

## **SPIRITUAL WARFARE TRAINING**

### **– Part One - From Katie's manual**

#### **ARMOR OF GOD**

The battle is for the **bodies** and **souls** of men and women on earth.

It is called the battle of SPIRITUAL WARFARE.

Because Satan and all his forces *are spirits*, our battle is a *spiritual* one and our weapons must be *spiritual* weapons.

#### **PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD**

We are told in 2 Peter 1:3 that as we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness!! We are also told we perish because of lack of knowledge. Therefore, it is imperative that every Christian understand he/she is engaged in spiritual warfare. There are two diametrically opposed kingdoms vying for power over earth and its inhabitants. God, the Creator and rightful owner of planet earth, is being constantly challenged by Lucifer, that usurper of authority. Because we live in a world under the curse of sin, Lucifer (Satan) is the “prince of the power of the air”. As such he has a limited authority, forfeited by Adam in the garden.

For our protection, defensively and offensively, God has provided us with spiritual armor. In Ephesians 6:10-18 Paul gives *a final word: be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.* To just know about the armor of God is not enough, we must wear it—daily.

Verse 13 tells us to *use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm.* You don't have to wear the armor. It is your choice! BUT—I f you don't, be prepared to get “*slam dunked*” to the ground by the enemy for he loves to blindside you; catch you unawares, especially with harmful consequences. So, doesn't it make sense that if God has provided the armor, that we should wear it?

2 Timothy 2:3 NKJV tells us *You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.* As a soldier in the Kingdom of God, we need to remember that the warfare of the kingdom demands one's full attention. We, as Christians, must dedicate ourselves whole-heartedly to the business of soldiery. Hit and miss commitments will not be effective in winning battles; they will not bring victory. The Roman warrior to whom Paul alludes was never trained to see **defense as an end in** itself, but only as a means to an end of vanquishing the enemy.

When Roman legions moved out to the frontiers, they do so with the explicit goal of extending the boundaries of the Roman Empire, not to huddle back and invite their enemies to attack them. Their armor was designed to enable them to do that very thing.

Those to whom God calls to strategic-level spiritual warfare today, are to put on the whole armor of God as they seek to advance the Kingdom of God.

**A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER MUST:**

<b>Obey</b> 2 Corinthians 10:5-6	<b>Be faithful</b> 1 Timothy 1:18-20
<b>Enlist</b> Matthew 28:18-20	<b>Shows Courage</b> 2 Timothy 4:7-18
<b>Be Alert</b> 1 Peter 5:8	<b>Endure hardship</b> 2 Timothy 2:3
<b>Be Pure</b> 1 Peter 2:11-12	<b>Use self-control</b> 1 Corinthians 9:25-27
<b>Fight hard</b> 1 Timothy 6:12	<b>Please Commanding Officer</b> 2 Timothy 2:4
<b>STAND FIRM</b> Ephesians 6:13-17	

As we put on the armor, we are in reality clothing ourselves with the protection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 13:12-14 tells us *...let us put on the armor of light AND... put on the Lord Jesus Christ, [His character traits which are a reflection of the character of God Himself—as our defense and our offense] and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

**1 John 5:18** also tells us that when we put ourselves under Christ’s protection then the evil one cannot touch us. The armor is for our protection from the enemy. It is a way for you to manifest the Lord Jesus Christ in an outward way. The armor helps us to stand against the wiles—the cunning or craftiness or slyness—of the devil. Putting on the armor is for those Christians who want to overcome.

**Ephesians 6:13** tells us that we need to apply the armor to withstand spiritual attacks during the “*evil day*”, which Bible scholar, Clinton Arnold, describes as specific times when the enemy’s attack comes with extraordinary power and the temptation to yield is exceptionally strong. The evil day is any day when the enemy comes in like a flood, and rushes in on your life to overwhelm it.

As a man, Jesus chose to be clothed with this “armor of God” in order to live out His life in obedience and victory on this earth. How much more so, then, do you and I need this same armor? **PART TWO** will be discussing: Our demonic enemies - How will the armor be effective? - Wearing the armor is wearing Jesus - Is it necessary to wear the armor at all time? - And what pieces of armor do we wear?