

# WE ARE IN A WAR!

## A STUDY OF BIBLICALLY STRATEGIC FIELD MANUAL BASICS

by Preston Sanders

pastor, Strasburg Baptist Church

**A**s Christians, born again believers through our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, we are soldiers of God in Christ. Scripture tells us many times that we are soldiers of God (1 Corinthians 9:7, Philippians 2:25, Philemon 1:2, 2 Timothy 2:3-4) and we should be living to please our commanding officer, Jesus Christ. As a soldier we must be focused on the task at hand; focusing on the battles all around us for the souls of man. As good soldiers, we must be intentional about how we live our lives and ensure we don't waste energy on civilian affairs that will never make any difference to our Commander, or for His Kingdom.

*Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. 2 Timothy 2:3-4*

To be effective soldiers for our Commander Jesus we must know and practice many Scriptural truths. Two of the most important are: 1. We must know our enemy 2. We must know our weapons, both offensive and defensive. Ephesians 6:10-18 plainly reveals the truth about the war we're in, the enemy we battle against and the weapons God has given us for victory. Please read and heed.

*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 saints. Ephesians 6:10-18*

The war we are a part of is a struggle. We must understand that we can not fight this war in our own power. We get our strength in the Lord and in His mighty power. Far too often we try to fight in our own power and we can never win because our battle is not against flesh and blood, therefore it can never be fought in the flesh. Take note and remember "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."*

As mentioned earlier, to be an effective soldier we must not only know that we are in a war and the type of war we're in but we must: 1. Know our enemy 2. Know our weapons.

1. Our (humanities) enemy, the devil

Oh yes, he is real and he is our enemy. Yes, he's the one waging war, even though he is already conquered through Christ's death, burial and resurrection. For the time being, God, in His sovereignty; is allowing the devil to battle on until his time is done and he is thrown into the lake of burning sulfur. (Revelation 20:10) To do battle with the devil we must submit ourselves to God and resist the devil and he will flee. (James 4:7) Always be alert. *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8*

2. Our weapons, the full armor of God

We do battle when we learn how to properly put on and handle our weapons, or military hardware, as listed in Ephesians 6:13-18. Our military hardware is much different by definition and practicality than that of a soldier of this world. Look at the list below. **Truth** is the belt that holds everything in place. **Righteousness** is the breastplate that protects our vital organ, our heart. **The Gospel of Christ** must be known and understood to be ready to move into battle. **Faith** (in Christ) is the shield we need to *extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.* **Salvation Assurance** in Christ's work on the cross protects our minds so that "we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming." Ephesians 4:14. **The Word of God** is our offensive weapon. To be effective we must learn to correctly handle the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15) **Pray in the Spirit** and pray for the saints, our fellow soldiers. This is the only way we can fight. Praying in the Spirit, through Jesus supplies our strength in the Lord so that we may be mighty in His power for His glory.

Lord, may we all be filled with Your strength and power through Your Spirit that we at Strasburg Baptist Church might be prepared to go forth in battle and be victorious for Your glory. Amen.  
*Pastor Preston*

“ *There's things you have to be intentional about when you're a soldier. Know your weapon. Know your enemy.* ”