

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

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## Spiritual Warfare

"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete." (2 Cor. 10:3-6)

Whether or realize it or not, and whether you like it or not, you and I-everyone on Earth, as a matter of fact, are engaged in a spiritual warfare. Every thought we have, word we speak, and action we take, is involved in this war between right and wrong. On one side, there is the Lord loving us and telling us how we ought to live so that we can inherit eternal life, and on the other side there is the devil preying on our weaknesses and trying every which way he can to get us to rebel against our Creator

and be condemned. This struggle is continuous and constant. Some battles we may win and some we may lose; however, the war is not over for us until our lives here come to an end.

This warfare is difficult for us because it is spiritual in nature. Everything would be so much easier if the devil really was a scaly red boogeyman with a pitchfork. Yet he is not obvious; he is clever and disguises himself and his temptations. In fact, talking about the devil is a good place to start when discussing the spiritual warfare in which we are engaged. Firstly, understand that we need to see him for what he really is: our enemy. The word "Satan" means enemy and is thus the most fitting name for him. Jesus called him enemy (Matt. 4:10) and so should we. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) and seeks to destroy us out of spite toward God. Knowing that he is doomed, he wants to take us

down with him, and has been after mankind since the Garden of Eden.

One of the most well-known quotes from the *Art of War* by Sun Tzu is "know your enemy." This is valuable advice both in physical battles and spiritual ones. Knowing how Satan will come at us helps us to prepare and strengthen ourselves. "so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs." 2 Cor. 2:11) Satan's designs or tactics are not complicated; they are not new. You and I, people living today, are being tempted in the exact same ways people were being tempted hundreds and thousands of years ago. However, as was said earlier, Satan is clever. He is good at what he does. So to combat everything he throws at us we need help; knowledge of one's enemy is of no use if that knowledge is not applied. That's where the armor of God comes in.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," (Eph. 6:11-17)

God loves us and while he gave us free will and allows Satan to tempt us, He limits Satan's power in that we cannot be forced into sin. The Lord always provides a way of escape for us to not succumb to temptation (1 Cor. 10:13). Not only that, but He gives us this spiritual armor. Each piece is specific and serves a purpose. The belt is truth because it holds everything else together. Without absolute truth, nothing would matter anyway; if everything we knew was just relative, then why trust in God? Knowing that His Word is truth gives us a basis on which to build everything else.

The breastplate is righteousness. Not a righteousness of our own, of course, since we know that we are imperfect creatures. Rather, the righteousness that can protect us comes from Christ (Phil. 3:9). Righteousness guards our hearts, spiritually speaking- if we are making righteous choices, then our hearts will continue to be inclined to do so. This is why righteousness is said to be the breastplate; it covers a large target, and an important one, the heart and other vital organs.

The readiness of the

gospel of peace serves as shoes because the good news of Christ's sacrifice not only makes us ready to serve (protecting us as shoes protect our feet), but also that the gospel is what we are to take with us everywhere. It must travel and go where we go, always.

Faith (that is, the living and active obedient faith that God's word describes) is our shield because believing in God and trusting in His power to protect us makes all the troubles of this life, including all the temptations Satan throws in our way, of no effect. It can and does extinguish the darts of the evil one. Have you ever noticed that those who are strong in the faith do not often get discouraged? Or how those whose faith is malnourished are much more often panged with guilt and hurt? It is not by coincidence!

The helmet is salvation; being saved from our sins, them being taken away by the blood of Jesus. More than any other piece of armor, a helmet is essential in warfare, because the head is so vital. Where would we be without salvation through His shed blood? We would be without hope! No matter how much someone believes, or how much they perform good deeds, if their sins are still on their soul, then what is the point?

God's word is the only offensive weapon & tool listed, for good reason. It is what Jesus used to combat Satan during His temptations, and we should do the same!

Jarred Currence

*Happy Moments,  
Praise God.*

*Difficult Moments,  
Seek God.*

*Quiet Moments,  
Worship God.*

*Painful Moments,  
Trust God.*

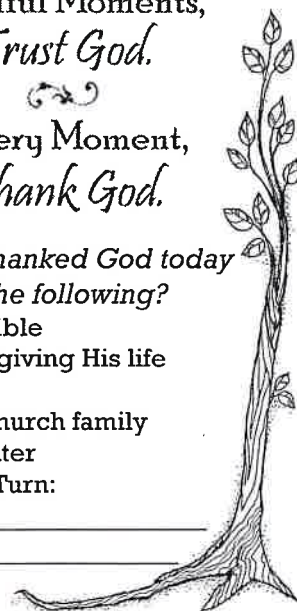
*Every Moment,  
Thank God.*

*Have you thanked God today  
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- Laughter
- Your Turn:

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# BIBLE Trivia!

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

**1. Who received a letter from David, telling him to put Uriah in the heat of battle?**

- a) Abner
- b) Joab
- c) Jonathan
- d) Abishai

**2. Where was Jesus when the sinful woman kissed His feet and anointed Him?**

- a) The home of Cornelius
- b) The home of Simon Peter
- c) The home of Simon the Pharisee
- d) The home of Mary and Martha

**3. What godly prophet lied to Ahab about the outcome of a battle?**

- a) Micaiah
- b) Elijah
- c) Elisha
- d) Nathan

**4. In what city in Asia did people burn their valuable books on sorcery?**

- a) Miletus
- b) Antioch
- c) Ephesus
- d) Troas

**5. How long was rain withheld after Elijah's prayer?**

- a) Two and a half years
- b) Four years
- c) Two years
- d) Three and a half years

**6. At what church did some people follow the teachings of Balaam?**

- a) Antioch
- b) Pergamum
- c) Laodicea
- d) Thessalonica

**7. What brave soldier in David's army went into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion?**

- a) Benaiah
- b) Asahel
- c) Abishai
- d) Joab

**8. Which epistle says that the flood waters at the time of Noah symbolize baptism?**

- a) Hebrews
- b) Galatians
- c) 1 Peter
- d) Titus

**9. Who heard God's voice in the temple in the year that King Uzziah died?**

- a) Ezra
- b) Isaiah
- c) Jeremiah
- d) Zechariah

**10. What did a man at Jesus' crucifixion run to find for the dying Jesus?**

- a) A cup of water
- b) His disciples
- c) A priest
- d) A sponge

## **LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS & VERSES:**

1) C, Reference: Deuteronomy 14:12-18

2) A, Reference: Genesis 7:3

3) D, Reference: Ecclesiastes ch. 1 and 2

4) A, Reference: Job 38:1

5) B, Reference: 1 Samuel 10:26

6) D, Reference: Acts 3:6-7

7) B, Reference: Revelation 21

8) D, Reference: John 1:29

9) A, Reference: Luke 17:12

10) C, Reference: Mark 2:5-12