

Chapter 12

BE PREPARED FOR WAR!



Imagine you are a football player (OK ladies, really use your imagination). You line up in your stance ready to take on the charge of the “enemy” players. You have spent much of your life training and preparing for this moment and your effectiveness will have so much to do with how well you have trained and how well you have applied what you have learned. Are you confident? Are you ready? Have you prepared enough? Just as in a football game, your spiritual preparation for life’s battles, and there will be many, will have so much to do with the outcome of these battles. You will even find sometimes life is more than just a few battles, life can even seem like an all out war, and in reality, it is!

There is an important similarity most of us fail to recognize with a football game or any other team sport event compared to many other struggles in life. In a football game there is an opposing team, an enemy so to speak, with the objective to defeat you in your efforts for your team. As much as you are trying to “win” this other force is trying just as hard (or maybe harder depending on your preparation) to crush and defeat you. In football or any other team sport the players know who the opposition is and they will try to learn what they can about their “enemy” in order to defeat them.

In real life we also have an enemy out to destroy us. A major difference between a game and real life is our enemy is unseen and we are often caught off guard by our foe. Some of our biggest life challenges will be to recognize and defeat unseen spiritual forces working against us.

Ephesians 6:12 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.

1 Peter 5:8 tells us to be self-controlled and alert because our enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to tear apart. The devil, a term for a fallen angel named Satan, and his followers (dark spiritual forces) are not going to bother people that live by the sinful nature described in Galatians 5:16-21. They are already serving Satan so attacking them would be like an offensive lineman tackling his own quarterback, an effort that would defeat his own purpose.

These forces are going to focus on those living or searching for God. They will try to keep individuals from knowing the real Jesus and the type of relationship God desires. These dark forces led by Satan do the most damaging work in the church itself by trying to cause strife, disobedience, and spiritual apathy among believers. The verse below is describing a vision from the Apostle John (who wrote the book of Revelation).

Revelation 12:17 Then the dragon (Satan) was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring--those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

These forces will do all they can to rob us of the peace and joy God wants us to have. You don't have to look far to see they often do a pretty good job.. As stated in Chapter 1, Satan will tempt you with desires that will give you short-term pleasure or satisfaction at the expense of a long-term high quality life. They will try to get us to put our identity in things that do not bring fulfillment, make us feel guilty when we fail to obey God, and cause us to doubt God is working in our lives. This is why far too often unloving and unhappy Christians become more of a stumbling block than a help to non-believers. Too often it is Christians who are the main reason people reject Christianity.

Being aware of enemy spiritual forces should help us recognize subtle, but very damaging influences Satan uses. Influences that appear harmless on the surface but erode our sense of right and wrong. The entertainment industry is one of Satan's most effective weapons because we spend countless hours hearing and watching messages of self-indulgence, violence, promiscuity, taking no responsibility for our actions, and other messages contrary to God's standards.

If you think what we watch, read, and listen to doesn't affect us, then ask yourself why do so many companies spend so much money on advertisements each year? These companies expect their advertising messages to influence you or they are just throwing their money away! Of course not everyone is influenced, but those who are affected by peer pressure or those that hear messages that appeal to their desires will be influenced. This influence is greater than what many may realize, as many fads, trends, and values are born from movies, television, and music.

Just like a military General or a coach will try to take advantage of the weaknesses of the opposition Satan will try to make the most of your weaknesses. Understanding this should give us a desire to be more selective with how we spend our time and whom we spend it with because it will affect our spiritual relationship. For example if you struggle with sexually impure thoughts then don't watch sexually explicit movies. If you have friends who are always trying to talk you into doing what you know you should not do then find different friends.

My daughter can tell you all about how Satan will take advantage of our weaknesses. She knew she was having a problem staying away from drugs and for periods of time she would try to

stay clean. But another user that would hang with my daughter would always ask Amy to give her a ride or some other favor. Even though Amy knew this girl was trouble, she would give in to her request and that led to them using together. Amy now knows how critical it will be for her to stay away from other users in order to stay clean. That will be a crucial aspect of her drug addiction recovery.

Satan can also use those who we have relationships with such as teachers (primarily in public schools) professors, teammates, coworkers, and people who we hang around with to keep us from knowing God. Non-believing individuals we often have interaction with may make fun of us because of our faith and try to make us feel like we are ignorant or narrow-minded because of our beliefs. They may especially attack any of our beliefs about moral values or absolutes because their moral values will not line up with God's moral standards.

Often Christians are accused of being intolerant. The definition of tolerance is recognizing and being respectful of another's beliefs. It does not mean you have to accept those beliefs. What your accusers are really attacking is your belief in absolute truths because it is PC to believe all worldviews are correct and there are no absolute truths. Not accepting the possibility of absolute truth is a narrow-minded, dangerous, and can be a ridiculous view if you really think about it. I don't care what you believe about jumping out of an airplane without a parachute. The absolute truth is you will be a blot when you hit the bottom. You can believe you will float to the bottom all you want but it does not change the actual laws of gravity.

Just as there are physical laws that carry consequences when they are broken, there are moral laws that carry consequences when they are broken. Many refuse to acknowledge these moral laws because if they do they cannot justify their self-centered lifestyle. So the problem is not what is true or not, the problem is what we want to believe to be true. Keeping this in mind you can see why Christianity is a real threat to those desiring self-centered, self-indulgent lifestyles and they despise any messages that talk about moral absolutes. The following quotation is from Aldous Huxley's "Ends and Means". He was an atheist who is considered a great philosopher and intellect by many –

"I had motives for not wanting the world to having a meaning; consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. The philosopher who finds no meaning in the world is not concerned exclusively with a problem in pure metaphysics, he is also concerned to prove there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do, or why his friends should not seize political power and govern the way that they find most advantageous to themselves... For myself, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation, sexual and political."

Huxley is being honest about his reasons for rejecting any evidence supporting the existence of God. If he knew God existed then there could be a purpose (a meaning) to our creation and this would inhibit his freedom to do whatever he wants. Huxley and many like him are not interested in the truth but are only interested in justifying their self serving lifestyles. Truth is sacrificed at the altar of self-gratification.

The existence of the holy (perfect) God of the bible brings us face to face with our unholy state and for many, due to pride, they don't like to admit to their imperfections. Instead they like to blame others or come up with arguments about how what they do wrong is not really wrong. There are many that scoff at any notion of a "sinful nature" and they cling to the dream we can be good enough to create a utopian society some day. Those with this view think the problem does not lye with us but with society as it is now structured. If we can change society we can create a

paradise on earth. The idea that man is basically sinful is not compatible with this view. The idea we can create a utopian society is much like the view of many eastern religions and new age thought –we can become perfect because we can become gods ourselves.

The idea that man is basically good and capable of creating a utopian society has been responsible for far more deaths than any religious wars! If man is good then God is the enemy according to many philosophers and intellectuals who believe man does not have a sinful nature. This was the view of the well know Swiss born philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau who lived during the mid-eighteenth century. He believed in its natural state human nature is good and people become evil when corrupted by society. Rousseau rejected anything that limits the freedom of the inner-self because only then could we discover our true identity. The irony is that in his quest for liberation from the social constraints imposed by society, he laid the foundation for governments that thrived on tyranny and oppression. Rejecting the biblical view of our sinful nature led not only to oppressive governments but also totally inefficient economic systems. I will once again quote from Colson and Pearcey's book "How Now Shall We Live" to illustrate the problem with Rousseau's view of human nature.

"Yet ironically Rousseau's philosophy of radical and unbounded freedom spawned the most oppressive regimes of the modern world, inspiring revolutionist like Robespierre, Marx, Lenin, Hitler, and Mao. Even Pol Pot and his cadre of Paris-educated terrorists were known to have studied Rousseau while their henchmen were slaughtering a quarter of the Cambodian population. How did this happen?"

The key is that Rousseau did not define freedom as the assertion of rights against the state; freedom meant liberation from the forms and institutions of society-family, church, class, and local community. The state, in fact would be the liberator. By destroying all social ties, the state would release the individual from loyalty to anything except itself. "Each citizen would then be completely independent of all his fellow men," proclaimed Rousseau, "and absolutely dependent on the state".

Rousseau assumed the State would naturally do what's best for the public good. If an individual disagreed with the "State", the State was justified in doing whatever was needed to get that individual to conform to the "General Will". Robespierre, a leader of the French Revolution, Carl Marx, and other revolutionaries saw no problems with executing anyone who was a threat to the "General Will" and their ideas of a utopian society. A threat could be anyone who wore glasses (a sign of intellect) as was the case of thousand of executions during the Kimer Rouge regime in Cambodia. Revolutionaries such as Marx rejected the Christian view of a sinful human nature and viewed the Church as a threat to what society should be like so the Church was outlawed or strictly controlled by communist rulers. Dark spiritual forces were at work using powerful and influential individuals to create a world-view totally opposed to a biblical world view.

Throughout history there have been and still are those who view Christianity as a threat to their self-centered lifestyles, to their view of freedom, and their war against Christianity is fought in the name of a better society. The well known and quoted German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche denounced Christian virtues such as kindness, forgiveness, humility, obedience, and self-denial. He felt the Christian ethic was a sickness that prevented mankind from enjoying life. He looked to a future race that had an ethic of power – such as what the Nazis tried to create a century later.

The more you examine what is behind these anti-Christian views the more you will see the self-centered motives for rejecting God. For example, Rousseau had fathered a child with a mistress and to avoid embarrassment and the scorn of society, not to mention the responsibility of

raising a child, he left the infant at an orphanage that had a well-known reputation of its orphans dying. He knew this and in order to justify his actions of almost certainly condemning his child to death he rejected the idea that we make moral choices and instead took no responsibility for himself and give any responsibility to the “State”.

Do you see how the battle lines are drawn? Relationships are important to God so Satan will try to influence others to destroy the effectiveness of personal relationships by replacing them with philosophies and ideologies that place little importance on family, local community, and the church. Our free will is an important part of God’s creation. Using our free will to accept or reject God’s truths means we are responsible for our choices. There are many that prefer to replace this view with the idea we are just victims of society, therefore not responsible for our actions. The egos of those who reject God won’t allow them to admit to mankind’s sinful nature so they mock anyone that looks to Jesus as their Savior. They will be quick to share their self-serving views about what is right and wrong but will expect you to keep your biblically based views to yourself. They will state that religion should be kept out of politics or you can’t legislate morality.

Can’t legislate morality? Laws dealing with murder and stealing are just that, laws that enforce our belief murder and stealing are wrong. It is also impossible to separate our beliefs from our political ideals. Politicians make laws based on their ideals and the ideals of their constituency. The laws our representatives propose and vote on are what enforce these ideals and are based on a belief of what we think is right and wrong. These ideals often are formulated by our moral beliefs, which are also based on our view of what is right and wrong. For example, most Christians believe abortion is taking an innocent life based on a scripture in Jeremiah that states God knows us when we are in the womb, and this effects the political ideal of a women’s right to abortion. The problem we have is we all do not have the same definition of what is moral, and these differences are often great between Christians and non-believers.

Christians are a threat to those who live by their self-serving views. Jesus and his Apostles preached a gospel of love, selflessness, and obedience to God and for this “crime” they were executed! Today in this country we don’t have to worry about being put to death or imprisoned for our beliefs and views, which is not the case in many other countries! But we still will face persecution.

2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

Your persecution may come in the form of losing some friends, unfavorable treatment from teachers, professors, or bosses, or being mocked. The media often mocks Christians as they are often characterized as narrow-minded, hateful, ignorant, or mentally unbalanced in many movies and TV shows. You rarely see Christians portrayed as they should be – loving, forgiving, full of peace and joy, and caring of others. My fear is this huge gap between what committed Christians should be like and the way non-believers view Christianity and how non-believers live their lives will only widen. There may come a time when Christians even in this country may risk their lives for their faith. There are biblical prophecies that predict there will be a day Christians will have to choose between living by renouncing their faith or being put to death for standing up for it.

If our relationship with Jesus is not strong we will have a difficult time defending our faith against those wanting to discredit God. If our relationship is not strong the troubles we will face, wealth and other desires of this world, fear of persecution, and the so many destructive influences thrown at us will keep us from the fruitful, fulfilling life God wants us to have.

In Mark 4:3-8 Jesus talks about the influences that hinder our relationship with God. He tells of a farmer sowing seed. Some seed fell on a path where birds ate the seeds, some fell on

rocky places with little soil and because of this the plants were scorched and withered when the sun came up because they had no root. Other seed was sown among thorns and when the thorns grew they choked the plants and they did not bear any grain. But some seeds fell on good soil and produced a great crop.

In verses 14 through 20 of the same chapter Jesus explains what this means. The seed that falls on the path is like when someone hears God's word but as soon as Satan comes along (using the influences discussed in the previous paragraphs) he takes away the word that was sown in him or her. The seed that was sown in the rocky places represents someone who hears God's word and receives it with joy, but they have no root. So when destructive temptations, trouble, or persecution come along they quickly fall away from God. The seeds thrown in among the thorns are like those who let the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things come in and make them disregard (choke) what God wants them to do. But some seed does fall on good soil. These are the individuals that hear God's word, accept and live by it. These are the individuals who have an abundant life and who will show others how to have this abundant life.

The soil is going to be what you allow to influence your life. These influences will determine how deep your "spiritual roots" will grow. Whose advice are you going to listen to? Who are you going to hang around with and are you going to let them affect your actions? What kind of movies are you going to watch? What are you going to read and what kind of music are you going to listen to? How often are you going to go to church and are you going to get involved in any bible studies or organizations that offer Christian fellowship and growth? How often are you going to pray and read your bible? Your answers are going to determine if you're going to be spiritually healthy, spiritually malnourished, or spiritually dead!

In order to stay spiritually healthy your spiritual growth needs to be an ongoing process. Many Christians lose the love, joy, and contentment they once had because they become spiritually lazy. Think of an athlete who is on top of their game. There could be a real danger during this time for this athlete to get overconfident and this athlete may not practice and train nearly as hard as they did to get their skills up to their current level. What will probably happen is their performance will start to suffer and their opponents will start to gain the competitive edge. If you let up or stop your spiritual training you will start to lose the joy and contentment you had and your opponent Satan will start to gain the competitive edge over you.

OK, so we decide we are going to be spiritual because we believe there is something to all this stuff about God. Are we now out of danger? No, not quite. Distorting God's truths with false teachings and doctrine is a major aspect of spiritual warfare. Satan will try to keep us from knowing God with messages that sound spiritual but are not in line with the truths of the bible. He will try to cast doubts on the authority of scriptures by getting you to think the bible is unreliable, corrupt, or totally untrue. Getting us to doubt God's word is one of Satan's oldest ploys. Read what Satan had to say to Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

If you have any doubts about the reliability of the bible again I strongly recommend you read the "apologetic" books, books that defend the reliability of scripture, referred to in Chapter 3. Again I feel it is important to point out what makes the bible very different from all other "religious manuals" is that it is composed of over 40 authors. These authors from very diverse backgrounds

made their contributions over a 1,500 year time span, wrote in three different languages from three continents and yet there is an amazing unity to the bible.

I find it very interesting that some well-known religions based on a “revelation” of the religion’s founder try to downplay the authority of the bible while elevating their own personal revelations. If you were Satan what would you find easier to do – corrupt the writings of all who contributed to the bible, including those who knew Jesus, or try to corrupt the views of one charismatic individual who does not know who Jesus really is. Satan can use very powerful influences to corrupt an individual and as you will see later in this chapter he can even appear as an angel of light.

Many cults will base their doctrine on a few select scriptures while ignoring, distorting, or even denying other scriptures needed to give an accurate understanding of God’s truths. There are some major religions that claim to be “Christian” but should be viewed as cults that have come up with their own bible translation, changing passages and key words that countless biblical scholars have already interpreted through painstaking research.

Taking scriptures out of context is not unheard of even among many traditional Christian religious leaders. For example, some pastors use scriptures to create an unbalanced emphasis on prosperity, works, grace, health (i.e. if your faith is strong you should never get sick), and certain spiritual gifts (speaking in tongues). The distinguishing aspects of cults and their false teachers compared to traditional denominations is that cult leaders downplay or deny the deity, saving power, and authority of Jesus.

We can test these false teachers by asking about how they view Jesus. In 1 John 4:1-3 we are told not to believe every spirit and we should test them to see if they are from God because many false prophets have gone out into the world. If these “spirits” deny the divinity of Jesus and/or claim there are other ways to heaven besides believing in Him then they are false prophets. False prophets (and false teachers) were not unusual during the time of the apostles and they certainly are still around today, and now they have the mass media to spread their false doctrines and teachings. They can seem pretty convincing and often try to appeal to our intellect rather than our spirit so it can be very easy for even the well educated to buy into these false teachings.

When intelligent or charismatic individuals try to sway you with their fine sounding arguments this can cause confusion and frustration. Take comfort in knowing if you really want to know the truth you can call on and count on God to reveal what He wants you to know through the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:9,10,13 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Relying on the Holy Spirit is crucial to understanding God’s word. Without the Spirit you will lack understanding and this lack of understanding can be a real stumbling block to many. Understanding scripture is a crucial element in overcoming spiritual forces that are trying to separate us from God because Satan and many who he influences also know scriptures. The fourth chapter of Matthew describes Jesus being tempted by Satan. Satan took Jesus to the highest point of a temple and used scripture to tell Jesus to throw himself down because it is written angels will protect him. Jesus replied using scripture saying it is written you should not test God. If Satan will

try and use scripture against the Son of God he certainly will try and corrupt our understanding of the bible.

Sometimes corrupting our understanding may not be very difficult. Scriptures can appear to be inconsistent or even contradictory but the fact is it is our own inability's, especially our inability to see the whole picture, which keeps us from understanding scriptures. The more you study scriptures with the right frame of mind (the right heart) and the help of the Spirit everything will make more sense to you.

The bible can seem like an out of focus camera at first, but the more you study the bible the sharper the picture becomes. I think this is one of the amazing qualities of the bible, the basic message is simple enough for all to understand yet it is still challenging enough to keep us interested in studying it for the rest of our lives. If you sometimes struggle understanding God's truths or you become confused due to some teachings or arguments, and your heart is right, 1 John 4:4 assures us we will overcome these evil spirits in the world because the Spirit of God in us is greater than these evil spirits.

There are cults that can be very convincing and it is not out of the realm of possibility to receive "supernatural" help. For example, a tactic to win converts may be to have prospective converts ask for a sign to confirm what they are saying is true. If you are not looking to God and his Spirit you may be subject to some very powerful spiritual forces opposed to God that will give you a sign – but the intention will be to keep you from knowing the real Jesus. There may be false prophets (cult religious leaders) who are very convincing because they are so convicted in their beliefs.

Paul in his letter to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians) in Chapter 11 explains how powerful Satanic forces can be, especially if we don't seek the help of the Holy Spirit, or we are more interested in believing what we want to believe. He is telling them just as Eve was deceived by the devil's cunning they are somehow led astray from their sincere and pure devotion to Christ. Paul states they too easily accept teaching about a different Jesus than he and the apostles preach about, the Jesus they knew personally. He explains those who preach about a different Jesus are masquerading as apostles of Christ. These false apostles or teachers may have been influenced by a vision or visitation that appeared to be from an angel of God, because Paul states Satan himself will masquerade himself as an angel of light. So it should not be surprising his followers would believe they are "servants of righteousness", the servants Paul warns the Corinthians about in verse 15.

Satan and his forces go to great efforts to keep us from knowing Jesus. Satan's work is often made easy because of our pride, and pride is the main reason most individuals reject Jesus. Proud individuals don't want to admit they are sinful and they are mainly interested in justifying their lifestyle instead of knowing the truth. These individuals rarely make an honest attempt to investigate the claims of the bible and if presented very convincing evidence they still would reject Jesus. Someone fitting this description would have no interest in reading this book.

For many it is just a matter of removing obstacles. They want to know the truth but misconceptions, false teachings, and bad experiences have kept them from a relationship with Jesus. This may describe many readers of this book and I sincerely hope this book has helped in removing some of these obstacles.

I have a real concern for those who sincerely want to do what is right but they really don't have a strong spiritual relationship with God. These individuals don't understand how much of an impact God can have on their lives. They are not planted in "good soil" and they too easily allow harmful and ungodly peer pressure to influence their lives. Maybe these individuals have been

raised as Christians but their faith is not very strong because church was something their parents made them go to, not something they chose to do on their own. I believe this describes many who call themselves Christians.

I also have a concern for those who think they are spiritual but are influenced by teachings that keep them from knowing who Jesus really is or teachings that discount the power of God. These individuals really don't know the Jesus testified about by the Apostles. If this could describe you I beg you to seek the help of Holy Spirit to reveal God's truths to you because your eternal life may be at stake!

Ephesians 6:10-18 makes it clear what we need to win our "spiritual war". We need to be strong spiritually and aware our real battle is not with the forces of this world, but with unseen spiritual forces. We need to put on God's armor so we can take our stand against the devils schemes. What is this armor? These scriptures tell us it is the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the shield of faith to fight off the flaming arrows Satan shoots at us. It is the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We need to be always be alert, be aware of how what we are doing affects our spiritual relationship, and we need to pray continually, praying for our pastors, spiritual mentors and teachers, and for each other.

So how do we obtain this armor and how do we stay spiritually alert? We follow the game plan spelled out in the preceding chapter. We pray and pray, read our bible, we have Christian fellowship, we stay away from bad influences, we go to church, we become active in Christian organizations such as the FCA or school bible studies, and we spend our time taking advantage of the many Christian resources available such as music, books, and other Christian publications that build our faith.

It will take an effort on our part. Any athlete knows in order to do their best when fighting the opposition they need to make some personal sacrifices. They have to train and prepare constantly. The same goes for a soldier. In order for soldiers to be most effective they have to go to boot camp for training and even after boot camp the training and preparation never stops because peak performance always needs to be maintained, their life and the lives of others may depend on it.

Being in a war means we will not be exempt from trials, troubles, and temptations. The stronger we become spiritually the fewer battles we will lose, and yes we will lose some battles but we will win the war!

1 John 5:4,5 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

Hopefully you now understand how opposing spiritual forces fool us about what really gives us a high quality life and why so many in this world are so opposed to God. Hopefully you now understand what it really means to believe in Jesus. We should understand why many of us really don't feel totally satisfied with our lives because we let failures destroy us, we are more worried about identifying with the world instead of God, we don't trust God because we don't really know him, we disobey, and we let our pride stand in the way of letting God change us.

Most of us don't really comprehend what a relationship with God is all about, including those who attend church on a regular basis, because we turn Christianity into a religion based on do's and don'ts. We miss the purpose of our lives and chase after goals we think will make us happy instead of thinking about making others happy.

We will find, if we really give God a chance and try to know Him, so much of what goes on in the world will make more sense to us. We will clearly see how our selfishness, the lack of love in the world, and evil spiritual forces explain why our world is so messed up. We will know there is a war going on in us and around us, and some of us may feel we are losing this war, but we will know what it takes to win.

Your commitment to spiritual growth will be what makes the difference in winning this war and will make the difference in how much you impact in the world, and a lack of commitment may mean the world will instead impact you. The result of your growth will be more joy in your life and the lives of those you affect – and your life effects more people than what you realize. Your growth will help you understand how to obtain this joy. You will develop a greater love for God and a love for others because you will understand how much God loves you. This will enable you to “die to self” and live for others and you will be surprised how fulfilled you will become. I will close this chapter by sharing a great acronym for remembering what it will take to WIN our spiritual war.

Want to know God - it all has to start with this desire

Internal change – due to understanding God’s truths

New person – equipped to overcome the “enemy”