A Do It Yourself Guided Study on

Spiritual Warfare!

Produced by
The Discipleship Ministry
The Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ the Son of God to “Make Disciples of All Nations” by equipping Christians to “Win, Build and Send” people for Christ!

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Guided Studies on Spiritual Warfare!

1. Know Your Situation! 4
2. Know Your Enemy: The Devil! 8
4. Know Your Enemy: The Sinful Nature! 17
5. Know Your Enemy's Strategy! 22
6. Know Your Defense 27
7. Know Your Offense 32
8. Know Your God! 37
1. Know The Situation!

Unbeknownst to most people, we all live our lives within two distinct Realms. One visible, the other invisible. One physical, the other spiritual. One temporal, the other eternal. And unless and until Christians learn to live victoriously in both, they will never experience all that God intends for them.

Everyone is familiar with the first ... the Physical Realm, but not as many are familiar with the second ... the Spiritual Realm. It is imperative for us as Believers to understand the nature and authority of each, for within them exists Kingdoms which are waging war for the souls of all people who have and who will ever live.

Christians, whether they know it or not, are participants in this war. Our ignorance will spell our defeat and failure, so it is of utmost importance that we educate and prepare ourselves to engage in the battles and emerge victorious for our King to Whom we belong!

The Apostle Paul describes the situation in this manner.

Ephesians 6:12
"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

What does Paul mean when he points out that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood"? __________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

What is Paul is saying in this verse? __________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

So often we struggle against other people, be they our boss, our parents or our spouses. But Paul is saying look beyond them, for our enemy is not that person, but the spiritual entities that are working through them to steal God’s Joy and Peace from our lives. So if you ever thought your boss was the 'devil', you’re not too far off! But we need to view the world through God’s eyes in order to detect our true adversaries. They dwell unseen in the Spiritual Realm and are dedicated to our demise! Beware!

The Kingdom of God
God’s Kingdom exists wherever He alone is Sovereign, where His Will is done ... whether it be within an entire Realm as in Heaven, or within an individual’s life ... evidenced by His Joy, Holiness and Peace.

The Kingdom of Darkness
The Kingdom of Darkness exists wherever God’s Will is defied and His Rule denied ... whether it be within an entire Realm, nation or life.

Christians Belong to God
"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
"For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."

1Corinthians 6:19-20

Ephesians 6:12 (Observations)
Underline what our ‘struggle is not against’.
Circle all the things it is against.
Underline where wicked spiritual forces dwell.

The words Paul uses to refer to the spiritual entities in this passage were commonly used words to describe those in positions of authority, such as governors and judges. This implies that just as those exercising authority in our physical world are organized by responsibility and power, the same is true in the Spiritual World.

"Spiritual forces of wickedness" are given jurisdictions, or territories, within which they exercise their power, ranging from those assigned to specific individuals, to entire cities and nations, all the way up to satan who 'prowls' around the world over which he rules as god. We stand against an organized army of spiritual beings, which is why Paul gives instruction on how we can and must resist ... instructions which we will cover in following Lessons.
You may not have had enemies in your life before, but as a Christian, you have them now!

1 Peter 5:8
"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

Describe what it means to be "sober" and "alert". __________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

How should Peter's description of the devil affect the way we live? __________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

If we choose to live our lives oblivious to the Spiritual War being waged against us, our lives will not reflect the presence of God within it. In fact, we will begin living like any non-believing person would.

Ephesians 4:
17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,
18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

Why does Paul describe the Gentile's (non-believer's) mind as futile? __________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Why does a futile mind and 'darkened understanding' lead to a life of 'sensuality', 'impurity' and 'greediness'? __________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

1 Peter 5:8 (Observations)
Circle the two things we should be.
Circle who our 'adversary' is.
Circle what he is like.
Underline what he is seeking.

In the original Greek, Peter's instructions for us to be 'of sober spirit' and 'on the alert' are in the form of commands. It is not an option for us, but an order for our benefit.

About a month after becoming a Christian, I attended a lecture by Hal Lindsey speaking about his new book, "Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth!" It was opportune because that very night, satan sought to 'devour' me by getting me to kill myself. Although I had no desire to, an irresistible force began to draw me toward the kitchen to get a knife and plunge it into my body. I could not escape it. Until I remembered what I learned that night and commanded it by the authority in the Name of Jesus and His shed blood for it to STOP! And it did! Peace returned and satan retreated.

Ephesians 4:17-19 (Observations)
v17 Underline how we should no longer 'walk'.
Underline how the Gentiles walk.
v18 Circle where they are 'darkened'.
Circle from where they are 'excluded'.
Underline the two reasons why.
v19 Circle what they have become.
Underline what their callousness has caused them to do.
Underline what they practice.

Ephesians 4:17-19 describes what a life without an awareness of God often becomes ...a life focused completely on the Physical Realm including its 'sensuality', leading to all kinds of 'impurity'. Perhaps you can identify with Paul's description, and remember the futility that this kind of life brings. If we, as Christians, fail to live soberly and alertly, we will fall back into this kind of lifestyle, focused on our feelings and the Physical Realm instead of faith in God and His Kingdom.
The previous passage revealed the battle ground of Spiritual Warfare ... our Minds. As it showed, if our thinking becomes futile, and our understanding darkened and divorced from God, we will be in danger of slipping into the abyss of a life consumed by 'sensuality' and all kinds of lusts. But we are not defenseless!

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,
4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

What kind of 'speculations' do people raise up against God today?
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

How do we take 'every thought captive to the obedience of Christ'?
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

God addresses the battle of our Minds through the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:2.

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world,* but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

The word translated 'transformed' commands us to continually transform ourselves completely from within. It is a continuous process that we have a part in. What is the significance of this?
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

How does the 'renewing of (our) mind result in a 'transformed' life?
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe the "Situation" of the Christian.

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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2. Know Your Enemy: The Devil!

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. ...
"If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

Sun Tzu "The Art of War"

6th Century BC Chinese General, Sun Tzu, recorded the above advice in his masterpiece, "The Art of War". 2500 years later, it is still good advice, which we will apply in this and the following lessons.

The first thing we need to know is who and/or what are our enemies. We obtained a glimpse of our primary enemy in the first Lesson, the very real spiritual entity called the 'devil' or satan, who "prowls around like a roaring lion" seeking to destroy us.

It was through the devil that sin was birthed, corrupting God’s Creation. It entered into this world, and from it grew a System of Beliefs (The World) that is diametrically opposed to God. Through Adam, Sin corrupted the very Nature of all people, transforming us from God’s children into His enemies.

So who is this entity known as the devil/satan and what is his Objective?

Isaiah 14:12-14

12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!
13 But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

Describe the devil's objective: ____________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
How might he fulfill it on Earth? __________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Road to Victory

One of my favorite lessons learned from Dr. Howard Hendricks is, "A Problem Well Defined, Is a Problem Half Solved."

Sixth century Chinese Philosopher and General Sun Tzu wisely defined the first step to victory in Spiritual Warfare. We will take his advice and define our enemies, and then define ourselves, for until we know our enemy and ourselves, our victory will always be in doubt.

Isaiah 14:12-14 (Observations)

v12 Circle from where he fell? Underline what he is called.
Circle to where he fell. Underline what he did.
v13 Circle three things he will do. Underline where he said this.
v14 Circle two more things he will do. Underline Whom he will make himself like.

Satan originally had a high position in heaven. He was the ‘star of the morning’, which is translated Lucifer, or ‘morning star’ in the Latin Vulgate. He was a beautiful creature as we shall see in the next passage, which may have contributed to his delusional thinking, and his unbelievable proclamations that resulted in his downfall. Known as the five "I wills", satan’s objectives are all frightening, but none so much as the final one. A study of each gives us a glimpse of the dark delusion into which sin can lead us. Have you noticed its presence in your life?

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The Devil's Origin: The passage below is addressed to the 'king of Tyre', but most Bible scholars believe it speaks of the devil himself, and describes his original state and subsequent fall.

Ezekiel 28:12-15

11 Again the word of the LORD came to me saying,
12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him,
   'Thus says the Lord GOD,
   "You had the seal of perfection,
   "Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God;
   "Every precious stone was your covering:
   The ruby, the topaz and the diamond;
   The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;
   The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald;
   And the gold,
   the workmanship of your settings and sockets,
   Was in you.
   "On the day that you were created They were prepared.
14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers,
   And I placed you there.
   "You were on the holy mountain of God;
   "You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.
15 "You were blameless in your ways
   From the day you were created
   "Until unrighteousness was found in you."

List things we learn about satan in this passage: ______________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How did the devil's magnificence cause him to sin? ___________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What lessons can we learn from the devil's demise? _____________
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____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

In the previous passage, we caught a glimpse of the devil’s ambition. In this passage, we will see what may have inspired it.

Ezekiel 28:12-15 (Observations)

v12 Circle Who is speaking.
   Underline what the devil had.
   Circle what he was full of.
   Circle what he was ‘perfect’ in.

v13 Underline where he was.
   Circle what covered him.
   Observe the stones God says he was covered with.
   Circle the one metal mentioned.
   Underline on what ‘day’ they were prepared.

v14 Underline who God says he was.
   Circle Who placed him there.
   Underline where he was.
   Underline where he walked.

v15 Circle how God says he was in his ways.
   Underline from when he was ‘blameless’.
   Circle until what was found in him.

This amazing passage paints an incredible picture of satan. He was once ‘perfect’ in every way! And he looked it, too! If you let your imagination soar, and visualize the vestments or perhaps armor with which he was covered, the picture that emerges is of a creature beyond compare. He would make those celebrities who walk the red carpet look like they were wearing rags in comparison! God’s description of satan, one of his greatest creations, utilizes numerous superlatives. Till we come to that last jarring and accusing phrase describing his downfall, “Until unrighteousness was found in you.”

It shows us that no matter how beautiful, no matter how smart, no matter how successful or how ‘perfect’ we may be, our downfall is but one misstep away. We must constantly remind ourselves that it is God who places us in positions of honor and continually humble ourselves before Him, lest ‘unrighteousness’ be found in us and we be brought low in our pride.
We have learned that the devil, called satan, was one of God’s most magnificent creatures, who lost his place in heaven when 'unrighteousness' was found in him. It seems evident that satan’s sin was that of pride, for which he was condemned to the confines of Earth, the abode of another important creation of God, a Man and a Woman, whose fall he engineered through temptation. So what is the situation we now find ourselves?

1 John 5:19
"We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one."

Why does John preface this verse with the Believer's assurance?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

What does the second part of this verse mean? _______________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

How does this impact our lives as Believers? _______________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

The Devil’s Work

2 Corinthians 4:4
"in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

In what ways is the devil the 'god of this world'? ___________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Why does he blind the 'minds of the unbelieving'? ___________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

In his instructions regarding the kind of person he recommended for church leadership, the Apostle Paul warned, "not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil." 1 Timothy 3:6

The sin of the devil is 'conceit' or pride.

1 John 5:19 (Observations)
Underline what 'we know'.
Circle where 'the whole world lies'.

It is sometimes necessary in Warfare to situate soldiers behind enemy lines in order to free captives and secure victory. God has placed His church in enemy territory to free those imprisoned by the devil through the liberating power of the Gospel of Christ. Sometimes those who are supposed to free others become captives themselves because they were not careful how they walked in enemy territory. We must be alert in how we live while in satan’s world, for our enemy is always seeking to ensnare us and make us his slave.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Observations)
Underline what the 'god of this world' has done.
Circle what he wants to keep them from seeing.
Circle whose glory the light of the Gospel displays.
Underline who Christ is.

For reasons unknown to us, God has given satan a chance to fulfill one of his objectives ... to be 'like the Most High.' But to secure his position, he must keep everyone under his power and in the dark as to the identity of the true God manifested through Christ. He does this by blinding the 'minds' of the unbelievers as to who Jesus is. It is our task as Believers to enlighten them with the 'light of the Gospel', and free them from their bondage to the god of this world.
The Devil’s Forces

Lest we mistakenly think we are only opposed by a single spiritual entity called satan, the Scriptures give us clues on how many fallen angels really oppose us.

Revelation 12:4a
"His (The Dragon's) tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

Revelation 5:11
"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;"

Most Bible scholars believe Revelation 12:4a describes how satan drew away a 'third' of the angels in Heaven. Revelation 5:11 reveals the number of angels who remained with God. Do the arithmetic: 10,000 X 10,000 = _______________________

If this number represents the two thirds that remained with God, how many joined with satan? _______________________

What makes their quantity more daunting is the quality of angels that joined satan. Ephesians 6:12 reveals their quality.

Ephesians 6:12
"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

What does the opening phrase mean? _______________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Why does the Apostle Paul use words that reflect authority for the fallen angels? _______________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

What are some possible areas in our world influenced by fallen angels today? _______________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Satan is assisted by a core of very powerful angels who joined him in his rebellion and are now with him on the Earth, working to set up a counterfeit kingdom while sending many souls to hell in the process!

Revelation 12:4a (Observations)
Circle how many 'stars' were cast down.

Revelation 5:11 (Observations)
Circle what John heard.
Underline where these angels were.
Circle how many there were.

The phrase '10,000 X 10,000' may simply be an idiom that people in those days used to indicate a great many. In Hawaii, we say 'ukumillion', 'uku' being the Hawaiian word for fleas, with the more familiar word 'ukulele' meaning 'jumping fleas' referring to the fingers of the player.

In any case, that numerical phrase would indicate the number of angels joining satan might be as high as fifty million! This is on top of the 'demons' that are allied with them and are a completely different spiritual entity.

Revelation 6:12 (Observations)
Circle what Paul says we do not wrestle against.
Circle each of the categories of angels.

The words Paul uses to describe various classes of fallen angels are words used to describe human rulers of different ranks. This indicates to us that the fallen angels are very organized and recognize authority even among themselves. This should not be surprising as God’s angels are also organized by task and rank as well!

But what we can learn is that the Believers' adversaries are very organized and powerful, and committed to their downfall. They are familiar with the exercising of power and authority, and use that experience to influence human organizations, from the lowest to the highest. These organizations may include the Music and Entertainment Industries, News Media, High Tech Industries, Military, Education and Government agencies and leaders.
Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe Our Primary Enemies.

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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3. Know Your Enemy: The World!

The devil is not alone in opposing the Believer in Christ. He is aided by two allies dedicated to oppose our desire to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ. They are the World, a System of Beliefs opposed to God, and the Sin Nature, which is the remnant of our ‘Old Man’ still residing in our Flesh, which we will study in the next Lesson!

In the previous Lesson, we considered our situation behind enemy lines. Here, satan has established his own kingdom, the World System opposed to the One True God, over which he rules as a god ... blinding and enslaving all who live within it, save for the children of Light who walk in God’s Kingdom.

The World

Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,”

How does the World pressure us to conform? __________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

List various Worldly values/ideals we are pressured to accept:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What makes the Apostle Paul’s advice the most effective way to counteract the World’s pressure for us to conform?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Deuteronomy 18:9

“When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you,
you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things
of those nations.

Why did Moses give the Israelites the above advice? ________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

In his quest to be like God, satan created the World System, a counterfeit of God’s Kingdom designed to provide the things that people seek to live a fulfilling life: Security, Self-Worth and Significance. But it’s all an illusion. It instead offers False Security, False Self-Worth and False Significance, for in the end, this World is subject to decay and death.

The Apostle Paul, well aware that the Christians in Rome were at the centre of the 1st century World and vulnerable to the World’s deception, exhorts the Believers there in his letter to them.

Romans 12:2 (Observations)
Circle what they must not be.
Underline how they should be transformed instead.

The Greek word translated ‘conformed’, presents the picture of something being pressed in a mold so that it emerges in the very shape and likeness that the mold is designed to make. The World is the shape into which satan’s Mold is pressuring everyone. In our time, the shape may be what is politically correct, or morally convenient. Christians will almost always find themselves at odds to the currently acceptable and popular values, and unless they have renewed their minds, they will find themselves unable to resist the pressure to conform.

Most people tend to be conformists, not wanting to ‘rock the boat’ or ‘cause trouble.’ But God wants His children to be ‘transformists’, agents of change toward a Godly way of living and thinking!

Just prior to entering the Promised Land, Moses gives the following advice.

Deuteronomy 18:9 (Observations)
Underline what Moses advised them.

The cultural practices of ‘those nations’ included child sacrifice, divination, witchcraft, fortune telling, sorcery, casting of spells, spiritism and necromancy. Basically, satanism, devil worship or luciferianism.

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In this World, you are either in satan’s kingdom or God’s. There is no in between! The Apostle Paul makes that clear when he reminds the Believers in Ephesus ...

Ephesians 2:1-2
1 "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
2 in which you formerly walked
   according to the course of this world,
   according to the prince of the power of the air,
   of the spirit that is now working
   in the sons of disobedience."

How were we ‘dead’ in our ‘trespasses and sins’? __________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What does the Apostle Paul mean when he says we ‘walked
according to the course of this world’? __________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
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What does the Apostle Paul mean when he says we ‘walked ...
according to the prince of the power of the air’? ______________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
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_________________________________________________________________

Ephesians 2:4-6
4 But God, being rich in mercy,
   because of His great love with which He loved us
   even when we were dead in our transgressions,
   made us alive together with Christ
   (by grace you have been saved),
5 and raised us up with Him,
   and seated us with Him in the heavenly places
   in Christ Jesus,

What is God’s ultimate solution to satan’s World? ______________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

If I asked you if you have ever been a follower of satan, most would say, ‘No way!’ But according to the Apostle Paul, we may very well have been.

Ephesians 2:1-2 (Observations)
Circle what we were in our ‘trespasses and sins’.
Circle according to what we ‘formerly walked’. (two things)
Underline where satan’s ‘spirit’ is now working.

The Apostle Paul teaches that before we were ‘born again’ by God’s Spirit, we were ‘dead’ as far as God was concerned, and unable to comprehend nor communicate with Him as surely as a corpse can comprehend or communicate with the living. We were cut off from God, and walking in the world of satan, according to his will and his spirit, and against God’s.

We were completely without hope apart from God’s mercy. The World was our home and the course we followed, indulging in its lusts, if not fleshly, then certainly in our minds and hearts. And thus we were objects of God’s wrath, destined for eternal punishment, with no way out.

Then a lifeline was thrown our way called the Love of God through Christ Jesus, and we grabbed on to Hope.

Ephesians 2:4-6 (Observations)
v4 Circle how God is described.
Underline why He is described so.
v5 Underline what we were even when God loved us.
Circle what God did to us with Christ.
Circle how we are ‘saved’.
v6 Circle what God did to us with Christ.
Underline where God seated us.

This is one of my favorite passages in Scripture! It details how God saves us from satan’s grasp by tranferring anyone who believes in Jesus and is sick of living an empty life of sin ... into His glorious Kingdom! And this, not because of any thing we have done, but completely by God’s Grace through our faith in what Christ has done for us! Amen!
So what should our attitude be toward the World? The Apostle John gives us the answer ... and more!

1 John 2:15-17
15 “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
17 "The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

Why does the Apostle John command us not to love the World?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

List examples of the following:
'the lust of the flesh':  ___________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
'the lust of the eyes':  ___________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
'the boastful pride of life':  ___________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

What is significant about the fact that 'the World is passing away'?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

What is significant about the truth that the 'one who does the will of God lives forever' in light of the World passing away?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

"He is No Fool Who Gives What He Cannot Keep, To Gain What He Cannot Lose."
Jim Elliot

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Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe The World and why we should never Love it.

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________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

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4. Know Your Enemy: The Sinful Nature!

So far we have looked at two spiritual enemies: satan, our often overlooked adversary who seeks to ‘devour’ us, and the World he uses to sideline us. These two work from without. We will now look at a third spiritual enemy that works from within.

If it were not for this third enemy, our first two enemies would not have the impact they do. In a very real way, because this third enemy works from within, it is the most difficult to overcome, for it is devious! But from where did it originate?

The Origin of Our Sinful Nature

Romans 5:12
Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--

Who is this ‘one man’ spoken of in this verse and why? __________

____________________________________________________________________________________

How does this verse explain the predicament of Mankind? ______________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

In his Psalm of Confession, King David explains why he sinned.

Ps 51:5
"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me."

How does David explain the reason he sinned? _________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Does this excuse us from sinning? Why or why not? _________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

The Fall of Adam

The Bible tells us that when God originally created the first Man and Woman, He did so in His own image (Genesis 1:27). They were made in sinless perfection, with a Nature made to please and enjoy God forever ... until satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted them to sin with the false promise of achieving Godhood.

One of the consequences of the Fall was the corruption of man’s Nature, from Godly to Sinful. Whereas our original Nature naturally pleased God, our corrupted or Sinful Nature made it natural to rebel against God.

Romans 5:12 (Observations)
Circle how ‘sin’ entered the world.
Circle what else entered with sin.
Circle where death spread.
Circle how many sinned.

And after the original Nature was corrupted, that damaged Nature was passed on to every succeeding generation. It’s depravity was soon evident just one generation later when Adam’s first born son, Cain, murdered his second born (Genesis 4:8). Like a congenital disease, sin’s corruption spread through all Mankind.

King David’s Confession

After sinning grievously against Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah the Hittite, David composed Psalm 51 as penance. In it, he pinpoints the cause of his weakness and crime.

Psalm 51:5 (Observations)
Circle how David says he was born.
Circle how he says he was conceived.

In this verse, King David reveals the problem with us all. We are all ‘conceived’ in sin and born sinners. In other words, we are not only sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are born as sinners! It is who we are! Sinning is part of our very Nature, a Nature which cannot be changed by a set of laws, or principles or man made systems. It takes a miracle to change us, a miracle that only God Himself can effect in our hearts!

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**The Nature of Our Sinful Nature**

Our Sinful Nature naturally sins! But it not only naturally sins, it actually wants to sin! It is a wild beast we keep in check within us. But know this. If people knew they could get away with all kinds of sins and crimes, society would soon sink into anarchy and depravity. It is only societal pressure and law enforcement that keeps us from societal breakdown and allows us to live in peace with each other. The Prophet Jeremiah described our horrible condition.

**Jeremiah 17:9**

“The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?”

How does our heart deceive us?  __________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

The words "desperately sick" means "incurably wicked". Knowing this, how can humanity ever bring about world peace on its own?
____________________________________________________________________________________

The Apostle Paul lists some of the ‘deeds’ of the Sinful Nature, here called the ‘flesh’.

**Galatians 5:19-21**

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are:
immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy,
outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,
21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these,
of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you,
that those who practice such things
will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Why do you think Paul lists these 'deeds' for the Galatians?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What would you add to the list today? ________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

The Lord knew that most people would consider themselves good and would never outwardly break the law. So He challenged them with the “spirit of the Law”. Though we may not have outwardly murdered someone, we may have in our hearts (Matthew 5:22). The same is true with sexual immorality (Matthew 5:28). We may not sin outwardly, but have we sinned in our hearts?

**Jeremiah 17:9 (Observations)**

Circle in what the heart is more than all else.
Circle what Jeremiah says it is.
Underline Jeremiah’s rhetorical question.

Jeremiah 17:9 is one of the most vivid descriptions of the Sinful Nature corrupting the heart. It is not only sick; it is really sick. In fact, Jeremiah says it is so sick, no one can really understand it.

In the early 1930’s, a radio drama entitled “The Shadow Knows” would begin with eerie music over which a sonorous voice would announce ...

"Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows..." followed by evil laughter. How often have we read news accounts of a serial killer with neighbors testifying, "He was such a nice guy." Who knows ...
for 'sooth'!

**Galatians 5:19-21 (Observations)**

v19 Circle what the ‘deeds of the flesh’ are.

v19-21 Note each deed, using a dictionary if necessary.

Underline what will result for those who ‘practice such things’.

The Apostle Paul says that the ‘deeds of the flesh’ are ‘evident’, or obvious. The idea is that they are clearly seen. We are all aware of them because we see them every day. These behavior are not learned but manifest naturally from our Sinful Nature. It is often the proper behavior that can be unnatural and necessary to be learned. Every parent knows this!

This is proof of the fallen state of all humans. Sinful behavior and evil thoughts come so naturally to us, even when we wish not to do them!
The Quandary of Our Dual Natures

The Apostle Paul spoke about the dual nature of the Believer: possessing the Sinful Nature of the First Adam, which is the person we used to be, and the Divine Nature of the Second Adam, Christ Jesus, who we are now. The Believer died with Christ and is raised with Him to a New Life. He/she is a New Creation, freed from the Law of Sin through Christ’s Death and made alive to God through Christ’s Resurrection. This New Person, the Real Person, is now imbued with the Holy Spirit and wants to please God ... always! If you are a true Believer, born again by God’s Spirit, the New You which is the Real You wants to do God’s Will, and in fact, will do no other! So why do we continue to sin? Learn from what the Apostle teaches.

Romans 7:18-23

18 "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.
19 "For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.
20 "But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.
21 "I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.
22 " For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

What is an area of your life where you struggle to do the good you want to do. ______________________________________

What does Paul mean in verse 20? __________________________

________________________________________________________

Is Paul saying we are no longer responsible for sinning? Why or why not? __________________________

________________________________________________________

How does Paul view the Sinful Nature? __________________________

________________________________________________________

The Sinful Nature in the Believer

The moment any person believes in Christ as Savior and Lord, God performs a miracle in their lives. They are reborn spiritually as New Creations and made partakers of the Divine Nature. They become completely New Persons in Christ with New Natures that delight in pleasing and obeying God.

But what happens to the Sinful Nature? Unfortunately, a remnant continues to live on in our Flesh, and will continue to do so until our bodies are changed in the ‘twinkling of an eye’! (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

Romans 7:18-23 (Observations)

v18 Circle what dwells in ‘me.’
Underline where it dwells.
Circle what is present in me.
Underline what is not present.
v19 Underline what we ‘do not do.’
Underline what we practice.
v20 Underline Paul’s conclusion when he does what he doesn’t want to do.
Circle what is doing it instead.
v21 Underline the ‘principle’ Paul discovers.
Circle what is ‘present’ in him.
v22 Circle where Paul ‘joyfully’ agrees with God’s law.
v23 Circle where Paul sees a different law.
Underline what it is doing.
Circle what it is making him.
Circle where the ‘law of sin’ resides.

The Sinful Nature not only continues to live in our bodies but exerts its will to incite sin in us! It is an evil entity that we cannot escape. In fact, unless and until we learn how to live as a New Person in Christ, the Sinful Nature is the default setting which will direct us toward well worn paths forged through a lifetime of sin.

The incredible thing is that God acknowledges that we are New Persons in Christ who truly desire to please Him, and knows that we really do not want to sin against Him any longer. We live under His Grace and Forgiveness, but we do not want to use this as an excuse to sin. Instead, we must learn to live by Faith in the newness of life by God’s Holy Spirit who lives through our New and Divine Nature! (Romans 8:1-2)
Every Believer must eventually face the formidable enemy within. As we just learned, the Sinful Nature will often manifest itself even when we do not want it to. It betrays us, causing us to give in to satan and the deception of the World. But God has given us a way to victory, as the Apostle Paul instructs the Galatian Believers.

**Galatians 5:16-18**

16 "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.
17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.
18 "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Paraphrase verse 16 in your own words? _______________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

According to verse 17, what is happening within the Believer?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

The phrase 'walk by the Spirit' is a command in the present tense. What role do our wills play in making this command a reality?
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

**Why are those who are led by the Spirit 'not under the Law'?**
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

"But the worst enemy you can meet will always be yourself;"
Friedrich Nietzsche

Galatians 5:16-18 (Observations)
v16 Underline Paul's advice on how not to 'carry out the desire of the flesh.'
Circle by Whom we are to walk.
v17 Circle what sets itself against the Spirit.
Circle what sets itself against the flesh.
Underline why they are set against each other.
v18 Underline the result of being 'led by the Spirit.'

The key to living the Christian Life is understanding who you are. A quote attributed to both C.S. Lewis and George MacDonald, states:

"You Don't Have a Soul, You ARE a Soul That Has a Body."

Every person, Believer and Non Believer alike, is a living Soul possessing a Body for existence in the physical world. As we have learned, our bodies are corrupted with the Sinful Nature. However, the moment a person Believes in Christ, God brings forth our Spirit, which is imbued with the Divine Nature, and endows us for life in Heaven, the dwelling place of God!

But God doesn't want us to wait till we get to Heaven to live Spiritually. God expects us to live in the Spirit now!

Whereas living in our Bodies is second nature to us, having already gained lots of experience trusting in our senses, living in the Spirit is a completely new experience altogether. It requires greater Faith because the spiritual World is unseen, but no less real. Our Primary Guide is God's Word and His Holy Spirit. We must transform our minds with His Word that we may prove what His Will is, and the longer we pursue this, the stronger we will be in our Faith and in our Ability to live Spiritually in the physical World.

So, as a Living Soul, we must decide daily whether we will live through our sinfully oriented Bodies or through our heavenly oriented Spirits!
Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe the Sinful Nature and how to achieve victory over it.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?
   ☐ ____________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   ☐ ____________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   ☐ ____________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   ☐ ____________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   ☐ ____________________________________________________________________________
5. Know Your Enemy's Strategy!

*Our enemies are* intelligent, and *coordinated* in their attacks. This is why the *Apostle Paul* warns us to...

_Ephesians 6:11_

*Put on the full armor of God,*  
*so that you will be able to stand firm*  
*against the schemes of the devil.*

_Though we will cover the 'armor of God' in a later lesson, what does Paul's use of this term tell us about how he views the Christian Life?_  

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_What do you learn about the 'devil' in this verse?_  

_____________________________________________________________________________________

If you are able to discover your enemy's strategy, you may then gain an advantage over him. During World War II, the Allies were able to break the secret codes of the Axis powers: the _Enigma_ in Europe and the _Naval Code_ in the Pacific, which helped them achieve victory. Fortunately, we have discovered satan's strategy, which is outlined by the *Apostle John* below.

_1 John 2:16_

_For all that is in the World,*  
_the lust of the flesh and*  
_the lust of the eyes and*  
_the boastful pride of life,*  
_is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

_Complete the following: The 'boastful pride of life' is the lust of the ..._

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_How do the 'lusts' mentioned here relate to the 'World'?_  

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_How does satan use these 'lusts' and the 'World' to get us to sin?_  

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_Satan was probably one of the first creatures created by God, even before the World came into being. He may have been there when Adam was animated from the ground and knows the inclinations of this new creature._

_Ephesians 6:11 (Observations)_

_Underline_ what we are to put on.

_Circle_ what we must be able to do.

_Underline_ what we must stand against.

_The word translated 'schemes' is the Greek word 'methodeia'. I don't even have to ask which English word was derived from it. The devil has a method or a strategy that he has used successfully to enslave people to sin, even from the very first in Eden. He is so confident in its effectiveness that he continues to use it to this day, even on you and me! In this Lesson, we will examine his _Modus Operandi_ ... his MO, which has worked so well through the ages. We will observe how he used it against the first Adam so successfully, and against the second Adam (Jesus) so miserably. And in the process, we will be able to see how he is using it against us!_

_1 John 2:16 (Observations)_

_Circle_ the two things that lust.

_Underline_ the third element that is 'in the world.'

_Circle_ Whom they are 'not from'.

_Circle_ what they are from.

_The word translated 'lust' is not inherently an evil word. Jesus used it when He said to His disciples 'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;' (Luke 22:15). But it is primarily used to describe the passionate desires that emanate from the _Sinful Nature_ in our _Flesh_ ... the longing for what we see, for what we feel, for what is pleasurable and even for what gratifies our _pride_ and _ego_. Satan knows that if he can discover what our prime 'lusts' are, he has found a weakness in our 'armor' that can be exploited for our destruction. That is his strategy which he has used to destroy countless people from the beginning._
Scripture includes many instances of satan’s quest to tempt Mankind to join his rebellion against God. We will examine two from which to learn how he operates and how we can thwart his scheme.

Genesis 3:1-6 (Observations)

v1 Underline how the serpent is described.

v2 Circle from where the woman said they may eat.

v3 Underline where the forbidden fruit tree was located.

v4 Underline the serpent’s reply.

v5 Circle whom the serpent accuses.

v6 Circle what the woman saw.

v7 Circle what the fruit was to her eyes.

v8 Circle what she believed the fruit would do.

v9 Underline what she did.

v10 Circle to whom she also gave the fruit.

v11 Circle where her husband was.

v12 Circle what he did.

This passage reveals the very first application of satan’s tried and true strategy to tempt Mankind to rebel against God. And it has never been changed! Why? Because it works! Even as you read the serpent’s words, you can detect a slipperyness to them as they emerge through a derisive smile. The woman and her husband seem almost naive in their innocence, allowing the serpent’s words to mold their thoughts. That was her first mistake. You never allow other people’s thoughts to enter unchallenged into your mind! You capture them ‘to the obedience of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

But as described, satan is craftier than any of us. He discerns the desires of our flesh, eyes and egos. Satan exploited her desire for food, for novelty and for wisdom, leading to her fall. She was deceived. But what was her husband’s excuse? Simply that he had come to so idolize his wife that he could not live without her! And men are like that to this day!
Satan Tempts Jesus

Matthew 4:2-10; Luke 4:13

2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.
3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."
4 But He answered and said, "It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’"
5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,
6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘He shall command His children concerning you’; and ‘on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’"
7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’"
8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;
9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."
10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’"
13 When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

What seemed to contribute to Jesus' vulnerability? ____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

How do the temptations exploit the lust of the flesh, eyes and ego?

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

How does Jesus resist each temptation of satan? ____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

What is ominous about verse 13? ____________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

How to Resist the Tempter

After tempting mankind successfully for millennia, the irresistible force of satan ran into the immovable object of Jesus. And this when Jesus was at His weakest, having fasted for 40 days and nights! Just as with the temptation of Adam and Eve, satan uses his tried and true strategy of attacking the weakest point, which for Jesus was physical hunger. The weathered stones looked just like freshly baked loaves of bread, but Jesus said, 'It is written...', and resisted!

How do you resist satan's attack? With the spiritual sword of God's Word!

God's Truth! The temptation of the bread exploited the lust of the flesh. The temptation of the Temple exploited the lust of the ego. And the temptation of the kingdoms exploited the lust of the eyes. But be sure of this, satan will always return at 'an opportune time'!
Don’t Give Satan an 'Inch'!

Like a predator, the devil is always looking for an 'opportune time' to pounce. And it doesn’t have to be a major issue either. He will use even a minor disagreement and build it into a mountain. All he needs is ‘an opportunity’ and he’s got us if we’re not prepared. The Apostle Paul cautions us in the area of anger in the passage below, which is especially applicable to people in relationships.

Ephesians 4:26-27
26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, 27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

How can you be angry and yet not sin? ______________________________ ________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Why does the Apostle Paul warn us not to stay angry for long?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

How does the devil take an opportunity in our anger? __________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

“Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Matthew 26:41

Satan will take every opportunity to enslave us in sin. The word ‘opportunity’ in Ephesians 4:27 comes from the Greek word ‘topos’ from where we get ‘topography’. It describes a small area that is part of a larger whole. Satan knows that if he can take hold of just a small part of us, he will eventually conquer the whole of us!

Ephesians 4:26-27 (Observations)

v26 Circle what we should not do in anger. Underline what should not happen. v27 Circle what we should not give the devil.

Did you know anger by itself is not necessarily sinful? Even Jesus got angry! But He got angry at the right things and for the right reasons. When we do get angry, we must ask ourselves, ‘Is it for our own benefit or for God’s?’

But the Apostle Paul does warn us not to stay angry for too long. Why? Because it will eventually create bitterness and evil intentions, and may even emerge in acts of destruction, usually for the sake of our egos. The same can be said of other emotional states as well, such as Fear, Anxiety, Jealousy, etc. They can all become a portal through which satan can enter and take hold of our lives!

We should not stay angry because it gives the devil an opportunity to get his foot in the door of our lives and gain a presence in our minds and hearts. Eventually, he will own us as he incites our thoughts until we are consumed with hate.

It is best to confess any lingering anger and bitterness to God quickly and take away any opportunity for satan!
Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. Describe satan’s Strategy and How We Can Resist It:
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?
☐ ______________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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6. Know Your Defense!

If you have ever practiced martial arts, you know that it is not enough just to know your opponent. You also need to learn how to defend yourself and how to take the offensive to defeat them! We will use a passage in Ephesians 6: to learn how to engage our enemies and emerge victorious!

In this Lesson, we will focus on our defensive armor, while in the next, we will look at our offensive weapons.

Ephesians 6:13-17a

13 Therefore, take up the Full Armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to Stand Firm.

14 Stand firm therefore, having Girded Your Loins with Truth, and having put on the Breastplate of Righteousness,

15 and having Shod Your Feet with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace.

16 in addition to all, taking up the Shield of Faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 And take the Helmet of Salvation,

What is the significance of including the word 'Full' in v13?

What is the significance of having to 'take up' the Armor of God?

"Gird Your Loins with Truth"

John 17:17

"Sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth."

How does the Truth of God's Word 'sanctify' us?

Our enemies are formidable and their intentions evil. But our Heavenly Father has equipped us to 'stand firm' against them.

In my younger days, when I spent years in a Judo Dojo, I learned the importance of maintaining balance, not just with footwork, but in utilizing offensive and defensive skills. God wants us to not only be able to defend ourselves against satan's attacks, but to counterattack as well.

Ephesians 6:13-17a (Observations)

v13 Circle how much 'armor' we must 'take up'.

v14 Underline for what purpose.

v15 Circle what we must put on.

v16 Underline what it will extinguish.

v17 Circle the final piece of our armor.

It will do us little good to put on only one piece of armor. That would leave a large part of us exposed and vulnerable! We must put on the 'Full Armor of God'.

But just the thought of having to put on God's Armor should give us pause and wake us up to the reality of our spiritual situation. We are at 'War' with unseen enemies, and the sooner we realize this, the better our chances of remaining steadfast, and to resist their attempts to get us to betray and forsake our Lord!

Enclose Yourself in Truth!

There are few words in Scripture as important as the word Truth. In the original, it means that which is Real, or Reality itself. God's Word reveals the Truth, or Reality, of the World we live in. It makes 'visible' the invisible. It is what sanctifies, or sets us apart, from this non-believing world. Without it, we would continue in darkness and deception, which is why satan seeks to annihilate it every chance he gets. Truth is worn like a vest on which the rest of the Armor hangs. Unless we are persuaded of the Truth of God's Word, the Full Armor of God will have no power to protect us!

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27
"The Breastplate of Righteousness"

2 Corinthians 5:21
He (God) made Him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Explain the transaction that took place between the sinner and Jesus when He died on the cross: ____________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

How does knowing this protect us against satan’s accusations?
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

"The Preparation of the Gospel of Peace"

Romans 10:
13 for “Whoever will call on the Name of the Lord will be saved.”
14 How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?
15 How will they preach unless they are sent?
Just as it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”

According to this passage, how will people call out to Jesus to save them? _______________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

How does this relate to us as Believers? _________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Observations)
Underline who knew no sin.
Circle what He became on our behalf.
Underline what we become.
Circle where we become righteous.

Protect your Heart!
One of the most important pieces of Armor is the Breastplate for it protects our heart and other vital organs. It is one of the key targets of our adversary who tries to infuse our heart with guilt and doubt. In fact, as soon as a person believes in Christ, satan gets to work trying to convince him that he is a worthless sinner and not good enough to deserve God’s Love and Promises.
The Breastplate protects the Believer from satan’s accusations, and assures him that it is not his works, but Christ’s work that makes him worthy. We are sanctified in Christ and by His Righteousness, not our own!

Romans 10:13-15 (Observations)
v13 Circle who can call on the Lord.
Underline what they must do.
Circle what they will be.
v14-15 Observe the logical progression of the questions.
Underline what is written.
Circle what the ‘feet of those’ bring.

Advance the Kingdom!
The Apostle Paul uses questions in a logical progression to bring the reader to the only conclusion: Unless we take the Gospel to the world, Nonbelievers will never hear and be saved.
Believers shod their feet with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace for this is our purpose. As Christ’s foot soldiers, we are storming the Gates of Hell and setting captives free with the liberating message of the Gospel that brings Peace between a Holy God and sinners! We move with purpose and we stand on the Gospel of Christ, immovable and never retreating. Our footing is firm and our direction is always forward.

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"The Shield of Faith"

Numbers 23:19
"God is not a man, that He should lie,
"Nor a son of man, that He should repent;
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

How is God not like men? ___________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

What can we count on God to do? _______________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Hebrews 11:6
And without faith it is impossible to please Him (God),
for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Why does God take pleasure in faith? _____________________________

___________________________________________________________

What is significant about the first thing a person must believe? ________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

What is significant about the second thing a person must believe? ________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

How can faith extinguish the evil one’s flaming arrows? __________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Numbers 23:19 (Observations)
Circle both things God is not.
Circle both things God will not do.
Underline the two things God will do with what He says.

Deflect the Lies!
The Shield is the most versatile piece of Armor God provides. I once witnessed a tribal fight in a remote area of the Papua New Guinea Highlands. The men of one village launched an attack on another. I saw the women and children run screaming out the far side while their husbands and sons set up a defensive perimeter with large wooden shields. Then I saw a torrent of arrows arching toward them followed by the thud, thud, thud as they struck the shields and fell harmlessly at their feet.

Satan shoots lies at us all the time, but our Shield is our Faith that what ever God says or promises, He will do! (Romans 4:21)

Hebrews 11:6 (Observations)
Underline what is not possible ‘without faith’.
Circle to Whom ‘he’ comes.
Circle what ‘he’ must believe.
Circle what God is of ‘those who seek Him’.

It is our Faith in God and His Word that pleases God! Why? Because our Faith reveals that we believe God exists, and demonstrates our trust in Him. Faith acts as a conduit through which God channels His blessings and promises that are ours in His Son.

God is always present everywhere at once, unseen and hidden from the unbelieving, but unveiled to all, young or old, rich or poor, wise or foolish, who have Faith that He is and is a rewarder of those who keep pursuing Him!

Through our Faith in the True God, satan’s ‘arrows’ and the world’s allure are shown to be what they really are: empty, superficial and false deceptions. A mirage, a ‘Vanity Fair’, a false reality.

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"The Helmet of Salvation"

Acts 4:10, 12
10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the Name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by this name this man stands here before you in good health.
12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other Name under Heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

How is verse 10 related to verse 12? __________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How is Jesus set apart from all other religious leaders? __________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Against what kind of satanic attacks will the Truth of this passage protect you? __________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Why do you think the Apostle Paul used the example of a Roman soldier’s Armor in this Epistle? __________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What lessons can you draw from all the pieces of the God’s Armor? __________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Acts 4:10, 12 (Observations)

v10 Underline to whom it should be known.

v12 Circle in Whom there is salvation.

Protect Your Mind!
The Helmet protects another vital area of our bodies, our head. In Kendo, the Japanese art of sword fighting, of the 8 permissible scoring strikes, three are to the head. Satan’s second prime target is the head as he seeks to deal non Believers a fatal blow by filling their minds with lies, and keep them from perceiving and receiving the Gospel.

But once a person receives God’s Forgiveness and New Life in Christ, God makes him a New Person, able to perceive His Truth and discern satan’s lies. It is still important to protect our thoughts because our enemy will seek to instill doubt in our minds regarding our Salvation, and especially in the Truth that there is salvation in ‘no one else’ but the One who alone can save us.

Our enemy will tempt us with the idea that Christ is not enough... that we need to do more to add to His work on the cross. That is a lie. Do not even entertain those thoughts but capture them and expel them from your mind.

Keep the Helmet of your Salvation ever on your mind lest satan’s ‘flaming arrows’ breach your defense and find their mark and spread their poison of doubt. Be ever ready with the Shield of Faith, the Breastplate of Righteousness and the Helmet of Salvation, held together with Truth and advancing with the Gospel of Peace. Amen? Amen!
Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. *What are the specific Pieces of the Armor of God for?*

   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. *What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?*

   ☐ __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ☐ __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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   __________________________________________________________________________________________________________
7. Know Your Offense

Before we study our offensive weapons, let's review a passage we have already studied and take a look at what it is saying, especially in relation to the weapons we wield in spiritual warfare.

Divine Weapons to Fight Spiritual Foes

2 Corinthians 10:3-5
3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh,
4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

You may have heard from coaches that the best Defense is a good Offense. If you are living the Christian Life ever on your heals, you will eventually stumble. We must live it on the balls of our feet and press toward our adversaries, and put them on their heels. So let us now examine the offensive weapons which God has given to us to do just that!

"The Sword of the Spirit ... the Word of God"

Ephesians 6:17b
17 And take ... the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

How is a sword used in battle? ______________________________

How is the Word of God like a Sword? ___________________________

Why is it called the 'Sword of the Spirit'? _________________________

How does the spoken Word pierce through men's hearts? _______

2 Corinthians 10:3-5
(Interpretation)
3 The Apostle Paul differentiates between living in the flesh and warring in the spirit.
4 Our battles are fought on a spiritual level, which is why our weapons are forged by God Himself to destroy the devil's 'fortresses', made up of all the false doctrines, arguments, thoughts and accusations raised up to denigrate the 'knowledge' of God and the Truth of His Word.
5 In Spiritual Warfare, we must always remember that our enemies are spiritual and attack us with weapons aimed at our minds designed to undermine our faith in God and His Word. And if they can accomplish that, we are lost, for as Scripture teaches, "The just shall live by Faith." (Romans 1:17)

Ephesians 6:17b (Observations)
Underline what we are to take.
Circle what it is.
There are two Greek words translated 'Word' in the New Testament: "Logos" and "Rhema". 'Logos' is used for both the written and spoken Word, as well as for Christ, the Living Word.
'Rhema', on the other hand, is used primarily for the spoken Word. It is 'Rhema' that is used in Ephesians 6:17.
The Sword of the Spirit is the spoken Word of God. It's efficacy is dependent on how much of the Logos you know! When you speak the Word of God, men and demons alike are pierced by the Spirit of God Who slices open our motives and intentions and thoughts! Remember, satan, unlike God, cannot read our minds. Therefore, it is the Word spoken aloud that wounds him! Is it any wonder that Christ is pictured with a two edged sword emerging from His mouth in the Book of Revelation?!
**Essential Sword Training**

2 Timothy 2:15  
*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of Truth.*

What does it mean to be 'diligent'?

______________________________

______________________________

Why are we to be 'diligent'?

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

What is significant about how we are to handle the Word of Truth?

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

I have been fortunate to have attended two Institutions that provided me Biblical and Theological training. If you desire intensive Bible training and are able to invest the time and finances to attend a Bible College or Seminary full-time, then by all means do so. But most do not have those options.

Fortunately, we have the Internet today, and there is a plethora of videos and websites that provide good teaching through YouTube or ministry websites. I am a Bible ‘junkie’ and continuously watch or listen to Bible Teachers on the Web to satisfy my insatiable desire to learn. *(If you see me with earphones on, you can bet I am listening to a sermon or lecture by one of my favored teachers via the internet.)*

I have listed just a few of these teachers in the column on the right. *(Beware of false teachers for there are many of them as well!)*

If your goal is to earn a Certificate, Diploma or Degree for professional reasons but cannot attend a school full-time, check out the online Bible Training Schools, such as the Christian Leaders Institute at [https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org](https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org) that offer low cost alternatives.

Whatever your choice, be ‘diligent’ to study God’s Word and so fill your arsenal with God’s Truth by which the Holy Spirit is able to bring to your mind the right Scripture to use as a Sword during times of temptation or outright spiritual attack!

Remember:  
The Greater your Knowledge of God’s Word,  
the Larger your Sword,  
and the Less Chance of Being Deceived  
by our Adversary’s ‘flaming arrows’!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 Timothy 2:15 (Observations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circle what we are to be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underline for what purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underline what kind of ‘workman’ we are to be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circle how he handles the Word of Truth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Increase Your Knowledge of Scripture!  
Are you ‘diligent’, or conscientious in your study of the Word of Truth? If you have not been trained to study the Bible, download the third Discipleship Studybook from [BibleStudyCD.com](http://BibleStudyCD.com) and teach yourself a simple method on how to study the Scriptures, join with other Believers and learn together!

Just as a warrior trains to properly handle the sword in combat, even so, handling the Word ‘accurately’ is essential, for it is akin to sharpening the blade so that it performs its task effectively. A dull blade is like the Word inaccurately handled. It will be good for naught and may even cause injury to the user.

Internet Teachers:  
Ravi Zacharias  
Josh McDowell  
Ron Rhodes  
Jacob Prasch  
Ron Dunn  
R.C. Sproul  
et al.

Apologetics: [https://carm.org/](https://carm.org/)

Caution: Obtaining more Bible knowledge does not guarantee greater spiritual growth, just as eating more food does not guarantee becoming physically stronger. You would probably just get fatter, unless you couple that food intake with physical exercise and training. In the same way, increasing our knowledge of Scripture must be coupled with the active application of that knowledge through faith and obedience. Only in this will we witness spiritual growth evidenced by greater faith and deeper holiness.
Attacking with God’s Word!

Temptation: To Lament the Lack of Money and Wealth.

SWORD: "It is written ...!"

"For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

(1 Timothy 6:10)

"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:19)

Temptation: To be Anxious or Fearful.

SWORD: "It is written ...!

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:6-7)

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

"The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

(Psalm 27:1)

Temptation: To Fornicate and Commit Adultery.

SWORD: "It is written... !"

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?"

"For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body."

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

(Hebrews 13:4)

Might I challenge you to complete this list with temptations that may be especially relevant to your personal life, and with the appropriate Scriptures that thrust to the heart of those temptations? Then, when the enemy attacks, you will be prepared to counter attack with the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God! Don't forget to speak them out loud (Rhema) and so apply the full force of God's Word at the point of attack.

The Power of God’s Word!

We in the West have often viewed words as merely abstract symbols by which we communicate, as evidenced by the age old children’s rhyme:

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, "But words will never hurt me."

Of course, anyone who has been hurt by unkind statements knows that words do indeed have power to hurt, sometimes even more, and even longer, than 'sticks and stones' do. When I am hurt this way, I simply allay the hurt by applying the healing Words of God and His Love. How He thinks about me trumps anything anyone else thinks about me!

But God’s Word has a Power even more than that. With it, God spoke all of Creation into existence. With it, He raised up a nation through which He etched out His Commandments and raised up a young virgin through whom He would send His Only Begotten Son.

His Words Teach, Rebuke, Correct and Train us for 'every good work'.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) And like the Star Trek Phaser, they can be 'set to stun' and cause men to collapse just by the force of them, as happened when Jesus affirmed His identity to the guards who came to the Garden with Judas to arrest Him, and sent them falling to the ground. (John 18:5-6)

But its most fearful power is displayed in the Book of Revelation when John sees the Heavenly Christ revealed in all His Glory which causes John, whom Jesus loved and chose to care for His mother, to fall on his face 'like a dead man' for fear. And even more fearful would be to see a 'sharp two edged sword' emerge from His mouth. (Revelations 1:12-17)

But that revelation will not be fully appreciated until Christ Jesus comes charging down from Heaven on His white steed to defend His chosen people, and strike down the 'nations' with the Sword from His mouth. I personally believe it is the same 'Sword of the Spirit ... the Word of God' mentioned in Ephesians 6: that will literally cut through the invading armies and spill their blood to the heights of the horses' bridles.

(Revelations 19:15; 14:20)

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Prayer and Petition

Ephesians 6:18-20
18 With all Prayer and Petition
   Pray at all times in the Spirit,
   and with this in view,
   be on the alert with all Perseverance and Petition
   for All the Saints,
19 and pray on my behalf,
   that utterance may be given to me
   in the opening of my mouth,
   to make known with boldness
   the mystery of the gospel,
20 for which I am an ambassador in chains;
   that in proclaiming it
   I may speak boldly,
   as I ought to speak.

How would you differentiate between Prayer and Petition? _______
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Why does Paul emphasize the need to pray ‘in the Spirit’? _______
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

What does Paul’s prayer request tell us about him? __________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Why does Paul call himself ‘an ambassador in chains’? __________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Prayer vs. Petition

Most people would probably say Prayer and Petition are synonymous. But if that were so, why would the Apostle Paul, who was probably writing this while chained in a prison cell, mention them successively? Prayer is the spiritual experience of communing with our Heavenly Father. Petition is the specific act of bringing our requests to Him. Of course, as Jesus taught, our Heavenly Father knows what we need even before we ask Him. But we petition Him anyway as an act of worship and acknowledgement that we are but creatures and are dependent on Him for our total welfare.

"Pray ... In the Spirit"
In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made mention of Gentiles (heathens) praying with ‘vain repetitions’. This practice of repeating words or phrases over and over again, like a mantra, is still in use today. Jesus told the woman of Samaria that the ‘true worshippers’ would worship God in Spirit and in Truth. And this is how Paul says we should pray, for when we are in the Spirit, we are linked to Christ’s Mind, and He is now able to communicate as well as commune with us.

In warfare, it is important to keep communications open between the battle field and the Headquarters in order to coordinate the movement of all the troops. By linking spiritually with Christ, He is now able to direct us as we assail the ‘gates of hell’ in our effort to liberate those imprisoned by satan. The Church is composed completely of liberated prisoners!

Prayer: God’s Air Support
When military units need help on the battle field, they call in air support. Few things give ground troops more comfort than to see their air force above supporting their position.

Prayer is like that. When Paul needed boldness, he asked for prayer. He also requested prayer for ‘all the saints’. Prayer is calling in Divine intervention when it is needed most!
Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. *What are our Offensive Weapons and how should we use them?*
   
   __________________________________________________________________________
   
   __________________________________________________________________________
   
   __________________________________________________________________________
   
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. *What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?*
   
   ☐ __________________________________________________________________________
   
   __________________________________________________________________________
   
   ☐ __________________________________________________________________________
   
   __________________________________________________________________________
   
   ☐ __________________________________________________________________________
   
   __________________________________________________________________________
   
   ☐ __________________________________________________________________________
8. Know Your God!

Earlier, we learned from Sun Tzu's "Art of War" that victory is best achieved "if you know your enemy and know yourself." But now, I'm going to add a third component that tips the balance in our favor in a huge way, and that component is GOD. In addition to Sun Tzu, the more important principle in Spiritual Warfare is to know your God!

GOD Alone is Sovereign and All Knowing

Isaiah 46:9-10

9 “Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,

10 "Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times
things which have not been done, Saying,
'My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;"

What 'former things' might God be referring to in v9? ___________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
How does v9 destroy satan's lie to Eve? _________________
________________________________________________________

What does the first part of v10 mean? __________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

What does the latter part of v10 establish about God? __________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

The Sovereignty of God is foundational to who God is. There is no being higher than Him nor equal to Him. He alone is God! And being God, He brings to pass all that He purposes (Isaiah 46:11). He knows 'the end from the beginning,' not because He has foreknowledge, but because He has established all things. Now, who can defeat a God such as this?!

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GOD Alone is All Mighty!

Besides His Sovereignty and Omniscience, God is also Omnipotent, or All Powerful. God would not be God unless He has the power to do what He has purposed to do!

Psalm 33:6

6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.

We studied the power of God's Word in the previous Lesson. According to Psalm 33:6, what are the limits of that power?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What is significant about God being able to create the heavens by just speaking them into being? ________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Jeremiah 32:17

17 "'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,'"

What is the essential message of the above verse? ____________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

If you had the power to stretch out your arm and speak anything into existence, what would be the result? ______________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

If we are on God's side, of whom should we be afraid? __________
____________________________________________________________________________________
GOD Alone is Victorious!

Revelation 19:11, 16

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He (Christ) who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

What is significant about Christ’s Name and what He does?

Revelation 20:1-2, 10

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

How is it possible for one angel to imprison satan? ____________

What does this tell us about satan? ____________________________

What is significant about the severity of satan’s punishment? ___

Unrepentant sinners will also be thrown into the ‘lake of fire’. What does that show us about how God views sin vs. how we do? ____________________________

The Day of Reckoning/Judgment doesn’t just come for a rebellious mankind, but also for the original rebel himself, the devil called satan. It will be a day when the wrath of God is displayed and His longsuffering reaches its limit.

He will send just a single angel, imbued with Divine Power and Authority such that the devil himself will be forced against his will into submission and subject to a thousand years of confinement, after which he will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where he, along with his own false christ and false prophet, and all who worshipped them, "will be tormented day and night forever and ever." There is no more dreadful a sound than to hear the sentence of the damned meted out by the Supreme Judge of all Heaven and Earth.
GOD Alone is Greater!

1 John 4:4
You are from God, little children, and have overcome them (false spirits and false teachers); because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Who is John referring to with "he who is in the world"? __________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How is God in us 'greater' than satan in the world? __________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Matthew 28:18-20
18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

What is significant about the amount of authority given to Jesus?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What is the significance of Jesus' commission to His disciples in light of satan's third temptation (Matthew 4:8-9)? __________
____________________________________________________________________________________

The Israelites tended to insulate their religion from the Gentiles.

How does Jesus differ from that kind of thinking? __________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Why does Jesus make His promise at the end? __________
____________________________________________________________________________________

1 John 4:4 (Observations)
Circle where the 'little children' are from.
Underline who they overcame.
Circle who is greater.
Circle whom He is greater than.

In the early church period, even as today, there were those who denied that the Christ had come in the flesh. The Apostle John did not hesitate to identify those people as antichrists fomented by satan — the god of this world. John declared that Christ in us is greater than satan, for on the cross, Christ destroyed, once and for all, satan's power over mankind and secured his doom forever and ever!

Matthew 28:18-20 (Observations)
v18 Circle who is speaking.
Circle what has been given to Him.
Underline where it extends.
v19 Underline the verbs in this verse.
Circle what we are to make.
Circle where we are to go.
Underline in whose name the 'disciples' are to be baptized.
v20 Underline what we are to teach them.
Underline what Jesus promises.
Circle how long He will be with us.

"All authority"? That means complete and limitless. Jesus has taken away satan's authority over this earth and over all the nations, and has authorized us to claim them for Him! We are sent by Jesus' authority to go to all nations and liberate people from sin and death. It is by Jesus' authority that we are able to cast out demons and heal the sick in Jesus' Name. So whether we live or die, in the Name of Jesus and by His Authority we go with Christ, and 'make disciples' of all the nations, 'even to the end of the age'!
GOD Alone is Most Loving!

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)
But as it is written:
“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
"Nor have entered into the heart of man
"The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

What is this verse saying regarding what ‘God has prepared for those who love Him”?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How should this Truth affect our attitude toward this world which we can see and hear?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What does this say about God’s attitude toward those who love Him?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

1 Corinthians 2:9 (Observations)
Observe what is written.
Circle what has not seen
Circle what has not heard.
Circle where it has not entered.
Underline what has not been seen, heard, or imagined.
Circle for whom God prepared these things.

Before Jesus left, He promised His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them and that He would return to bring them to be with Him forever. I personally believe He was speaking of the New Jerusalem described in Revelation 21:2ff.

Many have tried to imagine what it would look, sound and be like. All I know is that whatever image, sound or experience you conjure, it’s probably wrong. Why? Because 1 Corinthians 2:9 says our new home will be like nothing we’ve ever seen, or heard or even imagined! It will make us forget about this world faster than you can say ‘breathtaking!’ It’s beauty will be indescribable and living there will be like ... Heaven ... of course!!!

"New Jerusalem Descending"
by Pat Wagner

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Application

Review this Lesson and Answer the Following:

1. What things about God have stood out the most in your mind?

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. What Specific Things Will You Do to Apply What you Have Learned?

☐ _____________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

☐ _____________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

☐ _____________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

☐ _____________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

☐ _____________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

☐ _____________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
"Mahalo" (Hawaiian = Thank-You!) for Completing This Study!

I pray that God has Blessed your Study of His Word, to Him be all the Glory!