

WZ CREATING EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL WARFARE BATTLE FIELD PLANS

There are 4 Battleground circumstances that surround us and play a role in our fighting sins daily, these include;

- **My inner thoughts, desires, impulses**
- **People around me (Immediate/External Relationships)**
- **Things and circumstances**
- **Satan and his Angels**

Whether or not we want to accept it, we are in the midst of a battle. All around us there is a battle-taking place in the Spiritual realms, both inward and outward. Through the Spirit, we can become aware of this battle and know how to live in victory, rather than remaining a Victim enslaved and defeated. Understanding the dynamics of the battle, and how we are to engage the enemy is vital if we want victory. For example, what if you were an army trying to engage an enemy and stop its advance, but you did not even know where the attack was coming from? You would be at the mercy of chance, hoping your army has enough force to repulse an attack when it comes. On the other hand, if your army had “intelligence” about the enemy, you could plan for their attack and their reply.

The Bible, through the Holy Spirit allows us to see our enemy and become aware of the spiritual warfare. Without the scriptures, we would be fighting an invisible unknown enemy, without even knowing we are at war. The Bible, revealed through the Spirit of God, has unveiled the invisible world, which surrounds us. In this spiritual world, we have an enemy who is at war with us, and wants to stop the kingdom of God from advancing in the minds of his people. **Satan and his fallen angels are the true enemy!** They seek to take destroy us, making us ineffective against their work. There is a battle raging all around us, and the 16 tools of Satan are fully engaged in this battle. (SEE OUR WZ HANDOUT “THE 16 DEVICES SATAN USES AGAINST THE TRUE SERVANTS OF GOD”)

Satan attempts to use our old man and our fallen nature to war within us in the spiritual realms, the word Holy Spirit dwelling in us prepares us for the spiritual battle ahead. Through **scripture and conviction**, God’s spirit prepares us for battle.

Be not overcome of evil, **but overcome evil with good.**

Romans 12:21

Wherefore **the law** is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good

Romans 7:12.

Bind up the testimony, **seal the law among my disciples.**

Isaiah 8:16

Paul in Ephesians chapter 6 describes the equipment of a spiritual warrior.

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this World, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of

righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints Ephesians 6:11-18

Therefore, as **EFFECTIVE** spiritual warriors we need to know, we are in a battle, and since we are in battle, we should put together our own battle plan, so we can live the victorious life, advancing and promoting the Kingdom of God.

Be not overcome of evil, **but overcome evil with good.**
Romans 12:21

Preparing for the battle

How is the battle waged against us? As we shall see, this battle is waged in the minds of humanity, through whom; events in the physical world are transacted. We are spiritual beings **NEW MAN/ BORN AGAIN BY THE WORD OF GOD** inside a physical body; the war waged is in the **battlefield of the mind**. Satan is conducting a war in the spiritual realm, engaging our **NEW MAN** mind in the battle.

3 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. 2 Corinthians 4:4

Here Satan is called *the god of this world/age*, who blinds the lost so they cannot see the Gospel. **THE MIND OF HUMANITY IS SATAN'S BATTLEGROUND**; Satan is not fighting a physical war, **BUT A SPIRITUAL ONE, ATTACKING THE BODY/SOUL AND MIND/SPIRIT OF MAN**. Satan and his fallen angels accomplish this task in the spiritual realms, by lies and deception, appealing to the fallen nature. (*SEE OUR WZ HANDOUT "THE 16 DEVICES SATAN USES AGAINST THE TRUE SERVANTS OF GOD"*)

When we come to Christ, our mind and thinking is transformed through the power of **the word Holy Spirit dwelling in us**. We however play a role, where we can yield control of "self" to God's word Spirit, or resist. If we yield control of ourselves to the Spirit, we will be filled with the word Spirit, as the Lord takes and molds our life into the image of Christ. As much as we yield ourselves, we become more like Christ. For this reason in Romans chapter 12, we read about our need to be human sacrifices, sacrificing the desires of our old nature, being transformed by "the renewing of your mind". Our old nature has a fallen way of thinking, susceptible to the deceptions of Satan.

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

We need to recognize the battle is not ours, but the Holy Spirit living within. The hardest thing for many believers is to get out of the Spirit's way. We refuse to give control of ourselves over and so we constantly in the midst of the struggle for control.

Before a battle can be waged, we need to know where the war is. Where does the enemy attack?

First, we have to understand **the First battle is within**, a stone idol does not make us sin, nor does what someone wears, it's what we do with those images within. The choices we choose to make. The attack is through our old fallen nature and the temptations which surround us. Second, we have the ability to choose, we are not helpless in this struggle.

There are four basic steps to attaining victory over our old nature and establishing a battle plan.

1. We need to surrender "self" to the word Spirit
2. Identify the source of temptation(s)
3. Recognize the Roots of Sin
4. Create the Defensive/ Offensive Plan

1. WE NEED TO SURRENDER "SELF" TO THE SPIRIT

We need to surrender "self" to the Spirit : Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. **THE SPIRIT TRULY IS READY, but the flesh is weak.**- Mark 14:38

The first course of action is to surrender our self to the Lord. Are we willing to give up the areas in our life? Romans 12 refer to our bodies being a "living sacrifice". What exactly does this mean? In the days of the Levitical priesthood, **LIVING ANIMALS WERE SACRIFICED**; they gave up their lives to atone for the sins of others. In the same way, they gave up their lives, we should give up our past life, and we should be willing to sacrifice our *old nature*. Thereby, we become a "living sacrifice".

For example, after you come to Christ your friends invite you to a bar, which has more than just drinks and chips. You should feel the Spirit groan within about going to such a place. You hear a voice within saying you are going to be left out of all the fun and friendship. What do you do? Do you sacrifice this part of your life?

This is just an example, of what it means to be a living sacrifice; you must be willing to concede control of your life to the Spirit. **This is Battlefield number One**

This I say then, **WALK IN THE SPIRIT**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. **FOR THE FLESH LUSTETH AGAINST THE SPIRIT, AND THE SPIRIT AGAINST THE FLESH:** and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.- Galatians 5:17

2. IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF TEMPTATION(S)

Once we make the conscience effort to surrender our lives, we next need to identify, where the source of our temptation lies. What is the source of our temptation? The Bible is very clear; Satan is a roaring lion, looking for prey to devour.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. | Peter 5:8-9

We make the choice when tempted, when we give in to our temptations we are drawn away into sin, when the desire overpowers our new nature. This eventually leads to death, both physically and spiritual if left unchecked.

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of **HIS OWN LUST**, and enticed.¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, **IT BRINGETH FORTH SIN**: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. James 1:14-15

Remember There are 4 Battleground circumstances that around us and play a role in our sins, these include;

- My inner thoughts, desires, impulses
- People around me (Immediate/External Relationships)
- Things and circumstances
- Satan and his Angels

God however limits the degree of temptation; Satan is only permitted with so much liberty with his temptations. God allows Satan to tempt us, because our faith is being tried, through these temptations. In the book of Job, we see Satan in action, he however complains about Job, because he is protected by hedge (Job 1;10), which he is not permitted to cross. This also applies to us. God has made a way out with each temptation; Satan is only permitted to go so far. Ultimately, God allows temptation, though God Himself tempts no one.

allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. I Corinthians 10:13

Remember Satan tempted Jesus, with the same process. In Luke 4, Satan tempted Jesus using the same appeals he does to us. In each case, Jesus rebuked Satan with scripture.

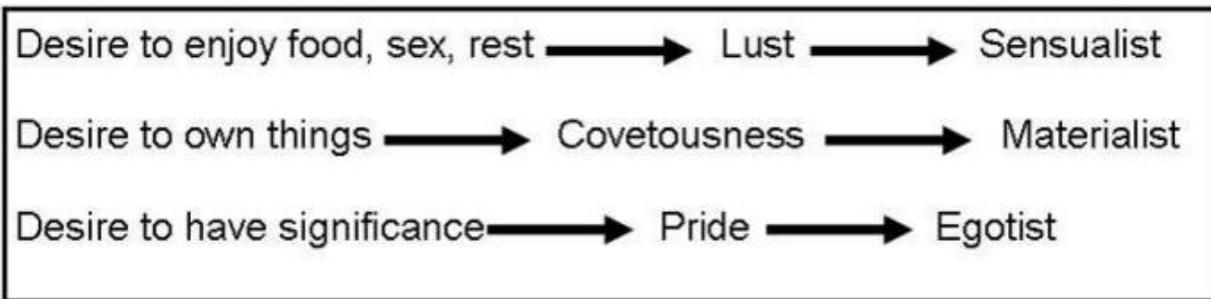
1. He tempted Jesus **to prove he was the Son of God**, by turning stones into bread, while he was hungry.
2. He tempted Jesus **with power, turning over his authority** of earth's kingdoms if Jesus would worship him.
3. He tempted Jesus **with pride, by daring** Jesus to cast Himself from the top of the Temple, to demonstrate his importance.

Satan uses the same methods on us, appealing to our desires.

3. RECOGNIZE THE ROOT SIN

Satan uses the desires the natural desires we have and perverts them, tempting us so we can fall into sin. Robertson McQuilkin delineates the process of sin, and our need to understand what we are fighting.^[1]

Have you ever stopped to analyze just what temptation is? It doesn't look bad, it looks good; otherwise it wouldn't tempt. And actually God is the one who designed our desires in the first place. God created us to enjoy our bodies, to possess things, to amount to something. But we are forever trying to fulfill those desires in the wrong way. And that's sin. So the next step in our strategy is to identify the enemy, discriminate between what is temptation and what isn't. If I don't even recognize my enemy, how can I fight successfully?



We are born with natural desires, designed by God without which we would just die off as a race.

- There is a desire for **sex**, without it there would be no children.
- We have a desire to **eat**, without such we would starve.
- We have a desire to **own things**, such as clothes and shelter.

All of these are part of our natural design, God created humanity with desires.

For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-is not of the Father but is of the world. I John 2:16

Satan uses these desires, and causes us to be tempted into sin.

Therefore, we need understand, why we sin, what is causing us to act the way we do. Do we hate somebody, because we jealous of the possessions, or importance? Is Satan tempting us with our own significance, appealing to our pride?

Do we really believe God is able to give us the needs we desire? When we sin, we go outside of God's will for our life, fulfilling our needs and rejecting God's provision. This is the real source of our sin. Israel in all their sins, did not believe God was able to deliver them, once they lacked faith in God's ability the rest followed.

For us to begin this battle **EFFECTIVELY** we need to identify our sins, what is hold us back from being the **EFFECTIVE** spiritual warrior God wants.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE WORK SHEET: BATTLE PLAN 1A
IDENTIFYING THE WAR WITHIN

Roots of Sin	Temptations	How I respond in the flesh
1. What temptations do I have in my flesh that God would not be pleased with?		
2. What things (possessions) do I covet?		
3. What am I tempted to be proud about, ?		

4. ACKNOWLEDGE AND CREAT THE DEFENSIVE/ OFFENSIVE PLANS

We need to realize we are under constant assault, there many more opportunities for us to be tempted, then ever before. Television, DVD's and video, radio, magazines, the internet, Cable and Satellite are some of the many choices of entertainment, which feeds our need of entertainment. Today its very easy to be lulled into sense of spiritual complacency, not aware of the spiritual assault taking place.

In a battle, there is defensive and offensive strategies, the same goes in the spiritual battle. In days past, before radar and air surveillance, cities had designed systems of defense. One system was the wall, the other the watchtower. The watchtower allowed someone to see a great distance off; if an enemy was approaching, warning could be sent to people in the city, or other watchtowers so eventually a nation could be alerted to potential danger. The walls allowed the city to let those in who were friendly by limiting access through specific openings (gates).

As an ancient city has a defensive strategy, we also should think in terms of spiritual defense. We are under spiritual assault, how do we defend ourselves? Once we identify areas where we are weak, we need to strengthen those parts in our wall. If we find ourselves watching raunchy programs, we need to ask, whom we are letting into our city. An invasion is taking place. The same goes with radio, the internet, and magazines. What images and thoughts are entering our mind that Satan could use to tempt us into sin?

The purpose of the watchtower was to look for potential problems before they became real problems. We also need our own personal watchtower; we need to be on the lookout for potential problems, so we can react pro-active (before) rather than reactive (after) it occurs. We do not want to give Satan a foothold to launch his assault.

Our defensive weapons

The Bible:

Jesus set an example for every believer, when Satan on the Mount of Temptation confronted Him. Jesus who could have choose any weapon replied to Satan temptations with scripture. Satan tempted Jesus, and **he replied with scripture.**

The scriptures Jesus used answered the temptations brought forward by Satan. Whatever our issue is we can look to scripture to defend against Satan's assault on us. If we have issues with sexual temptation, we can learn what scripture says about it. We can also memorize verses to help us dealing with our issues. If we have issues rooted in pride, we can do the same. Once we define our issues, we can then target that issue with the word of God.

List your temptations and the scriptural references to help you overcome those issues

Temptations	Scripture	Scripture to memorize

Prayer (Testimony of our word):

We can also take the issue directly to the Lord, we can pray for deliverance from sins and temptations, which beset us. Jesus also modeled this for us, of all people who did not need to pray it would of been Jesus, so if Jesus needed to pray how much more should we.

Jesus facing the betrayal of Judas and the humiliation of the cross, prayed in the Garden, sweating great drops of blood.

You can **WRITE OUT A TESTIMONIAL PRAYER DEALING WITH YOUR VERY ISSUE**, take it to the Lord.

The Church:

The church not a building is made up of believers, both old and young. Many in the church have experienced similar issues facing each one of us today. God gives “gifts” to the body for that very purpose. We can take our issues to pastors and counselors who can guide us through our difficulties and pray with us or for us.

Also we look for a like-minded soul, someone seeking righteousness and as them to be a prayer or accountability partner. Look for someone who will take an interest in your spiritual wellbeing. Meet with the person for mutual prayer and support.

The Offensive Strategy

An offensive strategy means taking the battle to the enemy. You know you have an enemy, why wait the enemy to attack you. Our response does not have to be a reaction. We do not have to wait until we see the bad programs, we can remove their possibility from being shown.

The question we need to ask, is how serious we are about being all that the Lord wants us to be? Are we willing to make the hard steps. Eliminate the potential from occurring; take away Satan’s chance at deception.

Our 7 Spiritual Offensive/ Attack weapons

- 1) **Bible based Faith:** We should not just study scripture to confront issues we are weak on, scripture is called the sword of the Spirit, it is an offensive weapon. Daily Bible reading helps us understand God's will in our life and prepares us for the assaults which aiming toward us.

Faith come by hearing by the WORD OF GOD- Romans 10:17

EVERY WORD OF GOD IS PURE: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ADD THOU NOT UNTO HIS WORDS, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. Proverbs 30:5-6

- 2) **Supernatural Faith:** We should not only possess faith that cometh by what we hear from the scriptures, but we should possess a Faith that goes beyond what we see in the natural world but a Faith that is active in the world unseen by the natural eye where both our Spiritual Friend and Enemy resides.

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, BUT ALSO IN POWER, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.-1Thess 1:5

And these signs shall follow them that believe; IN MY NAME SHALL THEY CAST OUT DEVILS; they shall speak with new tongues; -Mark 16:17

It is God that girdeth me WITH STRENGTH, and maketh my way perfect. ³³ He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places. ³⁴ He teacheth my hands to war, SO THAT A BOW OF STEEL IS BROKEN BY MINE ARMS. – Psalms 18:32-34

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, HE WALKED ON THE WATER, to go to Jesus.- Matthews 14:29

And he stretched himself upon the child three times, AND CRIED UNTO THE LORD, AND SAID, O LORD MY GOD, I PRAY THEE, let this child's soul come into him again. AND THE LORD HEARD THE VOICE OF ELIJAH; and the soul of the child came into him again, AND HE REVIVED. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: AND ELIJAH SAID, SEE, THY SON LIVETH.- 1 Kings 17:21-23

Jesus said unto him, IF THOU CANST BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH. -Mark 9:23

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.- Matthews 19:26

4) Prayer (Communication line to God): Our prayers do not always have to be defensive they can be used as an offensive weapon, we can ask the Lord to give us a hedge of protection, petition against the enemy so we can have victory over the temptations even before they show themselves. We can take our issues before the throne of God in times of needs.

5) Fasting: Fasting allows us to discipline our body and mind, like a warrior in training. Through fasting we can see just how serious the issue is, how much do we hunger for righteousness rather than food this world offers.

But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: **I humbled my soul with fasting**; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. **Psalm 35:13**

And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.¹⁹ He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.²⁰ And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

²¹ And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

²² And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.²³ Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.²⁴ And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**²⁵ When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.²⁶ And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose.²⁸ And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?²⁹ And he said unto them, **This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.**- Mark 9:17-28

6) Scriptural Meditation, Memorization and Recall: Jesus memorized scripture, so why shouldn't we do the same? Before we are even attacked God's word, which dwells in us will prepare us the continual assault on our mind.

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.- John 14:26

This 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.
Joshua 1:8

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. 1Timothy 4:15

7) War Declarations/ Positive Affirmation: Satan communicates negative conversation energy toward the servants of God day and night (Accuser of our brethren) therefore we must counter with POSITIVE AFFIRMATION

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, **AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY**; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (Rev12:11)

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. **Philemon 1:6**

Be not deceived: evil **communications** corrupt good manners. **1 Corinthians 15:33**

Let no corrupt **communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. **Ephesians 4:29**

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things (Phi 4:5)

SO AS WE THINK, SO ARE WE

For as he **thinketh** in his **heart**, so is he.... Proverbs 23:7a
SO IF YOUR THOUGHT ARE EVIL

Every day they wrest my words: **all their thoughts** are against me **for evil**. **Psalm 56:5**

BUT THIS IS THE LORDS THOUGHTS

For I know the **thoughts** that I think toward you, saith the LORD, **thoughts** of peace, and not of **evil**, to give you an expected end. **Jeremiah 29:11**

BUT FROM OUR FLESHLY MIND COMES

For out of the heart proceed **evil thoughts**, murders, adulteries, **fornications**, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: **Matthew 15:19**

8) Anointing Oil

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil** in the name of the Lord: James 5:17

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Ps 23:5

INCONCLUSION IN THE BATTLEFIELD, GOD HAS GIVE US THIS TO CREATE A EFFECT BATTLE PLAN IN THE WARZONE

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a **sound mind**. 2 Timothy 1:7