

BATTLEFIELD SURVIVAL MANUAL

DISCERNING AND WITHSTANDING SPIRITUAL ATTACK

**The God of peace will soon crush Satan
under your feet.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be
with you.**

Romans 16:20

Battlefield Survival Manual

Discerning and withstanding spiritual attack

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Introduction

Christians often forget that the World is a battlefield, where Satan, the Enemy is always active. Then suddenly they realise that the collection of adverse events, problems and upsets happening in their lives are more than just random coincidences but they are actually under attack.

This is a bit like being out in open countryside admiring the view when you realise that those little zipping sounds near your ear are bullets being fired in your direction, and you are a target.

This manual is based on the experience of Christians who have served the Lord for decades, and wish to share what they have learnt over the years.

The aim of this manual is to supply some basic training and ammunition to enable you to adopt a good defence. You have to survive the battlefield in order to share in the victory that the Lord will bring!

Jesus showed us how to resist the Enemy, whose methods of attack have remained unchanged from the beginning.

The manual supplies many scriptural references. From these we recommend you select some as memory verses which you are encouraged to learn, and which will assist your defence when the time of battle comes.

Then there is a set of prayers and scriptures for contemplation and reassurance.

Signs of being under attack

Are you under attack? What are the signs? Our experiences include confusion, obstructions, and doubts:

Confusion:

- Not being able to think clearly.
- People don't seem to hear what you said.
- People believe you said something totally different to what you have said.
- Unexpected instructions from someone.
- Unusual occurrences.
- Under attack from unexpected quarters.

Obstructions:

- A sudden seeking by someone for power or control.
- Persecution.
- End to a peaceful relationship.
- Someone we are dealing with losing temper, showing rage.
- Someone suddenly acting out of character or becoming a different person.
- Block to progress.

Doubts:

- Self-doubt.
- Undermining of your confidence.
- Lack of peace.
- False accusations.
- Mockers.
- Disbelief of the Word of God.

What the scriptures say:

Confusion:

Confusion is a common condition on the battlefield. The soldier often does not know what is happening even a short distance away, and has to learn to rely on his training and discipline. We often find ourselves in a state of confusion, which is the result of the enemy's attack on us through misusing or corrupting the Word of God. We need to know that Truth rests in God.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me". *John 14:6*

Confusion in the Bible includes being put to shame, disorder, instability. The scriptures teach us that confusion does not come from God, but is the result of sin in those around us or in ourselves:

So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **sin lies at the door**. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it." *Genesis 4:6-7*

For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, **confusion** and every evil thing *are* there. *James 3:16*.

We lie down in our shame, and our **confusion** covers us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not hearkened unto the voice of the LORD our God. *Jeremiah 3:25*.

For God is not *the author* of **confusion** but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. *1 Corinthians 14:33*.

Obstructions and Doubts

Obstructions and Doubts also cause confusion. The scriptures teach that such obstructions are also the work of the Enemy:

For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—**but Satan blocked our way.** *1 Thessalonians 2:18.*

Again, faith in Jesus is the solution to obstructions and doubts:

And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you **doubt?**”
Matthew 14:31.

Co-ordinated personal attacks (lies, character)

With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbour, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered. *Proverbs 11:9.*

Whoever belittles his neighbour lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. *Proverbs 11:12.*

And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. *James 3:6*

If you are being slandered because of your faith in Christ you have no need to worry:

Having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame.
1 Peter 3:16.

The Ancient Techniques of the Enemy

The Enemy is consistent in his attack, which is known as Temptation or Testing. Temptation nowadays implies being enticed by something desirable, but it is basically about causing you to doubt the truth of God (see the story of Job). This began in the Garden of Eden with a 3-stage approach.

1. A focus on bodily drives (including hunger, greed, sex)
2. Confusion about the word of God: “did God really say?”
3. An appeal to the imagination, offering prestige and power.

First focus: Desirable food

Genesis 3:1-6 ¹. Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’”

Second focus: corrupting the Word of God

² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

Third focus: prestige and power (pride)

⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* [a]pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

The Enemy's attack on Jesus, the second Adam, recounted in Matthew 4:1-10 followed the same pattern:

Food: Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

Word of God; ⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " ⁷ Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' "

Prestige and Power: ⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Jesus shows that we can resist all temptations with the Word of God

We must expect to be tested (tempted)

For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the **tempter** had **tempted** you, and our labour might be in vain. *1 Thessalonians 3:5.*

But each one is **tempted** when he is drawn away by his own desires and **enticed**. *James 1:14*

Jesus himself gives us scripture for protection from temptation:

And do not lead us into **temptation**, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. *Matthew 6:13.*

Also:

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*. *1 Corinthians 10:13.*

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. *Hebrews 4:15.*

The Enemy will try to make you afraid

For the thing which I greatly **feared** has happened to me, and that which I dreaded has come to me. *Job 3:25.*

Men's hearts failing them from **fear** and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. *Luke 21:26.*

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. *2 Timothy 3:1.*

When afraid, we should turn to the Lord:

I sought the LORD, and He heard me, **And delivered me from all my fears.** *Psalm 34:4.*

But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! **It is I; do not be afraid.**” *Matthew 14:27.*

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.** *John 14:27.*

Our confidence is that the Lord is with us:

And the LORD, He *is* the One who goes before you. He will be with you, **He will not leave you nor forsake you;** do not fear nor be dismayed. *Deuteronomy 31:8*

Whose side are we on?

If we are serving Jesus, we are on His side.

...and lo, **I am with you always**, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen.
Matthew 28:20b

Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the LORD’s, and He will give you into our hands. *1 Samuel 17:47.*

And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle *is* not yours, but God’s.
2 Chronicles 20:15.

O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation,
You have covered my head in the day of battle. *Psalms 140:7*

We will experience the challenge and ferocity of warfare, but our safety is in Jesus:

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” *John 16:33*

The warfare driven by the Enemy has never ceased since the first battle in the Garden of Eden. God demonstrated His victory on the cross and with the resurrection of Jesus.

But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:57.*

Basic Drill

In 1858 George Duffield was inspired to write the hymn “Stand up, Stand up for Jesus” following the tragic death that year of a young evangelist named Dudley Tyng in a farming accident at the age of 33. Tyng had preached to tens of thousands, and led thousands of people to Christ. He is believed to have said “Stand up for Jesus” either in his final sermon or on his deathbed. In verse 4 Duffield states clearly what the Christian should do:

Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own.
**Put on the gospel armour,
each piece put on with prayer;**
where duty calls or danger,
be never wanting there.

Equipping ourselves with ‘the gospel armour’ is our basic drill, and comes from Ephesians 6, where we are told that our fight is defensive rather than aggressive -we must be equipped and ready ‘to stand’:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ **Put on the whole armour of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, **and having done all, to stand.** *Ephesians 6:10-13*

We have to keep reminding ourselves that our ultimate enemies are not people, but the powers of the Enemy. He will, of course, use people as his tools, but every one of those is beloved of God, even if they are actively serving the Enemy:

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.*

Christ died even for those people who are actively attacking you and using all the lies and tricks of the Enemy while they do it! This is why all we need to do is stand firm for Jesus. The armour described in Ephesians 6 is all defensive: offensive weapons used by Roman soldiers such as lances, spears, bows and arrows or slingshots are not mentioned.

Many of us have found that “praying on the armour” each day during times of battle has brought peace and strength to us:

¹⁴ **Stand therefore**, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; *Ephesians 6:14-17*

Know the Equipment!

- **The Girdle of Truth** – fixes all your defences and holds them together.
- **The Breastplate of Righteousness** – covers your heart, your life's blood. Your righteousness is Jesus.
- **The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace** – protect you as you walk forward carrying peace. You bring peace, not destruction. The nail-studded soles stop you being pushed backwards!
- **The Shield of Faith** – saves you from being pierced by the Enemy, who wants to burn with guilt and shame.
- **The Helmet of Salvation** – the knowledge of your salvation, which like a helmet protects all your main senses (sight, hearing, taste, smell) and also your voice which can declare Jesus is Lord.
- **The Sword of the Spirit** – for hand-to-hand defensive combat, you need the Word of God.

General Principles and Practice

Here are a few general principles we have found helpful in times of battle:

- Lay the matter openly before God
- Have the assurance of being able to speak against it
- Pray for protection of the blood of Jesus - something we can do practically every day
- The need for discipline including Bible study and prayer
- The need to manage our own minds, aligning our thoughts to the word of God
- Remember the battle belongs to the Lord. We recognise that we are weak
- Recognising that we died with Christ and are a new creation
- Recognise Satan will try and remind you of your weakness.
- Conforming to the image of Christ
- Keep continual learning process through life
- We need to confess our sins. If we confess our sins he will forgive us and cleanse us from all our unrighteousness.
- Remember God has justified us
- Be led by the Holy Spirit as a child of God

Personal prayers found to be effective

Heavenly Father: Thank you - This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it (*see Psalm 118:24*). List things I am thankful for on this day, sorry for my sins.

I declare and believe the Lord God created heaven and the earth, he sent his son Jesus, who died and rose again, and defeated death and the devil forever. Nothing the devil can do can separate us from the love of God and our place in heaven and God's plan.

I ask for protection with the blood of Jesus around me and my family. May the Fire of the love of Christ be around my home and family and may His glory be within!

May my home and the homes of my children be enveloped in your precious blood Lord Jesus and be anointed with divine protection.

No accusation can withstand the power of the cross so "I declare by faith that no weapon formed against me shall prosper" (*Isa 54:17*) then I walk free from condemnation into the righteous identity Christ purchased for me!

Lord give me **wisdom, patience and understanding.**

I affirm and declare my trust in Jesus.

The Prayer of Jabez:

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would **bless me** indeed, and **enlarge** my territory, that Your **hand** would **be with me**, and that You would **keep me from evil**, that I may **not cause pain!**" So God granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10.

Verses from the battlefield

The LORD will fight for you; **you need only to be still.**

Exodus 14:14

I lie down and sleep and rise again, because **the Lord sustains me. I will not be afraid** of hordes of the peoples that have set themselves against me all around. *Psalm 3:5-6.*

Keep me safe, my God, for **in you I take refuge.** *Psalm 16:1.*

And **call on me in the day of trouble;** I will deliver you, and you will honour me.' *Psalm 50:15.*

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in people. *Psalm 118:8.*

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you** and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish ..." *Isaiah 41:10.*

When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you;** and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. *Isaiah 43:2.*

Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. **I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.** *Isaiah 46:4.*

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. *Jeremiah 29:13.*

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.** *Micah: 6:8.*

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm.** Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because **you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.** *1 Corinthians 15:58.*

Cast all your anxiety on him **because he cares for you.** *1 Peter 5:7.*

Powerful passages

Jesus himself prayed for our protection

John 17: 15-19

¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but **that You should keep them from the evil one.** ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Paul teaches us we should live peaceably, rejoicing and in prayer

1 Thessalonians 5: 12-22

¹² And we urge you, brethren, to recognise those who labour among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. **Be at peace among yourselves.** ¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, **be patient with all.** ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but **always pursue what is good** both for yourselves and for all.

¹⁶ **Rejoice always,** ¹⁷ **pray without ceasing,** ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; **hold fast what is good.**

²² Abstain from every form of evil.

Psalm 91

(This psalm can be prayed as a personal prayer, by changing "you" "your" to "me" and "my").

¹ He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD, "*He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.*"

³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence.

⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers, *And* under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.

⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *Nor* of the arrow *that flies* by day,

⁶ *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *Nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, *And* ten thousand at your right hand; *But* it shall not come near you.

⁸ Only with your eyes shall you look, *And* see the reward of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place,

¹⁰ No evil shall befall you, *Nor* shall any plague come near your dwelling;

¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

¹² In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

¹⁴ Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.

Psalm 37

¹ Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.

³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

⁴ Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring *it* to pass.

⁶ He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

⁷ Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

⁸ Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—*it only causes* harm.

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.

¹⁰ For yet a little while and the wicked *shall be no more*; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it *shall be no more*.

11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

12 The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth.

13 The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.

14 The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay those who are of upright conduct.

15 Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken.

16 A little that a righteous man has *is* better than the riches of many wicked.

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, But the LORD upholds the righteous.

18 The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever.

19 They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

20 But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendour of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.

21 The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives.

22 For *those* blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, But *those* cursed by Him shall be cut off.

23 The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds *him with* His hand.

25 I have been young, and *now* am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

26 *He* is ever merciful, and lends; And his descendants *are* blessed.

27 Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell forevermore.

28 For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His saints; They are preserved forever, But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.

29 The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever.

30 The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, And his tongue talks of justice.

31 The law of his God *is* in his heart; None of his steps shall slide.

32 The wicked watches the righteous, And seeks to slay him.

33 The LORD will not leave him in his hand, Nor condemn him when he is judged.

34 Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see *it*.

35 I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a native green tree.

36 Yet he passed away, and behold, he *was* no *more*; Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.

37 Mark the blameless *man*, and observe the upright; For the future of *that* man *is* peace.

38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off.

39 But the salvation of the righteous *is* from the LORD; *He* is their strength in the time of trouble.

40 And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, And save them, Because they trust in Him.

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