

Weapons with Divine Power

Lesson 12

TEACHER TO TEACHER

We seem to be at a time in our church when the Holy Spirit is producing “signs and wonders.” Many are coming to Christ. We know that this due to the supernatural working of the Spirit to “remove blinders” and convict people of all ages of their sin and their need for a Savior. Several sightings of angels have been reported in our worship services. People are being set free from numerous kinds of spiritual bondage and others are experiencing physical healings. Our missionaries frequently share stories of the miraculous revelations of Christ to non-believers in the spiritually dark and barren parts of the world.

There is also evidence of the supernatural power of Satan and his demons working in our midst. Those, too, are numerous. We see it in those who hear the “good news” only to reject Jesus. We hear heartbreaking stories of drug, alcohol, pornography, and sex addictions; violence, abuse, destruction of families, and failing churches. We find it in our church in the form of complaining, murmuring, and grumbling, as well as in rebellious attitudes and actions.

We are indeed engaged in the battle between God and Satan. It is a battle that spans both the spiritual and physical realms.

We began this series titled *Resisting the Enemy* by outlining some of our church’s basic beliefs regarding spiritual warfare. You recall we believe that:

1. Learning to overcome the evil one is part of every believer’s journey toward becoming a spiritual mother or father
2. The mind is the principle battlefield in spiritual warfare
3. Satan attacks both believers and non-believers in many different ways
4. Christians can make themselves vulnerable to demonic attack, allowing the devil to establish spiritual footholds or strongholds in their lives
5. Christ has full authority over Satan and his demons
6. Jesus provides us with the tools we need to overcome the evil one

In this final lesson, we consider our arsenal of “weapons that have divine power.” We have studied the strategies and tactics of our enemy. We have learned about Christ’s authority over Satan and have seen demonstrated in the pages of the Gospels His power over our wretched enemy. We have donned our spiritual armor and learned the importance of standing our ground when the angels of darkness advance against us. It is now time to take up our weapons and enter the fray.

Four weapons compose our arsenal. First, there is the *rhema* of God—revealed to us by the Holy Spirit—which we can use as a “slaughtering knife” in hand-to-hand combat. Second, as we stand, we pray in the Spirit. The third weapon, worship, is often linked in Scripture with spiritual warfare. Finally, we also will discover that unity in the local church is a fourth powerful divine weapon.

May God’s anointing rest upon you as you teach your Bible Fellowship about God’s grace gifts of weapons with divine power.

Notes 

Studying the Word Together

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.
On the contrary, they have divine power.... (2 Corinthians 10:4)*
— Paul, the Apostle

Paul's attitude of humility was actually one of his strongest weapons, for pride plays right into the hands of Satan. The meek Son of God had far more power than Pilate (see John 19:11), and He proved it. Paul used spiritual weapons to tear down the opposition—prayer, the Word of God, love, the power of the Spirit at work in his life. He did not depend on personality, human abilities, or even the authority he had as an apostle.
—Dr. Warren Wiersbe¹

Paul's epistle or letter to the Ephesians describes the "full armor of God" that believers put on in order to stand against the attacks of the devil and his demonic spirits (Eph. 6:13-17). In the previous lesson, we learned that our suit of spiritual armor includes the:

- ◆ Belt of Truth
- ◆ Breastplate of Righteousness
- ◆ Boots of Peace
- ◆ Shield of Faith
- ◆ Helmet of Salvation

It is important for us to remember that our spiritual armor is protective in nature. Each piece of armor protects us from a particular type of assault that might be inflicted upon us by the enemy. When we are in intimate relationship with Christ who is the Truth (John 14:6) and when we live life based upon the doctrinal, moral/ethical, and relational truths of the Bible, we are much better able to counter the deceptive schemes and outright lies of the enemy.

As Christ-followers we have His righteousness through faith; so we stand in right relationship with God (1 Cor. 1:30; Philip. 3:9). By putting into practice the admonitions of the Great Commandment we maintain harmonious relationships with others. Within the context of loving relationships forgiveness flows, canceling the debt of offense so that the devil and his minions have little opportunity to establish a foothold because of bitterness.

The "boots of peace" that are ours because of our acceptance of and trust in the Gospel provide us with an internal peace that transcends understanding (Philip. 4:7), enabling us to be "surefooted" as we stand confidently against the enemy whenever he seeks to tempt and destroy.

The enemy always tries to take advantage of that part of our human nature that wants to doubt God and His Word. Doubt often leads to fear. Faith in the nature, character, and power of the Triune God allows us to conquer our doubt and fear. We can extinguish many of the "flaming arrows" launched at us simply by exercising our faith.

Paul admonished the believers at Philippi saying, "Continue to work out your salvation" (Philip. 2:12). In doing so, Paul encouraged believers everywhere to continuously invest effort in growing to full spiritual maturity—to continue to strive toward becoming spiritual mothers and fathers. The technical or theological term for "working out your salvation" is *progressive sanctification*. At Casas we call it "closing the gap." As we progress toward full spiritual maturity, the Holy Spirit reigns more and more in our life, making it progressively more difficult for the devil to win the battle for control of our mind.

Resisting the Enemy

Lesson 12

Weapons with Divine Power

Notes 

Only after putting on our protective armor are we able to take up offensive weapons with divine power, which we actively wield against the various oppressions, harassments, and outright attacks by the enemy.

It is not surprising that the same apostle who wrote to Christians about their spiritual armor would also write to them about “weapons with divine power.” These are the weapons with which we destroy strongholds and tear down pretentious arguments against God that are set up in our minds by the evil one. Paul penned these words to the church at Corinth:

I beg you that when I come I may not have to be as bold as I expect to be toward some people who think that we live by the standards of this world. For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:2-5)

Paul does not give us a specific list of the weapons that “have divine power.” However, we can develop such a list by studying various passages.

Before reading further, accept a challenge to list on a separate sheet of paper those things that you consider weapons that have divine power. Be careful not to confuse pieces of spiritual armor with weapons. *Remember, we are to put on our armor before we take up our weapons.* Go ahead. Make your list, trying to associate specific Scripture references with the weapons that you list. After you have completed your list, compare it to the weapons identified in the next section of this study.

Weapons with Divine Power

Just as I asked you to compile a list of weapons with divine power, I often ask people in my “Discovering Casas” seminars to suggest things that might go on such a list. Rarely do all of the items below surface during the brainstorming session. I nearly always have to add a few weapons to the final list. The reason is simple. Most Christians have never considered some of the things below as weapons to be used in spiritual warfare.

1. The Word of God
2. Praying in the Spirit
3. Worship
4. Standing Together with One Another

Let’s begin our weapons discussion by again looking at one verse from the 2 Corinthians passage presented in the previous section.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power.... (2 Corinthians 10:4)

The word *weapons* is from a Greek noun that usually refers to offensive weapons used in battle. Recall that the phrase *divine power* is from a group of Greek words meaning “able, strong, or powerful through Almighty God.” The power behind the divine weapons is not from any carnal or earthly source, but from God Himself.

► The Word of God

We briefly discussed the “sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God” in the previous lesson. Let’s revisit Ephesians 6:17 and define some of the important words.

Take ... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)



The word *sword* comes from a Greek word that typically meant “cutting knife” or “slaughtering knife.” Of course, it is used metaphorically in our verse. The word picture is strong; the Holy Spirit’s sword available to believers is like a “slaughtering knife” when used against the enemy.

What is the sword but the Word of God? *Rhema* is the Greek term rendered *word* in this passage. It is not just any *rhema*; it is God’s *rhema*. *Rhema* is a not a reference to the whole Bible as such, but to the individual Scripture that the Spirit brings to our remembrance when we need it. Solomon instructed us to “store up” within ourselves the Wisdom of God:

My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye ... write them on the tablet of your heart.
(Proverbs 7:1-3)

Our knowledge of and familiarity with Scripture is prerequisite to the Holy Spirit’s work of bringing to our minds the *rhema* with which we defeat the demonic spirits that attack us.

This is precisely the description of the interaction between Jesus and the Holy Spirit as the Christ battled Satan in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11). In Matthew’s account of these Temptations, three times the Holy Spirit brought to the mind of Christ verses Jesus had written “on the tablet of [His] heart.” Each time, Jesus declared the revealed verse—the *rhema*—aloud and each time He thwarted Satan’s tempting offers.

► **Praying in the Spirit**

Prayer is nearly always included on the believer’s list of divine weapons that are given to us as a grace gift from God. Remember, we said in the first lesson of this series that spiritual warfare is in large part the interaction between demonic or evil spiritual beings and human beings. There

is always an element of the supernatural in spiritual warfare. Perhaps that is why Paul instructed us to pray in the Spirit after we put on our spiritual armor. Look again at his instruction:

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)

If we are battling an enemy who is an evil demonic spirit, it makes sense that we would want input from the Holy Spirit as we pray. That is what praying in the Spirit is. We listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit in our inner human spirit—that place to which the demonic has no access. What the Spirit speaks to us there is moved into our minds. As we interpret what the Spirit speaks to us, we obediently follow His leadership. Just as He gives us the *rhema* of God with which to repel the enemy, He gives us wisdom and knowledge upon which we can obediently act.

We are also told here that we are to pray continuously for the saints—for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our intercession is always offered in the Name and Authority of the Lord, Jesus Christ. His Name is above every name. Every knee will bow to His Name. For even the demons know Him and must submit to His Name.

► **Worship**

The English word *worship* is derived from an Old English word *worth-ship*. Worship is, in essence, declaring to God His worth to us. This is consistent with the word picture painted of worship in both the Old and New Testaments. Worship begins with a heart attitude that results in the action of submitting ourselves to God and declaring His praises, His value, and His worth to us.

Worship is frequently linked to battle in the Old Testament. One of the most familiar passages of this kind is found in 2 Chronicles:

Resisting the Enemy

Lesson 12

Weapons with Divine Power

It was told Jehoshaphat, A great multitude has come against you from beyond the [Dead] Sea, from Edom...

Then Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself [determinedly, as his vital need] to seek the Lord; he proclaimed a fast in all Judah.

And Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord... [yearning for Him with all their desire]. And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of the Lord...and said, O Lord, God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven? And do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? In Your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand You....

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, ... in the midst of the assembly.

He said, "Hearken, all Judah, The Lord says this to you: Be not afraid or dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.... You shall not need to fight in this battle; take your positions, stand still, and see the deliverance of the Lord [Who is] with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Fear not nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you."

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping Him.... And they rose early in the morning...; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat...said, "Hear me, O Judah! Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe and remain steadfast to His prophets and you shall prosper."

[Then] ... he appointed singers to sing to the Lord and praise Him in their holy [priestly] garments as they went out before the army, saying, Give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever!

*And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against [their enemies] and they were [self-] slaughtered;
(2 Chronicles 20:2-6, 14-22, AMP)*

There are five important points to observe in this example:

1. When Judah was threatened by their enemies, they worshiped God and sought His direction.
2. God then revealed His plan for them by speaking through the Holy Spirit to a prophet while they worshiped.
3. The people of Judah trusted God's revelation and obediently did as they were instructed.
4. They continued to worship as they entered the battle.
5. God through His own effort delivered them from their enemies.

We find other verses in Psalm 8 that link worship and warfare.

*O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. (Psalm 8:1-2)*

In both examples above, it is easy to see that worship is a weapon with divine power. There are at least two significant factors in the relationship between worship and spiritual warfare. First, we know that when we openly and publicly worship God, declaring into the heavenlies His value and worth to us, the enemy is robbed of significance and power. The enemy is less able to gain ground in our thinking process when our thoughts are focused on Jesus. Finally, worship is similar to praying in the Spirit, in that while in an attitude of worship we are better able to hear from God. Consequently, we are better able to align our thoughts with His.

Notes 

Notes 

► **Standing Together
with One Another**

This weapon with divine power is about unity in the Body of Christ—unity in the faith community. Look at Paul’s instructions to the Philippians.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then ... stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

...If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then ...[be] like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, my dear friends...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life....
(Philippians 1:27-28; 2:1-8, 12-16)*

In the first paragraph we find the idea of standing firm in one spirit, contending against the enemy as a unified body. Paul created here a picture of a line of Roman soldiers, standing shoulder to shoulder with their big shields linked together. You know from previous study that the unified Body, operating under the influence of the Holy Spirit, emboldens believers—assuring them of victory while discouraging the enemy with certain defeat.

In the second paragraph the faith community is reminded to maintain a humble servant’s attitude toward one another, just as Christ maintained a servant’s attitude toward those to whom and with whom He ministered.

In the final paragraph the faith community is admonished to do everything without complaint and argument. Complaining and arguing inevitably lead to disunity. Satan’s principle schemes or strategies for destroying a local church include dissension, divisiveness, and disunity. It is easy for the enemy to establish footholds and strongholds within the church under these kinds of conditions. For example, the evil one relishes gaining ground in a congregation from a “foothold” or “beachhead” of rebellion against the designated leadership of a church. On the other hand, the Holy Spirit can powerfully operate within a unified faith community.

Standing together in unity is a weapon with divine power to defeat the enemy!

Application Ideas & Questions

This lesson is directly linked to the preceding one. Before going into battle, we dress in our spiritual armor. After dressing in the armor provided to us through God’s grace, we take up our weapons with which we resist the enemy.

What we must not miss in all of this is that each piece of armor is, in fact, something that we live out in daily life. We live a life of truth and integrity, relying

Resisting the Enemy

Lesson 12

Weapons with Divine Power

Notes 

upon the One who is Truth to help us walk in freedom. We receive through faith the righteousness of Christ, so that we can enjoy an intimate, loving, caring relationship with God. Similarly, we work to maintain caring, loving relationships with one another. As we submit ourselves to God's care, trusting Him for the fulfillment of our needs, we live confidently with an internal peace that transcends understanding. We act in faith, rather than giving in to our doubts and fears. Finally, we dedicate ourselves to growing toward becoming spiritual mothers and fathers—working out our salvation or our progressive experiential sanctification.

While we live life in this fashion—while we walk in a manner worthy of the Gospel—we can take up and use the weapons

with divine power provided us by our caring Heavenly Father. Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, we wield the Word of God like a sword to counter the enemy's lies and deceptions. We pray continuously for one another. We enter into thankful, heart-felt worship both before and during battle. We stand together, rather than alone.

1. How are you doing?
2. Where is your armor weak?
3. Which weapons need to be more skillfully used by you?
4. How can your Bible Fellowship help one another become more seasoned spiritual warriors—become a people of God who effectively resist the enemy?

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, copyright © 1989 by Chariot Victor Publishing, an imprint of Cook Communication Ministries. All rights reserved. Used by permission. (Warren W. Wiersbe is a well-known international Bible conference teacher with a heart for missions and is a former pastor of Moody Church in Chicago. Dr. Wiersbe is author of more than 80 books, including the best-selling "BE" series.)

Notes 

Commentary

Understanding worship as a “weapon with divine power” is easier when we understand worship in general. This commentary is devoted to helping you understand worship from both a corporate and an individual practice. You will discover that worship begins with a heart attitude and ends with action.

Worship: A Definition

The English word *worship* comes from the Old English word *worþscipe*. It is a word that denotes the worthiness of the one receiving the special honor or devotion.¹ The Old English is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *weorþscipe*: *weorþ* (meaning worthy or honorable) plus *scipe* (meaning ship).²

Today we broadly understand worship to mean a thought, feeling, and action that reflects honor, reverence, and homage paid to men, angels, or other “spiritual beings” and figuratively to other entities, ideas, powers, or qualities, but specifically and supremely to Deity.³

Dr. Wayne Grudem defines Christian worship as “the activity of glorifying God in His presence with our voices and heart.”⁴ For Christ-followers, worship is a verb—an action, motivated by a deep desire to honor Christ. The *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*⁵ tells us that Scripture presents a wide range of physical actions and expressions in its representations of worship, including:

- ◆ **Bowing down:** is a prominent indication of worship; an act of homage; a position of listening; an attitude of ready obedience
- ◆ **Lifting hands:** is associated with an attitude and posture of praise
- ◆ **Clapping hands:** indicates great joy at the blessings and provisions of God

- ◆ **Kneeling:** often linked in Scripture with verbal confession; it reflects reverence appropriate to the majesty and sovereignty of God
- ◆ **Dancing:** reflects jubilation and reverence; an act of praise
- ◆ **Processions:** represent movement toward God as associated with the Songs of Ascent; high worship
- ◆ **Singing:** indicates a joyful and thankful heart moved by God’s worthiness and generosity

Each of the above actions or expressions is indicative of a willing, grateful heart and pictures active obedience to the instructions of Scripture.

New Testament Worship

It is difficult to find a singular standard for worship practice in the pages of the New Testament. Scholars believe that patterns and forms of worship known to the New Testament writers were varied. Church historians tell us that some Jewish believers apparently followed the more ritualistic worship styles of the temple. Others observed worship styles more consistent with that practiced in the synagogue. Still others, both Jew and Gentile, enjoyed a more informal style of worship easily practiced in private homes. In short, Christians worshiped in a manner that was relevant and comfortable to them. Their cultural experiences influenced their choice of worship style. Otherwise, the early church could not have grown and enjoyed the favor of all the people (Acts 2:46-47).

While the style of worship varied from church to church, each style encompassed some common elements. According to *Unger’s New Bible Dictionary*, New

Resisting the Enemy

Lesson 12

Weapons with Divine Power

Notes 

Testament worship was characterized by joy and thanksgiving because of God's gracious redemption through Christ.⁶ It focused upon the saving work of Jesus and occurred under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The elements of a worship service often included:

- ◆ Prayer
- ◆ Praise in the form of testimony offered by an individual or songs sung by the gathered congregation
- ◆ Study of Scripture as well as the writings and teachings of the Apostles
- ◆ Spirit-inspired preaching
- ◆ Offerings given by members of the congregation as an expression of gratitude for the blessings and provisions of God
- ◆ Baptism
- ◆ The Lord's Supper or Communion

The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* tells us that there were two types of meetings in the churches in and

around Corinth: public and private.⁷ The public worship was open, informal, missionary, and edifying. Non-believers, inquirers, and seekers were routinely present and were often converted in the meeting (1 Cor. 14:24). These services probably were conducted in an informal but orderly manner. People ministered in the service according to their spiritual gifts.

The home groups—the more private meetings—likely were held in the evening and were mostly composed of believers. Attendees often provided for themselves a meal that symbolized their unity and fellowship. A prayer time either preceded or followed the meal. Prayers may have been interspersed with worship songs. The meeting frequently ended with the celebration of Communion or the Lord's Supper.

It is improbable that the style and form of New Testament worship closely resembled most worship services held in contemporary churches. However, many of the elements of early Christian worship are still incorporated into both our corporate and our private worship.

¹ *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*, originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, IL, copyright © 1998.

² *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Electronic Database*, copyright © 1996, 2003, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Systematic Theology*, copyright © 1994 by Wayne Grudem.

⁵ *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, copyright © 1998 by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA. All rights reserved.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *The New Unger's Bible Dictionary*.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*.

Notes **RESOURCES
NEEDED:**

- ◆ 2-sided copies of Lesson Notes / Take-Home pages
- ◆ Pencils or pens for each person
- ◆ Dry erase markers and marker board or felt tip markers and a flip chart

TIMEFRAME:

- ◆ 35 minutes

Suggested Lesson Plan

NOTE TO TEACHER: This *suggested* lesson plan contains many elements that, if employed, will help maximize learning for life-change in your Bible Fellowship. If you are an experienced teacher, you have freedom to create your own plan based upon the “Studying the Word Together” section. If you are less experienced, we suggest that you “stick to the plan.” However, even less-experienced teachers should feel free to modify the plan based upon the needs of your Bible Fellowship. This plan is designed to be presented in 35 minutes. It is important, therefore, that you carefully plan your presentation so that you communicate the main points with brevity and clarity.

**Important Scripture
References:**

- ◆ Ephesians 6:17 -18
- ◆ Psalm 8:1-2
- ◆ 2 Chronicles 20:2-6, 14-22
- ◆ Philippians 1:27-28; 2:1-8, 12-16

Teaching Goals:

- ◆ **Learn:** Bible Fellowship members grow in their understanding of four weapons with divine power employed in resisting the enemy
- ◆ **Experience:** Respond with a grateful heart to God’s good and perfect gifts to us as they relate to his protection and deliverance in spiritual warfare (James 1:7)

Before Class Begins:

- ◆ **Note:** Wait until after Step One to distribute handouts.
- ◆ Ask two people who read aloud well to be prepared to read to the department the two longer passages from the handout

**STEP ONE: GETTING
READY TO LEARN
(5 MINUTES)**

(Use material on pages 12-2 to 12-3 to prepare for this section.)

- ◆ Tell your group that this lesson is about weapons with divine power that we “take up” when engaging the evil one. Take a moment to explain the difference between our spiritual armor and our divine weapons that we “take up” after putting on our armor.
- ◆ Ask the members of your Bible Fellowship to suggest some possible divine weapons. Write their suggestions on your white board or flip chart. (Remember to avoid making comments about anyone’s suggestion. You might simply say “thank you” or “okay” after each suggestion is offered).
- ◆ Now distribute handouts and tell your group that you will discuss four divine weapons today. You may acknowledge that there may be more, but you have time to talk about only four.
 1. The Word (*Rhema*) of God
 2. Praying in the Spirit
 3. Worship
 4. Standing Together with One Another

Notes 

STEP TWO: THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT (7 MINUTES)

We have discussed “the Word of God” and “praying in the Spirit” in previous lessons. By design, this step is a brief review for your Bible Fellowship. Therefore, only seven minutes is allocated for this step.

(Use material on pages 12-3 to 12-4 to prepare for this section.)

- ◆ Begin this step by asking the group to read the excerpt from Ephesians 6:17 aloud with you (from handout).
 - ▶ Explain that the word *sword* in the Greek referred to a “slaughtering knife.”
 - ▶ Explain that the Greek word rendered *word* in English is *rhema*, meaning a particular passage brought to remembrance by the Holy Spirit. Point out that this is apparently what Jesus experienced while battling Satan during the Wilderness Temptations as He used three different Scripture passages to rebuff each temptation presented to Him by Satan.
 - ▶ Tell your group that the *rhema* of God is figuratively used like a “slaughtering knife” against evil spirits when they attack.
- ◆ Next, invite your group to read aloud Ephesians 6:18 (from handout).
 - ▶ Tell your group: “If we are battling an enemy who is an evil demonic spirit, it makes sense that we would want input from the Holy Spirit as we pray. That is what praying in the Spirit is. We listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit in our inner human spirit—that place to which the demonic has no access. What the Spirit speaks to us there is moved into our minds. As we interpret what the Spirit speaks to us, we obediently

follow His leadership. Just as He gives us the *rhema* of God with which to repel the enemy, He gives us wisdom and knowledge upon which we can obediently act.”

- ▶ Next, remind everyone that: “We are also told in this verse that we are to pray continuously for the saints—for one another. We can offer our intercession in the Name and Authority of the Lord, Jesus Christ. His Name is above every name. Every knee will bow to His Name. For even the demons know Him and must submit to His Name.”

STEP THREE: WORSHIP (8 MINUTES)

(Use material pages 12-4 to 12-5 to prepare for this section.)

- ◆ Tell your group that Scripture often connects worship with spiritual warfare. Illustrate this with Psalm 8:1-2 (on handout). Call attention to the phrase “you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”
- ◆ Next, discuss with your department that principles with application in the physical realm often are transferable to the spiritual realm. We will see this principle applied in an account of a battle between Judah and her enemies.
 - ▶ Have someone read the passage from 2 Chronicles 20 (on handout).
 - ▶ State that we can make five observations about this passage regarding the relationship between worship and spiritual warfare:
 1. When threatened by demonic spirits, worship God.
 2. While worshipping, listen for God’s revelation.
 3. Obediently respond to God’s revelation by acting in His Name and Authority.

Notes 

4. Remain in an attitude of worship while engaging the enemy.
5. Trust God to deliver you through His power from the spiritual attack.

church and provides the evil one an opportunity to establish a foothold or stronghold in the church, weakening her ability to reach the lost and to help believers grow to spiritual maturity.

STEP FOUR: STANDING TOGETHER WITH ONE ANOTHER (5 MINUTES)

(Use material on page 12-6 to prepare for this section.)

- ◆ Invite someone to read Philippians 1:27-28 (on handout).
- ◆ Explain that Paul created a powerful word picture by suggesting that the members of the church figuratively should stand together just as Roman soldiers stood side-by-side with their shields linked together—intimidating their enemy with their resolute unity. Such unity signals defeat to the evil one and victory for us through Christ.
- ◆ Have someone else read Philippians 2:1-8, 12-16 (on handout).
- ◆ Remind your department that complaining, murmuring, selfishness, and rebellion against the established leadership leads to disunity in the

STEP FIVE: APPLICATION (10 MINUTES)

- ◆ Invite your Bible Fellowship to form themselves into groups of three or four. Ask each group to discuss their answers to the following three questions (on handout):
 1. Upon which of the four weapons with divine power do I most often rely?
 2. Which of the four weapons with divine power do I need to become more skilled in using?
 3. What is the most important thing I have learned during our study on spiritual warfare?
- ◆ Read James 1:17 (on handout) to your group. Then ask all to share a one- or two-sentence prayer expressing their gratitude for the most important thing they have learned in the study on spiritual warfare.
- ◆ Close with your own simple prayer.

Lesson Notes Blanks:

- a. When threatened by demonic spirits, worship God.
- b. While worshipping, listen for God's revelation.
- c. Obediently respond to God's revelation by acting in His Name and Authority.
- d. Remain in an attitude of worship while engaging the enemy.
- e. Trust God to deliver you through His power from the spiritual attack.

Resisting the Enemy

Lesson 12

Weapons with Divine Power

Today in My Bible Fellowship

1. **The Word (*Rhema*) of God** — **Ephesians 6:17:** Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
2. **Praying in the Spirit** — **Ephesians 6:18:** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

3. Worship

Psalm 8:1-2: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

2 Chronicles 20:2-6, 14-22 (AMP): It was told Jehoshaphat, A great multitude has come against you from beyond the [Dead] Sea, from Edom...Then Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself [determinedly, as his vital need] to seek the Lord; he proclaimed a fast in all Judah.

And Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord... [yearning for Him with all their desire]. And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of the Lord...and said, O Lord, God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven? And do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? In Your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand You....

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, ... in the midst of the assembly. He said, "Hearken, all Judah,.... The Lord says this to you: Be not afraid or dismayed at this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.... You shall not need to fight in this battle; take your positions, stand still, and see the deliverance of the Lord [Who is] with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Fear not nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you."

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping Him.... And they rose early in the morning...; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat...said, "Hear me, O Judah! Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe and remain steadfast to His prophets and you shall prosper." [Then] ... he appointed singers to sing to the Lord and praise Him in their holy [priestly] garments as they went out before the army, saying, Give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever! And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against [their enemies] and they were [self-] slaughtered....

- a. When threatened by demonic spirits, _____ God.
- b. While worshipping, listen for God's _____.
- c. Obediently respond to God's revelation by acting in His _____ and _____.
- d. Remain in an attitude of _____ while engaging the enemy.
- e. Trust God to _____ you through His _____ from the spiritual attack.

4. Standing Together with One Another

Philippians 1:27-28: Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then ... stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

Philippians 2:1-8, 12-16: ...If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then ...[be] like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who...made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, my dear friends...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life....

Discuss: In groups of 3 or 4, discuss your answers to these questions:

1. Upon which of the four weapons with divine power do I most often rely?
2. Which of the four weapons with divine power do I need to become more skilled in using?
3. What is the most important thing I have learned during our study on spiritual warfare?

James 1:17: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Daily Reflections**R
e
f
l
e
c
t
i
o
n
s**

Begin each daily reflection by meditating a few minutes on the suggested Scripture passage. Seek to listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you. Then consider the comments and questions about the passage. Be aware of both your thoughts and your feelings. Respond to God through both.

Monday: *For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power... . (2 Corinthians 10:3-4a)*

What does this passage say to you about God's heart to provide for your need to be well prepared to battle the evil one? Is your heart response one of gratitude for His provision? Thank God for not leaving you helpless to battle the enemy in your own power with fleshly weapons.

Tuesday: *Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)*

Remember that the Greek word rendered *sword* in English referred to a "slaughtering knife." Through His grace, God has given you a divine weapon—His revealed Word (*rhema*) with which you can "slaughter" the evil one when he comes against you. Express your gratitude to God for this divine weapon and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you to hear Him and to use the Word as an effective divine weapon.

Wednesday: *My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye... write them on the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 7:1-3)*

This proverb from Solomon encourages us to "store up" within us God's Word and to write His teachings on our heart. Have you so written the Word on your heart that it is easy for the Holy Spirit to bring it to mind when you are tempted or attacked by a demonic spirit? Do you value God's teachings as "the apple of your eye?" Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart about these verses. Then respond to Him from your heart.

Thursday: *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)*

Praying in the Spirit is one of God's potent divine weapons with power! Listen for the Holy Spirit as He prompts you to pray for the saints in your Bible Fellowship.

Friday: *...the battle is not yours, but God's.... You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you.... Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever." As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against [Judah's enemies] and they were defeated. (2 Chronicles 20:15-17, 21-22)*

From this verse we learn to worship before we enter battle with the evil one, to continue our worship as we fight, and to remember that the battle is not ours but God's. What do you learn from these verses about God's heart to do battle on your behalf? How is your heart moved by the practical teachings of this passage? Gratefully respond to God from your heart. Worship Him in spirit and truth.