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The Need for Solid Teaching on Spiritual Warfare

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by

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ABSTRACT

The Need for Solid Teaching on Spiritual Warfare
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Literature verifies an abundance of information on spiritual warfare, while resources that teach its concepts and practices are limited. Many bad experiences lead one to question whether church leadership adequately addresses biblical spiritual warfare. The purpose of this project is to 1) determine the need for Bible-based teaching on spiritual warfare, 2) discuss the importance of the full armor of God, and 3) discuss the implementation of the armor to provide the opportunity for an abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Academic journals, articles, and books will discuss spiritual warfare concepts, theology, history, and weaponry. Also, data and statistics will demonstrate destructive trends. Lastly, church pastors and members, both male and female, between eighteen and eighty years of age, will participate in surveys, a focus group, and interviews. Interview questions will include:

1. As a church leader, have you taught a spiritual warfare workshop, seminar, or course?
2. How important is training in spiritual concepts and techniques?
3. Can you describe the full armor of God listed in Ephesians 6?

The data collected will identify the need for teaching on spiritual warfare and the armor of God.

The Bible states, “the Son of God came to destroy these works of the devil.”1 His victory makes Christians victorious, and “more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”2 By teaching spiritual warfare and employing the armor of God to defeat an invisible enemy, believers will have the opportunity to live a successful and abundant life.

Abstract length: 248 words

1 Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are in the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2015. 1 John 3:8

2 Romans 8:37
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Chapter 1

Introduction

Continual strife between humanity and the Devil has existed since the Garden of Eden. As a result of Satan’s temptation and original sin, God said to Satan, “I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”3 Peter Aiken states, “from the beginning, start to finish, Genesis to Revelation, Scripture maintains this perspective of spiritual opposition to us as inhabitants of a fallen world in an evil age.”4 This struggle for power over people led to the cross, where Jesus broke the forces of the enemy, and now, believers engage in spiritual battles or the natural effects of universal sin, to uphold and experience the blessings God predestined for them. However, the focus of this project will be on the spiritual battles’ believers encounter.

Throughout the Bible, there is an overall theme concerning believers who have an enemy who seeks to devour them. Followers must “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”5 The adversary’s plan to consume God’s children has created a constant state of warfare between the two entities. If mightier weapons do not counteract Satan’s tactics, war will be prevalent in the invisible spiritual world, producing devastating results. Unanswered prayers, failed marriages, depression, stress, suicide, fear, and unhealthy relationships are a direct result of the enemy winning this invisible war. Barna Research Group surveyed a random sample of 5,017 individuals and found

3 Genesis 3:15.


5 1 Peter 5:8.
the divorce rate for born-again Christians “is statistically identical to that of adults who are not born again, at 32% and 33%, respectively.” Supported by the American Association of Christian Counselors, the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, Liberty University School of Medicine, and the Liberty University Graduate Counseling program, Lifeway Research surveyed 1,000 Protestant pastors along with 1,000 Protestant and non-denominational church attendees. It noted, “76% of church attendees say suicide is an issue within their community and it needs to be addressed. Thirty-two percent acknowledged a friend or close relative died by suicide.” One may question the impetus for high divorce and suicide rates amongst church membership. The statistics are devastating and leave little hope for believers to have successful marriages and live a life free from depression and hopelessness. Based on these statistics, the church mirrors secular spirituality, which directly contradicts the biblically ordained Christian lifestyle.

The daily experience of a Christian includes opposing and resisting the devil, and he will flee from you. Ephesians 6:12 states, “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” A real opponent plot to rob believers of a triumphant life and, in turn, deprive God of His glory. There is no question, believers must recognize Satan’s intent to disrupt their lives and use all the weapons given by God to ensure a successful and prosperous life.

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8 James 4:7
Statement of the Problem

While attending, serving, and interacting with members of his home church, the author noticed several members of his church complaining about not living an abundant life in Christ. Every week, statements were made such as, “Nothing good ever happens to me,” “I want to get a divorce,” and, “I am tired of living paycheck to paycheck-I can never get ahead.” Unfortunately, some believers seldom recognized demonic activity due to rational thought; many did not know how to combat the negative impact in their lives successfully. Being subjected to the enemy’s lies and deceit daily, left unchecked, will lead to the believer’s demise. Believers are commanded to “put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil… put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the fight, you will be standing firm.”

In the author’s home church, the Pastor and leadership team teach very little on spiritual warfare, leaving members ill-equipped to combat it. Without proper teaching on spiritual warfare, Satan, and demonic influencers, believers potentially fall into one of four categories: 1) they deny the existence of Satan and demonic forces, 2) they are overly obsessed with evil forces, 3) they fear the supernatural or spiritual realm, or 4) they are not taught how to successfully engage in spiritual warfare.

In the first category, believers deny the existence of Satan and demonic powers all together. According to Barna Research Group, only “four out of ten Christians strongly agreed Satan is not a ‘living being but a symbol of evil.’” Spiritual warfare is seen as an old parable used to

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describe good and evil, nothing more. Moreover, according to James Beilby, “In the eyes of many modern scholars . . . the idea of such creatures is commonly linked to such things as ‘mythology,’ ‘superstition,’ and a ‘primitive mindset.’” He continues by stating, “Much of modern, liberal Christianity has tended to see angels and demons as outdated ideas that are best left behind.” A naturalistic approach affirms reality is temporal or physical, not spiritual. Therefore, “Naturalistic explanations of human belief in and/or experience of spirit beings appeal to a range of purely natural phenomena including sociological, psychological, and even nutritional factors.” Blinding believers to the fact he is real is a deceptive strategy the enemy uses to ensure we will not war with him for what is rightfully ours. C.S. Lewis wrote, “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

In the second category, believers become so engrossed with the devil and spiritual warfare that they are obsessed. John Bolt stated:

Scripture is clear; Satan is real, the demonic is real and there is a spiritual war going on. Perhaps the first bit of advice is to counsel restraint: avoid going beyond Scripture’s circumspect treatment of demonology. Reformed believers should consider what the Bible teaches about the reality of Satan and of his attacks, but their focus is not in dealing with demons; it is on the truth that Christ has gained victory over Satan at the cross.

Jesus even warned his disciples, “don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.” Believers in the third category have a misconstrued or fearful idea of what spiritual warfare is. Too often, pastors or church leaders are seen “yelling

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and screaming” at the Devil in what many call “deliverance,” but the person leaves in the same condition. People may also suggest spiritual warfare is frightening due to demonic manifestations. Avoiding or living with an inadequate understanding of spiritual warfare leaves believers vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy. Paul warns Christians to be “familiar with his evil schemes.” Christians must become aware of the schemes and tricks of the enemy.

Some born-again believers fall into the final category due to lack of teaching as it relates to spiritual warfare and the full armor of God. The Bible states people perish due to a lack of knowledge. When pastors, or church leaders, fail to teach about spiritual warfare, believers are left unarmed and ill-equipped. Believers who lack a scriptural understanding of spiritual warfare will more than likely be unable to identify the enemy in the battle. Whether it is due to ignorance, no desire to teach a “scary” message, or intentionally ignoring the evidence of spiritual warfare in the Bible, pastors and church leaders do a great disservice to congregants, especially new believers, by not teaching on spiritual warfare.

The focus of this project is on those believers in the first and final categories. For believers to wage a sufficient charge upon the enemy, they must: 1) recognize Satan exists and has an entire army at his disposal, and 2) identify how to utilize their spiritual weapons provided by the Holy Spirit effectively. The goal of this project is to promote a Bible-based, accurate, and sober-minded understanding of spiritual warfare and the full armor of God. It is only through prayer, vesting oneself in the armor of God, and depending on the Holy Spirit that Christians can wield their weapons of war effectively. However, one cannot put on what they do not know they possess. Christians must be prepared for a battle that cannot be visibly perceived. Waging an ongoing battle by using the strategies given in the Word, such as prayer and the full armor of

14 2 Corinthians 2:11
God, helps believers overcome tragedies, gain mental stability, save marriages and families, and live a life of triumph.

Terminology Defined

**Spiritual Warfare**

The most significant term in this project that must be defined is “spiritual warfare.” While the expression “spiritual warfare” is not found in the Bible, word clues such as battle, wrestle, trample, and fallen angels illustrate this idea. Conflict is evident through images of Satan thrown out of heaven and Israel’s army defeating their enemies.\(^{15}\) From these passages, one can conclude there is some form of war taking place. The term, as it is known today, was popularized during the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement to depict encounters with demons.\(^{16}\) The term gained greater popularity due to Michael Harper’s book entitled *Spiritual Warfare* during the 1970s (as cited in Warren, 2012).\(^{17}\) In the nineteen-eighties, the term crossed denominational lines to include non-Pentecostals and evangelicals.

Mary Anna and Jack Voelkel defined spiritual warfare as “our partnership with God as he advances his kingdom behind enemy lines.”\(^{18}\) It’s “a technical term that describes the battle between God and Satan for the souls of people.”\(^{19}\) Scripture supports these definitions in 2 Corinthians 10:3–6:

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\(^{16}\) Ibid., 278.

\(^{17}\) Ibid., 279.


\(^{19}\) Patricia McAllister, “For We Wrestle Not Against Flesh and Blood but Against Spiritual Forces: Examples of the Theology, Doctrine and Practice of Spiritual Warfare in Lancaster County,” (DMin diss., Lancaster Theological Seminary, 2017), 7.
For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

For this paper, “spiritual warfare is not defined so much as demonic possession, territorial spirits, or generational bondage, as it is overcoming Satan’s lies and deceits in our own life.”

**Full Armor of God**

The full armor of God is described in Ephesians 6:14–18:

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

The full armor of God serves as both defensive and offensive weapons to withstand the attacks of Satan. Without this armor, disciples fall victim to Satan’s devices and strategies. As a defensive weapon, believers “put on the full armor of God to protect ourselves from the schemes of Satan.” As an offensive strategy, Jesus empowers the believer with practical tools such as the sword of the Spirit, or Word of God, and prayer. This supernatural weaponry comes directly from God as a result of the believer’s relationship with Him. In Ephesians, Paul “speaks in the imperative tense—commanding and ordering us to be clothed with the whole armor of God.”

Renner states, “The phrase ‘whole armor’ is taken from the word *panoplia* and pictures a Roman

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soldier who is fully dressed in his armor from head to toe. Everything the soldier needed to successfully combat his adversary was at his disposal. Likewise, God has given us everything we need to successfully combat opposing spiritual forces!”  

Understanding the practical and spiritual aspects of the armor provides clarity as to the functions of each defensive and offensive weapon which will be described in the following paragraphs.

**The Belt/Girdle of Truth**

A leather girdle decorated with elaborate buckles; the Roman girdle provided support around the abdomen area when making quick, demanding movements in war. An essential part of the armor, the girdle, “held the breastplate in place; the shield rested on a clip on one side of the loin belt; on the other side was another clip on which the Roman soldier hung his sword when it was not in use.” The girdle’s purpose was to keep the armor properly fastened in place and supported during battle. Additionally, Renner explains that “the loins are the chief seat of bodily strength . . . and the body is knit to the loins; if the loins fail, the whole-body sinks.”

“Girdling, in Scripture, imports strength. ‘Thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle, Ps. 18:39.’” Using this imagery, Paul tells people to put on the girdle of truth.

In a spiritual battle, biblical truth helps believers stand against the enemy’s deception. Paul urges people to “Hold on to the pattern of wholesome teaching you learned from me – a pattern shaped by the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus. Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

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23 Ibid., 9.


26 Ibid., 283.
who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you.”27 When the Word of God is not applied in the life of a believer, the remaining armor is no longer fastened in place. Rick Renner writes, “Demonic assaults will break through that invisible barrier that is used to protect you, and chaos will take over in your life.”28 A strong, well-supported core of truth restrains believers from being drawn astray by the enemy’s clever misleading. The Word of God establishes, strengthens, and settles the believer on a firm foundation.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

In addition to the Roman’s girdle, “the breastplate of the Roman soldier was made of two large sheets of metal. One-piece covered the front of the soldier, and the other piece covered his back; then, these two sheets of metal were attached at the top of the soldier’s shoulders by large brass rings.”29 The breastplate “began at the bottom of the neck and extended down past the waist to the knees. From the waist to the knees, it took on the resemblance of a skirt.”30 Made of either iron or bronze, the breastplate protected the heart, lungs, intestines, and other vital organs. In close combat, the breastplate provided protection from the onslaught of the enemy coming from various directions, often simultaneously.

The Bible states the Devil tries to steal, kill, and destroy believers in these areas daily.31 If left unprotected, selfish, prideful, and deceitful thoughts will enter the heart of a believer:

No word of condemnation, no false allegation, and no guilty thought will penetrate a believer’s heart or lodge in his mind when he is equipped with his breastplate of

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27 2 Timothy 1:13–14.
28 Rick Renner, Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil, 15.
29 Ibid., 10.
30 Ibid., 10 -11.
31 John 10:10.
righteousness . . . When you understand that God has freely imparted righteousness to you and that this God-given righteousness now serves you as a gorgeous breastplate, it will affect your attitude quite positively and profoundly. You will discover that your level of confidence rises dramatically because an attitude of righteousness imparts both confidence and tremendous authority.\(^{32}\)

If a follower of Christ believes in his or her own righteousness, the advantages quickly shift to the enemy. Good works or efforts made on one’s own are worthless in battle. Many Christians believe it is only through the righteousness received at the new birth that enables people to stand upright in battle, ensuring victory.

**Shoes of Peace Prepared to Spread the Gospel of the Good News**

Though not the most well-known part of the armor, the soldier’s shoes were vitally important. It is said the Caligae shoes were specifically designed to maintain optimum foot care and endure long marches. A special feature added to Roman caligae were small spikes driven into the soles. These spikes anchored soldiers on uneven terrain, ensuring firm footing. In the spirit, solid footing is equivalent to a sound biblical foundation. In John 14:27, Jesus said, “I am leaving you with a gift, peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So, don’t be troubled or afraid.”\(^{33}\)

Enemies of the Roman Empire would attempt to cripple or kill Roman soldiers by placing sharp, spike objects on the battleground. Such attacks would have a substantial impact on the Roman army through the loss of highly trained infantrymen. The enemy similarly uses tactics such as fear, anger, or anxiety to cripple the believer while in battle. “Peace not only protects you, but it also provides you with a brutal weapon to wield against the enemy when he attacks. If

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\(^{32}\) Rick Renner, *Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil*, 16.

\(^{33}\) John 14:27.
you use the weapon of peace correctly, it will keep spiritual foes where they belong—under your feet.” 34 Satan will not allow believers to live peaceful lives without a fight. Chaos and turmoil are used to draw believers away from the peace of God. However, those who have received peace must fight to maintain the peace promised.

The Helmet of Salvation

According to Rick Renner, the Roman helmet was made of iron or bronze to protect the soldier’s head, neck, eyes, cheeks, and ears, providing maximum protection. Cheek and brow guards shielded the soldier’s face from slashes. The soldier was also protected from downward blows to the back of the neck by rear peaks. The helmet was an essential piece of armor. No soldier would be so foolish as to step into battle without a helmet and become an easy target to defeat.

Manufactured to snugly fit the head of a soldier, the helmet protected soldiers from damaging and deadly blows to the head. First Thessalonians 5:8–9 instructs people to put on “. . . the helmet, the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” The helmet of salvation protects the mind against anything that would cause doubt, discouragement, or deceit concerning the promises and benefits of salvation. “Once a believer fully comprehends the benefits of salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ beyond a shadow of a doubt, then the believer will be surrounded—both mentally and emotionally—by the unassailable truth of all that is yours in Jesus Christ.” 35 The confidence that

34 Rick Renner, Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil, 17.

35 Rick Renner, Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil, 23.
accompanies salvation becomes “the helmet of bronze on your head to protect your mind from the ‘battle axe’ of the enemy.”

The Shield of Faith

Made in the shape of an oval, hexagon, or rectangle, the scutum, or Roman shield, encircled the body of the Roman soldier to provide better protection. Typically constructed from two pieces of wood glued together and then covered with canvas and leather, this primary weapon of defense would protect against flaming arrows. In fact, in ancient warfare, the shield was the sole protection against flaming arrows launched by the enemy. For an individual’s welfare and to keep fellow soldiers safe, shields overlapped to provide a wall of security. Paul mentions explicitly the shield of faith is needed to defend against “the fiery arrows of the devil.” Satan launches “flaming arrows” during times of weakness, trials, or in the midst of temptation; in other words when people are weak. These are the moments when people must lift their shield of faith. “The shield of faith is your “way to escape” from the fiery darts of the adversary. When faith is out in front and covering all, it quenches every temptation and every fire-bearing arrow that the enemy tries to send.” When people’s shields are raised in faith, they are not only protecting themselves but those who are closest to them as well.

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36 Ibid., 24.


38 Ephesians 6:16.

Sword of the Spirit

The figurative belt, shield, breastplate, shoes, and helmet are all defensive pieces of armor intended to keep people from being injured by the weapons of the evil one. The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, which is the only offensive piece of armor. “Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”40 Paul commands. The Roman sword was “a very heavy, broad sword specifically designed for jabbing and killing an adversary or foe.”41 The author of Hebrews compares the Word of God with a two-edged sword, saying it “is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.”42 The term “word” is taken from two different Greek words; “logos” and “rhema.” Logos is known as the written word of God, while rhema “describes something that is spoken vividly, in undeniable language, or in unmistakable, unquestionable, certain, and definite terms.”43

God’s Word is an offensive weapon used by believers to stand firm and even rebuke Satan. The Word of the Lord, whether it be scriptural or by way of revelation, acts as a two-edged sword to rebuff the lies and claims of the opponent. Jesus used the Word of God in the wilderness in Matthew 4 to rebuke Satan, causing him to retreat until a more opportune time presented itself. The sword is of the Spirit, and each time people declare God's Word, the Holy Spirit fights in the spirit realm on their behalf. God’s Word gives people the power and authority necessary to gain victory over the adversary.

40 Ephesians 6:17.
41 Rick Renner, Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil, 14.
42 Hebrews 4:12.
43 Rick Renner, Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil, 24–25.
Prayer

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”44 James 5:16 declares “the earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” Prayer, saturated in the Word of God, is a vital weapon in one’s battle with Satan. God promised His “word . . . I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”45 Believers must combat Satan’s lies, doubt, and accusations by praying God’s Word.

God’s Word and prayer are two powerful, supernatural weapons in our warfare. These weapons are used to “to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments . . . destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God and capture rebellious thoughts” described in 2 Corinthians:10. Prayer keeps the believer in constant communication with the Father and activates the believer’s armor. “As we seek God in prayer to receive His direction and His power for our daily living, we get ourselves in position to victoriously reinforce Jesus Christ’s triumphant victory over Satan and gloriously demonstrate Satan’s miserable defeat.”46

Divine Warrior/Holy War


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44 Ephesians 6:18.

45 Isaiah 55:11

texts of descriptions of historical activities, implements of warfare, semantic domains of war, etc., are indicative of the utilization of the metaphor of God as a ‘warrior.’”⁴⁷ One may question how this relates to spiritual warfare. Philip Bethancourt suggests, “The conflict-oriented nature of Scripture is the direct result of a warfare worldview that is not only consistently held by the human authors of the Bible but also decisively maintained by its divine author—the divine warrior himself.”⁴⁸ Some Old Testament scholars like Charlie Trimm and Philip Bethancourt have concluded that the holy wars of Israel were physical manifestations of a cosmic, unseen battle between God and the gods of their neighbors. In addition, the armor utilized by the Divine Warrior in Isaiah 59:17 is used by Paul in Ephesians 6. In the New Testament, the Divine Warrior is no longer God, but His Body of Believers.

Beilby states, “‘Spiritual warfare’ sounds uncomfortably close to the language of ‘holy war.’ And holy war—with its ‘warrior God,’ Yahweh, and its divinely authorized violence against the ‘enemies’ of God’s people—is a common theme found throughout the Old Testament.”⁴⁹ Similar to the modern biblical warfare worldview, the people of ancient Israel believed the spiritual and natural worlds were connected. When they engaged in a physical battle, the people of Israel found God and His heavenly hosts were fighting for them in the spirit realm.

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Satan

Satan is known to be the enemy of God and humanity in Christian theology. Created by God as an angelic being, Satan, or Lucifer, possessed great beauty until pride led to his rebellion. The Devil is known as a liar, the prince of this realm, the leader of darkness, the ruler of this world, and the accuser of the brethren. He is also recognized as the evil entity in direct opposition to God and His Word. Ryan Stokes, author of “Satan: YHWH’s Executioner,” believes the proper Hebraic translation for Satan in Zechariah 3 and Job 1 and 2 is “The Attacker” or even “The Executioner.”\textsuperscript{50} In Hebrew tradition, Satan is thought to be a supernatural “agent of death, who visits God’s enemies with capital judgment.”\textsuperscript{51} Satan, the author of evil, schemes to steal, kill, and destroy. Murder, sickness, fear, broken relationships, perversion, and all other social ills originated from him. Satan uses many tactics to achieve his goal of separating man from God.

Spirit/Heavenly Realm

In the Book of Ephesians, Paul states Christians are waging war against “evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.”\textsuperscript{52} Heaven is described as having three levels: the atmosphere, outer space, and the third heaven. In Corinthians 12:2, Paul states, “I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out my body, I don’t know – Only God knows.” The atmosphere that surrounds the earth is the first heaven. In Genesis 1:20, God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with the bird of every


\textsuperscript{51} Ryan E. Stokes, “Satan, Yhwh’s Executioner,” 269.

\textsuperscript{52} Ephesians 6:12.
kind.” On the other hand, the second heaven is known as “outer space” or stellar heaven where the stars and their constellations located. The third heaven is the seat of God’s throne. Matthew 5:16 states in the King James Version, “let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” As one cannot visualize otherworldly powers, this concept can be challenging to comprehend because it is not tangible. Believers must recognize that although they cannot see this realm, it is real. When discussing spiritual warfare, this thesis refers to the first, second, or third heaven.

**Worldview**

James W. Sire explains worldview as “a set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold (consciously or unconsciously) about the basic makeup of our world.” In the *Handbook for Spiritual Warfare*, Ed Murphy provided a more simplistic definition describing worldview as “one’s basic assumption about reality.” “All persons’ beliefs and behavior, in that order, are based upon their world view, whether or not they are conscious of that fact.” Paul Hiebert confirms that “a world view provides people with their basic assumptions about reality. Religion provides them with the specific content of this reality.” For this paper, naturalism and biblical worldview will be the focus.

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53 Isaiah 13:10.


56 Ibid.

57 Ibid.
Naturalism

Birthed out of the Enlightenment period, naturalism “affirms that ultimate reality is material or physical, not spiritual.”\textsuperscript{58} Naturalism is methodological and adopts characteristics of the “scientific method which constructs its pattern of thought on the basis of natural causation as distinguished from a supernatural or occult explanation.”\textsuperscript{59} Those who hold a naturalistic worldview believe the physical, tangible world is the “real” world; nothing exists beyond what is seen, felt, or touched. Therefore, naturalism arguably explains life events utilizing natural causes.

Many Christians have mostly rejected this worldview, but some have also discarded the possibility of miracles, signs, and wonders. In their daily lives, naturalism significantly impacts their perspective on the spiritual realm. Christians who are more apt to explain sickness and disease through science and medicine or failed marriages as simply a result of “irreconcilable differences” could have fallen into the trap of naturalism.

The Biblical Worldview

The biblical worldview, also known as the Christian worldview, acknowledges God as the Creator, focuses on Christ as the fulfillment of salvation, and interprets everything that happens within the earth through the lens of the Bible.\textsuperscript{60} The biblical worldview rests upon two foundational truths: (1) the existence of God, and (2) the idea that God’s character and will are revealed throughout the Bible. Unlike naturalism, the biblical worldview attests to the belief in God, angels, evil, the spirit realm, the human soul—things not seen or experienced in the natural

\textsuperscript{58} Ed Murphy, \textit{The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare}, 7.

\textsuperscript{59} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{60} “Competing Worldviews Influence Today’s Christians,” Barna Group, Ltd, May 9, 2017, \url{https://www.barna.com/research/competing-worldviews-influence-todays-christians/}.  

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realm. Everything from the cosmos to man has a meaning and a purpose that is grounded in God. Christians interpret and interact with the world using the infallible Word of God as their lens. Unfortunately, Barna Research Group found that only “17 percent of Americans held a ‘biblical’ worldview,” 61 making understanding spiritual warfare all the more difficult, as it is for “most modern Westerners, who are culturally conditioned to dismiss talk about non-physical conscious beings (angels) as superstition.” 62

Statement of Limitations

The discussion of spiritual warfare has increased over the past few decades, increasing the number of writings on the subject and its many facets: deliverance, healing, demon possession, et cetera. However, literature documenting the effects of the lack of solid teaching on spiritual warfare by pastors and other Christian leaders is minimal. In this project, the many critiques of spiritual warfare and spiritual warfare language are not discussed. For this paper, the author focuses on the believers’ understanding of biblical spiritual warfare, the full armor of God, and how to utilize the armor leading to a victorious life.

Delimitations include the group of people chosen to participate in the research, survey, interview and focus questions, and the way the interviews for the focus group were conducted and moderated. Another delimiting factor is the theoretical perspective chosen regarding the need for more teaching on spiritual warfare.

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Surveys, focus group, and interviews were conducted with a small sample group of Christian participants to determine and understand various perspectives. After implementing teaching in the author’s home church, short-term and long-term follow up will be conducted to determine if the participants’ viewpoints on spiritual warfare have changed.

Theological Basis

Biblical Foundation

When reading the Bible, one would think the battle between good and evil, God versus Satan, or Satan and man began in the Garden of Eden. However, the fall of man was a direct result of a failed battle in heaven by a severely disgruntled fallen angel. Lucifer, known in the Book of Ezekiel, was an anointed Guardian Cherub perfect in wisdom and beauty. His “clothing was adorned with every precious stone – red carnelian, pale-green peridot, white moonstone, blue-green beryl, onyx, green jasper, blue lapis lazuli, turquoise, and emerald – all beautifully crafted for you and set in the finest gold.”63 He also had ready access to God’s throne. Lucifer was perfect until he used his great wisdom and position to attempt to usurp the King and take God’s glory for his own. For he said to himself, “I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.”64 Lucifer’s pride led him to manipulate and lead one-third of heaven's angelic army into rebellion against God; this was the first great encounter between the Kingdom of God and the territory of darkness.

64 Isaiah 14:13–14.
Consequently, for his rebellion, Satan was thrown out of heaven. “Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And he and his angels were forced out of heaven, and the dragon lost the battle. This great dragon – the ancient serpent called the Devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world – was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.”65 Jesus said he “saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning!”66 Consequently, Satan declared war on humanity with the plan to steal, kill, and destroy.

Satan has great influence in the world today, blinding men from the glorious life of the Gospel. He roams the earth seeking who he can devour. Satan’s strategy, to lure man away from God, has remained the same since the Garden. He strives to dishonor God by causing the children of God to rebel against Him, ultimately stealing God’s glory and bringing judgment upon the believer.

References to spiritual warfare, Satan, or demons in the Old Testament are scarce. In fact, “Satan” is only mentioned 24 times, which is scarce, but evident, nonetheless. Also, the Old Testament verses reference evil spirits, such as in Judges 9:22–25, 1 Samuel 16:14. 22, and 1 Kings 22:21–23, providing further evidence of an evil power in play. The Old Testament attributes deception, confusion, rebellion, and natural disasters to evil spirits. In the Old Testament, Spiritual warfare is articulated in terms of nature, cosmic monsters, nations, and false idols. For example, Leviathan, a strong sea serpent, could not be overcome by humans. God defeated Leviathan instead, as He “crushed the heads of Leviathan and let the desert animals eat him.”67 “Old Testament authors did not draw a sharp distinction between “spiritual” and

65 Revelation 12:7–9.
67 Psalm 74:14.
“physical” realities. The world “above” and the world “below” were intertwined. Hence, biblical authors frequently see battles between nations as participating in God’s ongoing battle with cosmic forces.”\textsuperscript{68} The Israelites had an advantage against the Amalekites. Moses, armed with a staff of God, stood on top of a hill, and raised the staff toward the heavens. However, when lowered, their advantage waned. Moses, Joshua, and the army of Israel ultimately defeated their enemy, an enemy of God. Biblical authors believed God entered battles against His foes, just as humans entered the battle against their enemies.\textsuperscript{69}

**The New Testament**

The warfare motif becomes even more of a central theme. “In the Old Testament, Satan never openly emerges as the enemy of God. Conversely, in the New Testament, his evil character is well known, and he is consistently portrayed as the opponent of both God and man.”\textsuperscript{70} Demon possession, spiritual battles, and Satan, regarding how he operates and his agenda, are spoken about by biblical authors. In addition, Satan’s hierarchical army of leaders, influencers, agents of darkness, and spiritual forces of evil are revealed in heavenly places. Satan launches “systematic, well-organized, and non-ending assaults against any number of human beings at the same time, through his vast army of co-workers, co-devils in that sense, evil spirits.”\textsuperscript{71} The New Testament paints the picture of creation being “seized by a cosmic force and that God is now battling this force to rescue it.”\textsuperscript{72}

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\textsuperscript{68} Gregory A. Boyd, *Satan and the Problem of Evil: Constructing a Trinitarian Warfare Theodicy*, 32.

\textsuperscript{69} Ibid., 33.

\textsuperscript{70} Reid, Michael, “The Impact of Teaching the Peniel Model of Spiritual Warfare to Pastors.” DMin diss., Oral Roberts University, 2002, 57.

\textsuperscript{71} Ed Murphy, *The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare*, 233.

\textsuperscript{72} Gregory A. Boyd, *Satan and the Problem of Evil: Constructing a Trinitarian Warfare Theodicy*, 35.
In the Gospels, Jesus casts out demons, silences evil spirits, heals the sick, and resurrects the dead while preaching the lifesaving message of the Kingdom of God. Jesus’ mission was to introduce the Kingdom of God to the inhabitants of the earth. His goal established the Church, which brought souls out of the domain of darkness to the kingdom of light. The only way this can happen is if Satan is bound and ceases from influencing people’s lives. Satan will not loosen his grip on the earth; therefore, people must take back what the enemy stole by force. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus destroyed the works of the enemy and disarmed Satan and his evil army. “While Satan has in principle been defeated by Christ, God’s victory has not yet been fully realized on the earth. Applying this victory to the rest of the world is the primary business of the church, the body of Christ.”

Second Corinthians and Ephesians are known for the vivid descriptions of the enemy and his hierarchical army, people’s position in Christ, and the weapons needed to defeat the enemy. Fighting from a place of victory in Christ is essential in waging war. When speaking of Ephesians 6, Ed Murphy states, “All through the history of the church, believers, both theologians and lay Christians, have turned to this passage for help, especially in those hours when all the powers of hell seem to have been released against them.” The spiritual warfare framework is easily recognized through this brief synopsis of the Bible as an important. Christ theoretically gave people the victory over Satan, but the believers must enforce and defend that victory.

73 Ibid., 38.

74 Ed Murphy, The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare, 204.
**Historical Foundation**

According to early Jewish thought, supernatural and cosmic forces dictated the lives of humanity. This “cosmic struggle between two divine beings and their allies for sovereignty was widespread throughout the ancient world.” Warfare dictated the rise and fall of the gods of each region. The people’s victory in war symbolized God’s supremacy over all other gods. Israel was no different than its ancient counterparts.

YHWH was the all-Powerful God of Israel, the “Lord of Hosts,” or the Lord’s army. In the Book of Deuteronomy, chapters 7 and 20, the Lord dictated detailed parameters before, during, and after the Holy War. For instance, God determined when Israel would go to war. Either Kings inquired of the Lord seeking permission to engage in battle, as David did in 1 Samuel 30:8: “And David inquired of the Lord, saying, ‘Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them?’ And he answered him, ‘Pursue for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.’” David continues, “Should I move back to one of the towns of Judah?” “Yes,” the Lord replied. Then David asked, “Which town should I go to?” “To Hebron,” the Lord answered.

God commanded Israel to engage in war as in Joshua 5:13–15:

> When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, ‘Are you friend or foe?’ ‘Neither one,’ he replied, ‘I am the commander of the Lord’s army.’ At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. ‘I am your command,’ Joshua said, ‘What do you want your servant to do?’ The commander of the Lord’s army replied, ‘Take off your sandal, for the place where you are standing is holy.’ And Joshua did as he was told.

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76 2 Samuel 2:1.
In commanding His army, the Lord of Hosts would often declare, I “handed your enemy over to you this time!” signifying that He alone was responsible for their victory. Repeatedly, the Lord reminded Israel it was Him who fought for them. In Exodus 14:14, the Lord says, “The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.” Deuteronomy 1:30 states, “The Lord your God is going ahead of you. He will fight for you.” In Joshua 11:6, The Lord says, “. . . by this time tomorrow, I will hand all of them over to Israel as dead men. “For the Lord, your God is going with you! He will fight for you against your enemies, and he will give you victory!” Israel’s neighbors were not just its enemy; they were God’s enemy. With each victory, the fame of the God of Israel spread throughout the region: YHWH was the Supreme God.

Exodus 15 was God’s first appearance as the God who fights for and protects Israel. After victoriously walking out of Egypt, the Hebrew people found themselves caught between Pharaoh’s militia in full pursuit and the Red Sea, weaponless, and with no way of escape. YHWH rose to defend and protect His people. Opening the sea to allow His people to cross safely, God soon rescinded the waters to overtake Pharaoh and his army. Israel had just experienced God fight its fierce enemy on its behalf. In the wake of its enemy’s destruction, Israel celebrated, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; he has hurled both horse and rider into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise Him - my father’s God, and I will exalt him! The Lord is a warrior; Yahweh is his name!”

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77 1 Samuel 26:8.
78 Deuteronomy 20:4.
79 Exodus 15:1–3.
This is the first visual image that portrayed God as a Warrior. Developed and marked by the Exodus conflict throughout the Old Testament, a cycle of spiritual warfare impeded in Israel’s rich history. Marked through Israel’s history are events of divine warfare by the divine warrior Himself. The main principle is that God is present amid the battle as the divine warrior. As Israel grows and begins to change, the concept of the divine warrior also changes. By the time Jesus is ready to start his earthly ministry, the enemy of the divine warrior transitions from a physical enemy to a spiritual one.

The Old Testament

Old Testament scholars built their support for their warfare worldview utilizing the Bible and supporting documents found in the ancient Near East. Built on the framework of William W. Hallo, Old Testament scholars discussed the similarities and differences between the documents from the ancient Near East and the Bible. The documents were used by scholars to reconstruct the cultures, traditions, values, and worldviews of countries in the ancient Near East. Comparing the documents with the Bible provided scholars with historical context for the holy wars of Israel as well as common ideologies held within the region. It’s concluded that “in the ancient Near East, the pattern of divine warfare was a common ideological tool for narrating and celebrating the rise of a nation’s deity to the status of a supreme god over all creation and over all other deities.”

80 This cosmic struggle between the gods was a cultural tradition in the ancient Near East. For Israel, God was celebrated as the Divine Warrior who engaged in war on behalf of His people, triumphing over all other gods.

Biblical scholar Julius Wellhausen was among the first to understand the war-like nature of Israel. According to Wellhausen, the war was not only a form of worship for Israel, but it was the direct result of conflict with its neighbors due to conflicting religions. This theory was in direct alignment with the idea of the “cosmic struggle between gods” of the ancient Near East.

Frederick Schwally was the first modern-day scholar to research holy war in ancient Israel. Schwally was the first to use the phrase “holy war” to describe this conflict in which Israel engaged. Schwally recognized the connection between Israel’s warfare, Israel’s establishment as a nation, and its worship. These topics were previously discussed by scholars such as Wellhausen and Schwally, H. Fredricksson furthered his contribution to this topic by including the description of the divine warrior.

F.M. Cross contributed the most significant work to Old Testament warfare. Cross “initiated a history of religions approach to Old Testament warfare in which scholars compared the military activity of Israel to surrounding ancient Near East cultures.”

In addition to victories such as these, the Old Testament also introduces the concept of “herem.” Known in modern times as the “Canaanite Genocide,” this is when God commanded Israel to destroy the Canaanites and show them no mercy. Seen today as a form of judgment, God commanded Israel, saying, “and then the Lord your God will send terror to drive out the few

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82 Ibid., 20.
83 Ibid., 21.
survivors still hiding from you!”\textsuperscript{85} “In those towns that the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession, destroy every living thing”\textsuperscript{86}

**Christ**

Roman occupation crushed Israel in the opening of the New Testament. With the promise of a Warrior-King to free them, Jesus begins his earthly ministry shattering expectations. Although Jesus did not come as the Divine Warrior of the Old Testament rising to execute judgment against Israel’s enemies, He did come to wage war culminating at the cross. The earthly ministry of Jesus changed the concept of who the enemy was. No longer physical, the Lord contended with the ultimate enemy, Satan, and his demons. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus did not use a sword or condone violence when Peter drew his sword and struck the soldier’s ear. Jesus taught His disciples to forgive their natural enemies. Jesus’ mission was to overthrow the kingdom of darkness. Physical restoration, various miracles, and the casting out demons were the vehicles Jesus exercised on earth to break the powers of darkness and set God’s people free. Through the death and resurrection of Christ, Jesus engaged in direct conflict with Satan and “disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”\textsuperscript{87}

\textsuperscript{85} Deuteronomy 7:20.
\textsuperscript{86} Deuteronomy 20:16.
\textsuperscript{87} Colossians 2:15.
The Early Church

The newly formed Christian community of the second century lacked organization and uniformity. The early church was a new, small sect in the Mediterranean surrounded by pagans and Jews who lacked outlined doctrine. Leaders who followed the apostles rose to become apostolic fathers of the faith. Considered to be the First Apostolic Father of the Church, Pope Clement I, or Clement of Rome, authored the earliest letter to the Church, outside of the New Testament. Addressed to the Church in Corinth, Clement sought to remedy the factions caused by the “promptings of the enemy.”88 He viewed the Devil as “the adversary who, through his suggestions, causes men to do evil. He exhorted Christians to recognize this spiritual conflict and that victory could be sustained by resisting the wiles of Satan.”89

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, believed the Devil was the ruler of this age and that angels, both good and evil, existed. He stated that since the fall of Adam and Eve, this present era has been ‘wicked, save the times marked by the coming of Christ, and the ultimate destruction by His second coming. According to Ignatius, “the devil’s purpose is to thwart Christ’s work of salvation by diverting Christian people from their proper goal,”90 warning believers that Satan was fully capable of attacking them individually.

Most likely written by an unknown Jewish rabbi, the Epistle of Barnabas was written in the Jewish-Christian community of Egypt.91 Similar to Ignatius, the author of the Epistle identified the conflict between the kingdoms of light and darkness. With the two kingdoms at war, humans

89 Michael Reid, “The Impact of Teaching the Peniel Model of Spiritual Warfare to Pastors,” 87.
90 Jeffrey Russell, Satan: The Early Church Tradition, 35.
91 Ibid., 38.
were to take sides and battle against one another. The author also seemed to believe that the enemy could suggest sin, creating a conflict within the human soul: “the individual soul becomes a battleground between Christ and the devil.”

The Shepherd of Hermas also discussed the struggle between good and evil spirits; however, the battleground was in the heart. According to Hermas, whose writings were mostly allegorical, a city with two thrones resided on the inside of the human heart. God, or His angel, sat on one throne, and the Devil, or his angel, sat on the other. With these two thrones in the heart of man, it was man’s responsibility to make moral decisions.

Philo of Alexandria said that angels and demons “lived in the air, probably in the ether— the upper air near heaven—but they moved back and forth between heaven and earth as intermediaries between God and man.” He also categorized the angels as benevolent, evil, and those who executed judgment.

In the middle of the second century, Christianity began to “compete intellectually with rabbinic thought and Greek philosophy.” Based upon revelations were the intuitive thought processes of the apostolic fathers combined with analytical thought and logical reflection. Apologetic theologian, Justin Martyr was born in Samaria, educated by the Greeks, and adopted Platonism before converting to Christianity. Martyr’s worldview included a “consciousness of the demonic element of the universe.” Similar to the apostolic fathers before him, Martyr believed God and His community of believers were engaged in a cosmic battle with Satan and

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92 Ibid., 41.
93 Ibid., 43.
94 Jeffrey Russell, Satan: The Early Church Tradition, 49.
95 Ibid., 51.
96 Ibid., 63.
those who followed him. He also believed angels were freewill beings who lived in the air. Martyr combined late Jewish thought with his theories in the belief that angels were assigned by God to rule a person, nation, or geographical regions. In referencing Satan, Martyr believed that God created him, is a liar and a deceiver, and had limited knowledge and power. Martyr contended that although in battle with the Devil, Christ broke the power of the god of this world through His death and resurrection, but destruction would be evident at the second coming of Christ. “Satan knew from the moment of Christ’s passion that his doom was for sure, but he still strives viciously and vainly against that fate by trying to undermine Christ saving work in the church, the Christian community.”

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, was the first to develop a complete theology of original sin. As one with limited power, Satan, the deceiver, sought to usurp the authority of God. He entered the Garden of Eden with the motive to destroy Adam and Eve. According to Irenaeus, Adam and Eve were tempted by the Devil but sinned of their own free will, delivering themselves to the power of Satan. With humanity powerless to free themselves from the power of sin, Christ became the second Adam. In Irenaeus’ view, the death and resurrection of Christ saved humanity. “The passion began with the Devil’s temptation of Christ, the second Adam, a recapitulation of the temptation of the first Adam, except that this time the Devil failed.”

Originally thinking that he won the battle against Christ, Satan soon realized that he was defeated. Because of this defeat, he actively tries to thwart salvation using strategies such as paganism and heresy. In the fight against the Devil, Irenaeus believed that the Devil would flee at the name of Jesus through prayer.

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97 Ibid., 69.
Through observing all that is evil, Tertullian believed the presence of the Devil could be proven. In turn, through observing all that was good, the presence of God could be established. He argued that Satan was a created being who, although created to be good, turned himself evil. According to Tertullian, Satan plans is to destroy everything good that is created by God. “In every way, the Devil acts as God’s opposite, seeking to destroy the truth, corrupt virtue, and pollute beauty. As perverter of the cosmos, he is the foremost enemy of Christ and humanity. All injustice comes from him.”99 With Christ’s death redeeming man from the Devil, Tertullian argued through baptism, the sign of the cross and by using the name of Jesus demons could be cast out.100

Origen of Alexandria argued that the fall of Satan was the result of his pride. He connected Satan and Lucifer using Old Testament references in Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Job. The dragon and the Prince of Tyre were symbols used to depict Satan’s pride. Until pride was found, it established Lucifer as a great and beautiful angel. Origen also believed in angels and demons raging to influence humanity to either move closer to God or further away. Like his predecessors, Origen believed Christ’s death and resurrection was a critical turning point in the battle over humanity. In his view, Christ’s death not only reconciled people to God; its shattered Satan’s power over the believer and paid people’s ransom as well. “In order to rescue us from Satan’s power without violating justice, God was obliged to pay the devil a ransom.”101 Origen also believed, like his predecessors, Satan became furious after the resurrection of Christ, setting his eyes on the destruction of man. The enemy attacks man in hopes of drawing him away from

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99 Ibid., 95.
100 Ibid., 100.
101 Jeffrey Russell, Satan: The Early Church Tradition, 140.
Christ, yet God sees it as an opportunity for the believer to resist the Devil’s temptation and reduce his influence. Origen said, “The Devil never gives up trying to lure the converted Christian way from grace. Accordingly, the Christian life is a constant struggle against the powers of darkness.” In addition to the cross, faith, prayer, and moral life are defenses used by Christians to defeat the Devil successfully.

It can be concluded, based on this research, that the early church fathers held a warfare worldview. They believed in freewill angelic beings that influenced humanity. They also thought there was a cosmic struggle between God, God’s people, and Satan. The theologians mentioned above seemed to agree the death and resurrection of Christ destroyed the works of Satan, but even still, he tries to lure believers away from God. Although the weapons were different, Irenaeus and Origen agreed that Christians can conquer the Devil, even mentioning faith and prayer as two of the weapons.

**Divine Warrior**

In Isaiah 59, Israel is in a “state of apostasy.” According to its author, Israel was far away from God. Injustice, unrighteousness, and immorality were the standard of the day. The truth was absent, and darkness abounded. God witnessed this evil and searched for one who would intervene, but He found none.

Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attached. The Lord looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So, he stepped in to save them with his strong arm, and his justice sustained him. He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of

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102 Ibid., 143.
salvation on his head. He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion.\(^{104}\)

In 1977, Thomas Neufeld published a monograph contending the divine warrior motif found in Isaiah 59 was the model of the full armor of God found in Ephesians 6. Neufeld stated that Ephesians 6:10, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might,” is a call to the community of believers to “invest itself with the role and equipment of the Divine Warrior,”\(^{105}\) the armor of God. “With the armor, Isaiah attributed to God, or the Son of David, Paul outfits the church as the new humanity, the new Israel, in its battle against the powers of this age.”\(^{106}\) Through the use of God's armor, believers wage war in the strength of the Lord. As a result, the body of believers in Ephesians 6 are to engage in the holy war against principalities and powers. In keeping with true holy war Fashion, the victory in the believer’s warfare comes from God and not the believers themselves. Paul may have used Roman terminology when listing the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet shod with the preparation of peace, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit, but the “archetype of warfare is Israelite.”\(^{107}\) Much of the armor described by Paul is in Isaiah 59.

Statement of Methodology

After speaking with several leaders in the church on the topic of spiritual warfare, the author of this project perceived a lack of understanding on the subject, leading him to question

\(^{104}\) Isaiah 59:15–17.


believer’s readiness in the area of spiritual warfare. The author recognized the need for solid teaching on the topic, particularly regarding how to utilize the armor and weaponry found in Ephesians Six, the full armor of God.

The structure of this project is designed to identify the need for solid teaching on spiritual warfare. Chapter One provides a brief introductory foundation on spiritual warfare, the full armor of God, and identifies numerous reasons for solid teaching on spiritual warfare. The subsequent chapters address and review research data and implementation suggestions for pastors and church leaders to bridge the knowledge gap as it relates to spiritual warfare, as well as summarize the project in its entirety.

Chapter One: Introduction

Serving as an overview for the project, chapter one introduces the topic of spiritual warfare, identifies the need for solid teaching on spiritual warfare, and discusses the biblical, historical, and theological basis of spiritual warfare. This chapter presents the rationale for this project, identifies the problem within the church using the most recent statistics, addresses limitations, and defines terms dealing with the subject matter. Lastly, literary works, such as books, journal articles, Bible verses, and theses, are reviewed to outline how the literature and scriptures relate to the topic of spiritual warfare.

Chapter Two: Procuring Research Data

Chapter two describes the methods by which the surveys, phone interviews, and focus group data were collected. These research methods provided a baseline assessment to determine the need for solid teaching on spiritual warfare.
Chapter Three: Analyzing Research Data

Chapter three discusses the analytical techniques for the quantitative and qualitative data collected. The findings will conclude the need for solid teaching on spiritual warfare.

Chapter 4: Discussion of Spiritual Warfare and Full Armor of God

In Chapter four, the essence and realities of spiritual warfare are discussed. Satan’s tactics and his agenda reveal the root of challenges people face in life. Guidelines for living a victorious, prosperous, and fulfilling life are by offering proper instructions on utilizing the full armor of God outlined in the sixth chapter of Ephesians. In addition, best practices for using the Armor of God in spiritual warfare are mentioned, transitioning through each piece of armor. Knowing who believers are up against, the components of the Armor of God, the weapons given for their victory, and how to use their weaponry properly will rectify a great number of challenges seen by the church.

Chapter Five: Conclusion

Chapter 5 concludes the project. This section summarizes the project in its entirety, bridging together the author’s theories, academic research, and research findings. Academic literature, interviews, a survey, and a focus group proved the need for solid teaching on spiritual warfare. Implementing spiritual warfare training in local ministries reviewed practical methods.
Review of Literature

Books

*God at War: The Bible and Spiritual Conflict* by Gregory Boyd compares how modern Christians perceive evil and the conflict between God and Satan with those of the authors of the Old and New Testament. Boyd argues that the battle between God and Satan is a major theme throughout the Scriptures, highlighting verses on hostile waters and evil beings as evidence of spiritual conflict in the Old Testament. The author also discusses the increased evidence of spiritual warfare in the Gospels and New Testament books. Boyd rejects the worldview of a Sovereign God who is in complete control and recognizes the influence Satan has on earth’s inhabitants. Based on his warfare model, God and Satan are in a battle in which God will ultimately win. *God of War* challenges traditional worldviews about spiritual powers, spiritual warfare, and God’s Sovereignty. For this project, this book aides in portraying an accurate biblical account of spiritual warfare.

The *Manual for Spiritual Warfare* by Paul Thigen is a carefully written roadmap providing directions on how to recognize, resist, and defeat Satan. The book divides into two parts, and Thigpen acknowledges Satan, his army, and the reality of spiritual warfare from the Roman Catholic perspective. The first section provides insight on who Satan is, his strategies, and the weapons needed for his defeat. In the second part, spiritual warfare instructional resources are to help pastors and leaders teach parishioners.

*Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches that are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare* by Chuck Lawless reviews the elements of a healthy growing church, including discipleship, evangelism, and spiritual warfare. Lawless merges three separate topics into one biblical and practical piece of literature. He begins by listing the six pillars of the Church and discusses
possible weak areas the enemy could target. Lawless also places great emphasis on spiritual warfare and the development of disciple warriors who can gain victory in the realm of the spirit. Not only does Lawless provide the theological background for these topics, but he also offers practical tools for implementation in local churches.

*Satan and the Problem of Evil: Constructing a Trinitarian Warfare Theodicy* continues Gregory Boyd’s work in *God at War*. Boyd reinforces his ideas on the Sovereignty of God, the reality of Satan, and the fallen state of humanity. Once again, the author finds himself challenging the classical worldview of a dominating God who forcibly controls mankind. Boyd deepens his exploration of the freedom of man, free will, and his decision to participate in the plans and love of God voluntarily.

*Understanding Spiritual Warfare: Four Views* by James Beilby includes contributions from C. Peter Wagner, Gregory Boyd, David Powlison, Michael Hardin, Gareth Higgins, Rebecca Greenwood, and Walker Wink. This compilation of critical thinking and dialogue provides a concise scholarly history of angels, demons, and methodologies of spiritual warfare and more. Specific biblical passages are coupled with personal experiences with spiritual warfare to create varying viewpoints on spiritual warfare based on the contributor’s denominational affiliation.

*The Christian in Complete Armour* by William Gurnall provides an in-depth explanation of the armor of God. Using Ephesians six as a scriptural foundation, Gurnall expounds on each piece of armor in the greatest detail. Gurnall connected them to the spirit world as one of the most highly regarded literature pieces on spiritual warfare; this book includes spiritual truths for a spiritual victory in battle. Although classic Puritan writing, *The Christian in complete Armour* holds insight that is useful for modern Christians. For this project, this book clarified the value of each piece individually and how God intended for Christians to use it.
Spiritual Warfare and Missions: The Battle for God's Glory Among the Nations by

International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and Ed Stetzer exposes Satan’s plan to persuade believers that the Great Commission is optional and irrelevant today. Rebutting the fallacy that certain denominations or mission-minded ministries are solely responsible for spreading the Gospel, Rankin and Stetzer remind the reader that evangelism is the ministry of every believer who follows Christ. The authors discuss the internal and external obstacles used by Satan to hinder the church from its mission, including false gospels, governments that close the nation’s doors to the Gospel, the erosion of the authority of God’s Word, and geographical boundaries. Although Satan strives against God’s purposes, this book convincingly leads believers into a place of hope where victory in Christ is inevitable.

Satan: The Early Church Tradition by Jeffrey Burton Russell offers a well-developed account of the development of Christian theology. Using previous scholarly literature and research, Russell focuses on the first five centuries of the Church’s history and how early church fathers and theologians viewed Satan, evil, the problem of sin, the visible manifestation of sin, and ways to overcome the Devil. The author provides a detailed church history, which aided in the writing of this paper.

Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil by Rick Renner discusses each essential element of the full armor of God in detail. He states the loin belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, the shield of faith, helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, and lance of prayer and supplication are valid, integral, and influential tools today, just as they were for the Early Church. Renner also informs the believer about the true nature and character of Satan, discusses principalities, and powers, and provides vital strategies to overcome the schemes of the enemy. Without the knowledge of
the enemy, the believer will fall victim to his plans every time. This book helps the believer to engage in spiritual warfare successfully.

*The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare* by Ed Murphy is an exhaustive resource on the topic of spiritual warfare. Both objective and informative, Ed Murphy guides the reader on a scriptural journey of spiritual warfare beginning with the fall of Satan, leading into the Old Testament, and ending with Satan’s ultimate defeat in the Book of Revelation. Murphy clarifies that the ministry of Jesus dealt heavily with spiritual warfare. Also, this book discusses the Western, trinitarian, spiritual, theistic, redemptive, and spiritual warfare worldviews in detail, encouraging one to rethink his or her belief in the supernatural or unseen world. With the Western worldview, being one of the greatest threats to believers, Murphy intricately lays a scriptural foundation that eradicates any doubt of the unseen.

*The Handbook* is also a source of wisdom, providing insight on how to face issues that currently plague the church, such as homosexuality, pornography, new ageism, and mental illness. Biblically and theologically grounded, this book equips believers with practical guidance for spiritual warfare.

*Prayers for Victory in Spiritual Warfare* by Tony Evans provides a summary of each part of the full armor of God. Besides, Evans includes practical prayers to be used to engage in spiritual warfare. He also details how to pray using the various pieces of armor. These prayers help the believer regain ground usurped by the enemy, ensuring daily victories.

*Put on the Armour of God: The Divine Warrior from Isaiah to Ephesians* by Thomas Neufeld is a historical investigation of the ancient Israeli concept of the Divine Warrior. Mainly concerned with the arming and dressing of the Warrior, Neufeld begins his journey in Isaiah 59 and proceeds through the Wisdom of Solomon 5, 1 Thessalonians 5, and in Ephesians 6. The
Divine Warrior is one who responds to injustice, executing divine intervention as well as divine judgment. In Ephesians, Neufeld suggests that the body of believers walk in the mantle of the Divine Warrior, executing judgment on unseen enemies. This literary work lends itself as a biblically oriented perspective on the divine warfare motif.

*Roman Imperial Armour: The Production of Early Imperial Military Armour* by D. Sim and J. Kaminski is a technical book that details the production of Roman armor. The Roman army was well trained and well equipped, mainly due to their advanced weapons and sophisticated armor. This book examined the metals used to produce the armor and explained how the production of the armor specifically protected the typical Roman soldier. The authors created a visual picture of the torso armor, shoes, helmets, leg armor, and their effectiveness in battle.

*Praying God’s Word* by Beth Moore is a resource for prayer. Specifically designed to use scriptures as prayers, Moore equips believers with the tools necessary to overcome strongholds and defeat the enemy. As an introduction, Moore describes basic principles to understand 2 Corinthians 10:3–5, more specifically, what strongholds are and how to dismantle them through the armor of God. Moore teaches the reader how to accurately wield the sword of the Spirit by instructing readers to search for scriptures about issues that hold them in bondage and rewrite them into prayers. These personalized prayers dismantle strongholds and rebuff the enemy.

*God is a Warrior* by Tremper Longman III, and Daniel Reid details the development of the idea of the Divine Warrior. Using the warrior mythology of the ancient Near East as support, the authors highlight passages of the Bible that select God as Israel’s Divine Warrior, the One who fights on their behalf to establish His glory throughout the surrounding countries.

As a central theme throughout the Bible, the authors discussed the Divine Warrior motif in the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, the Divine Warrior fought for and against
Israel and the forces of chaos. The prophetic declaration of a future Warrior-King is also found in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the authors discuss the transformation role of the Divine Warrior Jesus’ ministry and the body of believers. The cultural, historical, and biblical background of the holy wars and the Divine Warrior motif support the theme of spiritual warfare found in the Bible.

*Victory in Spiritual Warfare: Outfitting Yourself for the Battle* by Tony Evans is a timely and unique exploration of spiritual warfare. In laying a foundation for spiritual warfare, Evans explains that every problem people encounter begins in the unseen realm yet manifests in the natural. Using scripture upon scripture, Evans illustrates why the believer must engage in spiritual warfare in the realm of the spirit versus the natural realm. By teaching the reader how to properly and effectively engage in spiritual warfare using the full armor of God, Evans provides the opportunity for the reader to be empowered to win the battle against the enemy. Using practical, relatable examples, Evans explains the importance and proper use of each piece of armor.

*Fervent* by Priscilla Shirer exposes Satan’s scheme to silence the believer in prayer. Describing unfavorable life circumstances that can make the believer cower, Shirer passionately empowers the reader to challenge the enemy in prayer. *Fervent* stresses the importance of prayer when engaging in spiritual warfare. Shirer provides practical tools to build personal prayer strategies to counter the attacks of the enemy.

**Journal Articles**

Peter’s Aiken’s “Should Reformed Believers Engage in Spiritual Warfare,” found in the *Puritan Reformed Journal,* expounds upon the reasons why believers should engage in spiritual
warfare. In this article, Aiken defines spiritual warfare, lists objections about spiritual warfare, and explains biblical concepts of spiritual warfare.

“Qualitative Research with a Focus on Qualitative Data Analysis,” by Isabella Mayer, found in the International Journal of Sales, focuses on reliable methods of qualitative data research and details various analyzation techniques. Mayer also describes and lists the steps in content analysis. These steps played a role in analyzing the interview and focus group responses.

Chris Barnham’s “Quantitative and Qualitative Research: Perceptual Foundations,” found in the International Journal of Market Research, contrasts quantitative and qualitative research methods. After differentiating between the two methods, Barnham hypothesizes a new platform for using qualitative data, one based upon perceptual judgments.

Furthermore, “Methods of Data Collection in Qualitative Research: Interviews and Focus Groups,” by Gil, P., K. Stewart, E. Treasure, and B. Chadwick, found in the British Dental Journal, examines methods of data collection using interviews and focus groups in detail. The authors differentiate between structured, unstructured, and semi-structured interviews. The authors also provide useful information on adequately preparing and conducting interviews. They explained the function of focus groups and provided information on properly preparing, moderating, and implementing an effective focus group that produces useful research data.

Ryan Stokes’s “Satan, YHWHs Executioner,” found in the Journal of Biblical Literature, discusses the biblical concept of Satan is the “adversary” or the “accuser,” being one who persecutes in a heavenly court. In this article, the author challenges this scholarly consensus because of the misinterpretation of the word “Satan” in Hebrew. Stokes believes that instead of the “accuser,” the word Satan should be translated as “executioner,” or one who attacks.
Janet Warren’s “Spiritual Warfare: A Dead Metaphor,” found in the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology*, discusses the use of warfare language in Pentecostal theology. Warren argues that the use of spiritual warfare language has been overused and normalized. Warren suggests the utilization of non-warfare language as an alternative to aid in the understanding of spiritual matters such as personal sin and responsibility, evil spirits, and counseling.

Guidelines for analyzing focus group data are detailed in “A Qualitative Framework for Collecting and Analyzing Data in Focus Group Research” by Anthony Onwuegbuzie, Nancy C. Leech, and Wendy Dickinson, found in the *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*. The authors compare various methods of analyzing data such as constant comparison analysis, classical content analysis, and keywords in context before to introducing and explaining their analytical technique, micro-interlocutor analysis.

David Morgan and Margaret Spanish examine the use of focus groups in conjunction with quantitative research methods and other qualitative methods in “Focus Groups: A Tool for Qualitative Research,” as reviewed in the *Annual Review of Sociology*. Using focus groups in addition to quantitative research methods, improves communication with respondents and provides a more in-depth understanding of the participants.

Paul Hiebert’s “Transforming Worldviews,” found in *Mission Focus*, defines worldview and, explains how worldviews affect one’s perspective of reality. The author also explains how culture impacts worldviews along with the possibility of changing worldviews when a better worldview presents itself. From the perspective of a missionary, the author questions the outward signs needed to ensure an inward conversion based on the Gospel. Questioning if behavior change is enough, the author delves into the underlying issues of the conversation by considering whether a simple behavior change is enough.
In an article entitled, “Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Research: How Is It Done,” published in *SAGE Publications*, Alan Bryman clarifies the way quantitative and qualitative research methods are combined in practice. Although the results are not predictable, the author encourages researchers to utilize a multi-strategy approach to performing research. Bryman discusses the typologies of multi-strategy research and investigates various articles where quantitative and qualitative research methods were combined. During this project, the author adopted a multi-strategy approach. The information provided by the author assisted in understanding and analyzing the results.

**Theses**

- McAllister, Patricia. “For We Wrestle Not Against Flesh and Blood but Against Spiritual Forces: Examples of the Theology, Doctrine, and Practice of Spiritual Warfare in Lancaster County.” D.Min. diss., Lancaster Theological Seminary, 2017.
Chapter 2

Procuring Research Data

Isabella Mayer states, “Referring to the quote of Albert Einstein; researchers realized that not all phenomena could be counted or measured in terms of quantities. To overcome the limitations of quantitative approaches for certain research interests or questions, qualitative approaches, and a wide array of corresponding methods have emerged since then.”\(^{108}\)

According to Alan Bryman of the University of Leicester, research combining qualitative and quantitative research tools, or mixed methods, has increased in recent years. Mixed-method research “conveys a sense of the rigor of the research and provides guidance to others about what researchers intend to do or have done.”\(^{109}\) In addition, mixed-methods research aides in clarifying the researcher’s intentions and accomplishments. Quantitative and qualitative are two powerful modes of exploration to receive feedback on social phenomena. Quantitative research offers “‘hard,’ ‘factual’ data” eliciting numbers and percentages.”\(^{110}\) Gathering and analyzing data from various quantitative research methods help develop reliable statistics. Qualitative research provides in-depth insight into “understanding of consumer attitudes, behavior, and motivations.”\(^{111}\) A mixed-methods approach was used for this project. The quantitative research was conducted in the form of an anonymous survey. Qualitative methods included anonymous phone interviews as well as an anonymous focus group.


\(^{111}\) Ibid.
Qualitative content analysis reduces data, allowing the researcher to draw and verify conclusions. Steps of content analysis include “preparation of data, the definition of unit analysis, development of categories and coding scheme, a test of the coding scheme on sample text, coding of the whole text, and conclusions from coded data.” 112 For this project, all qualitative research is analyzed using content analysis.

The following question based the rationale for this project: Is there a need for solid teaching on spiritual warfare? The research question was designed to establish the gap between Ephesians and the actual implementation of the scriptures when engaged in spiritual warfare. For the author to establish a baseline assessment, he utilized online surveys, phone interviews, and a focus group. The sample group consisted of males and females, ranging from 18 to 80 years of age. Participants included congregants from the author’s home church, the current church, and a selected group of members from other churches. The question of participating in this research was initially presented verbally by the author to the potential participants. After receiving positive feedback, participants were then e-mailed a recruitment letter as well as a letter of consent. Participants were instructed to sign and date the letter of consent to return to the author of this project. Once the letter of consent was received, to ensure accurate results, participants were then given an alias to remain anonymous throughout the data collection process; this allowed respondents to answer more candidly. Research for this project did not begin until the author received permission from the Institution Review Board.

The Word of God clearly states that believers have a real enemy who longs to destroy them.\textsuperscript{113} Even with this warning, some believers remain ignorant and ill-equipped in the area of spiritual warfare, leading to two questions: 1) Do Christians believe Satan is their enemy? And 2) Are Christians being taught about spiritual warfare, more specifically, employing the armor of God? The author conducted an anonymous survey to 10 participants through online website Survey Monkey to determine the answers to these questions. Participants included pastors, church leaders, and congregants. The questions centered around the full armor of God, participants’ belief in Satan and demons, knowledge about spiritual warfare, and the need for spiritual warfare teaching. When presented with the 23 questions, participants had answers to which they could agree or disagree, respond yes or no, determine the importance of the subject matter, or select years by the number. For accuracy and proper results, each participant responded to the same questions and answers from which to choose.

Survey Results

This survey was used to access the thoughts, opinions, and feelings of the participants regarding spiritual warfare and the full armor of God. Respondents included pastors, church leaders, and those who do not serve in a leadership capacity. Of the 10 participants, 90% have been born-again for more than ten years, 10% between 6 and 9 years, and 0% between 1 and 5 years (see Q1). Question 2 determined the participants’ length of time in leadership. Most participants, 20%, do not serve in a leadership capacity, while 50% have served in leadership for over ten years, 30% between 1 and 5 years, and 0% less than one year. Of the participants, 60%
have not received formal theological training versus 40% who have (see Q3). Interestingly, when asked if pastors or leaders taught spiritual warfare worship or provided any form of training, only 30% replied, “yes.” Of the church leaders, 60% have not taught on the topic of spiritual warfare (see Q4). Of the 10 participants, 70% have attended a training, workshop, or seminar on spiritual warfare, while the remaining 30% have not (see Q5). All ten participants agreed on the importance of spiritual leaders obtaining training in spiritual warfare concepts and techniques (see Q6).

All ten respondents believe knowing the schemes of the enemy is important (see Q7). When asked if they believe the sword of the Spirit is an offensive or defensive weapon, 20% said offensive, 10% responded defensive, while 70% agreed the sword can be both offensive and defensive (see Q8). Of the participants, 90% believe Christians can be spiritually or demonically oppressed, and the remaining 10% disagreed (see Q9). When asked if Christians could be spiritually or demonically possessed, 60% disagreed, 10% were unsure, and 30% agreed (see Q10). Of the 10 participants, 90% believe all Christians must obtain training on spiritual warfare concepts of techniques, while 10% believe it is important (see Q11). When responding to Question 12, all participants stated that memorizing scripture is important. Of the participants, 60% could describe the complete armor of God listed in Ephesians 6, while 40% could explain some of it (see Q13). All participants believe Jesus defeated Satan on the cross (see Q14).

In addition, all believe Christians have the power to cast out demons (see Q15). When asked about spiritual hierarchies, 70% said they believe that spirits have a hierarchical order, while 30% were not sure (see Q16). All 10 participants believe in the power of fasting and prayer (see Q17). Of the 10 participants, all believe the enemy is defeated through use of the sword of the Spirit (see Q18). When asked if the real battle occurs in the natural or spiritual realm, all
responded in the spiritual realm (see Q19). All participants believe Satan can influence human behavior (see Q20) and that Christians can resist the enemy (see Q21). Question 22 determined which part of the armor of God is the most important. The shield of faith and praying in the spirit were each selected by 20% of respondents. The sword of the Spirit was selected by 60% of respondents and 10% selected the belt of truth. Participants did not select the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, and having their feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Finally, all participants believe there needs to be more teaching on spiritual warfare in the Church (see Q23).

In summary, all participants recognized the need for solid teaching on spiritual warfare, whether they were in church leadership or believers who only attend service. The data also confirms that born-again believers, regardless of position within the church, lack a complete understanding of the full armor of God.
Chart 2.1 Number of years as born-again believer

Q1: How long have you been a born-again believer of Jesus Christ?
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0

Table 2.1 Number of years as born-again believer

Q1: How long have you been a born-again believer of Jesus Christ?
Answered: 10 Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>less than 1 year</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 year(s)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9 years</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10+ years</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q2: How long have you served in a leadership position (pastor, deacon, deaconess, life group leader, etc.) in the church?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.2 Number of years in church-leadership position

Q2: How long have you served in a leadership position (pastor, deacon, deaconess, life group leader, etc.) in the church?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>less than 1 year</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5 year(s)</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-9 years</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10+ years</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not serve in a leader...</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.3 Number of participants who received formal theological training

Q3: Do you have any formal theological training (seminary, Bible-college, etc.)?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.3 Number of participants who received formal theological training

Q3: Do you have any formal theological training (seminary, Bible-college, etc.)?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.4 Number of participants who taught spiritual warfare

Q4: As a leader in the church, have you ever taught a spiritual warfare training workshop, seminar, or course?

Table 2.4 Number of participants who taught spiritual warfare

Q4: As a leader in the church, have you ever taught a spiritual warfare training workshop, seminar, or course?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not serve in a leadership position</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.5 Number of participants who received training in spiritual warfare

Q5: Have you ever attended any spiritual warfare related training such as a workshop, seminar, or course (meaning something more than a Sunday Service message or a Wednesday Night Bible Study)?
Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.5 Number of participants who have received training in spiritual warfare

Q5: Have you ever attended any spiritual warfare related training such as a workshop, seminar, or course (meaning something more than a Sunday Service message or a Wednesday Night Bible Study)?
Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>70.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.6 Number of participants who believe warfare training for church leadership to be important

**Q6: How important do you believe it to be that church leadership obtain training in spiritual warfare concepts and techniques?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer Choices</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>only important if you are a Pastor</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>only important if you are a missionary or evangelist</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not important for church leaders</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>important for all church leaders</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0
Q7: How important do you believe it to be to know Satan’s schemes against Christians?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.7 Number of participants who believe knowledge of Satan’s schemes to be important

Q7: How important do you believe it to be to know Satan’s schemes against Christians?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>only important if you are a Pastor</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>only important if you don’t go to church</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>only important if you are a missionary or evangelist</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>important for all believers</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q8: Do you think the sword of the Spirit in Ephesians 6:17 (Word of God) is an offensive or defensive weapon?

Answered: 10   Skipped: 0

Table 2.8 Number of participants who believe the sword to be an offensive vs. defensive weapon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>offensive</td>
<td>20.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defensive</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can be used for both</td>
<td>70.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q9: Do you agree or disagree that Christians can be spiritually or demonically oppressed?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.9 Number of participants who agree Christians can be spiritually oppressed

Q9: Do you agree or disagree that Christians can be spiritually or demonically oppressed?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0
Chart 2.10 Number of participants who believe Christians can be demonically possessed

Q10: Since our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, do you agree or disagree that Christians can be spiritually or demonically possessed?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agree</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disagree</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not sure</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q11: How important do you believe it to be for all Christians to receive training in spiritual warfare concepts and techniques?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>very important</td>
<td>90.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important</td>
<td>10.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>somewhat important</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not really that important</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>only important if you are a missionary</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q12: How important do you believe it to be to read and study the Bible and memorize the Scriptures?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Chart 2.12 The number for participants who believe biblical study to be important

Table 2.12 The number of participants who believe biblical study to be important

Q12: How important do you believe it to be to read and study the Bible and memorize the Scriptures?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>very important</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>memorizing the Scriptures is not important</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>only important if you are a missionary or evangelist</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.13 Number of participants who demonstrate understanding of Ephesians 6

Q13: Can you describe the full armor of God described in Ephesians 6?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.13 Number of participants who demonstrate understanding of Ephesians 6

Q13: Can you describe the full armor of God described in Ephesians 6?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes, all of it</td>
<td>60.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>some of it</td>
<td>40.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>none of it</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q14: Do you believe Jesus Christ defeated Satan on the cross?

Table 2.14 Number of participants who believe Jesus Christ defeated Satan on the cross

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not sure</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q15: Do you believe Christians have the power to cast out demons?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.15 Number of participants who believe Christians can cast out demons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not sure</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don't believe in...</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.16 Number of participants who believe in a hierarchical order

Q16: Do you believe that spirits have a hierarchical order?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.16 Number of participants who believe in a hierarchical order

Q16: Do you believe that spirits have a hierarchical order?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>70.00%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>not sure</td>
<td>30.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q17: Do you believe there is power in prayer and fasting?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.17 Number of participants who believe in prayer and fasting

Q17: Do you believe there is power in prayer and fasting?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not sure</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fasting is not for today</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.18 The best means to defend against evil

Q18: What do you believe is the most important way to defend ourselves against forces of evil?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

![Chart showing the best means to defend against evil]

Table 2.18 The best means to defend against evil

Q18: What do you believe is the most important way to defend ourselves against forces of evil?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sword of Spirit - The Word of God</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>helmet of Salvation</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>going to church</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q19: Do you think our real struggle is Physical/Visible or Invisible/Spiritual?

Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>physical/visible</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>invisible/spiritual</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not sure</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.20 Number of participants who believe in evil influence on human behavior

**Q20: Do you believe evil spirits influence humans’ behavior?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.20 Number of participants who believe in evil influence on human behavior
Chart 2.20 Number of participants who believe in resisting the attacks of the enemy

**Q21: Do you believe we can resist the attacks of the enemy?**

*Answered: 10  Skipped: 0*

![Bar Chart showing responses to Q21]

Table 2.21 Number of participants who believe in resisting the attacks of the enemy

**Q21: Do you believe we can resist the attacks of the enemy?**

*Answered: 10  Skipped: 0*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not sure</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q22: Which piece of the Armor do you believe is the most important?

Table 2.22 The most crucial piece of armor of God by individual responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>helmet of Salvation</td>
<td>0.00% 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>belt of truth around your waist</td>
<td>10.00% 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sword of the Spirit</td>
<td>60.00% 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breastplate of righteousness</td>
<td>0.00% 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace</td>
<td>0.00% 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the shield of faith</td>
<td>10.00% 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>praying in the Spirit</td>
<td>20.00% 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.23 The number of participants who believe there is a need for teaching on spiritual warfare

Q23: Do you believe there is a need for more teaching concerning Spiritual Warfare?
Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

Table 2.23 The number of participants who believe there is a need for teaching on spiritual warfare

Q23: Do you believe there is a need for more teaching concerning Spiritual Warfare?
Answered: 10  Skipped: 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANSWER CHOICES</th>
<th>RESPONSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yes</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not sure</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research Instrument: Phone Interviews

To understand each participant’s belief on spiritual warfare the author used Qualitative methods of research. The one-on-one design of the phone interviews allowed the author to gain clarity on the topic and understand each participant’s worldview. Although all are verbally administered, there are three forms of qualitative research interviews: structured, unstructured, and semi-structured. In a structured interview, interviewees are asked questions from a predetermined list, leaving little room for variation or follow-up questions. An unstructured interview is facilitated with little forethought, organization, or planning. Unstructured interviews are difficult and provide little usable statistical data. Semi-structured interviews consist of a list of predetermined questions, creating guidance during the interview but also establishing space for deeper exploration of a response or idea. The author of this project used a semi-structured qualitative approach for interviewing participants. The goal of this study is to decide 1) whether congregants believe in the unseen, Satan, and evil powers; 2) if believers recognize Satan as an enemy with a destructive agenda for mankind; and 3) if followers of Christ recognize and understand the power, weapons, and authority that have been given by Christ to defeat the enemy.

The phone interviews were semi-structured, meaning the author pre-determined questions and theme of the questions. In preparation for each interview, the author contacted the participant by phone, email, or text message to designate a specific time for the interview. Interview questions were emailed to each participant before to his or her interview, giving participants time for reflection. Permission to interview and record each session was granted by participants when the original consent form was signed.
On the day of the scheduled phone interview, the author sent a text message to everyone to confirm the interview time. Before to the start of the interview, the author informed each participant that pseudonyms, not actual names, would be used during the interview. To ensure the accuracy of each interview, the author used a recording device. Questions were asked to the participants to determine the reality of Satan. The interview questions presented were as follows:

**Interview Questions**

The interview questions are as follows:

1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?
2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise.
3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible, such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?
4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?
5. What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to spiritual warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18, “…praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit . . .”?  
6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not.
7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 (King James Bible): “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and
overall the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”?

Do you think it applies to us today?

8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a spiritual warfare battle?

9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?

Data Collection

Data for each interview was collected using an electronic recording device (see Appendix 1 for transcriptions of phone interviews).

Research Instrument: Focus Group

To gain greater insight into the responses given in the one-on-one phone interview, the author added another component to his research: focus group. David Morgan defines focus groups as “a research technique that collects data through group interaction on a topic determined by the researcher.”¹¹⁴ He further define them by stating, “Focus groups are used for generating information on collective views and the meanings behind those views,” as well as “generating a rich understanding of participants’ experiences and beliefs.”¹¹⁵ For this project, the focus group allowed the author to receive feedback on spiritual warfare, assess participants’ understanding, confirm the need for solid teaching on the topic, and seek clarification on the pastor’s or church leader’s role.


The focus group was a cross-cultural group of males and females between the ages of 18 and 80. Once again, participants included both church leaders and congregants. In preparation for the focus group, the researcher contacted each participant by text, phone, or email to inquire about availability for the focus group. Upon narrowing down a date for the focus group to occur, the author texted each participant the time, date, conference call-in number, and PIN for the group. As in the interviews, a pseudonym was given to participants to use during the focus group. On the morning of the focus group, a reminder text was sent to the participants, confirming their attendance. At the time of the focus group, participants announced themselves using their aliases. Prior to beginning the discussion, the author provided some guidelines for the group discussion:

1. Please speak one at a time.

2. State your name before answering a question to keep an accurate transcript of all the participants’ responses.

3. There are no right and wrong answers; therefore, everyone’s ideas and experiences are valuable. I ask that you freely express your thoughts and beliefs concerning the need for more teaching on spiritual warfare.

4. We will not always agree but let us show respect to one another’s ideas and experiences.

5. If you lose connection before the focus group has adjourned, please join back in as soon as possible.

6. Finally, this focus group study is being recorded and should only take about thirty minutes.
Focus Group Questions

The focus group questions are:

1. Do you believe Christians are in spiritual warfare? If so, please explain.
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word fear as it relates to spiritual warfare? Is it okay for Christians to be afraid?
3. Other than deception and disguise, what other tactics does Satan use to enslave us? For better words, suppress and oppress Christians.
4. Do you believe some pastors and spiritual leaders reject the validity of spiritual warfare? If so, why, or why not?
5. Do you think pastors and spiritual leaders hurt or help the body of Christ when they do not teach on spiritual warfare?
6. In your opinion, what has God given us to be victorious in spiritual warfare?
7. Is there anything else you would like to add to this study?

Data Collection

Focus group data were collected using an audio recorder. Since the session took place over the phone, the author used sound bites instead of physical observations to help him broaden his understanding of the participants’ reactions when speaking or listening.

Focus groups are “a way of collecting qualitative data, which—essentially—involves engaging a small number of people in an informal group discussion (or discussions), ‘focused’ around a particular topic or set of issues.”\(^{116}\) A focus group would normally be in a

session for approximately one to two hours, with 6 to 12 participants. The focus group for this project consisted of 10 individuals and lasted for approximately forty-five minutes. Although it was shorter than a typical focus group session, participants willingly participated in the discussion and were afforded multiple opportunities to make remarks or ask questions.
Chapter 3

Data Analysis

Quantitative Research Method: Survey Data Analysis

This inquiry intended to establish the need for solid teaching on the topic of spiritual warfare. For the author of the project to support this theory, he used both quantitative and qualitative research methods. As a quantitative measure, the author selected a structured online survey to collect and analyze data numerically. The findings of this survey uncovered two trends: the need for more teaching on spiritual warfare and a lack of knowledge concerning the full armor of God.

Ten individuals were selected to participate in the survey. Of the 10 participants asked to participate, all ten responded. Respondents included pastors, church leaders, and congregants, both male and female. This may indicate that several respondents have been exposed to various themes and concepts of the Bible over several years by attending a local church. It is important to note that half (50%) of respondents have been serving in leadership less than five years or were not in a leadership position within their local church, which means 50% serve as a leader in some capacity. Interestingly, of that 50%, only 30% of the church leaders have taught on the topic of spiritual warfare. If this sample is indicative of the church, only about 1 in 4 church leaders are teaching on spiritual warfare, leaving 75% of the church ill-equipped and defenseless. With only 30% of church leaders teaching on spiritual warfare, it is clear why 100% of the participants believe there should be more education from pastors and church leadership on spiritual warfare. To further support this argument, when the question, “Have you ever attended a spiritual warfare workshop or training?” was asked, the respondents were unequally divided. Furthermore, with 70% having attended spiritual warfare training and the remaining 30% having never have
attended any such training. Author Charles Lawless asserts that most churches are a combination of equipped and unequipped saints.\textsuperscript{117}

All the participants responded when asked, “Do you believe evil spirits influence human behaviors?” Upon further questioning, 90% of participants believe demons can oppress Christians and 30% believe that demons can possess Christians. In addition, 100% of participants responded that it is important to know Satan’s schemes as a Christian. All the participants believe evil spirits can influence human behavior and that Christians must be aware of Satan’s schemes. Of the participants, 100% view the idea of all Christians receiving training in spiritual warfare concepts as very important. According to this data, there seems to be a direct correlation between the role of spiritual warfare and how engaging in spiritual warfare exposes Satan’s schemes and diminishes the influence Satan and his evil powers have over one’s life.

In addition to responding to questions regarding spiritual warfare, participants also answered questions associated with the full armor of God. According to the Scriptures, putting on the full armor of God allows the believer to stand against the enemy and quench each fiery dart thrown by Satan or his evil powers. The participants were asked, “Can you describe the full armor of God, as listed in Ephesians 6?” Unfortunately, 40% were unable to do so, indicating a lack of knowledge in this area.

Thus far, the numerical data has confirmed the lack of teaching on spiritual warfare by church leadership, a lack of understanding of how engaging in spiritual warfare reduces the effects of evil influences on mankind, and a lack of knowledge regarding the full armor of God.

\textsuperscript{117} Chuck Lawless, \textit{Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare}, Ch.10.
Qualitative Analysis Research Instruments

Quantitative research methods, such as surveys, are important when numerical data are a necessity, but they are an inadequate tool to understand the perceptions and worldviews of participants. Therefore, the author of this project also decided to use qualitative research methods, including interviews and a focus group.

Qualitative Research Method: Phone Interview Analysis

Ten people were selected by the author to participate in a phone interview. Once again, the participants included male and female born-again Christians ranging from 18 to 80 years of age. As previously indicated, the interview group consisted of pastors, church leaders, and congregants. The interview was semi-structured, with the questions pre-determined by the author, but it allowed room for deeper questioning during the interview when necessary.

Transcription

The transcription was made available upon completion of all ten interviews. Using the audio recording, each interview was carefully transcribed verbatim. Contributing factors such as low volume and audio interference exasperated the transcription process, causing the author to replay certain sections to ensure accuracy.

Content Analysis

Once the interviews were transcribed, the author settled upon content analysis as his method to examine the data collected. Content analysis is explained as “a research technique for making
replicable and valid inferences from texts (or other meaningful matter) to the contexts of their use.” Content analysis reduces the text into categories of words, word patterns or phrases.

Coding

The interview data were simplified and reduced using the coding process. The initial step for analyzing interviews is creating codes, or descriptive labels, for information compiled during the interview. Based on raw data, theory, or the goals of a research project, codes are a group of words, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs connected to a topic. Based on the research goal of this project, codes were developed and defined during the investigation. Upon reviewing the transcriptions, the author identified keywords and phrases by counting the number of times the words or phrase that appeared throughout the interview. Once these keywords were identified, categories were developed, and a definition was given to each keyword and to provide clarity what the word or phrase means in context of the interview. Lastly, quotes from the transcripts were grouped with each code to establish the need for solid teaching on spiritual warfare.

Analysis

Category: Satan – the opponent of God and the Church who is known as a liar, an adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one, whose purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy mankind and steal glory from God.

Keywords/Phrases:

118 Isabella Mayer, Qualitative Research with a Focus on Qualitative Data Analysis, 60
“A liar, our adversary and deceiver . . . these titles help identify who Satan is and that he is our enemy; he’s our adversary.”

“Satan is trying to steal, kill, and destroy.”

“He will come in and disguise himself and try to deceive you into thinking what you’re doing is really right in the same way he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden.”

- Joanne Witherspoon

“Satan does come in different disguises.”

- Allison Paterson

“. . . he is the greatest deceiver.”

“So, he is definitely our adversary. He is a deceiver. He tells us lies about ourselves, against God. Everything. So, he is a murderer. He wants to kill, steal, and destroy. So, he is out to kill us and kill us spiritually, and yes, he is definitely evil.”

- Rick Rogers

“. . . he is deceiving through deception and disguise.”

- Wanda Ross

“He wants to put a separation between the person and God through something that appears good.”

- Josh Smith

“. . . deception and disguise that he uses.”

“He is a liar. He is the deceiver. He’s our adversary.”

- Tina Simpson

“He is a liar.”

- Rose Clark
Category: Spiritual Warfare – an unseen battle between God and His Church and Satan and his fallen army, which directly affects mankind

Keywords/Phrases:

“We are fighting against Satan and, of course, his demons and his followers.”

“a series of attacks” “a constant battle” “battle in the spiritual realm”

“Most people do not think that spiritual warfare is real, but that’s exactly what Satan wants you to believe, that is not real. It is a lie . . . The more people that believe that God, spiritual warfare, angels, and demons are not real, the darker the world become.”

“. . . fighting against Satan and, of course, his demons and his followers. Those fallen angels that fell with him, the one-third.”

- Rose Clark

“. . . spiritual warfare, we need to be trained. We need to be trained as soldiers in the army of the Lord.”

“…who we fight against”

“We are fighting against the spiritual realm. We cannot see it in the natural, but there is a realm that we cannot see and that is what we are fighting against. The powers of darkness. The prince of this world. It is who our enemy is, and just like the Word says, it is not the flesh and blood. It’s the powers, and principalities, and spiritual wickedness in high places.”

-Tina Simpson

“…fighting against everything that Satan has in his arsenal…”

- Josh Smith
“. . . fighting against Satan and his kingdom of darkness.”

“Under attack”

“I feel like I was under spiritual attack because I was going to the doctor, and they can never find anything, but I was experiencing things in my body.”

- Wanda Ross

“we’re fighting Satan and his evil forces”

“Satan has different levels. Different principalities. So, I believe, depending on the person, we fight against different evil spiritual entities.”

- Rick Rogers

“We need to be taught how to fight in spiritual warfare.”

“We are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against rulers and darkness that are evil. Powers and things that are unseen in this world.”

- Alison Paterson

“…need more teaching on spiritual warfare.”

“I was in a spiritual warfare battle.”

“….the enemy, Satan, the Devil…”

“There was a time when the enemy was trying to take my mind and have me very depressed, and I felt like I was in a spiritual battle at that time.”

- Sandra Paxton

“I believe we are fighting against the enemy, which is Satan and his fallen angels. Just as it says we wrestle against principalities, powers, against rulers of darkness in this world, and Satan is the ruler of the darkness of this world.”

- Joanne Witherspoon
“People don’t know that they're in spiritual warfare.”

“He’s still trying to attack my family. He is still trying to attack my marriage. Those are spiritual battles.”

“I believe we are fighting Satan and the fallen angels that he influenced to rebel against God. So, Satan and his fallen angels, which are now in his army.”

- Lizzy Graham

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category: Fight Against Satan – Weapons employed to defeat Satan in the spirit realm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords/Phrases:</strong> Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Word of God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Blood of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power and authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The full armor of God</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category: Prayer – Communication with God that reveals schemes of the enemy and one of the weapons used to fight against the Devil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords/Phrases/Sentences:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Praying in the spirit allows you to have direct communication with the Lord. It allows you to speak your heavenly language unknown to the enemy so that you are having direct communication with the father, and you are also receiving revelation based on the conversation. And I also believe that praying in our natural tongue is a weapon. Using the Word of God is a way to push back the enemy in our battles . . .”

“Pray using the Word of God that God promises will not return to him void in conjunction with the name of Jesus”

- Lizzy Graham

“Prayer . . . is a part of the armor of God.”

“…connection to God.”

“Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit.”

- Joanne Witherspoon

“Well, praying. It opens up that channel to God so that when we’re communicating with him...”

“When being attacked in spiritual warfare, we pray to God, He comes, and He fights for us.”

- Rick Ross

“Praying in the spirit is the perfect prayer.”

- Sandra Paxton

“Prayer is the answer to everything . . . it gives us that spiritual discernment to fight against Satan. To overrule him . . . power to defeat the enemy.”

- Alison Paterson

“... prayer is very important when it relates to spiritual warfare. It says praying always with prayers and supplication in the Spirit. I believe also praying in the spirit is very important,
because when we don’t know what to pray in the natural, the Spirit goes to tongues and speaks to God on a whole other level.”

- Wanda Ross

“. . . being able to pray in the spirit and being filled with the Holy Spirit is going to help you defeat him . . .”

“You have to be able to pray in the spirit or use the spirit to fight another spirit.”

- Josh Smith

“We pray in the spirit. The spirit can zero in on whatever is needed. Whatever we need God to do, the spirit of God can tap into that, and I really believe that praying in the Spirit is a perfect prayer.”

- Tina Simpson

“The spirit prays for what we ought to, not for what we think, because the spirit knows what we need to be praying for.”

-Rose Clark

**Category: Power and Authority** – the ability to command or give orders in spiritual warfare

**Keywords/Phrases:**

“. . . because there’s power in the Word. The Word is powerful, and that’s what Jesus used when he was in the wilderness.”

“He’s giving us the power to trample or tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power
of the enemy, and we have the power within us, but a lot of times, if you don’t know what you have, then you really don’t know how to use it.”

- Tina Simpson

“…power of God to defeat Satan and anything that attacks and comes against us . . .”

- Alison Patterson

“We speak those things that are not as though they are. That is the authority that we have; it is the Word of God. That is the only way we have to defeat Satan.”

“Yes, because God has given His people the Authority. He has given us everything that we need to fight against Satan, and that is His word.”

- Rose Clark

“No serpents or scorpions, no powers of the enemy can really overcome us. He’s given us power over them.”

- Wanda Ross

“There’s power when we speak the name of God.”

“We have the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions, because the serpent really is Satan.”

- Josh Smith

“We are empowered to trample over serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. He has given us all the power, all because He lives within us.”

- Sandra Paxton

“. . . power and authority given to use when we speak things in the name of Jesus”

“When we pray and speak the word, that’s where I believe our authority comes from.”

- Lizzy Graham

“. . . power and authority given unto us, because that is what the Word says.”
“There is power and authority when we speak the Word of God.”
“…power of the Word of God.”
“…given me the power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy.”

- Joanne Witherspoon

Summary

Believers are engaged in a spiritual war with Satan and his demons, principalities, and powers. The participants of this study confirmed that Satan is an unseen power with an unseen army who attempts to steal, kill, and destroy Christians through deceit and disguise. Known as a murderer, the evil one, and people’s accuser, Satan seeks to blind believers to his existence. By doing so, he gains significant influence and power over the believer. Select participants had recalled times when they believed they were experiencing an attack from the enemy, specifically in the areas of physical health, mental health, and marriage.

God has provided each Christian the power and authority over Satan through his Word, Blood, and Name. The Word of God is swift, ever prevailing, and more precise than any two-edged sword. As one participant stated, “The enemy is no match for the Word of God.” As demonstrated by Christ in the wilderness, God’s spoken promises make the enemy flee. Philippians 2:10 states, “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those under the earth.” Demons tremble and must bow when the name of Jesus is spoken.

An integral part of the God-given armor is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. According to those interviewed, praying the Word of God, as well as in the Spirit, creates a
dynamic relationship with the Father. He can reveal the schemes of the enemy and give insight and revelation on how to defeat Satan effectively.

There was a consensus that instruction on spiritual warfare would eliminate a general ignorance of the enemy’s modus operandi. Marriage problems, sickness, and disease are direct results of an enemy at work in people’s lives; however, some believers do not recognize his hand in their lives. Tina Simpson compared spiritual warfare training to being in the military, stating:

I think it’s wonderful and something that is very well needed, because when people go into the military, they are trained. They just do not put them out on the field and expect them to fight. They are trained and prepared to fight the enemy. Therefore, we need to be trained in spiritual warfare, trained as soldiers in the army of the Lord. We need to learn more about our enemy. It is important to know his strategies so we can counteract it.

People seek prayer in these areas for relief but are unaware of the weapons they possess.

Qualitative Research Method: Focus-Group Analysis

There are significant amounts of data that could be collected and analyzed during a focus group, such as audio recordings, memos or notes, physical observations, or memory recall. Even with these different ways to examine data, most researchers evaluate the actual transcribed text of the focus group. According to Onwuegbuzie, “transcript-based analysis represents the most rigorous and time-intensive mode of analyzing data. This model includes the transcription of videotapes and/or audiotapes.” Onwuegbuzie and his co-authors offer an alternative to the lengthy transcription-based analysis with tape-based analysis. With this method, the researcher creates an abridged transcript. An abridged transcript is typically much shorter compared to a full transcript resulting from a transcript analysis. The tape-based analysis allows the researcher to

“focus on the research question and only transcribe the portions that assist in better understanding of the phenomenon of interest.”

Another form of focus-group analysis is note-based analysis. Note-based analysis includes “analysis of notes from the focus group, the debriefing session, and any summary comments from the moderator or assistant moderator.” Finally, memory-based analysis involves the moderator “recalling the events of the focus group and presenting these to the stakeholders.” This analysis method is not recommended unless the moderator is highly experienced.

The duration of this focus group was approximately forty-five minutes, shorter than a typical focus group; accordingly, the author employed a full transcript and a tape-based technique to analyze the focus group data. Listening to the audio recording allowed the author to quickly identify keywords and phrases while transcribing the data in its entirety ensured accuracy for quotes necessary to support the theory of needing solid teaching on spiritual warfare.

After the type of transcription was selected, the author had to decide on the kind of analytical technique to use to analyze the transcript: constant comparison analysis, classical content analysis, keywords-in-context analysis, or discourse analysis. Constant comparison analysis, also known as the method of constant comparison, has three stages: open-coding, axial coding, and selective coding. Open coding requires data to be classified into smaller units, and then a code is attached to each unit. In axial coding, the codes are grouped into categories, while themes express the content of each category in selective coding.

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120 Ibid.
121 Ibid.
122 Ibid., 5.
Classical content analysis mimics constant comparison analysis. The smaller groups of data have a code attached to it. However, with this technique, groups are further broken down into even smaller groups to be counted. Onwuegbuzie states, “There are three unique ways to use classical content analysis with focus group data: (a) the analyst can identify whether each participant used a given code, (b) the analyst can assess whether each group used a given code, and (c) the analyst can identify all instances of a given.”

Keywords-in-context analysis can “determine how words are used in context with other words.” In this analysis technique, it is assumed the use of the same words could have different meanings, and words remain viewed in the context of which they were used. The way a word is utilized during the focus-group discussion is important due to its interactive nature. Therefore, “words are considered central to the development of themes and theory by analyzing words that appear before and after each keyword, leading to an analysis of the culture of the use of the word.”

Finally, discourse analysis, also as discursive psychology, involves selecting a segment of lines within the transcript and then examining “them in detail to examine how versions of elements such as the society, community, institutions, experiences, and events emerge in discourse.”

For this project, the author performed a comparison analysis in relation to the research topic at hand. The answers to each question were compared during the focus group.

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124 Ibid., 6.
125 Ibid.
127 Ibid.
Transcription

Upon completing the focus group, transcription was initiated using the audio recording. Due to the duration of the focus group session, as well as the lengthy responses of the participants, the recording was transcribed over two days. Once again, background interference and points of low audibility prolonged the transcription.

Analysis

Question 1. Do you believe Christians are in spiritual warfare? If so, please explain.

In answering this question, participants overwhelmingly agreed Christians are in spiritual warfare. Alison Paterson said, “We are faced with different battles, if you want to say that, and it comes through deceit, illness, temptations.” Josh Smith confirmed this saying, “If the Christians of old had spiritual warfare, then we still have spiritual warfare until Christ comes back and resurrects His Church into heaven. Until then, we must put on the armor of God every day. Why do we need the armor of God? So, we can fight against the enemy that comes against us in spiritual warfare.”

Similarly, Rick Rogers declared, “Yes, we are absolutely in spiritual warfare and we must put on the armor of God every day because we are constantly being attacked by the enemy. It is to make us lose hope, faith, love, and anything that can be used to derail us from God or being aligned with God.” Sandra Paxton included Paul’s sentiments on spiritual warfare in her response by saying, “Yes, as Christians, we are in spiritual warfare. Like in Ephesians, it tells us that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against powers and principalities, against the rulers of darkness, against spiritual wickedness in high places. We are definitely in spiritual warfare.” Alan Gomez proposed that engaging in spiritual warfare is purposeful:
I think spiritual warfare is necessary, God can use it as an opportunity for us to seek Him and to draw closer to Him. He can show us His love and His power every day. It also humbles us because we know we need to stay in the Spirit and stay close to God. Spiritual warfare is a constant thing. It is constantly drawing us closer which blesses us. It is beautiful because it shows how loving and how powerful our God is and how helpless we are without Him. As a Christian, we need to recognize our need for God, humble ourselves, and renew our faith and strength in the Holy Spirit daily. There are different lessons and your faith grows as you keep pursuing your relationship. It allows you to see more beautiful blessings that God will pour upon you. I think spiritual warfare strengthens us. It reminds us that we are God's children. He is our Father who will stand up and protect us if we rely on Him.

While warfare brings forth struggle and hardship, it also presents the opportunity for growth in Christ.

Mary Tucker discussed the battle between our flesh and spirit by adding, “Then I say, walk in the spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.’ It says, ‘For the flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh.’ These two are contrary. So, if our spirit and our flesh are contrary to each other, it is a war. It’s a battle between our spirit and our flesh.”

**Question 2. What comes to mind when you hear the word “fear” as it relates to spiritual warfare? Is it okay for Christians to be afraid?**

The consensus for this question is that it is acceptable to fear, as it is a natural emotion, but the goal is to overcome fear by trusting in God and growing in one’s faith. One participant stated, “We are always wrestling against the flesh, and fear is inevitable. The flesh causes you to be fearful and afraid of things. That is understandable, but to a Christian, I think it is just a challenge. Fear is going to play a part in your life, but I think the stronger your faith is, the less you should fear.”

Alison Paterson believes that fear comes from the flesh, but if people saturate themselves with the Word of God, then fear will disappear:
We should not fear anything but God. God has all the power. He said in Second Timothy 1:7, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.” Christians must get the Word. Believe the Word and draw it in daily. Read the Bible every day. Get close with God and know the Word is truth. That is our release right there. We will not have to worry about fear.

Sandra Paxton agreed with Alison Paterson, but she added a component about spiritual warfare:

We cannot be fearful when it comes to spiritual warfare. He told us again in Ephesians “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. I was told some years ago that fear means false evidence appears real. So, when it comes down to our opponent, we must be bold as a lion. We should not have any fear. We cannot be afraid because “Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.”

Rick Rogers believes that fear causes us to lose hope in God, claiming, “The main goal of the enemy is to put fear in us. Once he puts fear in us, we begin to lose our hope in God, and we forget how big He is.”

Question 3. Other than deception and disguise, what other tactics does Satan use to enslave us? For better words, suppress and oppress Christians.

Participants provided a variety of tactics, including bondage, temptation, lust, condemnation, sickness, and discouragement. Tina Simpson stated:

The Word lets us know that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. A lot of times, when we fail, the enemy wants to put condemnation on us, but we must remember the Word says if we confess our faults, He is Faithful and Just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If God forgives us, we must forgive ourselves and move forward.

Lizzy Graham added:

I believe another tactic the enemy uses is lust. Lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The Bible says we are drawn away by our lusts, and that is what causes us to sin. I believe the enemy knows our weakness, or weak areas, where he can tempt us if we are not built upon the Word and built up in our relationship with Christ. Then the enemy can use those temptations, or those lusts and those weaknesses, to enslave, us in bondage.
According to Alison Paterson, “Temptation is another tactic as well as sickness. You know, when people get sick and are going through trials and tribulations, they tend to lose faith. They begin to ask questions.” Similarly, Rick Rogers suggests, “He’ll use bondage and Satan will use addictions and money or any worldly or earthly things to get our focus off God.”

**Question 4. Do you believe some pastors and spiritual leaders reject the validity of spiritual warfare? If so, why, or why not?**

This question touches on the essence of this project. Previous research instruments established the need for teaching on spiritual warfare, but the question remains: Why don’t pastors or church leaders teach on the topic of spiritual warfare? The participants’ answers prove to be insightful. Josh Smith said,

> Some people may rise to a position in the church for other means than just to feed the flock. They have ulterior motives. When you speak about spiritual warfare you are not making people happy and may not have a lot of people returning to your church. It is not a feel-good message. If you are more worried about putting people in seats, then you are not about teaching God's Word and preparing the flock, then you are going to ignore that part of the Bible intentionally.

In the same vein, Tina Simpson offered, “I feel like a lot of times leaders . . . don’t get into it, because they don’t know that much about spiritual warfare, and some of them might not even really believe in spiritual warfare.” Tina Simpson’s perspective is valid and worth exploring in the next section of this project.

**Question 5: Do you think pastors and spiritual leaders hurt or help the Body of Christ when they don’t teach on spiritual warfare?**
Discussing the possible consequences of not teaching on spiritual warfare produced some valid concerns for the believer. Alison Patterson said, “My thoughts are that they do hurt the Body of Christ in this instance, because if we don’t know and are not being taught, then we are not equipped to fight those battles.”

Alan Gomez highlighted a major concern about not teaching spiritual warfare for newborn-again believers. He states false promises and lack of preparation set newcomers up for failure. This is time, has the opposite unintended outcome of drawing people away from Christ. Mr. Gomez shared a personal experience with the focus group speaking to this question. He shared that when he experienced his challenges within the church, the people of the church accredited them to his weak faith, versus his lack of complete understanding of spiritual warfare. Instead of practicing thorough teaching, to him the fault was easily assigned. Joanne Witherspoon raised the following question, “How can you win any battle when you don’t know who you are battling against?” She then continued to say, “Any Christian that engages in spiritual warfare will lose the battle even before it begins, because they will not know whom they are fighting against.”

**Question 6. In your opinion, what has God given us to be victorious in spiritual warfare?**

Tina Simpson began by saying, “He has given us the armor of God. He has given us the blood of Jesus. He has given us the Spirit of God. He has given us the Word.” Rick Rogers followed, “God has already given us the victory through the bloodshed on the cross. We have victory, and the enemy doesn’t want us to know that.” Another participant said, “The Holy Spirit and power . . . will help us win.”
Question 7. Is there anything else you would like to add to this study?

Mr. Smith believes that even if people are not taught about spiritual warfare, they are still able to learn with the help from the Holy Spirit and reading the Word of God themselves:

Sometimes we cannot wait for someone else to prepare us when we have God's Word. We accept Christ and are filled with His spirit, as the gentlemen said just a second ago. That is the best weapon we must fight against it. We prepare ourselves. Sometimes, it is just God and us. All the time, it is us, and God isn't it? If we are in the Word, preparing daily, and listening to the still small voice, discerning what God is and what is the enemy, we will recognize the enemy for what he is.

Sandra Paxton mentioned another reason why people fail to engage in spiritual warfare, which is fear. She states, “People get fearful and get afraid but . . . if they only know that it’s real and know how to fight the enemy. It'll be a whole lot easier.” Ms. Paxton believes that if believers keep the Word of God in their mouths, continue in prayer, and keep themselves in the armor of God, then engaging in spiritual warfare becomes easier. She continues, “On our daily walk as Christians we must . . . stay armored up. Stay prayed up. Keep the Word in our mouth. Keep the Word loaded.”

Lizzy Graham added prayer and fasting as a strategy to defeat the enemy:

Pertaining to your last question about what weapons we have been given to defeat the enemy in spiritual warfare. I think we have been given prayer and fasting. In Luke, it says that somethings only go through prayer and fasting. I think fasting is one strategy that we have been given to defeat the enemy. Unfortunately, a lot of people don't know about fasting, coupled with prayer, and the power it comes with when you do both. Not only are you armored up, but you are praying, using your sword, and confessing the Word of God which says would not return unto Him void. When you consecrate yourself, pray, and fast, you are building that intimacy with the Commander, with God. He can tell you how you should war and what you should do in prayer or in the natural to defeat your enemy.

Mary Tucker concluded the focus group by adding tactic, stating, “That’s one of the tactics that Satan uses, especially in the church. You know. People talk about church hurt. He tries to create division within and amongst us, and if our pastors and our leaders would talk about this, then we as Christians could recognize that it’s a trick of the enemy.”
Ms. Tucker also thanked the author for this study because it helped her reevaluate herself and how she engaged in spiritual warfare, and it also helped her recognize various tactics and strategies of the enemy.

**Summary**

Most of the participants in the focus group have been saved for over 10 years. One point stressed on several occasions is the need for more teaching on spiritual warfare. This teaching is a necessity, but it is currently lacking in the local church. According to participants, possible reasons for the lack of teaching could be fear, lack of understanding of the topic, or ulterior motives. It is evident by the participants’ responses that recognizing the enemy and understanding the weapons to defeat him must be taught. Having weapons given by God but being ignorant of them leaves believers defenseless and ill-equipped.
Chapter 4

The Need for Solid Teaching on Spiritual Warfare

The consequences of ignorance in the area of spiritual warfare are severe. The effects are evident. Broken homes, failed marriages, suicide, and living a purposeless, unfulfilled life are direct results of an ill-equipped, ignorant believer. The Bible says that God’s people are “destroyed because they don’t know me.” This biblical truth holds true, especially in spiritual warfare, knowing the enemy and how to effectively engage in spiritual warfare. Tony Evans defines spiritual warfare as “a cosmic conflict waged in the invisible, spiritual realm, but simultaneously fleshed out in the visible, physical realm.”

The premise for this project was based upon one hypothesis: 1) pastors and church leaders are not teaching their congregations about spiritual warfare. Findings from the survey, interviews, and focus group confirm this thesis; however, questions remain. Why aren’t pastors and church leaders teaching about spiritual warfare? What needs to happen for pastors and church leaders to begin teaching biblical spiritual warfare?

Pastors’ and Church Leaders’ Responsibility to Equip the Body of Christ

If born-again Christians lack knowledge and understanding of spiritual warfare, the problem must begin with church leadership. Pastors and church leaders have the responsibility of equipping the saints. Ephesians 4:11–12 in the New Living Translation states, “. . . Christ gave the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the Church.” Christ gifted

128 Hosea 4:6

the Church with leaders to equip and edify, more specifically, equipping and building up the Church into maturity, as it says in Ephesians 4:13. “Then we will no longer be immature like children. We will not be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.”\textsuperscript{130} A believer’s maturation in the faith requires the ability to discern between truth and falsehood and removing the influence of those who attempt to deceive him or her, both man and Satan.

Interview participants were asked with the following: “Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise.” Each participant responded affirmatively and explained why he or she believed this to be true. One participant said, “He is trying to get us to disbelieve that God exists, but to do that, he must make certain that we don’t believe that he even exists, because as long as we don’t believe he exists, how can we believe that God exists?”

Another person responded, “Yes because he tries to deceive us by imitating God. Satan camouflages himself to make you think he’s God. The Word calls him an “angel of light.” You know he is not going to present himself as the devil, because he does not want you to know that he is the devil. He doesn’t want you to know that he’s our enemy, but we have to be able to recognize him; it is deception and disguise that he uses.”

Teaching the Word of God eliminates deception by man or Satan. Second Corinthians 2:11 admonishes the believer ‘not to be ignorant of Satan’s schemes. The word “scheme” is defined as “deceit,” according to Strong’s Concordance. Therefore, it is the pastor’s responsibility, as the shepherd over the flock, to reveal the tactics used by the enemy to deceive the children of God. With this clear admonishment from Paul, the question then becomes the following: Why are pastors leaving their congregants ill-equipped and immature?

\textsuperscript{130} Ephesians 4:14.
Patricia McAllister, author of *For We Wrestle Not Against Flesh and Blood but Against Spiritual Forces*, discovered several reasons why pastors fail to teach on spiritual warfare. These reasons include discomfort, the need for permission to engage in spiritual warfare, not a major focus of the ministry, geographic location, not their calling, or the notion that it is an outdated practice. One pastor stated, “But it’s not a theology that is practical today because a lot of that has been debunked.” Another pastor said, “I don’t get hung up on demons. I have never met one, like in *The Exorcist*, but I know it happens overseas. I know that to minister over there requires a different kind of perspective. And it is in the Bible. I’m not ready to reject it, but on the other hand, I have not been called to it.” Still, yet another pastor responded, “I can’t say we are experts in the United States on spiritual warfare. God has raised prophets and a voice who can speak spiritually on this subject. Still I do not think many of us, especially if we have not traveled abroad and crossed a lot of barriers to understand spiritual darkness, see the depth of the hand of the devil. I think in other countries, they see it more prevalently. They see the hand of Satan.

One participant from the focus group suggested pastors and church leaders may not teach on spiritual warfare because they have not been educated. Tina Simpson stated, “I feel like leaders disregard the subject matter because they have not been taught on spiritual warfare, and some of them might not believe in the spiritual world.”

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131 Patricia McAllister. “For We Wrestle Not Against Flesh and Blood but Against Spiritual Forces: Examples of the Theology, Doctrine and Practice of Spiritual Warfare in Lancaster County.” (DMin diss., Lancaster Theological Seminary, 2017), 42.

132 Ibid.

133 Ibid., 48.
These responses, in conjunction with the survey results, demonstrate only 25% of the church leaders received training in spiritual warfare. Therefore, some pastors and church leaders are not properly taught or trained in spiritual warfare. The perspective that spiritual warfare is reserved for specific geographical locations, specific positions within church leadership, or is outdated, is erroneous and dangerous. When Jesus charged His disciples to spread the Gospel, He said, “These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. They shall take up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”134 Believers are called to participate in casting out devils and healing the sick, which are forms of spiritual warfare. This charge was not limited to specific sections of the world; the disciples were charged to go into all the world spreading the message of Christ and His Kingdom, demonstrating power and authority over the evil one. When Paul penned the statement, “For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places,”135 he was referring to all believers.

In Romans 10:14, Paul asked a vital question: “And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?” One can learn about the righteousness of God, his or her identity in Christ, and how to properly engage in spiritual warfare someone willing to teach. As one of the focus group participants stated, the Holy Spirit is the ultimate teacher who is available to teach us, but it is the requirement for pastors to teach and equip their flock.

134 Mark 16:17–18.
135 Ephesians 6:12.
The Solution

A healthy church produces disciples who can successfully engage in spiritual warfare. Church leaders must “take the time to equip believers through teaching and mentoring.”¹³⁶ For the congregation to mature in this area, pastors and church leaders must first establish a bible-based, spiritual-warfare foundation. A biblical, historical, systematic, and theological study of spiritual warfare will provide the building blocks for the foundation. In the King James Bible, 2 Timothy 2:15, advises every believer to “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” But for church leaders, this command is of the utmost importance. Two important elements are found in this scripture concerning to pastors adopting a biblical spiritual warfare worldview and building a solid foundation for spiritual warfare.

First, leaders must be diligent in studying the Word, not only in preparation for a Sunday sermon but to better equip themselves, and ultimately, the sheep of God. Studying various themes of the Bible and asking the Holy Spirit for revelation is the basis for understanding the truth of God’s Word. If pastors and church leaders recognize the need for teaching on spiritual warfare, it becomes their responsibility to study and seek revelation diligently.

The second component is “rightly dividing the Word.” Omitting portions of Scripture or labeling spiritual warfare as antiquated or irrelevant is not rightly dividing the Word of Truth. Studying the Word and gaining revelation of the Word helps church leaders properly explain the Word. The Passion Translation of 2 Timothy 2:15 describes the minister who studies to show himself rightly dividing the Word of Truth as “mature.” Herein lies the connection. Mature

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¹³⁶ Chuck Lawless, Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Ministry, 2002)
church leaders, who study, rightly divide the Word, and explain the Word properly, develop mature disciples who are no longer ignorant of Satan’s schemes:

The word translated “equip” in Ephesians 4:12 also was used for setting a broken bone or mending a torn net. Philosophers used the term to speak of guiding people to fulfill their purpose. Paul employed the word to describe the work of church leaders who “engage in the practical preparation or training of the saints,” so church members might obey their calling.137

According to Charles Lawless:

“Several methods can be used to transform the mindsets of church attendees in general, but for this project, it is in the area of spiritual warfare. These methods include teaching on the traditions of spiritual warfare, integrating spiritual warfare into new member classes, developing a training series on spiritual warfare with topics, including the full armor of God and the believer’s authority, arranging a prayer group to specifically and strategically pray for those who equip the church, and preaching on the book of Ephesians.”138

In the Book of Ephesians, “chapters 1–3 lay the theological foundation, and chapters 4–6 apply this theology to Christian living.”139 The goal is to train and develop disciplined warriors who know how to resist the enemy by claiming the promises of God. Also, knowing how to extinguish Satan's darts through faith and learning how to pray effectively.

Is Changing Worldviews Possible?

Anthropological research has established the basis for the term “worldview,” based on the various perceptions of people living in the world. “Worldviews are basic assumptions people make about the nature of things. Their cognitive assumptions provide them with the fundamental

137 Chuck Lawless, Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare, Ch.10.
138 Ibid., Ch. 1.
139 Ibid., Ch.10.
structures people use to explain reality.”¹⁴⁰ Paul Hiebert uses this analogy to describe worldview, claiming, “Culture is like an iceberg. Behavior and beliefs are what we see above the surface of the ocean. The worldview is the large hidden mass beneath the surface that holds the whole iceberg up. If we only convert beliefs and behavior, in time, the worldview will take the Christian beliefs captive.”¹⁴¹

Worldviews provide emotional security, form reality, and validate cultural norms. Worldviews are essentially the lens by which people view themselves and the world.¹⁴² Disrupting one’s worldview will create a sense of chaos and instability. However, Hiebert suggests that if a more superior worldview presents itself, a person may be inclined to reject the old worldview for the new. “Worldview shifts are at the heart of what we call conversion and worldview transformation.”¹⁴³

Cartesian dualism shaped much of the Western worldview. Dualism, the separation between nature and religion, or natural and supernatural, has led to the denial of the supernatural and confined reality to the natural “seen” world. Dualism has had a devastating effect on Christianity in the West. For some, God isolates Himself to a foreign, distant heaven, not intimately involved in the lives of mankind. For others, the concept of spiritual warfare has no validity due to the belief that God, angels, demons, and Satan are not real. Many Christians remove the spiritual aspects of Scriptures, rendering the Word ineffective and limited to natural terms. Good versus evil is no longer a battle between God and Satan but associates itself with fighting social ills such as poverty and human injustice. The questions asked in this instance are as follows:

¹⁴¹ Ibid., 19.
¹⁴² Ibid., 15.
¹⁴³ Ibid.
1. Who is behind the ills that plague our society?

2. Who is behind divorce?

3. What forces are at work when a person is raped or molested?

4. What voices persuade a person to commit suicide?

Denying the existence of, or keeping God, the angels, Satan, and demons in a heavenly prison does little for the believer. Placing one’s faith in Jesus but denying His power, or our power, leaves believers in a state of hopelessness. When the doctor says, “There is no cure,” hope must live whether science and technology fail to provide the answers needed. Only a biblical, spiritual worldview quenches the fears of man and provide the answers needed to overcome life.

Paul Hiebert suggests worldviews can be transformed through biblical revelation. Therefore, changing a worldview requires a renewal of the mind. Washing one’s mind with the water of the Word aligns one’s thoughts with the Word of God, allowing one to gain a new perspective on life, a new worldview. Second Timothy 3:16–17 in the New Living Translation says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” To overcome a naturalistic worldview or the mindset that Satan is a myth, a believer must acknowledge the Bible as the infallible Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Then, one must read the Word to gain an understanding of who the enemy is.

Engaging Victoriously in Spiritual Warfare

For Christians to effectively engage in spiritual warfare, they must understand their position as believers, believe that Satan is real, use the equipment given to wage an effective battle, know
the location of the battle and recognize the schemes of the enemy. Jesus obtained victory over
the enemy at His death and resurrection. The Bible verifies that Jesus came to thwart to deeds of
Satan. Believers are joint heirs with the Messiah and are with Him in heavenly places relishing in
His victory. Through the victory of the cross, Satan lost his authority to defeat the believer;
however, he will use any scheme to blind the believer to the victory that has already been won.

Satan is Real

For one to become a Christian, he or she must believe that Jesus exists, and God is real, but
the existence of the Devil may remain questionable.

If I were your enemy, I’d disguise myself and manipulate your perspectives so that you’d
focus on the wrong culprit—your husband, your friend, your hurt, your finances,
anything, or anyone except me. Because when you zero in on the most convenient,
obvious places to strike back against your problems, you get the impression you’re
fighting for something. Even though all you’re really doing is just . . . fighting. For
nothing. 144

Society has fashioned the mindsets of some to believe that the Devil is not real, is a myth, or is a
symbol of what is evil. “Success, to him, means stirring up discord in your home, your church,
your workplace, your neighborhood, and doing it in such a way that no one’s even aware he’s
been in the building.”145 Born-again believers must renew their minds concerning the reality of
Satan. Jesus states that the Children of God have an adversary who roams the earth, seeking to
destroy and devour. Paul teaches that not only is Satan real, but he has a hierarchical army of
principalities and powers in an unseen realm.

144 Priscilla Shirer. Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer. (Nashville,

145 Priscilla Shirer. Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer. (Nashville,
Schemes of the Enemy

Satan and his fallen angels employ many tactics to draw the people of God away from His will, covering, and protection. Recognizing Satan’s methods to steal, kill, and destroy is half the battle won. Participants in the focus group and interviews mentioned several devices used by Satan to accomplish his goals, including deception, disguise, condemnation, lust, temptation, pride, and discouragement. The underlying theme in all methods mentioned is the intent to mislead or lie. When speaking of the Devil, Jesus said that he “has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is liar and the father of lies.” 146

Satan will first attempt to blind people to the reality of his, or even God’s, existence. If successful in his attempt, his work is done, giving him free reign to influence a person’s life in any negative manner. If a person believes in God, angels, demons, and Satan, then Satan’s strategy is to cause doubt: doubt in God’s Word, doubt in who believers are as God’s children, and doubt in God’s love for His Church. If the enemy can cause unbelief, the believer is already defeated, and he, once again, can influence freely and negatively affect lives. Negating the supernatural, spiritual realm prevents the believer from obtaining victory. The children of God have only one supernatural influence, the Holy Spirit. Learning how to combat doubt, disbelief, falsehood, and any other strategies give Christians victory in battle and in their lives.

The Battlefield in Heavenly Places

Conflict in the natural, physical realm originates in the realm of the spirit. What occurs in the unseen realm is manifested in the physical. Conflicts between people and sickness, disease, and

146 John 8:44
failed relationships are the result of a battle lost in the unseen world. The Bible clearly states that the battle is not against people, or flesh and blood; it is instead with spirits in the unseen realm, powers, principalities, and spiritual wickedness. For believers to have a successful, victorious life in the natural, learning to navigate the spiritual realm successfully is essential.

The believer’s battles are in the natural; they occur in an unseen and often an unfamiliar place. The first thing a believer must learn is the location of the battle. In Ephesians, Paul identifies the battle place as the heavenly places, or the spiritual realm. Ephesians 1:3 is the first encounter with heavenly places. It reads, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” Everything that the believer needs, God has already given, but it is in the heavenly places, in the spiritual realm. According to Strong’s Concordance, “blessing” can be translated as “benefit” in Greek. The benefits, or spiritual blessings, given to the believer are many. Psalms 103:2–5 says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

Spiritual blessings include salvation, redemption, healing, freedom, and deliverance, which are in the heavenly places. Ephesians 1 states that God adopted Christians as His children, gave them an inheritance, blessed them with wisdom and insight into the mysteries of God, and forgave them. He obtained the believers’ freedom, health, deliverance, and salvation. These spiritual blessings have already been obtained through Christ. Everything the believer will ever need is in the heavenly place in Christ. It is the believer’s job to receive and maintain these blessings. Satan’s mission is to keep Christians ignorant about their blessings, and if they are
aware of these benefits, to make sure the blessings are not received. When believers engage in spiritual warfare, they are fighting to keep what is already theirs. To stand in victory is to remain immovable about the blessings of God. Ephesians 1:3 says that spiritual blessings are in heavenly places “in Christ,” meaning that Jesus Christ must also be in the heavenly places. In fact, in Ephesians 1:20–22, Paul said,

…which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.

Spiritual blessings are in heavenly places, and Christ is seated in heavenly places far above principalities and powers.

Paul goes even further in chapter 2 about believers, stating, “for he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.” As Christians are raised up to sit with Christ in heavenly places, they are given dual citizenship, becoming citizens of heaven and earth. The believer’s position in heaven is far above principalities and powers. They are under their feet. In this position of power and authority, the believer legislates the happenings on earth. Jesus gave Christians the power to bind and loose. Whatever is bound or loosed on earth is so also in heaven. Simply translated, while the believer is physically on earth, he or she is also seated in a position of authority in heaven. Speaking the Word of God on earth over certain situations is repeated in the realm of the spirit. Telling the Devil “no,” or binding his actions on earth, arrests his maneuvers in the realm of the spirit, disallowing negative consequences to manifest on earth. Remaining silent, or speaking the wrong words, is conversely repeated in heaven, and Satan is loosed to devour, resulting in devastation.

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147 Ephesians 2:6.
on earth. Therefore, when Satan attempts to put sickness on believers, they must cancel his agenda, eliminating the manifestation on earth. Believers’ dual citizenship allows them to operate in two places simultaneously.

Paul’s writings clarify the location of all spiritual blessings, Christ’s position seated in heaven, and that Christians are also seated with Christ in heaven. Christians are also informed about the unseen enemies of Satan. Believers fight against the principalities, forces, and wickedness in heavenly dominions; therefore, engaging in spiritual warfare takes place in the unseen realm. In summary, spiritual blessings, Jesus, the spirit of man, and demons are all located in the spirit realm. Everything pertaining to life on earth is in the spiritual realm.

Understanding the location of the battle, Satan’s agenda, and the weapons needed to wage an effective war are essential to the life of a believer. Natural weapons are ineffective in the unseen realm; employing spiritual weapons is, therefore, a must.

Full Armor of God

The enemy strategizes to disrupt lives unexpectedly. Christians must be armed to contend with him. Keeping the armor of God on and accessible stops the believer from putting on the armor each time the enemy is detected. In Ephesians 6, Paul charges believers to take up or put on “every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle, you will still be standing firm.” Ephesians 6:10 tells the Church to “imitate God by taking up God’s power,” equipping oneself to walk in the role and weaponry of the Divine Warrior preparing for battle. This armor given by God is invisible spiritual equipment

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used to fight an invisible enemy in the invisible realm, resulting in physical manifestations. The helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteous, belt of truth, feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, shield of faith, sword of the Spirit, and prayer are powerful weapons to overcome the enemy. For Christians to wage an effective battle, they must learn about this spiritual weaponry and its proper usage. “When you resolve to use these weapons—weapons that are ‘not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction’ of the enemy’s plots (2 Cor. 10:4), you can cut him off at the pass and hit him where it hurts.”

The Belt of Truth

The Roman soldier’s girdle was a connective stabilizer to which other pieces of the armor are attached. The girdle stationed the breastplate and was the resting place for a sword not in use. Similarly, the belt of Truth is the foundational stabilizer from which the believer engages in spiritual warfare, and all the other pieces of armor are based. For a divine warrior or one who engages in spiritual warfare, the belt of truth is a necessity and constantly worn.

Today, where truth is relative, and everyone is “living in their truth,” it is important to define the word “truth.” In his book, Prayers for Victory in Spiritual Warfare, Tony Evans defines truth as “an objective standard by which reality is measured.” For Christians, the truth has already been defined and determined by God before the foundations of the world. The Bible states in John 1:1-2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” Furthermore, John continues to write in John 14:6 that Jesus “is the way, the truth and the life." Therefore, the truth is the Word of God.

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150 Priscilla Shirer, Fervent: A Woman’s Battle Plan to Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer, 47.
151 Tony Evans, Prayers for Victory in Spiritual Warfare, 11.
As previously discussed, the enemy attempts to deceive Christians. However, God in His Infinite Wisdom, provided His Children with a physical lie detector in the Bible. When the enemy whispers lie, the Word of God distinguishes the truth from a lie by measuring the words spoken against the measuring stick of the Word of God. Once detected, the believer can combat those lies with the Word of God, ensuring victory because God’s truth, guarantees victory over the enemy every time.

**Breastplate of Righteousness**

Following the belt of truth is the breastplate of righteousness in Ephesians 6:14. In Ephesians 4:24, Paul says, “put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” “Righteousness means right living—the process by which we apply this truth to our lives and, by His Spirit, produce conduct honoring and pleasing to God.” At salvation, God deposits His righteousness in the believer. Before this, man’s righteousness was as a filthy rag. Man was unable to obtain God’s perfect standard of rightness. At the time of salvation, Christ’s righteousness, which is perfect and pleasing to God, is imputed onto the believer, resulting in being right in the eyes of God and living according to a higher standard. When God sees a born-again Christian, He sees the righteousness of Christ, and so does Satan.

Righteousness is the application of truth in the life of the believer. Like the breastplate working in conjunction with the girdle, righteousness works in partnership with truth. “Truth is the standard. Righteousness reveals how to work that standard out.” Meditating on the Word of God on a consistent basis enables the Word to penetrate the heart, renews the mind, and

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152 Priscilla Shirer, *Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer*, 47.

purifies the soul with right behavior arising from being in right standing with God. When the believer lives, moves, and breaths righteousness through Jesus Christ, the tactics of condemnation, guilt, or falsehood are unable to penetrate the heart leaving the believer’s character aligned with the fruits of the Spirit. Confidence and authority are the results of knowing that Christians are made righteous through Christ’s victory.

**Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace**

In the introduction, the shoes of the Roman soldier were briefly discussed. An important feature of the Roman caligae was nails driven through the soles of the shoes to increase stability. This vital addition allowed the soldiers’ footing to be firmly planted and secure when in battle. Likewise, the peace of God, a “deep, inner, eternal stability the believer possesses by relationship with Jesus, a sense of balance that’s not subject to external circumstance”,\(^\text{154}\) keeps the believer stable and firmly planted during the onslaught of the enemy. Satan wants Christians to lose their peace by focusing on happenings in the physical. Living without the peace of God causes sleep loss, worry, doubt, and the attempt to work things out on one’s behalf. Being prepared with the Gospel of peace insinuates that believers are always prepared for internal and external forces scheming against them. The only way for a believer to be prepared for whatever tactics the enemy may try is to allow the Holy Spirit to begin working on the spirit, soul, and body. Meditating on the Word of Truth creates a higher standard of right living. In the same manner, the mind, will, and emotions must be subjected to the Truth of God's Word. When the soul aligns itself with the spirit, the peace of God is released. The peace of God surpasses all the believers’ understanding, protecting their minds from worry and their hearts from doubt. “When our mind

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\(^{154}\) Priscilla Shirer, *Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer*, 47.
agrees with God's mind—His truth and His Standard—you will access God’s power for victory in spiritual warfare. He will give you peace shoes. Trusting God produces peace.”¹⁵⁵ Therefore, every attack to disrupt a believer’s peace in the natural realm must be rebuked, cast down, and replaced with the Truth of God’s Word. This takes place first in the realm of the spirit then manifests itself in the heart and mind of the believer. It “not only protects you, but it also provides you with a brutal weapon to wield against the enemy when he attacks. If you use the weapon of peace correctly, it will keep spiritual foes where they belong—under your feet.”¹⁵⁶

Shield of Faith

Like the previous weapons, the shield of faith, also “called the shield that is faith because the shield is faith itself,”¹⁵⁷ works in conjunction with Truth. Faith is essential when engaging in spiritual warfare. John states, “the victory to overcome the world is our faith” (1 John 5:4). Faith means, “acting as if God is telling the truth.”¹⁵⁸ For believers to grow in faith, they must first recognize and believe the truth. Believing the Truth, what the Bible declares about a situation, enables believers to walk in faith. Faith is an action word, putting feet to the truth of God’s Word. Faith is demonstrated through complementary actions, because “faith without good deeds is useless.”¹⁵⁹ By knowing the truth and acting on it, believers positions themselves to receive the spiritual blessings God has already supplied. Thus, for the believer to overcome the Devil, he or she must respond in accord with the Word.

¹⁵⁵ Tony Evans, Victory in Spiritual Warfare: Outfitting Yourself for the Battle, 86.
¹⁵⁶ Rick Renner, Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil, 17.
¹⁵⁷ Tony Evans, Victory in Spiritual Warfare: Outfitting Yourself for the Battle, 94.
¹⁵⁸ Ibid.
¹⁵⁹ James 2:20.
The shield of faith specifically “stop the fiery arrows of the devil.”\textsuperscript{160} “Fiery darts are meant to dismantle things in your life so that you become open for any other form of attack Satan wants to send your way.”\textsuperscript{161} The outer part of the Roman shield was made of leather and when dipped in water, it would extinguish flaming arrows flung by the enemy. When the believer knows the truth of God’s Word and applies the truth, faith increases, which causes every flaming arrow or attack from the enemy to dismantle. Consequently, a Christian’s faith in God is critical in prohibiting Satan from setting the world ablaze with flaming arrows. With a small measure of faith, Jesus told the disciples that mountains could be moved. This applies to believers today to defeat Satan and extinguish his flaming arrows and attacks. The Bible states the promises of God are ‘Yes’ and ‘Amen’; therefore, engaging in spiritual warfare, knowing that God’s Word is true, manifests His promises in the natural realm. Moreover, faith in God causes every temptation or flaming arrow to fall by the wayside.

**Helmet of Salvation**

The Roman helmet protected the soldier’s head from injury. Likewise, God gives the believer a helmet of salvation to protect the mind from the enemy. One of Satan’s primary methods of defeat is to attack believers’ minds. Satan recognizes that if he can take hold of a follower’s mentality, he can then gain greater control in other areas.\textsuperscript{162} Satan will try to use weapons of nagging thoughts, doubt, reasonings, and more to construct strongholds in people’s minds. The word “stronghold” in Greek means “to fortify.” In other words, the enemy tries to construct

\textsuperscript{160} Ephesians 6:16

\textsuperscript{161} Tony Evans, *Victory in Spiritual Warfare: Outfitting Yourself for the Battle*, 94.

\textsuperscript{162} Rick Renner, *Spiritual Weapons to Defeat the Enemy: Overcoming the Wiles, Devices, and Deception of the Devil*, 23.
fortresses in the mind to protect a self-defeating mindset. Satan wants to keep the mind in bondage, filling it with lies and deceit that will eventually become a reality.

The helmet of salvation protects the mind from these attacks. “Salvation is eternal security with Christ, as well as a full inheritance given through the relationship with Christ. It includes blessings, status, and identity—everything we’ve received that enables us to live victoriously for Him.”  

Many times, believers limit salvation to being born again, but when one researches the meaning of the word, its definition extends past “getting saved.” There is also deliverance, health, rescue, safety, and redemption in addition to being saved. If salvation is only viewed in terms of being born again, the fullness of the inheritance God gave is limited. A complete understanding of what Christ’s death and resurrection purchased for the believer will prevent negative thoughts and lies from penetrating the minds of the believer. “With the helmet of salvation firmly in place, you will be surrounded—both mentally and emotionally—by the unassailable truth of all that is yours in Jesus Christ.”

**Sword of the Spirit**

Each piece of the armor is significant in its own right; however, 60% of the survey participants selected the sword of the Spirit as the most important part of the armor. The sword of the Spirit represents the Word of God. It is powerful, and it will not return void, accomplishing everything it intended to accomplish.

The sword of the Spirit and prayer are the only weapons used offensively. Although Roman soldiers typically had two swords, the spatha, and the gladius, with which they fought, Paul was

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163 Priscilla Shirer, *Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer*, 47.
referring to the gladius in his text in Ephesians. The gladius was a double-edged sword, short in length, typically 18 inches, used in up-close, deadly, hand-to-hand combat.” 165 More specifically, it is the “Rhema or spoken Word of God. A Rhema Word is ‘a word God speaks to you out of the written Word.’”166 It could also mean when “Holy Spirit supernaturally drops into a believer’s mind, thus causing it to supernaturally come alive and impart special power or direction to that believer.”167 The Rhema Word of God is empowered by the Spirit to combat any attack of the enemy. An example is Christ in the wilderness. After fasting for 40 days and nights, Jesus was tempted by the enemy. Jesus responded using the Rhema Word of God by saying, “It is written.” In the example, Jesus demonstrated how to overcome Satan with the Word. For the believer to use the Rhema Word of God, the written Word must be in the believer’s heart. Once the Word is implanted and a spiritual battle is eminent, a divine Rhema Word will rise as a sword in the realm of the spirit, leaving the enemy defeated.

**Prayer**

In Ephesians 6:18, Paul says to “pray at all times in the Spirit.” Often when the armor of God is discussed, people usually stop at the sword of the Spirit, overlooking the essential element of prayer. In her book *Fervent*, Priscilla Shirer says that the schemes of the enemy “start failing, when we start praying.”168 She continues to say that believers “don’t have the luxury of playing nice with prayer”169 if God’s promises, abundance, and the enemy’s retreat are to be

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166 Ibid. 128.
169 Ibid., 3.
experienced. For believers to see these items manifested in their lives, prayer must become a priority. Not only must it be a priority, but it must also be specific, precise, and strategic. This is where the Word of God, the sword, comes to use. For believers to pray effectively against the enemy, consistently praying and speaking the Word of God over situations is vital. For example, if a child is experiencing symptoms of illness, confessing, and praying words of healing from the Word of God over the child’s life initiates the healing process. The Word, which is powerful, sharp, quick, and full of the mission, will penetrate the child’s body to bring forth healing. The same happens when the Word is spoken to the enemy in battle, as was modeled by Jesus when he was in the wilderness and Satan tempted Him, and Jesus responded by saying, “It is written.” Jesus knew the power in the Word of God would rebuke the enemy. Shirer says, “Prayer is the portal that brings the power of heaven down to earth. It is kryptonite to the enemy and all his ploys against you.” The believer has direct access to the Father and the powerful Word of God, but this connection can be strengthened further with use of personalized prayers.

Personalized prayers are written prayers crafted by selecting key Scripture verses and compiling them into a prayer. Using the previous example of a child experiencing symptoms of an illness, a parent or the child would search the Word of God for Scriptures containing promises for healing. Once all the Scriptures were recorded, he or she would then compile the verses into a prayer using the child’s name. A sample prayer would be, “Father God, in the name of Jesus, I thank you for being Johnny’s Healer. You are the Lord Who heals him. Jesus was whipped so that he could be healed. You are the Lord who heals this disease and every other disease.”

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170 Ibid., 5.  
172 Isaiah 53:5  
173 Psalm 103:3
Thank you for healing his body and strengthening his bones.\textsuperscript{174} In Jesus Name, Amen.” James says, “The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”\textsuperscript{175} Constantly praying God’s Word will cause Truth to override facts.

\textsuperscript{174} Proverbs 3:8

\textsuperscript{175} James 5:16
Chapter 5

Conclusion

The purpose of this project was to establish the need for proper, biblically based teaching on spiritual warfare, with an emphasis on utilizing the full armor of God described in Ephesians 6. A continual cycle of defeat witnessed in the lives of believers in the author’s home church prompt the initiation of this project. Statistical data collected by Lifeway Research and Barna Research Group demonstrated the devastation some believers experience. It questioned why Christians, who are promised an abundant life through Christ, are unable to manifest the promises of God in their everyday life. The author hypothesized that it was the result of a lack of solid, biblical teaching of spiritual warfare.

To support this theory, the author employed quantitative and qualitative research methods, in the forms of a survey, interviews, and a focus group, to collect numerical and conceptualized data. The results of the survey discovered that of 55% of church leaders polled, only 25% received formal training in the area of spiritual warfare. If this result is indicative of Church leadership, only 1 in 4 church leaders prepare to train their congregants in spiritual warfare. Also, only half of the participants attended spiritual warfare training, even though most of the participants received salvation over 10 years ago. Overall, 95% of those polled confirmed the need for additional teaching on spiritual warfare.

The interviews and focus group allowed the author to understand the thoughts and perspectives of participants on spiritual warfare, Satan, and the weapons needed to engage in spiritual warfare. The overwhelming consensus of a need for solid teaching was evident. Participants stated fear, lack of knowledge, and purposeful omission of spiritual warfare to
please the ears of the listener as possible reasons why believers are left unprepared in spiritual warfare.

Journeying through the biblical, historical, and theological aspects of spiritual warfare demonstrated that although not always explicitly mentioned as “spiritual warfare,” a theme of unseen conflict between God and His army (the Church) and Satan and his evil followers was apparent. The conflict between good and evil, God and Satan, and Satan and the Church is a constant theme throughout the Bible. Commencing with Satan attempting to usurp the throne of God, the battle between God and Satan continued with the temptation of Adam and Eve by the Devil. Angered by man’s position and reigning authority given by God, Satan sought to destroy the relationship between God and humanity. Although he succeeded in his temptation to lead Adam and Eve into rebellion and sin, God countered Satan’s temptation by covering the sin of Adam and Eve. Over thousands of years, this struggle between God and Satan has played out in the Bible and Israel’s history.

Ancient cultural traditions of cultures in the ancient Near East adopted a Divine Warrior framework in which the god of each nation fought on behalf of his people. The victor was known as the supreme god, whose fame became widely known throughout the region. The Lord of Hosts was Israel’s defender who conquered their enemies. Stated time and time again in various Scriptures in the Bible, the Lord went before them to ensure Israel’s victory. The Divine Warrior’s enemies of the Old Testament may have been physical, symbols of chaotic nature, dragons, or serpents of the sea. Still, the depiction of the enemy and warfare changed with the earthly ministry of Jesus.

The ministry of Jesus changed the view of spiritual warfare. The foes of Jesus were no longer physical but spiritual. Casting out demons, healing the sick, and performing miracles modeled a
kingdom of light at war with the kingdom of darkness. Jesus revealed Satan, believers’ true enemy. With Jesus labeling him a liar, deceiver, and a thief, He exposes Satan’s agenda to perpetuate destruction. However, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ was God’s deathblow to the enemy, destroying his power over mankind and redeeming Christians from sin and death. With this victory, Christ was seated at the right hand of God in heavenly places. Since then, every born-again believer became joint heirs with Christ, also sitting in heavenly places far above principalities and powers. Jesus and the authors of the New Testament unveiled the Truth about the enemy and revealed who he was, his purpose, and how believers could defeat him.

When speaking of spiritual warfare, Ephesians 6 is undoubtedly always mentioned, detailing the full armor of God. In the book of Ephesians, Paul also writes about Christ and believers being seated in heavenly places, far above principalities and powers who are now under their feet. He also teaches about the spiritual blessings being stored in heavenly places and that the enemy also resides in heavenly places. These points are vital when engaging in spiritual warfare because one must understand that the battle occurs in the realm of the spirit and not in the natural. The armor described in Ephesians 6 must be employed and is only effective in the spirit realm.

The belief in Satan and his evil forces was a staple of Church theology until the Enlightenment period. After this era, God, Satan, demons, and angels were as myths unable to affect human life. The social ills of this world were said to be a result of nature and man. This naturalistic worldview crept into the Church and was never fully dispelled. The ability to be saved and yet not believe in the Devil, demons, or spiritual warfare demonstrates the need for biblical revelation, teaching, and understanding to change the perspective of the naturalistic believer. Transformation comes by renewing the mind with the Word of God and revelation of
the Word through the Holy Spirit. Changing the naturalistic worldview of a believer to a biblical warfare worldview is half the battle won. Receiving instruction on how to effectively engage in spiritual warfare will result in total victory for the believer.

The data collected in the research group, in addition to academic research, revealed several reasons why pastors and church leaders fail to teach spiritual warfare. They include they believe that it is not their calling, a lack of training, it is irrelevant today, and the subject is more evident in countries other than America. The lack of teaching on spiritual warfare produces ill-eqipped, immature believers who are susceptible to the schemes and influence of the enemy.

In Chapter 4, a detailed description of how to successfully teach and engage in spiritual warfare was discussed. It began with establishing the importance of training church leaders and introducing spiritual warfare to congregants, the reality of Satan, recognizing the unseen battle between the believer and Satan, understanding believers’ battle positions. It concluded with employing believers’ spiritual armor.

First, believers must understand the death and resurrection of Christ has already given them victory over the Devil. Not only did Christ destroy his works and break his powers, but all disciples have become joint heirs with Christ placed where God has stored all their spiritual blessing. For believers to obtain their spiritual blessings and maintain their position of victory, they must engage in a spiritual battle. Fighting a spiritual battle requires spiritual armor given by God.
Appendix 1: Phone Interview Responses

**Lizzy Graham Interview**

**Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?**

I believe we are fighting Satan and the fallen angels he influenced to rebel against God. Satan and his fallen angels that are now in his army.

**Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?**

Do I believe it?

Charles: Yes, please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise.

I believe he is a deceiver because he always confuses what God says about us and what the Word says. He uses the Word and twists it to confuse us and keep us in darkness to the truth of the Word of God.

**Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?**

Yes, I believe they help identify him as our enemy because as a child of God it this the opposite of what God stands for. The Bible says if we are not on God's side, then we are His enemy. If he is in direct opposition to what God says in His Word, then he is our enemy.
Question 4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?

I believe we have prayer, the Word of God, used in conjunction with prayer, to help combat the lies of the enemy, to rebuke him. I believe we have faith as well as the weapons listed in the Bible such as the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation.

Question 5. What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to Spiritual Warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit…”?

Praying in the Spirit is direct communication with the Lord. It allows you to speak your language, unknown to the enemy, so that you are having direct communication with the Father and receiving revelation based on the conversation. I also believe that praying in our natural tongue is a weapon. Using the Word of God is a way to push back the enemy in our battles just as Jesus did in the wilderness. He used the Word to rebuke Satan and pushed him back until a more opportune time to tempt Jesus. Therefore, praying in the Spirit and praying in the natural is a twofold weapon that we use to defeat our enemy.

Question 6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?

Power and authority are given to us when we speak things in the name of Jesus. The Bible says when we use the name of the Lord things happened. When we pray using the Word of God, God’s promises will not return to Him void in conjunction with the name of Jesus. When we pray and speak the Word, that is where, I believe, our authority comes from.
Question 7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 King James Bible “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you?” Do you think it applies to us today?

Yes, I think it applies to every believer who puts their faith in Jesus. I think that because of our relationship with Christ we are protected from certain traps or certain assignments of the enemy.

Question 8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a Spiritual Warfare battle?

I really engaged the most in spiritual warfare when it comes to my children and in marriage. I feel like I am constantly under attack, especially having children. I must cover my children because they are unable to do so themselves properly. When I see attacks from the enemy coming toward my children it is my duty to cover them and go to war for them so they can experience their freedom in Christ.

Question 9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?

No, I don't think so.

Joanne Witherspoon

Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?

I believe we are fighting against the enemy, which is Satan and his fallen angels. Just as it says we wrestle against principalities, powers, against rulers of darkness in this world, and Satan is the ruler of the darkness of this world. The Bible tells us that he is roaming to and fro seeking
whom he may devour. We're fighting against Satan and his fallen angels who are the darkness of this world.

**Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?**

Absolutely! Again, that is what he is doing. He is roaming to and fro and the only way he can get to us is through deception and lies. He disguises himself as good just to get you to do evil. He will come in, disguise himself, and try to deceive you into thinking what you're doing is right in the same way he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. That was pure deception. God did not say you could not eat from this tree. Yes, he did. So, we must be able to recognize who he is. That is the only way he can get to us is through deception and through disguise. Trying to pretend that he is someone else or something else when we know clearly who he is and what we should be doing.

**Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?**

Absolutely. It is common sense to me. Is a liar a good person or a bad person? A liar is typically a bad person. That is automatic. Is your adversary somebody that is against you? If somebody is my adversary, then he is my enemy. If you are not for me that means you are against me. These are titles of Satan. That is how we identify who he is. A liar, our adversary, and a deceiver. Would you ask somebody to come to your house to live with you if you knew they were a liar? If they were your adversary? If they were a deceiver? No, you would run as far
away as you could from the person. These titles help identify who Satan is and that he is our enemy. He is our adversary. The Bible clearly tells us that. It says in the Bible that God hates liars. He tells us that Satan is the father of lies, contrary to what God is. That is how we know absolutely that he is our enemy. If somebody shows you who they are, you better believe it because that is what they are. God has told us who Satan is, so we must believe in Jesus.

**Question 4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?**

There are multiple things, I believe, are our protection to fight against the enemy. One is the armor of God. He told us to put on the whole armor of God so that we can stand against the Evil One. That is our weapon we need to fight. Another type of protection is prayer which is part of the armor of God. These are all weapons that we can use. Knowledge, I think, is another protection we can use to fight against the Evil One. The Bible says that my people perish for lack of knowledge. We must get into the Word of God and study to show ourselves approved a workman that need not be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of Truth. That is a protection. When you know what you know. When you know who you are. That is a form of protection. You cannot come and talk to me any kind of way when I know who I am. You cannot come and do anything to me when I know the power that I possess inside of me because of Jesus Christ. These are all types of protections that we need: knowledge, the Word of God, and the armor of God.

**Question 5. What do you think the purpose of Prayer regarding the armor of God?**
Again, just as it says. Praying always. Praying always. That is the purpose. Always praying. Always. That is your relationship to God. That is your connection to God. I have been married to my husband for 20 years. We talk every day. We live with each other and talk every day. If I go a day without talking to him, something is wrong. I know that something is wrong. I am going to feel that something is wrong. I am going to feel a void. That is the same thing with God. When he tells us to pray always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit that is our communication with Him. That is how we talk to Him. We tell him our petitions and listen for him to respond to us. That is that connection. Without connection you have nothing. That is your relationship. Using the relationship between a husband and wife, how can you be husband and wife without communication? If you do not talk to each other. If you do not communicate with each other. It is the same way with God.

**Question 6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?**

There is power and authority given unto us because that is what the Word says. He has given us power to trample over serpents and scorpions. There is power and authority when we speak the Word of God. The same way Jesus was tempted after fasting 40 days and 40 nights. When he was tempted what did He use? The Word of God. The Bible tells us every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess. The Word of God is quick and sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of the soul and spirit, the joints, and the marrow. That is the power of the Word of God. The Word of God is quick and powerful. For example, when people overseas talk about beheadings, we can compare it to the sharp Word of God. It can behead the enemy. The Word of God cuts the head off the enemy. Jesus spoke the Word of God.
I whole-heartedly believe there is power and authority when we speak the Word of God. He said we are fighting with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

**Question 7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 King James Bible “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you?” Do you think it applies to us today?**

Absolutely. First and foremost, everything in the Bible applies to us today. The Old Testament and the New Testament is for us today. God said He's giving us His Word for correction and rebuke. It is all given unto us. He has given us power. What does that mean to me? Nothing can harm me because He has given me the power to tread on serpents, scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. Nothing shall by any means. If you look up the word tread what does it mean? Normally, when I hear the word tread, I think about treading water. When you are treading water, you are riding above it right. You are just above it right. The water is still there. The water is not going nowhere. It is the same concept. The enemy is still there, but you can rise over and go above it. That is the power of the Word of God has given. Serpents and scorpions are going to be there because that is their job. The Bible says that the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy so he is going to come attack you. He is going strike your heel, but you must know how to fight it. You must know how to tread upon the enemy, and nothing will harm you. Amen.
Question 8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a Spiritual Warfare battle?

Yes, I have had multiple times even recently. The worst time was when I was in North Carolina. That was a real spiritual battle. Even now he is still trying to attack my family. He is still trying to attack my marriage. Those are spiritual battles.

I am part of the prayer team and Shane asked, “Is it just me or have you had a numerous amount of people asking to pray for marriages.” Over half of us said yes, we have had people come to the altar asking for prayer for marriages. We go to a church where there is over 6,000 attendees and the most prayer requests we receive are for marriage. In my own marriage the enemy is trying to break it up. He desires to break up homes. As a member of the prayer team, I am constantly in spiritual warfare because I am praying and interceding for others. I am not praying for them I am praying as them. I am taking all their burdens, feeling their pain, and right now it is for marriages. The enemy is trying to destroy families. He wants to destroy the sacred bond God has created between a husband and wife. On TV there are same sex couples kissing on almost every show. The enemy working fiercely to destroy the family unit God joined as husband and a wife.

Question 9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?

This is such a great study and is absolutely needed in the home and our churches because people do not know that they are in spiritual warfare. Using the previous example about marriage, they think “Oh, my husband is just acting out. Oh, my wife is just acting out. They don't love me.” There is an enemy behind what is happening in the home. It is never just” my husband acting up”. It is a stronghold that attached itself to the family unit aiming to destroy it. It
is spiritual warfare and most Christians do not recognize it. Satan is trying to steal, kill, and destroy you in any way, shape, form, or fashion. He can do it.

People need to be taught what spiritual warfare is and how to fight against. If we are taught everything else in life, for the most part. We are taught on our jobs and read parenting books. Yes, the Bible is there, but it needs to be taught how to utilize the weapons given by God.

Sandra Paxton

Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?

The enemy, Satan, the devil.

Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?

Yes, I believe he is deceiving the world through deception and disguise because behind all the evil things that are happening in the world, there is an evil, demonic force that causes people to do evil things. The Devil. He is behind all of it. He cannot go back. He cannot go back to heaven. He was banished permanently so he roams to and fro seeking whom he can devour.

Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?

Yes, they help identify that Satan is our enemy of the different words used, or the titles you named. However, you still must experience it though. I do not know if I am making sense. Even though people say he is a liar. What other words did you say? Your adversary? The deceiver?
Murderer? The evil one? Yeah, they help identify and alert you of the enemy’s different schemes, but you must experience it. You can say a person is this or that, but until you experience it for yourself you will not truly know for yourself. Am I making sense? The different names he is called in the Bible helps you to be alert, but in my opinion, that is all it does. However, we you have a personal experience with him being a liar or a deceiver, it goes to another level.

**Question 4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?**

The blood. The blood of Jesus. The Word of God. Prayer.

**Question 5. What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to Spiritual Warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”?**

Oh, it is a perfect prayer. Praying in the Spirit is the perfect prayer.

**Question 6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?**

Yes, I believe it because the Word of God is alive. It is alive. It is powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword piercing asunder between bone and marrow. In spirit realm the Word of God is alive. Yes, there is power. The Word of God is alive. It is powerful. It is active. It is operative. If you read the Word of God, it makes something happen.
Question 7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 King James Bible “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you?” Do you think it applies to us today?

Yes, I do. He has given us the power. He has empowered us. God lives within us. Greater is He in us than he that is in the world. So therefore, we are empowered to trample over serpents, scorpions, and over all the power. He has given us all the power all because He lives within us. We cannot do it on our own, but through him we can.

Question 8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a Spiritual Warfare battle?

Yes, there was a time when I felt like I was in a spiritual warfare battle. There was a time when the enemy was trying to destroy my mind and I was very depressed. I believe I was in spiritual warfare.

Question 9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?

I think we need more teaching on spiritual warfare.

Alison Patterson

Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?

First, the answer to your question, Mister Trammell, is that we are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against rulers and darkness that are evil. Powers and things that are unseen in this world. It could be thoughts or dark, evil spirits that come into your mind.
Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?

First, I do not believe Satan can defeat the world because God has the authority and is in control, but Satan does come in different disguises. He can come in any form, shape, or fashion, but we must know how to defeat Satan.

Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?

Yes, I do believe these titles describe Satan as our enemy. As previously stated, Satan comes in different shapes, forms, and fashions and all kinds of disguises; therefore, he is a liar. He is also a deceiver, but we must know how to identify him when we are attacked.

Question 4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?

The best type of protection we have is God. We must know Him. We must have a relationship with God. We must study His Word, know scriptures, and how to use it against the devil when he tries to attack us.

Question 5. What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to Spiritual Warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit…”?
Well, we know prayer changes things as related to Ephesians 6. We must put on the whole armor of God to protect ourselves. Prayer is the answer to everything. God provides spiritual discernment to fight against Satan when we speak to Him. We overrule him because God put the Holy Spirit in us giving us power to defeat the enemy.

**Question 6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?**

As I said, I believe we have power of God to defeat Satan, attacks, and anything that comes against us because we have the Holy Spirit. Jesus left us the Comforter. He is the Holy Spirit.

**Question 7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 King James Bible “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you?” Do you think it applies to us today?**

Yes, I do. As previously stated, God gave us the Holy Spirit. If we establish a relationship with Him, stay in His Word, and know His Word, then we can fight against anything.

**Question 8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a Spiritual Warfare battle?**

Well, I am not going to say one time, but we know the devil is always going to attack. I have seen sometimes, particularly on my job, but that is when prayer comes in. When you feel like the enemy is against you and nothing is working for you, but if you talk to God it will all work out.
Question 9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?

As you stated in your study, you are doing this for the purpose of more education on spiritual warfare. My true belief is that we need more education on spiritual warfare. We go to church on Sundays and listen to messages, but most of the time we are taught about salvation and the wages of sin is death. We need instruction on spiritual warfare because it comes every day. It can be a thought that you have. The devil, like you said, attacks. We must know how to fight that battle and, like you said, we are surrounded by God. Evil spirits and spiritual warfare may come against us, but if we have the Holy Spirit and the Word to combat it, we can be successful.

Rick Rogers

Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?

I believe we are fighting Satan and his evil forces. Like the military, not necessarily just the military, his government has a hierarchy. Satan has different levels or principalities. I believe, depending on the person, we fight against different evil spiritual entities. In my opinion, Satan has street soldiers to throw someone, like me, off course trying to manipulate us and manipulate Gods Word Then of course, there are upper evil entities that attack police officers, mayors, or people that are in the church such as pastors. They have tougher demons.

Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?

Yes, Satan is deceiving us. Basically, he is trying to persuade us to disbelieve that God exists. To do that, he must make us believe he does not exist. If we do not believe he exists, we will not believe God exists? He is the greatest deceiver. He disguises himself in many different forms.
Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?

Yes, it does describe him because everything he does is a lie. Everything speaks is in opposition to us. He is most certainly our adversary. He is a deceiver. He tells us lies about ourselves, God, and everything else. He is a murderer. He wants to kill, steal, and destroy. He is out to kill us, physically and spiritually. He is the epitome of evil.

Question 4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?

First, and foremost, we have the Holy Spirit. We are sealed with Him. If we believe, are born again, and have the Holy Spirit in us, that is our main protection. I absolutely believe and have faith. I know for a fact that the Holy Spirit lives in me. He is my first line of defense always looking out for my well-being.

Question 5. What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to Spiritual Warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”?

Praying opens the channel to God so when we are communicating with Him, we do not worry about anything. Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have at our disposal. If we are in prayer and we are supplicating to God. He is going to come down enter the situation. He is going to protect us. When attacked in spiritual warfare we pray to God Who comes and fights for us.
Question 6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?

Absolutely! The Word of God is power. The Word of God will build you up. It will sharpen you. Iron sharpens iron, especially when we are with believers.

Wanda Ross

Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?

I believe we are fighting against Satan and his kingdom of darkness.

Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?

Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise. Often, he presents himself to be one way, but then he turns out to be something different. I do believe he is deceiving through deception and disguise.

Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?

Those titles help identify Satan as our enemy. For example, you said your adversary which indicates that he opposes us. Anytime someone opposes us that means they are against us; therefore, he is our enemy.
Question 4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?

As you mentioned, the Word of God and prayer. Putting on the whole armor.

Question 5. What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to Spiritual Warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit…”?

Prayer is important when it relates to spiritual warfare. The Bible says to pray always with prayers and supplication in the Spirit. Praying in the spirit is important because tongues allows us to pray when we do not know what to pray in the natural. We speak to God on another level.

Question 6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?

Power is given unto us when we speak the Word. The Bible says the Word of God is quick and powerful; quick, powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. I believe there is power in the Word.

Question 7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 King James Bible “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you?” Do you think it applies to us today?

He gives us all the power we need. The scripture says no serpents, scorpions, or powers of the enemy can overcome us. He has given us power over them; therefore, we can tread upon serpents and scorpions exactly as it says.
Question 8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a Spiritual Warfare battle?

Two years after I graduated high school, I began experiencing symptoms in my body. I believe I was under spiritual attack because the doctors could not diagnose my symptoms, but I was experiencing things in my body. I believe it was on a spiritual level.

Question 9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?

No, I cannot think of any.

Josh Smith

Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?

We are fighting all of Satan's resources and tools. He uses different tactics such as our minds. Sometimes we are fighting spirits. Sometimes it is other people, or in some instances, family and friends as in the case of Job. He lost his family which is physical. He lost his money, or wealth, and he had to fight against friends encouraging him to just give up. His wife told him to just curse God and die, all because God allowed Satan to test him. We are tested in the same manner. We are fighting against all the resources in Satan’s arsenal, but we have something stronger because we have the Holy Spirit.
Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?

Satan uses things that look good on the surface but are evil underneath. He uses a trick or a scheme to make people fall prey to what he wants and separate people from and God through something that appears good.

Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?

They all do, but some resonate stronger than others. I bend towards the Evil One because it encompasses a lot of the other ones. Evil people lie. Evil people try to deceive others, or manipulate them, or murder. The Evil One is my reference and my go-to when explaining who Satan is. He is evil and evil is of Satan.

Question 4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?

We have several things. I believe in anointing with oil. When you anoint with oil, the power is not in the oil, but symbolizes faith in Christ. Faith in the Holy Spirit puts a hedge around you.

Ultimately, prayer is the strongest thing that we have. Prayer and belief in a relationship with Christ. Knowing the scriptures and reading the Bible every day. Implanting the Word in your soul, in your being, so you can recognize Satan for what he is and then use the Word against him. Just as Christ did to fight against him.
Question 5. What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to Spiritual Warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit…”?

You must be able to pray in the spirit or use the spirit to fight another spirit. Being in the military, we fight asymmetrical warfare and there are times it does not work. Fighting with a bow and arrow against someone with a machine gun, gives the one with the machine gun an advantage. You must use similar tools. In spiritual warfare, the concept is the same. The devil is going to come as an evil spirit. Being able to pray in the spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit is going to help you defeat him and again recognize the tricks used to separate us from God and His love.

Question 6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?

There is power when we speak the name of God. The best example I have is from a Sunday school teacher I had when stationed in Virginia. She and her family were walking through the neighborhood one night when the neighbors pit bull had gotten loose. The pit bull was going to attack their little girl when the mother turned around and said, “In the name of Jesus you stop.” Immediately, the dog stopped dead in its tracks and the owners were able to retrieve the dog. This dog was known to be an aggressive dog, but her little girl is grown and married now. There is power in the name of God.
Question 7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 King James Bible “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you?” Do you think it applies to us today?

Every scripture between Genesis and Revelation applies to us today, but how does it apply? Yes, we have the power to tread on serpents because God said we could. That is nothing new. The Bible. The content was perfect. It was a record for the early Christians, and it is still perfect. The official record for today's Christians and it will be the record for tomorrow's Christian. Nothing is going to hurt us if we can stand on the Word. If we are standing with God, we can recognize those tricks as we mentioned earlier. Recognizing the deceitfulness of the enemy allows you to fight against it. Remaining close of God gives us the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions because the serpent is really Satan. He is a snake in the grass.

Question 8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a Spiritual warfare battle?

Just experiencing some of the stuff in my military career and how it impacted the relationship with my wife. If Satan can destroy my family that God put together and cause that separation, it gives him a foothold into family that continues for generations. I cannot say I fully recognize the devil's handiwork, but I recognize that as my wife and I worked through some of our struggles, some of the struggles in the military, put my family first instead of my career, and doing things the way the Bible intends, my relationship with my wife became stronger. The relationship with my kids is stronger and my wife and I's relationship with my kids has become better and stronger. There is more happiness, joy, and peace in our house and are evidence of the fruit of
the Spirit. I am certain it made the devil mad and that is good. He ruined our lives and made it hell for many years.

**Question 9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?**

No. I think the questions summed up a lot on spiritual warfare and how we can recognize, identify, and fight against it as Christian.

*Tina Simpson*

**Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?**

We are fighting against the spiritual realm. We cannot see it in the natural, but there is a realm that we cannot see and that is what we are fighting against. Our enemy is the prince of this world and the powers of darkness. The Word says it is not the flesh and blood. It is the powers, principalities, and spiritual wickedness in high places.

**Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?**

Yes, because he can try to deceive us by imitating God. Camouflage. To make you think that it is God. The Word calls him an “angel of light.” He is not going to present himself like the devil because he does not want you to know that he is the devil. He does not want you to know that he is our enemy, but we must recognize him.

**Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?**
Yes, because the titles themselves tell who he is. He is exactly what you named. Those titles tell the type of character that he has and the type of enemy we are fighting against. He is a liar. He is the deceiver. He is our adversary whom we fight against. His titles automatically let you know who and what you are dealing with.

**Question 4. What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?**

We have protection as far as the armor. The Word tells us to put on the whole armor of God. This is our protection, and not only that, we have the blood of Jesus covering us. The Word of God. He who is in us is far greater than he who is in the world. Therefore, we have all the protection. We have access to everything God has given us; we just must use it.

**Question 5. What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to Spiritual Warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”?**

It is vital, important, to pray in the Spirit because the Spirit knows all things. We pray according to what we see and have knowledge of, but there is a spiritual arena that we do not know about. Nothing. However, the Spirit of God does and when we pray in the Spirit, the Spirit zeros in on what is needed. Whatever we need God to do, the Spirit of God can tap into it. I believe praying in the Spirit is a perfect prayer. That is why it is so important for us to pray in the Spirit.
Question 6. Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?

Yes, because there is power in the Word. The Word is powerful and that I what Jesus used when He was in the wilderness. Satan came. He used the Word. He said, “it is written.” He is our example. We are to use the Word of God because the enemy is no match for the Word.

Question 7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 King James Bible “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you?” Do you think it applies to us today?

Sure, it does. He said He gives unto you power. We do not have to pray for Jesus to do this and that because He has given us the power to trample, or tread, on serpents, scorpions, and over all the enemy. We have the power within us, but many times we do not know what we have or how to use it. You must use it. We have the weapons. We have everything we need.

Question 8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a Spiritual Warfare battle?

Yes, I have. I can specifically remember a time when I was in spiritual warfare. I cannot remember exactly what it concerned, but I know that it was very intense until I had call “911.” When the enemy comes so forceful and you must call for help. I did. I called “911.” Sometimes we do have to have backup. Yes, I remember I did need assistance. It was not many times, but at that time, I remember calling my brother in the Lord.
Question 9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?

I thank God for this opportunity of expressing and contributing to this study you are doing. It is wonderful and necessary. When people enter the military, they are trained. They are not put on the field expected to fight. They are trained to fight the enemy. It is the same with spiritual warfare. We need to be trained as soldiers in the army of the Lord. We need to learn more about our enemy and his strategies so we can counteract it. I am grateful and thankful. I appreciate you allowing me to be a part of this study.

Rose Clark

Question 1. Whom do you believe we are fighting?

We are fighting against Satan and, of course, his demons and his followers. Those fallen angels that fell with him. The one-third.

Question 2. Please explain if you believe Satan is deceiving the world through deception and disguise?

Yes, he is a liar. He twists the truth. He comes as a child of light when he is not. He is the one that carries us away by our own lust.

Question 3. There are many titles for Satan in the Bible such as a liar, your adversary, the deceiver, a murderer, and the evil one; do you believe these titles help identify that Satan is our enemy? Please explain why or why not?
Yes, everything that God stands for Satan is the opposite. We were created in God's image to be the light, the truth, and love. Satan is completely against that and will try to make you be darkness. God is light. Satan is darkness.

**Question 4.** What type of protection do you believe we have to fight against the evil and wickedness in this world?

The Word of God.

**Question 5.** What do you believe is the purpose of praying as it relates to Spiritual Warfare as stated in Ephesians 6:18 “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit…”?

The Spirit prays for what we ought to, not for what we think. The spirit knows what we need to be praying for. God is with us. The Holy Spirit is in us so He knows what we should be praying for and against.

**Question 6.** Do you believe there is power, and authority given unto us when we speak the Word of God? Please explain why or why not?

In the beginning the Word was with God and the Word was God. When we speak with authority, we speak the Word of God as things should be, not as they are. We speak those things that be not as though they are. That is the authority that we have, the Word of God. That is the only way we defeat Satan.
Question 7. What does the Scripture mean to you in Luke 10:19 King James Bible “Behold, I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you?” Do you think it applies to us today?

Yes, God has given His people the authority. He has given us everything we need to fight against Satan. That is His word. We cannot add to it or take away from it. We have everything in the Word of God.

Question 8. Can you describe a time when you felt like you were in a Spiritual Warfare battle?

Yes, it is confusion. It is everything the enemy is preventing. It is a series of attacks. The enemy is trying to prevent you from making that connection with the Word of God. It is just little things. The more you do the right thing it is a constant battle within us. The flesh battles against the spirit and vice versa. It is the same with spiritual warfare. It is a constant battle. We must constantly renew our mind for battle in the spiritual realm. We must constantly speak the Word.

Question 9. Do you have any other comments that you would like included in this study?

It is serious. Most people do not think that spiritual warfare is a “thing”, but that is what Satan wants you to believe. That is not real. It is a lie. He wants everything to be fictitious, a lie, because he wants us to stay in the darkness. The more people who believe God is not real, spiritual warfare, angels, demons are not real, are in darkness. That is lie and the truth is right before us. We perish for lack of knowledge. The lack of knowledge is not knowing the truth, the Word of God. It is just a façade.
Appendix 2

Focus Group Transcript

**Charles**: Okay, we will give them two more minutes, then we will get started.

**Female Voice**: Okay.

**Charles**: I do not know about you, but I have some good old-fashioned Starbucks coffee right now.

I am ready.

**Charles**: Yes, two more people just called in.

**Charles**: Can you state your name please?

**Joanne Witherspoon**: Yes, Joanne Witherspoon.

**Sandra Paxton**: Sandra Paxton.

**Charles**: Welcome to the focus group Miss Paxton and Miss Witherspoon.

**Charles**: Well, now it is around 6:03 here in San Antonio, 7:03 Eastern time, but we are going to begin by verifying everyone is here. I will call the roll quickly. When I call your name, please inform me of your presence by simply stating “I am here” Tina Simpson.

Rosa Clark.

Josh Smith.

**Josh Smith**: I am here.

**Charles**: Wanda Ross.

**Wanda**: I am here.

**Charles**: Rick Rogers.

**Rick**: I am here.

**Charles**: Joanne Witherspoon

**Joanne**: I am here.
Charles: Alison Patterson.

Alison: I am here.

Charles: Alan Gomez.

Alan: I am here.

Charles: Sandra Paxton.

Sandra: I am here.

Charles: Okay, I was recently notified that Ms. Graham will be joining us shortly.

First, I would like to thank each of you for agreeing to participate in this study. Taking the time out of your busy schedule to support me on this journey means the world to me. Now, I would like to go over a few ground rules.

1. Please speak one at a time.

2. State your name before answering a question in order to keep an accurate transcript of all the participants responses.

3. There are no right and wrong answers; therefore, everyone's ideas and experiences are valuable. I ask that you freely express your thoughts and beliefs concerning the need for more teaching on spiritual warfare.

4. We will not always agree, but please show respect to one another's ideas and experiences.

5. If you lose connection before the focus group has adjourned, please join back in as soon as possible.

6. Finally, this focus group study is being recorded and should only take approximately 30 minutes. So, let us get started.

Question 1. Do you believe Christians are in spiritual warfare? If so, please explain.

You can dive in.
Ms. Patterson: This is Alison Patterson. I believe Christians are in a spiritual warfare because each of us go through something daily. We are faced with different battles, deceit, illness, temptations, *(inaudible)* that cause us to sin, give up, or get discouraged with God or live arrogantly as if we are God instead of God being God.

Charles: mmm Okay.

Ms. Patterson: …and it can separate us from the Church.

Charles: Yes.

Ms. Patterson: It stops us from evangelizing, spreading the good news, you know? So yes, I believe that we are in a spiritual warfare.

Charles: mm Okay, thank you.

Mr. Smith: I also believe that Christians are in spiritual warfare. For many of the reasons the lady stated. I agree with it all. The Bible also says there is nothing new under the sun. I believe there is not anything old either. If the Christians of old had spiritual warfare, then we still have spiritual warfare until Christ comes back and resurrects His Church into heaven. Until then, we must put on the armor of God every day. Why do we need the armor of God? So, we can fight against the enemy that comes against us in spiritual warfare. We have the Holy Spirit and we have God’s Word as our battle gear so we can withstand the temptations and deceptions we face daily.

Charles: Okay.

Rick Rogers: I want to piggyback off that. Yes, we are absolutely in spiritual warfare and we must put on the armor of God every day because we are constantly being attacked by the enemy. It is to make us lose hope, faith, love, and anything that can be used to derail us from God or being aligned with God. So, yes, we are in spiritual warfare. Spirits never rest. They are
constantly seeking to devour somebody, seek somebody out, and just torment them. We are in spiritual warfare 24/7 and need to be on guard. We need to be prayed up. We need to be in our Word. We need to be vigilant. We always need to be on the offensive attacking the enemy because if they attack us first, they may get the upper hand. So, yes, we are in spiritual warfare.

**Charles:** Okay.

**Ms. Paxton:** Yes, as Christians we are in spiritual warfare. In Ephesians, it says that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities against, the rulers of darkness, and against spiritual wickedness in high places. We are in spiritual warfare.

Temptation comes at all of us daily.

**Mary Tucker:** Amen.

**Alan Gomez:** (begins to speak) Oh, I am sorry.

**Mary Tucker:** Go ahead Mr. Gomez.

**Charles:** Go ahead Mr. Gomez.

**Alan Gomez:** Okay, yes, I absolutely agree with everything that has been said. I think spiritual warfare is necessary so God can use it as an opportunity for us to seek Him and to draw closer to Him. He can show us His love and His power every day. It also humbles us because we know we need to stay in the Spirit and stay close to God. Spiritual warfare is a constant thing. It is constantly drawing us closer which blesses us. It is beautiful because it shows how loving and how powerful our God is and how helpless we are without Him. As a Christian, we need to recognize our need for God, humble ourselves, and renew our faith and strength in the Holy Spirit daily. There are different lessons and your faith grows as you keep pursuing Your relationship. It allows you to see more beautiful blessings that God will pour upon you. I think
spiritual warfare strengthens us. It reminds us that we are God's children. He is our Father who will stand up and protect us if we rely on Him.

**Charles:** Okay.

**Alan Gomez:** Thank you.

**Charles:** Okay, Mrs. Tucker.

**Mary Tucker:** As Christians, we are absolutely in spiritual warfare. The Bible states in Galatians 5 starting at verse 16 “Then I say walk in the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.” It says, “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh.” These two are contrary. If our spirit and our flesh are contrary to each other. It is a war. It is a battle between our spirit and our flesh. Of course, we all know before we became saved, we were in the world. We walked according to our flesh, but now that we are Christians and we are saved, we must be spirit minded, walking according to the Word of God, and what God would have us to do. It is a daily battle as everyone has said. Our flesh and spirit war against each other in a daily battle. Satan is using that against us. He is using our flesh against us. The Bible says he is roaming throughout the earth seeking whom he may devour because that is his job. It is to steal, kill, and destroy us. He is going to attack our fleshly body in whatever way he can to go against our spirit man. It is another reason why we fast. Fasting denies our flesh and brings it underneath subjection creating a deeper relationship with our spirit and connection with God. The Word says those that worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth, that is our connection to God and our relationship with God. It is through our spirit man.

**Charles:** OK. Thank you. Let us go to question 2.

**What comes to mind when you hear the word fear as it relates to spiritual warfare. Is it okay for Christians to be afraid?**
(Name not mentioned): What comes to mind with fear as it relates to spiritual warfare? I think we are afraid of things we do not totally and completely understand. Is it okay for Christians to be afraid? Beginning in Genesis, Adam and Eve sinned and heard the voice of God calling them. God said, “Why are you hiding?” “Well, I heard your voice and I was afraid.” Sin had entered the world and entered his life; therefore, he was afraid. Throughout the Bible God tells His people in, I think, Isaiah, “Fear not I am your God.” You now? I will put my hand out. I will hold you up. When we know God, are with God, and seek Him our faith is strong. We are strong, not weary, and do not have much to be afraid of at that point and time. However, when we are in our human selves and our faith is not exactly where it is supposed to be, it does not mean we are not a Christian. I get scared. I think it is okay to be afraid, but it is more important to know where our strength comes from and how we can overcome that fear. We cannot do it ourselves; we need God. We need to be standing next to Him. He never leaves us. We must get and stay right with Him to conquer our fear.

Charles: Okay.

Alan Gomez: I agree and to address the question directly. I do not think it is wrong for a Christian to fear. I would not say that is our goal. We should stand on the Word, put our faith in God, and stand on the Father’s foundation. We are always wrestling against the flesh and fear. The flesh is going to come. The flesh is going to cause you to be fearful and afraid of things It is understandable, but I think it is a challenge. As a Christian, fear is going to play a role in your life, but the stronger your faith is the less you will fear. We will fear, just because of our flesh. Our flesh will trick us into being afraid, but God has assured us not to be afraid. Again, I do not think it is wrong, but ideally, no, a Christian should not fear or have any fear in him as part of battle with the devil.
Charles: Okay.

Alison Patterson: Yes, we do fear when we are in the flesh; but as Christians, if we keep the faith and know what God promised us, then we would not fear. We must have a relationship with God. We should not fear anything but God. God has all the power. He said in Second Timothy 1:7 “for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.” Christians must get the Word. Believe the Word and draw it in daily. Read the Bible every day. Get close with God and know the Word is truth. That is our release right there. We will not have to worry about fear.


Ms. Paxton: You took it right out of my mouth. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and of a sound mind. When it comes to spiritual warfare and fear, we must recognize our opponent. We cannot be fearful when it comes to spiritual warfare. He told us again in Ephesians “Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” I was told some years ago that fear means false evidence appears real. So, when it comes down to our opponent, we must be bold as a lion. We should not have any fear. We cannot be afraid because “Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.” A Christian should not walk around afraid when it comes to spiritual warfare because God has given us everything, we need to be victorious.

Charles: Okay.

Rick Rogers: I would like to respond quickly. The enemy is going to attack you with constant lies to cause you to fear, but if we know that they are lies, how big, and powerful our God is we should not fear. The main goal of the enemy is to put fear in us. Once he puts fear in us, we begin to lose our hope in God, and we forget how big He really is. We forget Who is really in control. He is trying to gain that upper hand through fear, and it is all nothing but mere lies.
Charles: Okay. We are going to move to question 3.

It says, other than deception and disguise what other tactics does Satan use to enslave us. For better words suppress and oppress Christians. Let me repeat that question. other than deception and disguise what other tactics does Satan use to enslave Christians.

Rick Rogers: Bondage.

Alison Patterson: (Begins speaking) Go ahead Rick Rogers.

Charles: Go ahead Rick Rogers, please.

Rick Rogers: He will use bondage. Satan will use addictions, money, and worldly earthly things to get our focus off God. If our focus is off God and onto materialistic things, (i.e. money, cars, houses, the women, sex, drugs), we become addicted to these things. They become our idols and we begin worshipping these things. They become our god. Satan will use a beautiful woman, or a beautiful car, or money to blind us. They become our god and become idols. Those are several tactics that he uses against us.

Charles: Okay.

Alison Patterson: Chiming in. Temptation is another one. Sickness. You know people can get sick. Going through something and they lose faith. They begin to ask questions. “Well, where is God?” “Why me?” All of that is spiritual warfare. Satan is trying to disillusion your minds telling you, for example, if you are sick, “Why can't God heal you?” Like I said, temptation. Sickness. Death. Several things.

Charles: Okay.

Lizzy Graham: Lizzy Graham here.

Charles: OK, welcome to the focus group.

Ms. Simpson: Ms. Simpson here.
Charles: Welcome to the focus group Ms. Graham. Go ahead Ms. Simpson,

Ms. Simpson: Yes, another tool the enemy really uses on God's people is the spirit of discouragement. That is why it is so vital and important that leaders stay focused. You cannot look at God, His Word, and your situation too. You cannot look two ways at the same time. You cannot look north and south at the same time. West and East. You cannot do it. So, that is why it is so important to keep the Word in our mouths. The Word cannot be in and out of our mouth regardless of what we see, even though the enemy comes with the tool of discouragement.

Another one is condemnation. The Word lets us know that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. A lot of times when we fail, the enemy wants to put condemnation on us, but we must remember that the Word says if we confess our faults, He is Faithful and Just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If God forgives us, we must forgive ourselves and move forward.

Charles: Okay.

Lizzy Graham: I believe another tactic that the enemy uses is lust. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The Bible says we are drawn away by our own lusts and that is what causes us to sin. I believe the enemy knows our weakness, or weak areas, where he can tempt us. If we are not built up on the Word and built up in our relationship with Christ, then the enemy can use those temptations, or those lusts and those weaknesses, to entrap, or enslave, us in bondage. It can be so easy for us to slide into bondage without even knowing it because we are not aware of the subtlety of the enemy in our temptation. Lust is a way for the enemy to enslave us.

Charles: Okay, let us go to question 4.
Do you believe some pastors and spiritual leaders reject the validity of spiritual warfare? If so why or why not.

Mr. Smith: I will start this one off. My short answer is yes. Some pastors and other spiritual leaders in the church reject the validity. Various people do not understand it. Some people may rise to a position in the church for other means than just to feed the flock. They have ulterior motives. When you speak about spiritual warfare you are not making people happy and may not have a lot of people returning to your church. It is not a feel-good message. If you are more worried about putting people in seats, then you are not about teaching God's Word and preparing the flock, then you are going to ignore that part of the Bible intentionally. I do not have any proof. I do not know of anybody who does, but from traveling around the world and talking to different people and who have formed an opinion pastors and church leaders shy away from this subject because it doesn't leave people feeling happy and coming back next week.

Woman speaker: I would like to chime in.

Charles: Okay, Okay, can you state your name please?

Ms. Simpson: Yes, I am sorry Ms. Simpson.

Charles: Okay Go-ahead Ms. Simpson

Ms. Simpson: I feel that if a leader fails to forewarn his congregation or teach his congregation it is because they do not know much about spiritual warfare, or they have not been taught. I mean if you are fighting, you must know who you are fighting. You need to know how to fight. You need to know what to use when you fight and in spiritual warfare there are things we must do. We must put on the whole armor of God. I feel leaders do not really get into it because they have not been taught or they do not know much about spiritual warfare. Some might not believe in spiritual warfare. The Word says we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against powers,
principalities, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places. So, we must teach our people. We must teach them how to fight and to know the tactics of the enemy.

**Charles**: Okay. Okay. We will move on. Did anyone else want to comment before we move to question 5. Okay, we will move on to question 5.

**Do you think pastors and spiritual leaders hurt or help the body of Christ when they do not teach on spiritual warfare?**

That piggybacks on what you were talking about Ms. Simpson. Do you think pastors and spiritual leaders hurt or help the body of Christ when they do not teach on spiritual warfare?

**Alison Patterson**: This is Alison Patterson.

**Charles**: Okay, go ahead Ms. Patterson.

**Alison Patterson**: My thoughts are that they do hurt the body of Christ in this instance. If we do not know and are not taught, then we are not equipped to fight those battles.

**Charles**: Yes.

**Alan Gomez**: Yes, they hurt the body of Christ and newcomers in Christ. There are a lot of newcomers that do not know. They are hungry and will take instructions from the pastors. If the pastors are not explaining spiritual warfare, then they find whatever it is that they are looking for leading to false promises. It leads to failure. It is because they were not properly trained to deal with the spiritual warfare in their life. I think that leads them further away from God, not closer to God. When you do not equip your soldiers for what they need to win the battle, they fail. It hurts the body of Christ. That is what I think they do when they do not preach on the subject.

**Charles**: Okay

**Rick Rogers**: Rick Rogers here.

Female voice
Rick Rogers: Oh, go ahead, go ahead.

Joanne Witherspoon: Hi Joanne Witherspoon. I do think pastors hurt the body of Christ when they do not teach on spiritual warfare. How can you win any battle when you do not know who you are battling against? Any Christian, specifically a new Christian, will lose the battle even before it begins because they will not know who they are fighting against. Every war has a strategy. If we are not equipped, then it is like what everyone else is saying. We will not win. We will fail every time.

Charles: Okay.

Alan Gomez: This is the second time. Yes, I want to I agree with that personally. It came from my personal experience because I faced challenges in the church, spiritual battles before. The response I received from spiritual leaders is “it was my fault.” “My faith is not great enough.” “There was something wrong with me,” if it was a miracle I was praying for, or whatever it was. If it did not happen the way that they said it would, then suddenly it was my fault. I know, I know enough. I have been around churches long enough to understand that it is not my fault. It is something that I was not taught that I am not doing right. I have gone through that before, but I do see that. When you tell people that it runs them away from God and it could run them back to whatever they were doing before looking for answers. It is dangerous. That is one personal experience that I wanted to share with you guys.

Charles: Appreciate that Mr. Gomez.

Rick Rogers: I just wanted to respond quickly. It absolutely hurts the body of Christ when we are not prepared. When they do not teach on it as something that is valid. It is real and something we need to be prepared to face when we are out there. We can go into battle with spoons when the enemy has assault rifles on us. It is the equivalent of doing that. Our fellow Christians are
being slaughtered. They do not know what they are facing, and they are ill equipped. We are set up for failure. So, they are hurting the body of Christ by not teaching on spiritual warfare. We need to know what we are up against. We need to know how to battle back. We need to know how to call on God through different situations and in different battles because there all not going to come at us the same way. We are just falling into the enemy's hands when we do not teach on spiritual warfare and that is lovely to him when we do not teach on it. We do not equip our soldiers to go out, fight back with the Word of God, and know what we are up against.

Charles: Okay, we are going to move on to question 6. It says…

In your opinion, what has God given us to be victorious in spiritual warfare?

Ms. Simpson: This is Ms. Simpson.

Charles: Okay go, ahead Ms. Simpson.

Ms. Simpson: He has given us the armor of God. He has given us the blood of Jesus. He has given us the Spirit of God. He has given us the Word. The Word is quick, and it is powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. When the enemy comes, he is no match for the Word. He can talk. It is not about anything because when you come with the Word, he is not a match. He has given us everything we need but must use it and use it with power. We overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the Word of our testimony.

Ricki Rogers: God has already given us victory through the blood shed on the cross. We have victory and the enemy does not want us to know that we have already won We have victory already. We do not need to fight. We must lean on God and His word. He will take care of the rest. That is what the enemy does not want us to know; that we already have victory.
Charles: Very good point Mr., Rogers. We are not fighting for victory; we are fighting from victory. Jesus has already defeated Satan. Now, we are fighting the good fight of faith. Anyone else?

Male speaker: I believe He has given us the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is here and is available to everybody. If you ask the Holy Spirit to come into you and you have the power of God, that is enough to defeat any obstacle or any deception. I believe that is God's gift to us to continue with spiritual warfare. To win, not just continue, but to win.

Charles: Okay, anybody else before I go to the last and final question? Okay, this is the last and final question. Is there anything else you would like to add to this study?

Mr. Smith: I agree with everything stated when we talked about question 5, pastors and spiritual leaders when they fail to teach or preach spiritual warfare and how it hurts the body. We all have, I hope everyone on this call, has a Bible or two in their house. From the conversations we have had it seems like we are all seasoned Christians. Sometimes we cannot wait for someone else to prepare us when we have God's Word. We accept Christ and are filled with His Spirit as the gentlemen said just a second ago. That is the best weapon we must fight against it. We prepare ourselves. Sometimes, it is just us and God. All the time it is us and God isn't it? If we are in the Word, preparing daily, and listening to the still small voice, discerning what is God and what is the enemy, we will recognize the enemy for what he is. We will do an about face and walk away. We have the Holy Spirit helping us discern that because we have prepared ourselves every day. That is the only other thing I had to add.

Charles: Okay what about you Ms. (interrupted)?

Ms. Paxton: This is Ms. Paxton. On our daily walk as Christians we must stay armored up, stay prayed up, and keep the Word in our mouth. Keep the Word loaded. We must always keep our
gun loaded. When someone come at you, you do not go get your bullets to load your gun. You must always keep it loaded. We cannot just go and get it when something comes our way. Things come at us quickly and it can knock you, but if you already armored up, prayed up, and your full of the Word of God, it is very hard to shake someone like that. Warfare is not that hard if you are doing what we need to do daily. I would be happy when pastors and all leaders begin to teach on spiritual warfare. When you go to speaking about spirits and demoniacs, people become fearful and get afraid, but it is real. If they only know that it is real and know how to fight the enemy, then it will be a whole lot easier. You must keep the Word. You must keep the Word. You must stay armored up. You must stay loaded. Just stay loaded. If you always stay loaded, when things come nothing, but the Word, would come out because your loaded. You already have everything in place. So, that is what Christians must do, stay loaded.

**Charles:** Okay. Does anyone else have anything to say? This is the last opportunity. Say it now or forever hold your peace.

**Lizzy Graham:** Ms. Graham.

**Charles:** Okay, go ahead Ms. Graham.

**Lizzy Graham:** Pertaining to your last question about what weapons we have been given to defeat the enemy in spiritual warfare. I think we have been given prayer and fasting. In Luke it says that somethings only go through prayer and fasting. I think fasting is one strategy that we have been given to defeat the enemy. Unfortunately, a lot of people do not know about fasting, coupled with prayer, and the power it comes with when you do both. Not only are you armored up but your praying, using your sword, and confessing the Word of God which says would not return unto Him void. When you consecrate yourself, pray, and fast you are building that
intimacy with the Commander, with God. He can tell you how you should war and what you should do in prayer or in the natural to defeat your enemy.

**Charles:** Wow! This has been an amazing focus group.

**Mary Tucker:** I do want to say one last thing. This is Mary Tucker. Again. As the gentlemen stated, I think we are all seasoned, mature saints on the phone. As I have gone through this process, I had to reexamine myself and reevaluate the things that I would say. Some of the things I said and the way I acted were not aligned with the Word of God. More so pertaining to the tactics that Satan uses. I have listed a few. You guys said a lot of great ones, but I feel that division is one of the tactics that Satan uses, especially in the church. You have probably heard of people talking about church hurt and being hurt by the church which causes division. He tries to create division within and amongst us. If our pastors and leaders would talk about this, then we, as Christians, could recognize, “Hey, this is a trick of the enemy.” Somebody may hurt you, or say something they should not say to you, but you must forgive them. As Christians, our job is to forgive them. That was one of the things I had to look at myself and say, “Okay make sure I forgive people and not allow division or church hurt to creep in.” Some other tactics Satan uses are arrogance and pride. Arrogance can creep in easily. You know when you think you know something, but you really do not know, nor do you want to admit that you do not know because of pride. I really appreciate Charles for this study because I will be the first to admit that I have learned a lot just being on the phone listening to everybody. I have learned so much that I can take away and do a self-reflection to ensure I am winning this spiritual warfare battle. One last thing I am going to mention is I believe pity parties is another tactic Satan uses. I think Ms. Simpson mentioned discouragement as a tactic he used. For me it is a pity party. I am quick to have a pity party, but that is a trick of the enemy. He tries to discourage me and steal the joy I
have by making me think that I am not good enough or that I do not deserve to be blessed. Those are tricks of the enemy and I think she also mentioned conviction. That is another thing the devil will try to keep us in bondage.

**Charles:** Condemnation.

**Ms. Simpson:** Condemnation.

**Mary Tucker:** Condemnation. Holy Spirit, thank you. Conviction is good because that is what the Holy Spirit does is convict us, but condemnation is not good. Yes ma’am. He uses condemnation as well to keep us in bondage. Again, if this is taught in the church then we can recognize the enemy tactics and say, “Hey, no back up devil, I know this is a trick of the enemy. I am not going to fall to this.” I may get in a pity party, but I am not staying there. Things do happen in life, but it is about us not staying there, wallowing and laying in it or enjoying it too much. I just thank God for Charles and for this study because I had to look at myself and reevaluate some of the things that I did and how I believed. I had to renew my mind with the Word of God. It is about renewing your mind.

**Charles:** Wow!

**Mary Tucker:** I am going to be quiet now.

**Charles:** Wow, wow Ms. Tucker. Well, this has been an amazing focus group. Before I conclude I want to leave you with something to think about. Hebrews 11:1 in the King James Bible says, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.” There is evidence but it is not seen. Well, this concludes the focus group. Once again, thank you and have a blessed evening. I love you guys.
Appendix 3: IRB Approval and Application

October 30, 2018

Charles L. Trammell
IRB Approval 3518.103018: The Need for Solid Teaching on Spiritual Warfare

Dear Charles L. Trammell,

We are pleased to inform you that your study has been approved by the Liberty University IRB. This approval is extended to you for one year from the date provided above with your protocol number. If data collection proceeds past one year or if you make changes in the methodology as it pertains to human subjects, you must submit an appropriate update form to the IRB. The forms for these cases were attached to your approval email.

Your study falls under the expedited review category (45 CFR 46.110), which is applicable to specific, minimal risk studies and minor changes to approved studies for the following reason(s):

6. Collection of data from voice, video, digital, or image recordings made for research purposes.

Thank you for your cooperation with the IRB, and we wish you well with your research project.

Sincerely,

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Liberty University / Training Champions for Christ since 1971
I. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete each section of this form, using the gray form fields (use the tab key).
2. If you have questions, hover your cursor over the blue question mark (?) to the right of each heading, or refer to the IRB Application Instructions.
4. Email the completed application, with the following supporting documents (as separate word documents) to irb@liberty.edu:
   a. Consent Forms, Permission Letters, Recruitment Materials
   b. Surveys, Questionnaires, Interview Questions, Focus Group Questions
5. Submit one signed copy of the signature page (available on the IRB website) to any of the following:
   a. Email: As a scanned document to irb@liberty.edu
   b. Fax: 434-522-0506
   c. Mail: IRB 1971 University Blvd. Lynchburg, VA 24515
   d. In Person: Green Hall, Suite 1887
6. Once received, applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.
7. Preliminary review may take up to 3 weeks.
8. Most applications will require 3 sets of revisions.
9. The entire process may take between 1 and 2 months.

Note: Applications and supporting documents with the following problems will be returned immediately for revisions:

1. Grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors.
2. Lack of professionalism.
3. Lack of consistency or clarity.
4. Incomplete applications.

**Failure to minimize these errors will cause delays in your processing time**
DOCUMENTS & APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Review the application instructions at the beginning of this form. Please submit all necessary documents as separate documents along with your application. Use the checklist below to make sure you have submitted the necessary paperwork to the IRB:

I have completed the required CITI Training (Social and Behavioral Researchers).

I have received faculty mentor approval.

I have completed the below Doctor of Ministry IRB application in its entirety.

I will submit each of the following supplemental documents (templates) for review:

- Recruitment Document(s) (how you tell people about your study):
  - Email or Letter [most common]
  - Verbal or Telephone Script
  - Announcement
  - Social Media Post
  - Flyer

- Consent Document(s) (a detailed statement about your study):
  - Consent Form [most common]
  - Assent Form
  - Parental Consent Form

- Study Instrument(s) (what you will use to collect your data):
  - Survey or Questionnaire [most common]
  - Interview Questions
  - Focus Group Questions
  - Other Test/Assessment/Instructional Material

I have submitted my signed signature page to the IRB (including mentor signature).

I have submitted my application as a word document, and the above supplemental documents as separate word documents* to the IRB (irb@liberty.edu).

*Please note: Signature pages may be submitted as pdfs.

REMEMBER:

1. IRB Approval
2. Recruit Participants
3. Obtain Consent
4. Collect the Data

Rev 6/2018
## II. GENERAL INFORMATION
### 1. STUDENT INFORMATION (?)
- **Student Name:** Charles L. Trammell
- **Student ID:** [Redacted]
- **Student Phone:** [Redacted]
- **Student Email:** [Redacted]

Are you a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) student?
- No (STOP Complete the “General IRB Application” found on our website)
- Yes (Proceed to Box 2)

### 2. FACULTY MENTOR INFORMATION (?)
- **Faculty Mentor Name:** Dwayne Milioni, Ph.D.
- **Faculty Mentor Phone:** [Redacted]
- **Faculty Mentor Email:** [Redacted]

### 3. STUDY DATES (?)
- **When will you perform your study?** (Approximate dates for data collection/analysis):
  - **Start** (Month/Year): December 2018
  - **Finish** (Month/Year): August 2019

### 4. FUNDING SOURCE (?)
- **Is your study funded by a grant?**
  - No, my study is unfunded.
  - Yes, my funding source is:

## III. RESEARCH SUMMARY
### 5. STUDY INFORMATION (?)
Please indicate whether your proposed study will include any of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Will your participants be audio recorded?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will your participants be video recorded?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will your participants be photographed?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6. STUDY TITLE (?)
- **State the title of your study:** The need for solid teaching on Spiritual Warfare.

### 7. DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH (?)
- **Research Question** (What are you hoping to learn by completing this study?): Why do we even need to know about Spiritual Warfare and what is the reason for the fight? My goal is to help Christians discover the importance and power of Spiritual Warfare.
Research Purpose: Why/how will this research contribute to your field of study? The purpose of my research is to help Christians discern that we are in a spiritual battle of some sort. My goal is to prove how Spiritual Warfare affects our physical lives as well as our spiritual walk with the Lord. I intend to provide Christians with knowledge and understanding on the topic as well as increase their sense of awareness and urgency for Spiritual Warfare.

8. STUDY DESIGN (?)
Check all that apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey/Questionnaire</th>
<th>Interview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other (testimony, journal prompt, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. STUDY PROCEDURES (?)
Step-by-step, describe exactly what your participants will be asked to do. Include information about how long it should take your participants to complete each step. **DO NOT** list contacting participants or reading consent as a step.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step/Task/Procedure (e.g., Complete a survey)</th>
<th>Approximate Time to Complete the Procedure (e.g., 10-20 minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Compete a questionnaire 10 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Participate in a Recorded Interview (Audio/Video) 20 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Participate in a Focus Group 30 minutes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. SUBMISSION OF DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS/MATERIALS (?)
Submit a Word document of all survey/questionnaire questions, interviews questions, journal instructions, etc. that you plan to use to collect data for your study.

Check the box to verify that you will submit your study materials:

All of the necessary data collection instruments will be submitted with my application.

11. STUDY LOCATION (?)
Please describe the location(s)/site(s) in which the study will be conducted. Be specific (include city, state, church, clinic, etc.): Westover Hills Assembly of God, San Antonio, TX; Trammell Family Life Group Fellowship, San Antonio, TX & Faith Congregational Church, Valley, AL

IV. PARTICIPANT INFORMATION
12. TYPES OF PARTICIPANTS (?)
Please provide a description of your study participants (members of your church, fellow pastors, members of a specific organization, etc.): Members of Westover Hills Assembly of God; Members of Trammell Family Life Group & Members of Faith Congregational Church Westover Hills Assembly of God is my local church in which I attend here in San Antonio, Texas. Faith Congregation Church in Valley Alabama is my home church in which I’ve been a member since birth. I go there throughout the year to attend different functions. My wife and I
are still very active at our home church in Valley Alabama. Lastly, The Trammell Family Life Group Fellowship is a Life group my wife and I lead through Westover Hills Assembly of God.

As applicable, please provide any criteria your participants must meet to participate (i.e., gender, age range, years of experience, ethnic background, etc.): All participants must be Christians and born-again believers of Jesus Christ.

Please explain why you chose this specific group of participants (Why will this specific group help you answer your research question?): I chose this specific group of participants because they are the ones affected by Spiritual Warfare and are the only people who have the power to fight and conquer it.

Who will be the focus of your study? (Check the applicable box(es) below):

| Normal Participants (Age 18-65) | Outpatients |
| Minors (Under Age 18)           | Cognitively Disabled |
| Over Age 65                     | Physically Disabled |
| University Students             | Participants Incapable of Giving Consent |
| Active-Duty Military Personnel  | Prisoners or Institutional Individuals |
| Discharged/Retired Military Personnel | Specific Ethnic/Racial Groups |
| Inpatients                      | Participant(s) Related to the Researcher |

Note: Only check the boxes if the participants will be the focus (for example, ONLY military or ONLY students). If they just happen to be a part of the broad group you are studying, you only need to check “Normal Participants.”

13. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS?
How many participants do you plan to include in the study? 10

V. RECRUITMENT

14. RECRUITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS?
How you will tell participants about your study? (Check all that apply):

| Phone Call | Social Media |
| Letter     | In-Person Conversation |
| Email      | Flyers/Advertisement |
| Other: Text messages | **[Other]** | Yes, I will use the same recruitment document for all contact methods. |

15. SUBMISSION OF RECRUITMENT MATERIALS?
Submit a copy of all letters, scripts, emails, flyers, advertisements, or social media posts you plan to use to recruit participants for your study as separate Word documents with your application. Recruitment templates are available on the IRB website.

Check the box to verify that you will submit your recruitment materials:

All of the necessary recruitment materials will be submitted with my application.
16. PARTICIPANT COMPENSATION (?)
Will your participants be paid, given food or gift cards for taking part in your research?
No (Continue to #16)
Yes (Explain what will be given, including dollar amounts/value):

17. PERMISSION (?)
Will you need to obtain permission to use a church, ministry, school, convention, or membership database to recruit participants and/or gather data?
I have/will obtain permission.
I will not need to obtain permission.

VI. INFORMED CONSENT
18. OBTAINING CONSENT (?)
How will you provide consent forms to participants? (Select one):
The consent form will be attached to the recruitment letter/email I send out.
The consent form will be the first page of my survey/questionnaire.
The consent form will be provided at the time of the interview/survey.
Other (describe):

How will participants return completed consent forms to you? (Select one):
My study is anonymous, so the consent form does not need to be signed and returned.
Participants will return the signed consent form at the time of the survey/interview.
Participants will sign/scan/return the consent form prior to the survey/interview.
Other (describe): Participants will print out, sign and mail consent form to my home address prior to the survey/interview.

19. PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONSENT REQUIREMENTS (?)
Are any of your participants under the age of 18? (If your participants are under 18, parental/guardian consent is required and you will need to obtain assent from the child.)
No
Yes

20. STATEMENT (?)
Submit a copy of all informed consent/assent documents as separate Word documents with your application. Informed consent/assent templates are available on our website. Additional information regarding consent is also available on our website.
Check the box to verify that you will submit your consent materials:
All of the necessary consent/assent documents will be submitted with my application.

VII. PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY
21. DATA SECURITY (?)
How will you keep your data secure? (Check all that apply):
Password-locked computer
Locked desk
Locked filing cabinet
Other: Password-locked smart phone
Who will have access to the data? (Check one option for this section):

- The researcher
- The researcher and faculty mentor
- Other:

Note: Data must be kept for a minimum of 3 years after the study is finished.

22. PRIVACY OF PARTICIPANTS

My study is anonymous (I will not know which participant gave which response).

Describe the process you will use to collect the data to ensure that it is anonymous:

My study is confidential (I will know which participant gave which response).

Describe the process you will use to collect the data to ensure the confidentiality of the participants (e.g., participant identities will not be disclosed, pseudonyms will be used, interviews will be in private locations, etc.): Participant identities will not be disclosed, without consent and interviews will conducted in private locations, and some will be on a one-on-one basis and pseudonyms will be used to conceal participants identities. I will create a list/codebook linking pseudonyms to participant identities.

Do you plan to maintain a list or codebook linking pseudonyms or codes to participant identities?

- No
- Yes (Please describe where this list/codebook will be stored and who will have access to the list/codebook. The codebook should not be stored with the data):

The codebook linking pseudonyms will be stored in a safe and my wife (Shenica Trammell) and I will be the only ones who will be able to access the safe.

Note: If you will have both anonymous and confidential data, check both boxes and respond accordingly.

VIII. RISKS AND BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

24. DIRECT BENEFITS (?)

List any anticipated direct benefits to your participants. If there are none, state “No direct benefits.”: No direct benefits. The direct benefit is the participants will have an intervention plan to use counteract the spiritual attacks on them and their families. One direct benefit is the participants will be able to recognize that many of their problems and issues (i.e., health problems, depression, failing marriages, rebellious children, etc.) are spiritually rooted. Another direct benefit of the intervention plan is the participants will be provided with an in-depth teaching on Spiritual Warfare which will increase their knowledge and understanding of the topic. They will be given practical tools to use to help remedy many of their challenges.

Note: Direct benefits are increases in knowledge or skills for the individual participant. Direct benefits are NOT “helping the researcher with his/her project.”

25. PARTICIPANT RISKS (?)
List any anticipated risks to your participants. If the risks for participating are minimal (no more than one would expect when taking part in normal daily activities), state “Minimal risk” below: Minimal Risk
Bibliography


Mayer, Isabella. “Qualitative Research with a Focus on Qualitative Data Analysis.” *International Journal of Sales* 4, no. 9 (2015): 53-65

McAllister, Patricia. “For We Wrestle Not Against Flesh and Blood but Against Spiritual Forces: Examples of the Theology, Doctrine and Practice of Spiritual Warfare in Lancaster County.” DMin diss., Lancaster Theological Seminary, 2017.


