

RAISING KNIGHTS & MAIDENS OF SPIRITUAL VIRTUE

*Learning to Protect Ourselves & Others
in Spiritual Battle*

What if our country's military, prepared and trained their soldiers for physical battle, with the same level of interest and intensity that most parents train their children?

Spiritual battles are just as real, or more so, than any physical battle. After losing one of our children to the world, we had to answer this question. Did we train our children **diligently to identify** the spiritual enemy, who was being manifested in the physical body of another human being? Did we train them how to defend against this enemy who might be invisible in a person who appears very normal or sweet? The answer to these questions, with very harsh consequences was a resounding NO!

ONE spiritual fatality in our family was too many... What is your family's spiritual survival worth? To any Christian family, isn't spiritual survival really more important than physical life or death!!! YES!! Our family decided to take on a harsh 6 AM family boot camp mentality for training our children for spiritual battle. Below is an outline for this training which was added to our Daily wisdom search and prayers.

IDENTIFY EACH FAMILY/FRIENDS MEMBERS SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

For each member of your family, identify their primary spiritual gifts and how the gift can be used for God, but also **how Satan can deceive us and use the gift for his purposes?** Here in we will discover chinks in each others armor which will help us see where we need strengthened and protected. Write out these gifts for each family member and discuss how God can use the gift and how Satan can use the gift (The extreme opposite).

SPIRITUAL GIFTS <i>(Rom. 12:4-15, 28)</i>	HOW GOD CAN USE?	HOW SATAN CAN USE?
PROPHECY	<i>(Ex: leader, tells truth)</i>	<i>(Ex: insensitive to others)</i>
SERVING	<i>(Ex: quick to serve others)</i>	<i>(Ex: wrong priority in serving)</i>
TEACHING		
EXHORTING		
GIVING		
ORGANIZING		
MERCY		

Our spiritual gifts are identified thru our personalities as well. Become familiar with your own strengths and weaknesses as well as the strengths and weaknesses of your family. Write out the corresponding strengths and weaknesses and discuss these with your family so they can help protect you and make you aware of the invisible attacks coming against you.

UNIVERSAL STRUGGLES: *(Areas that we are strong versus weak)*

ANGER

PATIENCE

PERFECTION

LUST

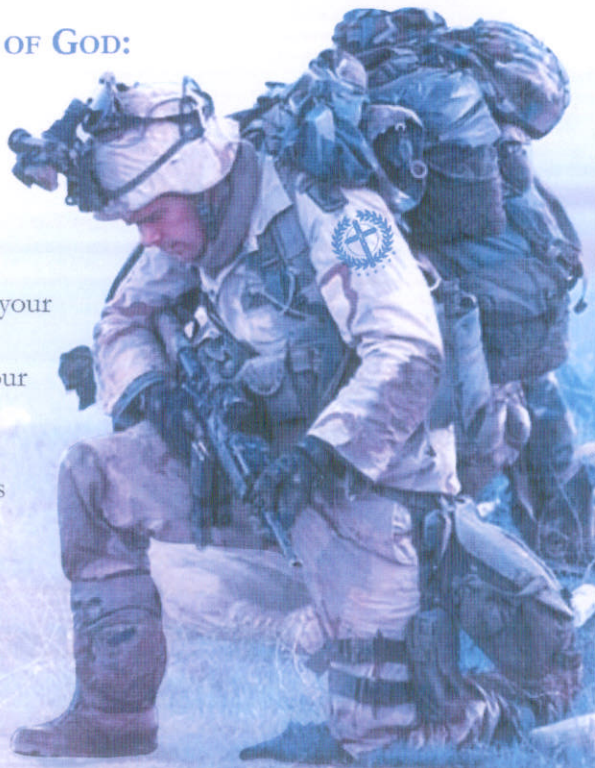
PRIDE

To prepare for the discussion, look up and memorize the scripture verses pertaining to your personal weaknesses. Ex: Verses on anger, foolishness, money, sin, words and etc. Discuss as a family how to practically strengthen each other in these areas and to speak words of life to each other each day, rather than words of death!

1ST LINE OF DEFENSE

PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD:

Use the word of God and the scriptures you have memorize as your sword. When you or your family realize you are under attack from this invisible enemy in one of your “chinks” or blind spots, literally picture drawing your sword out of your sheath prepared for battle with your memorized scriptures prepared to shout!

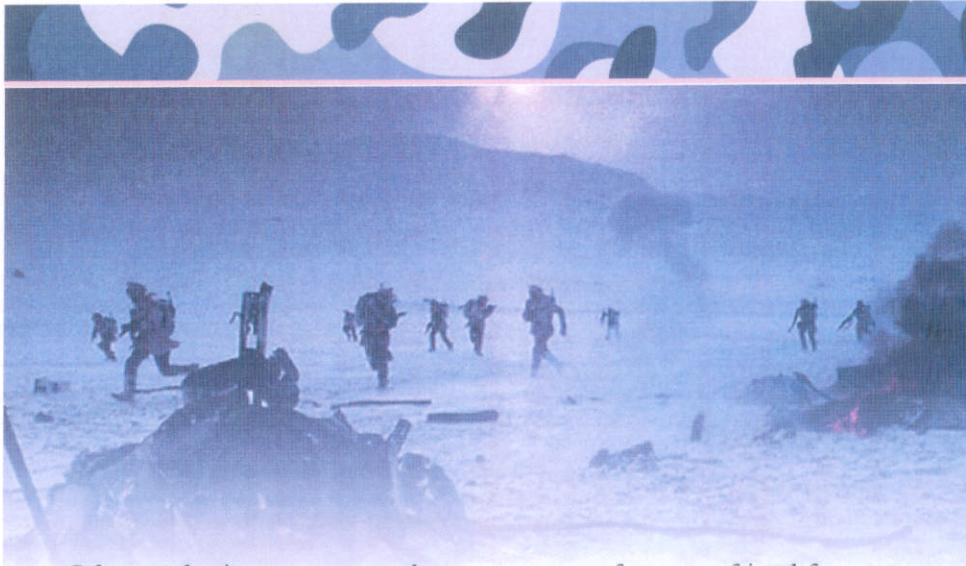


2ND LINE OF DEFENSE

A BROTHER BEING BEATEN: Think about coming upon your sister or brother lying on the ground, being kicked and beaten to death by a physical enemy. What’s the first thing you would do to help them? Wouldn’t it be to **STOP the enemy**, even if it means using extreme force? What if it was necessary to engage the enemies in mortal combat yourself? What if you weren’t sure they were being “beaten to death”? Are you prepared to make that instant decision? Are you trained and prepared for mortal combat? When do you start training yourself or your children?

What would be the spiritual equivalent of this? When we see another sister or brother being beat up by the enemy, our first response should be to go to war with them to STOP the enemy, by making our Brother aware of the attack and engaging the enemy through scriptural rebuke and prayer.





Often we hesitate to engage the enemy or confront our friend for several reasons:

- We see the fault of the person as a deserving sinner rather than a Brother in a real spiritual battle.
- We have grown accustom to the attacks and don't recognize that they lead to spiritual death.
- We are so de-sensitized as a society that we are completely unaware that anger, lust and other weaknesses are the attack of the enemy on ourselves or others.
- We do not physically see the enemy & because we are in "code white" we do not even recognize that there is any danger let alone a real spiritual battle going on.
- We think, "They have the Armor of God. They come to church and they will be alright," and quietly pass on.
- It's not our place to interfere and we HATE conflict!
- We expect our church or someone else to straighten out or protect the friend.

URGENCY

How many more spiritual deaths and mutilations do we need to see? How many more young children, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters do we need to see destroyed before we realize that we are not only under an attack, but we are losing the battles for our families and churches. Our spiritual ships are sinking!! Just because we can see a family member physically doesn't mean the spiritual health is okay. We as families must train to protect one another both physically and spiritually, then go out and begin using these Biblical weapons to defeat the enemy in our church and our community.

PLEASE read the next poem and review the notes a few times. With this you will begin to understand much better how Satan wins us to his way of thinking with consistent and repetitive justification, by comparing extreme situations in regards to Gods Law.



*V*ice is a monster of so frightful means,
As to be hated only needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too often, becomes so familiar to face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

But where the extreme of Vice was ne'er agreed*:
No creature owns it in the first degree,
But thinks his neighbor farther gone than he;
Even those who dwell beneath its very zone,
Or never feel the rage or never own;
What happier natures shrink at with affright?
The hard inhabitant contends is right.

Alexander Pope

**Accepted*

This poem demonstrates so well how Satan deceives us. The sin we see so often is at first a frightful thing, and to be hated, only needs to be seen. But when seen too often it becomes so familiar to our face, that what we first abhorred, we tolerate, and then endure, then we pity the extreme, and then we embrace! This is how our society has embraced killing unborn children, how we have embraced the truly frightful horrors of what the physical relationship and actions of the homosexual really are. WE have embraced or compromised on immodesty and nakedness, the abuse of children or spouses, disobedient children, and so many other horrible sins that were abhorred a few years ago.

The sin or vice when viewed in the extreme case, such as abortion (in case of rape or incest), becomes an acceptable compromise to the vice or sin. We compare our neighbor's disobedient child to ours, who appears to be much more disobedient than ours, when in fact we are in the very same sin, just in a less degree (less extreme). We must train our children how Satan uses the extremes to get us to compromise and accept that abortion or any sin is okay in extreme cases, but when the extreme is seen so often, we abhor, endure it, pity and then embrace the sin as a lifestyle or choice!

*We must identify that God hates sin
and can not even look upon sin.
We must learn to hate sin, and every thought
word or action and train diligently to bring
every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*



OUR CHILDREN MUST BE PREPARED TO FIGHT SPIRITUALLY

Cancer is a spiritual demon taking form in physical disease. When your child has cancer you don't hate the child, you hate the cancer. Wouldn't you spend your last dollar or breath to fight the cancer to give your child life?

Just the same, if your child has a spiritual disease of anger, bitterness, homosexuality, lust, disobedience or other, you don't hate the child, you hate the demon. If you have Christ's spirit of love, and are trained to recognize the demon, wouldn't you fight to the last breath to save your child spiritually?

Unfortunately, due to compromise, parents have accepted a lower standard of God's laws. They no longer see the spiritual cancer in their children or friends. The Parents, let alone the children, are not trained to identify the decline of spiritual health or attitudes in children or friends. As a result we are incapable of identifying the enemy, let alone being prepared to battle physically or spiritually in order to protect our families. Let's start TODAY, to train our families to recognize our enemies and his traits in ourselves, our children and their association.

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE DECLINE OF A REPROBATE MIND IN YOU, FRIENDS OR FAMILY?

ROMANS 1: 16- 30 Study this scripture and points below carefully:

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, **when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful ; but became vain in their imaginations,** and their foolish heart was darkened .

22 **Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools ,**

23 **And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man,** and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness **through the lusts of their own hearts,** to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, **and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator ,** who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause **God gave them up unto vile affections; for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:**

27 And likewise also the men, **leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another ;** men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet .

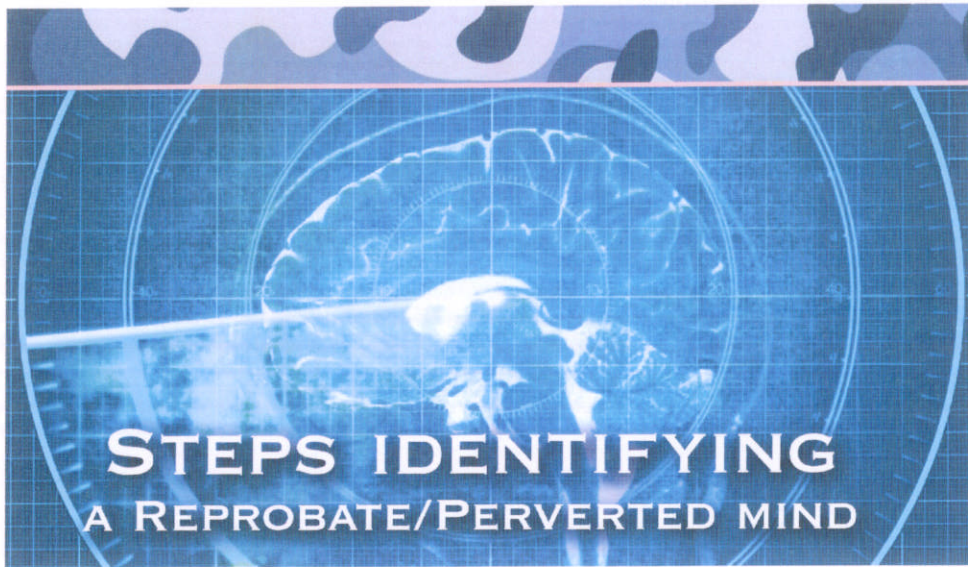
28 And even as **they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,** God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 **Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,**

30 **Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,**

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.



STEPS IDENTIFYING A REPROBATE/PERVERTED MIND

FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED: A real believer is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, or the life they live for Him. If your children are embarrassed to pray in public or about their conservative dress, or the fact that they don't go to parties etc. **Ashamed is most likely the first inward signs of a spiritual problem.** Even a child that has a genuine experience with Christ desires to live their lives for Him, for it is our lives that manifest our faith. They've taken sides with Jesus and are not ashamed of showing him living in their lives.

WHO HOLD THE TRUTH IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS: (JUSTIFICATION) We have seen this all too often. Children will know all the right answers, they know how to act in church, and on the surface they will give the impression that they're the model Christian kid, but their hearts aren't in it. One of the first outward signs of spiritual sickness is their attitudes become silent, disrespectful to parents or elders. They start to question authority with a haughty or prideful spirit. Next their words and private actions become worldly. When they're at home, when they're alone, they do and act the same way as a person who's never known Christ. **Do they attempt to justify or make excuses for their friends or to find "truth" in unrighteousness?** This is a subtle but BIG sign that they don't really *know* Christ, **and that they are resisting Christ, rather than resisting the devil to make him flee.**

WHEN THEY KNEW GOD, THEY GLORIFIED HIM NOT AS GOD: Children who grow up in Christian homes, raised with Christian values will often lose all conviction as soon as they're away from home for any period of time. This is because they know God from their upbringing, but they haven't made him their God. They begin to worship other things, sports, movies, celebrities, even their parents or themselves. Do your children glorify God, talk of their relationship with Christ their Savior, or do they glorify and talk about their favorite Hero, video game or other worldly things? **Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks...** Watch closely if your children talk about Christ. Do you set the right example, telling of the wonderful works God has done for you?

BUT BECAME VAIN IN THEIR IMAGINATIONS: Who or what they watch and worship is the next sign after attitudes and words. Thoughts, (imagination) words and actions then manifest themselves in the child's, imaginations, interests and dreams. This is revealed thru the types of posters hanging on their walls, their screen saver, and the pictures they put before their eyes? **King David says in Psalms 101, "I will set no wicked thing before my eyes"**. Does their Face book page, bedroom, or cell phone have wrong photos, or do they have posters or photos of super models, movie and rock stars, body builders or Sports stars? **Watch carefully what are they are focusing their imagination, mind and attention on?**

HEART WAS DARKENED: Soon their hearts move past subtle worldly things, and begin a longing for the darker things of the world. They migrate towards darkness and have to have the "cool" designer clothes, and then move to the rebellious "in your face" slogans and clothes. The spirit is starting to manifest itself from the inside out, and they become more rebellious in attitude and actions, with makeup, dark and baggy clothing, hard music, and hanging out late at night. The Dark hero or evil villains of Satan's world begin to fascinate them. They pin labels on themselves like "emo" (emotional) or "gothic".

PROFESSING THEMSELVES TO BE WISE, THEY BECAME FOOLS It is easy for children raised in Christian homes to become self-righteous. Their parents believe they have kept them sheltered from “big sins” so they often look down on others who have fallen into those “big sin” traps. What they don’t realize is that self-righteousness is a sin in itself and when they become self-righteous they open themselves up to a world of temptations **thinking they are strong and wise enough to take the devil on their own, and as a result they become fools.**

AND CHANGED THE GLORY OF THE INCORRUPTIBLE GOD INTO AN IMAGE MADE LIKE TO CORRUPTIBLE MAN: They begin to think that their sinful thoughts or even physical actions are of no real consequence because God will forgive them or they don’t experience any harsh consequences. But in doing so, they make the glory of God like a changeable or corruptible man. When God makes a commandment, He doesn’t make exceptions. And though He is gracious and may forgive, the laws still have an effect and consequences for disobedience for us as a corruptible man.

THROUGH THE LUSTS OF THEIR OWN HEARTS, DISHONOUR THEIR OWN BODIES BETWEEN THEMSELVES: The next step may be that they lose the respect and honor for God as authority, and they have already lost respect for themselves. They say bad things about themselves, put themselves and others down. Want to get Tattoos, piercings, even more inappropriate dress, inappropriate physical touch or kissing, and other sexual behavior. Very soon a spirit of sexual reprobation and actions has them dishonoring their bodies, which was designed to be the temple of God. Sexual reprobation takes hold pornography and promiscuous sexual activity, disease, and other self-harm can follow.

AND WORSHIPPED AND SERVED THE CREATURE MORE THAN THE CREATOR, GOD GAVE THEM UP UNTO VILE AFFECTIONS: Another level of the decline of the reprobate mind is that they become **passionate** about dressing to attract the world, worshipping themselves or others in their own lusts and pride, with a strong and passionate desire for worldly attention. They are attracted to nakedness, and more extreme immodest clothes, fitness, lusting after the physical “beauty” of the natural attributes of Gods creature, rather than the Godly character of the spiritual man or woman.

EVEN THEIR WOMEN DID CHANGE THE NATURAL USE INTO THAT WHICH IS AGAINST NATURE: Now the reprobate spirit is in control of the woman’s mind, body and actions. Now she has a lustful, sensual and physical desire for physical affection from other women. She will totally abandon the Godly design of Sisterly love, compassion and encouragement, and desire for her husband, for a satanic display of uncontrolled passion, desiring to display or enjoy her nakedness as an exhibitionist in public with other women.

ALSO THE MEN, LEAVING THE NATURAL USE OF THE WOMAN, BURNED IN THEIR LUST ONE TOWARD ANOTHER: Now the reprobate spirit is in control of the Mans mind, body and actions. He has a lustful, sensual and physical desire for physical affection for other men. Rather than desiring the natural physical affection of only one woman as his wife and helpmeet. Rather than a desire to raise Godly children, he has turned completely away from God to be totally controlled by the reprobate mind in an unnatural and physically dangerous way; a way which is known to lead to disease and destruction. He has literally abandoned the thought of fathering Godly children for a life of self gratification that leads to death. Total deprived of God’s natural design.



THEY DID NOT LIKE TO RETAIN GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A REPROBATE MIND: As mentioned above, they no longer care for the things of God, and as a result, they are given up to their own lusts and sins to bear the pleasure of the flesh for a season, to suffer the consequences and sufferings of sin and death both physically and spiritually.

BEING FILLED WITH ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, FORNICATION, WICKEDNESS, COVETOUSNESS, MALICIOUSNESS; FULL OF ENVY, MURDER, DEBATE, DECEIT, MALIGNITY; WHISPERERS, 30 BACKBITERS, HATERS OF GOD, DESPITEFUL, PROUD, BOASTERS, INVENTORS OF EVIL THINGS WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION, UNMERCIFUL: THEY WHICH COMMIT SUCH THINGS ARE WORTHY OF DEATH, NOT ONLY DO THE SAME, BUT HAVE PLEASURE IN THEM THAT DO THEM: Paul list a summary of many of the traits and actions that the reprobate mind can produce, or become. The once sweet and loving person is now controlled by a evil spirit. They can now become the vilest of sinners or criminals, as Murders in thoughts and actions. They not only love and constantly think on the lust of the world, but they have taken on all the negative and destructive characteristics of the depraved mind. Worse, they have pleasure in those that do them with them, and desire to seduce, or destroy others in the process.

No wonder Apostle Paul warns us so severely!! Just like a physical demon of cancer, the evil spirit they once resisted, has now taken over the body and has manifested itself completely in the flesh. Its goal and objective is to seduce and duplicate itself in others!!!!

THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPROBATION

1. GOD'S STANDARD

SPIRITUAL STRONGEST
 MIND, WILL & EMOTIONS
 PHYSICAL UNDER CONTROL

LASCIVIOUSNESS
 DEFRAUDING

2. CONCUISCENCE

Romans 7:8

SPIRITUAL WEAKER
 SENSUAL MIND, WILL & EMOTIONS
 PHYSICAL (SENSUAL)

INCORRECT RESPONSE
 TO GUILT

3. REPROBATION

Romans 1:28

SPIRITUAL QUENCHED
 PSYCHOLOGICAL PSEUDO-PHILISOPHICAL
 PHYSICAL SENSUAL/PERVERTED
 REJECTION OF GOD'S STANDARDS
 DELUSIONS OF WHAT TRUTH IS

PHYSICAL EVIDENCES OF MORAL IMPURITY (REPROBATION)

1. Claiming that under “Grace” we are free to do what we want.
2. Despising submission and speaking evil of those in authority.
3. Scoffing at spiritual truths which are beyond human reasoning.
4. Complaining about moral strictness and developing new and fashionable philosophies.
5. Arguing irrationally over pseudo-philosophies that contradict God’s word.
6. Using the guise of religion to cover pride, lust & rebellion.

DEVELOPMENT OF LASCIVIOUSNESS

1. Natural Curiosity
2. Awakening of Conscience
3. Sensual Focus
4. Questioning of Scripture
5. Violation of Conscience
6. Awakening of guilt
7. Response to Guilt

DEVELOPMENT OF REPROBATION

1. Incomplete Repentance of Lasciviousness
2. Compensation in Religious Activity
3. Frustration over concupiscence
4. “Redifining” Morality
5. Argumentation Over Scripture & Doctrine