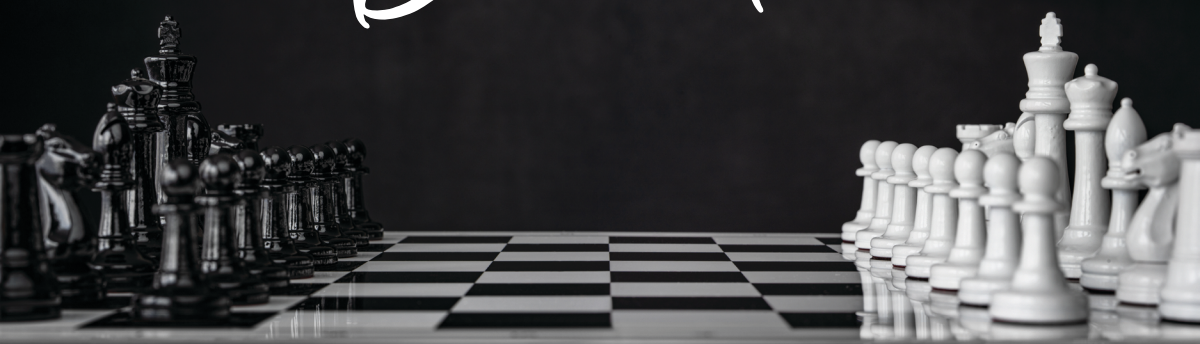




INVISIBLE *Battle*



DAILY DEVOTIONAL
PART ONE



INVISIBLE BATTLE

Daily Devotional

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Published by The Woodlands Methodist Church

INVISIBLE

Battle

DAILY DEVOTIONAL



Grace and peace, friends!

I'm excited to invite you into a journey that I believe will challenge, strengthen, and equip us in profound ways.

This fall, we will spend several weeks exploring a two-part series called Invisible Battle and Battle Ready. Together, we will examine one of the most overlooked realities of the Christian life: spiritual warfare.

The truth is, there is more happening around us than what we can see. Scripture reminds us that our struggle is not merely against circumstances, personalities, politics, or even our own weaknesses. Behind the visible realities of life, an invisible battle is taking place. It is a battle for truth, faith, hope, identity, and ultimately our devotion to Jesus Christ.

Throughout this series, we will explore both the reality of the battle, and the resources God has given us to face it. In Invisible Battle, we'll uncover the nature of spiritual warfare: who is involved, how the enemy operates, and how this unseen conflict often touches our minds, hearts, relationships, and daily lives. Then, in Battle Ready, we'll walk through Paul's teaching on the Armor of God in Ephesians 6, discovering how the Lord equips His people to stand firm, resist the enemy's schemes, and live with confidence in the victory already won through Jesus Christ.

This devotional is designed to walk alongside the series. As you read, reflect, and pray through these pages, my encouragement is simple: don't rush. Give the Holy Spirit room to speak. Lean into the weekly practices and prompts. Bring your questions. Open your heart to what God wants to reveal.

I truly believe this series has the potential to be a game changer for many of us. Not because we will become fascinated with the enemy, but because we will become more aware of the power, authority, and victory we have in Jesus Christ. The real question is not whether there is a battle. The real question is this: are we prepared for it?

So don't miss a Sunday. Engage with the devotional. Invite a friend to join you on the journey. And together, let's discover what it means not only to understand the battle around us, but to become people who are fully prepared to stand firm in the strength of the Lord.

I can't wait to see what God will do.

With you in the battle,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark', with a stylized flourish.

Rev. Mark Sorensen

Senior Pastor,

The Woodlands Methodist Church

WELCOME TO THE INVISIBLE BATTLE

There is more going on than you think. Every day, we face battles that are not merely physical, emotional, or circumstantial. Scripture reminds us that there is an unseen spiritual reality at work – a battle for our attention, our identity, our trust, and our obedience. Throughout this study, you'll learn to recognize the reality of that battle, and the schemes of the enemy, stand firm in the truth of who God says you are, worship through the struggle, walk in the authority of Jesus, and discover that God has called you not only to resist darkness, but also to advance His kingdom. **The invisible battle is real, but you do not face it alone.** In Christ, you have everything you need to stand firm and move forward.

Each week begins with a devotional and a memory verse that will guide your time with God. Throughout the week, you'll spend time reading and reflecting on Scripture, praying through what God is teaching you, journaling your thoughts, and taking practical steps of obedience through weekly activities. This study is not designed merely to give you information; it is intended to help you experience transformation as you learn to recognize God's presence, hear His voice, and follow Him more faithfully in life's invisible battle.

SAVE THE DATE

Each week includes a practical activity. Most you'll do on your own, but two will be shared experiences (be sure to put them on your calendar).

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Sunday, October 4, 6:00 p.m. | Harvest Worship Center

Join us for a special Night of Worship as we lift our voices together, fix our eyes on Jesus, and strengthen one another in the invisible battle.

SERVE IT UP

Saturday, September 26 and October 10

The kingdom advances when God's people say "yes." Join us for Serve It Up as we step into our community and put our faith into action.

twmc.org/missions

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LOOKING AHEAD TO PART TWO: BATTLE READY

Part One of our study helps us understand the reality of spiritual warfare, the tactics of the enemy, and the victory we have in Christ as we wage war in the Invisible Battle. In Part Two, Battle Ready, we will spend six weeks studying the Armor of God from Ephesians 6, exploring the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit. As we do, we'll discover that God has not left His people defenseless in the battle. He has provided everything we need to stand firm, resist the enemy, advance His kingdom, and walk confidently in the victory Jesus has already won.

WELCOME TO WEEK ONE: THE BATTLE IS REAL

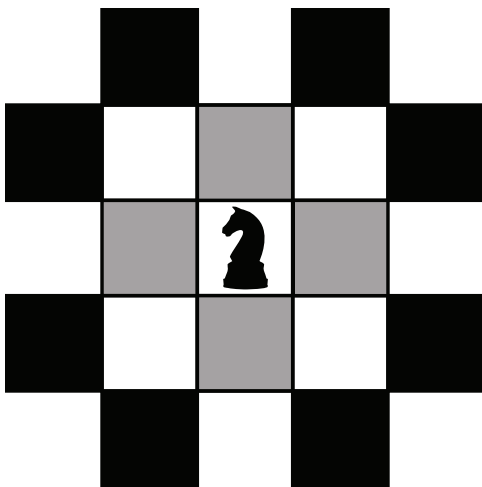
Not every battle we face is visible. Sometimes the greatest struggles happen quietly beneath the surface, shaping our thoughts, our emotions, and the way we see ourselves, others, and even God. This week, we'll look at what it means to live with spiritual awareness and confidence in Christ, remembering ***the battle is real.***

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (ESV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



DEVOTIONAL

THERE IS MORE GOING ON THAN YOU THINK

Life often feels heavier than it should. The stress, the tension in relationships, the discouragement that seems to come out of nowhere – it can all feel purely circumstantial. But Scripture gently pulls back the curtain and reminds us that there is more going on than what we can see.

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood...

Not everything we face is just physical or emotional; there is an unseen battle at work. And if we're not aware of it, we can end up fighting the wrong battles, treating people like the enemy or internalizing lies that were never meant to define us.

This battle often feels personal because it shows up in subtle ways, thoughts of inadequacy, lingering doubt, quiet discouragement, or a sense that God is distant. These aren't always random; they can be part of a deeper spiritual struggle for your attention, your identity, and your trust. But awareness of the battle isn't meant to create fear; it's meant to bring clarity. Because the same Scripture that tells us the battle is real also reminds us that we are not powerless.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Instead of striving harder or reacting to everything at the surface level, we're invited to stand firm and live with a deeper awareness of what's really going on, while anchoring ourselves in what is always true:

You are not alone in what you face, and you are not fighting for victory. You are standing in the victory that Christ has already secured.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY

READ

Read this passage of Scripture slowly. Then... read it again. Pay attention to words or phrases that stand out to you. Read it a third time and ask God what He wants to reveal to you.

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MEDITATE

Think about the things that stood out to you. Ask God questions.

Why these words?

Why now?

What might God be trying to highlight?

Sit in silence for a few minutes. No agenda. Slow your breathing and just be with God. This is a moment to receive, not strive.

PRAY

Let this Scripture shape your prayer. Be honest. Be personal. This can include gratitude, confession, requests, or surrender. Respond to God in prayer based on your reflections.

PRAY - READ - JOURNAL

PRAY AND READ

Ask God to be with you as you read and to reveal whatever He wants you to see in His Word.

Read the verse of the week again, just as slowly as yesterday. As you do, you may be reminded of things that stood out to you yesterday, or you may see new things. Take note of them.

JOURNAL

Take a few minutes to reflect on this week's devotional or your day. Make note of anything that challenges you to act, compels you to think, or causes you to ask questions.

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READ - PRAY - ACT**READ**

This is your third day in a row with this passage. There is probably something that stands out to you most. Read it slowly a couple more times, asking God how you can best apply it.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (ESV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

PRAY

Let this Scripture shape your prayer. Be honest. Be personal. This can include gratitude, confession, requests, or surrender. Respond to God in prayer based on your reflections.

Ask God how He wants you to act on what you've learned. This could be an external action or something internal and personal.

Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

**ACT**

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY: ABSTAIN

Life is full of distractions. There are so many things competing for our attention that God often gets our leftovers. In fact, this is one of our enemy's favorite tactics. He may not be able to destroy you, but he will try to distract you.

This week, consider giving something up. Do it from this Friday to next. Think of it as a mini-Lent.

Maybe it's scrolling on Instagram. Maybe it's watching TV late at night. Maybe it's a food or drink that has a stronger hold on your attention than you'd like to admit. Whatever that thing is that occupies your thoughts, even when you're not engaging with it, take a seven-day break from it.

Giving something up creates space to intentionally replace it with God. And as we realign our priorities this way, we aren't just removing a distraction; we take ground back from the enemy and move forward in faith.

Bonus Challenge: Next Friday, before you pick back up what you put away, pause and ask yourself honestly: Should you pick it back up? Are you better with it, or are you better without it? Is that thing's presence in your life helping you move toward God, or quietly pulling you away? Could it be a weapon in the hands of the enemy in this Invisible Battle?

PRAY

Ask God to highlight the thing you need to abstain from for the next week. Ask Him for the strength to persevere, and for Him to replace whatever you're surrendering to Him with more of Himself.

DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.



*For though we live in
the world, we do not
wage war as the
world does.*

— 2 Corinthians 10:3 (NIV)



WELCOME TO WEEK TWO: KNOW YOUR ENEMY

The devil cannot hurt God directly, so he attacks what God loves most (which is YOU, by the way). Because we are the enemy's main target, Paul says we must understand the schemes of the enemy "in order that Satan might not outwit us" (2 Corinthians 2:11 NIV). This week, we will uncover the enemy's battle plan and equip you to stand against him. You cannot overcome an enemy you don't recognize. To find victory, you must **know your enemy**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

1 Peter 5:8-10 (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.



DEVOTIONAL

THE DEVIL IS A LIAR

The first and most important thing we must know about the devil is that he is a liar. The enemy's strategy is and has always been deception. Listen to how Jesus describes him:

John 8:44b (NIV)

He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

He cannot steal God's throne, so he tries to distort your view of God's image in you.

Imagine the strategy. If you were the deceiver, the manipulator, the father of lies, and you wanted to hurt God, you would attack the people He created, called, and redeemed. You would take someone God calls chosen, beloved, forgiven, and free, and convince them they are worthless, abandoned, unlovable, and too far gone. What a victory it must seem to the enemy when someone created in the image of God begins believing lies about who they are.

This is why identity matters so deeply in spiritual warfare. The enemy cannot change who God says you are, but he can try to convince you otherwise. He wants to distort your identity because if you do not know who you are, you will never become who you are called to be. Shame, insecurity, condemnation, and accusation are some of his oldest tactics.

But lies lose their power when they are exposed to truth.

The enemy's battle plan is deception, but the Bible reveals God's strategy for victory:

James 4:7 (NIV)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

You do not have to be stronger than the enemy. You must simply submit yourself to the one who is. This surrendered, dependent posture toward Jesus, builds intimacy with Him, and the closer you are to Jesus the more obvious the lies become. Nothing scares the devil more than a surrendered saint standing in the confidence of Christ and their identity in Him.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY

READ

Read this passage of Scripture slowly. Then... read it again. Pay attention to words or phrases that stand out to you. Read it a third time and ask God what He wants to reveal to you.

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MEDITATE

Think about the things that stood out to you. Ask God questions.

Why these words?

Why now?

What might God be trying to highlight?

Sit in silence for a few minutes. No agenda. Slow your breathing and just be with God. This is a moment to receive, not strive.

PRAY

Let this Scripture shape your prayer. Be honest. Be personal. This can include gratitude, confession, requests, or surrender. Respond to God in prayer based on your reflections.

PRAY - READ - JOURNAL

PRAY AND READ

Ask God to be with you as you read and to reveal whatever He wants you to see in His Word.

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READ - PRAY - ACT

READ

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PRAY

Let this Scripture shape your prayer. Be honest. Be personal. This can include gratitude, confession, requests, or surrender. Respond to God in prayer based on your reflections.

Ask God how He wants you to act on what you've learned. This could be an external action or something internal and personal.

Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?



ACT

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY: RECITE

One of the most powerful tools you have in spiritual warfare is speaking the truth of God over your life. The enemy fights with lies (lies about your identity, your worth, your future, and even God's heart toward you), but Scripture reminds us that truth sets people free. When you replace what the enemy says with what God says, you train your heart and mind to stand firm in the reality of God's love rather than the enemy's deception.

The activity for this week is simple: Replace those untrue whispers with a powerful declaration of the truth of who you really are in Christ. And do it over and over, and over again. Drown out the voice of the enemy.

Write these truths down somewhere you will see them repeated throughout the day. When you see them, say them out loud. Who cares if it's weird? Maybe someone around you needs to hear this too:

- I am a child of God.
- God sees me and knows me.
- I am valuable, and I am loved.
- I have been redeemed and forgiven.
- I have power because God's Spirit is within me.
- I am safe in the Father's arms.
- Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world.

PRAY

Ask God to help you see yourself the way He does, and that He would help you believe the truth about who you are in Him.

DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.



*For by wise guidance
you can wage your
war, and in
abundance of
counselors there is
victory.*

— Proverbs 24:6 (ESV)



WELCOME TO WEEK THREE: WORSHIP IS A WEAPON

The enemy wages war through lies, fear, distraction, and accusation. Worship is the believer's way of pushing back. When God's people praise Him, they are doing more than singing songs. They are proclaiming the truth of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and reminding their hearts of what is eternally true. The enemy may fight with deception, but believers fight back with praise, because **worship is a weapon.**

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

Psalm 121 (NIV)

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all harm—
He will watch over your life;
The LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.*

DEVOTIONAL**THE WORD STRENGTHENS OUR WORSHIP****Colossians 3:16 (ESV)**

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

In this passage, Paul connects God's Word and our worship to show that the strength of our praise comes from the truth that fills our hearts. What makes worship powerful isn't the music, how we feel, or how loud the room gets when everyone is singing. God can use all those things, but they are not the source of worship's power. The power of our worship comes from the fact that we stand on the truth and worship He who is Truth.

This is why worship is such a strong weapon in the invisible battle. We've talked about how the enemy traffics in lies, fear, accusation, and deception. Worship confronts those attacks with what is true. Every time we sing about God's faithfulness, we remind ourselves of what is real. Every time we proclaim His goodness, we resist the lies of the enemy. Worship is not merely an emotional response; it is a declaration that Jesus is Lord and that His victory is greater than anything we face. That's why daily time in God's Word is so important. We love the Scriptures, but we do not worship the Scriptures, we worship the One to whom the Scriptures point.

The depth, substance, and strength of our praise increase as we grow in our knowledge of God.

The more clearly we see Jesus in God's Word, the more confidently we can worship Him in the battle, knowing that our praise is anchored in the unshakable truth of who He is and what He has done. In this invisible battle, "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly," and watch as worship becomes a weapon as you bask in the glow of His finished work.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY**READ**

Read this passage of Scripture slowly. Then... read it again. Pay attention to words or phrases that stand out to you. Read it a third time and ask God what He wants to reveal to you.

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indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right
hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all harm—
He will watch over your life;
The Lord will watch over your coming
and going
both now and forevermore.*

MEDITATE

Think about the things that stood out to you. Ask God questions.

Why these words?

Why now?

What might God be trying to highlight?

Sit in silence for a few minutes. No agenda. Slow your breathing and just be with God. This is a moment to receive, not strive.

**PRAY**

Let this Scripture shape your prayer. Be honest. Be personal. This can include gratitude, confession, requests, or surrender. Respond to God in prayer based on your reflections.

PRAY - READ - JOURNAL

PRAY AND READ

Ask God to be with you as you read and to reveal whatever He wants you to see in His Word.

Read the verse of the week again, just as slowly as yesterday. As you do, you may be reminded of things that stood out to you yesterday, or you may see new things. Take note of them.

JOURNAL

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READ - PRAY - ACT

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PRAY

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Ask God how He wants you to act on what you've learned. This could be an external action or something internal and personal.

Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

ACT

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY: ATTEND NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Over the past week, we have spent time in Psalm 121, learning to lift our eyes above our circumstances and fix them on the Lord. This psalm is one of fifteen Songs of Ascent, sung by the Israelites as they traveled together to worship in Jerusalem. With each step toward the Temple, they reminded one another where their help came from — not from themselves, but from the Maker of heaven and earth. As we turn our attention to God in worship, we declare that He is our refuge, our protector, and our source of strength in the invisible battle.

There is something powerful about standing shoulder to shoulder with other believers and proclaiming the goodness of God. When your faith feels weak, the worship of those around you can strengthen you. When fear and discouragement begin to creep in, the truth sung by the people of God can remind you of who God is and what He has promised. Worship was never meant to be a solitary activity. God's people have always gathered together to lift their eyes to the Lord and encourage one another in faith.

As we conclude this week, don't stop at studying worship. Come practice it!

Sunday, October 4, 6:00 p.m. | Harvest Worship Center

Come lift your voice alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ as we fix our eyes on Jesus together. Let's declare the truth of the gospel, strengthen one another in the battle, and worship the One who is worthy of all praise. There is power in worshiping side by side. Come and add your voice to the chorus as we lift our eyes to the Lord and proclaim together, **"Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth."**

Learn more at twmc.org/harvest

PRAY

Thank God for His faithfulness and ask Him to fill your heart with awe, gratitude, and joy. Pray that your worship would glorify Him and draw you deeper into His presence.

DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.



*In peace I will both lie
down and sleep; for
you alone, O Lord,
make me dwell in
safety.*

— Psalm 4:8 (ESV)



WELCOME TO WEEK FOUR: THE NAME OF JESUS

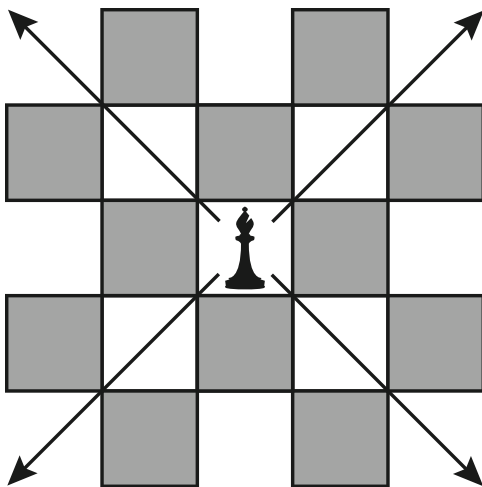
In our invisible battles, it is not about whether we have enough strength, wisdom, or courage to overcome. Our confidence rests in the One who has already conquered sin, death, and the powers of darkness, and whose authority now and forever stands over every enemy we face. This week, we will discover the power, authority, and victory found in **the name of Jesus**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



DEVOTIONAL**THERE IS POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS**

There is power in the name of Jesus. Darkness trembles, demons flee, and the enemy cannot stand against Him. In this invisible battle, we need that power. Yet the power of Jesus' name is not found in the word itself or in saying it a certain way. The power is found in the person behind the name, the crucified and risen King, who has already conquered all powers of fear and darkness, not to mention sin, shame, and the grave itself.

Matthew 28:18 (NIV)

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me”

Throughout Scripture, the name of Jesus is associated with freedom, healing, and deliverance. Demons were cast out in His name (Luke 10:17), the lame were healed in His name (Acts 3:6), and salvation is found in no other name (Acts 4:12). Paul teaches us that God has exalted His obedient Son, Jesus, and given Him:

Philippians 2:9-10 (NIV)

...the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.

Every knee, including ours. When we submit ourselves to His authority, we tap into His power because the authority of Jesus flows through lives that are yielded to Him.

When fear, temptation, accusation, or discouragement come, we can confidently call upon the name of Jesus. Not because the syllables themselves have power, but because the Savior who bears that name is alive, present, and reigning.

The enemy trembles not at our strength but at the authority inherent in the name of the One to whom we belong.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY**READ**

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Why now?

What might God be trying to highlight?

Sit in silence for a few minutes. No agenda. Slow your breathing and just be with God. This is a moment to receive, not strive.

PRAY

Let this Scripture shape your prayer. Be honest. Be personal. This can include gratitude, confession, requests, or surrender. Respond to God in prayer based on your reflections



PRAY - READ - JOURNAL

PRAY AND READ

Ask God to be with you as you read and to reveal whatever He wants you to see in His Word.

Read the verse of the week again, just as slowly as yesterday. As you do, you may be reminded of things that stood out to you yesterday, or you may see new things. Take note of them.

JOURNAL

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READ - PRAY - ACT**READ**

This is your third day in a row with this passage. There is probably something that stands out to you most. Read it slowly a couple more times, asking God how you can best apply it.

Philippians 2:9-11 (NIV)

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAY

Let this Scripture shape your prayer. Be honest. Be personal. This can include gratitude, confession, requests, or surrender. Respond to God in prayer based on your reflections

Ask God how He wants you to act on what you've learned. This could be an external action or something internal and personal.

Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

**ACT**

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY: PRAY FOR YOUR PASTORS

Our pastors stand on the front lines of the invisible battle. Every week they preach the gospel, care for people in crisis, lead ministries, and help others take their next step with Christ. The enemy knows that a healthy, faithful shepherd can have a profound impact on God’s people, which is why pastors need the prayers of the church.

This week, your activity is simple: Every day this week, pray for your pastors by name.

This may be something you’re already in the habit of doing, particularly for the pastors you’re familiar with. A new opportunity for you might be to go to our staff website (below), find pastors you’ve never prayed for before, and claim them for the week.

twmc.org/staff

PRAYER PROMPTS AS YOU PRAY FOR YOUR PASTORS:

- That they would remain surrendered to Jesus’ authority.
- That they would be filled with Jesus’ courage, wisdom, and strength and be filled again with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- For protection over their hearts, minds, marriages, families, and ministries.
- That God would guard them from discouragement, temptation, distraction, and anything that would hinder their effectiveness in serving His people.
- Thank the Lord for them.

Write a brief prayer for a pastor and bring it to church on Sunday. There will be a box for you to drop it in, and it will be given to the pastor next week.

SHARE A PRAYER FOR

(Pastor Name)



DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.

*The Lord is my light
and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?*

— Psalm 27:1 (NIV)



WELCOME TO WEEK FIVE: ON A MISSION

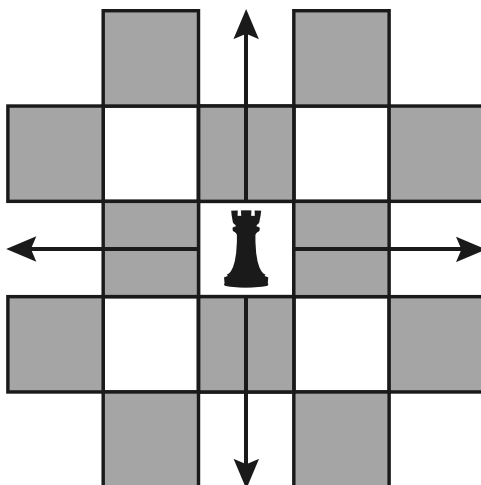
Throughout this study, we've focused on the ways God strengthens us for the invisible battle. But spiritual warfare is about more than resisting the enemy; it is about participating with Jesus as His kingdom advances in the world. God does not strengthen us, equip us, and give us victory in Christ simply for our own benefit; He does these things so that we can join Him in reaching a hurting world through serving, loving, praying, witnessing, and bringing hope wherever we go. The invisible battle is not only about standing our ground; it is about advancing God's kingdom as a people **on a mission**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."



DEVOTIONAL

TAKING GROUND FROM THE ENEMY

Spiritual warfare is often portrayed as a personal struggle, and it is. We've talked a lot about the battles we fight within our own hearts: temptations to resist, lies to reject, fears to surrender, and distractions to overcome. But the goal of the Christian life is not merely personal victory. Jesus did not save us simply so we could survive the battle. He saved us so we could join Him in His mission.

Too often, we think of spiritual warfare as purely defensive, as if the Christian life is nothing more than protecting ourselves from the attacks of the enemy. Jesus paints a picture not of a church retreating in fear, but of a people so empowered by Him that even the gates of Hades cannot stand against His advancing kingdom.

Matthew 16:18 (NIV)

I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Gates are not offensive weapons; they are defensive structures. The image Jesus puts forth in the verse is not of the church hunkered down behind its walls, hoping to withstand the darkness. It is of the church moving forward, empowered by Christ, pushing back the strongholds of darkness as His kingdom advances.

Every time the gospel is proclaimed, every time a hungry person is fed, every time a neighbor is loved, every time a prayer is offered, every time a believer steps out in faith and obedience, the Kingdom of God gains ground. The enemy would like nothing more than for Christians to remain focused only on their own struggles. But Jesus calls us beyond ourselves and into His mission.

In the invisible battle, we are not only called to stand firm against the enemy; we are also called to advance with Christ as He brings light into darkness, hope into despair, and life where death once reigned.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY**READ**

Read this passage of Scripture slowly. Then... read it again. Pay attention to words or phrases that stand out to you. Read it a third time and ask God what He wants to reveal to you.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

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**MEDITATE**

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PRAY - READ - JOURNAL

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Ask God how He wants you to act on what you’ve learned. This could be an external action or something internal and personal.

Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

**ACT**

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY: SERVE IT UP

Throughout this week, we've seen that the invisible battle is about more than standing firm against the enemy; it is about advancing God's kingdom. Jesus reminds us in our memory verse:

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

"You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Light was never meant to be hidden. One of the clearest ways we shine the light of Christ is by serving others in His name.

This week, don't just study mission – live it. Join us for **Serve It Up**, our church-wide day of service.

twmc.org/serveitup

Together, we'll step into our community and meet real needs through practical acts of love, compassion, and generosity.

When God's people step out on mission, darkness loses ground. Every act of compassion reflects the heart of Jesus, every good deed points people toward Him, and every opportunity to serve becomes a chance to participate with Christ as His kingdom advances.

PRAY

Ask God to show you where He wants you to serve during Serve It Up. Pray that He would use your hands, your words, and your presence to reflect the love of Christ in a tangible way. Then sign up, show up, and let your light shine before others.

DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.



*The light shines in the
darkness, and the
darkness has not
overcome it.*

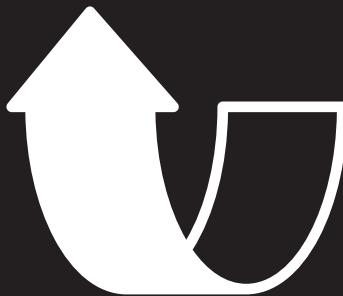
— John 1:5 (NIV)





THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

This devotional is intentionally designed with two front covers. To continue your journey, flip the book over and begin again from the front cover.



WELCOME TO BATTLE READY

The battle is real, but God has not left His people defenseless. Throughout Scripture, we are reminded that our struggle is not merely against the challenges we can see, but against spiritual forces that seek to distract, deceive, discourage, and derail us. The good news is that God has provided everything we need to stand firm. In part two of this study, we will explore the Armor of God from Ephesians 6 and discover the resources Christ has given His people for victory in the invisible battle. Together, we will study the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit.

As we do, we'll discover that **the Armor of God is more than a collection of spiritual tools – it is a picture of what it means to be clothed in Christ Himself.** God has provided the “full armor of God,” and we dare not neglect a single piece. The enemy is always looking for gaps in our defenses where he can gain a foothold. Christ has already defeated Satan through His death and resurrection, and He now provides everything we need to stand firm. This study is designed to help you, by faith, to put on the armor of God, advance His kingdom, and live confidently in the victory that is already yours in Christ.

Part two of this study follows the same weekly rhythm. Each week begins with a devotional and a memory verse that will guide your time with God. Throughout the week, you'll spend time reading and reflecting on Scripture, praying through what God is teaching you, journaling your thoughts, and taking practical steps of obedience through weekly activities. This study is not designed merely to give you information; it is intended to help you experience transformation as you learn to recognize God's presence, hear His voice, and follow Him more faithfully in life's invisible battle.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 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 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 the 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 Lord's people.



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WELCOME TO WEEK SIX: THE BELT OF TRUTH

As we move from The Invisible Battle into Battle Ready, our focus shifts from understanding the reality of spiritual warfare to learning how God has equipped us for it.

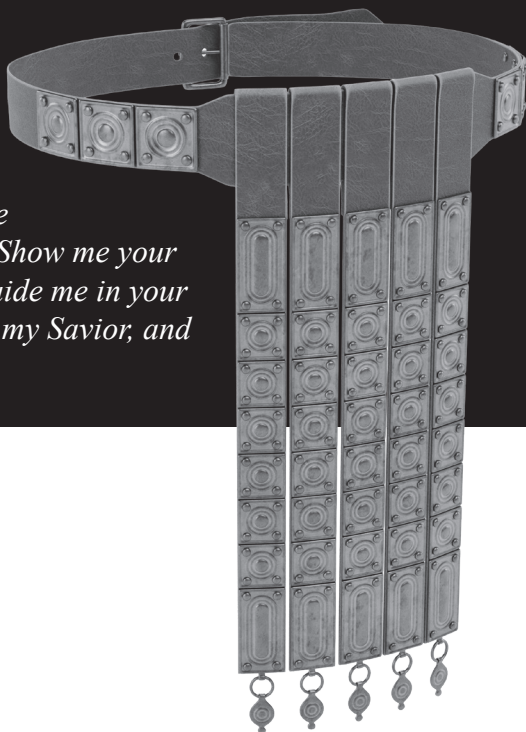
Every structure is only as strong as its foundation. In the same way, every aspect of the Christian life is built upon what we believe to be true. Just as a Roman soldier's belt secured and supported the rest of his armor, truth holds every other piece of God's armor in place. This week, we'll discover why Paul begins with the piece that holds everything together: **the Belt of Truth**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

Psalm 25:1-5 (NIV)

*In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.
I trust in you; do not let me be put
to shame, nor let my enemies
triumph over me. No one who
hopes in you will ever be put to
shame, but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause. Show me your
ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your
truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and
my hope is in you all day long.*



DEVOTIONAL

FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

In the Garden of Eden, we see Satan, the Father of Lies, make the first move in the invisible battle. His first attack was not a direct temptation to behavior but a challenge to God's truth ('Did God really say...?' [Genesis 3:1 NIV]). Before Satan influenced Adam and Eve's actions, he sought to undermine their confidence in God's Word. Ever since then, the enemy has been working to distort what is true about God, about us, and about the world around us.

This is why Paul begins the Armor of God with the **Belt of Truth**.

Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist...

For a Roman soldier, the belt was not an optional accessory. It secured everything else in place and prepared him for battle. Without it, the rest of his armor could not function properly. In the same way, truth is the foundation of the Christian life. Every other piece of armor depends on it. **Truth keeps us anchored in Christ so we can stand firm in the faith and clothe ourselves with the rest of God's armor that He alone can provide.**

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth:

John 16:13 (NIV)

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth...

Through God's Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we learn to recognize what is true and reject what is false. Truth sets us free, shapes our thinking, and keeps us walking on the paths God has prepared for us. When we buckle on the Belt of Truth each day, we choose to trust the true voice of God over the deceitful whispers of the enemy.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY**READ**

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MEDITATE

Think about the things that stood out to you. Ask God questions.

Why these words?

Why now?

What might God be trying to highlight?

Sit in silence for a few minutes. No agenda. Slow your breathing and just be with God. This is a moment to receive, not strive.

PRAY

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A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

ACT

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY: ENCOURAGE

Many people around us carry wounds from lies they have believed — that they are unseen, unloved, forgotten, or alone. As followers of Jesus, we have the opportunity to push back against those lies by speaking hope, life, and truth into one another's lives.

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

This week, encourage one person every day. Choose a different person each day and intentionally build them up through a text, email, phone call, or face-to-face conversation.

Make it personal, genuine, and specific. Tell them what you appreciate about them, how they've impacted your life, or where you see God at work in them. Your words may be exactly what they need to hear, and as you look for the good in others, God may change your perspective as well. Encouragement helps us see people the way God sees them and stand firm together in the battle.

PRAY

Ask God to bring a different person to mind each day and give you the boldness to encourage them. Pray that your words would strengthen their faith, remind them of God's love, and help them stand firm in the truth.



DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.



*No, in all these things
we are more than
conquerors through
him who loved us.*

— Romans 8:37 (NIV)



WELCOME TO WEEK SEVEN: THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Every soldier protects what is most vital, and for the believer, one of the enemy's primary targets is the heart. God's answer is not self-improvement or striving harder, but the righteousness found in Christ and lived out through obedience. The gospel declares that we are forgiven, redeemed, and made righteous through Jesus Christ. This week, we'll learn how to guard our hearts with the **Breastplate of Righteousness**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



DEVOTIONAL

GUARD YOUR HEART

One of the enemy's favorite tactics is accusation. He loves to remind us of our failures, replay our mistakes, and convince us that we are unworthy of God's love. He points to our sin and says, "Look at what you've done." This is why Paul tells us to put on the **Breastplate of Righteousness**.

Ephesians 6:14 (NIV)

Stand firm then... with the breastplate of righteousness in place.

A Roman soldier's breastplate protected his heart and other vital organs from attack. In the same way, righteousness protects the heart of the believer from the accusations, shame, and condemnation of the enemy. The good news of the gospel is that our righteousness is not something we earn; it is something we receive. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, and declared righteous before God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

When Satan attacks the believer, it is the righteousness of Christ that protects the heart. **Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we do not stand before God on the basis of our own goodness, but on His.** The enemy may accuse, condemn, and remind us of our failures, but he cannot undo what Christ has done. At the same time, the Breastplate of Righteousness is not only about our position in Christ; it is also about how we live. While our salvation is secure, compromise and unconfessed sin create opportunities for the enemy to attack. Righteous living does not earn God's favor, but it does guard our hearts, strengthen our witness, and keep us walking closely with Him. **When we embrace both the righteousness Christ has given us and the righteousness He calls us to pursue, we are better protected against the enemy's schemes.**

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY**READ**

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MEDITATE

Think about the things that stood out to you. Ask God questions.

Why these words?

Why now?

What might God be trying to highlight?

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Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

ACT

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.



WEEKLY ACTIVITY: REPENT

The Breastplate of Righteousness reminds us that righteousness is both a gift to receive and a life to pursue. We stand before God clothed in the righteousness of Christ, but we are also called to walk closely with Him, allowing Him to shape us more and more into His likeness.

One of the primary ways we do this is through **repentance**.

Some people avoid repentance because they are afraid of what God will find. The good news is that He already knows. He sees every corner of your heart and loves you completely. More than that, He is the only One who can cleanse and restore what sin has damaged.

Repentance is not something to fear; it is something to practice. It is the regular habit of recognizing sinful attitudes, unhealthy patterns, and misplaced desires and bringing them before God. It is saying, “I’m sorry, Lord. I need your help. Renew my mind and make me more like Jesus.”

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

This week, **make repentance a daily habit**. In fact, you don’t have to wait until the end of the day if you know you’ve wandered off course. When God convicts you of a sinful thought, attitude, word, or action, go to Him quickly. Don’t let sin build up and take root. Confess it, receive His forgiveness, and ask Him to help you walk in a better way. Keep short accounts with God and let repentance become a regular rhythm of returning your heart to Him.

PRAY

Ask God to search your heart and reveal anything that is hindering your relationship with Him. Thank Him for His forgiveness, receive His grace, and invite Him to continue His work of making you more like Christ.

DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.

Do not be afraid and
do not be dismayed
at this great horde,
for the battle is not
yours but God's.

— 2 Chronicles 20:15 (ESV)



WELCOME TO WEEK EIGHT: THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

As we continue our journey through Battle Ready, we come to a piece of armor every believer desperately needs. We spend so much of our lives searching for something to calm our anxious minds and quiet our troubled hearts, yet the peace we find is often temporary and fragile. This week, we'll discover how the presence of Jesus gives us a firm footing in every circumstance with the **Shoes of Peace**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



DEVOTIONAL

PEACE THE ENEMY CANNOT STEAL

Peace is something we all want but few of us have. We long for a life free from worry, fear, stress, and uncertainty, yet we often replay the past and worry about the future, allowing yesterday's regrets or tomorrow's concerns to steal today's peace.

This is why Paul tells us to put on the **Shoes of Peace**.

Ephesians 6:15 (NIV)

And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

A Roman soldier's shoes provided stability and sure footing in battle. Without them, he could easily stumble or lose ground. In the same way, the peace of Christ keeps believers steady when life becomes uncertain.

The enemy will stop at nothing to rob you of your peace. He stirs up fear, anxiety, and discouragement because a believer walking in God's peace is difficult to shake. Listen to what Jesus told His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion as chaos gathered around Him:

John 14:27 (NIV)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

The world's peace depends on circumstances; Jesus' peace does not. The peace He offers is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God.

The key to maintaining this peace is not control but dependence. As we humble ourselves before God and cast our cares upon Him, we become less controlled by our circumstances and more anchored in His presence. This is where supernatural peace is found. **And because the world did not give it, the world cannot take it away.**

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PRAY - READ - JOURNAL

PRAY AND READ

Ask God to be with you as you read and to reveal whatever He wants you to see in His Word.

Read the verse of the week again, just as slowly as yesterday. As you do, you may be reminded of things that stood out to you yesterday, or you may see new things. Take note of them.

JOURNAL

Take a few minutes to reflect on this week's devotional or your day. Make note of anything that challenges you to act, compels you to think, or causes you to ask questions.

[illegible]

READ - PRAY - ACT**READ**

This is your third day in a row with this passage. There is probably something that stands out to you most. Read it slowly a couple more times asking God how you can best apply it.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PRAY

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Ask God how He wants you to act on what you've learned. This could be an external action or something internal and personal.

Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

ACT

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY: SILENT WALK

We live in a noisy world. Our minds are constantly filled with notifications, conversations, responsibilities, news, entertainment, and endless distractions. It is no wonder so many of us struggle to hear God's voice or experience His peace.

This week, put on your shoes and go outside for a **10-minute silent walk**.

Don't listen to music, a podcast, or an audiobook. Simply walk and be present with God. (*Don't be rude if your neighbor says hi, but return to silence afterward*).

As you walk, pay attention to what is happening in your heart and mind. What worries keep surfacing? What fears are you carrying? What burdens have you been trying to manage on your own? When those thoughts arise, don't push them away. Instead, offer them to God in prayer.

The goal is not to empty your mind; it is to fill your mind with the presence of God. Use this time to thank Him, listen to Him, and practice surrendering your anxieties to Him.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

You may be surprised how difficult ten minutes of silence feels at first. That's okay. Peace is not something we stumble into; it is something we learn to practice. As you slow down, quiet the noise and bring your cares to the Lord. Ask Him to replace your worry with His peace.

PRAY

Ask God to quiet the noise around you and the worry within you. As you walk, surrender your cares to Him and receive the peace that only He can provide. Fill this time with gratitude, remembering that you serve a God who not only hears your burdens, but gladly carries them for you.

DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.

*For we wrestle not
against flesh and
blood, but against
principalities, against
powers, against the
rulers of the darkness
of this world, against
spiritual wickedness
in high places.*

— Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)



WELCOME TO WEEK NINE: THE SHIELD OF FAITH

The enemy's ultimate goal is not your discomfort, but your unbelief. He wants you to question God's goodness, doubt His promises, and lose confidence in His presence. Living, active faith is trusting in the promises and power of God, believing that He is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. This week, we'll discover how to protect our hearts and hold the line with the **Shield of Faith**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



DEVOTIONAL

HOLD THE LINE

The enemy may exploit struggles in our relationships, work, emotions, or even our mental and physical well-being, but his ultimate goal is this: unbelief. He wants you to doubt God's goodness, question His promises, and lose confidence in His presence. Because if he can get you to lower your shield of faith, he has an opening.

This is why Paul tells us to take up the **Shield of Faith**.

Ephesians 6:16 (NIV)

Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Roman soldiers carried shields because they expected to be attacked. No soldier stepped onto the battlefield assuming the enemy would leave him alone. Paul's point is simple: **faith does not stop arrows from being fired; it stops them from reaching their target.**

Those flaming arrows, designed to break our battle lines and take ground in the invisible battle, come in many forms: fears about the future, doubts about God's character, disappointments, temptations, accusations, or unanswered prayers. In every case, the enemy is asking the same question he asked in the Garden of Eden: *Can God really be trusted?* Faith answers by holding the line.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Faith is not wishful thinking or blind optimism; It is confidence in the character of God. It is believing that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do, even when circumstances suggest otherwise.

The Shield of Faith does not prevent arrows from being fired, but it does keep them from reaching the heart. So remember God's faithfulness. Stand on God's promises. Refuse to let go of the One who has never failed and won't start failing now.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY**READ**

Read this passage of Scripture slowly. Then... read it again. Pay attention to words or phrases that stand out to you. Read it a third time and ask God what He wants to reveal to you.

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MEDITATE

Think about the things that stood out to you. Ask God questions.

Why these words?

Why now?

What might God be trying to highlight?

Sit in silence for a few minutes. No agenda. Slow your breathing and just be with God. This is a moment to receive, not strive.

PRAY

Let this scripture shape your prayer. Be honest. Be personal. This can include gratitude, confession, requests, or surrender. Respond to God in prayer based on your reflections.



PRAY - READ - JOURNAL

PRAY AND READ

Ask God to be with you as you read and to reveal whatever He wants you to see in His Word.

Read the verse of the week again, just as slowly as yesterday. As you do, you may be reminded of things that stood out to you yesterday, or you may see new things. Take note of them.

JOURNAL

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READ - PRAY - ACT**READ**

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Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

ACT

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY: FAST

Faith grows when it is exercised. One of the ways believers have strengthened their dependence on God throughout history is through fasting. Fasting means abstaining from food and drinking only water.

When we fast, we willingly give up something our bodies want in order to remind ourselves that our deepest need is not food, but God.

This week, look at your calendar and choose one day to **fast from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. the next day.**

Spend time in prayer before you begin, asking God to use this practice to deepen your trust in Him.

As hunger reminds you of what you've given up, let it also remind you to turn your attention to God. Use those moments to pray, read Scripture, and depend on Him. Let your physical hunger point you to a deeper spiritual hunger for His presence.

If, however, a full-day fast is not wise because of health concerns, choose a shorter period of time that will still challenge you and require you to rely on God. The goal is not to prove your strength, but to grow your faith.

Fasting reminds us that faith is more than believing the right things about God; it is learning to depend on Him. As you go without something you normally rely on, ask yourself, **Do I trust God as much as I say I do?**

PRAY

Ask God to strengthen your faith and deepen your dependence on Him. Pray that as you fast, He would reveal areas where you have been relying on yourself and teach you to trust Him more fully.



DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

— Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)



LEG

VI

WELCOME TO WEEK TEN: THE HELMET OF SALVATION

Salvation does more than change our eternity; it changes the way we think. As we bring our thoughts, fears, and assumptions under the authority of God's Word, our minds are renewed and transformed. This week, we'll explore how God protects and reshapes our thinking with the **Helmet of Salvation**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.



DEVOTIONAL

GUARD YOUR MIND

Salvation does more than secure our eternity; it transforms the way we think. God never asks us to abandon our minds when we follow Him. Instead, He invites us to bring our thoughts, assumptions, fears, and reasoning under the authority of His Word. As believers, we do not check our brains at the door. We use them to examine, test, and align our thinking with the truth of God.

The enemy knows that if he can influence the way we think, he can influence the way we live. He wants us to forget who we are and what Christ has done for us. Just like a Roman soldier would protect their vulnerable head by wearing a helmet, salvation protects the mind of the believer.

Paul reminds us to guard our minds with the gift of the **Helmet of Salvation**:

Ephesians 6:17 (NIV)

Take the helmet of salvation...

Salvation changes everything. Through Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, adopted into God's family, and given the promise of eternal life. As these truths take root in our minds, they begin to reshape the way we see God, ourselves, and the world around us.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

The Helmet of Salvation protects us by continually reminding us of what is true. When fear comes, salvation reminds us that God is in control. When shame comes, it reminds us that we are forgiven. When doubt comes, it points us back to the assurance we have in the promises of God.

The battle for the mind is real, but God has not left us defenseless. As we bring our thoughts under the authority of Christ's finished work and fill our minds with His redemptive truth, we learn to think like people who have been saved.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY**READ**

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MEDITATE

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Why these words?

Why now?

What might God be trying to highlight?

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PRAY

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PRAY - READ - JOURNAL

PRAY AND READ

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Ask God how He wants you to act on what you've learned. This could be an external action or something internal and personal.

Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

ACT

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.



WEEKLY ACTIVITY: WITNESS

Many Christians avoid sharing their faith because they feel unqualified to do so. They worry they don't know enough Scripture, won't have answers to difficult questions, or won't be able to defend every aspect of Christianity.

But Jesus did not call you to be a lawyer; He called you to be a witness.

Acts 1:8a (NIV)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses..."

A lawyer is responsible for making the case. A witness simply tells what they have seen and experienced. You don't have to have all the answers. You don't have to win an argument. You simply get to tell people what Jesus has done in your life.

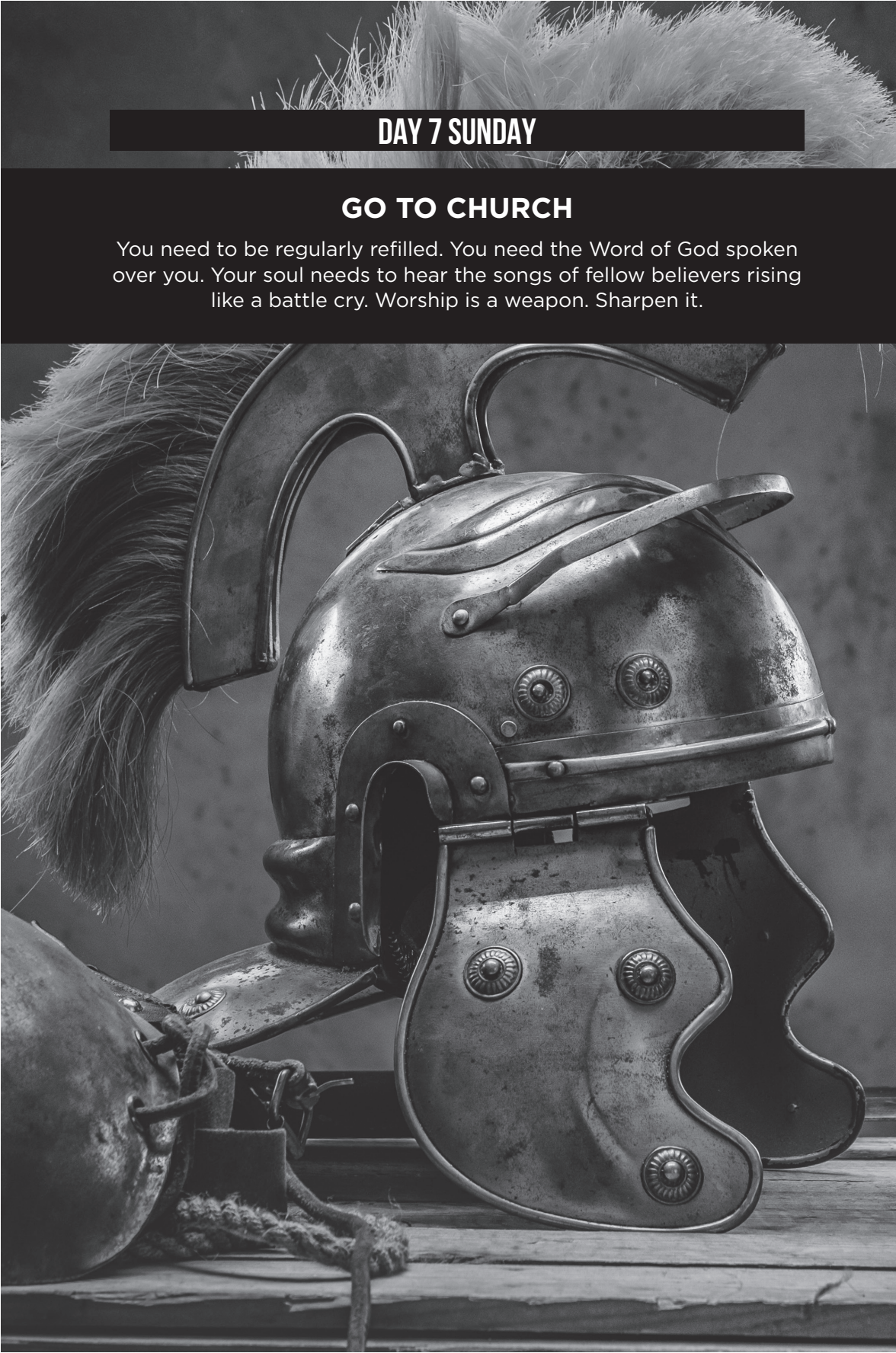
Maybe you're thinking, "I don't really have a powerful testimony." If you belong to Jesus, you do. You were forgiven, redeemed, and adopted into God's family. **You were brought from death to life, and that, in and of itself, is a miracle.** Your story may not be dramatic, but it is powerful because it points to a powerful Savior.

Your goal for this week: share your story with someone. Tell them how Jesus has changed you. Share something God has taught you recently. Take one step of faith and trust God with the results.

The pressure is not on you to change hearts; that is the Holy Spirit's job. Your responsibility is simply to be a faithful witness.

PRAY

Ask God to give you the courage to speak when opportunities arise. Pray for someone specific who needs to know Jesus, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you faithfully share what you have seen Him do in your life.



DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

You need to be regularly refilled. You need the Word of God spoken over you. Your soul needs to hear the songs of fellow believers rising like a battle cry. Worship is a weapon. Sharpen it.



*Blessed be the Lord,
my rock,
who trains my
hands for war,
and my fingers for
battle;*

— Psalm 144:1 (ESV)

WELCOME TO WEEK ELEVEN: THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

As we reach the final week of this study, we've seen that God has equipped us from head to toe for the invisible battle. Now we come to the final piece of equipment: the weapon He has placed in our hands, the Word of God. A soldier who never trains with his weapon is unprepared for battle. In the same way, believers are called to know, trust, and wield God's Word before the enemy attacks. This week, we'll learn how to train for the battle with the **Sword of the Spirit**.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Read this every day and commit it to memory.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.



DEVOTIONAL

ARMED AND READY

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul calls Timothy to join him in suffering as a good soldier of Christ. Throughout Scripture, believers are called many things — children of God, disciples, servants, and ambassadors. But here, we are also called soldiers.

Every soldier needs a weapon.

The final piece of armor Paul tells us to take up is the **Sword of the Spirit**.

Ephesians 6:17 (NIV)

Take the... sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Unlike the other pieces of armor, the Sword of the Spirit is not merely for protection - it is for action.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

God's Word does more than defend us from the enemy's attacks; it actively cuts through deception and exposes what is true. It penetrates the places where fear, temptation, doubt, and unbelief try to take root and brings them into the redemptive light of God's reality.

Roman soldiers did not wait until the battle started to learn how to use their swords. They trained relentlessly through repetition and practice so they would be ready when the fight came. In the same way, believers must prepare for the battle that's coming before it's here. We train by reading Scripture, memorizing it, meditating on it, and trusting it enough to obey it. The more familiar we become with God's Word, the more prepared we are to see spiritual attacks for what they are, push back against the enemy's schemes, and advance the Kingdom of God.

READ - MEDITATE - PRAY**READ**

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READ - PRAY - ACT**READ**

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Is there a step of obedience?

A shift in your mindset?

A person to connect with?

A thing to do?

ACT

Carry what you have received from Him into your day.



WEEKLY ACTIVITY: MAKE IT A HABIT

For the past 10 weeks, you've committed God's Word to memory. Every verse has been another opportunity to store up His truth in your heart and prepare you for the invisible battle. Don't let that discipline end here.

Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Your final activity: **Commit to making Scripture memorization a habit.**

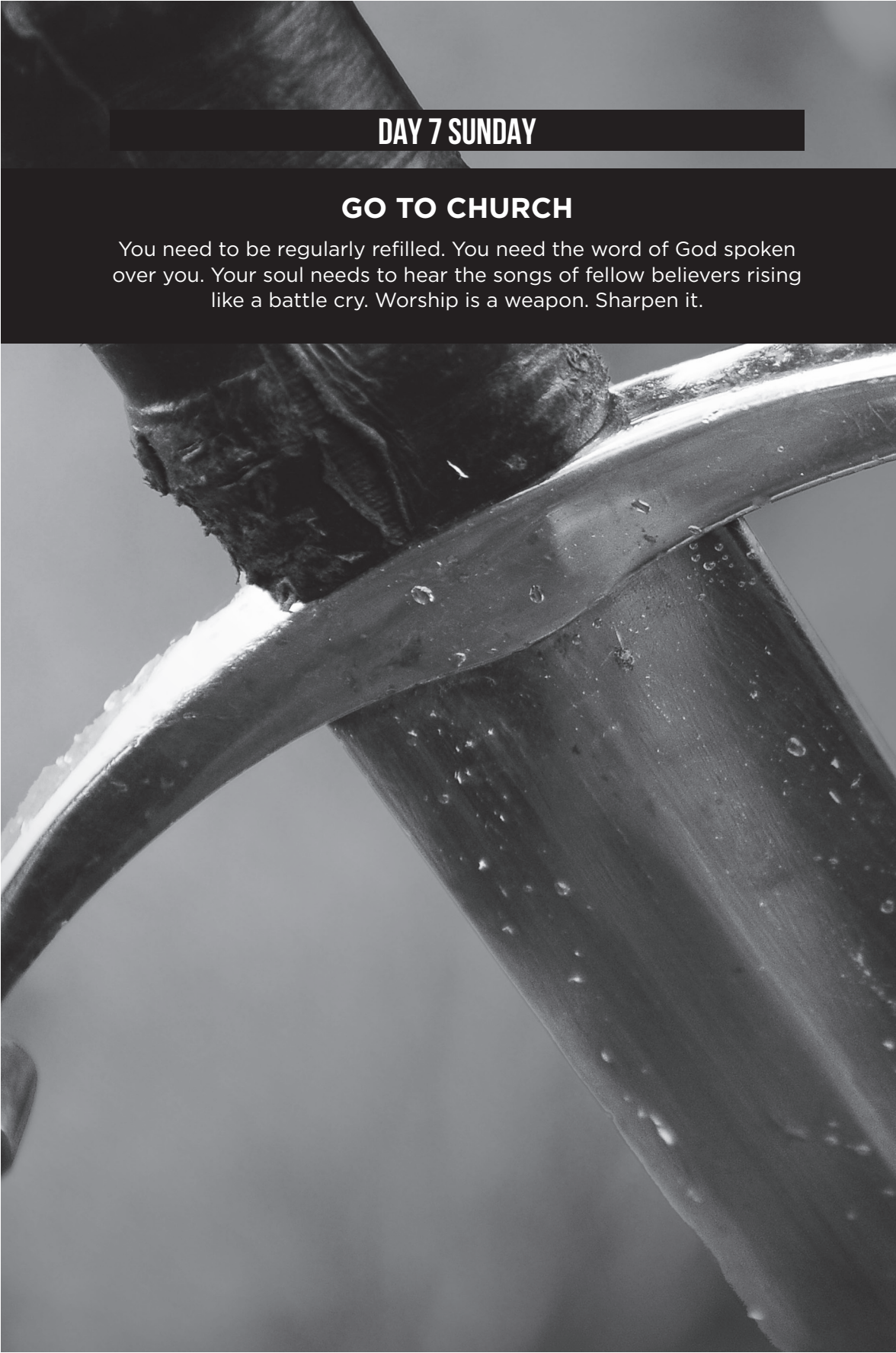
Choose **one passage every week** and commit it to memory. Read it, repeat it, pray through it, and return to it throughout the day until it becomes part of you.

Imagine where you'll be one year from now. Fifty-two passages of Scripture stored up in your heart. Fifty-two reminders of God's character, His promises, and His truth ready to strengthen you whenever the enemy attacks. Every Scripture you commit to memory is another weapon God places in your hands, preparing you for the battles you have yet to face.

Don't wait until you're in the middle of the battle to reach for your sword. Train now. Build the habit. Fill your heart with God's Word, and trust that He will use it to strengthen your faith, guide your steps, and equip you for every battle ahead.

PRAY

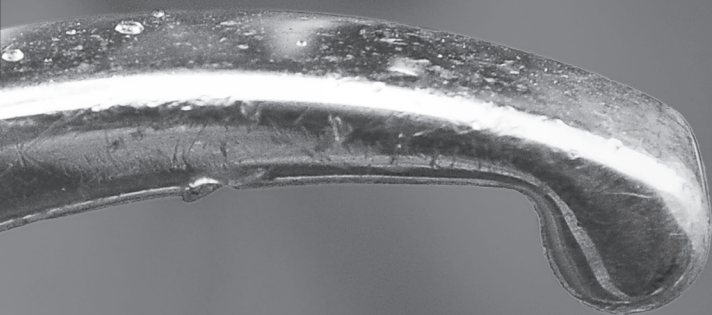
Ask God to give you a lifelong hunger for His Word. Pray that as you continue to memorize Scripture, He would renew your mind, strengthen your faith, and make His truth readily available whenever you need it.



DAY 7 SUNDAY

GO TO CHURCH

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As iron sharpens iron,
so one person
sharpens another.

— Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)



BATTLE

Ready



DAILY DEVOTIONAL
PART TWO