



BACKGROUND PASSAGE(S): Ephesians 6:10-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Jeremiah 17:9; Proverbs 16:2; John 1:1-5; 14; 2 Timothy 4:2; John 14:17; 26.

KEY VERSE(s): – Ephesians 6:17 – And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

How important is it to be trained with any piece of weaponry before using it? Discuss why this is important.

Why is biblical training important – why must we properly be trained in the Word of God?

How can the Word of God be utilized, by the believer, in both offense and defense, as it pertains to spiritual warfare?

The Word of God – in coordination with the Holy Spirit - has the ability to do what nothing else can do. Break down and discuss several things that we can learn about God's Word from **Hebrews 4:12** –

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

How important are the motives behind everything that we say and do, and why?

How can we guard our hearts and keep our motives pure?

What is your “take-away” from this week’s study and how can it be applied to your daily walk with Christ?

Perhaps the most common error people make when studying the Bible is to read meaning into the verses as opposed to discovering meaning from proper context. Here is a basic method to use when studying a verse or passage that will help you avoid this. Always begin each time of Bible study with prayer, asking God to help you understand what you are reading correctly.

1) Observation

What does the passage say?

Read the passage then look back to see what the passage is saying. Look for repeated words, key phrases, and cross-references. Think about questions that you have after reading. Allow your curiosity to lead you further in understanding.

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? What else do you notice?

What other questions arise from the passage?

2) Interpretation

What does the passage mean?

After observing what was said in the text, interpretation seeks to understand what God, through the book's author, is seeking to communicate through this text. Context is crucial to determining the meaning. Outside resources like Bible dictionaries and commentaries can help at this point.

What is the context? Why is the author bringing this up?

What is God saying through this passage?

What is the main point of this passage?

3) Application

How do I need to respond?

It's easy to read through passages, especially those familiar to us, without taking time to stop and think about how we can practically apply the truths we studied.

How should I live my life in light of this passage?

How does this truth compel me to be transformed?

What does it look like to put this into practice?

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

-James 1:22-25 (NKJV)