



Walking with God

Spiritually Transforming
Practices (3): For the War

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Life = Opposed Opportunities

Ephesians 5:15-16 *Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...*

You are in a War
whether you know it or not

What type of War?

Ephesians 6:12 ...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.

Rules of Engagement:

1. World Rulership to Satan

2. Time

3. Level Playing Field

4. People are the trophies!

Overview of the War

1. The forces of evil are always looking to establish “places” (footholds) in your life - Eph 4:27 *...do not give the devil a foothold.*
2. Letting any “places” stay in your life grieves your companion, the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30)
3. Allowing “places” in your life reduces your peace, joy, and godly impact now and will also cause you to miss out on reward and privileges in Jesus’ coming Kingdom after your life here.

Overview of the War

4. Rooting out the forces of evil from their “places” in our lives and then keeping them out frees our hearts for life journeys that matter and gains us eternal reward (Eph 6:8; 1 Cor 3:12-15; 9:24-27; Col 3:23-24; 2 Tim 2:11-13)
5. God provides spiritual armor to protect us and fill us with motivation & courage to stand firm in spiritual battles and to make the most of our opportunities.

The Right Way to Fight

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ...*though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world.*

*On the contrary, they have **divine power to demolish strongholds.** We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and **we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

James 4:7-8 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. (NIV)*

So God Protects Us?

Ephesians 6:

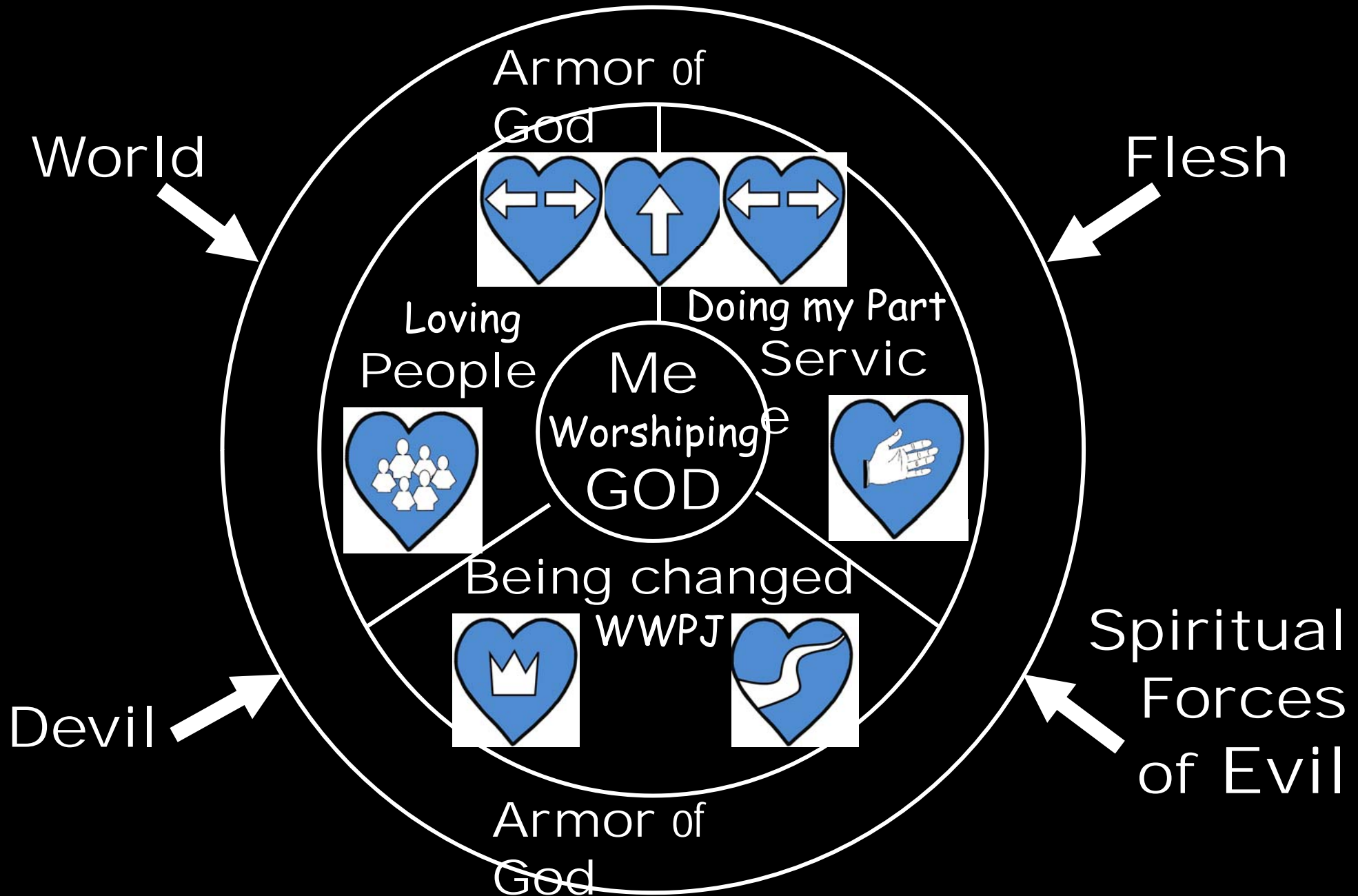
10-11 *...be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.*

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

13 *...so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.*

(NIV)

Think of it something like this



God Provides:

1. Word of God
2. Spirit of God
3. People of God
4. Works of God

What's our Part?

...live by the Spirit - **Galatians 5:16**

...train yourself to be godly. **1 Tim 4:7**

How do we do that?

Make sure to stay in the Light

1 John 1:

5 *...God is light;*

in him there is no darkness at all.

6 *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.*

7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (NIV)*

Make sure to stay in the Light

1 John 1:

8 *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

10 *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. (NIV)*

Staying in the Light STPs

1. Bible Reading – reading, reflecting on, and responding to God’s Truth, the Bible.
2. Bible Study – a step beyond reading where I use study methods and tools to better understand & align my thinking & life with God’s Truth presented in the Bible.
3. Meditation – ruminating on a truth from the Bible to take it to heart more completely.
4. Scripture Memory – making parts of the Bible continually & immediately accessible to my heart & mind.

Staying in the Light STPs

5. Solitude & Silence – coming apart to be alone with God
6. Listening – quietly and consciously considering who God is & what He wants.
7. Journaling – my ongoing written conversation with God where I share my emotions, insights, hopes, plans, fears, requests, answers, and what I sense the Spirit is saying to me and doing within me.

Staying in the Light STPs

8. Self-examination – looking at myself honestly: who I am, how I'm living, what the Spirit wants to change so I'm more like Jesus.
9. Confession – verbalizing to God, myself, and trusted others what is true and how I sense the Spirit wants to change me.
10. I Spy-ing – noticing and declaring God's amazing works and grace.

Staying in the Light Warfare STPs

11. Simplicity – Making margin choices to keep my life from becoming too cluttered to prioritize the pursuit of deepening my relationships with God and people.
12. Fasting – Choosing to abstain from good things for a season in order to focus more intently on staying tuned in to the Spirit.
13. Standing & Resisting – Seeing all of life as the arena of Spiritual Warfare, we resist our powerful enemy's schemes by standing in God's truth & power for His glory

Key Staying in the Light Passage

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (NIV)

Key Staying in the Light Passage

1 Corinthians 10:12 ...*if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!*

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.

And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear.

But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out

so that you can stand up under it. (NIV)

Take Away

Transforming Spiritual Practices, made a regular part of my life, is how I live in the light, protected from Satan's hindrances & entanglements, to run well my following Jesus race.