



How to Have an Edge in Battle

Adapted from “Spiritual Warfare” series by Dennis Marquardt

The most powerful weapon man has ever possessed wasn't invented in this century, nor has it been invented by man at all. The greatest weapon known to man is the Word of God. The Egyptian pharaohs and their powerful empires have come and gone. The mighty Babylonians have long since turned to dust. The great Persian Empire has disappeared. Alexander the Great and his Greek Empire is no longer around. The mighty Roman Empire did not survive. The Word of God is still here and going strong as always!

Some of our greatest leaders recognized the power of God's word:

“It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible.” – President George Washington

“The whole inspiration of our civilization springs from

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the teachings of Christ and the lessons of the prophets. To read the bible for these fundamentals is a necessity of American life.”

- President Herbert Hoover

“In regard to this great book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.” - President Abraham Lincoln¹

The follower of Christ possesses and lives by the most effective weapon ever known to man. With God's Word, we have access to a power greater than the atom bomb, more precise than a cruise missile, and more timeless than the sharpest blade. The Bible helps us defeat Satan and sin in our lives and provides the necessary resources to live a victorious life in Christ.

¹ Bob Phillips, *Phillips' Book of Great Thoughts & Funny Sayings*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1993), 39.

“COURAGE” Level Questions

C1: If you were going into a real battle, what armor and weapons would you bring and why?

Exercise 1: In the introduction story, some important leaders and men had strong feelings about the importance of the Word of God. On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being *very important* and 4 being *not very important*, rate how important the Word of God is to you? Write out a doable plan to improve in the area of studying the Bible.

Exercise 2: Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 6:17 (ESV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

NOTE: The “sword of the Spirit” is another way to describe the Word of God (the Bible).

C2: Do you believe that the greatest weapon of all is the Word of God? Why or why not?

C3: Why do you think the sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon listed?

C4: How is the sword of the Spirit a weapon to use against spiritual warfare from Satan?

C5: You can have any weapon available to you in battle. However, if you do not learn to use it properly, it is worthless in your hands. Describe how important is it for you to have the Word of God, learn to use it, and put it into action properly to fight spiritual warfare in life?

Exercise 3: Read and answer the following.

Matthew 4:1–11 (ESV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him,

“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

C6: When you first read about the *bread of life*, describe what it means to you?

C7: In these verses, what does Jesus use when He is tempted to bring victory? How well do you use the sword of the Spirit when you face temptations?

Exercise 4: Read and answer the following.

1 Timothy 4:13–16 (ESV) Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

C8: In these scriptures, Paul teaches Timothy the importance of teaching the Word, preaching the Word, but also being devoted to the Word. How do you view your devotion to the Word of God? How can you improve?



Exercise 5: If you do this exercise, you won't regret it! Read a chapter from the Gospel of John every day for the next 21 days. For each day, write down a verse that stands out to you and one sentence on why that is?

“STRENGTH” Level Questions

Exercise 1: Count how many Bibles you own. Make sure to include those on your computer and devices. How often in the week do you use your Bible? Write out a plan to improve.

S1: How are you being transformed daily by the reading of God’s Word?

Exercise 2: Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 6:17 (ESV)

S2: Do you feel the sword of the Spirit (the Word of God) is considered the greatest weapon of all time? Why or why not? Be specific.

Exercise 3: Read and answer the following.

Matthew 4:1–11 (ESV)

S3: Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. Why do you think that had to happen?

S4: When Jesus faced temptations, He used the Word of God to achieve victory. What is/are your default spiritual weapon(s) when you face temptation?

S5: When faced with the challenges of temptation, how often do you rely on your own physical strength to fight the battle, versus using the sword of the Spirit? Be honest, and be specific.

Exercise 4: Read and answer the following.

1 Timothy 4:13–16 (ESV)

Paul taught Timothy about the importance of God’s Word. Paul told Timothy he should be devoted to it. On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being *very devoted* and 4 being *not very devoted*, rate how devoted you are to daily reading and meditating upon God’s Word. Now write out a plan to improve.

Exercise 5: Here is another powerful exercise that, if you actually DO it, you will be very glad. Read a chapter from the book of Romans every day for the next 16 days. Each day, write down a verse that stands out to you and one sentence explaining why.

“ENDURANCE” Level Questions

E1: As any soldier knows, you may have a great weapon but if you do not know how to use it, it becomes useless. How would you describe the importance of daily Bible reading as a weapon to face temptation in your personal life? How would you describe the importance of those to another man?

E2: How does having an offensive weapon like the sword of the Spirit allow you to find victory in your life?

Exercise 1: Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 6:17 (ESV)

E3: Why do you feel the sword of the Spirit is the greatest weapon of all time?

Exercise 2: Read and answer the following.

Matthew 4:1–11 (ESV)

E4: How do you use the Word of God to defeat the enemy in your life?

E5: What does it mean to you to know that Jesus faced temptations just like you, and He gave you examples of how to defeat the enemy?

E6: What is your understanding of being “led by the Spirit?” How does that line up with Jesus being led by the Spirit?

E7: Satan quoted scripture, but did so out of context. How do we make sure that our pastors, teachers and leaders are using the sword of the Spirit correctly?

Exercise 3: Read and answer the following.

1 Timothy 4:13–16 (ESV)

Paul teaches Timothy the importance of being diligent to the Word of God. Write up a plan on how you can be diligent to the Word of God. In the next 30 days, find three men with which to discuss your plan. What did you learn from those conversations?

E8: Paul and Timothy had deep relationship with the Word of God. Describe how you are being relational with other men regarding life and God's Word?



Exercise 4: Over the next 30 days read and study Matthew 4:1-11 (ESV) with other men. What did you learn from your discussions?