



Stealth Attack Study Guide for the Online Course

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

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

Ray Pritchard

PS Be sure to check out the [Keep Believing website](#).

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 the controversy that would flow from it. Still in the future were suicide bombers and shoe bombers and subway bombers and train bombers.

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. We are all frontline soldiers in that battle, and no one gets a vacation.

1. Right after 9/11, sporting events were canceled, and comedians stopped cracking jokes. However, it didn't take long 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?

2. For a few weeks after 9/11, churches across America reported rising attendance. But that bump in attendance did not last. Within a few weeks, things returned to normal. What does that suggest about the spiritual condition of the US?

3. “There is a difference between turning toward God and turning to God.” What does that statement mean?

4. *“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.

5. Why is it essential that we understand spiritual warfare now, in an age of terror?
6. 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:

Psalms 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.

Session #1: *The Invisible 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 war on terror is a classic example of asymmetric warfare. Because the terrorists do not "fight fair," they are difficult to find and 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 a 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. They can divide and demoralize the opposition through constant attacks, 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 hitting us from many directions simultaneously. 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. Why does Satan often masquerade as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)?
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 fear 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."* 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. One person said, “We’re only as sick as our secrets.” It’s time to bring our secrets 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.

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 Jesus broke the devil's power by his death and resurrection.

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

Session #2: 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 abundant today. Now, 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 like 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 helps 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 a 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 when you're tempted?

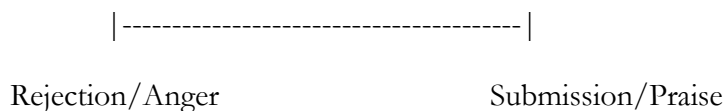
6. 1 Corinthians 10:13 is a “must” verse to memorize for believers. Take some time right now to commit it to memory. Write it out. Say it out loud. Repeat the phrases over and over. Put it on a post-it note. Send yourself an email containing this text. Do whatever it takes to ingest this section of Scripture.

7. Why was the first doctrine Satan denied the doctrine of God's judgment?

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

9. Why is self-pity such a dangerous emotion?

10. Put yourself somewhere on this continuum:



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

11. This session 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 essential 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 firm in the face of temptation?

Session #3: War in Heavenly Places

“These are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life 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 the Devil too much credit.
- 2) Ignore him altogether.
- 3) Focus on the spectacular.

“War in Heavenly Places” tells us what Daniel 10 is about. This often-overlooked chapter reveals a cosmic struggle between the forces of good and evil. It speaks 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 meet delays and difficulties in our service for Christ. It 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 both “individual sins” and “corporate sins”?

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 is the difference 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?

9. *"We take prayer lightly 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 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.

Psalms 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.

Session #4: *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 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 put our 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 next verse in Ephesians offers this warning: "Do not give the devil a foothold" (4:27). All rock climbers understand that verse. 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? Is there 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 never 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. 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 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 them 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 a man does takes him lower than when he allows himself to fall so low as to hate anyone." 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. 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:

Psalms 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.

Session #5: *Standing in the Evil Day*

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

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” Ephesians 6:13).

This is a fighter’s verse. You can hear the sound of combat when you read it. You can sense the smoke and gunfire of desperate battle, of soldiers rushing to the front lines, and at the end of the verse, you can hear the sound of victory.

Ephesians 6:13 describes our current situation. *The “evil day” is upon us.* We have the armor of God. We are called to stand our ground and to fight to the end so that we may still stand when the day is done. Everything we need for this present moment is in this one verse.

The evil day always comes sooner or later. It has come again and again in church history. *No one gets a free ride on the journey from earth to heaven.* We in the West need to get tougher to survive what is coming our way.

You may have had a good week, a good month, a good year.
Enjoy every blessing you receive.
But take nothing for granted.

1. What does it mean to wait on the Lord? Why is that so hard for most of us?
2. “There’s never been a better time to raise a Christian family.” Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
3. What does Pastor Ray mean when he says we should live with tenacious, winsome courage?
4. In what areas of your life are you discovering growing confidence in God? Where have you seen God at work in your life lately?
5. Open doors and adversaries often go together. Identify some opposition you are facing right now. How could a period of protracted prayer change your perspective so that you see your opportunities?
6. Name a time when the prayers of others made a positive difference in your life.

7. Think of the people you know who are struggling right now. What can you do to encourage them?

8. Read Romans 8:35-39 out loud each day for a week. Ask God to tattoo its truth on your soul. How do we keep believing when we are like sleep led to the slaughter (v. 36)?

9. Who's got it better than we do?

A Truth to Remember: *In the battle for your soul, Satan never takes a vacation.*

A Fighter Verse to Memorize: **"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand" Ephesians 6:13).**

Going Deeper in the Word:

Galatians 4:5-6 Be careful how you live

Matthew 5:13-16 Salt of the Earth, Light of the World.

Ephesians 5:16 Grab every opportunity because the days are evil.

Psalms 20:7 We trust in the Lord our God.

Nehemiah 4:11 Enemies will try to discourage you.

Proverbs 21:31 Victory comes from the Lord.

1 Peter 4:16 Never be ashamed to suffer for being a Christian.

Jeremiah 17:7 Blessed are they who trust in the Lord!

Session #6: *You're in the Army Now!*

"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.

Ponder these solemn words from Ephesians 6:11:

"For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places" (NLT).

Our battle is not against other people. Sometimes we focus on the abortionists, the pornographers, the godless politicians, the corrupt business leaders, the drug dealers, and the purveyors of filth as if they were the source of our problems. Yet those people are unwitting dupes of powerful spiritual forces they know nothing about. When someone hurts us deeply, it's easy to say, "That person is the source of all my problems." But our struggle is not with flesh and blood—even though it seems that way most of the time.

1. If we don't "wrestle against flesh and blood," who are our real enemies?
2. Consider the six pieces of armor Paul mentions. What purpose did each piece play in protecting a Roman soldier?

Belt of Truth:

Breastplate of Righteousness:

Shoes of Gospel Peace:

Shield of Faith:

Helmet of Salvation:

Sword of the Spirit:

3. Why is the belt of truth mentioned first?
4. Name some "fiery darts" that have been launched at you lately. How does the Shield of Faith help protect you when you are under attack?
5. Why is Scripture memory so crucial in our spiritual warfare? What passage would you like to memorize?
6. What should we do when we feel prompted to pray?

7. Read Ephesians 6:19-20. Why does Paul call himself an “ambassador in chains”? What is his specific prayer request? Why does he not ask for prayer that he might be released from prison?

A Truth to Remember: *No one said being a Christian is easy. Any representations to the contrary are false and dangerous. When you signed up for Team Jesus, you put on a new uniform.*

A Fighter Verse to Memorize: **"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does."** (2 Corinthians 10:3).

Going Deeper in the Word:

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

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

Psalms 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.

Romans 12:17-21 Overcome evil with good.

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

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

Session #7: *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 IEDs (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. We eventually 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 a 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 regularly. 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 the 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. Pastor Ray mentioned a two-word prayer when faced with temptation: *"Help, Lord!"* Does this strike you as too simplistic, or is it a suitable way to pray? Explain your answer.

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

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. How 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 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.

Session #8: 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 the music takes the words of the sermon and brings them home to the heart, and the 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 on your playlist? Would someone be able to tell that you’re a Christ-follower by the music you listen to?

3. Colossians 3:16 says 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 a vital 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 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 [The Cyber Hymnal](#) 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 plays 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 anyone 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.

Session #9: 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 true enough. 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, and 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. How do you respond When you hear someone say that we are living in the "last days"? 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 worldview 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. 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?

9. 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"?

10. “Jesus is coming. Are you ready?” How would you answer that question?

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: **"Be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near (James 5:8).**

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 The 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 when 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 going even in the worst 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. Have you found an accountability partner yet? Don't put it off.
4. Write out Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and put it in a place where you can see it every day.
5. What are the five most important lessons you learned from the Stealth Attack online course?
 - 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

These online sermons develop further themes related to spiritual warfare.

[Seed of the Woman](#)

[Watchful Warfare](#)

[Deliver Us from Evil](#)

[Trouble in the Church!](#)

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

[Wanted: Bold Believers](#)

[Preparing for Difficult Days](#)

[Soul for Rent](#)

[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](#)

[Sin in the Camp](#)

[Hard 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 Corts, [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](#)

Erwin Lutzer, [We Will Not Be Silenced](#)

John MacArthur, [Standing Strong](#)

Kathryn McBride, [A Warrior's Prayerbook for Spiritual Warfare](#)

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