



Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church DiscipleshipDevelopment.org

The book of Joshua is a book of conquest and possessing God's promised inheritance of the land of Canaan. This originated with Abraham in Genesis 15:1-20 ...*To your descendants I have given this land...* and is found throughout the Old Testament. Israel was to possess a land that God would give them, a land with great abundance (and giants!). The word for "possess" is the Hebrew word "yaresh" meaning to occupy by driving out previous tenants, and possessing in their place; to seize, to expel, to destroy, to enjoy. Read Numbers 33:50-54; Deuteronomy 1:6-8.

We, too, must "possess" God's promise of spiritual victory over our enemy, the devil (slanderer, adversary).

Following are only a few principles of Spiritual Warfare and the Biblical way to engage the enemy. Scan the QR Code to view the Discipleship Institute's lesson and resources on Spiritual Warfare.



1. **First, follow Jesus' example of engaging our enemy, the devil.** Read Luke 4:1-13 (Matthew 4:1-11; 1 John 2:15-17)

- A. The enemy led Him into the wilderness to test Him. After 40 days, when He began to hunger (starve), Satan tempted Him to change a rock into bread. In response, Christ quoted Deuteronomy 8:3. Responding to the second test when the devil offered Him all the Kingdoms of this world, Christ quoted Deuteronomy 6:13. Then, in response to the final test to tempt His Father, He quoted Deuteronomy 6:16.
- B. The enemy ONLY fears and submits to God's Word. Being successful in combat we quote Scripture that fits the test, and has been made real to us. Following a "pattern" that God has not made real to us will not work. (Acts 19:11-20)

- 2. **Submission to God is the first step in experiencing victory over the enemy.** James 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*
Deuteronomy 28:1-2,7 *And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God... The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*
- 3. **Repent of sin before you engage the enemy.** 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (Also Ephesians 4:27)
- 4. **Understand our spiritual weapons and put on the whole armor of God.** Ephesians 6:10-18 *...be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...* (Also 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
- 5. **Be confident in His Love, He is with you and His Spirit is in you.** 2 Chronicles 20:15 *Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.* (Also Romans 8:35-39)
- 6. **Engage the enemy from a position of victory.** John 16:33 *In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.* (Also 1 Samuel 17:49-54)
- 7. **Praise the Lord in the battle.** 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 *...as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever."* (Also Joshua 6:1-21)
- 8. **Always be alert and pray.** Ephesians 6:18 *...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...* (Also Nehemiah 4:14; 1 Peter 5:8)

Consistent victorious Christianity today demands that we, as a church, recover the understanding of the "spirit world" which the early church possessed and walked in.

