

*The
Believer's
Handbook
of Battle
Strategies*



**A Special Teaching on The Application of Scripture
To Overcome The Wiles of The Devil**



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Preface

This eBook is designed as a Handbook for Christians that desire to learn scripture in an effort to overcome the attacks of the devil. It is presented in larger than normal type for seniors and others that may be visually challenged.

We will look at several scripture passages and suggest how they can be used in daily living to deliver our souls from being captured or tormented by evil forces.

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“Life and happiness is a perspective that can be attained, no matter what is going on around you. It all depends on how you look at life and how you apply God’s Word to any given situation.”

Introduction

Walking in the Spirit is accomplished by the application of Bible truths. When we pray to be filled, God will usually lead us to His Word where we will discover great and powerful truths that can be applied to our daily life. As we apply them, we begin to walk in them and are transformed into a perspective that is saturated with Faith.

This process is what I call, “*The Butterfly Effect.*” We are like chickens in a barnyard pecking away our days in fear, confusion, and other negative thoughts. Then we pause to ponder a new and living way, through Jesus Christ and begin to renew our mind, which brings on a transformation from death into life, from darkness into the glorious light of God’s Love. Then we begin to fly like an eagle and suddenly soar into the heavens. We leave the smelly barnyard with all its animals to soar with the eagles into a destiny that was never imagined until we flew above the treetops of life.

We will look at 20 scripture passages that can be applied to spiritual warfare. They are multiple strategies that are little known and seldom used but extremely powerful. I will leave the final judgment up to you as to the correct interpretation of scripture and application. We will let the Bible speak for itself.

The Bible says, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” **Psalm 119:11** It also says, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **Hebrews 4:12**

If you have not hidden God’s Word in your heart, you will not have it at hand to overcome temptation, the flesh, or the oppression of the devil. We must have it at hand and be able to recall it in any situation. We must be ready to speak it out against the attack. We must also rest in the Lord and His Word, knowing that it is able to cut through every difficulty, every attack, bringing clarity to our minds and peace to our souls.

The following are Battle Strategies, weapons of our warfare, that are not usually found in the average arsenal.

Being Ready At All Times

1. I Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

The first and most important strategy is to be ready at all times. Be sober and vigilant is to expect the attack and any time and be ready to fight back. The battle is in your mind. That is where it all takes place.

We are victorious or defeated by how we look at life and what we think. If we allow negative thoughts into our thinking, we will no doubt become negative and fall into depression, a low self-esteem and sadness. Our emotional state will be less than happy and well adjusted.

We must, above all else, know that there is a real enemy that roams this earth seeking a prey that is unaware so it can devour it. Jesus made this clear when He said, “The thief comes not but to steel, kill and destroy”

John 10:10b

Satan will often use those that are the closes to us to cast his fiery dart into our soul. The people are unaware but nevertheless become instruments in the hands of an angry evil being that is bent on our destruction. He will seek to steal your joy, kill your dreams, and destroy your destiny.

I am sure you have heard the zing of a fiery dart before. It goes like this, “You will never amount to anything.” “It’s ok to participate in sex before marriage.” “It’s the norm of a new minimum.” “There is no God. We came from apes” and so on. Our teachers in school, the media, and even our scientific community live in a world void of God’s love and grace because they have believed Satan’s lies. The lies of pro-choice and gay rights are now the accepted norm of our so society.

However, this upside down world does not have to be your world. God wants you to know the truth so you can be free from Satan’s lies. He wants you to be ready for the attack and well armed with spiritual ammo to not only quench the fire of his dart but also to defeat his every move. He wants

you to have dominion and rule over evil, putting every deamon and every evil attack under your feet.

Strategy In Action... be always aware that evil will seek you out and attempt to steal your joy, kill your dreams and destroy your future. Resist him steadfastly in the faith and give him no place in your life.

Fight The Good Fight of Faith

2. James 4:7, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Here is a promise that is sure to deliver your soul from the attacks of the devil. This simple tactic will win the day every time. We first submit our will to God and align our thinking to what He wants for us, not what we may think is best. We find His will by reading the scriptures. Once submitted, we are free from ego, self-will and soul-ish ambition. We want what God wants for us. This makes it easy to resist.

The devil usually tempts us with evil that is already in our hearts. He wants us to act out what lurks within. Jesus said, "It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man." **Matthew 15:11** We all walk around in sin and have a very big appetite for doing things that is not right in the site of God.

If you disagree, listen to what the bible says and be instructed by these passages:

- *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”* **Galatians 5:16**
- *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* **Galatians 5:17**
- *“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.”* **Romans 7:15 NASV**

- *O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? **Galatians 3:1-3***

Resisting the devil is also resisting our base emotions that trip us up and keep us from pleasing God. Once we have denied our flesh the right to rule our thoughts, and placed Christ on the throne of our lives, we can resist the devil, knowing that he has no where to hide in us and no place in our thoughts. It is then, for the moment, until another attack comes, that we overcome and see him flee from us.

This process of submitting and resisting is not really all that hard. If you are truly following God, you do that normally as a way of life. It becomes second nature. However it is a great strategy because, as the scripture says, "Neither give place to the devil." **Ephesians 4:27** We are admonished to give no place to our enemy.

Once you are aware of the battle, ready and willing to fight, the next step is to equip yourself with the weapons of your warfare. Being equipped is to know how you will be attacked and establishing a good defense. The wilds or tricks of the devil are numerous and can catch or snare an unsuspecting soul.... Ephesians tells us what our primary weapons are.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" **Ephesians 6:13-18**

There are many good books on Ephesian chapter six. I will not focus on the use of these weapons as my emphasis is on the application of scripture as a weapon and a strategy in warfare. However, here's a list of books you can consider. I found them on the Internet but have not reviewed them.

Books To Consider

1. **Christian Warfare** by D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones · Baker Publishing Group
2. **The Whole Armor of God** by Merry Sonshine · WestBow Press
3. **Put on The Armour of God** by Thomas Yoder Neufeld
Bloomsbury Publishing
4. **Satan And God's Armor** by Robert B. Callahan · Resource Publications

Some of his dirty tricks are obvious like drugs, alcohol, and the other standard vices. Then there are others that deal with past faults, emotional trauma, disappointments, low self-esteem and the like. Might I suggest that you list all the different ways you have fallen into sin and been tripped up. This will give you the basis for devising a defense.

Of course, your defense is a scripture that contradicts what you feel or think that may be wrong. For example: You have an urge to steal a thing from the store. No one is looking and you are encouraged to swipe it. The defense is, "Thou shalt not steal" Speaking the word out, even in your mind, dispels the evil and keeps you on track. Knowing the scripture to apply in the moment it is needed is the key to victory. That's why you hide it in your heart. (Study it, memorize it and meditate on it)

Strategy In Action... do not be afraid. Stand up and resist the devil with scripture. Use the, "It Is Written" defense to drive him back.

Using A Soft Answer

3. **"A soft answer turns away wrath but grievous words stir up anger."** **Proverbs 15:1**

When should you apply this scripture? It wouldn't be in the middle of a sexual temptation. However, it would be just the thing in a knock down battle with your spouse who is the one you supposedly love. Like the scripture say, "Grievous words stir up strife". The devil knows that if he can get you to spew out words of hate and bitterness that both of you will get hurt.

On the other hand, using a soft answer can be the same as offering an olive branch to an enemy. It suggests to your opponent that you do not want to fight over this issue and are ready to calm down and discuss the matter as mature adults.

What is a soft answer?

"A soft answer need not be a weak one, nor should it imply any compromise of truth, nor any yielding of righteousness. It may be firm in substance, though soft in language and spirit.

Very often the most effective reply is given in the mildest tone. It is impossible to resent it, yet it is equally impossible to answer it. But often we may go further. When no vital interest of truth or righteousness is at stake, it may be well to yield a point of our own will and pleasure in order to secure peace... [A soft answer] is successful -- not, perhaps, in gaining one's own way, but in allaying wrath. It turns away wrath.

The angry opponent is silenced. For very shame he can say no more; or his wrath dies out for lack of fuel; or he is won to a better feeling by the generous treatment. At the worst he can find little pleasure in fighting an unarmed and unresisting opponent" (Pulpit).

It doesn't matter how unbalanced, ill-advised, or misinformed the angry one is -- there is always something, no matter how slight, about which you can agree. He is about to lose control, if that has not happened already, and you are the one who must deal with it. The first task is to bring him back to earth... One way to do this is to be able to agree with him.

Of course you do not agree with him entirely because he is wrong to be so angry. But you can say you understand how the matter would upset them. Once you establish a base for discussion you can begin to build the perspective which will set the matter right... A quiet reaction will immediately diffuse the situation and shame the other person into calming down and being rational. The involuntary reaction to every confrontation is to give back in kind. By failing to react as he has, you now encourage him to react toward you in the better way. Practice it, you will be surprised how well it works and you -- being a person who does not lose control -- will be a powerful influence for good" (excerpts from author, Bowen).

If you have trouble keeping your cool, remember that one of the fruits of God's Spirit is self-control. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit so you can be empowered by God.

Strategy In Action... speak with kindness in your voice and keep away from being angry.

Do Not Be Hasty

4. "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger rests in the bosom of fools." Ecclesiastes 7:9

How you respond to a situation is the key to being victorious. If you jump to conclusions, fly off the handle and react with anger as a defense, you will no doubt escalate the problem and end up looking like a fool. "A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." **Proverbs 22:3**

When I realize that I am angry, A bell, as it were, rings in my spirit indicating that I am on the verge of being a fool or doing a foolish thing. It is hard to acknowledge that you are really a fool because you have allowed anger to take up residence in your soul.

However, it is another snare of the devil to capture you and destroy you. If he can keep anger alive in you, you will eventually self destruct. So when you get angry, be sure to let it pass through you. Do not harbor it for it is the basis for hate, murder, and a bunch of other sick things. Learn to see it in you and reject it at all cost.

The Biblical Soul Care Harvest Bible Chapel offers 10 Biblical truths to overcome anger. Here's what they say.

It doesn't take long to figure out that we live in an angry world. Read the headlines on any given day and you see anger on display in politics, movies, TV shows, and sports. Spend any amount of time in any family and you'll see anger expressed almost daily. When a day goes by without conflict, it's a miracle of God.

Sadly, the church hasn't exactly been the poster child for pursuing peace and reconciling conflict in a God-glorifying way over the course of church history. Even though Jesus "broke down the dividing wall of hostility... so that we could have peace" (**Ephesians 2:14–16**), we still quarrel and fight. It's inevitable—wherever there are relationships, sinful anger will be expressed. By nature, we're all selfish. I'm no exception. Cut me off in traffic, I might have some words for you (with my window up, of course). Do something I perceive as disrespectful, watch out! I may get a little passive aggressive and withdraw from interacting with you because I have a heart of fear. If you "reject me," I get insecure, defensive, and may punish you by holding back.

See, that's how deceptive sin can be. It affects our ability to think reasonably and rationally. While I am not immune, I am also certain I'm not alone in my struggle (**1 Corinthians 10:13**). BUT GOD, in his grace, mercy, kindness, patience, and love has made us alive through the death, burial, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 2:4–9**). It's only because of Him that I'm pursuing humility and meekness as a way of life. Know this though; humility and meekness are not weakness! They are strength under control, like a well-trained warhorse (**Matthew 5:5**).

As God's children, we can all make this journey of change together. Here are some things I have learned over the years in my fight against sinful anger. Understanding and applying these truths to your own life will help you overcome sinful anger and see sustained fruit.

- 1. Anger Has Three Faces:** It is expressed primarily in three different ways: 1) explosive and blowing up; 2) stewing, brewing, or silent indignation; and 3) irritability, exasperation or embitterment. Silent anger is just as offensive to God as explosive anger. How are you prone to express your anger?
- 2. Anger Hurts Relationships:** You choose who is on the receiving end of your anger because anger is a perceived threat to something you hold valuable. The problem is we can go a whole day at work being "nice" to our co-workers only to lose it at home with those closest to us! We tend to take it out on those we are called to love the most. Who has been on the receiving end of your anger the most?

3. **Anger is in the Bible:** The Bible has a lot to say about anger. From the beginning in the garden all the way to the end; man's anger is expressed by rejecting God and pursuing his own way (**Romans 3:10–18**). Yet man's anger does not accomplish God's righteous purposes (**James 1:19–20**). While God too can be angry, it is never sinful (**Psalm 7:11; John 3:36; Romans 1:18**). Actually, compared to the offenses He must suffer, He is very "slow to anger" (**Exodus 34:6; Psalm 103:8**). Does your anger accomplish God's purposes?
4. **Anger Put Jesus on the Cross:** Did you know that the anger of man and God's wrath for all our sins culminated onto Jesus when he went to the cross to pay the penalty for sin (**Acts 2:22–24**)? He satisfied God's wrath and allowed man to express their anger towards him at the same time—man rejecting God and God loving man in the very same event in history. How often do you reject God in your anger by not doing what He calls you to do?
5. **Anger Is Covered by Christ's Blood:** The blood of Christ is sufficient to cover your sinful anger. No matter what wrath has protruded from your mouth or what you've done physically to harm others or yourself, you can be forgiven and walk in newness of life. Anger is a sin, but the death of Christ is payment enough to cover it. If you have died with Christ, you can become a different person (**Romans 6:5–11**). Do you believe and live as if your anger is covered by the blood of Christ? or do you act like His blood isn't sufficient?
6. **Anger is a Life-dominating Sin:** Just like any other "addiction," we become enslaved to anger. It temporarily satisfies our sinful desire and flesh, yet we feel guilty and ashamed when we give full vent to it. It's a vicious cycle of self-destruction. Are you stuck in a vicious cycle of anger? If so, you can be set free (**1 Corinthians 6:9–11**).
7. **Anger is an Expression of False Worship:** Like all other "addictions," anger has false worship at its core. When you express your anger sinfully, ask yourself, "What am I not getting that I really want or that I'm willing to sin to get?" Your answer will reveal what you're living for in that moment. Something else has captured your heart more than God, and you're seeking a false refuge; that is idolatry. What's captured your heart more than God?

8. **Anger is Often Just a Fruit:** It usually has fear at the root and more specifically, it is the fear of man. While anger may be all we can see at times, at the heart of it is a fearful, insecure, unsafe, untrusting heart looking for something from man that only God can satisfy. Learn to love God more with reverent awe and fear because then you'll learn to need people less. Remember that perfect love casts out fear (**1 John 4:18**) and that you are perfectly loved by your heavenly Father. What are you really afraid of deep down in the innermost being of your heart?
9. **Anger Can Be Righteous: Ephesians 4:26** says, "Be angry and do not sin." You express righteous anger by becoming angry about what angers God. Jesus died not only to free you from sinful anger but also to enable you to be angry with God not at God. Is your anger expressed righteously or sinfully? How can you tell? Would others say the same?
10. **Anger Must Be Surrendered:** The only way out is to surrender your anger to God. Do not control or manage it in your flesh. Let the Spirit move you to action or bring you to brokenness. God is the judge, not you or me. (**James 4:11–12**) Are you ready to step down from the throne of your mini judgment seat and allow God to be God? Remember, "vengeance is mine," says the Lord (**Romans 12:18–21**).

Are you ready to humble yourself in your broken state and surrender your sinful anger to God? Know that He will give you grace in your time of need (**Isaiah 66:2b; 2 Chronicles 16:9; James 4:6**). So, if you are ready, repent, ask God and those you have offended to forgive you, and walk in victory over the sinful anger that's held you captive for so long.

Strategy In Action...drop the attitude, dispel the anger and seek the Lord for what to do next.

All Things Work Together For Good

5. **"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."** Romans 8:28

Here is a strategy that is sure to work every time. It is, however, predicated on two things: 1.) You must love God. 2.) You must be in the “Them” crowd who are called according to His purposes.

All, “Born Again” folks are in the, “Them” crowd. They make up the church. They are the “Whosoever” of John 3:16 that believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

All, “Born Again” believers love God. They actually worship Him and adore Him because He first loved us and gave His only Son as a ransom for our souls.

So, do you qualify? If you do, you can rest assured that all things will work together for your good. It may seem like they don’t but you do not see the overall picture as God does. He knows the beginning from the end and how to operate around man’s free will to cause everything to work out in accordance to His will and in our favor.

We have a clear perspective in **Romans 8:28**. There can be no doubt. What we now are experiencing, good or bad, will ultimately work together for our good. Thus we can rest when we go through trials and experience tragedies and suffer loss. God is for us and is actively engaged in keeping us in His will and on the right path to Glory.

The Architecture of Promises

*By John Piper, founder and teacher of desiringGod.org
and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary*

When it comes to the architecture of promises, there are not any bigger buildings than Romans 8:28. This structure is absolutely staggering in its size. It is massive. The infinitely wise, infinitely powerful God pledges to make everything beneficial to his people! Not just nice things, but horrible things, like tribulation and distress and peril and slaughter. What brick would you lay on the top of this skyscraper promise to make it taller? "All things" means all things.

If you live inside this massive promise, your life is as solid as the rock of Gibraltar. Nothing can blow you over inside the walls of Romans 8:28. Outside Romans 8:28 all is confusion and anxiety and fear and uncertainty

and straw houses of deadening drugs and tin roofs of retirement plans and cardboard fortifications of anti-ballistic missiles and a thousand other substitutes for Romans 8:28.

Once you walk through the door of love into the massive, unshakable structure of **Romans 8:28** everything changes. There comes into your life stability and depth and freedom. You simply can't be blown over any more. The confidence that a sovereign God governs for your good all the pain and all the pleasure that you will ever experience is an absolutely incomparable refuge and security and hope and power in your life. No promise in all the world surpasses the height and breadth and weight of Romans 8:28.

Strategy In Action...rest in the lord, knowing He is in control of your life and destiny.

Defective Weapons Can Not Hurt Us

6. “No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn.” Isaiah 54:17

The thought implied is that war comes as the punishment of guilt, and that it is preceded by the “cry” of accusation. Many such cries will rise up against the children of God as they seek to follow their destiny.

We know that the enemy has weapons that are aimed at us. He is poised on the battle field and ready to attack. His fiery darts are made ready and his army is in full battle array. The thing is, his weapons will not prosper because we serve the Lord and walk in the Spirit of the living God. It's like the enemy is using guns without ammo. He makes a great spectacle that can frighten the average person into surrendering his or her authority. But, truth be known, the devil has no power, except that which we surrender to him.

Jesus defeated Satan at every turn. He lived the life we could not live. He died the death we should have died. He rose from the dead and is now the captain of our salvation. Listen to what the scriptures say:

- “*And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” **Colossians 2:15**
- “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8**

- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **Romans 8:35-37**

Once you realize that you are more than a conqueror, that nothing can separate you from the love of God, and that Jesus spoiled principalities and powers, you can rest assured that any weapon formed against you will not prosper. It may cause havoc and be a bit frustrating but it will not accomplish what it was designed to do. You will make it through and come out on top.

We can condemn the tongues that wag in opposition because we know Jesus has won the victory and we stand in His accomplishment.

Strategy In Action... to realize that we are fighting a defeated foe and not to fear his accusations, threats and intimidation.

Three Steps To Success

7. “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

What do you do when you are not sure what to do next? It could be moving to another state, accepting another job, getting divorced, taking a vacation, experimenting with drugs, giving in to pre-marital sex, or a host of other decisions that pop up in everyday life. We seem to be walking in a valley of decisions and desperately need some answers.

Most of us go to family or co-workers to gain needed advice. Some seek the counsel of pastors or even therapists. The bottom line is, “What do we do?” Because we are not sure or just do not know, Satan will drop answers in our minds so we have a direction. However, the end of that is death. **Proverbs 14:12** tells us, “There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.”

We live in an almost instant society where waiting is outdated. If we can't get an answer quickly, we seek other sources that will tell us what they think

right away. However, in order to get Godly counsel and be placed on the right path, we need to Trust In The Lord with all of our hearts. We also need to acknowledge Him in everything we say and do. **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

When we trust, we are actually relying upon and adhering to God's Word. Jesus said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." **Matthew 4:4**

Most folks today live by what the media says, what the pastor says, what the spouse says, and others in their world. It is ok to listen but before we live by what is said, we need to take it before the throne of God and be sure it is actually from God.

We cannot lean to our own understanding. We must listen for the voice of God. He will direct our paths. "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This *is* the way, walk in it, whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left." **Isaiah 30:21**

Strategy In Action...Do what the scripture says...Trust! Lean Not! & Acknowledge! Them listen for His voice.

God's Peace Must Rule

8. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:15

Here's what Barns Notes say about the Peace of God.

Rule in your hearts - Preside in your hearts; sit as umpire there (Doddridge); govern and control you. The word rendered here "rule" - is commonly used in reference to the Olympic and other games. It means to be a director, or arbiter of the public games; to preside over them and preserve order, and to distribute the prizes to the victors.

The meaning here is, that the peace which God gives to the soul is to be to us what the governor at the games was to those who contended there. It is to preside over and govern the mind; to preserve every thing in its place; and to save it from tumult, disorder, and irregularity. The thought is a very beautiful one.

The soul is liable to the agitations of passion and excitement - like an assembled multitude of men. It needs something to preside over it, and keep its various faculties in place and order; and nothing is so well fitted to do this as the calm peace which religion gives, a deep sense of the presence of God, the desire and the evidence of his friendship, the hope of his favor, and the belief that he has forgiven all our sins.

The "peace of God" will thus calm down every agitated element of the soul; subdue the tumult of passion, and preserve the mind in healthful action and order - as a ruler sways and controls the passions of assembled multitudes of people.

Barnes Notes is also good commentary on **Philippians 4:7** that also deals with the peace of God. "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God - The peace which God gives. The peace here particularly referred to is that which is felt when we have no anxious care about the supply of our needs, and when we go confidently and commit everything into the hands of God. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee;" **Isaiah 26:3**

Which passeth all understanding - That is, which surpasses all that people had conceived or imagined. The expression is one that denotes that the peace imparted is of the highest possible kind.

The Christian, committing his way to God, and feeling that he will order all things aright, has a peace which is nowhere else known. Nothing else will furnish it but religion. No confidence that a man can have in his own powers; no reliance which he can repose on his own plans or on the promises or fidelity of his fellow-men, and no calculations which he can make on the course of events, can impart such peace to the soul as simple confidence in God.

Shall keep your hearts and minds - That is, shall keep them from anxiety and agitation. The idea is, that by thus making our requests known to God, and going to him in view of all our trials and wants, the mind would be preserved from distressing anxiety. The way to find peace, and to have the heart kept from trouble, is thus to go and spread out all before the Lord. The

word rendered here "shall keep," is a military term, and means that the mind would be guarded as a camp or castle is. It would be preserved from the intrusion of anxious fears and alarms.

Through Christ Jesus - By his agency, or intervention. It is only in him that the mind can be preserved in peace. It is not by mere confidence in God, or by mere prayer, but it is by confidence in God as he is revealed through the Redeemer, and by faith in him. Paul never lost sight of the truth that all the security and happiness of a believer were to be traced to the Savior.

The moment you feel anxious, fearful, nervous or troubled inside, it is a sure sign that you have lost the peace of God. It's like a referee has blown a whistle and declared you to be off sides. When this happens...when you become aware of it...the thing to do is to seek the Lord, ask forgiveness (Because you have fallen from trusting in God) and ask to be restored.

All the devil needs to do is toss out a thought or mental picture from your past that will cause you to dwell on bad things. His hope is that you will stray from your confidence in God and lose His peace.

Strategy In Action...let the Peace of God referee the actions of your heart.

Angels In Your Midst

9. "The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them." Psalm 34:7

Picture this...there is a great army of demons in battle array poised to attack you at any moment. You can see their campfires everywhere. Suddenly you sense the presence of angels all around you, not just any angels but warring angels. Now they have set up their camp in your midst. The Angel of the Lord, who is the captain of the guard, looks your way and smiles. How does that feel? Probably really great, huh?

Notice the verse that it says the Angel of the Lord not only protects you from approaching danger but also delivers you from harm. The one qualifier in this verse that makes it all happen is you have to be among those who fear or reverence God. If you honor the lord with your life and substance, His angels are at your disposal. That is a good thing to know when facing evil.

The King James usage of the word, "Fear" is really good because it puts it in perspective. Most Christians, when faced with troubling times, complain with some sort of, "Why Me" statement. Their eyes never leave the problem and their voices rehearse the impending doom. However, when we fear God, we are more focused on Him and His awesomeness.

Which is better, to fear what man can do to you or what God can do to you? I'd rather be afraid of displeasing God than worrying about this old world and what it can do to me. It's all about honor and respect for God's authority and right to rule over you. That is what this is all about. If He is Lord and Ruler of our lives and destinies. That makes us, not only His children, but also His subjects.

Remember the story in **Matthew 8** of the Centurion that came to Jesus seeking healing for his servant? "The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou should come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." **Matthew 8:8** He respected Jesus' authority and believed that He could but speak the word and things would happen. This is what it means to fear the Lord. You respect, reverence, acknowledge and believe all at the same time. Jesus commented afterwards that He had not seen so great a faith as that of the Centurion...and the man wasn't even of the house of Israel.

There are a lot of folks I know that complain saying, "Where was God when this or that happened." These same folks rarely spend time in the scriptures to learn His promises and to gain faith. They do not assemble with other believers for Godly fellowship. They do not tithe or even donate to Christian causes. They live in worry, fear and depression. Their faith failed them long ago and all that they can say is, "Where is God?"

These kind of folks have no clue that they are in the battle of the ages and are not aware of warring strategies at their command to defeat the enemy. They will never see the hand of God in their lives nor sense the presence of angels. Don't be like them. Keep your eyes on Jesus and reverence God with your entire being. He will take care of you in hard times.

Strategy In Action...Keep your heart close to God and your conscience clear. Keep your eyes upon the Lord and trust in Him at all times. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Rejoice And Be Glad

10. “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” Psalm 118:24

Rejoicing and being glad is the best defense against the devil and his dirty tricks. I will admit that it is hard sometimes to be glad when everything is going wrong in your life. However, the fact that things are getting to you is a sign that you are not where you need to be. *It's all about perspective.*

If you have a right perspective, you can sail right through difficulty, depression and sorrow. Your perspective is what gets you through. It's how you think. If you think negative, you become negative and you feel the pain of all the things that are wrong. If, on the other hand, your perspective is centered in the promises of God, your first thought is to rehearse the scriptures that apply to your difficulty and your prayers are not, “Why Me Lord” but rather, “God will work everything out for my good...so even though I am in a difficulty, He will take care of me” This attitude pulls your spirit up into the faith that is needed to overcome. You are speaking against what you see and feel, declaring what God has said He will do for you.

We can rejoice and be glad because we know that this day, the one we are living in right now, is a day that is especially fashioned for us. It's not just another day. It is a day that the Lord of Glory made. It is full of blessings, wisdom, guidance, joy and faith. That's why we can rejoice and be glad.

The reason folks do not experience this great day is because they don't believe that God would or could create such a day as this for them. They are too busy blaming God for what man has done. It is essential to believe that your everyday is special and God takes great joy in fashioning it just for you.

When you think as I have written, you defeat the devil automatically, without even trying because he cannot dwell in or inhabit your praises to God. That place is reserved only for God. **Psalm 22:3**

Strategy In Action...Jump out of bed tomorrow and shout, “This is the day the lord has made and I will rejoice and be glad in it.” Expect good things to happen and refuse to move off that perspective.

Turn on The Light

11. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”

Psalm 119:105

Where do you go when you find yourself in a dark scary place? How do you find your way to daylight and safety? You guessed it, God’s Word. It is the lamp that lights the way.

Janieson Fausset Brown Bible Commentary says this about Psalm 119:105

“Not only does the Word of God inform us of His will, but, as a light on a path in darkness, it shows us how to follow the right and avoid the wrong way. The lamp of the Word is not the sun. He would blind our eyes in our present fallen state; but we may bless God for the light shining as in a dark place, to guide us until the Son of Righteousness shall come, and we shall be made capable of seeing Him (**2Pe 1:19; Re 22:4**). The lamp is fed with the oil of the Spirit. The allusion is to the lamps and torches carried at night before an Eastern caravan.”

The Word of God is the only true source of wisdom, truth, clarity of right and wrong, attitudinal posture, battle strategies, victory in life and eternity... and so much more. It is our salvation here on this earth and the assurance of salvation beyond this life. It embodies the life and character of Jesus who John, the apostle said was in the beginning with God and was God.

John chapter 1

God wants us to use His Word to live, move about and have our being. Here are some different references to God’s Word.

2Timothy 3:16...“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

1Thessalonians 2:13 ...“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

Psalm 119:89 ...Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven

Isaiah 40:8 ... The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

Isaiah 55:10,11... For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Matthew 24:35... Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Psalm 138:2b... Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy name

John 1:1... In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 19:11-13... And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Psalm: 33:6 ... By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Hebrews 11:3 ...The worlds were framed by the Word of God

Ephesians 6:17... The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God

Jeremiah 23:29 ...Is not My Word like as a fire? and like a hammer?

Hebrews 4:12... For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1John 2:14 ...I have written to you, fathers because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the wicked one.

James 1:21... Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

1Peter 1:23... Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

Romans 10:17... So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

John 15:7... If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 17:17b... Thy Word is truth

2Timothy 3:15-17... All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Joshua 1:8 ...Meditate therein day and night...then shalt thou make thy way prosperous and have good success

Psalms 119:130...The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

Psalm 119:9... Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

John 15:3... Now ye are clean through the Word, which I have spoken

Ephesians 5:25-26... Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Psa.107:20... He sent His Word and healed them

Psalm 119:11... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

John 8:31,32... So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

1Thessalonian 2:13 ...For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Matthew 4:4... “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

1Peter 2:2... As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of Word

2Timothy 2:15... Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Psalm 119:162... I rejoice at Thy Word, as one that findeth great spoil

Colossians 3:16 ... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Strategy In Action...use the Word to guide you for it will shed light on your path.

Don't Worry, Be Happy

12. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" Matthew 6:25

Worry is defined by the dictionary as, To think about problems or fears: to feel or show fear and concern because you think that something bad has happened or could happen.

How often do you worry? What things do you worry about? Jesus said not to worry about food or clothing but I am sure He means all the other things too, like car payments, sickness, unemployment etc. All of that and more is encapsulated in, **Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?** The full aspect of life and happiness is realized, not in worry but in Faith. Worry is the exact opposite of Faith.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Hebrews 11:1** As you can see, the very nature of faith is to hope for and believe for things not yet seen. Whereas, worry is centered in the fear of losing what you can see, touch or feel. How many times have I said, I hope I won't lose my job? Or get sick? Or whatever.

Faith will call it forth, knowing that it will come because God spoke it first and declared it to a thousand generations. (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickens the dead, and calleth those things, which be not as though they were. **(Romans 4:17)** If He will do it for Abraham, He'll do it for us.

When you are afraid and worried, all you need to do is find a promise of God in the Bible. There are over 3,000. Pick the one that fits your situation, knowing that God has spoken it for our benefit. Then ask Him to call it forth for you. You can then do, as Abraham did, repeat it as an act of faith. Doing this will overcome fear and worry because it puts faith back into your spirit and hope that all will be well with your soul.

“Worry is like a rocking chair—it's always in motion but it never gets you anywhere. So why do we struggle with it? And what good does it do? Worry is the opposite of faith, and it steals our peace, physically wears us out, and can even make us sick. When we worry, we torment ourselves—we're doing the devil's job for him! Worry is caused by not trusting God to take care of the various situations in our lives. Too often we trust our own abilities, believing that we can figure out how to take care of our own problems. Yet sometimes, after all our worry and effort to go it alone, we come up short, unable to bring about suitable solutions. “ Joyce Meyer

“Historians will probably call our era “the age of anxiety.” Anxiety is the natural result when our hopes are centered in anything short of God and His will for us. —Billy Graham

Proverbs 29:25 says, “The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.” This, in my opinion, is the primary cause of worry. We are worried that:

1. People won't like us
2. Someone else is more popular, talented, pretty
3. Others are prospering faster and easier than us
4. Someone will hurt us
5. Our homes will be broken into and our stuff stolen
6. We might be laughed at or put down in some way before others

I am sure you can think of more things that evil men can do to us. However, it's easy to overcome if we put our trust in God and not worry about what man can do to us. God is greater.

Strategy In Action...The best way to overcome Satan's attack using fear, anxiety and worry is to speak out the Word of God, first in your mind and then out loud if need be. Rehearse it over and over until you actually believe it. It will fill your heart with faith and quiet the attack.

The Process

13. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1

Anyone that is a true follower of Jesus knows that there is a process that happens. You repent. You receive Jesus as your Savior, You enter the realm of God's grace and you become free of past sins, guilt and all that stuff. You do actually discover the liberty that is in Christ.

The yoke of bondage is removed and you can begin to serve God and be free. The Galatians of the 1st century found this to be true but were bewitched into thinking they had to keep the Law of Moses in order to be a Christian.

The liberty in Christ is God's grace that overcame the law because, as Paul said in another letter, it was weak in the flesh, which means man, could not keep the Law because of his sinful nature. Paul actually rebukes the Galatians in chapter 3-1-3 saying,

“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish, having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

The enemy is hard after God's children, ever seeking to get them to make the same mistake as the foolish Galatians. He wants us to operate in the flesh, (our own sinful emotions) Paul tells us what these emotions are in **Chapter 5:19-21,**

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

We do not want to be foolish and miss out on what God has for us. All these emotions are called, “The Yoke of Bondage.” It is what kills us, makes us sick and it is displeasing to our Heavenly Father.

We are called into God's grace, which is His unmerited favor. We do not deserve it and yet He gives it to us because we place our faith in Christ.

There are a lot of churches today that believe and teach salvation by works. When you hear that sort of teaching, run for the hills. Here's why:

1. You will be entangled again with its yoke of bondage.
2. It's teaching dishonors the finished work of Christ on the cross.
3. You will always have a question in your spirit of acceptance by God.
4. You will always wonder," Did I do enough to attain His love or not?"

If the do's and don'ts of religion rule, there would be no need for Christ go to the cross? His death would have been in vain. It can never by Christ dies for the sins of the whole world but we must still keep the Law. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Strategy In Action... Do not fall for or even entertain the idea that your salvation can be attained by your own efforts. This will stop Satan in his tracts because when you fall short, you can point to Jesus and declare that He won the battle for you and even though you have fallen short, God still loves you.

Saying Thank You Is A Good Practice

14. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18

The will of God, in Christ, is that you be thankful. Ever wonder why? Because the devil hates those that are thankful to God for what He does in their lives. I can think of several benefits to being thankful or giving thanks. They are:

1. It's a way of overcoming evil with good.
2. It's a call to think positive in every situation.
3. It's a means of spiritual fellowship with the Father God.
4. It's a way of keeping Christ on the throne of your life.
5. It's a show of dependency upon God for life's substance.
6. It's a way of keeping faith alive and active.
7. It's a way to stay in the Spirit and not the flesh.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever" 1 Chronicles 16:34

It should be noted that this Bible verse does not say, give thanks **FOR** everything. It says **IN** everything. We would never give thanks to God for a gang rape or murder or terrorist act. We can give thanks in these and other bad events for positive outcomes like survivors or capturing those at fault, etc.

The clear direction given by the verse is to maintain an attitude of thanksgiving in every situation for everything God does in your life. That brings up another theological question. *Does God bring bad things into your life?* I have talked to many Christians that actually believe that He does. The misconception comes from a lack of knowledge about God's Sovereign will and man's free will.

God made man with a free will to do what ever he wanted...to be the master of his own life and destiny. God's will was placed second to man's. It is obvious that man exercised his free will and rebelled against his creator. It is also apparent that we, his descendants, are under the curse of death that God placed upon those who sin. It is also known that God sent Jesus to die for our sins, as a penalty, so we could, if we so desire, rejoin Him in loving fellowship.

With all that said, see the man that lost his child and wife to a drunk driver in a car accident and says, "Why did God allow this to happen?" God didn't revoke Adam's free will to sin and He does not revoke our free will to get drunk, drive and kill others. He does, however say that all of us, everyone both small and great will appear before Him and give an account. Judgment day is right around the corner. **Revelation 20:11**

It was not God but man that caused bad things to happen. Blaming God is the result of an angry erroneous conclusion. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." **James 1:17**

Giving thanks to God in every situation should be a lifestyle. Imagine if we could practice this principle. There would be no more backbiting, gossip, and no critical attitudes. We would look for the good and perfect gift sent by God and praise Him for His love and grace.

Strategy In Action...In everything, give thanks to God. It will defeat evil forces and keep you in fellowship with your Heavenly Father.

Joy = Strength

15. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for *the joy of the Lord is your strength.*" Nehemiah 8:10

This scripture tells us that the Joy of the Lord is our strength. Nehemiah had led the people back from the Babylonian captivity, build the wall around Jerusalem and still they were slaves, in their minds, to 70 years of bondage. They were free but not inside. They were still without strength.

James R. Davis says this in his article posted on Focus on God.

The joy of the Lord becomes our strength as we realize that we can only come to God from where we are. As they stand there with their lives in shambles they are mourning over their sins. They were not told "I told you so" or "you should have known better" or "look what a mess your life is in" or "the next time you had better do better." But they are told "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks . . . This day is sacred to the Lord. ***Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength*** . . . The priests calmed the people and said, " . . . this is a sacred day, Do not grieve . . . then the people went away to eat and drink . . . and to celebrate because ***they now understood the words that had been made known to them.***

When they understood the message of salvation, Nehemiah says, "Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, ***because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.*** (8:9-12)

The ***mourning of joy*** comes when we realize that we have put our lives together wrong and begin to discover God's instructions on how to take our lives apart and rebuild them. When the Word of God is opened up and understood, people begin to understand themselves. It is through knowing God that you begin to come to know yourself. After all you are made in God's image. It is here that you can discover the joy of the Lord as your strength to recover your losses.

The Israelites returned to God and found Him to be a loving Father. They also found Him to be happy, full of Joy that they had repented and returned to him. It is this Joy that keeps us in times of trouble because it comes with the knowledge that God is not mad at us and is actually on our side, working for our good, even if it doesn't seem that way. Thus the Joy of The Lord is our strength.

Strategy In Action...do not beat up on yourself. God has forgiven you so forgive yourself and draw strength from God's joy that you are once again in His loving care...and reject the devil's accusations.

God Is More Important

16. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalm 37:4

We all have wants and desires that often do not get realized. Satan knows what's going on inside of us. He can see greed, lust and all the things that cause us to want. So, we follow after success, power, fame and riches to provide the desires of our hearts. This process brings sorrow and pain because it is the root of all evil.

Barns Notes Commentary offers this explanation...

Delight thyself also in the - Lord. The word rendered "delight" means properly to live delicately and effeminately; then, to be tender or delicate; then, to live a life of ease or pleasure; then, to find delight or pleasure in anything. The meaning here is, that we should seek our happiness in God - in his being, his perfections, his friendship, his love.

And he shall give thee the desires of thine heart - literally, the "askings," or the "requests" of thy heart. What you really "desire" will be granted to you. That is,

(a) The fact that you seek your happiness in him will regulate your desires, so that you will be "disposed" to ask only those things which it will be proper for him to grant; and

(b) The fact that you do find your happiness in him will be a reason why he will grant your desires.

The fact that a child loves his father, and finds his happiness in doing his will, will do much to regulate his own "wishes" or "desires," and will at the same time be a reason why the father will be disposed to comply with his requests.

The strategy here in overcoming Satan is that when you are so engrossed with the things of God, you will not have time to listen to the accusations and confusion that the devil throws at you. You will automatically dismiss it as foolishness.

Strategy In Action... lose yourself in the things of God and absorb the truths and promises of God.

Become A Student of The Word

17. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

I know what you're about to say, "How can studying be used as a weapon to defeat Satan?" Here are three good reasons:

- Studying the Word of God puts Bible promises at your fingertips for instant recall.
- Studying ushers in wisdom and improves your discernment Skills that are needed for spiritual warfare.
- Studying prevents serious mistakes in judgment as you learn a right perspective.

Paul is telling Timothy that he needs to grow in grace and not to go off half cocked. He must, at all cost, learn the truth, have a clear perspective of life and reality and be able to teach others. The only way to accomplish this is to study.

There was no need to go to college or a trade school. There was no need to sit at the knee of older Christians. Timothy needed to search the scriptures and discover the truths for himself. I can remember my Bible college days. They almost stripped me of my faith. I crammed in 3-years of multiple commentary, selective theology, and dogma only to discover that I didn't know anything about fighting evil forces, rightly dividing the Word of God

and it's application in a given situation. I had to start all over and seek the Lord to form my own perspective. That was over 40 years ago and now I have learned 1st hand by the master teacher, the Lord through His Holy Spirit. Yes I still listen and read after others but I do not accept anything without searching it out for myself.

How many times have I heard, "My pastor says? Or My church believes?" Folks just do not want to study. It is easier to accept someone else's opinion. That's how folks get led astray...because they do not know the scriptures and therefore cannot discern false teaching.

My wife gets upset with me at times because we will be watching TV, some preacher, and I will holler at the tube, saying, "That's not true." I can spot error right away because I have studied and searched out the truth. I have taken various doctrines before the Lord, questioning them and praying for discernment. I have read and reread scripture passages to find central truths and discover contextual thought.

I am not boasting but trying to show you that being prepared is essential to winning the battle...and it's all about fighting back to keep Satan from stealing God's blessings and our destiny. We cannot let anyone tell us what to think or which doctrine is correct. We must seek it out for ourselves.

Here are a few theological issues to ponder. Can you discern the truth and be prepared to defend it in a discussion with a friend, family member or co-worker that is not a Christian?

1. Which is right, Creation or Evolution? How do you know?
2. Is reincarnation true?
3. Is it ok to have an abortion?
4. Which is correct, salvation by grace or by me being the best person I can be?
5. Does God approve of Gay (Same Sex) Marriage?
6. Drugs, alcohol, free sex and dirty jokes are all ok as long as I do them with moderation, right?
7. Is Christianity the true religion?

These are just a few of life's perplexing questions. What does the Bible say about them? Knowing what God thinks is essential to having a right perspective and overcoming attacks by evil forces.

Strategy In Action...Search it out for yourself and lock it down in your memory so it will be available when Satan comes a calling.

Guard Your Heart

18. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23

The NIV of this verse says it this way, “*Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.*” It is a little bit clearer. We are to guard our hearts because it is a wellspring of life. It is where life flows and from which we draw strength.

The word, “**Heart**” refers to the inner man. That place where the real you and I exist. It is that being that is judged by God, not our outer appearance. It is our wellspring of life.

The bible has a few things to say about this inner man or heart. Take a read:

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

These passages teach us that the Lord looks at and searches the heart, the inner person. Why is the heart so important? Because the issues of life—our actions, work, pursuits, etc.—all proceed from the heart (Pr. 4:23; **Matt. 6:21; 12:34; 15:18**). What we do in word and deed is first of all a product of what we are on the inside. **(Excerpt from Bible.org)**

The problem with our heart or inner man is that it trusts in itself as a source of reasoning and solutions. We were created to be dependant upon God and

for Him to be our source for everything. It was the bond of unity that brought man and God together as one.

Jeremiah saw the inner man as full of deceit and desperately wicked. Paul, the Apostle also saw man this way when he said, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:” **Romans 3:10**

The heart is our mind, will and emotions. It is where we live and move and have our being. If we choose to allow unbelief to rule our heart, we miss out on all the blessings and favor of God. We remain unregenerate and depraved, without hope in a world dominated by sin.

There is no neutral ground. We are either isolated from God, dead in our sins and alone to face life’s many trials or we are empowered by God’s Spirit, renewed in the inner man, full of faith and trust in God that He will direct our steps in life and keep us from evil. God says this through Ezekiel, “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” **Ezekiel 36:26**

This is the essence of being, “Born Again.” Being born again unites us with God the Father through our faith in Christ and fills our heart (Mind Will & Emotions) with the Spirit of the living God. Remember what the Word says, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” **II Timothy 1:7**

Satan will try to keep you in fear and confusion but if we put on the new man, which after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness.” **Ephesians 4:24**, we need not worry, fret, fear or have any anxiety in life’s daily walk. It is this that we are to guard, so we do not let it slip away. It is here, out of the new heart that life springs up with the issues of life, God’s life.

For those who were there and somehow have lost it, I have this word for you from God. “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” **James 4:8**

”Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” **Proverbs 3:5-6**

If you missed the point, here it is in plain talk. Go back to the Lord; ask forgiveness for your unbelief. You are where you are because you stopped believing. You will have to fight the fear, the worry, the devil and anything else with the scriptures until they become alive in you again. Fight the good fight of faith until you are on top once again.

Strategy In Action...Hang on to the scriptures, apply them and believe them with your whole heart.

The Bible Is The Authority

19. “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” II Timothy 3:16

I have used the Bible as my final authority to share this eBook with you. **II Timothy 3:16** is why. It is the inspired Word of God and is profitable for reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. It is the Sword of the Spirit and can easily bring you back to God, fill you with faith, educate you in Spiritual Warfare, deliver you from demons and keep your heart in peace.

When you use it against Satan, he has no recourse. He has to submit to its authority because it is the Living Word of God. Using it as your source as a governing rule of practice is the best way to gain and maintain victory. Hide it in your heart and use it in every situation.

Strategy In Action...Stay in the scriptures and live by the truths it proclaims.

There Is Only One Way

20. “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6

It is hard for most folks that are not “Born Again” to understand why there is just one way to God, yet it is true. There is only one way and that is through Jesus Christ. The Bible is our source to prove that the one-way doctrine is valid. **Acts 4:12** says, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is

none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Jesus is the only way to attain salvation. All the world religions cannot save us. Joining a church or specific faith cannot save us. It must be an acknowledgment of our sin, our cry before the throne of God for forgiveness, and our invitation for Jesus to come into our hearts and save us. His name is the only one that can get us through death into eternal life.

Here are a few scriptures that support the only “One-Way” doctrine.

1. ...there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. **(I Timothy 2:5-6)**
2. ...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved... **(Acts 16:31)**
3. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, THOU SHALT BE SAVED. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **(Romans 10:9-10)**

The skeptic would say, ”You mean to tell me that all the religions of the world are wrong and only Christianity is the one true religion?” Remember, Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship born out of love between man and the one true and living God. There is no one true religion. Religion, in itself, will not get us to God. It is the blood of Christ that unlocks the door and our confession of faith in Jesus that makes it all happen. **(John 14:6)**

Why is Jesus the only way to God? He is the only way because God planned it that way. He set the penalty for sin, which was death. The soul that sinneth, it shall die.**(Ezekiel 18:20)** In fact, Jesus was the slain lamb of God before the foundation of the world. **(Ephesians 1:3-7)**

Jesus Himself said, as recorded in **John 14:6**, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh to the Father but by Me”. Christianity states that the God of the Bible is the only true God and salvation is only possible by accepting Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son as Savior and Lord. **II Corinthians 5:21** says, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

God validated His Son as the only way in multiple ways so we could be assured that Jesus was indeed the only way to Him. Here are some to consider.

1. He claimed to be the only way as in **John's record 14:6** says but validation came through miracles that proved He was who He claimed to be.
2. Eyewitnesses saw Jesus' miracles and validated them as authentic. Over 500 followers saw Jesus, after His resurrection, and watched Him ascend into heaven.
3. The prophets foretold of His coming, where He would be born, that He would be God in human flesh and lots more...all prophetic statements were realized in Jesus, even those like in Isaiah chapter 53 that were uttered hundreds of years before Jesus came.
4. God Himself validated Jesus as His sole pathway to Him. "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him!"(**Mathew 17:5**)
5. The Apostles lost their homes, wealth, and even their lives preaching the gospel. Would they do that if it were a lie? I don't think so. They testified to the truth and were willing to die for it if necessary. (See Foxes Book of Martyrs)
6. Thousands of Believers, over several centuries have testified of how Jesus helped them and blessed them.
7. I can personally testify that I have seen the hand of the Lord in my life and communicate with Him daily. I know He is the Christ.

The provability that one man could fulfill all prophecies about a Messiah that God Himself said would come, (**Gen.3:15**), and perform fantastic miracles while here on earth, and be raised from the dead, and ascend into heaven while hundreds looked on is astronomical. But Jesus did just that...fulfilled everything that was foretold about the coming Messiah. He had to be who He said He was and therefore is truly the only way to God.

Strategy In Action...Believe in Jesus because He is the only way we can live here and attain eternity.

Conclusion

All of the teaching presented here is to overcome the wilds or tricks of the devil. Some will say that I make too much of a battle with evil and that I ought to focus my teachings on more positive things. If I don't educate you as to the enemy and show you how to overcome, you will be the most defeated Christian in our times.

That is what we have today, bless me Christians who are not even sure that there is an enemy bent on their destruction. Believe me, there is a real devil and he will stop at nothing. He works night and day to scheme and plot ways to steal your joy, kill your dreams and destroy your destiny.

It is crazy to say I can stay neutral or that there is not devil. These are the last days before the return of Christ. He will soon come to earth and we will see Him in the clouds of heaven with all His angels.

However, we are now in a life and death struggle for our own souls. The scriptures I have shared are not all there is. I am sure you will find more as you search the Word of God. They are meant to get you started and keep you safe as a victorious Christian that need not to be ashamed.

May our Lord bless you and keep you. May He cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace.