

BASIC TRAINING

MILITARY VETERAN DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE



FORWARD

The purpose of discipleship is to help the Military Veteran new convert understand the principles of Christian life and make them part of God's force against Satan. If we were writing to a Spanish speaking audience, we would write in Spanish as that is the language that they would best understand the material. This discipleship study is written for the US Military Veteran, so we make every effort to speak the language they best understand, not for the purpose of separating them from the church body but to best help them understand and bring them in to the church body. Also know this, scripture is clear, we are at war, we are writing to warriors, and we are unapologetic that some terms and illustrations used in this discipleship study may sound rough to the average church goer, but you have had different experiences than the intended reader, if we were writing to you, it may read differently.

It is our sincere prayer that "Basic Training" will serve saved military veterans as an introduction to Christianity much like our military basic training introduced us to military life. Just like military basic training this study will by no means be an exhaustive study to show thyself approved but it will certainly give you basic general orders so you may begin acting upon your enlistment in God's Army. Welcome aboard!

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1 THE BIBLE (SOP)

For absolutely every action we took in the military there was a standard operating procedure (SOP). For every piece of equipment, we operated there were standard operating procedures. The SOP was written in the blood of those that came before us. It instructed us as to the proper way of operating that piece of equipment safely and most effectively. If we did not follow the SOP there were consequences, because that equipment we operated belonged to the government and the reason we operated it was for the governments benefit so they wanted it done their way. God takes the same approach, we are his equipment, He wants us to operate in a particular way to receive the maximum benefit for both us and Him. He gave us an SOP in the form of the Bible. The Bible is our standard operating procedure for how to properly operate the life of a Christian. If we fail to operate our lives as His SOP directs there are also consequences. Many of the struggles we face in life are due to not operating in accordance with our SOP. This lesson will cover what the bible is and how it directs us.

Subject Points:

- The bible
- The bible was written by God Himself.
- The bible has not changed since God issued it.
- The bible contains specific instruction as did the SOP and is not left up to interpretation.
- When we follow the SOP it provides freedom from the trials of this life.
- In emergency situations you cannot always reference the SOP.

A. The bible

- 1) The bible is made up of 66 books physically written by many different men, but all were instructed what to write by God. (Genesis – Revelation)
- 2) The bible is separated into 2 different sections the Old and New Testament. The Old Testament is the time prior to Jesus coming to earth and the New Testament documents the time during and after Jesus came to earth.
- 3) The bible is not in chronological order but separated into subjects, history, literature, prophets, gospels, and epistles.
- 4) 40 men, on 3 different continents, over 1500 years wrote the bible in three different languages. Despite the number of men, languages, and time, every word aligns perfectly

with no contradictions. It has been confirmed by history, archaeology, and science.

- 5) The bible is not meant to be a set of strict rules that you must follow to be a Christian. The bible is guidelines that the God who created us gives us to operate best to enjoy a happy, comfortable, and fulfilling life.
- 6) Do not be intimidated by lack of bible knowledge, the purpose of this study is to help provide you knowledge.

B. The bible was written by God Himself.

Exodus 17:14 14And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Isaiah 30:8 8Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever:

2 Peter 1:21 21For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

- 1) Imagine the process it took to get a copy of the military SOP to your level. You, the guy operating the equipment did not write it, the guy who trained you on the equipment did not write it. Someone above anyone you knew wrote the instructions for how you were to properly operate equipment, and it worked.

- 2) Furthermore, it was not even the guy who put pen to papers words in the SOP. It was directed to the writer by a command level person that may have never even seen the person dictating it to him. Nevertheless, you followed them, and they worked.
- 3) The bible worked the same way, God directed men to write procedures for how we are to properly operate a human life and if we follow them, they work.

C. The bible has not changed since God issued it.

Psalms 12:6-7 6The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.7Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

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

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

- 1) God promised when He gave us the bible that He would preserve it for us. To say what we have today is outdated or corrupted in any way contradicts the promise that God made when He gave us the Bible. That is not to say that Satan has not made attempts to corrupt the scripture, but God's promise is secure.

- 2) Unfortunately, man has changed, the bible has not. Since the beginning man has been making a continual spiral downward as the bible remains constant. To make ourselves feel better about our downward spiral Satan tells us the bible is outdated.
- 3) Good direction does not change because we do not like it. The SOP did not change because we thought it was too cumbersome. It was the perfect way to operate the equipment. The bible does not change because we do not like it. It gives us the perfect way to operate a human life. If we do not use the bible, just like not using the SOP, bad things will eventually happen.

D. The bible contains specific instruction as did the SOP and is not left up to interpretation.

2 Peter 1: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

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

Mathew 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.

- 1) What would have happened if you said, while operating a piece of equipment, well that is what it means to me instead of operating it in accordance with the SOP? It is the same philosophy when we read scripture and say this

is what that means to me. Although a piece of scripture may speak to us in many ways it never contradicts other scripture and never directs you to act in any way but in accordance with all scripture. Anything to the contrary is simply a lie from Satan and if we act on that lie we are playing into the enemy's hand.

- 2) No one is special, the scripture is written to all for the direction of all. God will not use it to justify any personal unscriptural situation.

E. When we follow the SOP it provides freedom from the trials of this life.

John 8:31-32 31Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;32And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- 1) In the military you knew if you followed the SOP and something went wrong you were safe. Things might still go wrong but you had the full backing of command to ensure you that it would be taken care of and that was comforting. When you live by scripture that same security and comfort extends to your life. Things may go wrong but you have the full force of God to protect and comfort you.
- 2) Satan's lie is this, if I live according to the bible my life will be boring, I will not have any fun, people will think I am weak or weird. If you want

peace in your life live by biblical instruction. If you want joy in your life live by biblical instruction. If you want comfort in your life live by biblical instruction. If you do not, then do not.

- 3) Christianity is not for heaven, that's salvation, Christianity is for comfort and joy on earth. It is profitable to be a Christian on earth, even if there was no Heaven, which there is, it is profitable to be a Christian on earth and the way to do that is follow the SOP.

F. In emergency situations you cannot always reference the SOP.

2 Peter 3:17-18 17Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.18But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

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

Joshua 1:8 8This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

- 1) It is always best to open the book and follow the step-by-step procedure, however, often when

the enemy attacks it becomes an emergency and there is not time to reference the SOP. Therefore, it is important that we know as much of the SOP as possible to counter the surprise attack.

- 2) Knowing the references and verbatim is not as important as being well versed in biblical principles when you encounter an attack.
- 3) As with the military SOP if forced to operate from memory you can always and should as soon as possible reference the SOP and make corrections if necessary.

Chapter Notes

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2 GOD (COMMANDER IN CHIEF)

There were many times when in the military that you thought, I wish I could just talk to whoever is in charge. However, that was an impossibility, even if you could they probably would not have spoken to you. Imagine if you had a commander in chief that wanted nothing more than to have a relationship with you and hear everything you had to say as often as possible. That my friend is exactly the relationship that the one true God of all things wants with us. This lesson will explore who He is and how He wants that relationship to work.

Subject Points:

- God defines what love is, but he is much more.
- God never changes.
- God is patient with us.
- There is no bad in God, it is all good.
- God gets angry with us, but He does not hold grudges.
- God has always been and always will be, He never tires, He understands everything.
- Anything good that has ever happened in your life comes from God.
- God is the only way to live a happy life.
- God loves each of us.
- Once saved God is always with you.

A. God defines what love is, but he is also much more.

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

- 1) Society has a very distorted idea of the meaning of love. The world diminishes the meaning to a point where it is virtually meaningless. Even if you like something a little bit the world loosely attaches the word love.
- 2) 1 John 4:8 tells us “for God is love” it also tells us that you don’t know what love is unless you know God. Usually, the world associates love with an emotion and people fall in and out of it on a fleeting whim, but it is much more than that if “God is love”.

- 3) In that love obviously means more than how the world defines it, scripture tells us we cannot know love unless you know God, and God is love, we must look at what God did for those he loved to determine the meaning of love.
- 4) In that, God died for us because He loved us, it seems reasonable to determine that love for something or someone can be defined as something or someone you would die for.
- 5) At some point each military Veteran that is worth their salt said I am willing to die for America, therefore that is evidence of love. That is the same love that Jesus displayed for every person on the cross.

B. God never changes.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

- 1) This passage means exactly what it says. You never have to question does God still love me, is God still willing to direct my life, or is my salvation still secure with God.
- 2) our guard is always up concerning relationships because situations change, people will fail you, and nothing seems to ever stay the same.

However, the relationship, situation, and promises of God never change.

- 3) On that same note God's expectations for us never change either. To receive the comfort and peace of God we must live for him. God never changes and his promises never change, you can count on God.

C. God is patient with us.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

- 1) Have you ever failed someone and going forward felt like you let them down to the point that you are sure they will never want anything to do with you again? You never have to worry about that with God.
- 2) He made us some promises and He is not slack concerning those promises. He is "longsuffering to us-ward", meaning He is willing to put up with a lot of mistakes from us and still consider us His child. His goal is that we will always repent of what separates us from Him and return to Him.

D. There is no bad in God, it is all good.

1 John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

- 1) Now that we have set a standard for the meaning of love and understand that God loves us, could you ever imagine not being good to someone that loves you? We would never want anything but good for someone we love, God feels the same way towards us.
- 2) When you love someone and want only good for them, if you see their life going in the wrong direction it is often necessary for them to endure some difficulties to learn that they are on the wrong path and redirect them back to the correct path. When you love them, you do not like that they have to endure those difficulties, but you know it is for their own good and are happy they are on the way to correcting their path as they endure difficulty.
- 3) Have you ever heard the statement “if God loves, me why is God letting this happen to me”? He is letting it happen because He loves you. He is either correcting us or directing us away from something. Do not be the child that cries when he is not getting his way. Appreciate the fact that although you may not know why, you have a God that loves and directs you.

- 4) Even when it may seem that God is not caring for you, He is good, we may not see the big picture. God is always good.

E. God gets angry with us, but He does not hold grudges.

Psalms 30:5 For his anger [endureth but] a moment; in his favour [is] life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy [cometh] in the morning.

- 1) As we have already pointed out God Loves and cares for us, so it seems proper, like any parent, that He is angry with us when we do something out of line. He gets angry because like any parent it hurts Him when He cares so deeply for His child, and they do something against His will that is potentially harmful to them.
- 2) Also like any parent His anger does not overcome his love for us and will subside as we fall back into His will.
- 3) God's anger is the result of our disobedience. Our disobedience angers God because He loves us and wants best for us. When we fall back in line with His will His anger is overcome with His joy for us minding Him.

F. God has always been and always will be, He never tires, He understands everything.

Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, [that] the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? [there is] no searching of his understanding.

- 1) Is God there, can God hear me? God is, always has been, and always will be. God created and controls everything in the world. He is complete and he is everything.
- 2) In that He is and controls everything our individual lives are not that big of a task for God. Imagine every person that has ever lived throughout history, God was available to comfort, control, and direct each of those lives and every life to come after until the end of time. Our individual lives are just a drop in the bucket for the ability God has in his care bucket.

G. Anything good that has ever happened in your life comes from God.

James 1:17 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.

- 1) There are two controlling entities in the world God and Satan. Seems reasonable to deduct that

our enemy will not give you good things they all come from God.

- 2) At times it may seem that the world is giving you something good or that God is giving you something bad, but you must consider what the long-term effects of that good or bad thing is. Satan, the enemy is not above giving you a good thing if the long-term effect is bad. Likewise, God is not opposed to allowing something negative to occur if the long-term effect is good for you.
- 3) Remember we are in a war, not a battle. Our lives are as a vapor, an exceedingly small part of what is happening, we may not be able to understand or immediately see the end game, but God does, and we must have faith that His actions are always in the best interest of the cause.

H. God is the only way to live a happy life.

Psalms 18:30 [As for] God, his way [is] perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he [is] a buckler to all those that trust in him.

- 1) The God who created everything did not leave us hanging in how to survive in the world that He created. He prescribed a plan in how to not only survive but to also thrive in the world that He created, and the key is dependance on Him.

- 2) His way is tried and is proven in the examples of people's lives He has given us throughout scripture. This passage is given to us by a biblical character who lived it and proved it through his life.
- 3) Buckler - a small round shield held by a handle or worn on the forearm. This passage informs us that when we live God's way, He becomes our buckler, our shield, our protector against life's problems, protecting us from them.

I. Once saved God is always with you.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I [am] with thee: be not dismayed; for I [am] thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

- 1) Once we belong to God, He is always with us, He is always ours, He will strengthen us, He will help us, and He will uphold us. That is a wonderful promise from the most powerful being that created everything.
- 2) We may have been let down by others along the way, but God promises to always be with us, care for us and protect us if we only allow Him. We allow Him to care for us by living for and following His direction. Salvation is not about being good or bad but living for Him and following the direction He gives us.

- 3) There may be times when we feel as if God is not with us, on the promise of this passage we know He remains with us, when we feel He is separating from us, it is actually us separating from Him. In that case run back to Him as quickly as possible to prevent the enemy from sinking his claws deeper into us.

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3 JESUS (GROUND COMMANDER)

Ever think if that guy who is giving me orders had walked a day in my boots, he would see things differently? That is exactly what the God of everything did when he came to earth. God understands exactly what we as humans deal with firsthand, every emotion and every situation. He knows what it is like to give everything for a people with no appreciation while they enjoy the benefits of your sacrifice. He knows what it is like to have relationships estranged because of the situation you are in. This lesson will introduce you to Jesus and how He dealt with and set examples for us on how to deal with this life.

Subject Points:

- Jesus coming was prophesied long before He came for us.
- The only way to salvation is through Jesus.
- It is through Jesus that we can be with God.
- Jesus is God's son that He gave to pay our sin debt.
- Jesus is the cornerstone of the plan of salvation.
- Jesus is God in human form.
- Our path to God and salvation never changes.

A. Jesus coming was prophesied long before He came for us.

Isaiah 53:5 But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

- 1) From the beginning God knew and scripture prophesied that He was going to care for our sin debt.
- 2) This passage comes from the Old Testament, long before the time of Jesus but we can clearly see how God was preparing a path for our salvation even then.

B. The only way to salvation is through Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- 1) It is extremely clear, if you believe the bible, God's plan of eternal salvation is the only way to salvation.
- 2) In an effort to try to conform God to man, instead of conforming man to God, so can we feel good about living how we want; man suggests that there are many ways to Heaven and it simply isn't so according to the Word of God.

C. It is through Jesus that we can be with and speak with God.

1 Timothy 2:5 For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

- 1) Each of us if born again have access to the God who created and controls everything. We do not have to go through another person or ceremony.
- 2) Our relationship with the one true God is a personal relationship, in as much as any other relationship you have. He wants us to speak to Him for direction and He wants to speak with us to give us direction for our life, just like a good father should. He is our example for parenting.

D. Jesus is God's son that He gave to pay our sin debt.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- 1) Because of the sin nature that we were born into a payment had to be made to make us able to enter Heaven and live the life on earth that we were meant to live.
- 2) Freedom is not free. Much like the sacrifice each of you made for America's freedom, God sent Jesus, His son, to pay for our freedom from the sin debt that must be paid.
- 3) Veterans often say I could not possibly do anything to be forgiven for the things that I have done, and you are correct. The only way to be forgiven for the things that we have done is to accept the payment that Jesus made for us.

E. Jesus is the cornerstone of the plan of salvation and life.

Acts 4:11-12 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Proverbs 8:35-36 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD

- 1) Every comfort, joy, and peace in this life, just like a building being built, begins at one point, and if

that point is not proper all that is built on it will not be proper. That stone for our lives is Jesus.

- 2) Most people, especially veterans, have looked at many programs, plans, religions, and processes to find peace and have not found it. This is because it does not exist without Jesus. Obviously, those who have created plans agree as they continue to create new programs, plans, and Processes. If they had the answer, why would they feel the need to continue to create a new one?

F. Jesus is God in human form.

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.

- 1) Remember the difference between an officer who was prior enlisted and one who was not? It always seemed the prior enlisted guy was always a better leader because he had been where you are and understood the day to day of his men better. God through Jesus His human form has been where you are.
- 2) When we go to God with our concerns, we are not speaking to a commander who does not understand us, we are talking to the one true

God who created and controls everything and who has also walked in our shoes.

G. Our path to God and salvation never changes.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

- 1) People are continuously searching for, creating, and failing at finding new ways to obtain the peace that God offers. The critical error is that they are looking for ways for peace to conform to their desires and it simply does not exist.
- 2) They may find some temporary comfort in the things they try but never a lasting peace because the world and their situations are always changing.
- 3) Our God never changes and the peace, comfort, and joy that He offers never changes either, if we conform to Him.

Chapter Notes

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4 HOLY SPIRIT (INTELLEGENCE)

Losing comms and having to fend for yourself is a scary situation? You try to make the best decisions with the information you have, knowing that if you could just talk to someone you would have all the information you need to progress your operation perfectly. The Holy Spirit is God's communication, and He continually disseminates information to us on how to make decisions in our life. All we must do is listen and follow His direction. Imagine never having to question a decision you had to make because you had every piece of intel given to you by the commander of everything. This lesson will cover who the Holy Spirit is and what we must do to keep comms with Him 100% of the time.

Subject Points:

- The Holy spirit first came when Jesus left us.
- With living for Christ comes direction.
- The Holy Spirit looks out for us.
- The Holy Spirit provides us wisdom, understanding, counsel, and might.
- Following the Holy Spirits guidance makes for a happy life.
- The Holy Spirit is a gift from God for His children.
- The Holy Spirit literally lives in each Christian.

A. The Holy spirit first came when Jesus left us.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

- 1) While Jesus was on the earth His followers had Him to remind them, direct them, and comfort them. He knew that He must give that life for us on the cross to pay our sin debt, but He did not want to leave us alone without His direction, so God gave His followers the Holy Spirit.
- 2) That same Holy Spirit that He gave His followers on that day exists with you today as a Christian.

B. With living for Christ comes direction.

John 14:26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

- 1) Salvation is for the afterlife and just the beginning of Christianity. God gave us the Holy Spirit to direct and help us during our life as we live here on earth.
- 2) The Holy Spirit is much like your conscience with added features. Your conscience gives you direction, but that direction is based on what man has determined is right or wrong, so it changes, because man is in a continual downward spiral. God and the Holy spirit never change.
- 3) Therefore, what the Holy Spirit teaches you was right for the first followers of Christ and is still right for you today. When I say right, I do not speak in terms of good conduct or bad conduct but as in what is good for your life and what is bad for your life.
- 4) The Holy Spirit's interest in your life is for the comfort, joy, and peace of living as a Christian. Listening for and following His direction is what brings comfort, joy, and peace to our life. You can be saved and not have comfort, joy, and peace if you choose to do so, but why would you?

C. The Holy Spirit looks out for us.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

- 1) Have you ever heard the term “thank God for unanswered prayers”? God via the Holy Spirit did that for us. We cannot see the future and even if we could we do not have God’s foreknowledge in what we need when the future comes.
- 2) The Holy Spirit looks out for us in that regard continually going to God for us correcting our requests, if you will, conforming them to our best interests.

D. The Holy Spirit provides us wisdom, understanding, counsel, and might.

Isaiah 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

1 Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

- 1) In and of ourselves we do not possess the ability to measure spiritual things because we in and of ourselves are made up of simply flesh alone. The

Holy Spirit gives us additional intel as to the things occurring in the spiritual world and direction as to how we are to proceed based on that intel.

- 2) Scripture describes that intel as a wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge, that is motivated by the fear of the Lord. Not in the meaning of fear that you do it because you are afraid of God but that you follow it because you know it is the best way and you follow it because life is not as good when you don't follow the Lord.

E. Following the Holy Spirits guidance makes for a happy life.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

- 1) Just like any fruit you plant if you plant an apple tree and care for it, it is not going to produce an orange. If you plant and care for your life in accordance with the Holy Spirit its fruit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.
- 2) As Romans 15:13 explains joy and peace comes with believing the Holy Spirits direction holds the

answer for all your future life situations. So not only do you possess peace currently, but you can possess peace for the future because you know if you simply follow the Holy Spirits direction all will be well.

- 3) That is not to say troubles will not come but it is to say that you are not handling those troubles alone when they do come. You have the Holy Spirit to direct you in how to handle them and He has the foreknowledge to handle them best. The Holy Spirit truly is our secret weapon against Satan in this war.

F. The Holy Spirit is a gift from God for His children.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- 1) The Holy Spirit is only available to saved people. We have all experienced what life is like for lost people. Once saved you do not have to following the Holy Spirit, but that would be like taking your weapon into a battle but leaving your ammo back at camp, why would you do that.
- 2) God did not have to give us the Holy Spirit, it is truly a gift. He could have come to earth died for our sins securing our eternal salvation but left us to struggle along in this world on our own until death or His return, but He did not. He gave us

this gift of joy and peace in a world controlled by the enemy because He genuinely loves and cares about His children.

- 3) Just like salvation we had to accept His gift to reap the benefits we must accept the gift of the Holy Spirit's direction to reap the benefits. You can live life in misery secure in the fact you are going to Heaven someday, but why would you when you can accept the Holy Spirit's direction and have joy and peace?

G. The Holy Spirit literally lives in each Christian.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

- 1) Once we are saved the Holy Spirit enters each of us, whether we like it or not He is there to direct our lives and He is not going away. As Christians we have a choice, we can fight Him and have misery, or we can follow Him and have peace, the choice is yours.
- 2) Following the direction of the Holy Spirit is simply setting aside your desires and replacing them with the desires of the Holy Spirit. You do that by asking God to do it for you, listening for the Holy Spirit's direction, and then following that direction regardless of how humanly outlandish it may seem.

- 3) Eventually your desires will change and align with the Holy Spirits. It is then that your desires will be fulfilled. As the passage tells us, “ye are not your own”, we belong to God and it is through Him that happiness occurs.

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5 SATAN (THE ENEMY)

Enemy intel is crucial when at war. You want to know his strengths, how he attacks, when he attacks, what weapons he uses, and his favorite tactics. You should know why he is fighting and what goal he is trying to achieve. If we had that information, we could be completely prepared for anything he brought to the battlefield. God through scripture gives us this information and via the Holy Spirit directs us in how to use the information. This lesson will cover the enemy and what we need to know to counter his attacks.

Subject Points:

- Satan is a fierce enemy.
- Satan can take on many forms.
- Satan is a master liar.
- When Satan tempts you back to his side there is a counter.
- Satan's goal is to make you as miserable as he is.
- Satan is a subtle enemy.
- The best defense is to never engage him and stay armed with God.
- In the end we win.

A. Satan is a fierce enemy.

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

- 1) Now that you are a Christian whether you want one or not you have an enemy. The second you were saved you enlisted in God's army and therefore take on God's enemy.
- 2) Because we are in God's army our victory is secure and the only way the enemy can affect us is to keep us out of the fight. The only way he can take us out of the fight is to separate us from God.
- 3) In that we are already in God's army, and he cannot affect our eternal victory all he can do is essentially capture us and affect our life while here on earth. He does that by attempting to

catch us off guard and attacking through some aspect of our life that we have left unguarded. Therefore, as the passage says we must be sober and vigilant always having our head on a swivel looking for how he tries to devour us and those we are responsible for.

B. Satan can take on many forms.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

- 1) Satan was once an angel who was eventually cast from Heaven. Although he never fooled God, he is well versed in the tactic of appearing to be something he is not to trick us into believing something is safe when it is not.
- 2) Evidence of this tactic is this, in most every instance that Satan or evil is presented, whether it be movies, books, or television it is presented with the appearance of evil so that when we see something beautiful like Eve's fruit in the garden of Eden or David's Bathsheba on the roof top it is desirable, and we do not fear it because it does not look evil.
- 3) Today's Eve's fruit comes in many different forms that sound and look just as reasonable for us to partake in, but they are also equally dangerous. For example, everyone wants equal rights for everyone, on its face it is a desirable thing, however, when Satan camouflages the sin

of homosexuality in something we all desire like equal rights he is not promoting equal rights he is promoting the sin of homosexuality. We must be on the lookout for Satan's advances as he often uses these same tactics today because they work so well.

C. Satan is a master liar.

John 8:44 Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

- 1) Satan created lying and he is a master at it. If he can cause you to think something is correct it is the first step in causing us to act on something that is incorrect.
- 2) Believing a lie is the first step of falling for an ambush on the physical battlefield and it is no different in this spiritual war. If Satan can cause you to believe that a social drink with friends is harmless, he has set the trap for the tactic of alcoholism ruining your family. If we know that the possibility exists why believe his lie.
- 3) Many Christians have fallen due to Satan's ability to lie the gullibility of believing his lies. Be vigilant in protecting yourself and your family from his lie tactic.

D. When Satan tempts you back to his side there is a counter.

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

- 1) Satan is on a timeline; he knows the bible and he knows his days are numbered so he will not waste his time on an effort that is fruitless. For that reason, when he tempts you if you submit yourself to God by asking him to help you with Satan's temptation and you resist Satan's temptations, he will flee from you.
- 2) That is not to say that he will not attempt the same temptation again at some future point if he thinks it may work then. He will certainly tempt you with other temptations also to find a weak point. Follow the same direction and scripture promises he will flee from you.
- 3) Keep in mind his temptations are not meant to get you to simply perform bad acts he is attempting to separate you from God because he knows if he can separate you from God he has separated you from your strength which allows him to easily attack with other weapons also.

E. **Satan's goal is to make you as miserable as he is.**

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

- 1) "Misery loves company", this should be Satan's slogan. He knows all he has is misery. He also knows it all ends in misery for him. Satan wants to bring as many as he can with him into eternal misery. For those who are saved he knows eternal misery is not a possibility, but he can steal away the joy available to them while on earth and prevent them from reaching others destined for eternal misery with Satan.
- 2) When you consider all the misery in the world and recognize that Satan is behind it all, it is easy to understand this passage when it says "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy:" he wants nothing more than to do this to as many as he can.

F. **Satan is a subtle enemy.**

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

- 1) Scripture tells us that Satan is subtle and has blinded the world to the things that he does to try and trick them. He must be subtle and blind people for they would never fall for his tricks knowing the outcome is misery.
- 2) We must keep our heads on a swivel if not we are certain to be fooled and fall into one of Satan's many and ever advancing traps. If Satan's trickery was able to fool a third of the angels and Adam and Eve who were in the presence of God, we certainly must be on guard for his traps.

G. The best defense is to never engage him and stay armed with God.

Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Matthew 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

- 1) "Neither give place to the devil." This is indeed the most important aspect of defending ourselves against Satan. Be on the lookout for ways he will try to sneak into our lives and do not give him the opportunity. To not give him place we must maintain a close relationship with the Holy Spirit so he can be our point man looking for

dangerous situations and warning us as we walk through life.

- 2) You would never go in to battle willingly without the best equipment you could have, and it is the same when doing battle with Satan. God provides us everything we need to live a happy Christian life on this earth, we must simply utilize them. The Holy Spirit's direction is a crucial part of the armor God provides us in addition to scripture, prayer, and the fellowship of brothers in Christ.
- 3) Jesus said "Get thee behind me, Satan" to Peter when Peter was being tempted by Satan. If that strategy was good enough for Jesus it is certainly good enough for us. I personally follow Jesus's example and recommend you also physically tell Satan to "get the behind me" when you recognize his temptation.

H. In the end we win.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

- 1) Look Satan knows, God knows, and you now know who wins and how this war ends, why not choose to be active on the winning side now that we know.

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6 GOD & SATAN (THE WAR)

Have you ever asked or heard asked, the question, what are we fighting for? This is the essence of war and unfortunately during battle we often lose sight of the answer to that question. Know this, we are at war and have been since the beginning of time. The only difference in this war and the physical wars that we have fought is that this war is spiritual, the ramifications of this war are eternal. We will never become allies with our enemy, and the how it ends has already been determined. This lesson will lay out what we are fighting for, why we are fighting for it, and how it all ends.

Subject Points:

- Satan was an angel.
- Each side has a purpose.
- Satan gages victory on how many he takes to Hell with him.
- How God gages victory.
- How victory will occur.

A. Satan was an angel.

Isaiah 14:12-14 12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

- 1) Have you ever been around someone who simply must be the center of attention? No matter what the subject they have done it more and are better at it than anyone else. It seems that they are always attempting to get others to recognize their superiority. That is Satan.
- 2) Satan was once an angel. Scripture tells us Satan was the most beautiful angel. Scripture also tells us that Satan wanted to exalt his throne above God.

- 3) Because Satan desired to take over God destined him to Hell.

B. Each side has a purpose.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

- 1) In that Satan will not ascend above God and is destined for Hell all that he influences is also destined for the same hell at the hand of Satan's stealing, killing, and destroying during their life.
- 2) God's purpose on the other hand is to give life more abundantly while on earth and then everlasting life in Heaven for those who chose to follow Him.
- 3) It is especially important to note that this passage is not just speaking of what happens after death, it is speaking of how we get to live this life. Do we live this life with destruction or more abundantly? Even as a saved person we are destined to live a life of destruction if we do not follow God's direction on how to live an abundant life in Christ.

C. Satan gages victory on how many he takes to Hell with him.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

- 1) Victory is God's but being the narcissist that Satan is his only path to some victory is taking some people with him, so that is what he does.
- 2) The only people who he can take with him are those who do not accept Jesus as savior. However, part of his plan to keep people from accepting Jesus as savior is to sideline the only people who know about and can tell people about Jesus being the savior.
- 3) It is important to know that the people listed in Revelation 21:8 are those who still carry those sins themselves. Saved people who have performed those acts have been forgiven. Remember the only other victory Satan can have is the misery he can put a child of God through if they do not live for Christ while on the earth.

D. How God gages victory.

John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life:

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

- 1) God's victory in the portion of the war taking place on earth is simply gaged on how many lost people are presented with the gospel and saved and how his children live for Him so they can present the gospel to the lost properly and live an abundant life.

E. How victory will occur.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

- 1) In the end God will cast Satan and the lost into Hell, wipe our tears caused by this world, and allow us entry into Heaven.

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7 CHARACTERS OF WAR (ID THE ENEMY)

Identifying the enemy can be tough and it is no different in this war. There are, as in physical war, those with different levels of commitment, victims, refugees, prisoners of war, and spies. This lesson will cover each of these groups and give instruction on how best to be a faithful soldier for Christ.

Subject Points:

- Spiritual Combatants have different levels of commitment.
- There is only one enemy in this war.
- Victims are not the enemy.
- Refugees are not the enemy.
- The enemy takes prisoners of war.
- The enemy deploys spies.

A. Spiritual Combatants have different levels of commitment.

Revelation 3:15-16 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Matthew 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

- 1) “lukewarm” describes a Christian that is not completely committed to the cause of Christ. He will often serve God in the physical when it is convenient however when it is not convenient, he is missing in inaction. These have seen the light and know the truth but still collaborate with the enemy when it is convenient for them.
- 2) “Cold” refers to one who may be saved but is squarely on the side of the opposition, which makes him the opposition however he is a brother and is able to get in the fight if willing.

- 3) “He that is not with me is against me” is the essence of this war equation. It is God’s desire for our service that we are with Him and in the fight. The enemy will give you every reason you can imagine thinking it is acceptable to keep one foot in God’s army and the other in the world, but it is never acceptable and God details that with this statement.
- 4) “Hot” God requires us to be “hot” in the fight at all times for two reasons. One, we have a mission to carry out and two, if we are not “hot” in the fight we become complacent, and the enemy is eager and waiting for the opportunity to pounce on unprepared soldiers. Like in the physical war we must be mission minded, stay in the fight, and always keep our head on a swivel for the enemy’s attacks.

B. There is only one enemy in this war.

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

- 1) Our enemy although not a threat to God is a threat to us without God and to think that we are any match for him alone is simply a tactical mistake that many boasts of but always fail at in the end.
- 2) God tells us that Satan, our enemy, is seeking to devour us. Many of us know and have lived the

enemy's attempts at devouring us through the consequences of war. It is terribly sad to survive war abroad to be devoured at home by an enemy much more powerful than any we have met on the battlefield. For that reason, it is imperative that we are sober and vigilant in our efforts to deny the enemy opportunity to devour us and our families through us.

- 3) Before you were saved the enemy had you and was not concerned now that you have enlisted in God's army you are his sworn enemy, and he will make every effort to derail you. Your war with Satan is not over because you enlisted, it has just begun. You are no longer meaningless and neutral because you have chosen a side.

C. Victims are not the enemy.

Mathew 5:44-47 44But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

- 1) Much too often Christians view those who seem actively against the cause of Christ as the enemy

and because we treat them as the enemy, they perceive us as the enemy. I ask you, if our mission is to reach everyone including them with the gospel, who profits from us making them the enemy?

- 2) It is our duty to apply Mathew 5:44-47 not only to people we have personal conflict with but also to those who are traditionally in opposition to church and the scripture, homosexuals, drunkards, abortionist, addicts, pedophiles, Prostitutes, thieves, and everyone else, for how do we reach them with the gospel if the enemy has fooled us into believing they are the enemy and we treat them accordingly.
- 3) These folks are victims of this war and but for God's grace each of us would be in the same situation they find themselves in, and many of us have been. Properly define the enemy and attack him in the only way we can by carrying out the mission God gave us, be kind and give them the gospel.
- 4) This is not to say we are to condone the behavior but to love them and give them the gospel despite the behavior. It is not our mission to correct or even battle against the behavior. It is our mission to give them the gospel and disciple them after they do. The church has been battling the behavior and neglecting our mission for centuries to no avail because it is not our job.

D. Refugees are not the enemy.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

- 1) Imagine the poor citizen who is simply trying to feed his family, unconcerned with the politics of his nation because it has not yet affected his way of life and most importantly his ability to feed the family. His life is simple, then one day the battle reaches his home, and he is forced into the fight. Often the side he takes is dependent on the best way to continue to simply feed his family and he is forced to shift loyalty to continue to do so.
- 2) When we as warriors in the heat of the battle see this shifting loyalty, it is easy to view them as the enemy, the fact is they are just trying to get by and know nothing of the cause and effect of the war outside of providing for their families.
- 3) Every war has refugees. Christians often complain in the same way physical warriors do concerning a refugee's indifference and seemingly shifting loyalties. However, their indifference and shifting loyalty stems from not understanding the war because it has not affected them yet. The enemy is satisfied with leaving them as they are because they are not in the fight and if they remain that way, they will

eventually be his in eternity and we have yet to give them the gospel so they can understand the war and become loyal to our side. It is our mission to tell them. It is a tactic of the enemy causing us to view refugees as the enemy because we then cannot reach them with the gospel.

E. The enemy takes prisoners of war.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 24Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 25And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 26I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

- 1) Prisoners of war have available to them the weapons and knowledge of how to prosecute the war, however, the enemy has them captive and they are not useful to the mission. They are however useful to the enemy as a propaganda weapon. The enemy will often parade them in public as a deterrent to the poor refugees, to bolster the vigor of the victims as they unwittingly fight for him and deplete the moral of his enemy.

- 2) The tactic he uses to capture prisoners of war is the same as it has always been, but he continues to use it because it continues to work. It begins with the fact that we are a soul, we are not the body that our soul possesses. When born the body that our soul possesses has a controlling interest. It tells us what we desire, when we are hungry, thirsty, tired and sees something we like. Once we are saved, we receive a second controlling interest, The Holy Spirit. Because we (the soul) are still occupying the body the flesh controlling interest does not go away, we just have two controlling interests the flesh and The Holy Spirit. This then becomes our dilemma. Do we allow the old controlling interest (the body) to control the soul, or do we allow the new controlling interest (The Holy Spirit) to control the soul?
- 3) It is the enemy's goal for you to allow the body to control you because in doing so although you are saved you remain his prisoner, out of the fight, and allowing him to parade you in public as a propaganda weapon.
- 4) The temptation for the soul to follow the body is great, as it is all the soul has ever known, and its satisfaction is immediate although the consequences everlasting. You can count on new temptations and the old being greatly exacerbated. We should not expect anything

else for we are at war and the enemy is no match for us alone.

- 5) Giving into the temptations of the controlling interest of the body makes you a prisoner of this war and as you know that is much worse than simply being a poor refugee because now you are in the enemy's hands.

- 6) The good news is this. If we allow The Holy Spirits to have the controlling interest for our soul the temptations of the body never go away but will eventually and continually decrease because the enemy is not going to waste his limited time on a lost cause. That is not to say at times he will not throw in some smoke and try to confuse you. We must keep our head on a swivel but allowing The Holy Spirit to have control means you can see the enemy's smoke for what it is. If you ever find yourself a prisoner of war simply shift controlling interest back to The Holy Spirit.

F. The enemy deploys spies.

2 Thessalonians 3:14&15 14And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. 15Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

- 1) Often the enemy will deploy prisoners of war, victims of war, and the poor refugee into the camp to deter the mission and to tempt the soul of the faithful soldier. Be cautious of these, guard your soul, stay close to Holy Spirit, and allow Him to guide you.

- 2) As 2 Thessalonians 3:14&15 directs us, mark them, have no company with them, do not count him an enemy but a fallen brother who requires help. However not at the consequence of your mission.

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8 SALVATION (ENLISTMENT)

Immediately upon enlistment in the military certain benefits became available to you and you became a part of the organization for the rest of your life. In return you were expected to represent the military and your country favorably and carry out the missions assigned you effectively. The initial salvation experience is much like your enlistment. On the day that you accepted Christ you became a part of something for eternity. Your salvation brings with it benefits. However also like your enlistment things are expected of you to enjoy those benefits. This lesson will cover salvation and baptism.

Subject Points:

- We can do nothing to receive salvation.
- Salvation requires confession and belief.
- Everyone will not go to Heaven.
- Jesus is the only way to Heaven.
- Salvation requires conviction.
- You are no longer a slave.
- Baptism is not how you get saved.
- Baptism should occur and only for saved people.

A. We can do nothing to receive salvation.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:

Romans 10:9 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.

- 1) We can be the best person that ever lived but that does not secure our home in Heaven. As Titus 3:5 tells us, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us". We must understand that it is only because He wants to save us that we are saved and given a home in heaven.

- 2) After conviction, salvation requires two parts, confessions to God and belief in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. These are the only requirements to become a child of God. The enemy will present all order of methods to salvation including those that are simply unattainable to prevent you from receiving salvation. Remember as we have already covered, he is a master liar.

B. Everyone will not go to Heaven.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

- 1) Salvation comes from confession and belief that means that both are required for salvation. Unfortunately, many will have confessed with their mouth that they believe but few honestly believe with their heart that God raised Him from the dead and that also is a requirement.
- 2) It is also an unfortunate fact that many Churches condone what is referred to as easy believism, having unknowing lost people repeat some

words of confession and they forget about believing. This will cause many to be in the group described in Matthew 7:21. Please, please, please do not move forward if this is you. Search the scriptures and believe.

- 3) There is no other way to salvation but through this option regardless of what anyone or any doctrine may tell you.

C. Salvation requires conviction.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

- 1) Immediately before your confessing and believing do you recall something nagging at you concerning the condition of your soul? If you do not there was no conviction (draw him) and it is a requirement as a precursor to salvation.
- 2) Salvation is not simply a decision that you make one day to become saved. However, if the desire exists to change your life and live for God, God will, and has certainly satisfied that desire and that desire is conviction.

D. You are no longer a slave.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

- 1) Prior to your salvation you were a slave to your body in that you had no other controlling interest to turn to. Now that you have the option of The Holy Spirit as a controlling interest you are no longer a slave to the body.
- 2) Heaven is the ultimate reward that comes with salvation, however, being led by The Holy Spirit is the immediate reward that comes with salvation and even if there was no Heaven being led by The Holy Spirit in this life alone is worth it.

E. Baptism is not how you get saved.

1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

- 1) Baptism is like putting on your uniform after you enlisted. It outwardly identifies you as a member of the group based on a decision that you made. Baptism as 1 Peter 3:21 tells us has no bearing on salvation and properly can only be made by a conscious decision by one who has made a personal choice to confess and believe on Jesus for salvation.

F. Baptism should occur and only for saved people.

Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

- 1) Baptism as the spiritual putting on the uniform is something you should do after you are saved as Acts 10:47 prescribes. We proudly wore our uniforms to identify who we belonged to during military service and if we truly enlisted in God's service, we should do the same for the same reason.

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9 A DISCIPLE (ACTIVE DUTY)

In the military a part of everyone's job from an E-1 and up was to train the guy coming behind them so, if need be, they could step up and do your job. Being a disciple, and more so the act of discipling is just that, training those that come behind us. To be a good spiritual war fighter requires we continue to become a better leader and in doing so train the next guy to continue the fight when we are gone. Our side has not done a particularly good job of this in the past and Christianity can learn lessons from veterans on this topic as they can with other topics. This lesson will reiterate the lessons we know from our military experience and provide insight into how they convert to this spiritual war.

Subject Notes:

- The sweet spot of Christianity comes with being a disciple.
- You will fail but He is there.
- Being a disciple is serving God.
- Proving your faith.
- A disciple's marching orders.

A. The sweet spot of Christianity comes with being a disciple.

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- 1) During our military service, if we had stopped after enlistment and did nothing else, we would not have been successful. We would have remained a boot our entire enlistment.
- 2) To improve and become useful to the team we had to be trained and that training began with basic training much like this course. Basic gave you the basic skills and knowledge needed to make you ready to be a productive member of the team. Like basic training in the military this is just the beginning and to perform our duty you will always continue to grow and learn. This is called discipleship.
- 3) In the military there were three main ways that you grew, following direction, following

Standard Operating Procedures, and following the lessons passed on to you by others. Christian discipleship works the same way in that the Holy Spirit is there to give you direction, the bible is our SOP, and our brothers and sisters in Christ will pass on their knowledge.

- 4) We all know that the sweet spot in military life was when we followed direction. It seemed if we all followed direction all things seemed to work well for all of us and that made it good for us individually. If there was a complication, because we all worked as a team toward one mission, we normally overcame any obstacle and we quickly got back to operating as a well-oiled machine carrying out the mission.
- 5) The sweet spot of Christianity is the same. The enemy will create obstacles but when we follow direction, know the SOP, and depend on our teammates we find the sweet spot of life and all those obstacles will be overcome. Part of the sweet spot of the military was knowing you were never alone, and this opportunity exists in this life as well if we all simply do our job as disciples.

B. You will fail but He is there.

1 John 2:3-6 3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected:

hereby know we that we are in him.⁶ He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

- 1) A good soldier is not marked by his failures he is marked by his perseverance. As explained earlier, because we live in the flesh, we have a constant enemy so we should expect constant enemy activity through temptation to act contrary to God. Being tempted by the enemy is not sin, we will all be tempted, acting on the temptation is the sin.
- 2) Verse five tells us “But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected”. This passage does not say when we fail it is over, it says when we keep His word the love of God is perfected. Part of keeping God’s word is doing what we are supposed to do when we do fail. We only fail when we fail to keep God’s word continually not once. If you fail once correct course and move forward.
- 3) There are no dishonorable discharges in Gods Army just dishonorable service members. He never discharges, you are either an honorable service member or a dishonorable one. By the Holy Spirits direction, the bible’s instruction, and discipleship of other Christians only you will know the difference.

C. Being a disciple is serving God.

John 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will [my] Father honour.

- 1) During your service you will never have to wonder where God is. Times may become trying but by His promise we see He is always there if we are serving Him. Contrarily if we are not serving Him, He may not be there, but He is always waiting for our return to serve Him and that is all we must do to correct course.
- 2) As veterans we understand that honor does not mean the recognition of others it is a way of life that may never be recognized by anyone but ourselves. Our lives Serving God, as He directs, is the path to honor. As the passage also indicates our honorable living will be recognized by the only entity that matters, the God of everything.

D. Proving your faith.

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

- 1) In training we can hear instruction every day on a particular weapons system and how it works in the field but until we see it work in the field it's not works its simply faith that it will work.

- 2) The only way that we can get to the point of having faith is to trust the weapon enough to put it into action so it can prove itself to us. If we never give it enough trust to get to the point of testing, we will never be able to prove our faith in it. The purpose of this training is to help you build enough trust to put your new way of life to the test so you may have faith in it.
- 3) As Christians we can talk about faith all we want but it is the true soldier of Christ who proves his faith by trusting in God and putting his faith in God to works.

E. A disciple's marching orders.

Mathew 28:18-20 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

- 1) God has all power, and He is with you always. You will face battles but be assured that the God who has power over everything, including the enemy, is with you.

- 2) Go Unto all nations. Go where the Holy Spirit leads you to go. Compare Holy Spirit direction with scripture but go as He directs. He does not say stay and wait for them as they will rarely come to you.
- 3) Teach others what the Lord has commanded us to teach. Teach the lost people the gospel, teach newly converted the basics training of Christ, while ever learning yourself so you may continue to teach.

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10 THE LOCAL CHURCH (YOUR UNIT)

The purpose of your team in the military whether called a unit, division, platoon, or something else was formed to provide support as you carried out the same mission as a group. The church serves the same function. God gave us each an independent church body for support as we battle the enemy in the area assigned to us. This lesson will detail the purpose of the church for you and other church members. We will discuss others responsibility to you and your responsibility to other church members as we progress this war against Satan.

Subject Points:

- Jesus founded the church.
- God gave us the responsibility of caring for the church.
- History is already written on the success of the church.
- Being at and a part of church is a command.
- We are the church and God holds the church in high regard.

A. Jesus founded the church.

Ephesians 2:20-22 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];

- 1) God wanted to provide us with every tool possible to ensure our comfort and success in this life. Part of that success is having a group of like-minded individuals to depend on as we progress the mission of the great commission, so God gave us the church.
- 2) To ensure that the church would be available to us through the generations of the world God gave us guidelines as to how the church would operate. Those guidelines are detailed in scripture. As the text tells us God founded the church on the principles given to and taught by the apostles and prophets.

B. God gave us the responsibility of caring for the church.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

- 1) Much like we were responsible for caring for those in our military unit God gave each of us the responsibility for looking after and caring for those in our church.
- 2) Heed means to pay attention to. As the text pertains to the church, Acts 20:28 gives us direction to take care of ourselves so that we may be used of the church and to take care of the “flock”, others in the church, so they may take care of us. He gives us this directive by way of the Holy Ghost making us overseers to ensure the church is fed and cared for.
- 3) He caps the mandate by telling us how serious the care of the church is, in that God purchased it with His own blood.

C. History is already written on the success of the church.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

- 1) In context God is not telling us that He built the church on Peter. This is God speaking to Peter and referring to Himself. God is the rock that the church is built on.
- 2) Although we are responsible for the day-to-day care of the church its ultimate outcome has already been written. The question is, do we want to be a part of its ultimate success or one of the struggles it faces on the way to its ultimate success?

D. Being at and a part of church is a command.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Romans 12:5 So we, [being] many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

- 1) It would have never been beneficial for a team member to exclude himself from the team in the military nor is it beneficial to exclude oneself from the church for many of the same reasons.

God knows this and therefore extended the directive not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

- 2) Imagine trying to perform a mission alone that requires a team, no supply lines, no communication, no back up. It is ridiculous and seemingly arrogant to even attempt it especially against a directive and when all the resources are so readily available. This is exactly what is occurring when you hear people say they are saved but for any reason do not attend church.
- 3) On another note, church is not just for your benefit. God has given you experiences and skills that were meant to add to the church team and if we choose not to be an active member of the church, we deprive our team mates the benefit of our experience and skill.

E. We are the church and God holds the church in high regard.

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which [temple] ye are.

- 1) The church is not a building, the church is the body of believers who meet at the building or any other place. As a born-again person you are part of the body of the church, God indwells you through the Holy Spirit.

- 2) When we were in the military, we were property of the government, to that extent, the government had dominion over us. The government valued us and told us what we could do with our bodies because they wanted to ensure that we did not damage their property, we have all heard of article 15 sunburns.

- 3) As we learned in previous points, God holds the church in extremely high regard and expects us not to defile His temple, that being our bodies. You see once we are saved, we belong to God, and He expects us to care for His property much like the military. He has a mission for us and just like the sunburn might have prevented us from carrying out the military's mission, damage to our ability to witness to others will limit our ability to carry out God's mission for us.

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11 YOUR PLACE IN THE CHURCH

(MOS)

Although everyone had collateral duties in the military each of us had a specialty, MOS or rating. Sometimes we got to choose and sometimes it was based on the needs of the military. God has given each of us specific gifts that if capitalized on will be exactly what we want to do. Because they are gifts from God, they are exactly the right fit for each of us and if acted upon, unlike the military it will be perfect for us. Much like the military it takes committed service regardless of specialty to make it all work. This lesson will cover the different positions, gifts, and jobs in the church and help you determine where it is God wants you to serve.

Subject Points:

- The Pastor and deacons hold a specific office in the church.
- God holds the pastor accountable for you.
- We are required to set an example for junior church members.
- Each of us have a position to fill in the church.
- Our unified mission is to give them the gospel.

A. The Pastor and deacons hold a specific office in the church.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 1 This [is] a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.² A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;³ Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;⁴ One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;⁵ (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)⁶ Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.⁷ Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- 1) Scripture tells us that men seeking the office of both pastor and deacon, the only two offices given in scripture, must meet the prerequisites laid out in this passage. These positions are not

positioning of leadership, but they are positions of service through leadership.

- 2) God set this standard so they could counsel and be an example to those they serve. It would not work very well if someone that struggled with control of their family tried to counsel you on how to control your family, would it.
- 3) Scripture requires that we all preach the gospel, however, because the position of pastor has such other burdens and scripture tells us they are literally responsible for and will answer for the souls of those they lead it is a called by God position.

B. God holds the pastor accountable for you.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that [is] unprofitable for you.

- 1) When you were in the military those senior to you who were responsible for you tended to do a better job and you profited more from their direction when you complied with their direction, it is the same in the church. Know this pastors' direction will most likely always be in contradiction to what the flesh desires, however their direction is from scripture and the Holy

Spirit and speaks to the eternal soul not the temporary flesh.

- 2) Pastors will do a better job for you if you obey their direction, and they see you prosper in the Lord because of it. Their direction is for the betterment of the entire unit and the pastor needs good leaders to help him. You can be that leader if you follow his direction.
- 3) God put men in place to guard our souls and help us avoid the pitfalls of life but to enjoy the benefit of this blessing from God we must adhere to their direction.

C. We are required to set an example for junior church members.

1 Peter 5:3 Neither as being lords over [God's] heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

- 1) Set the standard for those spiritually junior to you. Most Christians have never been in the military and even of those that have even fewer have served in the capacity of war, like the one that we are in now with Satan. Therefore, although you may have been enlisted in God's army less time than others your mindset and understanding of war if you follow direction may cause you to be more spiritually senior to others saved longer.

- 2) Regardless of seniority your understanding of war brings to the church an attribute especially useful and gives you opportunity to be an example to the flock concerning vigilance and preparedness in war time. Generally, churches as well as society lacks the sense of urgency required and that you are experienced in to progress a war effort, in terms of reaching our lost brothers laying on the enemy's battlefield.
- 3) It is equally important for Christian veterans to follow the examples of those who are more experienced in areas that we are not. Just like in the military everyone had a specialty, in the church depend on each other for the specialty gifts that God has given each of us.

D. Each of us have a position to fill in the church.

Ephesians 4:11-16 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ:16 From whom the whole

body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

- 1) As the passage tells us God gave each of us a specialty to assist the church unit in carrying out its mission. As you know, your unit is only as strong as its weakest link. Do not be the weak link in your unit. Determine the talent God has given you so that you can start contributing to the church unit.
- 2) This point is crucial in determining your specialty, do not let the enemy deter you from your specialty if God has called you to do it. It is logical that if God has called you to do something so you can be an asset to the church unit, the enemy will attempt to deter you from strengthening the church. The enemies most common tactic, although not the only one, is to attempt to make you doubt yourself. He will cause you to believe you are not experienced enough, old enough, knowledgeable enough, and he is correct, you are not. However, if God is directing you to do something you are not doing it alone, you are simply the vessel God is using to do it.
- 3) You have a position to fill in the church, each of us do, if we do not fill our position the team

suffers. Determine your specialty and get to work doing it for the sake of the church unit. Do not be deterred!

E. Our unified mission is to give them the gospel.

Matthew 28:18-20 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

- 1) Just as in physical war be mindful and act with the understanding that the church units' mission is not to progress your individual specialty mission, your specialty is for the purpose of progressing the church units' overall mission. There will be times, and you should count them an honor, to assist in another's specialty to progress the unit mission.
- 2) Do not fall into trap of believing that success is based on how many people make a profession of faith, that is not your mission, that is the Holy Spirits mission. Your mission is to give them the gospel and disciple those who accept it. You will have completed your mission 100% of the time if you tell everyone the Holy Spirit directs you to about Jesus even if you never experience a salvation.

- 3) A good way to gauge the progression of your mission is if you from time to time face some persecution because of the actions of your mission. If you are doing your job expect persecution. Do not do things to create persecution because that will only hinder the mission, simply follow the Holy Spirits direction, and face the persecution as it comes, but expect it, we are at war. If we properly handle persecution, we can enjoy it because by it we know we are a threat to the enemy, however, we have a not-so-secret weapon that handles the persecution for us 100% of the time, if we let Him and you should always let Him! **“I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world.”**

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12 PRAYER (COMMUNICATIONS)

In the Holy Spirit lesson, we discussed how God speaks to us. This section will discuss how we speak to God. In the military if we wanted something or had a need we would have to fill out a request and process it through many different levels of approval before it got to the person who made the final decision. Prayer is the way we make requests to God, but it is a direct line, no chain of command. God wants us to speak to Him. This lesson will detail how to speak to God, when to speak to God, what to talk to God about. We will also look at what kind of response to expect from God.

Subject Points:

- Communication with God is key for a quiet and peaceful life.
- Talk to God about everything, big or small.
- How to get everything you want from God.
- Be right with God and be amazed.

A. Communication with God is key for a quiet and peaceful life.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

- 1) Left to our own devices, as many of us know, we will struggle through life making mistakes and hopefully learning from them, but often not. This happens because when trying to make decisions ourselves we leave ourselves open to the enemy who is attempting at every turn to derail us.
- 2) As the passage tells us all men regardless of position “may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” if we talk with God. It is not the act of talking to God that allows us to experience a quiet peaceable life, but it is the

information we get from God that allows the life, if of course we apply the information to our lives.

- 3) As a saved person we can consult with the God that created and controls everything before we make every decision in our lives. Because He loves us, He wants us to consult and apply His direction to our lives so we may have a “quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”.

B. Talk to God about everything, big or small.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

- 1) Literally feel free to, and you should, consult God with every action or inaction in your life. The best way to do this is to be in a constant state of prayer with God.
- 2) Speaking with God requires no formality or ceremony. He is simply your father who is always with you for consultation concerning every aspect of your life. Open a discussion with Him each morning and keep talking until you tell Him good night before you go to sleep at night.
- 3) Just as we want to be continuously available for direction to our children God wants to be there for us. Unfortunately like our children if we do

not go to our Heavenly Father for advice, we will make more mistakes than we must.

C. How to get everything you want from 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.

- 1) Contrary to what some may tell you God is not a magic genie there to give you all the material things you desire. As the passage indicates there are some prerequisites for getting everything you want from God, the passage tells us, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you”. Before you abide in Him and His words abide in you, your desires will be of material things and just like any good parent He is not going to give you everything you want, although the promise holds true.
- 2) Once you meet the prerequisite of abiding in God and His words are abiding in you your desires will truly and literally change. The things that you earnestly desired previously will be replaced by things that align with what God wants you to have. Some of those things may be material, some may even be some of the things you previously desired, but the desire is now fueled by abiding in God and not simply the flesh.
- 3) Once your desires and God’s desires are aligned why wouldn’t God give you anything that you ask

for? If you are truly abiding in God, the fuel for your desires will have changed. It is no longer that you want something to satisfy your desire, but you want to satisfy Gods desires therefor you are aligned with Him. It is difficult for our human minds to comprehend but there is more joy for us in aligning desires with God than we would have ever gotten if God had just given us physical things.

D. We are not praying alone.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

- 1) The Holy Spirit that indwells us once we are saved is part of our prayer process helping us direct our requests.

- 2) Imagine it this way, if you needed to go to court you obviously want the judge to rule in your favor however you do not know the court rules and you do not know the judge and you do not know how best to plead your case, so you hire a lawyer who does know how to assist you. Keep in mind if the lawyer is worth anything he is going to be honest with you and tell you if your desired ruling is not possible or not in your best interest. Now, when you go before the judge although you may speak the lawyer directs what you say and leads the pleading to ensure the best

outcome for you. It may not be what you initially desired, but it is what is in your best interest when you go before the judge. The Holy Spirit does the same thing for us in our prayer life. We do not always know what is best for our lives, so God gave us the Holy Spirit to give guidance, help us understand what to ask for, when to ask for it, and what to expect.

- 3) Just like with your lawyer if you do not align with the efforts of the Holy Spirit when you go before God you will not have the best outcome.

E. Be right with God and be amazed.

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

- 1) It is impossible for our human minds to understand the greatness of God and how he cares for us.
- 2) When we are on the front end of a situation often, we simply cannot see a way through it. However, when we follow the Holy Spirit's direction as we look back on a situation and how God handled the situation it will simply amaze you.
- 3) As the passage says, "which thou knowest not" is exactly what happens because the things God will do is simply unimaginable to our minds.

Usually, He moves in a direction we did not see in terms of a resolution to our situation and with a better outcome than we expected. However, if we have the faith required to simply depend on God, stay out of the way, and follow His direction He will care for us.

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13 STEWARDSHIP (SUPPLY CHAIN)

It was not always everything we wanted, however, if we did what was required of us, our needs were met while in the military. Stewardship is much like this except we often do get more than just our needs. Stewardship is based on the principle of faith. The two actions required to prove our faith is being a good caretaker of what God gives us and doing our part to keep the coffers full. This lesson will detail the aspects of faith required and the acts of caring for and giving back your part.

Subject Points:

- God does not need our money.
- Everything we have is a gift from God.
- How we give is more important than what we give.
- Our stewardship is not to the church or others, it is to God.
- Commitment to God fosters our thoughts towards giving to Him.
- Personal spending is a part of stewardship.
- We are not going to take it with us.

A. God does not need our money.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it].

- 1) Tithing is for our benefit not Gods. Good evidence that God does not need our tithe, but that tithing is for our benefit, is the fact that He gives us more than we give monetarily speaking. This is a literal numerical fact. If God gives you \$100.00 and you give Him back \$10.00 in tithes where did the other \$90.00 come from? This of course begins on the premise that everything comes from God and that is also the premise you must believe to ensure God continues to give you \$100.00.

- 2) I would challenge you each month, on faith, when you set down to pay your bills, before you ever look at how much money you owe or how much you have, to write your tithing check for what you received that month. Then set back and watch how our God will care for you. It requires faith to do this but why would God ever let you down, Him doing so would be counterproductive to His mission.
- 3) The enemy may keep you supplied each month but what a burden you carry as he does. Imagine if your concern about supplying your needs was shifted to someone else and all you needed to do is have faith in Him to ensure it happened each month. That is our God. Shift the burden to Him, prove your faith by tithing and let Him care for you, or do not and continue with your burden. God does not need your money.

B. Everything we have is a gift from God.

John 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

- 1) There are only two controlling interests in this world God and Satan. Satan is the enemy. Have you ever known an enemy to take care of your needs without a detrimental cost associated with that care?

- 2) God only asks that you allow Him to care for you by serving Him. Ironically that service is also in our best interest as it is the path for receiving the best this life has to offer.
- 3) As the passage tells us “A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.”. Everything that is good for us, weather it seems so at the time or not, is from Heaven.
- 4) Have you ever seen a family that seems to just be continually blessed by God? I assure you if you ask them what the number one contributing factor is in their blessings they would tell you it’s because they are faithful to God in aspects such as tithing.

C. How we give is more important than what we give.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 But this [I say], He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

- 1) Once you set this method of proving your faith in motion it becomes much easier to give because you have allowed God to prove Himself faithful to care for you once you do. Then because you understand how God cares for you it becomes a joy to give because you know for a fact that God will care for your needs.

- 2) Your first act of giving will certainly be by faith, however, for it to be faith you must expect God to care for you when you do. Give joyfully, trusting God.
- 3) Remember the act of giving is for your benefit not God's. It is a ludicrous lie from the enemy to think that the God who owns everything needs your measly tithe or that the same God cannot care for you if you depend on Him.

D. Our stewardship is not to the church or others, it is to God.

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Commitment to God fosters our thoughts towards giving to Him.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

- 1) Write the check and forget it. Often when we tithe the enemy will cause us to expect something back from the church organization itself. This is in distinct contradiction of who we tithe to and why He instructs us to do so.
- 2) Although as a member of the church body we have a responsibility to ensure the church spends what God gives it to progress the mission of the gospel, we are owed no obligation from the church body due to our tithes. After all we

gave it to God because of our personal relationship with Him and in doing so our promise of care is from God regardless of what the church does.

E. Personal spending is a part of stewardship.

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]?

Proverbs 21:20 [There is] treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

- 1) Especially in the beginning, you can be certain the enemy is going to bring to your mind every possible way you could spend God's tithe money when it is time to write the check, do not fall for it. Even if God does not profit you more monetarily by tithing, spiritually you will miss out.
- 2) In addition to giving by faith stewardship requires not spending blindly expecting God to provide fleshly desires that are not in your best interest spiritually. It is incredibly wise to consult God prior to expenditures. As the passage tells us, you would never "intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]?".
- 3) Do not spend what God allows you to put in the bank without consulting Him. He may be giving

it to you for a need down the road that you do not see yet. Being prepared for those future needs or spiritually profitable desires is also a blessing that comes with tithing.

F. We are not going to take it with us.

1 Timothy 6:7-8 For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

- 1) This passage speaks to allowing God to care for you by laying your treasures in heaven, which will last for eternity, and understanding any treasure we have on earth will burn up when the world does.
- 2) One might say I want to accumulate and leave what I have to my children, however, if we truly considered the lesson of tithing and learning to let God care for us, we would understand every dollar we leave them is an obstacle they must overcome to get to the point where they depend on God for their needs.

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14 THE GOSPEL (PRIMARY DUTY)

Your ultimate purpose is to perform your specialty for the purpose of progressing the mission of the church. One unified force, utilizing their specific expertise, to enact one specific mission. The gospel is the specific mission of every Christian. Whatever your gift (specialty) from God the purpose of that gift is for no other reason than to join in the mission of progressing the gospel to the world. This lesson will focus on what the gospel is, why God wants us to progress it, and how He leads us to progress it.

Subject Points:

- The gospel is the power of God.
- The gospel is meant to be passed on.
- Salvation is simple.
- Salvation has nothing to do with us.
- God gives us the gospel simply because He loves us.
- Tell them what you already know.

A. The gospel is the power of God.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

- 1) The gospel is simply the message of salvation, meaning, instruction on the need, the ability, and way to be saved. This message is the power of salvation, in that, it is the only way that God created for people to have salvation, God gave His son for the purpose of this plan.
- 2) Unless people know this plan, they do not have access to salvation, it is our duty to tell them.
- 3) To be ashamed of the gospel and to fear telling people about the gospel are two different things. I really do not understand how one who is saved can be ashamed of the gospel but fearing what might happen when you tell someone about the gospel I understand. I also understand that the enemy is behind that fear and God promises to be with us as we present the gospel.

B. The gospel is meant to be passed on.

1 Corinthians 15:1-3 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

- 1) In this passage we see Paul giving us example of how he as a Christian passed on the gospel which he received. We see three generations of the gospel, it was given to Paul, and he believed it, Paul gave it to the Corinthians, and they believed it, and they are responsible to give it to others.
- 2) If we believed and are saved, we have a responsibility, as it was Paul's and the Corinthian's responsibility, to pass on the message of the gospel. It is not our responsibility to save people just to give them the gospel. The Holy Spirit will convict them, and God will save them, if by their free will they decide to believe and accept Him.
- 3) We can gauge how we are doing at presenting the gospel by the condition of the world. It seems clear that if the world is not being saved it can only be of two causes, we are not giving them the gospel, or they are not responding to

the Holy Spirit's conviction but we must complete our part so the Holy Spirit can complete His and I fear we Christians are in large part the issue with the world's condition.

C. Salvation is simple.

Romans 10:9-11 – 9 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. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

- 1) God has made the act of salvation extremely easy. These three verses are all you need to explain to someone concerning how to be saved.
- 2) Essentially all God asks is to believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from a death wherein He paid our sin debt. Then we are to confess Him, ask Him to take us on as one of His, based on our belief in what He did for us.
- 3) The enemy, to prevent salvation, causes the world to believe that salvation requires more than simply believing and confessing. It is our job to counter that effort.

D. Salvation has nothing to do with us.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- 1) Works verses grace is a concept that is normally most difficult for people to understand.
- 2) Salvation has no requirement of heritage, no requirement for being a good person, no requirement for performing any act, people are simply to believe and confess, God has done everything else.
- 3) God wants all the glory for our salvation; therefore, He requires nothing from us. He does not want us to be able to boast that we did anything to obtain our salvation.

E. God gives us the gospel simply because He loves us.

1 John 4:9-10 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.

- 1) Before we can genuinely appreciate this passage, we must first understand what love is. As veterans, emotion for the most part has been trained out of us, so that emotion does not

inhibit our ability to act in emergent situations. Unfortunately, or fortunately considering the situation there is no training to reestablish emotion once you leave the military. So how does one with a limited ability to understand, express, and exhibit emotion understand and show love?

- 2) This passage personally helped me understand love, in that it gave me answers to questions I had a difficult time understanding. How do I define love, how do I express love, and how do I determine if I love someone?
- 3) God's manifestation of love helped me understand love, answered all three of those questions, and allowed me to apply His explanation of love to my life. It may not be everyone else's idea of love, but it worked for me, and I suspect it will work for others with similar training.
- 4) God manifested or showed His love for us by dying for us, therefore it seems reasonable that a good way to determine if you genuinely love someone or something is to ask yourself would I literally die or kill for the person or the cause if need be. By applying God's manifestation of love to my life I was able to separate those people and causes I genuinely love from those I was expected to love. Love is not an emotion but an action of living or dying for someone. Jesus

loved us and for that reason He died for us. If we genuinely love Him, we will live for Him.

F. Tell them what you already know.

Luke 24:45-48 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

- 1) The only immediate training we need to begin witnessing to the lost is our own individual salvation experience. Tell them about how God saved you.
- 2) Explain the reasons you needed to be saved, tell them how God caused you to recognize your reasons, tell them how God exposed you to the gospel, tell them about when you got saved, tell them the benefits you have received by being a child of God, telling them about believing with your heart and confessing that belief to God.
- 3) As you continue in your own study and discipleship God will give you more tools and experience but for now utilize what you have. If a question rises that you do not know the answer to, tell them you do not have the answer, but you

will get it for them and them make sure that you do.

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15 CHRISTIAN LIVING (LIFER)

In the military when you wore your uniform there was an expectation of how you were to conduct yourself because you represented something greater. The day you accepted Jesus as your savior you put on a uniform that you can never take off. Like your military uniform your Christian uniform is the outward representation of who you are on the inside. In both scenarios you can be someone on the inside that is not accurately represented on the outside. The focus of this lesson is to help us understand how God expects us to conduct ourselves so that we can live in accordance with our Christian uniform.

Subject Points:

- Christianity is about how we think not our actions.
- Saying some words does not make you a Christian.
- You cannot reach your enemy.
- We belong to God.
- We prove our Christianity through our works.

A. Christianity is about how we think not our actions.

Romans 12:1-2 **1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.**2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- 1) The purpose of basic training was to change the way we view things and think so we could fit well into the branch that we joined and progress its mission. To properly conform we had to be willing to present our bodies for the sacrifice of the nation so those changes could be made. In that we enlisted and accepted the benefits of military life it was our reasonable service to present ourselves and conform.
- 2) God requires us to make the same commitment to Him that we made to the military when we enlisted. Because we enlisted and are benefiting

from the attributes of that enlistment it is reasonable service that we conform to God so that we may be profitable to the cause and continue enjoying the benefits of being in His service. Just as we became a new creature after enlistment and military basic training, once we are saved, we are a new creature, and we must begin the process of transforming to Gods reasonable service.

- 3) As you know basic training was not an easy task to complete. You would have never made it if left to yourself. You needed direction from the military and those senior to you, it is the same in God's service. Depend on the Holy Spirit and those who have come before you to complete the transformation. Sadly, many Christians never graduate basic Training. Do not be that guy.

B. We belong to God.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

- 1) It is obvious by these two passages what God's standard is on loyalty and the degree of loyalty

He expects from us. This is His standard for two reasons; He loves and desires our allegiance and because He loves us, He wants what is best for us. He knows that protection only comes from being properly aligned with Him.

- 2) It would not have worked very well for us in the military if we were torn on the issue of which side, we were on, and it works the same way in this war. We must choose a side and be loyal to it otherwise we live in constant turmoil.
- 3) Picking a side in this war simply means earnestly striving to be more like the person God wants us to be and less like the person the enemy wants us to be.

C. We prove our Christianity through our works.

James 2:14-24 14 What [doth it] profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, 16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be [ye] warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what [doth it] profit? 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is

dead?²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

- 1) We were asked often in the military to prove ourselves. It had nothing to do with questioning our enlistment, that was a fact. The proof requested of us was for the purpose of displaying our commitment to mission. If we had simply enlisted and then did nothing to progress the mission it would have been a useless enlistment. One might say that your enlistment without any works was a dead one.
- 2) Once you are saved there is no question that you are saved, however, once you are saved if you do nothing with that salvation it is a dead one. Faith without works is dead? What is the point of your salvation other than you have received your fire insurance, as they say?
- 3) Proving your faith, just like everything else God asks us to do is for our benefit. Proving your faith leads to closeness with God which provides comfort and joy in life much like adhering to the

military life style provided advancement in that life.

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