

Bibles & Bows
and
Women's
Bible
Study



**Join us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship
as we kick off the new year!**

This is the 1st day of BOOT CAMP!

This devotion is not doom and gloom – rather an uplifting, victorious message of hope!

We ARE in a battle. A battle with a long history.
But it's one in which the victor has already been determined.
A battle, yes, but not a losing battle!

God has won the victory!

I believe in this victory with all my heart.
So, you ask why should we enlist to fight?

Because, there are still battles raging.

Still souls to be won! And I want to be a soldier that God can count on to do my part!

This book is not meant to be a pretty read!
Think of it instead as an industrial-grade survival guide.

We can't just go barreling into the fight blindly.
We can't just throw something up against the wall and hope it sticks!
We need a plan! A strategy for battle.

And we are fighting an enemy who has been strategizing and scheming against you, assaulting
you, coming after your emotions, your mind,
your spouse, your children, your future!

I will not risk open war!

Open war is upon you, whether you would risk it or not!

“We are coming after your children!”

I will fight to the end for what I believe in . . .

Then, if it's a battle you want, devil -
well, it's a battle your gonna have!

So, let's enlist and let's get prepared!

Over the next year we are going to be looking at
10 strategies for fervent war-time prayers.

James 5:16 states . . . the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much!

Fervent (also the title of our book) is defined as
having or displaying a passionate intensity.

In pledging to be a soldier in God's army –

1st – be thankful that He counted you worthy enough to serve in His army. What a privilege!

2nd – requires nothing less than 100% total commitment.

The problem with churches today, we have a lot of people who want the association but not the commitment. Anything less than a total commitment and you might as well be joining a country club somewhere.

Association without commitment is just a social gathering.

So, the first thing tonight I'm going to ask is your life totally committed to God and His plan for your life? If not, that is the first hurdle you must address this year.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you. Is HE first?

In joining any army you commit 100% your total self under the command of your leader – period. You totally give up self for the greater cause.

It is a signing on the dotted line - **total commitment** to fight in the Lord's army against the greatest evil every encountered. This is serious warfare.

We are falling in rank with some of the best soldiers on this earth and under the command of the greatest commander ever.

How do we start – Know the enemy.

Our enemy? Not flesh and blood, no human foe - we fight against a much more fearsome opponent. Our adversary, satan the devil, and his host of demons have a single, driving purpose: Obliterate the children of God.

His weapons – are lies and deceit.

Remember – satan is not God! He is NOT God's counterpart or peer! He has limitations and boundaries.

He can't be everywhere at one only God is omnipresent. He can't read your mind only God is omniscient. He cannot work miracles – only God can. And the greatest limitation on satan is he is running out of time.

We do NOT pray from a position of fear or weakness against him – quite the opposite! We pray through the Father with power and authority over satan.

Our atomic bomb is prayer! Prayer is the portal that brings the power of heaven down to earth. It is kryptonite to the enemy and to all his ploys against us.

Paul has the answer. In Ephesians 6:13, he gives the call to arms. By putting on all of God's armor. **This armor is the only protection that can be assured of withstanding our enemy's onslaughts.**

The armor of God is an amazing metaphor for action we need to take in our spiritual lives - TODAY. Paul sets the scene for us: We are fighting a war, and the stakes are higher than they have ever been in human history.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand, stand!

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. 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.” Eph. 6:10-18

What does it mean to “put on” this armor? Note that we don’t manufacture any of it—**it’s all from God.** Putting it on, then, involves making choices, forming habits, and cultivating virtues.

Paul wrote the **armor of God** passage not to stir up fear, but to encourage believers. Because of God's total provision for us, we can stop feeling vulnerable to the enemy and start feeling equipped to contend with him. Each piece of armor has a distinct purpose and means of defense against **temptation** and evil.

Suiting Up In God's Armor



Belt of Truth

One of the devil's favorite weapons is lies. This belt immediately sets the believer apart from the world, since Satan is the "father of lies". The belt is the first piece of equipment we put on, holding all the other pieces in place. The belt is also the least conspicuous piece of armor, yet, the sword and shield, both hang from it.

Breastplate of Righteousness

A breastplate shielded a warrior's vital organs from blows that would otherwise be fatal. This righteousness is not works of righteousness done by men. Rather, this is the righteousness of Christ, to protect our heart.

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

The enemy places dangerous obstacle in the path of advancing soldiers. The idea of the preparation of the gospel of peace is that we need to advance into satan's territory, aware that there will be traps. The message of grace is essential to winning souls to Christ, and we must be prepared with the gospel. Satan has many obstacles placed in the path to halt the gospel. Peace is a powerful weapon. If we make peace with God, it can become a witness to others

Shield of Faith

When we bear the shield of faith, satan can cast all the doubt, and dismay he wants, but they will be ineffective. Our faith - of which Christ is "the author and perfecter"- is like a shield, solid and substantial.

Helmet of Salvation

The helmet provided protection from all angles, front, top, side and back... your salvation covers all angles of attack, with the mind as the primary battlefield.

Sword of the Spirit

The sword of the Spirit represents the Word of God. Jesus Himself used Scripture to resist when tempted by the devil (Matt. 4:1-11). We, too, should use God's Word as the "sword of the Spirit," an effective strategy in our fight against temptation.

The WORD of GOD is the most powerful weapon you have against Satan

Fighting in the Lord's army against the greatest evil every encountered is Serious warfare! It is a signing on the dotted line - **total commitment!**

With endurance, God's guidance and support, help from each other – a year from now we will be a regiment that God will acknowledge and be proud of . . . and one that satan will tell his devils – watch out, they're on the battlefield!

PPraise: Thanksgiving is one of the most important aspects of prayer. It's not just a means of warming-up (or butter-up). It's not just a means of preamble before getting down to what we really come to say. Gratitude to God for who He is and what He's already done should thread throughout every prayer because ultimately His name and His fame are the only reasons any of this matters.

RRepentance: God's real desired, in addition to displaying His glory, is to claim your heart and the hearts of those you love. Expect prayer to expose where you're still resisting Him – not only resisting His commands but resisting the manifold blessing and benefits He gives to those who follow. Line your strategies with repentance: the courage to trust, and turn, and walk His way.

AAsking: Make your requests known. Be personal and specific. Write down details of your own issues and difficulties as they relate to the broader issue *You're not begging: you've been invited to ask, seek, and knock*. God's expecting you. He's wanting you here. The best place to look is to Him.

YYes: "All of God's promises," the Bible says "have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding, 'Yes!'" So allow your prayer to be accentuated with His own words from Scripture, His promises to you that correspond to your need. There is nothing more powerful than praying God's own word.

Prayer
Releases
All
Your
Eternal
Resources

Bootcamp Photos:

