

LIVING A NATURALLY
Supernatural
— LIFESTYLE —

HOW TO
**WAGE
WAR**
IN THE SPIRIT

— (5) —
SUPERNATURAL CULTURE SERIES

— by Tim Johnson —

LIVING A NATURALLY
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— LIFESTYLE —
— 6 —
PART
SUPERNATURAL CULTURE SERIES

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Welcome

Welcome to living a naturally supernatural lifestyle!

Culture surrounds us in many known and unknown ways. Culture is the environment we grew up in, the music we listen to, the style of clothes we wear, the entertainment we choose, and the people we hang out with. Culture can be defined as the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group.

Beyond the cultures of this earth, is an entirely different culture—a supernatural culture. Supernatural culture is squarely set within a spiritual realm. This is a culture you cannot see with human eyes, hear with human ears, or touch with human hands—it is wholly spiritual. Just as human cultures have influenced the way you live your life, spiritual culture has influenced your perception and understanding of supernatural things.

Human and supernatural cultures collide the moment the Kingdom of Heaven is made manifest in the Kingdom of Man. Jesus taught us to pray, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Essentially, Jesus was teaching us to pray that a supernatural culture would invade natural culture and bring the benefits of heaven. This journey is about that supernatural culture, and how to operate in its power and benefit.

Let the journey begin!

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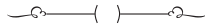
HOW TO WAGE WAR IN THE SPIRIT

The “Living a Naturally Supernatural Lifestyle” book series has been adapted from the C4 Discipleship Pathway curriculum (c4discipleship.com). In this book you will walk through the following points. Keep in mind this series was originally written to be used in a group setting. I encourage you to partner up with someone who you would consider a mentor, and experience supernatural life together!

- Understanding the enemy
- The hidden realm of the supernatural
- Enemy strategies
- Our warfare strategies
- Our authority in Christ
- Our weapons of warfare
- Our armor of warfare
- Freeing people from the demonic
- 5 tactical steps to war against the demonic
- Can believers be demon possessed?

the Big Idea

The battle is real, the players
are real, and you have been
given the power and authority
to overcome!



How to Wage War in the Spiritual Realm:

“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 to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.”

— C. S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters

“YOUR
ADVERSARY
THE DEVIL
PROWLS
AROUND LIKE
A ROARING
LION,
SEEKING
SOMEONE TO
DEVOUR”

1 PETER 5:8

The battle is real. The players are real. *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). Satan is a devourer who operates through craft and deception. He does not come across as a vicious lion, he comes across with death draped in beauty and temptation. Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), not an angel of darkness. It only makes sense that Satan does not present himself as he is, but rather in ways that get us to forget he is even present.

This topic is one that has been misrepresented and has, at times, drifted into the strange and bizarre. People get weird, churches get weird, and deliverance ministries can get weird. Before I did any research outside of the Bible, I simply opened up scripture to discover what spiritual battle looked like in the Old and New Testament. None of what I saw spiraled into the weird. Jesus was authoritative and direct. Confrontation was overwhelmingly brief. I understand that Jesus did all things in perfection, and I understand that the power of the demonic realm is real and destructive. I say this because supernaturally unexplainable things do happen.

Nothing to fear. First, if you have Jesus living inside of you. Let me assure you that you have nothing to fear. *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them [spirits], because He who is in you is greater than he [Satan] who is in the world”* (John 4:4). The first key to warfare is the true, and firm acknowledgment that the spiritual world is real.

In studying the scriptural evidence for supernatural warfare, I began to divide scripture into various categories reviewed here:

Understanding the Enemy (A Biblical Review):

A tactical advantage in the strategies of war is to clearly define your enemy. If you cannot identify your enemy, you cannot expose and defeat him. In our life, the enemy shows up in many ways we may miss. He taints the familiar, coaxes our desires into addictions we “deserve,” subtly twists words in the air, masquerades as an angel of light, and is a master of crafting delectable lies. Remember, he has practiced on the human heart and mind for thousands of years. Make no mistake, he is crafty, and this is war!

The following is a scriptural review of the names of the Devil.

A Devourer: *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour”* (1 Peter 5:8).

A Deceiver: *“And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him”* (Revelation 12:8-9).

An Accuser: *“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: “The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come. The accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accused them day and night before our God, has been thrown down”* (Revelation 12:10).

Father of Lies and a Murderer: *“You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies”* (John 8:44).

Angel of Light: *“And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds”* (2 Cor. 11:14-15).

Enemy: *“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you”* (Luke 10:19).

God of this World: *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).*

Ruler of this World: *"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself" (John 12:31-32).*

Oppressor: *"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him" (Acts 10:38)*

Prince and Power of the Air: *"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:1-2).*

Spirit of Disobedience See above scripture.

A Seducing Spirit: *"But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons..." (1 Timothy 4:1).*

A Thief, Killer and Destroyer: *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).*

Angel of the Abyss: *"They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon" (Revelation 9:11).*

After this wicked list, I hope you are beginning to develop a serious hatred of the Devil, and the destruction he causes those Jesus came to free!

Identify: Look back at the names and descriptions of the Devil. Based on these, or any other, in your experience how is the Devil most commonly defined?



Enemy Territory: The hidden realm of the supernatural

Where does the Devil do his work? If we believe in the spiritual and supernatural, then we believe there is an unseen realm that is all around us — it is everywhere we go.

Enemy territory is defined in scripture as principalities and powers (Romans 8:38), the earth itself (Revelation 12:9, 12), regional territories (Daniel 10:13), the unseen (2 Kings 6:15-19), arid and dry places (Matthew 12:43-45), within the human body, and specifically within our mind (2 Cor. 10:5).

A powerful and instructive moment in Elisha's ministry is seen when he prays that his servant's eyes would be opened to the spiritual world — something clearly evident to him, but not his servant. *"Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha"* (for the full story see 2 Kings 6:15-19). Spiritual territory is in the unseen all around us. God has called us to take back the territory the enemy has stolen. It is time God's people open their eyes, and find strength in knowing God is active and available if we would only believe.



Identify: In what hidden arenas do you find yourself battling against Satan the most?

Enemy Strategies:

What is the enemy's strategy to inflict the greatest damage to you and those you love? What are his tactics, and what signs should tip you off to his activity? If you simply take the above definitions, or names of the enemy, and consider how those work in the battles you face, you will begin to understand the enemy's strategies better.

First, we will consider how the enemy works against you, then study how to do war against his work, how to war for others, and finally, how to deal with demonic power encounters.

The Territory of Your Mind :

First off, we do a pretty good job of deceiving and lying to ourselves without any help from the enemy. You can not blame the enemy for your own selfish decisions. The Devil gets too much credit for battles we lose all by ourselves.

Having said that, the enemy can use your fallen nature against you. He works through the characteristics of pride, selfishness, and greed, to build in our mind and emotions unhealthy landscapes of war. These three have the greatest potential for corrosive habits and relational destruction. If you find yourself tempted to think you are better than someone, do not need to change; if you deflect negativity onto others (pride), deserve this or that (selfishness), or you constantly need more (greed), be careful, because these are clear tactics of the enemy.

If you think you are alone in these battles, or if you think being more spiritual will cause battles to somehow dissipate, consider Paul who was one of God's greatest men of power and faith.

"I'm full of myself—after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary" (Romans 7:14-16 MSG).

Consider too what Peter says to those aliens and strangers spread abroad in Asia Minor, *"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation"* (I Peter 4:12-13).

Fiery ordeals happen, and battles are real.

Enemy Strategy #1: Deception & Lies (John 8:44, 2 Thes. 2:9-10).

One of the greatest weapons and strategies of the enemy is deception. He is the great and masterful Deceiver. The French poet Baudelaire stated, "The greatest trick of the Devil is to convince us he doesn't exist." This is an especially prevalent tactic in the Western world.

Deceptions arrive in gilded boxes labeled “You can handle your issues on your own,” “Just a little bit of sin is ok,” “God is withholding something from you, so you need to take it or you will be missing out,” “Pleasure is the answer — you deserve it,” “Control is the answer,” “Illicit behavior will satisfy,” and many more lies packaged to sell.

“The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved” (2 Thes. 2:9-10).

Notice the tactic: counterfeit miracles, deception, and the rejection of love and truth.

Enemy Strategy #2: Temptation

Temptation has been around since the Garden of Eden. Often temptation comes on the heels of deception. Once you have bought into the deception, and a stronghold has been built in your mind, it is easier to compromise truth and accept temptation. Remember temptation is not sin, it is the invitation to sin. Jesus was tempted and yet remained pure and holy (Matthew 4). Satan tempts by first trying to deceive you, and then by presenting the proverbial apple. Once you bite, the poison begins to take effect.

Enemy Strategy #3: Accusation

The enemy is the great Accuser. He accuses you day and night before God (Revelation 12:10). He will accuse you based on your past (which has been placed upon the cross and forgiven). The truth is, you are no longer your past. He will use the accusations of people to entice you into the sin of anger, bitterness, gossip, the trap of depression, or the reflex of revenge — to name a few. Do not fight the person, rather recognize how Satan works, and fight against him. Finally, he will reinforce the lies and accusations you tell yourself. Not only does the enemy accuse us, he accuses God for all the evil and destruction in the world. Be acutely aware of false accusations.

Our Warfare Strategies:

Strategy #1, Set your mind **:**

This is perhaps the greatest strategy for the internal warfare I face. Every morning I

MUST set my mind upon God, and allow His Holy Spirit to fill my thoughts, check my desires, and inform my direction. Aggressively “sets” the atmosphere wherever you go.



IF IN A GROUP READ AND DISCUSS the following spiritual law:

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot” (Romans 8:5-7).



Key observations from Romans 8:5-7:

Notice where you need to “set” your mind, *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8).*

Strategy #2: Destroy strongholds.

“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” (2 Cor. 10:3-4).

In the Greek language, and the mind of the Philippians, the idea of “strongholds” comes

from a military term meaning, to tear down walls and buildings. In this scripture, tearing down relates directly with philosophical arguments raised up against God.

“The word [stronghold] in its most basic form is “to hold.” The word is not common in classical Greek, but occurs frequently in the Apocrypha. In its use here there may be a reminiscence of the rock-forts on the coast of Paul’s native Cilicia, which were pulled down by the Romans in their attacks on the Cilician pirates. Pompey inflicted a crushing defeat upon their navy off the rocky stronghold of Coracesium on the confines of Cilisia and Pisidia.” (Wuest, 1890)

Strongholds are built on the deceptions of the enemy and manifest in your destructive habits and negative patterns of thinking — patterns void of God’s truth. The stealth trait of strongholds, is that they can be built up over time. All the enemy needs is a single thought or deception that you begin to believe. From this small foundation he will slowly build a larger and larger stronghold.



Identify: If you are honest with yourself, are there any historical strongholds you have had to deal with, or need to deal with? With the help of another, tear them down!

“ WE HAVE AN AMAZING ABILITY TO LIE TO OURSELVES. WE LIE TO OURSELVES MORE THAN WE LIE TO ANYBODY ELSE. ”

Strategy #3: Destroy arguments **and take** thoughts **captive:**

“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5).

Wuest, K. S. (1890). *Word studies in the New Testament Greek New Testament*. [Logos App for iPad] Eardmans, LLS:46.50.6, 2014-01-09T22:20:18Z

The moment you begin to negotiate or argue with God, you know you are in trouble, and whatever it is you are petitioning for, is probably not God's best for your life. Negotiating with God is a sure sign of selfish motives, or it can even be denial of sin in your life. Paul teaches us to destroy those arguments — any argument that is raised up against God. Paul teaches us to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.



Define: What does it mean to take thoughts captive, and what do you do with them once you have them in captivity?

It is at this point you need to allow the presence of Jesus to fill your mind. This is part of “re-setting” our mind.

Strategy #4: The “don’t look” Strategy

Men are particularly visual, but this general principle applies to both men and women. Notice the word “look” in the following passages of scripture:

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings” (Genesis 3:7).

“Now when evening came David arose from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king’s house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance” (2 Samuel 11:2).

“I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?” (Job 31:1).

“I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not fasten its grip on me” (Psalm 101:3).

“Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, And revive me in Your ways” (Psalm 119:37).
“Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied” (Proverbs 27:20).

“but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:28)

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3)

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.” (1 John 2:16)

David lost the battle with his eyes, which was followed by losing the battle with his heart, and all because he was not in the battle to which he was called.

It is “in the looking” that we allow temptation to enter our mind. A man may look at a woman and let his thoughts go too far. A woman may look at an outfit and end up spending money she does not have. Another may look at what their neighbor owns and covet. Simply put, we just do not need to look. Turn away from temptation — literally. If we keep our eyes upon the Lord, and set our mind on things above, we will do well in the battle of our eyes.

Strategy #5: Expose _____ your battle _____.

If you are in the throws of spiritual warfare, do not fight alone. A subtle lie we buy into, is that we can defeat the enemy on our own. Nobody is excited about admitting their battle. Shame and embarrassment is a weapon used by the enemy to isolate us. There is a supernatural release of freedom the moment your struggle is shared with someone. When you do this it strips the enemy of one of his weapons. This also provides accountability, encouragement, and gives someone else the ability to wield their weapons on your behalf. (1 John 5:15-16; James 5:19-20).

Strategy Recap:

- #1. Set your mind.
- #2. Destroy strongholds
- #3. Destroy arguments and take thoughts captive
- #4. The “don’t look” strategy
- #5. Expose your battle.

FIGHT TOGETHER! “My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.” James 5:19-20

Our Authority in Christ:

Power and Authority to Tread:

“And he said to them, *“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven”* (Luke 10:18-20).

Jesus has given us, his disciples, authority to tread on serpents and scorpions. He is not talking about creatures, he is talking about demonic powers. Jesus made this statement after the disciples came back from a ministry outreach where many were healed and delivered.

Stand and Resist:

“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7)

“No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confuse every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their vindication from me, declares the Lord” (Isaiah 54:17).

*“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand** your ground, and after you have done everything, **to stand. Stand firm then...**”* (Ephesians 6:13-14a)

You must learn to stand your spiritual ground, speak directly against the lies of the enemy, take captive (control over) any lie or accusatory words, and measure them against the truth of the Bible and the way of Jesus.

Our Weapons (offensive):

Weapon #1: *Sword of the Spirit* _____ **(Word of God):**

In the fourth chapter of Matthew, we see how Jesus used scripture as an offensive

“In the rush of the fight, men are apt to be carried off their legs. If they can keep their footing, they will be victorious; but if they are borne down by the rush of their adversaries, everything is lost.”

C.H. Spurgeon

weapon against the temptations of the Devil. Anytime the enemy whispers lies or attempts to steal, kill, or destroy, there will always be an opposite and truthful word from scripture to combat such tactics. Scripture memory provides a powerful resource that can be used to stand against, and even push back the power of the enemy. What you have established in your mind can be recalled by the Holy Spirit and spoken against the enemy.

When facing a season of warfare, I encourage you to verbalize scripture — speak it out loud. Write down those scriptures that bring hope, truth, and encouragement. Put scripture in prominent places in your home or car, and refer to them often. There is great power in the truth of God’s Word. This sword is indeed the sword of the Spirit, but make it your sword — own it, sharpen its edge, be comfortable with the grip, and swing it often.

Consider the great words of Charles Spurgeon on this subject:

The one note that rings out from the text [Ephesians 6] is this:—TAKE THE SWORD! TAKE THE SWORD! No longer is it, talk and debate! No longer is it, parley and compromise! The word of thunder is—Take the sword. The Captain’s voice is clear as a trumpet—Take the sword! No Christian man here will have been obedient to our text unless with clear, sharp, and decisive firmness, courage, and resolve, he takes the sword. We must go to heaven sword in hand, all the way. “TAKE THE SWORD.” On this command I would enlarge. May the Holy Spirit help me! (Spurgeon, 1891)

C. H. Spurgeon (1891) *The Sword of the Spirit*. A sermon delivered April 19, 1891 at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington. Retrieved April 21 from www.spurgeon.org/sermons/2201.htm

Worship Songs in the Night

“You will have **songs** as in the night when you keep the festival, And gladness of heart as **when one marches to the sound of the flute**, To go to the mountain of the LORD, to the Rock of Israel. And the LORD will cause His voice of authority to be heard, And the descending of His arm to be seen in fierce anger, And in the flame of a consuming fire In cloudburst, down-pour and hailstones. For at the voice of the LORD Assyria will be terrified, When He strikes with the rod. And every blow of the rod of punishment, Which the LORD will lay on him, **Will be with the music of tambourines and lyres; And in battles, brandishing weapons, He will fight them.**”

Isaiah 30:29-32

“2 CHRONICLES TELLS US WORSHIP ACTIVATES GOD’S FORCES.”

Weapon #2: Worship

“When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, “Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.” When they began singing and praising, the LORD set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed” (2 Chron. 20:21-22).

There is great power in worship. The enemy detests worship, because it was the very thing he lost when banished from heaven. Worship declares surrender to God alone. Worship raises God to the highest place of honor in our heart. Worship translates us from the physical into the supernatural world. The praises of the saints rise through the heavens to be heard by all, bringing confusion and fear to all the evil powers and principalities present. Worship shifts the atmosphere, and creates space for victory. 2 Chronicles tells us worship activates God’s forces.

In referencing worship warfare John Piper quotes from William Law’s spiritual classic, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*:

“Just as singing is a natural effect of joy in the heart so it has also a natural power of rendering the heart joyful . . . There is nothing that so clears a way for your prayers, nothing that so disperses dullness of heart, nothing that so purifies the soul from poor and little passions, nothing that so opens heaven, or carries your heart so near it, as these songs of praise.

They create a sense and delight in God, they awaken holy desires, they teach you how to ask, and they prevail with God to give. They kindle a holy flame; they turn your heart into an altar, your prayers into incense, and carry them as a sweet-smelling savor to the throne of grace. (pp. 168, 164)

God’s power is released through our worship! If you are in a season of warfare, and it is rare that we are not, employ the strategy of worship. Play worship music in your home and car. By its supernatural nature, worship establishes an atmosphere of victory.

Weapon #3: *Testimony and the blood*

“And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”
(Revelation 12:11).

You are a witness to the work of God in your life, which means you have a testimony; in fact, the word for testimony means witness. When you witness an event, it means you are a part of that event. The object of your testimony is the work of Jesus, and the work of the Spirit. This weapon of testimony is wielded when you begin to speak out loud, or into your mind, specific events that exemplify victory in your life. Remind yourself when breakthrough happened. Recount the stories of your past when God’s power brought deliverance, hope, restoration, and freedom. This not only frustrates and discredits the tactics of the enemy, it also builds up your faith to believe that once more you will be victorious.

The blood of the Lamb is a reference to Jesus’ death on the cross that defeated the power of death. Satan’s greatest goal and desire is to release death into your life. When you remind yourself, and the devil, that Jesus’ shed blood at the cross has broken the power of death, and His resurrection has released the power of life, you begin to take territory and defeat the enemy.

When you are in a battle, run to the cross and kneel down. Place all areas of struggle, the lies of the enemy, and the temptations of this age, at the foot of the cross and remind yourself that Jesus died for all of it. It may sound a bit odd today, but old-time Christians cried out to be “washed in the blood.” Ask Jesus to wash your heart and mind with the redeeming and victorious power of His death. Restate the truth that your sins and struggles were nailed to Him upon the cross. Jesus has won the ultimate victory and you have too — you simply need to walk *in* that victory.

A caution to think about:

We have educated ourselves in our spirituality so much that we can begin to rely on information, not the Holy Spirit.

Our Armor:



READ: Ephesians 6:10-18 (Defines what is in the armory)

Paul declares that the full armor of God is available for the express purpose of “*standing firm against the schemes [trickery, wiles, deception] of the devil.*” We do not partially armor up, we armor up completely. The idea behind the word “be strong” in verse ten applies here. The idea is, “to clothe one’s self with strength as one puts on a garment” (Wuest, 1890). “Put on,” is *enduo* and means to “envelop in, to hide in, to clothe with.” As you put on the armor, the strength of God begins to envelop you and enter into your spirit and mind.

Weapon Recap:

- #1. Sword of the Spirit
- #2. Worship
- #3. Testimony & the Blood

6 pieces of the armor of God, and a secret weapon:

1. Belt of Truth: The belt was a critical part of a Roman soldier’s armor. Upon it were loops and rings which equipment, swords, and ration bags were attached. It is upon truth that our armor rests. Paul tells us to gird ourselves with the truth of God’s word. Truth


resists lying and false doctrine. God’s Word contain eternal truth, and you must pursue truth before you make judgments, jump to conclusions, or make decisions. Many times you do not have the entire picture of life. You may not know what someone else is facing, or what past experiences have sewn into their heart and mind. When engaging in spiritual warfare, there is great power in discovering truth and allowing it to gird your life.

If you do not use the word of God as your belt of truth, you have no foundation on which to base your warfare with the enemy.

2. **Breastplate of** Righteousness: The breastplate protects your vital organs. Nothing is more vital than your heart. It is your heart and emotions that the enemy plays with, but when you have covered your heart with the righteousness of Jesus, you understand that what makes you strong is His perfecting work taking place within you. This truth is freeing. I am not talking about the avoidance of authentic internal

Wuest, K. S. (1890). *Word studies in the New Testament Greek New Testament*. [Logos App for iPad] Eardmans, LLS:46.50.6, 2014-01-09T22:20:18Z

change, but rather a focus upon who does the changing within you as you respond in obedience. Righteousness is found in Jesus, not in your works. This armor, all of it, is forged in heaven by the hand of God, not by your own hand or cleverness. You do not create the helmet, the shield, the breastplate, the belt, or the sword — God does. None of this can be fashioned by the hand of men. All pieces of the armor are divinely crafted!



OTHER REFERENCES TO SPIRITUAL ARMOR

Isaiah 11:5
2 Cor. 6:7
1 Thes. 5:8

3. **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace**: Roman soldiers were equipped with footwear that had spikes on the soles. These spikes gave them a firm stance upon most terrain. Historians credit Roman footwear as a major reason for their success.

There is a stabilizing quality of peace that guards against our desire to run to places we should not. When your steps are guarded by the gospel of peace, and you begin to advance into areas of temptation or trial, you have the strength to stand your ground. I have found that I lose my peace when I begin to move in a direction I should not. It is as if I have taken off those shoes of peace and replaced them with shoes that want to run to wrong desire, anger, self-satisfaction etc. Double-check your walking gear!



OTHER REFERENCES TO BRINGING PEACE

Isaiah 52:7
Romans 10:14-15

The Gospel of Peace is the proclamation of Salvation through Jesus Christ who has made peace between God and us. It is an amazing gift to have peace in the middle of the battle, and that peace comes through Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:7 is a reminder that we can “*experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your heart and mind as you live in Christ Jesus.*” (Personalized paraphrase from the Living Translation)

4. **Shield of Faith**: The Roman rectangular shield was a bit heavy, but its large height and width covered the soldier’s entire body making him very unlikely to get hit by missile fire or in hand-to-hand combat. Your shield of faith is the defen-

sive weapon that blocks the fiery darts of the devil. It is more than just your personal faith in Jesus, its power is found in the One you place your faith in — Jesus. When you raise, or exercise your faith, you are declaring that what you believe is stronger and greater than what tempted you. Temptation may feel strong, but this is where faith steps in. When you choose faith over flesh, you diminish the power of the Devil's advance. In a nod to Strategy #5, "Exposing our Battle" (F p. 94, P p. 82), the early Roman use of the shield was designed so soldiers could crowd together — shield touching shield — and form a tight-knit protective group. This made it incredibly difficult for the enemy to advance.

- 5. Helmet of Salvation**: The helmet guards the mind. One tactic of the enemy is to fire darts of doubt into your mind. This doubt may take the form of questions about the reality of God, or the validity of your faith. It is in your mind that you begin arguments with God. Conviction grips your spirit, but your mind plays out the battle of obedience to truth. Will you trust that salvation in Jesus is the final answer, or will you allow your mind to wander into compromise or deception?

What does the truth of your salvation tell you about the battle of your words or actions? Saved people act differently, respond differently, have different attitudes, and live a life of service. Salvation is identity. When you are tempted in your mind, whether by the enemy or your own sinful desires, you must remind yourself how your salvation should inform your decisions.

- 6. Sword of the Spirit**: The first offensive weapon Paul notes is the Sword of the Spirit, meaning the Word of God. In biblical times swords needed to be oiled, sharpened often, and kept protected. A rusted, dull sword was a danger in battle. Likewise you must keep your sword sharp, meaning know your scripture. You take care of your sword by purposefully memorizing scripture on a regular basis. Though not a doctrine, I find an interesting application of oil. In scripture, oil is a representation of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4), and the bestowal of authority and power (1 Samuel 16:12-13). Allow the anointing, power, and authority of the Holy Spirit to be the seasoning (anointing) your sword needs to endure the weather and longevity of life's battles.

7. Secret Weapon, Praying in the Spirit

(**Ephesians 6:18**): I believe the armor does not end with the Sword of the Spirit. There is a second offensive weapon God gives you — prayer in the Spirit. Prayer in the Spirit is literally praying according to, or with the Spirit. I believe this is a direct reference to speaking in tongues, though it may include more.

Notice carefully what I Corinthians 14:14-15 says, “**For if I pray in a tongue my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit [tongues], but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit [tongues], but I will also sing with my mind.**” The context of this verse is Paul’s teaching on speaking in tongues.

“*But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit...*” (Jude 1:20).

Another advantage of praying in the Spirit, or in tongues, is that the enemy does not understand what you are praying. “*For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit*” (1 Corinthians 14:2).

Prayer in the spirit is a vital part of your offensive weaponry. Pray in the Spirit daily.

Our Victory:

Read and discuss the following scriptures. How does scripture frame your of victory?

“*But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8:37-39).

“*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

“*For the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory*” (Duet. 20:4).

“*He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him*” (Colossians 2:15).

Freeing People from the Demonic

After getting a grasp on the above principles, it is important to not only apply them to your personal warfare, it is wise to share these with anyone you battle alongside, or on behalf of. As I spent time reading the many encounters Jesus had with demons, I noticed he never gave them much time. It seems he simply took authority over them and cast them out — period. There is no point in arguing or theologizing with a demon.

There are times when you may be speaking with someone, and they express or seem troubled by what they would call unsettling spiritual activity. Some may be in bondage to sinful habits or addicted to a pattern of unhealthy living.



HE GAVE THEM
AUTHORITY
OVER DEMONS

Matt 10:1
Matt 28-18-20
Mark 3:14-15
Mark 16:17
Luke 9:1

5 tactical steps to war against the demonic:

1. Permission _____: If you are to do warfare for someone else, the first thing you need is their permission. If they are resistant to you, or lack the desire for deliverance, all the warfare you do will not release them from their struggle. Ask them if they desire deliverance from whatever is oppressing them or holding them in bondage.

2. Identify _____: Jesus asked for the name of a demon once (Mark 5:9). In this example the demon was identified as “legion.” How someone is being oppressed or tormented is important. I

recently prayed for a young man who told me he had struggled with deceit for much of his life. Together we took authority over a spirit of deceit and commanded that it leave his life. You will speak directly to the demon, but do not get into conversations — Jesus rarely did — instead He took authority.

3. Authority _____ **in Jesus alone:** No one should take a power encounter lightly. Simon the Sorcerer thought he could buy spiritual power:

“Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give this authority to me as well,

so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!'" (Acts 8:18-20).

Jewish exorcists thought they could invoke Jesus' name and cast out demons. It did not work out so well because they were not under the authority of Jesus. The power of Jesus can never be exercised apart from Jesus.

Look up Acts 19:11-17

Chat about what you observe in this passage.



Notice who was known, and who was unknown. Notice who had power, and who lacked power.

We should never treat the power of the Holy Spirit, and the strength of the demonic realm flip-pantly. If you are aware of a time you will be stepping into a confrontation with the enemy, I suggest you spend a significant amount of time in prayer and fasting. It is important that you and Jesus are one. You have nothing to fear, but you do have the responsibility of preparation.

Your authority over the demonic is through and in the name of Jesus alone.

4. Command /**cast them out!** Always listen to the instruction of the Holy Spirit. By the authority given to you, and in the name of Jesus, command the spirit to be cast out. "By the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, (name) you have been defeated, and in Jesus' name be cast out — leave and never enter this person again." (See Mark 9:25; Acts 16:18). If you feel the Holy Spirit leading, lay your hands on the person and pray for total deliverance (Luke 4:40-41).

5. **Fill the** house: In Luke 11:43-45, Jesus teaches us that when an unclean spirit leaves a person it enters a waterless and dry region, but may return to reoccupy the person it left. The enemy is relentless.

"Then it [demon] says, 'I will return to my house from which I came'; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. "Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first" (Matthew 12:44-45).

JESUS LAID HIS HANDS ON THEM...

"While the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them. Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ."

~ Luke 4:40-41

After deliverance, have the person invite the Holy Spirit to fill them completely. You may pray with them, but remember there is greater power and significance when they pray out loud.

Can Believers Be Demon Possessed?

This question is full of controversy and theological debate. By no means do I have a corner on the wisdom market, but it is my opinion that the *spirit* of a believer cannot be possessed by a demon — how can the purity and light of Jesus Christ reside in the same space as evil and darkness (in your spirit)? However, I do believe believers can be oppressed, and their minds controlled by evil spirits — this could be seen as a form of possession. It is certainly a form of control. For a believer, the prospect of spiritual bondage is real. Bondage is the goal of the enemy. If you, or someone you know, is continually drawn back to behavior contrary to walking transparently in the light and freedom of a redeemed life, you need to consider demonic strongholds as a possibility. I do want to add, that I do not go looking for demons under every rock, and not every emotional issue is due to demonic activity, but more often than not we completely avoid the possibility of demonic oppression.

Unfortunately Christians, in the West especially, fail to make the connection between sinful habits and demonic oppression. We just see it as a problem to overcome not a demon to eradicate. We cringe at the possibility that demons can control us. The lie the enemy has perfected, is that demons torment people in third world countries, or schizophrenics on skid row. The reality is, evil spirits oppresses more Christians than we would care to admit. The Devil does not care where you live, how much money you make, or if you attend church — he is out to destroy life, and if he can do it by convincing people demons do not exist in modern-day America he will. It is the power part

he wants. This is specifically why he will keep you believing your struggle, or others struggles, are anything but demonic oppression.

When working with Christians who may have oppressive strongholds in their life, I encourage them to sit down and write out or define the area they struggle with. This may feel shameful or embarrassing, so make sure you have plenty of grace and keep everything confidential. Writing these down helps them identify sin, and helps you know how to pray.

Sin confessed and authority stripped: Next, the person dealing with issues needs to confess all sin, and take back any authority they have knowingly or unknowingly given to a particular spirit — a spirit of fear or lust for example. It is important that the person denounce any beachhead the enemy possesses. Additionally, I would encourage them to pray for deliverance from any generational sins, and denounce any generational tormentors. Breaking generational curses and influences is important.

An example of prayer with authority: “All ancestral oppression and familiar spirits are broken, bound, and cast out never to return. Shield and protect [name] body, soul, and spirit from any further influence. All is sealed in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Fill and avoid: As stated previously, the area of oppression vacated by the enemy must now be *filled* with the purity and presence of Jesus. They must ask Jesus to fill the place once dominated by fear, worry, depression, lust, or whatever the issue has been. Secondly, you need to instruct the person you are working with to be aware of the places and times they are most vulnerable to attacks, and they must *avoid* them by exercising continual spiritual warfare strategies 1-5 outlined at right:

STRATEGY RECAP:

Strategy #1: Set your mind. This is a daily exercise (Philippians 4:8).

Strategy #2: Destroy strongholds. *Keep standing against any invading thoughts that would want to retake ground.*

Strategy #3: Destroy arguments and take thoughts captive.

Strategy #4: Employ the “don’t look” strategy. *Remember the power of controlling the “eye gate.”*

Strategy #5: Expose your battle. *Remain accountable to someone.*

ASSIGNMENT

Scripture Memory:

This week memorize the following verses.

This week's memorization is much heavier than usual because it is through the Word of God that we overcome the enemy. Be ready to share these from memory at the next class.

- | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 101:3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 10:19 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 4:7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:4 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 10:10 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:5-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor. 15:57 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 10:3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 5:19-20 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 5:8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 12:10 | |

Culture Connection (Connecting Jesus with your culture):

Spiritual warfare is very different than what we have learned up to this point. This week apply what you have learned to your personal life, and as the Lord leads to others in your life.

- **Pray** each morning that the Holy Spirit would strengthen you for any battle you face.
- **Listen** and look for the movement of the enemy in your life. Recognize when tension is a normal part of life, or when it may be the influence of the enemy. Be wise and avoid the spaces where you find temptation stronger.
- **Share** your battle. If you are in the midst of a battle, a powerful strategy is to expose it to someone else. This week share your battle with someone you deeply trust; someone who will intercede for you in confidence. You can not do this on your own.

LIVING A NATURALLY
Supernatural
— LIFESTYLE —

21 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Welcome to taking your walk with the Holy Spirit deeper. Over the next 21 days I encourage you to carve out a special time of your day to spend in reading, listening, and prayer. Remember the enemy of your life will attempt to discourage you, and more strategically he will try to distract you. You must make the choice today to aggressively resist his tactics, and guard your time. I suggest making your devotional time an “appointment” on your calendar. If you miss a day, don’t beat yourself up, simply get back to it and keep seeking and listening.

Here are some simple instructions on how to use your devo time effectively.

- Create a sacred place to have your devotion.
- Pray to the Holy Spirit—invite Him into the everyday moments of your life, and into your time of devotional reading and prayer.
- Exercise your heavenly language, or continue to pursue it.
- Practice the lost art of listening.
- Finally, recording what you heard and how you will respond. I have provided a blank area so you can write, or draw your take-a-way.

Day 1

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

Psalm 101:1-3a

“I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O Lord, I will make music. I will ponder the way that is blameless Oh when will you come to me? I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless.”

Title:

Day 3

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

Romans 8:5-8

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

Title:

Day 4

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

“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...”

Title:

Day 5

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

1 Peter 5:8-9

“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

Title:

Day 6

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

Luke 10:19-20

“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

Title:

Day 7

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

John 10:9-11

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Title:

Day 8

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:56-58

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

Title:

Day 9

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

James 5:19-20

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

Title:

Day 11

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

James 4:6-8

“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, ‘God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

Title:

Day 13

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

Ephesians 6:10-12

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 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.”

Title:

Day 15

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

Ephesians 10:16-18a

“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, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.”

Title:

Day 16

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

Zechariah 4:6

“Then he said to me, ‘This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.’”

Title:

Day 17

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

Matthew 18:18-19

“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.”

Title:

Day 19

DATE:

TIME:

Scripture:

Isaiah 40:31

“But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”

Title:

Day 21

DATE:

TIME:

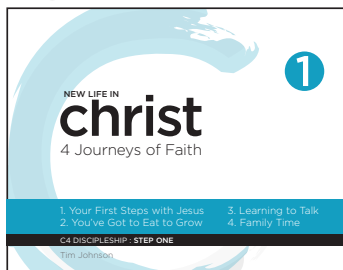
Scripture:

Psalm 91:1-4

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart...”

Title:

C⁴™ Discipleship Pathway



New Life in Christ is an easy to follow workbook written for new believers or those wanting to understand the basics of the faith. Participants walk through four journeys:

1. First Steps - the basics of the faith
2. You've Got to Eat to Grow - personal feeding
3. Learning to Talk - understanding prayer
4. Family Time - understanding church family



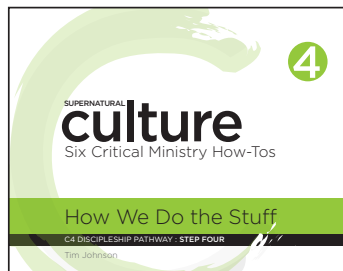
kingdom core helps participants develop personal standards, cultivate life-management skills, understand church community values, and why relevance is important.

- Cultivation: Personal disciplines
- Obedience: Personal standards
- Relevance: A church connected
- Environment: Church culture and atmosphere



created helps participants drill deep into who they are and how they can make a difference in their world.

- Uniquely created
- Natural gift assessment
- How experiences shape our lives
- Unique relational style makes a difference
- Spiritual gift assessment
- How to fit into the world and culture



supernatural culture teaches participants six ministry how-tos every believer should know:

1. How to lead someone to salvation
2. How to pray for the power of the Holy Spirit
3. How to pray for healing
4. How to hear from God
5. How to wage war in the Spirit
6. How to become a disciple maker

INTERACTIVE FEATURES



Bird pecking:
A chance to “dig deeper!”



Bird chirping:
Take time to chat about it.



Bird with worm
Additional scriptures or info-links to further your study



Look it up now:
Stop and look up these key verses.

Series can be taught as follows:

- 1 4-part class
- 2 3-part class, or weekend workshop
- 3 4-part class
- 4 6-part class

A facilitator guide and participant books are available for each step.

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LIVING A NATURALLY
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LIFESTYLE
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