

FIRST BAPTIST **ROGERS**

valiantwarrior

**SEMESTER TWELVE**

SPIRITUAL ARMOR

# introduction

## TO VALIANT WARRIORS

In the Old Testament, certain groups of men were noted as “valiant warriors” or “men of valor.” These men displayed courage and determination in battle. King David had his “mighty men.” These men proved themselves to be trustworthy in battlefield situations. These brave warriors were not limited to one tribe or people group. They were only limited by their courage and determination.

Valiant means possessing or showing courage or determination. Obviously, a warrior is one who is engaged in a war. A war has been underway since the Garden of Eden. The kingdom of God has been under assault by the kingdom of darkness. Satan’s temptation to Adam and Eve that led to their sin resulting in the Fall of all mankind was the declaration of war against God’s kingdom.

Biblical manhood and masculinity was also attacked in the garden on that day. Adam had been created first, given dominion over the earth and even named his wife. Satan did not initially go to Adam but to his wife, Eve with the temptation. It is understood that Adam was most certainly right there while his wife was being tempted. Adam abdicated his leadership responsibility in protecting his wife. He then followed her into the same sin that she had committed. Since then, God’s people have battled against the kingdom of sin and darkness. But also, men have battled for biblical manhood and masculinity.

Men are at their best when they are valiant warriors, battling for the kingdom of God and rescuing the disadvantaged in the name of the King. Robert Lewis subtitled “Men’s Fraternity,” A Quest for Authentic Manhood. Valiant Warriors hopes to be another leg in the race or step in the journey in this quest. David challenged his son, Solomon in 2 Kings 2:2-4, “I am going the way of



all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, so that the LORD may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’”

We hope to show men how to be men, valiant warriors through this study. We believe that the key to men being transformed is first by the Word of God. Another key is men in small groups for discussion, prayer, accountability and encouragement. As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. It is out of that desire and vision that we have embraced the following guidestones.

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### **Valiant Warrior Mission**

To disciple men to follow Christ and to live and lead in their homes, churches, and communities for God’s glory.

### **Valiant Warrior Vision**

To see an army of men devoted to Christ leading their families and this church to serve Christ and bring Him glory until Jesus returns.

### **Valiant Warrior Strategy**

To disciple men in small groups to lead their families and their church to serve Christ and bring Him glory until Jesus returns.

### **Valiant Warrior Promise**

Judges 6:12 “The LORD is with you, O valiant warrior.”

### **Valiant Warrior Code of Honor**

To grow in Christlikeness personally. To be committed to my family and Christ’s church. To intentionally encourage other men in Christlikeness and commitment to the church.

## Valiant Warrior Scripture References

2 Chronicles 14:8 "Now Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin, bearing shields and wielding bows; all of them were valiant warriors."

Deuteronomy 3:18 "Then I commanded you at that time, saying, 'The Lord your God has given you this land to possess it; all you valiant men shall cross over armed before your brothers, the sons of Israel.'"

Joshua 1:14 "Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle shall remain in the land which Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but you shall cross before your brothers in battle array, all your valiant warriors, and shall help them."

Joshua 8:3 "So Joshua rose with all the people of war to go up to Ai; and Joshua chose 30,000 men, valiant warriors, and sent them out at night."

Joshua 10:7 "So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him and all the valiant warriors."

Judges 6:12 "The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.'"

Judges 11:1 "Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a valiant warrior..."

Judges 18:2 "So the sons of Dan sent from their family five men out of their whole number, valiant men from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to search it;"

1 Samuel 10:26 "Saul also went to his house at Gibeah; and the valiant men whose hearts God had touched went with him."

1 Samuel 14:52 "Now the war against the Philistines was severe all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any mighty man or any valiant man, he attached him to his staff."

1 Samuel 18:17 "Then Saul said to David, 'Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife, only be a valiant man for me and fight the Lord's battles.'"

1 Samuel 31:12 "All the valiant men rose and walked all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there."

2 Samuel 2:7 "Now therefore, let your hands be strong and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

2 Samuel 17:10 "And even the one who is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will completely lose heart; for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man and those who are with him are valiant men."

1 Chronicles 28:1 "Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, the princes of the tribes, and the commanders of the divisions that served the king, and the commanders of thousands, and the commanders of hundreds, and the overseers of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, with the officials and the mighty men, even all the valiant men."

2 Chronicles 13:3 "Abijah began the battle with an army of valiant warriors, 400,000 chosen men, while Jeroboam drew up in battle formation against him with 800,000 chosen men who were valiant warriors."

# VALIANT WARRIOR

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRITUAL ARMOR

My first Valiant Warrior study was on the spiritual armor found in Ephesians 6. After 10 semesters of Valiant Warrior after that initial study, I have decided to cover this material one more time.

Valiant Warriors are engaged in a war. We battle in a spiritual battle.

The Apostle Paul describes for us the nature of that battle. He also gives us the necessary instructions for success in that battle. As we look at the spiritual armor found in Ephesians 6:10-20, we find the basics to the Christian life. The spiritual armor is basic discipleship strategy. Like most sporting competition, the competition is won by those who do the basics the best. So, what the essentials are for spiritual battle are the same essentials for everyday spiritual life.

Read what Paul wrote to those believers in Ephesus in the first century. Remember, he instructed them on great doctrinal truth in chapters 1-3 so they would know what to believe. Then, in chapters 4-6, he gives them practical ways to apply this doctrine to their every day lives. These verses on the spiritual armor serve as the conclusion of this book.

Ephesians 6:10-20 (NASB) Spiritual Warfare

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

Each lesson will be focused on one piece of the spiritual armor. It is important to note prayer is a major part of this passage of Scripture. Our battle is spiritual and not fleshly, so we must use spiritual armor as opposed to physical armor. Our aim in rediscovering biblical manhood is unveiling the spiritual realm where our victories are won and lost in prayer and by spiritual means. We know we sometimes lose battles along the way, but our goal is to ultimately win the war. Be encouraged to stay in the battle. Fight to the end. Do not quit.

Winston Churchill said, “If you’re going through hell, keep going.”

The order Paul covers the different pieces of spiritual armor is different than the order I use in this study. Paul’s order is first inspired by God. Paul’s order is also logical in what a soldier would put on in its most likely order.

The biblical order is belt, breastplate, shoes, shield, helmet, and sword. The biblical descriptions of truth, righteousness, gospel, faith, salvation, and Word/Spirit can also be considered as an order to the process.

I actually put on the full armor of God in prayer from head down to help me remember: helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness, belt of truth, shoes of the Gospel, shield of faith, and sword of the Spirit.

Our Valiant Warrior study is different. My basic order is a theological order. The Word of God is first because everything we know about anything spiritually comes from the Word of God. Salvation comes from the imperishable seed of God's Word. Salvation is the birth of the believer spiritually. It is the beginning of spiritual life. Righteousness is obtained at salvation through faith. We are justified by faith. We walk by faith. We please God by faith. We take up the shield of faith. The belt of truth is a practical righteousness of telling the truth, believing the truth, and obeying the truth. Lastly, we put on the shoes of the gospel in going and sharing the gospel. It is a process of discipleship that begins and is rooted and supported throughout by God's Word that leads to salvation and imputed righteousness. Our salvation leads to a life of faith fueled by the truth of God's Word that results in making new disciples.

All of the armor is for the front of the soldier. The Valiant Warrior is on the offensive. He is charging the gates of Hell with the promise they will not prevail against him. This is the picture of a soldier taking the battle to the enemy. This is not a defense system for men waiting around to be attacked and just playing defense. The reality is we have already been attacked. We must take up this armor and deploy an all-out attack on the enemy.

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**week one**  
VALIANT WARRIORS AND THE WORD OF GOD

SEMESTER TWELVE  
**SPIRITUAL ARMOR**

## **Ephesians 6:17 And take... the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.**

The first century soldier had a short, dagger-like sword for up close hand-to-hand combat. Paul captured that idea in describing one piece of the spiritual armor all believers need in the battle. We are using a specific order to cover these pieces of the spiritual armor. We have intentionally selected the sword of the Spirit first, because everything flows out of our understanding of the Bible. If we can get it right on the Bible, then it makes all the difference on everything else. If we miss it on the Bible regarding authority, power, and reliability, then we enter the battle with no offensive weapon. Typically, if you have no offense you cannot win.

Moses was a man who believed God's Word. He is the author of the first five books of the Bible. He lived his life based upon the Word of God spoken to him. Moses heard the Word of God first in the burning bush. He was led by the Word of God spoken to him through the plagues and the exodus. He was given the Law of God on Mt. Sinai.

This book will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from this book.

The sword is primarily an offensive weapon. It is really the only offensive weapon in the armor. A case can be made for the shield of faith at times. The sword is how we defeat our enemy. It is the key to winning our spiritual battles. It is important to realize and understand all of our battles are primarily spiritual.

I believe the single most important spiritual discipline for every Christ follower involves the Word of God. Everything we know about God, Jesus, and salvation is learned from the Bible. The Bible is sharper than any two-edged sword. The Bible is a living book (not meaning it is a changing book). The Bible is a powerful book.

Valiant Warriors \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible.

We believe the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ by God. 2 Timothy 3:16 This means the Bible is "God-breathed" literally.

We believe the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_. This means the Bible is incapable of teaching error.

We believe the Bible is \_\_\_\_\_. This means no mixture of error and is really an outflow of infallibility.

"There is more evidence that the Bible is a reliable source than there is for any other book from the ancient world." – Dr. Norman Geisler in *The Case for Christ*, Stroebel.

How do we know the Bible is reliable?

Textual criticism is the study of manuscripts for accuracy from the original documents. Manuscript evidence of the Bible exceeds all other secular historical sources. For example, *The Illiad* by Homer is considered the most documented historical source of antiquity with 643 surviving manuscripts with its earliest copy dating 400 B. C., which is 500 years after the original was written in 900 B. C. Compare that to the New Testament that has over 24,000 copies with the earliest copy within 25 years of the original document.

There is also the testimony of the church throughout history. The church has widely accepted the reliability of Scripture through over 2,000 years of church history. This does not mean some have not questioned the reliability of Scripture; but the Church Fathers and church leaders have overwhelmingly attested to the reliability of Scripture.

There is also internal evidence of the Scripture itself. The Scripture claims reliability and authority in 2 Timothy 3:16 and Psalm 119. Jesus quoted Scripture as authoritative. Prophecy fulfilled validates the reliability of Scripture. Archaeological evidences authenticate the reliability of Scripture.

There is personal evidence in changed lives attesting to the power and authority of the Scripture.

It is called the Sword of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Scripture, so the Holy Spirit works in conjunction with and by the Word of God. He never contradicts His Word. The Word is evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides us unto all truth.

Valiant Warriors have a \_\_\_\_\_ worldview.

We have a biblical view of \_\_\_\_\_. (Where do we come from?)

A biblical creation view is the foundation to understanding and reading all the Bible. God speaks the truth to the matters He addresses in the Bible. How we interpret the Creation account tells us a lot about what we think of God. Those who lean toward an evolutionary view or even a day/age or gap theory view appear to me to feel compelled to introduce a human or natural means into a supernatural event of Creation. God is able to pull off Creation without the aid of evolution or millions and billions of years of processes.

Most know I personally hold to a young earth view. I believe strongly this view is without question the closest to a literal straight forward reading of Genesis 1-2. God created an earth with age. The trees had rings in them. Adam was not an infant. The riverbeds and valleys and mountains were in place instantly upon God's spoken Word. Because He is God, this is not difficult for Him.

An age-old rule of biblical interpretation has been and is that the simplest most straight forward reading of a biblical text is the most accurate. In other words, the purpose of Scripture is for God to reveal Himself, His Will, His Son, and His plan to His people.

Since Jesus is the Creator of all things (Colossians 1:15-17), a person's view of Creation impacts their view of Jesus.

We have a biblical view of \_\_\_\_\_ (the Fall). (What's the problem?)

We have a biblical view of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (What's the solution?)



### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Why is it important we believe the Bible is reliable?

Do you feel you could defend the reliability of the Scripture with someone who challenged you?  
Remember the Bible is reliable, powerful, and inerrant even if another person does not believe it to be.

What kind of impact or value does the Bible bring to your daily life and how does it?

What are some differences in a Christian worldview and other worldviews?

What are some examples of how the Bible has changed your attitude and your actions?

How does your view of Creation impact the way you interpret the Bible and apply it?

What verse or verses have you memorized or do you plan to memorize and why?

### **ACTION POINTS:**

Read. Study. Meditate. Memorize. Apply.

Commit to reading the Bible daily. Pray while reading. The Bible is God's way of speaking to us, so prayer can be hand-in-hand with Bible reading.

Do not quit when you miss a day. We all miss a day.

Think about what you read more than trying to read a lot.

Memorize/meditate a verse of Scripture regularly.

Ask, "How does this verse apply to my life" as you read the Bible. If you cannot think of a way, then keep reading until you get to a verse you can apply.

### **ADDITIONAL READING/ STUDY:**

Read Psalm 119. Write down different words used for the word of God. Write down different ways the psalmist responds to and acts upon the word of God.

Read Josh McDowell's *More Than A Carpenter, Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, and Lee Stroebel's *Case for Christ*.

**week two**  
VALIANT WARRIORS AND SALVATION

SEMESTER TWELVE  
**SPIRITUAL ARMOR**

## Helmet of Salvation

The warrior's helmet protected him from all kinds of potential dangers. Something as minor as a bump on the head could render a soldier ineffective in a battle. The helmet protects the head. The head is the key in carrying out all the actions necessary during a war. The head houses the eyes and the ears. The brain and the ability to reason and think are under the protection of the helmet. Valiant Warriors are thinkers. The description as a "helmet of salvation" elevates the value of this piece of equipment. The sword of the spirit gives us the battle plan. The helmet of salvation is the first step in becoming a real soldier.

Paul was saved out of a zealous religious background and championed the doctrine of salvation in his epistles. Philippians 3:1-14

"Though the Bible was written over sixteen centuries by at least forty authors. It has one central theme - salvation through faith in Christ." – Max Lucado

Salvation is the great doctrine of the Bible.

Salvation is the song of heaven.

Salvation is the message of the gospel.

Valiant Warriors are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 2:8-10

We need to be saved because we are \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 3:10, 23

We need to be saved because sinners are under the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Luke 13:3

Sin separates us from God. Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:2

Sin condemns us to hell. Matthew 7:13-14; 23:33; 24:51; 25:30, 41; Mark 9:48; John 3:16;

Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8

We can be saved because \_\_\_\_\_ lived, died, and rose again for us. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Peter 3:18; Isaiah 53:6

We can never \_\_\_\_\_ our salvation because Jesus never \_\_\_\_\_ anyone. John 6:39-40; 10:27-28

Valiant Warriors are saved by grace for progressive \_\_\_\_\_.

*Sanctify them in truth, Your word is truth.* John 17:17

*This is the will of God for you, your sanctification.* 1 Thessalonians 4:3

*...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.* Philippians 2:12-13

"Sanctification is the continuing work of God in the life of the believer, making him or her actually holy."  
Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, p. 967

1 Thessalonians 5:23; Ephesians 5:26; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 13:20-21; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:29

Valiant Warriors are saved by grace for \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 9:8

Valiant Warriors are saved by grace to \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_.

We are to think biblically because it matters greatly.

*There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is way of death.* Proverbs 14:12

*Have this same attitude in yourself which was also in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 2:5

Components of Salvation:

**Election** Ephesians 1:4-5

**Justification** Romans 4:25-5:1

**Adoption** Ephesians 1:5

**Redemption** Ephesians 1:7

**Regeneration** Titus 3:5

**Sanctification** 1 Thessalonians 5:23

**Perseverance** Matthew 24:13

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Why do you think the Bible uses the word "salvation" or "saved" so frequently?

Why is it important to receive salvation as a gift rather than earn it?

What are the most intriguing "Components of Salvation" to you?

How do sanctification and eternal security work together for God's glory and then for a believer's good?

Why is it important to have assurance and understanding of salvation, especially in a spiritual battle context?

What are some ways the lack of assurance or understanding of salvation could be detrimental in spiritual battle?

How does Jesus saving or rescuing you impact you as a Valiant Warrior rescuing others?

Discuss how important your thinking is when it comes to sanctification and seeing the hand of God.

**ACTION POINTS:**

If you have not done so yet, trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior by faith right now. Refer to the Epic Story tract.

Reflect on how God's Word "sanctifies" you.

Share your story of how God has saved you with others on a regular basis.

**ADDITIONAL READING / STUDY:**

Read Romans 3-10. Read the Epic Story tract. Write down God's Epic Story of salvation in your own words.

Read chapter 3, "Knowing and Being Known," from *Knowing God* by J. I. Packer. Read *Loving God* by Charles Colson.

**week three**  
VALIANT WARRIORS AND PERSONAL HOLINESS

SEMESTER TWELVE  
SPIRITUAL ARMOR

## Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate may have been the most important piece of armor considering its location and purpose. It protected the vital organ of the soldier —the heart. It would be the equivalent of a police officer wearing a bulletproof vest today. A wound to the heart could be fatal. Valiant Warriors engaged in spiritual warfare must keep their hearts pure before God. Our eyes and our minds or thoughts are windows into our hearts.

*"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he."* Proverbs 23:7

*"The most important six inches on the batterfield is between your ears."* – James Mattis

David was a man after God's own heart. He believed in the goodness and greatness of God from an early age. He was chosen by God at an early age to be king of Israel. He wrote many psalms expressing his love and devotion to God. He also expressed great repentance of sin in Psalm 51.

Valiant Warriors have a \_\_\_\_\_ for righteousness.

We heard \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness in the gospel which is \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 1:17

We have \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness which is \_\_\_\_\_. 2 Corinthians 5:21

We have \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness which is \_\_\_\_\_. Philippians 1:6

*"But the guarding of our desires is more than fighting a rear-guard defensive action against temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil. We must take the offensive. Paul directs us to set our hearts on things above, that is on spiritual values (Colossians 3:1)."* – Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*

Valiant Warriors \_\_\_\_\_ their hearts from \_\_\_\_\_.

*Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.* Proverbs 4:23

Valiant Warriors strive to \_\_\_\_\_ their hearts \_\_\_\_\_.

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* Matthew 5:8

Valiant Warriors know how to \_\_\_\_\_ for a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

*Create in me a clean heart O God.* Psalm 51:10

*Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.* Luke 13:3

*With gentleness, correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.* 2 Timothy 2:25

*"A Pharisee is hard on others and easy on himself, but a spiritual man is easy on others and hard on himself."* – A. W. Tozer

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

What do you think it was about David that made him a “man after God’s own heart?”

When you hear the word “righteousness,” what do you think about?

What does it mean to have “imputed righteousness?”

How could David be called a man after God’s own heart after he committed adultery and murder?

How can you be sure you or any person has genuine repentance; therefore, having restoration?

Why is it important we keep a clean and pure heart?

How can you keep a clean and pure heart?

Discuss the importance of what you think about.

Read Philippians 4:7 and discuss the statement “*peace of God will keep (guard) your hearts in Christ Jesus.*”

**ACTION POINTS:**

Confess your sins to God.

Believe God can and will forgive your sins.

Identify your greatest areas of temptation and steps to avoid falling into sin.

Purpose in your heart to live a life that pleases the Lord.

Ask another man to help hold you accountable to what God desires for you.

**ADDITIONAL READING / STUDY:**

Read Psalm 51 and write down in detail what David requested God to do. Then write down what David did and what he intended to do in the future.

Read the *Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges.



**week four**  
VALIANT WARRIORS AND FAITH

SEMESTER TWELVE  
SPIRITUAL ARMOR

## Shield of Faith

The shield was considered primarily a defensive weapon. Certainly, thinking about quenching the fiery darts of the enemy brings to mind flaming arrows being deflected by a metal shield or absorbing the projectile in a wooden shield. The shield also could be used as an offensive weapon, Captain America style. We will want to consider our faith as men in both regards. It is like when a defensive player intercepts a pass or recovers a fumble, he switches from defense to offense.

Abraham was the father of faith. He believed God and it was counted unto him as righteousness (Romans 4:3). He left the Ur of the Chaldeans to follow God even though he did not know where he was going (Hebrews 11:8-19).

"Most people do not trust God until they have to, and God sees that we have to." – Ron Dunn

Valiant Warriors understand \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

*Faith without works is dead. James 2:26*

*What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? James 2:14*

Authentic faith is reflected in obedience to God and His Word. It is knowing the promises of God and acting on those promises. It is believing and acting before you see (Hebrews 11:6).

Unfortunately, there are many who say they believe, but there is little or no evidence of a biblical faith.

Can the faith of a \_\_\_\_\_ save? James 2:14

*Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'*

Some people are just going along with the crowd saying what is expected, praying a sinner's prayer, but there is no heart conviction of sin or life transformation in joyful obedience.

Can the faith of an \_\_\_\_\_ save? James 2:15-17

*If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.*

Authentic faith results in a changed life which includes caring deeply about other people.

Can the faith of an \_\_\_\_\_ save? James 2:18-20

*But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?*

This problem is almost indistinguishable from a useless confession. This is not a common conviction most people have about right and wrong. Eternal, life-giving conviction is supernatural and comes from God. It is convincing and compelling. It is not casual and normal.

Faith that does not \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ is useless and dead.

James 2:17, 20, 24, 26; Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 12:14

Valiant Warriors are men of faith in God and His Word.

We are saved by faith in Jesus. Ephesians 2:8-9

We live by faith in Jesus. Romans 1:17; Galatians 2:20

We please God by faith. Hebrews 11:6

Valiant Warriors overcome the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ by faith.

Faith overcomes accusations from Satan.

Faith overcomes discouragement.

Faith fuels perseverance.

Valiant Warriors walk in faith through the \_\_\_\_\_.

Faith comes from the word of God. Romans 10:17

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Discuss the relationship of being saved by faith then walking and living by faith.

What ways do you express faith in your everyday life with everyday things?

How do you grow in faith?

How is faith defensive in a spiritual battle?

How is faith offensive in a spiritual battle?

What are some things you need to trust God for right now?

Are you trusting God with your finances? Do you give to Christ's work?

Discuss times Abraham did not trust God as he should have.

**ACTION POINTS:**

Write out a list of how you want God to grow your faith.

Give financially to the work of Christ.

Commit to spending more time in God's Word to grow your faith.

**ADDITIONAL READING/ STUDY:**

Read Hebrews 11 and write down the actions each person mentioned did that demonstrated their faith.

Read Genesis 11-25 and take note of the faith steps of Abraham. Read *Be Obedient: Learning the Secret of Living by Faith*, Wiersbe.

**week five**  
THE VALIANT WARRIOR AND INTEGRITY

SEMESTER TWELVE  
SPIRITUAL ARMOR

## Belt of Truth

While this belt was not an item used to inflict pain on the enemy, nor was it used to soften the blow from the enemy, it serves a very important purpose. The Roman soldier Paul was so familiar with used a belt to hold up his garments so he would not get tripped up in the battle. The truth keeps us from tripping ourselves up. In some ways, the belt of truth could be considered along the lines of the sword of the Spirit as both are, in essence, truth. The belt of truth might be better taken as the application of truth to our personal lives. It is telling the truth, believing the truth, and obeying the truth. Also in view is the breastplate of righteousness. A man's integrity is measured in terms of character and purity of heart. This belt of truth intersects the truth of Scripture and truth in our hearts to call a man to integrity.

"I am concerned for the security of our great Nation; not so much because of any threat from without, but because of the insidious forces working from within." – Douglas MacArthur

Daniel was a man of great integrity. He demonstrated integrity early in life as a teenager thrust into a foreign culture where they changed his name, his language, his diet, and his location. He maintained his integrity when his life was on the line. He showed his integrity as an old man refusing to not pray resulting in the lion's den hotel for a night.

Valiant Warriors \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the truth.

*If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.* John 8:31-32

*"Sanctify them in truth, Your Word is truth."* – Jesus in John 17:17

Valiant Warriors demonstrate \_\_\_\_\_.

O. S. Hawkins points out Daniel lived in integrity in four worlds: private, personal, professional, and public. *The Daniel Code*, Hawkins, 169-170.

Integrity is when \_\_\_\_\_ is looking.

Integrity is when \_\_\_\_\_ is looking.

"Battle is the most magnificent competition in which a human being can indulge. It brings out all that is best; it removes all that is base. All men are afraid in battle. The coward is the one who lets his fear overcome his sense of duty. Duty is the essence of manhood." – George S. Patton

Valiant Warriors understand integrity in connection to the past and \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Daniel's integrity caused the present kings to look to him for wisdom.

Daniel's integrity causes the future generation to look to him for motivation.

"The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office." – Dwight D. Eisenhower

Valiant Warriors live in integrity where they are \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel lived a public life in an anti-God culture.

Daniel lived a professional life under an anti-God king.

Daniel lived a personal life under the King of Kings.

“The foundation stones for a balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty.”  
– Zig Ziglar

Valiant Warriors live in integrity even when it can be \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel experienced the benefit of palace prosperity.

Daniel experienced the persecution of biblical integrity.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

What do you think it means to be a man of integrity? Remember and discuss biblical examples of integrity. Discuss examples of integrity you have seen in other men around you.

What are the greatest challenges to integrity for Christian men today?

Where do you see the greatest lack of integrity among followers of Christ today?

How does a lack of integrity impact a spiritual battle?

How do you spend your time? How much time do you spend alone? What do you do during that time alone?

What is your practice of spending time alone with women other than your wife? At work? Socially? Lunch? Traveling?

How much time do you spend praying and reading the Bible each week?

Is there anything you do or do not do that challenges your integrity?

How do you plan for and protect integrity in your personal life?

How do you plan for and protect integrity in your public life?

How does integrity impact the witness of the church and followers of Christ?

### **ACTION POINTS:**

Know the truth.

Believe the truth.

Tell the truth.

Love the truth.

Walk humbly.

Repent frequently.



**week six**  
**THE VALIANT WARRIOR AND MAKING DISCIPLES**

**SEMESTER TWELVE**  
**SPIRITUAL ARMOR**

## Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. Romans 10:15; Isaiah 52:7*

One old song has the line in it, "These boots are made for walking." Paul saw the sandals worn by the Roman soldier for the purpose of taking the message of the kingdom out into the streets. Paul's description of the spiritual armor is brief, contained in just a few verses. It should be put on all at once. But the depth and magnitude of the armor implications is like drinking from a fire hose. When all the other pieces of armor are actively in play, then the shoes of the gospel of peace run a lot better and faster. Making disciples through sharing the gospel is most effective when we have assurance in the Word of God and our salvation while walking in faith, purity, and integrity.

Paul was the missionary to the Gentiles and Peter was the missionary to the Jews. Peter was brought to Jesus by his brother Andrew. Paul persecuted Christians, stoned Stephen, and met Jesus while blinded on the Damascus road. Paul wrote the spiritual armor passage. He intended to emphasize the difficulty and challenge of the battle. This is the offensive thrust of the battle. The spiritual battle is over the souls of men and women and boys and girls. It is not so much a battle for the culture today, but rather it is a battle for the souls of people for an eternity. Earthly kingdoms have come and gone. Billions of people live under harsh anti-Christian dictators just as in Paul's day. Paul's mission and our mission today is to rescue people out of the kingdom of darkness.

"We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender." – Winston Churchill

Valiant Warriors \_\_\_\_\_ the mission. Galatians 1:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8  
We do not get side-tracked with lesser missions.  
We prepare for the mission and not everything but the mission.  
We sense the calling and cause of God in the mission.

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" – David Livingstone

Valiant Warriors feel \_\_\_\_\_ to the mission.  
*I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. Romans 1:14*

Valiant Warriors are \_\_\_\_\_ for the mission.  
*So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. Romans 1:15*

"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time." – Carl F. H. Henry

Valiant Warriors are \_\_\_\_\_ by the mission.  
*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16*

"Some wish to live within the sound of church and chapel bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell!" – C.T. Studd

Valiant Warriors do not \_\_\_\_\_ before the mission is \_\_\_\_\_. Philippians 3:12-14;  
2 Timothy 4:6-9

Preparation for the task is necessary.

Continuation of the task is necessary.

Multiplication of the task is necessary.

Completion of the task is necessary.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

What is God's mission?

What is your mission?

How does God resource His/your mission?

How prepared are you for the mission?

What are you going to do to prepare for the mission? On-going preparation?

What are some ways you can be involved in the mission?

How do you see your role in multiplication in disciple-making?

How are you planning on being involved in the mission locally? Nationally? Globally?

### **ACTION POINTS:**

Pray about sharing the gospel with someone you do not think is a follower of Christ.

Prepare yourself for sharing the gospel with others. Read the Epic Story tract every day in preparation for sharing it with someone.

Invite people to church and LIFE Group.

Share the gospel with others.

Ask those you talk with if you could go through this Valiant Warrior study with them in the future.

### **ADDITIONAL READING/STUDY:**

Read *Tell Someone* by Greg Laurie, *The Master Plan of Evangelism* by Coleman, and *Concentric Circles of Concern* by Thompson.

