

# The War For Your Soul



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

# The War For Your Soul

Learn about the spiritual war you are fighting, your enemy, the conflict between the flesh and spirit, and the victory provided through Jesus Christ

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## Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

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**My plea:** It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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# The War For Your Soul

You are at war – right now! You are engaged in the same war that has been fought by billions of people who have lived before you. And, this is the same war that is being fought by every one of the billions of people who are living at this moment in time.

This war has claimed far more casualties than any other war that has ever been waged – as the overwhelming majority of people who have lived on earth have chosen to fight on the losing side. But, this is not a physical war that is being waged with physical weaponry and armor. Instead, this is a war for your soul!

Therefore, the stakes that are involved in this war are far greater than any kind of earthly freedom or even your own earthly life. The stakes involved are eternal in nature. On several occasions, the Bible describes living life on this earth as engaging in a spiritual war. In this lesson, it is my goal to present an overview study of this war for your soul so that you will understand the basics of this war, be able to choose to fight on the side that will be victorious, and learn how to fight in a way that will keep you from being another casualty in this war.

## ***Understanding The Conflict***

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In this first section, let's focus on understanding the true nature of the conflict. In order to make the best decisions about this war, you need

to understand the “big picture.” You need to understand what is at stake. In addition, in this section you will also learn about how you can choose to fight on the winning side.

### **The conflict in the beginning**

To understand the conflict, you must understand that there is a God. Genesis 1:1 begins the words of the Bible: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Thus, from the very first words in the Bible, we learn that there is a God. The Bible goes on to describe that this God is eternal (having no beginning and no end), that He possesses limitless power, that He knows everything, that He sees everything, that He loves all mankind, that He is entirely separated from the ways of evil, that He is completely fair and trustworthy, and that He will punish those who do not obey Him.

This God created the entire world and everything you see around you. He even created you! Genesis 1:26-27 explains that He created you in a very special way that was different from all the other elements of His earthly creation. The passage says that man was created “in the image of God.” Since God is Spirit (John 4:24), this means that mankind has a spirit/soul that survives this physical life (more about this later). In addition, God created mankind with free will so that he can choose either to fight this war on God's side or against Him.

In the very beginning, God created a true paradise on earth for man to live in (the Garden of Eden, see Genesis 2:8-14). This was a garden that was planted by God for Adam and Eve (the first man and woman) to live in. In this place, God gave them access to the Tree of Life so that they would never die and there was direct fellowship with God. Then, God gave them one law to live by. They were commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they did, they would die (Genesis 2:16-17).

Then, the tempter came (see Genesis 3:1-6). Satan (taking the form of a serpent) came to Eve and tried to convince her that it was okay to eat the fruit God had forbidden. And, after resisting initially, Eve believed Satan's deceptions, ate of the fruit, and gave it to her husband (Adam), who also ate of it. From

that point, God brought consequences for this sin (violation of the law He had given them). Genesis 3:14-19 describes that there would be consequences for the serpent, for the woman, and for the man. These consequences included difficulty in childbirth for the woman, hard work for the man, and physical death. But, most significantly, Adam and Eve experienced spiritual death whenever they sinned in that they were separated from the direct fellowship they had with God! But, God promised that the Seed of woman (in a reference to Jesus Christ) would bring the opportunity for victory over Satan (see Genesis 3:15)!

## **The problem of sin**

Ever since these events of Genesis 3, sin has been the greatest problem mankind has ever faced or will ever face on this earth. You see, just as God had given Adam and Eve a law to abide by, God has given each one of us a law to live our lives by. This is God's perfect law of liberty (that offers freedom from sin, James 1:25) that is revealed in the pages of the Bible. Particularly, we live today under God's law that is revealed in the pages of the New Testament (since the Old Testament Law has been taken away, see Colossians 2:14).

Just as was demonstrated by Adam and Eve, sin occurs whenever mankind violates the law of God. Therefore, whenever you do something God has instructed not to be done or when you do not do what God has instructed you to do, you commit sin. And, the Bible is clear in stating that all mankind has been guilty of sin. Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Though many people have claimed that you have inherited sin from Adam, the Bible actually teaches that you only sin whenever you make the choice to violate God's law. Yet, since all people (who have reached an age of moral accountability) have sinned against God, this means that Satan has been successful in luring all of these away from fighting with God in this war to fighting against Him!

The Bible is clear in stating that sin carries consequences. Romans 6:23, for instance, says that the "wages of sin is death." While there are often physical consequences that result from sin, the most significant consequence of sin is spiritual death

(separation from God). Ultimately, the individual who dies (physically) while living in sin will be eternally separated from God by being condemned to Hell – which is identified as the "second death" (Revelation 21:8). Living in sin is described in the Bible as abiding in the ways of darkness, as opposed to living in the light of God (see 1 John 1:5-7). It is described as living in opposition to God (2 Timothy 2:25). It is described as being in slavery to Satan (2 Timothy 2:26). It is described as being friendship with the world (James 4:4). And, it is described as making you the enemy of God (James 4:4).

The Bible is clear that there is nothing that you could do after you had sinned to save yourself from these consequences. These are the "wages" of your sin. They are what you have earned. And, the Bible is clear in teaching that Satan is actively working to continue to lure people away from following God. In fact, he is pictured as a lion who is stalking you in hopes that he will devour you (1 Peter 5:8) – as well as hurling fiery darts to try and defeat you (Ephesians 6:16).

## **God's two-part plan of salvation**

Once you had sinned against God, you could not do anything to save yourself. You were in desperate need of a Savior to deliver you from defeat and give you victory. Thanks be to God that He had a plan of salvation that was in His mind even before He created this world (see Ephesians 3:3-5 and 1 Peter 1:20-21). This was a two-part plan of salvation, consisting of God's part and man's part.

First, consider God's part in salvation. Romans 6:23 says that "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." While you (and everyone who has sinned) deserves to spend eternity in Hell fire, God has given you (and all mankind) the opportunity to be saved from your sins through Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus Christ willingly left Heaven to come to earth. He lived a sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), yet He suffered and died an agonizing death on the cross in order to give all mankind the opportunity to be saved from the spiritual consequences of their sins! In this, God has

done for you what you could not have done for yourself.

Second, consider your part in salvation. While you cannot earn your salvation, God has given you responsibility in the salvation of your soul. This responsibility is to be obedient to Him. Hebrews 5:9 states clearly that Jesus Christ is “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” To be saved, God has instructed that you hear His word (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus Christ as His only begotten Son (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Then, God requires that you live a life of faithful obedience to Him (Revelation 2:10).

## **Why it matters**

Why does it matter whether you have sinned against God? Why was your salvation so important to God that He sent His Son to die for you? Why is it so important for you to do your part in obeying God’s plan of salvation? Let’s consider.

First, it matters because you have a soul that survives physical death. We have already established the fact that you (and all mankind) have been created with a soul. Many Bible passages teach that this soul continues to exist after you die physically. For instance, Luke 16:19-31 teaches about two individuals (a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus). Both of these men died physically. Yet, they each continued to have a conscious existence after death – as their souls continued to live on. In fact, the Scriptures teach that you will have a conscious existence for all of eternity. When you die physically, you will not cease to exist!

Second, it matters because your life on this earth is temporary. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God in Genesis 3, physical death has been part of this world. Hebrews 9:27 states that “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Therefore, you have an appointment with physical death. You just don’t know when that appointment will be. Yet, you can be assured of the fact that your physical life will only be brief (see James 4:13-16). Then, not only will your physical life end at death, but Jesus has also promised that He

is coming again (see John 14:3), only God has not told us when this will be (see Matthew 24:36). Whenever He comes, all people (living and dead) will be called to meet Him for judgment and this earth will be destroyed by fire (see 2 Peter 3). Either way (whether by physical death or the return of Jesus Christ), you should recognize that your life on this earth is only temporary. Therefore, you should consider yourself as a pilgrim on this earth and determine to keep away from the physical lusts that war against the soul (see 1 Peter 2:11-12). For, at this point, your spiritual war will be over – and it will have ended either in victory or defeat!

Third, it matters because you will be judged. After Jesus returns, all people will stand before Him and be judged. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” On this Day, God will impartially judge you according to whether you have lived by His laws or whether you have rebelled against His instructions. Therefore, you will be judged by God’s word and it will be revealed whether you had been fighting on God’s side or fighting against Him during your life on this earth. Then, there will only be two possible outcomes. Those who fought against God will spend eternity in Hell (Matthew 25:41) and those who fought with God will spend eternity in Heaven (Matthew 25:34).

Fourth, it matters because you will spend eternity in one of these two places. Matthew 25:46 reveals that after the Judgment, the wicked will “go away into everlasting punishment” and the righteous will go “into eternal life.” The Bible describes Hell as a place of everlasting torment. Revelation 21:8 depicts Hell as a lake that is burning with fire and brimstone. And, eternity in this place is called the “second death” because it is eternal separation from God. On the other hand, the Bible describes Heaven as being a beautiful place that is free from all pain, suffering, tears, death, and evil (see Revelation 21-22). And, best of all, Heaven is a place in which you can forever be with God! Certainly, the Bible is clear that you will spend eternity in one of these two places.

# Your Enemy

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In this war for your soul, you face a real enemy who wants to destroy you – spiritually. As we have already discussed, this enemy is Satan. He is prowling like a lion waiting to attack you. He wants you to rebel against God. So, if you want to be victorious in this war for your soul, you must learn about your enemy and how to overcome him. Fortunately, God has told us everything we need to know (in the pages of the Bible) so that we can be victorious over Satan.

## Introducing Satan

To many people on this earth, Satan is an imaginary figure. He is just a symbol of evil. However, the Bible presents Satan in a much more serious kind of way. There are several passages that demonstrate Satan to be real. He worked directly to lure Job away from God (see Job 1-2). He worked directly to tempt Jesus (read Matthew 4:1-11). And, Jesus said that Satan had asked for Peter (see Luke 22:31-32). In addition to these, the Bible provides clear warnings about Satan's reality. For instance, he is pictured as being your enemy who is trying to destroy you in 1 Peter 5:8-9. James 4:7 says that you must resist him so that he will flee from you. And, Ephesians 6:10-18 pictures him as being your opponent in warfare. Therefore, you must conclude that Satan is real.

But, where did Satan come from? We know that Satan is evil and that God did not create anything/anyone as evil. So, what does this mean about Satan? The Bible teaches us very little about Satan's origin. Yet, there are some definite conclusions we can and must reach about Satan. First, Satan was created by God. Satan is *not* equal with God. Therefore, he is not eternal. All things were created by God (John 1:3). Second, Satan is a spiritual being, though the Bible is not conclusive as to whether he is an angel or some other type of spiritual being. Third, Satan sinned against God. God created Satan with the same kind of free will He has created you with. And, the Bible teaches that Satan chose to sin against God (see John 8:44; 1 John 3:8; 1 Timothy 3:6).

Then, you must recognize that Satan is trying to accomplish a specific mission. Although he is not powerful enough to defeat God, he is working contrary to God's purposes. Not only is he refusing to live according to God's laws himself; but he is also actively working to turn other people away from following God. Every step of the way, the Scriptures point to Satan's work of trying to get in the way of people following God!

## Identifying Satan

Throughout the Bible, there are several different names that are used to identify Satan. For the purposes of this lesson, let's focus only on two. First, he is called "Satan." This is how I have been referencing him throughout this study. In Matthew 4:10, for instance, Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan!" This name refers to one who is an adversary (enemy). Indeed, throughout the Scriptures, he is pictured as being the enemy of God and man. Thus, this name ought to bring to your mind the idea that Satan is opposed to your doing what is right – and he is actively working to influence you to live in a way that is contrary to God.

Second, he is called "the devil." For instance, Matthew 4:1 teaches that Jesus was tempted by "the devil." This identification of Satan has reference to his most notable attribute: He is a liar! The Bible repeatedly demonstrates that Satan is not interested in telling you the absolute truth. Instead, he is pictured as a liar and a deceiver (see John 8:44). Thus, this identification of Satan ought to bring to your mind the idea that Satan is working to mislead you by trapping you in lies – and is not interested in you learning and obeying the truth that God has revealed in the Bible.

## Satan's schemes

The war that you are fighting is against the real enemy who is working to defeat you. Therefore, you need to be aware of his schemes. Ephesians 6:11, for instance, encourages you to put on the whole armor of God (which we'll discuss later) so that you can "stand against the wiles of the devil." So, the devil schemes against you. He has tactics he employs to defeat you. Fortunately, the Bible reveals Satan's schemes to us. 2 Corinthians 2:11 says that "we are

not ignorant of his devices.” And, in all of his schemes, deception is the common thread.

Satan tempts you to violate God’s laws by appealing to your own fleshly desires (James 1:14-15). Then, whenever you act to fulfill those desires in ways that are contrary to God’s laws, you commit sin – which results in spiritual death. Now, consider some specific areas Satan commonly tempts people through.

First, he tempts people through the things of this world. 1 John 2:15-17 says that all that is in the world (i.e. the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life) is not of the Father, but is of the world that is passing away. Second, he tempts people through pride. Again, 1 John 2:16 makes reference to the “pride of life” that is contrary to the Father. Third, he tries to instill doubt in your mind. He wants you to doubt in God’s reality, in His promises, and in His laws. Fourth, he tries to lure people from God by using false teaching. Although those who believe false teaching may be religious, they will be following destructive doctrines (see 2 Peter 2:1-3). Fourth, he tries to discourage you through sufferings. Sometimes, he uses death of loved ones, physical illness, persecution, etc. to hinder your service to God (see 2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Fifth, he tempts people through their peers. Satan recognizes that people can often be more easily influenced through other people in their lives and that evil company “corrupts good habits” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

## **Overcoming Satan**

Satan is working through these (and other) means to lure you away from following God and defeat you. But, God has made it possible for you to overcome Satan! In fact, the Bible is clear in teaching that the outcome of this war is also known. God wins; Satan loses! Remember, God promised that He would defeat Satan through Jesus Christ (see Genesis 3:14-15). Now, it is just a matter of picking which side you want to be on and fighting on that side. Jesus revealed that Hell is a place prepared for the devil and his angels – and those who fight against God with him will also spend eternity in this place (see Matthew 25:41).

Now, as you fight against Satan on a daily basis, you should also take comfort in the fact that Satan is limited. He is not as powerful as God. And, God does not permit him to apply so much pressure against you that you cannot possibly overcome him. Listen to 1 Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

So, how can you overcome Satan? First, you must be obedient to God’s plan of salvation. If you do not obey God, you will be defeated in this war for your soul. Second, after you have obeyed God so as to be forgiven of your past sins, you must live faithfully to God throughout the remainder of your life. This will involve the need to be sober (1 Peter 5:8), to be watchful (1 Peter 5:8), to resist the devil (1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7), and to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). If you will do these things, you will overcome Satan!

## ***The Flesh And The Spirit***

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As you fight this war on a daily basis, the battles you fight will be between the flesh and the spirit. That is, you will be fighting between what God wants you to do and your own fleshly desires. The Scriptures are clear that these two are in direct conflict with one another. For instance, 1 Peter 2:11 instructs those who are Christians to view themselves as “sojourners and pilgrims” (temporary residents on this earth) and, as such, to “abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul.”

### **The conflict between the two**

Remember that mankind is a dual-natured being. That is, you have a physical and a spiritual element to your existence. The physical element is only temporary, while the spiritual element will continue to live on after you die physically. These two are continually pulling in two different and opposite directions.

Galatians 5:17 says that “the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.” The challenge is to make the decision to live your life according to God’s laws and focus on the eternal implications of how you live rather than live according to your fleshly desires and fail to consider the eternal implications of your decisions on earth. The problem is that the flesh is weak (see Matthew 26:41 and Romans 7-8). Therefore, we must be spiritually minded by focusing on the truths about life and eternity we studied earlier in this lesson rather than be carnally minded by focusing only on the temporary things of life (see Romans 8:5-8).

Fortunately, we have Jesus Christ as a perfect example to imitate as we live on this earth. For, Jesus was God living on earth (see Matthew 1:23 and John 1:1, 14). As has already been mentioned, Jesus was tempted while He lived on this earth – in the same ways we are tempted; yet, He did not commit sin (see Hebrews 4:15 and Matthew 4:1-11). Therefore, we can follow His perfect example in overcoming this conflict between the flesh and the spirit.

## **The works of the flesh**

Unfortunately, we will all live according to the sinful desires of the flesh at some point in our lives. Whenever we allow ourselves to put our own fleshly desires above the desires of God, we produce fruit that is spiritually destructive to us. Listen to Galatians 5:19-21. Please note that as you attempt to live your life in a way that will result in victory rather than defeat, you must make sure that none of these sinful works of the flesh are part of your life! In addition, please notice that this is *not* an exhaustive list. Recognize that this list closes with “and the like.”

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

## **The fruit of the Spirit**

In contrast with the works of the flesh, God identifies fruit that will be born if you are focused on pleasing Him rather than pleasing your own fleshly desires. Listen to Galatians 5:22-23. This time, though, recognize that not one thing produced by the life that is entirely devoted to God will fail to please God. And, as you attempt to live your life in a way that will result in victory rather than defeat, you must make sure that these things are being produced in your life!

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

## **Crucified with Christ**

Following the desires of the flesh does not lead you to the same place as following the instructions of God. Therefore, if you truly desire to be victorious in this war for your soul, you must be crucified with Christ. Look at Galatians 5:24. “And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Paul makes a similar statement in Galatians 2:20. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” This statement is one that indicates a full commitment to following Jesus Christ, recognizing that Jesus Christ made a full commitment to die for you on the cross.

The impact of this kind of commitment will be seen in every area of your life. This is a commitment to put to death the old ways of sin that were focused on pleasing the desires of the flesh and acting contrary to God. Then, there is a renewing of the mind that takes place – being focused on the spiritual things of God rather than the temporary things of this life. And, there is a commitment to putting on attributes that are in harmony with God’s nature of holiness (see Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3).



# ***Victory In Jesus!***

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Every day billions of people are fighting these battles between the flesh and the spirit. But, many people are trying to be victorious in life by themselves or by focusing on some other perceived path to victory. Many others don't even recognize that they are at war and just live for the moment. However, you should know that the only path to victory in this war for your soul is through Jesus Christ! Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Then, 1 Corinthians 15:57 says, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Therefore, let's consider the victory that is available in Jesus Christ!

## **Soldiers of Christ, arise!**

Those who are Christians (having obeyed God's plan of salvation, as identified earlier in this lesson) are soldiers in Christ's army. Christ is the commander. Therefore, His soldiers must go wherever He leads them (as revealed in the pages of God's word). For instance, a disciple of Christ by the name of Timothy was instructed to "wage the good warfare" (1 Timothy 1:18). In 2 Timothy 2:3-4, Timothy was also told, "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier."

As a soldier in Christ's army, you have a specific mission to accomplish. First, you must live faithfully as a soldier in Christ's army (Revelation 2:10). You must follow the orders of your Commander and refuse to lose your focus. And, you must devote yourself entirely to Jesus Christ. You simply cannot be effective in Christ's service if you are not completely devoted to Him all of the time. Jesus said that you cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). For, Jesus said that if you are not with Him, you are against Him (Matthew 12:30).

Second, you must be focused on serving, worshiping, and glorifying God while you live on this earth. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says that the entire

duty of mankind on this earth is to fear God and to keep His commandments – in light of the fact that He will judge us all some Day! Included in this is also working to encourage and help your fellow soldiers in the battles they are fighting on a daily basis. And, you must also be devoted to helping those who are fighting in Satan's army realize that they need to stop living in opposition to God and choose to fight in Christ's army. This is done through the teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ (see 2 Timothy 2:24-26 and Romans 1:16).

## **Put on the whole armor of God**

As a soldier engaged in this war for your soul, you must recognize that God has not left you without the ability to be protected. While you face an enemy who is fiercely trying to oppose you, God has given you armor that will enable you to withstand him. But, you must put on the whole suit of spiritual armor (as depicted in Ephesians 6:10-18). Like a soldier in physical armor, you must not leave an unguarded place. You must diligently put on every piece of this armor as if your spiritual life depends upon it – because, in reality, it does!

The apostle Paul wrote, "Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:14-18).

## **More than conquerors!**

Having put on the whole armor of God, you will be victorious in the war for your soul! Romans 8:1 says that "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." In Christ Jesus, you are a child of God, an heir of God, and a joint heir with Jesus Christ of the eternal inheritance of Heaven (see Romans 8:14-17 and 1 Peter 1:3-9). Now, even though you experience sufferings and hardships during your

earthly life, you should recognize that these are not worthy to be compared with the glory that will be revealed in you as a Christian (see Romans 8:18). For, everything that you endure while living on this earth works out for your spiritual good when you love God (Romans 8:28)!

Furthermore, as a Christian soldier, nothing and nobody can defeat you as long as you remain faithful to Christ. Listen to Romans 8:35-39: “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Yes, in Christ Jesus, you will score an overwhelming victory!

## ***Conclusion***

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You are at war. The question is not *if* you are involved in the war. The question is only *how* are you doing? Are you being victorious through Jesus Christ? Or, are you fighting a losing battle by living for sin? Please recognize that there is victory in Jesus and determine to follow Him in all things by doing your part in salvation. Every other way of living on this earth will result in defeat!

## ***Study Questions***

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Are you at war? What kind of war is this?

### **1. Understanding The Conflict**

Explain the conflict in the beginning (see Genesis 1-3).

Explain the problem of sin?

Describe God’s two-part plan of salvation.

Why does it all matter?

### **2. Your Enemy**

Is Satan real? Where did he come from? What is he trying to accomplish?

What do the terms “Satan” and “the devil” mean?

What are some of the schemes Satan is trying to use to defeat you?

How can you overcome Satan?

### **3. The Flesh And The Spirit**

What is the conflict between the two?

What are the works of the flesh?

What are the fruits of the Spirit?

Why should you be crucified with Christ? What does this mean?

#### **4. Victory In Jesus!**

Whose army will be victorious? What mission must you accomplish as part of His army?

What armor has God provided so that you can be victorious?

Describe the victory that Christ's army will experience.