where your enemy is unprepared, and hit him hard when he least expects it.*

1. Describe a time when you were totally ambushed by the evil one. What could you have done differently? How can you be prepared for the next assault?
2. This chapter is a character study of Peter during Jesus' arrest and trial. Read Mark 14: 27-31. What is Peter's perception of himself compared to the other disciples?
3. Read Mark 14: 32-37. What did Jesus need from his disciples? Why did Jesus pick out Peter and tell him to "watch and pray?" What does this say to you about "being prepared" for stealth attacks?
4. Study the list of Peter's Seven Great Mistakes on pp. 91-92. Which ones have you made at some point in your life?
5. In what ways have you denied Christ like Peter did? Why are we prone to deny our faith when we feel trapped?
6. The seven deadly sins are: Sloth, Anger, Gluttony, Lust, Pride, Greed, Envy. Which

sin(s) did Peter commit that night? Which of the following virtues did he attempt to muster: Wisdom, Courage, Justice, Temperance, Faith, Hope Love?

7. Why is it dangerous for us to say, "I have conquered that area and it is no longer a temptation for me"? What are the signs that we have crossed the line between trusting in the Lord and overconfidence in our own strength?

8. "The Devil is easy to identify. He appears when you're terribly tired and makes a very reasonable request which you know you shouldn't grant" (Fiorello La Guardia). Why do you think Satan attacks when we are exhausted? What can you do to stay in shape spiritually so that you're ready to do battle at all times? How do you think more sleep, better eating habits, and regular exercise would help?

9. What would you consider your personal strong points right now? Why does Satan go after our self-perceived strengths?

10. If Peter set himself up for a fall by a bad string of decisions, what faults are you most prone to and why? Think back to your last failure and then map out the "slippery slope" you followed before you crashed.

**A Truth to Remember: *Satan often attacks us at the point of our strength, not the point of our weakness.***

*Fighter Verses to Memorize:* **"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers"** (Luke 22:31-32).

#### **Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Genesis 39** Joseph resists temptation.

**Psalms 37:23-24** The righteous stumble but they do not fall forever.

**Proverbs 24:16** The righteous falls seven times and rises again.

**Romans 12:1-2** Present your body as a living sacrifice to God.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** Run with purpose so you won't be disqualified.

**1 Corinthians 10:12** Don't take victory for granted.  
**2 Corinthians 12:7-9** Satan sends a "thorn in the flesh."  
**Ephesians 5:15-17** Be careful how you live.  
**1 Timothy 4:6-8** Train yourself for the purpose of godliness.  
**2 Timothy 2:15** If we are faithless, he remains faithful.  
**1 John 1:7** The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from every sin.  
**1 John 2:13** Christians overcome the evil one.

## CHAPTER SIX: *“A Prayer from the Battlefield”*

*“Wars are not won by evacuations!”* —Winston Churchill

Technology has changed modern warfare forever. Two hundred years ago, people waited weeks or months to learn the outcome of a battle in some distant land. In the last few years we have seen the marvels of modern technology: laser-guided bombs, missiles that can hit a tank under a bridge and leave the bridge standing, goggles that enable you to see at night, and planes that cannot be seen by radar. Twenty years ago this was the stuff of science fiction. Now we sit at home and watch the war unfold in real time on television. We have reporters embedded with the soldiers so we can watch them as they go into battle. War is no longer something that happens “over there.” Today it has entered our living rooms.

As amazing as those things are, they only touch the physical realm. We have a weapon far greater than anything we have seen in the war on terror, the supernatural weapon of prayer. God invites us to turn to him when everything in the world has turned against us. When in trouble, pray! That may seem obvious, but sometimes we forget to pray. And sometimes we don't know how to pray.

1. Why do we often fail to call on the Lord even when we're in trouble? Do you think we forget or is it because we don't know how to pray? Or, is there something else going on?

2. Memorize 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5. Follow these steps to make it easier:

- A. Write out each verse on a 3 by 5 card.
- B. Say the entire prayer out loud each day.
- C. Start by memorizing one verse at a time.
- D. Write a paraphrase of each verse in your own words.
- E. Ask a friend to listen as you recite each verse.
- F. Put the prayer in a place where you can see it every day.

3. Pause for a minute right now and pray this prayer for your community (insert your town's name).

*"Lord, let your Word run through \_\_\_\_\_. Let it run through the schools and the government, the banks and the stores. Unleash your Word in all the churches. May homes be filled with your Holy Word, beginning with ours. O Lord, turn your Word loose and let it run from \_\_\_\_\_ to the ends of the earth."*

4. Think carefully about the opportunities the Lord has given you as you read Esther 4:12-16. How might the Lord use your position to accomplish His purposes? What open doors do you have (see Colossians 4:3)?
  
5. Open doors and adversaries often go together. Identify some opposition you are facing right now. How do you think a period of protracted prayer could change your perspective so that you see the opportunities that you have?
  
6. In what area of your life is God calling you to persevere? Is there a family situation or a work challenge that is stressing you out? In what ways does 2 Thessalonians 3:5 provide encouragement to you?
  
7. *"What happens to us is not as important as what happens in us."* How would your life change if you really lived this way? Describe someone you know who emulates this perspective. How does he/she maintain this mindset?
  
8. How does knowing people are watching you make you more careful with your conduct?
  
9. Augustine once said, *"Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words."* What do you think this means? What kind of message are you sending to others by the way you handle trouble?
  
10. In what areas of your life are you discovering growing confidence in God? In what areas of your life do you need undiscouraged love? How well are you doing in the area of cheerful perseverance?

***A Truth to Remember: Open doors and adversaries generally go together.***

*A Fighter verse to memorize: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God" (Psalm 20:7).*

**Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Psalm 50:15** When in trouble, pray.

**Matthew 16:18** The gates of hell shall not prevail.

**Matthew 26:41** The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

**Romans 8:26-27** Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we are too weak to pray.

**Ephesians 6:11** We do not wrestle against flesh and blood.

**Ephesians 6:18** Pray in the Spirit.

**Philippians 4:6-7** Pray about everything.

**Colossians 4:2-4** Stay alert when you pray.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Rejoice, pray, give thanks.

**Hebrews 4:14-16** Come boldly to the throne of grace.

## CHAPTER SEVEN: *“Forward-Leaning Defense”*

*“There is no victory at bargain basement prices.”* —General Dwight Eisenhower

“World War IV began in a string of terrorist attacks, whose real nature went unrecognized until on September 11, 2001, huge billows of black smoke curled above New York City, Washington, D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania.” So begins a speech delivered on November 19, 2004, by Michael Novak, former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Human Rights Commission. While some will argue about the Roman numerals, everyone agrees that the 9/11 attacks changed the strategic face of the world. For the first time, terms like asymmetric warfare, rogue nuclear states, bioterrorism, anthrax attacks, and sleeper cells entered the common vocabulary. Soon we were to learn about IED (Improvised Explosive Devices) that would take many American lives in Iraq. Later the world would be introduced to suicide subway bombers and explosives hidden in shoes. Not long ago we added liquid explosives to the list.

Michael Novak coined the term “forward-leaning defense” as our best strategy against the terrorists. Either we take the fight to them or they will take the fight to us. The same is true in the spiritual realm. Satan fights his dirty war using many different weapons. We can’t be passive when it comes to spiritual warfare. If we wait for the devil to attack us, he’s already halfway won the battle.

1. Michael Novak describes a “forward-leaning defense” as the way to fight against a shadowy enemy. List three strategies you can implement in this regard.
2. Why is it not a sin to be tempted? Think through a typical day and describe five temptations you face on a regular basis. Which one is the most difficult to resist? Why?
3. *“Every temptation...requires a moment-by-moment decision.”* In what specific ways is this statement true in your life?
4. Think back to your last sin. How could this have gone differently had you made a right decision within the first five seconds of the temptation?
5. Read Romans 8:13. What “feeding factors” do you need to starve? Why is it so difficult to be brutal with our sin tendencies? How is Martin Luther’s statement true in your life? *“You can’t stop the birds from flying over your head but you don’t have to let them build a nest in your hair.”*

6. This chapter suggests a two-word prayer to pray when faced with temptation: "Help, Lord!" Does this strike you as too simplistic or is it an appropriate way to pray? Explain your answer.
7. Think back to the last time you gave in to temptation. As you recall everything that happened, were you aware of the "way of escape" (1 Corinthians 10:13)? Or, did you not even see it? Why are these "escape hatches" not always immediately obvious?
8. Why is memorizing Scripture so important in spiritual warfare? Take some time to read Psalm 119:97-104. List several benefits (with verse notations) of knowing the Word of God. What Scripture are you memorizing right now?
9. Meditate on 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. In what ways have you honored (or dishonored) the Holy Spirit by the things you have said or done recently?

**A Truth to Remember: *No one becomes godly by accident.***

*A Fighter Verse to Memorize: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).*

**Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Deuteronomy 4:40** Obedience brings blessings from the Lord.

**Joshua 1:8** God promises success to those who meditate on his Word.

**Psalms 19:8-13** God's Word more precious than gold.

**Psalms 119:165** Great peace have they who love God's law.

**Matthew 6:13** Lead us not into temptation.

**Matthew 10:16** Be wise as serpents, harmless as doves.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** Use God's way of escape.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** Take every thought captive for Christ.

**Galatians 5:16-18** Spirit and flesh constantly at war against each other.

**Philippians 4:8-9** Think on these things.



**James 1:12-15** Don't blame God for your temptations.

**James 5:16** Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.

## CHAPTER EIGHT: “*Singing Your Way to Victory*”

*“I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people happy; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.”* —Martin Luther

Preaching is one thing. Prayer is one thing. But music is something else. *It touches the heart and soul at a level too deep for words.* Music is not better than preaching or better than prayer, but music takes the words of the sermon and brings them home to the heart, and music lifts our spirit to believe the words we bravely utter in prayer.

*Music is a weapon of spiritual warfare.* And the devil hates it when we sing worship to God. He hates our music because our singing rouses our souls, gives us courage, lifts our hearts, restores our faith, builds our confidence, unites our voices, and lifts up the name of the Lord like a mighty banner. Music is not just preparation for warfare. Music *is* spiritual warfare. When God’s people sing together, we invade the devil’s territory.

Music is not just a means of praising God. It is also a means of throwing the devil and his cohorts into confusion.

1. Read the story of Jehoshaphat and the great battle in 2 Chronicles 20.
  - A. What was the king's first response when he heard about the threat from the enemy (v. 3)?
  - B. What truth about God does he recall in verse 6?
  - C. What confession did he make in verse 12?
  - D. Why does Jahaziel remind the people not to be afraid in verse 15?
  - E. Recite verse 17 out loud.
  - F. Why did the worship leaders praise God with a very loud voice (vv. 18-19)?
  - G. When the time came for battle, where did Jehoshaphat place the male singers and what did they sing (v. 21)?
  - H. How much fighting did the men of Judah have to do?
  - I. Describe the scene in Jerusalem when the battle was over (vv. 27-28).

2. It's time to do a music inventory. What is your "music menu"? What's listed on your iPod or what CDs are in your collection? Would someone be able to tell that you're a Christ-follower by the music you listen to?

3. Colossians 3:16 says that we are to sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. How are these three categories different? What benefits do you see coming from this diet of music?

4. Why do you think music is such a powerful weapon in the battle against the evil one? Describe a time when God used music to minister to you.

5. List the one thing that most discourages you right now. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. How might music minister to you in your time of need?

6. Why is singing together such an important part of spiritual warfare? What can churches do to increase the quality of their congregational singing?

7. When it comes to music in your church, is Satan winning the "worship wars"? What can you do to be an instrument of peace and praise?

8. *"Music is not just preparation for warfare. Music is spiritual warfare."* Do you think most people believe this? Why or why not?

9. What needs to change for you to "fill your heart with God-honoring music all day long?" Do you think this is reasonable? Is there something you need to turn off in order to tune in to Christ-exalting music?

10. Find a hymnbook and sing a different hymn each day as part of your regular time with the Lord. If you're web-savvy, log on to [www.cyberhymnal.com](http://www.cyberhymnal.com) and sing along with thousands of hymns.

**A Truth to Remember: *Music is not just preparation for warfare. Music is spiritual warfare.***

*A Fighter Verse to Memorize:* **"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).**

**Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Exodus 15** The Lord is my strength and my song.

**1 Samuel 16:14-23** Evil spirit leaves Saul when David played his lyre.

**2 Chronicles 5:11-13** The choir sings and the Lord's glory fills the temple.

**Psalms 63:3-5** Praising God satisfies the soul.

**Psalms 95:1-2** Let us sing for joy to the Lord.

**Psalms 100** Enter God's presence with joyful songs.

**Psalms 150:6** Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

**Isaiah 30:29-33** God's people sing when he delivers them from their enemies.

**Acts 16:25** Paul and Silas sing while in prison.

**Ephesians 5:18-19** Singing together as a mark of the Spirit's infilling.

**Hebrews 13:15** Offer God a continual sacrifice of praise.

**James 5:13** Is any one happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

**Revelation 5:6-14** Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.

**Revelation 11:15 & 19:5-8** All heaven sings the Hallelujah Chorus.

## CHAPTER NINE: *“Cataclysmic Times: Spiritual Warfare in the Last Days”*

*“The earth will be the scene of the final triumph of Christ and his church and the scene of Satan’s final defeat. It is the dust of this earth that shall season Satan’s diet forever.”*  
—Donald Grey Barnhouse

We live in strange times. Someone has called this the age of anxiety, and it seems appropriate enough. Not long ago I found this headline: “Most Think Country Headed in Wrong Direction.” Those words could be slightly altered to read like this: “Most Think Family Headed in Wrong Direction.” “Most Think Marriage Headed in Wrong Direction.” “Most Think Career Headed in Wrong Direction.” “Most Think World Headed in Wrong Direction.”

I attended a worship service where the pastor said during a prayer, “It seems that we live in cataclysmic times,” referring to recent earthquakes, hurricanes, and a tsunami in Asia that had left hundreds of thousands dead and millions more impoverished. I thought later of the continuing unrest in North Korea, Iran, Iraq, across the Middle East, and threats of terrorism in Europe and America. A few days later I had lunch with a friend. As we talked about recent terrorist threats, he commented that everyone in the restaurant was thinking, *When will it happen here?*

1. When you hear someone say that we are living in the “last days,” how do you respond? What evidence do you see to support your position?
2. In what ways does anger characterize many people living in a post-9/11 world? How much of this anger is related to living in a world that is “spinning out of control”?
3. Describe the differences between the world view of a Christian and a non-Christian in the following areas:

	<u>Christian World View</u>	<u>Non-Christian World View</u>
Family	_____	_____
Entertainment	_____	_____
Work	_____	_____
Leisure	_____	_____
Finances	_____	_____
Purpose	_____	_____
Authority	_____	_____

Relationships \_\_\_\_\_  
Possessions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think there is more raw paganism today as compared to 50 years ago? Why or why not? Point to some clear evidence, citing specific examples.

5. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 offers a "catalogue of corruption." List the "markers" that indicate we might be in the end times. Which of these is the most insidious? Which one has a huge "stealth factor"?

6. In what ways have you seen religious apostasy in your community? In our nation? In the world? Why is this so dangerous?

7. Some have said that as we approach the end of the world, there will be "unbridled evil" and "unprecedented evangelism." Point to some evidence for both. How can you leverage the bad news as a way to share the good news of Jesus Christ?

8. Read Matthew 24:14. Do you think you have a role in this, or is it just for missionaries? If you are not supporting a missionary financially and in prayer, determine to do so.

9. What constitutes counterfeit Christianity today? Why is some truth mixed with some error so dangerous? Do you think the pulpits of America are increasingly filled with religious charlatans?

10. When Eugene Peterson wrote *The Message*, he paraphrased Hebrews 12:26-27 this way: **"This time—he's told us this quite plainly—he'll also rock the heavens: "One last shaking, from top to bottom, stem to stern." The phrase "one last shaking" means a thorough housecleaning, getting rid of all the historical and religious junk so that the unshakable essentials stand clear and uncluttered."**

A. What "historical and religious junk" is God getting rid of today?

B. What are the "unshakable essentials"?

**A Truth to Remember:** This is no time for compromise. Speak up for the Savior. Let your voice be heard so loudly that no one can doubt whose side you are on.

*A Fighter Verse to Memorize:* **Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm" (Ephesians 6:12).**

**Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Judges 4:31** May those who love you rise like the sun.

**Matthew 5:10-12** Rejoice when you are persecuted for doing right.

**Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43** Jesus tells the parable of the wheat and the tares.

**Matthew 25:41** Eternal fire has been prepared for the devil and his angels.

**John 15:18-20** Don't be surprised if the world hates you.

**John 16:33** Jesus has overcome the world.

**Philippians 2:9-11** Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-11** Devil deceives through counterfeit signs and wonders.

**1 Timothy 4:1-5** Some will follow doctrines of demons.

**1 John 2:18** The antichrist is coming.

**Revelation 2:8-11** The synagogue of Satan opposes true believers.

**Revelation 12:7-12** The devil knows his time is short.

**Revelation 22:20** Come, Lord Jesus!

## CONCLUSION

*"We are given one life, and the decision is ours whether to wait for circumstances to make up our mind, or whether to act, and in acting, to live."* —General Omar Bradley

A young man shared something he learned while serving with the Marines in Iraq. During his tour of duty, he was stationed in Fallujah, the scene of some of the worst fighting. His sergeant used to tell them, "Two is one, one is none, and if you are by yourself, you're done." When the time comes to go to battle, you can't wander off on your own, or you'll soon be in big trouble. But "two is one" if you stick together. And "one is none" if you don't. That's excellent advice for the spiritual battles we all face. Remember, if Satan can discourage you, he's already won the battle. Don't fight him alone. Stay tight with your brothers and sisters because two is one, and one is none when you fight against the Enemy of your soul. This is always important, but never more so than when we face asymmetric spiritual warfare. We are stronger together than we are alone. We can stand strong when we stand together.

We need each other more than we know. When we are suddenly attacked, if we are alone, it is easy to be discouraged and feel like giving up. But if we know that others are cheering for us and are there to help us, we can find the strength to keep on going even in the worst of times.

1. "Two is one, one is none, and if you're by yourself, you're done." Why is that such an important principle for winning your own spiritual battles?

2. What happens when we try to fight our battles alone?

3. Study the accountability questions on page 153. How would you answer those questions?

4. Have you found an accountability partner yet? Don't put it off. Make a copy of page 153 and covenant together to discuss these questions each time you meet.

5. Write out Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (found on page 152) and put in a place where you can see it every day.

6. Now that you have finished reading *Stealth Attack*, what are the five most important lessons you learned? Write them in the space below.

A.



- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

7. How do we know the devil loses in the end? According to Revelation 20:7-10, what is the devil's final destination?

**A Truth to Remember: *God has provided all the resources necessary for you to win the battle for your soul.***

*A Fighter verse to memorize: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you" (Romans 16:20).*

**Going Deeper in the Word:**

**Joshua 1:9** Be strong and courageous.

**Proverbs 4:18** The path of the righteous grows brighter and brighter.

**Proverbs 21:31** Victory belongs to the Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** Stand your ground and don't hold back.

**Galatians 6:1** Restore the fallen with gentleness.

**Ephesians 6:14-17** Put on the whole armor of God.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** The One who called you is faithful.

**2 Timothy 2:1-3** Endure hardship as a good soldier.

**Hebrews 10:24-25** Think of ways to encourage each other to love and good works.

**Hebrews 12:1-3** Fix our eyes on Jesus.

**Hebrews 13:20-21** God will fully equip you to do his will.

**James 4:7** Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

**James 5:19-20** Rescue a friend who is on the wrong path.

**1 John 5:4** Our faith gives us victory over the world.  
**Jude 20** Build yourselves up in your most holy faith.

# A Prayer for Spiritual Warriors

Taken from [The Valley of Vision: A collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions](#), compiled by Arthur Bennett

O Lord,

I bless thee that the issue of the battle between thyself and Satan  
has never been uncertain,  
and will end in victory.

Calvary broke the dragon's head,  
and I contend with a vanquished foe,  
who with all his subtlety and strength  
has already been overcome.

When I feel the serpent at my heel  
may I remember him whose heel was bruised,  
but who, when bruised, broke the devil's head.

My soul with inward joy extols the mighty conqueror.

Heal me of any wounds received in the great conflict;  
if I have gathered defilement,  
if my faith has suffered damage,  
if my hope is less than bright,  
if my love is not fervent,  
if some creature-comfort occupies my heart,  
if my soul sinks under the pressure of the fight.

O thou whose every promise is balm,  
every touch life,  
draw near to thy weary warrior,  
refresh me, that I may rise again to wage the strife,  
and never tire until my enemy is trodden down.

Give me such fellowship with thee that I may defy Satan,  
unbelief, the flesh, the world,  
with delight that comes not from a creature,  
and which a creature cannot mar.

Give me a draught of the eternal fountain  
that lieth in thy immutable, everlasting love and decree.

Then shall my hand never weaken,  
my feet never stumble,  
my sword never rest,  
my shield never rust,  
my helmet never shatter,  
my breastplate never fall,  
As my strength rests in the power of thy might. Amen.

# Additional Online Resources From Keep Believing Ministries

The following online sermons develop further themes related to spiritual warfare.

[Seed of the Woman](#)

[Postcards from the Edge: Why I Believe in Angels and Demons](#)

[Wanted: Bold Believers](#)

[Lucky to Love](#)

["In Jesus' Name, Amen"](#)

[Praying for the Lost](#)

[The Triumphant Christ](#)

[Led by the Spirit into the Wilderness](#)

[The Strangest Part of the Creed: "He Descended Into Hell"](#)

[What the Cross Meant to Satan](#)

[Faithful to the Fallen](#)

[The Life God Blesses](#)

[A Survival Kit for Tough Times](#)

[Trees Planted by the Waters](#)

## **Additional Resources for Further Study**

Isaac Ambrose, [The Christian Warrior](#)

Kay Arthur, [Lord, Is It Warfare?](#)

Donald Grey Barnhouse, [The Invisible War](#)

Mark Bubeck, [The Adversary at Home](#)

Mark Bubeck, [Spiritual Warfare Prayers](#)

Mark Cortis, [The Truth About Spiritual Warfare](#)

Tony Evans, [The Battle is the Lord's](#)

William Gurnall, [The Christian in Complete Armor](#)

Chip Ingram, [The Invisible War: What Every Believer Needs to Know About Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare](#)

Erwin Lutzer, [The Serpent of Paradise](#)

John MacArthur, [Standing Strong](#)

Charles Spurgeon and Robert Hall, [Spiritual Warfare in a Believer's Life](#)