



Spiritual Warfare

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GoStrategic (Formerly Strategic Christian Services)

Founded in 1979 by Dennis Peacocke who serves as President, GoStrategic is a prophetic ministry committed to training and equipping leaders of every cultural sphere in discipling nations and transforming the world. GoStrategic operates internationally, educating Christians through our Business Leadership School and Strategic Life Training correspondence schools, events, educational products, networking, and consulting services. Our ministry headquarters are based in Santa Rosa, California, with affiliates and schools in Mexico, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand.

GoStrategic equips believers to be leaders in the communities where they live, work, and serve. We specialize in bridging the gap between spiritual truth and the practical implementation of those truths in confronting real-world problems. With over three decades of experience educating, modeling, and connecting like-minded individuals, we have seen first-hand the fruit of Christians applying Biblical principles to the most complex challenges. It is our sincere hope that the services we provide result in thousands of communities transformed as believers step in to rebuild, repair, and restore our world. To learn more, please visit our website: www.gostrategic.org

A former business owner, Dennis Peacocke is the founder and president of GoStrategic, a Christian leadership organization dedicated to demonstrating the relevance of Christianity to every area of contemporary life. He has authored four books: *On the Destiny of Nations*, *Winning the Battle for the Minds of Men*, *Doing Business God's Way*, and *The Emperor Has No Clothes*, as well as recorded numerous audio and video presentations.

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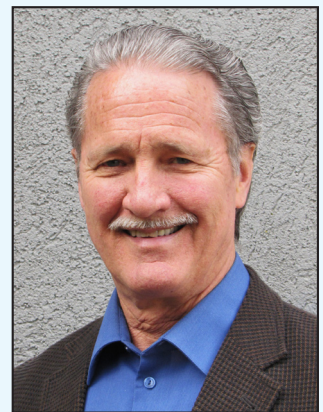


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SESSION 1

The Introduction: “Understanding the War on God”
A seminar on preparing ourselves and our people to build and war
 (Nehemiah 4:17)

I. The objectives of this teaching material and related concerns and issues:

A. Objectives of this series:

1. To give you, from an actual fighter’s perspective, insight and information on how to interpret, engage, and succeed in battling Satanic forces.
 - a. “Interpret”: What kind of attack is this and what are the forces involved?
 - b. “Engage”: What fighting techniques will be required to fight?
 - c. “Succeed”: What will I do to win, and will I actually do it?
2. To help you prepare yourself and those you love and lead for increased warfare as our spiritual focus becomes more of a threat to Satan and his world system.

B. Concerns relative to teaching on spiritual warfare:

1. What we give our attention to, we tend to get more of.
 - a. Most spiritual warfare is a useless distraction of our energy from creative work.
 - b. Little children love to play “soldiers”; real war busts heads. We must deal with “Christian candy-cane” ignorance and attitudes.
2. Much of the teaching on warfare I have been exposed to tends to be too theoretical to be used, sounds as if it’s taught by fight spectators rather than real fighters, and stirs up the non-sense of Christians playing soldiers.
3. **Real serious warfare only comes to those actually hurting the enemy’s grip on the earth. Most “spiritual warfare” is self-induced consequences of:**
 - a. Violating principles of God’s Word. (70%)
 - b. Character building exercises by the Holy Spirit. (20%)
 - c. Actual spiritual warfare. (10%)

C. The teaching strategy of this series is as follows:

1. Getting an overview of the battlefield from 30,000 feet.
 - a. “Understanding Satan’s War on God”
2. Focusing on the attitudes required to successfully fight:
 - a. “Having a Winning Attitude”
 - b. “Establishing a Fear-Free Defense”
3. Focusing on actual techniques required to successfully fight:
 - a. “Studying the Enemy’s Techniques”
 - b. “Building on Your Strengths”
 - c. “Fighting on Your Terms”
4. Focusing on handling “friendly fire” from inside our own camp:
 - a. “Handling Conflict from the Brethren”
 - b. “Bar Room Brawl Theology: Will You Still be Standing in 2020?”

II. Understanding the nature of Satan's war on God:

A. The issues of the war:

1. Satan wants power to center in Himself rather than Christ (Is. 14:12-14; Matt. 4:9).
2. His rebellion began in the heavenly realm first. (Jude 6)
3. It "fell to earth" in the garden.
 - a. It was incarnated in the material order (Gen. 3:1; Gen. 3:7).
 - b. It made earth the focus of the battlefield (Gen. 3:15; Rev. 12:9-10).
 - c. Earth is where the battle will be resolved (Revelation, chapters 4-22).
 - d. God planned/permitted the battle (Rev. 13:8) because apparently war produces something He wants in His kids that peace cannot. (Power is guarded by problems)**

B. Understanding the nature of Satan's strategy:

1. All skilled warriors have a clearly defined strategy based on the best assessment possible of the opponents strategy, strengths and weakness contrasted with this own.
2. Satan is a great warrior, though morally and intellectually insane (out of touch with reality).
3. We must understand the basic objectives of the war.
 - a. God wants a "free-will" offering of created beings to share His destiny with. (Eph. 1:18-23)
 - b. He is preparing those people by imparting His nature and power to them in Christ and empowering them in the Holy Spirit to character, maturity, faith, and application of God's Word as they war with Satan and his forces over the people and use of the earth.
 - c. God has declared (Gen. 1:26-28; Num. 14:21; Matt. 24:14) that he is going to achieve these objectives through the proxy-rule of His children (Ps. 110:1-3).
4. We must understand Satan's apparent strategy to defeat God and establish himself as an "equal" with his Creator.
 - a. The **oblique attack** (bull-fighter) of separating God from His word.
 - Establishing God's impotency: He can't do what He says.
 - Destroying headquarter's orders: His kids are lost.
 - b. The **direct attack** of concealing the objectives of the war from God's children.
 - Doctrinal reductionism designed to produce moral apostasy (unholiness) and governing apostasy (Jude 1:6).
 - c. This apostatizing strategy is designed to do the following:
 - Attack Christ's divinity and singular access to God.
 - Reduce God's Word to unbelief in His followers.
 - Conceal the significance of the 1st advent by distorting the purposes of the second advent.
 - Create dualistic, non earth-based Kingdom theology.
 - Disgrace God's people through correction and incompetency.

C. A quick sketch of the structures of the "army" forces:

- (God)
1. The Godhead
 2. Archangels, angels
 3. Redeemed humans (family members)

- (Satan)
4. Satan (II Cor. 4:4) the world system
 5. "Powers" (Eph. 6:12) deluding cultural ideology "officers"
 6. "Principalities" (Eph. 6:12) geo-political demonic "officers"
 7. Fallen humans running god-ordained government with rebellious ideology
 8. Lesser demons (lust, murder, accusation, etc.)

D. A quick sketch of the levels of the warfare man's "spiritual environment":
(to be covered in lesson 6)

LEVEL 3:	Individual lives	Personal redemption (evangelism)
LEVEL 2:	Ideology	Prophetic warfare over God-ordained institutions of government
LEVEL 1:	Spiritual beings	Taking authority over rebellious spirits

DIAGRAM ONE

- E. Summary observations from 30,000 feet:
1. God wins.
 2. The kids grow up and are presented to Father (I Cor. 15:28).
 3. **Satan loses because he can't help himself (scorpion and frog story).**
 - a. He has no wisdom (Prov. 1:7).
 - b. He can't let it rot in a "stalemate," by which he would win (I Cor. 2:8).
 4. **God's word to us: "Glorify me on earth."**

SESSION 2

The Rules of Combat, Part 1:
“Having a Winning Attitude”

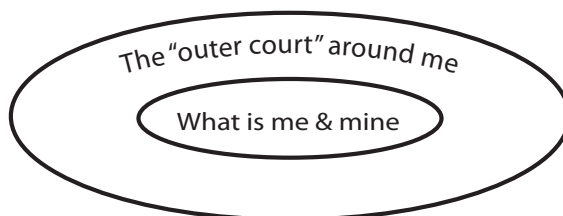
I. The supreme importance of our attitude:

- A. All battles are won or lost in the **attitudinal preparation** of our spirit, soul, and body.
 1. You cannot win a fight with a “losers expectation” (“*according to your faith so be it unto you.*” —Matt. 9:29); all expert fighters agree.
 2. You cannot win a fight if you believe you are “unworthy to sin.” Our worthiness is in Christ, not us, but our preparation and composure are very much a part of **our responsibility**.
- B. God has called his Ekklesia (those called out to rule) to war and offense on the earth (Matt. 16:18).
 1. We fight daily anyway, so why not attack? It is the church’s attack that forces the issues of the kingdom, faith, and honor.
 2. Jesus only identifies His church as an **offensive warrior** in his service (Matt. 16:18; Ps. 110:1-2), not the church of a particular doctrinal emphasis.

II. Solid attitudes must be built on solid reality:

- A. Reality is built on the Holy Spirit’s explanation of God’s Word.
 1. We have already seen the strategy of Satan from 30,000 feet.
 2. We must be convinced that we can win (some generation of believers will) if we play by God’s “rule-book” (The Bible) (Rom. 8:37-39) by faith-obedience to His **objective reality**. God is not obligated by His love for us to protect us from the consequences of disobedience of subjectivity.
- B. This is a real war with real material and spiritual bullets and there are real eternal casualties.
 1. This is a guerilla, street-fight Vietnam, not an “honorable” fight by Marques de Queenbury rules (no points for a “good show”).
 2. The battlefield looks like this:

DIAGRAM TWO



***Strategic fighting
determines where
you fight:
Hanoi or Saigon!***

III. Essential components of a victorious attitude:

- A. Non-negotiable points of victory are:
 1. I recognize that my destiny is found on the **battlefield** for me and mine, and on our part of the wall in Christ.
 2. This fight is personal because it’s family!
 3. (II Cor. 10:17-18) I am only authorized to fight on “land” assigned to me with people who are part of me (Beulah, Isa. 62:4; joints, Eph. 4:12-14, II Cor. 10:13-16).
 4. I understand that Satan and his overseer of me, know me better than I know myself and are convinced that I have my price and my point of battlefield vulnerability.

5. I will fight as wisely and resolutely as the devil, but with the spiritual integrity of God (Matt. 10:16 "harmless as a dove").
6. I have submitted myself to the training of the "Master-Warrior" (Read Ps. 18:30-42).
7. This is a real war, not a "Christian play-for-show" (I Cor. 13:11).
 - a. We want to win, not play.
 - b. We must not follow "hype," fads, or "anointed" novice leaders with no demonstrable strategy or resources to win.
 - c. When we go to war, we can be confident if:
 - We are going for the **right reasons** (love, not power or glory, ego, etc.).
 - We have the **right motives** (honoring Christ vs. personal advantage or privilege).
 - We have the **right strategy** (God-directed, planned, "proceeding word").
 - We are fighting the **right enemies** (spirits, ideologies, not people) (Eph. 6:12; II Cor. 10:3-5).

IV. Prebattle resolves:

- A. Here are "five smooth stones" (I Sam. 17:40) that will give you victory on your battlefields:
 1. "I believe in God's laws and know they work if followed."
 2. "I accept suffering as an essential part of my victory."
 3. "I will not quit and I will win." (Rom. 8:37) "more than conquerors."
 4. "The earth is ours in Christ, not Satan's or the world-system."
 5. "I commit myself to help train a wave of warriors behind me."

SESSION 3

The Rules of Combat, Part 2: “Establishing a Fear-Free Defense”

I. We must understand the general techniques of fighting and be able to use them all:

- A. Offensive action:
 1. To probe for weaknesses.
 2. To disable defenses.
 3. To destroy the enemy.
- B. Defensive action:
 1. Preparing for your attack (counter-attack): “defense” can be offense (the cross is a perfect example).
 2. Responding to an overpowering attack.
 3. Attacking your opponent’s offense as he comes in.

II. Building a “fear-free” defense is the first task of a fighter:

- A. Fear is negative faith and tends to bring to us what we are afraid of (Job 3:25). “That which I greatly feared has come unto me.”
 1. Fear is not of God for “perfect love casts out all fear” (Job 4:18) except fear of God.
 2. Fearful fighters almost always lose.
 3. **We must understand the difference between fear and “red alert” carefulness.**
- B. When building our defense to spiritual warfare, we must understand the three basic possibilities of evasive action.
 1. When to stand: (Eph. 4:16) “stand therefore.” “I have the power to destroy this attack in direct frontal power as I stand 'my ground.'”
 2. When to dodge: (Matt. 5:39) “resist not evil” “I will deflect this attack as I shift my ground.”
 3. When to retreat: (Ex. 13:17) “I must yield the ground now, but I’ll be back.”
- C. Solid spiritual defense is built on a solid set of stances (stand, dodge, retreat stances).
 1. Our revelation foundations in Christ:
 - a. I am able to stand on Him as a higher reality than anything else.
 - b. I know all things that come to me, go through His decisions first.
 - c. I know what God has already done for me - David’s bear, lion (building off history).
 2. Our relational foundations in Christ:
 - a. I know God has put me in Christ, because His Spirit directs my deepest motivations (Rom. 8:15-17) (Fighting for salvation).
 - b. I know though I fight as an individual, I am joined to an army abiding in your vine in Him (John 15) (Fighting for isolation).
 - c. **When we find covenantal relationships, we should hold onto them as life itself.**
 3. We must understand our **authority foundations** in Christ:

- a. We only have the authority to defend our “own bean-fields” (II Sam. 23:10-12).
- b. We cannot defend battles that are not ours (Ps. 15:3) “taking up offences.”

III. Building the components of a God-ordained defense:

- A. A stand-dodge-retreat defense embodies three major attributes:
 1. **Armor:** raw power to raw power (faith assessment of attack better be right!).
 2. **Mobility:** grace is given to us to change direction as well as for dealing with sin.
 3. **Blocking techniques:** movements that inflict pain as they deflect attacks.
- B. Our greatest defense is found in correctly assessing our design (the resources God gave us).
 1. My warfare gifts are in my strengths and weaknesses.
 2. **I can only fight in my own armor - David and Saul (I Sam. 17:38-39). What do you know?**
 3. **Take a personal inventory of assets to build on, weaknesses to compensate for.**
- C. We must ask God to show us the attacks that are possible and build defenses to them.
 1. “Lord, please open my ears and eyes to other people’s experiences.”
 2. We are usually hurt by patterns of attack we have never dealt with before.
- D. We must master “workable” techniques:
 1. **I am not Reese Howells!**
 2. What is a point-of-departure set of “basic” for me vs. raising the dead?
 3. What can I do **really well?** (No one can block it)
- E. We must clear our feet of all entanglements (Ps. 18:36).
 1. The first thing master-fighters do is, “find their feet” and the available ground.
 2. It is nearly impossible to fight when your feet are entangled.
 - a. Relational entanglements
 - b. Financial entanglements
 - c. Non-productive entanglements
 3. Start a “never again” list.
- F. We must learn to discern diversionary attacks (fakes):
 1. Diversionary attacks are designed to deceive you in to several actions:
 - a. Commit major resources to deal with what is unnecessary.
 - b. Divert you from the real coming attack.
 2. They are also designed to take you off your offensive strategy!
- G. Enemy attacks (pressure) always take us back to our **deepest responses**.
 1. Watch for your negative compulsive responses and change them (repent).
 2. Under pressure you will revert to **what you trust**. What is it?
 3. Under attack, shut down the negative “mental movies” and pull out the right ones you built practicing your defense!

SESSION 4

The Rules of Combat, Part 3: “Studying the Enemy’s Techniques”

I. Understanding the necessity of combat intelligence and reconnaissance:

- A. The purpose of spiritual warfare, from God’s perspective, is very redemptive **if we pay attention!**
1. Satan’s attacks on us show **us** our weakness (revealed sin).
 2. They show us **Satan’s view** of our weakness (protective strategy).
 3. They show us **God’s efforts** on our behalf (build faith).
 4. **They reveal patterns of Satan’s defense when we get near his “guns and rice” in our sphere of offensive war (develop strategies).**
- B. All successful warfare requires the careful evaluation of the enemies resources and the obstacles we must overcome:
1. Nehemiah went out at night to do his “recon.” (Neh. 2:12-13).
 2. As a result of his analysis, the men were:
 - a. Stationed where they were **most motivated** to fight (home) (Neh. 4:14).
 - b. Taught to accept a trowel (building) and sword (battling) as “normal.”
 - c. Given a warning sound of lookout men to rally for war (intelligence) so they could fully concentrate on building (Neh. 4:17,20).
- C. As wise warriors, we should strategically use warfare to:
1. Identify our **enemies** and observe their patterns for future warfare.
 2. Identify our **potential enemies** and plan how to isolate them.
 3. Identify those who are “**neutral**” and plan how to convert them.
 4. Identify our **allies** and deepen our relationships.
 5. Identify our **family** and seek how to strengthen and reward it.
 6. **In a time of warfare, our base-camp becomes a front-line target: (family, resources, etc.) What can we learn to better protect it from the information gathered in the last attack?**

II. Satan’s primary methodology of warfare is to draw us into his world using his own three greatest strengths (flaws in his character).

- A. **Weapon #1 - Deception:** (It isn’t where you think it is, it’s where you think it isn’t!)
1. The nature of deception is that we **don’t see** vs. **John 8:32**.
 2. Deception takes three primary forms: conceptual, spiritual, strategic.
 3. Deception turns “normal” issues and events into exaggerated and distorted “realities.”
 4. Vision is easily lost and we become pre-occupied with details and minutia.
 5. Dangerous attitudes, people, and situations slip into the camp unchecked.
- B. **Weapon #2 - Ignorance:**
1. The nature of ignorance is that we **don’t know**.

2. Ignorance leads us into the “tar-baby” (Vietnam).
3. Ignorance leads us into the presumption of over-estimating the load weights our relational bridges can carry **under fire**.
4. Ignorance leads us to violate God’s word and principles so that Satan can withdraw to other people and situations, leaving the laws of sowing and reaping to incapacitate us.
5. **Ignorance leads us to complicate the issues God has made simple (wisdom and understanding vs. knowledge) (Ps. 119:99). “ I have more understanding than my counselors.”**

C. Weapon #3 - Rebellion:

1. The nature of rebellion is, **I don’t care** what God says.
2. Rebellion leads us to over-estimate ourselves and our resources, and under-estimate our opponents or the difficulties of projected projects.
3. Rebellion leads us into overt sin and the **powerlessness of guilt under fire**.
4. Rebellion seeks for and misuses power.
 - a. It wants to obliterate the creature/creator distinctive established by God for our safety (Gen. 3).
 - b. It inverts power as power over vs. power to serve (Luke 22:25-26).
5. **Rebellion makes us easy enemy targets by:**
 - a. Wanting notoriety vs. the effectiveness of hidden action (Isa. 42:2).
 - b. Loosening our lips.
 - Foolish confessions which draw fire from God and man.
 - Revealed plans vs. keeping them in the general’s tent.

SESSION 5

“Offensive Warfare: Building on Your Strengths”

The goal of our warfare should be to build in such a way that the next generation will get to play on the enemy’s side of the playing field!

I. A summary overview of the spiritual rules of offensive warfare:

- A. Our “ability” is overwhelmingly based on the amount of our **preparation**:
 1. The harder-smarter I work, the “luckier” and “more anointed” I get!
 2. “Ability” requires discipline as a regular way of life (Luke 14:26-32). “You won’t be able” (four major areas of a disciple-warrior).
 3. **Training, properly evaluated, shows us our limitations and our limits help show us the perimeters of our battle lines and what to hide.**
- B. We must understand the law of occupation:
 1. If you take a territory you must have the resources to hold and occupy it (Deut. 7:22). “Lest the beasts multiply.”
 2. If you wake up a tiger, you must be able to control it (causes and people).
 3. **When Satan cannot stop you frontally, he pushes you from the rear into more “success” than you are equipped to handle God’s way!**
- C. When possible, we should:
 1. Only fight lions between us and Fathers front door (Judges 14). Samson vs. being drawn into other people’s fights.
 2. Seldom fight in uniform; it draws fire!
 3. Turn the enemy’s weapons on himself: Aikido/Judo, pulling his energy past into another obstacle.

II. In Christ, successful warfare comes out of corporiety:

- A. The New Testament journey is from an “I” to an “us” (I John 1).
 1. There is safety in counsel (Prov. 11:14).
 2. All strategic work and warfare is out of “joints” (Eph. 4:8-16).
 3. In corporiety we learn to both be blockers and use our blockers, covering our weaknesses and functioning in our strengths.
- B. In corporiety we become a team (war’s **demands**) (John 17:21) that can **win!** (Identifying gifts, callings, placement, strategy)
 1. Intercessors (power in the realm of Spirit beings).
 2. Prophets (power in the realm of strategy).
 3. Motivators (power in the realm of motivating people).
 4. Governors (power in the realm of order and harmony) (Isa. 9:7).
 5. Visionaries (power in the realm of gathering resources).
 6. Administrators (power in the realm of the execution of plans).

III. The strength of our resource-base determines the size and timing of most of our battles (the big four).

- A. The resource-base of our **theology**:
 - 1. Our **effective faith** is limited by our revelation of God's goals, laws, and Character.
 - 2. Faulty theology leads to errors and the "back-waters" of irrelevancy.
 - 3. An ignorance of our historical roots leads to arrogance, error, and division.
- B. The resource-base of our **correct historical action** (prophetic insight).
 - 1. All effective action is based on a proceeding word from God: "GO."
 - 2. The "rest of God" is found in properly riding His wave in our times (Jer. 6:16; Matt. 11:28-30; Rev. 22:17).
 - 3. A Holy God is judging sin, sifting eras, and preparing an opportunity for His people to glorify Christ on the earth (Heb. 12:26-28; John 17:21).
- C. The resource-base of our **strategy and resource capacities**:
 - 1. What do we have?
 - 2. What do we need for where we are going?
 - 3. How will we get it?
 - 4. How will we deploy it?
 - 5. How will we replenish it?
- D. The resource-base of our **relational capacities**:
 - 1. Are we growing as a spiritual family in character, size, and commitments to each other?
 - 2. Are we training leaders and the next generation of warrior rulers?
 - 3. How are we handling our casualties, our young, weak, and old?

SESSION 6

**“Fighting on Your Terms”
(Choosing Our Fights)**

I. A final look at the issues of offensive strategy: In fighting, we must seek to clearly wage the war effectively on all three levels of the battle, and train and assign our troops accordingly:

A REVIEW OF DIAGRAM ONE FROM TEACHING ONE:

WARFARE ISSUES	FACTS OF THE GOSPEL	
Train Individuals to war (LEVEL 1)	Individual lives	Personal redemption (evangelism)
Train the people to recognize and attack false ideology (II Cor. 10:35). (LEVEL 2)	Ideology	Prophetic warfare over God-ordained institutions
Train individuals and the body to exercise their holiness and authority within their spheres. (LEVEL 3)	Spiritual beings	Taking authority over rebellious spirits

II. Further general issues of offensive warfare:

- A. We must deal with priority targets and damage assessments:
1. Ask God to reveal His priorities (Isa. 40:8).
 2. Factor in the possibility of betrayal.
 - a. Jesus and Judas
 - b. Paul (II Tim. 1:15)
 - c. John (III John 1:10)
 3. We must carefully examine “hits” and worst-case scenarios:
 - a. Can your family members survive failure, pressure, or hits?
 - b. What scenarios could blow you out of the water?
 - c. Is your “ship” built with any compartments to handle “hits?”
 4. Avoid “destructive derbies” where nobody wins!
 5. If a “show-down” isn’t called for, leave a damaged enemy a way for escape lest he become cornered and **substantially more dangerous!**
- B. Factor in the “wild card” of the Holy Spirit’s unique methods of warfare:
1. Bringing war and confusion into the enemy’s camp (II Chron. 32:21).
 2. Pounding the enemy with praise and worship (Ps. 149).
 3. Binding the enemy with declarative prayer and imprecatory damage (Matt. 16:17-19; Ps. 149).

III. We must discern the critical issues of timing in warfare:

A. Knowing when to attack:

- (seeing) 1. We must learn to watch for God’s hand.
- (smelling) 2. We must discern the enemies weakness or **attention lapses** and capitalize upon them.

- a. "Smelling" and seizing the **momentum** of a battle is nearly everything (Example: Joab and the arrows. II King 13:14-20).
- (hearing) 3. We must wait to hear a "certain sound" in the camp (I Cor. 9:26).
 - a. In war, "running into battle" must be tempered.
 - b. Anger must be directed and controlled.
 - c. Fearlessness must be measured by the possibility of death.
- B. Using an ultimate weapon in the time of ultimate trial: the weapons of humility (II Chron. 20:15) "battle is not yours, but the Lord's."
 1. God calls his people to humility as the clothing of war (II Chron. 7:14).
 2. God resists the proud, but exalts the humble (I Peter 5:5).
 3. God clothes us in His power when we repent, seek restoration, and restitution.
 4. **Our of humility comes right standing with God and out of right standing comes faith; out of faith comes victory!**
 5. **The bottom line: Exodus 33:15; "if you aren't going to battle with us, I'll pass!"**

SESSION 7

"Handling Conflict in our Own Camp"

I. We must understand the problem and attributes of "friendly fire."

- A. The nature of the problem: getting "shot" by "helping brothers."
1. In the Gulf War, the greatest casualty inflicted to the allies was fire from our own troops!
 2. Division and self-inflicted wounds delight Satan because more than anything else, they disqualify the church (John 17:21).
- B. Major attributes causing "friendly fire" are:
1. Communication problems (the "garble" demon) attacking the communication orders:
 - a. Half-truths and incomplete orders.
 - b. Believing and passing on stereotypic stories of men and doctrines (putting people in boxes).
 - c. Line communication coming through offended brethren or those with critical spirits (cleanse quickly or remove from the authority line).
 - d. Satan getting access to leaders' mouths (Matt. 16:22-23) and using human desires for self-interest to speak Satan's plans.
 2. Intentional "fragging" from:
 - a. Religious-spirited leaders (John 11:48) (vested interests).
 - b. Pridefully insecure brethren who live in "crabology" (no one will get ahead of me) and damage-joy ("Praise God you judged that brother").
 - c. "Reasonable" brethren who carry the world system's perspective:
 - A pacifistic spirit of "peace" and accommodation.
 - A subtle commitment to egalitarianism: "Moses is just a brother." (Num. 12)
 - Guilt-ridden secret sin in religious brethren who must attack others.
 - Those carrying a deep concern for the world-systems "reasonable" approval vs. "im-balanced fanaticism of Christians."
 - Those whose faith levels are based more on what Christ will do at His second coming than what He **already did** at His first!

II. Suggestions on how to deal wisely with "friendly fire":

- A. Live in and require "living in the light" from those you are building with.
1. Sin grows in the dark, fellowship grows in the light (I John 1:7).
 2. It is the hidden things that usually blow leaders out of the water.
- B. Tips for healthy camps and campers:
1. Apply proper New Testament government to disputes (Matt. 18:15-20, Ga. 6:1-5).
 2. Resist egalitarianism and accept the anointing that goes with the perspective of spiritual authority.
 3. Calibrate your concerns and express them in a measured manner (Ex: on a scale of 1-20, I feel...).
 4. Remember God wants to crucify our flesh, not our humanity (soul). He **is** the saviour of our soul vs. "living only in the Spirit."

5. Don't waste time debating with those who have critical spirits (Neh. 6:1-4).
6. Never answer questions no one is asking.
7. The General's plans should stay in the General's tent until **he** chooses to bring them out.
8. You can't defend your leaders and represent Him at the same time.

SESSION 8

**“Understanding Bar-Room Brawl Theology:
Will You Still Be Standing in 2020?”****I. Definitions and Explanations:**

- A. Rule #1: The winner in a bar-room brawl is the one left standing.
 - 1. The object is to survive.
 - 2. Only the losers tend to “fight fair!”
- B. Rule #2: To fulfill the object of rule #1 you must choose your “drinking partners” very carefully.
 - 1. In a “safe bar” you can drink with anyone; where the action is, not so.
 - 2. Christian leaders who “survive at sea” (vs. beaching the boat and playing sailor) choose their officers by “street-smart,” not “in faith.” The Holy Spirit is a realist as well as a futurist!
 - 3. Street-smart rules:
 - a. Love is free, trust is earned.
 - b. No scars, no battle experience; too many scars, a dumb fighter.
 - c. Those confessing they’ll be “with you to the end,” usually aren’t.
 - d. Underdisciplined men can’t fight in championship bouts.
 - e. “Tough guys” are loners; leave them alone.
 - f. Hirelings run to better offers.

Tips for Leaders Who Want to Stand When the Smoke Clears

1. If necessary, be prepared to cut off your hand to save your body (Matt. 18:8-9).
2. Reject both idealism and cynicism; both are loser's attitudes.
3. The fear of the Lord (wisdom) is our ultimate weapon.
4. Expect to live in less than ideal situations.
5. Things will only get better if God shows you how to make them better.
6. Cultivate joy through praise and regular worship.
7. Focus on your responsibility (and teach others to do so), not your "rights" (Luke 17:10) (unprofitable servants)
8. Focus on "seasons" and years for an accurate perspective, not days or single projects.
9. Never let sand make "pearls" in your spirit; deal with resolvable problems.
10. Cultivate the art of "unstringing your bow":
 - a. Take off your armor whenever possible.
 - b. Ask God to cleanse you of "the smell of smoke" at home (Dan. 3:27).

“What I Believe the Bible Teaches about Spiritual Authority; Assumptions and the Godhead”

I. Operating presuppositions: (God-centered vs. man-centeredness)

- A. While we are born/adopted/elected into God’s family relationally, the context the family operates in –God’s Kingdom– begins with submission to His authority. (**Obedience**) (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24; Eph. 3:14; I Cor. 16:15-16; I Tim. 5:17; Rom. 12:8; Matt. 12:21; II Thes. 3:14)
- B. God has held all His innate power to Himself, but is dispersing His power/authority to His delegates gradually as they prove able to handle it without being damaged by it. His power-sharing does not leave Him with less power since God’s power is infinite (**Power-sharing**) (Eph. 4:8-16; Matt. 8:5-10, 28:18-20; Rev. 2:26; I Cor. 2:4-5, 5:4-5).
- C. God’s dispersal of power and authority, as well as His gifts, undergirds His whole genius system of creating community out of the glue of mutual human need. (**Mutual need**) (I Cor. 12, 10:17; Eph. 4:4-13, 5:21; Rom. 12:4-8)
- D. Since God, Father/Son/Holy Spirit (the Trinity) is our model in all things and to be obeyed/emulated/studied (theology), the pattern man lives by in terms of spiritual authority must either mirror God’s, or stand in man’s own image. (**Discipleship**) (I Cor. 11:1-3; Luke 14:26-33, 22:24-27; Phil. 2:10; John 5:19-21, 34, 6:38, 8:28)
- E. Authority (hierarchy) is the ultimate issue in terms of how families or organizations of any kind decide who does what (division of labor) and how and what they do. (**Ontological vs. Economic Authority**) (Eph. 5:22-24, 6:1-4, 5-9; Co. 3:18 - 4:1; Rom. 13:1-7; I Pet. 2:13-19, 3:1-2; I Tim. 2:11-15, 3:5, 12)

II. Since God is our Father, pattern, and model, let us therefore examine how our earthly authority should function based on how God’s authority functions within Himself.

- A. All theological issues flow out of God Himself as we have already seen.
1. His children are to inherit His heart, His ways, and His goals.
 2. God is within Himself a community and embodies the principle of “the one” (unity; Deut. 6:4) and “the many” (individuality). (I Cor. 12:27, 10:17; Rom. 12:4-8; Eph. 1:22-23, 2:16)
- B. Ray Sutton has written a God-inspired book entitled, *That You May Prosper*, and in it he has identified a pattern in God that we find incredibly helpful; we will apply it now as we examine God and His authority structures:
1. **Principle #1 — Transcendence (Equal value):**
 - a. Each member of the Godhead is very God-of-very-God and ontologically “equal,” being the ultimate transcending force of all existence. (John 10:30, 14:6, 7, 9-11; Matt. 11:27)
 2. **Principle #2 — Hierarchy (Unequal authority):**
 - a. Within the Godhead there is “economic subordinationism” - unequal levels of operating authority. (I Cor. 11:1-3; John 5:19-21, 34, 6:38, 8:28, 12:49, 50, 14:26-28, 15:26)
 - b. There is division of labor (John 3:5-8, 16; Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 10:5-7; Acts 1:8)
 - c. There is a submission of Spirit (Phil. 2:1-12; John 17; I Cor. 15:24-28; Matt. 26:39-42)
 - d. There is modeling for man’s sake (authenticity) (“Do as we do, not just do as we say.”) (John 1:43-46)
 3. **Principle #3 — Ethics (Equal responsibility under the Word):**

- a. God’s word is the absolute standard by which we are to think, act, and live.
- b. All of us are equally subject to its standards and sanctions. (Matt. 4:4; Num. 15:16-29; Rom. 2:11-16; Deut. 16:18-20)

4. Principle #4 — Sanctions (*Rewards and Penalties*):

- a. God’s principles (laws, commandments) are self-regulating, that is, obedience to them brings reward and blessing and disobedience brings penalty and spelled-out negative consequences. (Deut. 28; Lev. 26; I Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 6:6-9; I John 2:3-5)

5. Principle #5 — Continuity (*Generational transfer*):

- a. God is concerned with the passing on of blessings and vision from one generation to the next and expects authority figures to actively support that concern. (Deut. 8; Mal 4:4-6; Ex. 20:5-6; Ps. 105:8, 103:17; Ezek. 37:24-25)

III. Let us now further examine some of the issues involved in spiritual government, authority, and gifts pertaining to New Testament government in the local church and in the “apostolic” or “extra-local” ministries of Ephesians 4:8-16.

A. The following chart should prove helpful in our study:

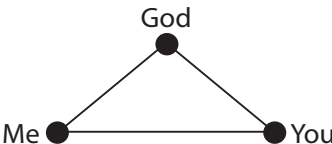
CHURCH GOVERNMENT & APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY	PRINCIPLE/CONCEPT	MAJOR SCRIPTURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of New Testament church government: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scripture shows a presiding Executive functioning in council with appointed and confirmed co-leaders. 	The Godhead scriptures: I Cor. 11:1-3; Acts 15:12-21; I Cor. 15:28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eldership (family fathers with shepherds’ hearts) • Set in place by apostolic admonition regarding the governing of local church bodies. • New Testament Apostles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The twelve plus Mathias. – Paul and his co-workers. – NT scholars note 22-27 Apostles either cited or implied. • Apostles were chosen by Christ directly (the twelve and Paul); chosen by other Apostles (Mathias); recognized by teachers and prophets (Acts 13:1-3); recognized by engiftment (Eph. 4:8-16). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The church is built upon the earthly authority of Apostles and Prophets. 	Eph. 2:20; eph. 4:10-12; I Cor. 12:28; I Cor. 11:28
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Elders are recognized by character and engiftment, and appointed by apostolic authority. 	I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Ordained by apostolic authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Jerusalem Apostles – Paul’s various apostolic companies. 	Acts 13:1-3; All Paul’s exhortations to the Elders of the churches of his Epistles.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. (a) The Apostles themselves are accountable to the scriptures. 	(a) II Tim. 3:14-17
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (b) And to each other. 	(b) Acts 15; Gal. 1:11–2:14
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (c) Apostolic counsel is given to Elders: Paul’s Epistles to the churches related to his care. 	(c) All Paul’s Epistles; Peter; John’s.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Apostolic authority is accountable to the scriptures and other apostolic authority, and works through Elders in churches directly recognizing those Apostles’ jurisdictional and fatherly calling to them. 	Rev. 2:2; I Cor. 4:15-17; II Cor. 10:10-18	

DISCIPLESHIP & THE DIVINE CHAIN	PRINCIPLE/CONCEPT	MAJOR SCRIPTURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Testament's general teaching on sanctification and discipleship. "Christian" is used three times in the New Testament; "disciple(s)" over 250 times. Here is Father's "divine chain": <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 10px;"> The Holy Spirit and God's Word </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> Father ↓ Son ↓ Apostles ↓ New converts who became disciples and church fathers/leaders ↓ The New Testament Church </div>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus Himself modeled submission, discipleship, and sanctification for us as the Father's direct human disciple. Jesus, following His Father's methodology, chose His disciples and helped form them. The Holy Spirit then teaches and enables Christ's disciples. Christ commissioned His disciples to follow His and Father's model. Paul followed Christ's discipling model, both fathering and discipling. 	Phil. 2:1-12; Heb. 5:8; John 5:19-30; John 17 Mark 2:12-19; John 15; Luke 14:25-35; Matt. 13:10-50 John 15:26-27; John 16:7-15; Matt. 28:15-20 I Cor. 4:14-17; Phil. 2:19; I Cor. 11:1
EVANGELISM	PRINCIPLE/CONCEPT	MAJOR SCRIPTURES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Testament's general teaching on "evangelism" and the relationship between man's witness and God's election. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All believers are to share their faith and testimony. Believers are chosen by God (elected) to be adopted into His family, set in His church, and transferred into His Kingdom. 	John 1:13; Rom. 8:29; I Pet. 1:2,18; Co. 1:12

B. The following diagrams may help us look at the implications of these truths in the church on the "human plane":

DIAGRAM ONE: THE TRIANGLE OF OUR BEING

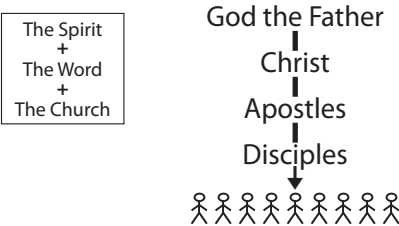
(Ontological Equality)



Philippians 2:1-12
 1. Respect
 2. Care
 3. Humility/Service

DIAGRAM TWO: THE DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS OF MULTIPLICATION

(Economic Hierarchy and Generational Transfer)



Matthew 28:18-20
 I Corinthians 11:1-3
 I Corinthians 4:15-17

DIAGRAM THREE: THE EKKLESIA

The Spirit
 The Word
 Human Delegated Authority



Matthew 16:19