

Stephen R. Phinney

**THE ART** Of  
**SPIRITUAL**  
**WARFARE**

**EMBRACING BIBLICAL WAR**

**Dedicated to:  
My wife, Jane; my daughters,  
Abigail, Elizabeth, Jessica;  
My new sons,  
Quintin & Nathan;  
And to all my grandchildren.**

**It is because of you I am motivated to stay on the frontline!**

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# The Art of Spiritual Warfare

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By Dr. Stephen R, Phinney

## TOOLS OF WARFARE

*“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the victor’s crown, the life God has promised to those who love Him.” James 1:12*

As men, you probably understand the importance of having a toolbox equipped with the exact tools you need to accomplish the task you have set out to do. There is nothing more frustrating than wanting to do some project around the home and not having the necessary tools.

In the same way, we need a spiritual toolbox packed with the proper tools to accomplish the eternal project that God has set before us as men. This is the underlying purpose of this *Study Guide* – to provide practical, useful information and insight into waging war against the powers of darkness that seem to bind us as men. The world, the flesh and the devil will be continuously defeated if we use the weapons of our warfare effectively. The Lord Jesus has provided all the tools we need. He has already secured our daily victory. The tools His Father gave Him to “fight off” the enemy are the same tools He has made available to us. But, it remains our responsibility to activate these weapons by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

*“Consider mine enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.” Psalms 25:19 NKJV*

The subject of aggressive spiritual warfare against the world, the flesh, and the devil is becoming increasingly important. We live in a degrading society that makes fleshly things more accessible than ever before. Many, if not most, men are giving themselves to rampant abandonment and indulgence in fleshly sins. The enemy is pushing for conformity to his image through the power of media, unhealthy relationships, and an overwhelming influx of opportunities to please ourselves. Satan and his demonic kingdom relentlessly press their battle against believers and all of God’s provisions of freedom.

The primary emphasis of this study is on practical spiritual instruction rather than theoretical exhortation. Christian men need to know how to fight a good fight. Men in our culture today are untrained in the most

important battle of life – the battle for the soul. We will focus on the use of the objective, absolute truth of the Word of God - your sword - and not subjective or emotional experience.

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

Men have the tendency to battle what they see. This includes our wives, rebellious children, unfaithful friends, employers, employees, etc. The first thing you must embrace before starting this study is that we do not fight flesh and blood, but powers of darkness. Satan simply uses and abuses what we see in order to destroy God’s ordained leadership of the home, community, nation and world. He hates leadership. He knows that through leadership comes authority, and through authority comes power.

### **THIS IS NOT A LAUGHING MATTER**

Satan has successfully used the world, and all of its influences, to bring a light-hearted attitude and mindset regarding the kingdom of darkness. Just take a look at the enormous volume of books, movies, video games, T-shirts, music, toys, television, advertisements, internet, fashions, jewelry, and coarse, silly jesting that we are bombarded with wherever we turn!

The desensitization about Satan and his role in man’s sins is a subtle, but strategic attack on God’s divine creation – His blessed children. The enemy of this world sees to it that the world (his domain) laughs him off with indifference. Always remember this callousness is the most powerful tool the enemy has in defusing God’s serious plan of redemption. Christians ought never to entertain crude joke-making, purchase degrading media products or light-heartedly support Satan in any way. While believers need to exercise care in not assigning all of their wrongdoing as Satan’s responsibility, we must with biblical insight, understand the limited power of Satan and his kingdom. Oppression and bondage is not a joking matter.

The key in the believer’s emphasis on spiritual warfare must be based on a Biblical approach to the subject. Subjective feelings, emotional desires, and fervent sincerity are not sufficient weaponry against an enemy that laughs in the face of your intents. He yields no ground to emotion or sincerity. He retreats only from the authority and power that has been given to the Christian through his/her union with the Lord Jesus Christ and the absolute truth of the Word of God. An illustration worth remembering is this. If I were to give you a sharp two-edged sword and a butter knife, which would you use to fight an assailant? Dumb

question? I don't think so! Your logical male side would choose the sharp, two-edged sword. However, in reality, when we do not use the Word of God to fight off the enemy, we are essentially using a butter knife to war against an enemy that slings a ball and chain.

*"Take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."* Ephesians 6:17b NASB

We have two basic offensive weapons to use against Satan. They are the word of God and the power of prayer. When you put the two of these together, you have the most intimidating weapon known to the enemy. He knows he has been "had" when a man of God masters the art of using the Word of God in the power of prayer. Hey, I'm all about turning the tables on this relentless enemy! How about you?

Just as in preparing for battle in "real" life, it would not be wise for you to draw your sword and start fighting until you put your armor on. We need to practically learn how to do that. Only when we are battle-ready should we pick up our swords, pray, and fight.

I pray that you are beginning to see our critical need for the Word of God and prayer. The sword of the Spirit, God's Word, is living and active. These are not words on a page. They are life-giving Words from the mouth of a living God! Use your words, and you die. Use God's Words you live. It's as simple as that!

*"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."* Hebrews 4:12 NASB

The Word is eternal just as God Himself is eternal. Just as God is omnipotent (all powerful), so does His Word have all the needed power to defeat the enemy and to accomplish God's will. Just as God is immutable, so the Word of God will never change. Just as our Lord is omnipresent, so His Word is always there and ready to be used in every situation. Just as God is Holy, so His Word is Holy. The bottom line is this: His Word is living, active and sharper than any two-edged sword. The enemy hates hearing it. Jesus used it to fight off temptation. You can't survive without it.

As a sword, the Word has the power to penetrate the life of every being that hears it, and that includes the enemy. It is meant to do corrective surgery within the soul, spirit, thoughts, attitudes, and body of all who hear it. This is the secret of its power against the enemy. As you use it, the Word can penetrate, cleanse, and change the life of those that embrace it as Truth. This is why it cuts away at the grip of the enemy. There is nothing more powerful and there is certainly no substitute for persistent, steady, consistent

application of coming against the enemy. Even Jesus, the Son of God, used the written Word in the wilderness to fight off Satan. What worked for the Son of the living God will certainly do no less for us!

*“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.’”* Luke 4:1-3 NASB

The importance of doctrinal Truth and doctrinal praying is given to us by God to use daily. Doctrine, God’s unchanging Truth, is mighty in defeating our enemies. This Truth must get deep into our hearts as men. This can only come about as we gain understanding of the Holy Word of God and then use that Word aggressively in our lives. The following material will be helpful in keeping doctrinal Truth in the forefront of your warfare activities.

Normally speaking, I am not one who advocates following “steps” to embrace freedom. However, when it comes to deliverance from *strongholds* in our lives, I see a definite need for a plan to faithfully follow these suggestions word for word; they will equip you and build a foundation for your soul. The Holy Spirit will aggressively act to guard your heart against your enemies.

## **WARNING**

Whenever we go to the frontlines, where the enemy lives and breathes, he is bound to try chasing us away. Do not submit to his deceptive ideas and lies that tell you there is no time, or this level of combat isn’t necessary, that these are only words, that you can put this off because you already have too many things to do, that you’re tired, or too sick, or that you are already struggling with worries, doubts, fears that will prevent you from completing your pathway to deliverance. Push through it all and respond like a warrior!

In rare cases, some people experience terrifying feelings of guilt, worthlessness, physical symptoms (choking, pains moving around their body, tightness above the eyes, dizziness, blackouts, or even fainting) and terrifying spells of panic and/or depression. If any of these symptoms occur to the point of “paralyzing” you from not being able to go through the study, you will need another partner (male) to do the study with you. Remember, fear is the fire of the dragon’s mouth – it is his primary tool of intimidation. Don’t worry – it’s only hot air!

Another warning: avoid becoming preoccupied with Satan and his domain. Have you ever wondered why people are intrigued with movies, video games, and music based on the dark side? Well, one of the games that the enemy plays is to create an unhealthy fascination with his work. Many people are caught up in giving more attention and credit to the enemy than they do God. I call this a “demon behind every bush” mentality. It is common for those who are struggling with satanic affliction to be preoccupied with the enemy due to their level of temptation, obsession, and negative thoughts. However, one must take special caution to keep their eyes upon Jesus. Well trained Christians in the Word and Spirit will not fear Satan or his schemes.

## People of War

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Men, who know the enemy and understand their own capabilities, will soon learn that in a spiritual battle, it isn't enough. Men of war classically depend upon the human elements of the craft of war. The truth of the matter is that if you know your enemy, embrace your limitations and deepen in your dependence on Christ as your Great Warrior, you need not fear the results of the battle. If you are a great warrior on earth, and believe that is enough, you will surely die.

When it comes to Spiritual Warfare, being "a masculine man" (great warrior) is not enough. In the spiritual realm, our battle is not against flesh and blood. It is against powers of the dark place, generals and commanders of darkness, leaders of spiritual places, leaders who form battle plans that man has no way of "spying out". Without the forces of Michael the Archangel, the Holy Spirit and Christ Himself, we lose.

Knowing the Art of Spiritual Warfare is the key to functioning effectively in a war that actually has already been won. The strangeness of Christians fighting the good fight of spiritual warfare is that the battle has already been won and declared that day Jesus Christ died of the cross. The dark reality is this – Satan, our adversary, refuses to admit to his defeat. Therefore, he continues to deceive the children of the Father into thinking that the battle is still raging. Because of this, the theology of spiritual warfare must be based upon the cross and the final work of Christ Jesus. We must prepare all Christians, particularly men, to stand guard and be ready for an attack from an enemy that is self-deceived and refusing to admit defeat.

**Sun Tzu wrote over two and a half thousand years ago:**

*The art of war is of vital importance to the state. It is a matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to ruin. Hence under no circumstances can it be neglected. Hence, it is only the enlightened ruler and the wise general who will use the highest intelligence of the army of purposes of spying, and thereby they*

*achieve great results. Spies are a most important element in war, because upon them depends an army's ability to move.*

If Sun Tzu is correct, that spies are the key to winning a battle, who are our spies? Obviously, we cannot send one of our “buddies” into the enemy’s camp to spy out the plans of the enemy. What is a spiritual warrior to do? Well, that is why is critical for us to learn the Art of Spiritual Warfare. Learn what God has to say about the topic.

An excellent spiritual warrior is one who is skilled at breaking down the enemy’s resistance by applying the least amount of fight possible. Many Christian warriors apply too much effort in their warring against the world, the flesh and the devil. When I see a believer doing such warring, I immediately know that they are doing much of the battle after the flesh. Knowing the remarkable work and effort Christ applies to spiritual warfare on our behalf is freeing, and remarkably, resting. Christ has his spies, their called angels and Michael the Archangel is head of the pack. Nothing the enemy does or can do is of any surprise to the Father, Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit. They are very much aware of the enemy’s plans that are being formed against us. Trusting in Him as our Supreme Commander in Chief becomes the most critical factor in spiritual warfare.

## **EMBRACING THE COMMANDS**

Men of war must clearly know the words of commands, understand them, embrace them – then carry them out to the “T”. One of the primary reasons for battles being lost on the battlefield is that the commander did not make the orders clear, distinct and understood. The second most common mistake of war is that of the troops not being trained to carry out the orders. This we can be assured of, Christ, as our Commander in Chief, will clearly communicate His orders to us. But, He does leave it up to the leaders in

the field, leaders of the church, to train and equip the troops for warfare. We call this discipleship, mentorship, and equipping.

Men of our generation are reluctant to submit to authority. Men as a whole have adopted the deception that they can be their own leader, they can so how live this life on their own. Well, men who function like this have fallen as prey to the first tactic of warfare – get the troops to turn on their commanders.

Years ago I heard a story that took place on the mission field. The story goes like this: *The child of the missionary was playing in a tree outside of their hut. The father noticed that there was a life threatening snake hanging above the child ready to attack. The father quietly, but firmly, commanded the boy to drop from the branch immediately, crawl to him on his belly until he tells him to get up and run. The boy did exactly as he was told. He dropped from the tree like a snake, crawled to his father, like a snake, and stood up and ran when his father told him to do so. When the boy was safe in his father's arms, he asked, 'why did you make me act like a snake?' The father turned the boy around, pointed out the snake, and went on to thank him for obeying every word he asked of him.*

Obedience to the exactness of his father's words literally became salvation to him. If the boy would have questioned his father, debated him or refused to listen – the boy would be dead. The exactness of obeying commands is the key to being an effective warrior in the battle against the world, the flesh and the devil.

Whether the battle is the Korea war, Bay of the Pigs, World War I, II or the battle on terror, one rule applies to all – that of doing what you are told. In the training of warriors, boot camp, the “sergeant” drills the soldiers over and over again to “turn left” “turn right” “sit down” “stand up” march, march and march some more. If a soldier resists, he is disciplined until he follows the exact orders of the drill instructor. Once the drill sergeant is satisfied with the obedience of the soldiers, he puts them before his commander for an inspection. If the commander is satisfied with their level of obedience and training, he commissions them

to war. It is a simple plan that has always worked in flesh on flesh battles. The irony is, in spiritual warfare, men tend NOT to follow the same set of rules. They resist spiritual leaders by doing their own thing. Following orders to their exact word is vital to our survival. It gives us the ability we need to protect our women, children, communities and nations.

## **THE BATTLE OF OWNERSHIP**

All wars, past, present and future, are fought for one reason – the battle for ownership. Whether it is over land, religion, marriage, possessions or opinions, it is one seeking to claim ownership of the particular thing. Where there is fighting and quarreling, we can be assured that someone, or a group of someone's, are endeavoring to gain control over what they believe belongs to them. Humanly speaking, they lust and do not have, so they commit murder. People by nature are envious and when they cannot obtain what they want, they fight and quarrel. They do not have what they believe belongs to them, so they create a “holy” war to get it. In God’s reality, they are simply wanting ownership in order to have the “authority” to spend it on their own pleasures. Another critical factor in understanding warfare is, when there is fighting, the one who fights is confessing that they are friends with the world. God made it perfectly clear that when we as a people become friends with the world, we become hostile towards God. Therefore, whoever displays friendship with the world makes himself and enemy of God – now He is at war (James 4:1-4). Now let us see, do I want to be an enemy of God? Do I want to go to war with Him? Do I have any chance of winning that war? I think not!

Pride is the battlefield that war is fought upon. God is opposed to the proud and all their ways, but He gives power and grace to those who are humble – those who give up ownership of all things. Why? Because they know and realize that, it all belongs to the King of kings and Lord (owner) of lords. Once we humble ourselves, God gives us the power to submit to Him and once we submit to Him, we can resist the devil and he will flee (James 4:6-7).

God is the only one who has the prerogative to go to war over ownership – in fact, He does in the end. It's called the battle of Armageddon. All wars and rumor of wars are man's attempt to gain control over what does not belong to them. Even Satan, our worst enemy, thinks this world belongs to him. Not so – God has given him temporary permission to dwell here. The final battle is a battle of ownership. I can tell you who wins if you want. Why does an enemy fight a losing battle? Pride, my dear friend. Nothing but the arrogance of the fight. Most warriors take more pleasure in the fight than they do in the spoils of the fight. We battle an enemy that simply loves the fight. Even though he knows he has lost the battle, he takes great pleasure in seeing people die, groan in pain and suffer the agonies of exhaustion. Knowing he is on his way out, he wants to “take out” as many unprepared warriors as he can.

## SEVEN LAWS OF WAR

In any war, there are key elements that have to be embraced. They are: the **Authoritive Law; Earthly;** the **Commanders Law; Tactical Law;** the **Law of Discipline, Law of the Spirit and the Law of God.**

- † **Authoritive Law** is what causes the people to be on the same page as their leader, so that they will follow regardless of the consequences of service, unaffected by the dangers of war.
- † **Earthly Law** is the “rules of engagement” that come with the earthly elements, such as the property or possessions that become the object of the war.
- † **Commanders Law** represents the orders, wisdom, strength, courage and purpose in which he leads the people.
- † **Tactical Law** is the methods used to govern and keep harmony within the ranks of the troops.

- † **Law of Discipline** being the rules and methods used to train the warriors in the disciplines of the commander.
- † **Law of the Spirit** is the guidelines of the heart, developing in the warrior the ability to fight with a compassionate intent.
- † **Law of God** is the Supreme rules of the universe, the moral conditions placed upon those who are at war.

When thinking through the strategies of spiritual warfare, the comparison needs to be measured from these seven laws. Allow me to demonstrate how this works.

The enemy is most effective at five of the seven. He is skilled at Authoritive Law – keeping his warriors focused on hating Christians regardless of the consequences. He is clear on Earthly Law – knowing exactly what property or possessions he tends to fight to have. He is an expert at the Commanders Law – representing clear orders, demonic wisdom, strength to be feared, courage that will go with him to his grave and such purpose that most will follow him. Tactical Law is his backbone – knowing what works with Christians, since he has been mastering his plan from day one of creation. Finally, the Law of Disciple – his warriors are known for being some of the most disciplined and focused of all warriors.

Now we look at the Christian male (warrior). Authoritive Law – your average Christian man resists being told what to do by God or man. Earthly Law – most Christian men are working day in and day out to obtain more possessions and property, being entangles in daily affairs. Commanders Law – percentage wise, very few men know the Commanders voice, let alone obey Him. Tactical Law – in my 30 years of assisting men, I have met few who have a plan to battle spiritual issues. Law of Discipline – attend a men’s gathering in your average church, few are begging to be trained. Law of the Spirit – surveys show men are more about tasks of prosperity then they are about relational heart issues. Law of God – you do your own survey, you will discover the average male Christian knows little of the Word of God.

The comparison: the enemy and his warriors are superior to Christians in following a leader, knowing exactly what they are fighting for, hear their commander's voice, follow his orders, sticks to the methods the commander lays before them, and is trained to stand up for the beliefs of their leader. Which army is stronger, smarter, better trained, more determined and passionate? Even though the enemy cannot apply or appropriate Laws 6 and 7, they win "hands down."

These results are what motivate me to step up and assist in equipping men how to learn and function within the Art of Spiritual Warfare.

Can you imagine if the "Christian army" mastered the five Satan is good at plus the two only we can master? You guessed it - we would resist and he would flee. All of Satan's war tactics are based upon deception. He wants us to think; he is harmless, when he is close that he is far away, using seduction and worldly bait to distract us on the field, and to get us to think he is inactive when in reality he is very active. He is the master of deception. The problem is, deception is the basis of all worldly battles. It works and we fall for it every day.

God's style of war is based on truth. He has done his homework on the enemy. He created him - He knows him well. The tactics that the enemy uses came from God. Therefore, God knows every move and has a counter move for them. The difference between the two commanders is this; Satan uses God's tactics and mixes deception with it. God uses His tactics to uncover the enemy's deception. The enemy hates this. It works every time. God gave us the enemy's battle plan to read and to know - it's in the Bible. The tactics of the enemy have not change. He is quite predictable. It's just that most men have no clue how the enemy works because they don't read their war manual - the Bible.

## WAGING WAR WITH THE ENEMY

When a warrior actually engages in a battle, his weapons will most assuredly become dull and useless. If the warrior senses that his primary tool of warfare is becoming ineffective, he will lose heart and become a target of the enemy. Even though our spiritual tools of warfare (the Sword of the Spirit) will never become dull, we certainly can get in the habit of attempting to use our own words or methods in fighting the good fight. This is what the enemy looks for. For he (Satan) only fears the Sword of the Spirit, the Word. A warrior, who begins to depend on natural resources, will soon become exhausted in strength and lose heart.

We as Christian soldiers, must embrace the reality that our battle against the world, the flesh and the devil will be protracted – a long war. In a protracted battle, it is easy to become tired and disinterested in the war at hand. We battle a long-suffering enemy. He has been at the war much longer than we have. His battle plan is generational – while ours tends to be short lived. We lose many of our warriors after they start the fight with the strength of Heaven and then become disinterested because of “battle fatigue”. One of, if not the most important, elements of our battle is that of keeping a drawn sword until death parts us.

Our movements need to remain swift, always moving forward, with an attitude of offense – not defense. Defensive fighting gives the enemy the “upper hand.” Defensive fighting combats the actions of the enemy, while offensive fighting keeps the enemy attempting to figure out our next move. To do effective offensive fighting, one must apply the SEVEN LAWS OF WARFARE at all times. Key offensive warfare consists of breaking the enemy’s resistance without applying too much effort. This is when the application of allowing Jesus Christ to fight the good fight for us, while we apply the Word (Sword) to our daily living. The enemy is not afraid of us, our methods of warfare or our determination – for he fears only two things; Jesus Christ and the Word of God. If we weaken in our relationship with Christ or refrain from using the Word to battle, Satan will make progress in forging himself upon our territory.

The highest form of a skilled warrior is to balk the enemy's plan; the next is to prevent the enemy from stepping on the ground we have already gained. Since Christ knows the enemy's plan backwards and forwards, it would be wise of us to maintain a clear and dynamic relationship with our Commander in Chief.

### **FIGHTING WITHIN THE RANKS**

Another effective method the enemy uses in breaking down our troops is assisting them in becoming restless and distrustful with one another. A strategic part of the enemies plan is to create anarchy from within. Christians seem to be most qualified at "killing off their wounded." When an army spends more time fighting their own comrades, they become weak on the frontlines. They tend to focus on the unresolved issues with each other, while the enemy is resolved to gain more ground while "heads are turned." It does not take a seasoned Christian to see the amount of destruction that is taking place within the Church through quarreling and fighting. If the body of Christ would apply half the amount of effort they exude in "in house fighting" to the real war at hand, we would win without much effort. Unity among the troops is as critical as knowing the enemy – for you cannot have one without the other.

Unity of the troops starts by knowing yourself, your comrades and, believe it or not, your enemy. When a fellow soldier has the confidence of knowing his "backside" is covered, he needs not fear a hundred battles. But, on the other hand, if a warrior is consistently afraid of being left on the battlefield exposed, his exposure will soon become the reason for his downfall. The first action of all Christian soldiers should be learning to go "back-to-back" with fellow believers – even if they are in the wrong. Redeeming a "wronged" soldier starts with the righteous actions of a soldier who is following the Commanders compassionate intent – never leave a fellow soldier unprotected. Rule #1 of warfare, save your buddy first, kill the enemy second. Many times by abiding by rule #1, the second takes care of itself. Always remember, Independence breeds death.

## TACTICAL AND PRACTICAL

Skilled warriors place themselves beyond the realm of defeat, while waiting on the “perfect” moment to defeat the enemy. To be freed from the mind-set of defeat, is the first step in fighting a victorious battle. Most men of war today are their biggest enemy. They tend to go into a battle with a male macho attitude of “kicking some booty,” not realizing the enemy laughs at such masculinity. We do not fight an enemy that is intimidated by force of “colors.” He finds such elementary attitudes fun and playful. What he is intimidated by is those that fight from the highest point – Heaven bound. When a warrior fights the good fight using the perspective of the Heavenlies, he will naturally, or should I say supernaturally, adopt the victorious attitude of God the Father. This method of war intimidates Satan more than any other tactic of human and spiritual warfare. When Satan observes a warrior winning, he is challenged. However, when he sees this same warrior winning with ease, he knows he is in trouble. The enemy can only assume that the warrior is tapping into a strength that is only found in Heaven.

When a man fights and makes mistakes, the enemy is concluding the warrior is not on the same battle plan as the Commander in Chief. When this warrior is fighting without mistakes, it reveals the certainty of victory. The “edge” that the Christian has in this futile war is; he only seeks a battle that has already been won. Satan’s method of madness is seeking victory after the campaign has been fought. Now we begin to understand the importance of understanding the final work of the Cross of Christ. Fight from the position of the Cross and the tactics of Satan become futile.

## SPIRITUAL ENERGY

There is an old warfare principle called; *there is power in numbers*. Even though this is a worldly concept, it has a spiritual foundation. When a Christian soldier goes into their daily battlefield, they need to know there is a *host of witnesses* going them. Many times we as mere men, feel alone as we encounter the enemy. This could not be further from the truth, God the Father has a host of witnesses going with us as

we engage in daily warfare. God has given the **Force of Seven** to support us in our daily encounters with the enemy:

1. Christ within us – through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
2. Christ Himself – He alone is fighting our battles outside of our human elements.
3. Holy Spirit – aside from moving through us, He moves around us.
4. Angelic forces – God placing angels in needed places to war on our behalf.
5. Fellow Body Members – men/women within the Body of Christ standing in the gap for us.
6. Mentors – supervising mentors that watch over us and guide us through life.
7. Armor of God – the Father has given us a full armor that has power in and of itself.

In the tactics of war, there really are only two methods of attack, overt and covert. Overt attacks carry with it an immeasurable amount of energy. It is the energy of the enemy felt by the troops under attack that creates enough fear to intimidate. This energy is typically projected by the view of the numbers, the weapons displayed and the noise of battle. Satan makes use of all his “numbers”; i.e. demons, worldly influences, our flesh and earthly humans that have sided with him in his domain. He will come at us in the most overt way he knows in order to give us the “feeling” of being overwhelmed. It would be one thing if he quite there, but he doesn’t. The most effective tactic in war is using “overt” energy to intimidate while having a battle plan of “covert” assault in place. Here is how it works; the covert plan of assault is set in place before the overt attack is commissioned. As soon as the troops are beginning to get that “feeling” of being overwhelmed, the “covert” plan is commissioned. Now we have the energy attack from the external while the internal attack is propagated. Putting this in simple language, the enemy comes at us with every kind of worldly temptation and human insults, persecution and distress, while using our flesh to reproduce or multiply feelings of defeat and uselessness. With these two tactics in action, he is hoping all of the Father’s Christian soldiers will fall. And of course, with a fall, comes guilt and with guilt comes paralysis.

In the midst of battle, there appears to be disorder and confusion. In God’s reality, there is perfect order and He is not confused at all. This is when the **Force of Seven** comes into play. If the warrior of God maintains their mindset of discipline, the hosts of witnesses can and will complete their perfect end. If sudden fear is used as courage, weaknesses are matriculated as strengths, then the power of God will move as “energy” that the enemy cannot resist. The fewer number of the **Force of Seven** that the Christian uses, the more vulnerable they become in battle.

Practically speaking, when a Christian allows the Holy Spirit within them to secure their identity in Christ, trust Christ to battle the enemy for them, rely on the Holy Spirit to do the work of the Father around them by making use of angelic forces made available, we then can lean upon other like-minded “body members” to watch our backside. Assuming that we have put on the full armor of God, with each and all of these forces in place, we can function on the battlefield with little effort of our own. With this type of energy or momentum on our side, we can easily stand strong in the heat of battle.

### **EMBRACING OUR WEAKNESSES AS STRENGTH**

Fighting from a position of rest is an oxymoron to most. It is a fact that we cannot rest until we embrace our weaknesses, Paul gave us a clear picture of the importance of embracing our weaknesses: [2Co 12:10](#) tells us; *“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”* In order for a fellow warrior to become content