

Mark A McGee

The Five “Knows” For Spiritual Warfare

By

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Introduction

We need to plan for battle – because we are in one – a very serious one. Lives are at stake. We didn't choose this fight, but we need to do everything we can to fight it with every ounce of wisdom, courage and strength that is in us.

The battle is **spiritual** – against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

God Created human beings to rule the earth and bring every living thing into subjection. That means mastering the knowledge of all things living on the earth. What God did not give man was dominion over angels. God made man a little lower than the angels. So, how do we fight against a more powerful enemy – one we cannot even see?

Know Your God

God commanded Adam – “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16) God holds the Power of life and death – immortality and mortality lie within His Domain. He is All Powerful, All-Knowing, Everywhere Present at the Same Time, and Unchangeable.

King Jehoshaphat stood before the people of Israel and declared – “O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?” 2 Chronicles 20:6

The 24 elders in Heaven worship God saying – “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.” Revelation 11:17

Hannah, the mother of the Prophet Samuel, said – “Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.” 1 Samuel 2:3

The Apostle Paul wrote the Romans – “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” Romans 11:33

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King David wrote – “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.” Psalm 139:7-10

The writer to Hebrews – “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:13

God told Malachi the Prophet – “For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” Malachi 3:6

The writer to Hebrews – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13:8

The Apostle James wrote – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” James 1:17

God is also Good, Loving, Kind, Compassionate, Merciful, Gracious, Longsuffering, Forgiving, Holy, Righteous, and Just! He is an All-Powerful God with an All-Loving Heart for His people.

The Son of God revealed Himself to Joshua in a Theophany as a Man holding a sword. When Joshua asked Him if He was for Israel or for their enemies, God said – “No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, ‘What does my Lord say to His servant?’ Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua,

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‘Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.’
And Joshua did so.” (Joshua 5:14-15) When Jesus Christ returns to earth
to destroy the armies of nations opposing Israel, He will lead the Army
of Heaven as its Commander.

Know your God!

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Know Your Enemy

The leader of the principalities, powers, rulers, and spiritual hosts of wickedness is Satan – the devil. Jesus called Satan “the ruler of this world.” (John 12:31) The Apostle Paul called Satan “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2) and “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4). The Apostle Peter called Satan “a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” The Apostle John called Satan “the great dragon, that serpent of old.” (Revelation 12:9; 20:2) Jesus spoke of Satan as a thief whose only desire is to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

Understand that Satan is a liar and deceiver. That’s how he attacked the human race in the Garden of Eden and that’s how he attacks us now. Satan attacks his enemy with lies and deceit. Jesus called Satan the father of lies – “When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” (John 8:44) Satan constantly opposes the Work of God. Jesus said that Satan sows bad spiritual seeds in the hearts of men (Matthew 13:38) and snatches the Word of God from the hearts of many who hear it (Mark 4:15). The Apostle Peter taught that Satan oppresses people through many kinds of physical, mental and spiritual attacks (Acts 10:38). Paul taught that Satan is proud and his pride was his condemnation (1 Timothy 3:6). The Apostle John wrote that Satan accuses believers day and night in Heaven (Revelation 12:10). Paul wrote that Satan is evil and tempts people to do evil (1 Thessalonians 3:5). Jesus resisted Satan’s temptations in the wilderness and taught His disciples to pray that God would “deliver” them from the “evil one” (Matthew 6:13).

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Though Satan is powerful, he is **not** equal to God and does threaten God's power in the least (Isaiah 45:5-7). We know from reading the last chapters in the Bible that God defeats Satan and casts him into the lake of fire and brimstone where he will be "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10).

How can we as human beings fight against a foe as powerful as Satan and his forces of evil? "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." (Ephesians 6:10) We are able to stand and fight in spiritual warfare as we stand in God's Strength and Power.

Know your enemy!

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Know Yourself

It is wise when going into battle to know yourself – your strengths and weaknesses. That is one of the primary purposes of basic training in the military – to learn about yourself and what you must do to conform to the demands of warfare.

The first person “born” on the Earth was Cain. How would he deal with spiritual battle? Adam and Eve taught Cain and their other children how to worship and serve God. As was their custom, Cain and his brother Abel brought offerings to God as part of their worship. God accepted Abel’s offering, but rejected Cain’s offering. That made Cain very angry. God told Cain to beware of his weakness. “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” (Genesis 4:6)

Cain’s spiritual weakness was sin. It is every human being’s spiritual weakness. God warned Cain about his weakness and also encouraged him with the potential for strength – “If you do well, will you not be accepted?” However, Cain did not take God’s wise advice and allowed his anger to turn into rage and the murder of his brother.

Cain made three major mistakes: he did not know his God ... he did not know his enemy ... and he did not know himself. The Apostle John explained it nicely in his first Letter – “... not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother’s righteous.” (1 John 3:12)

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It's important to be honest with yourself and with God. God already knows everything, so it's more about your being honest. When God called for Adam in the Garden of Eden and asked where he was, God already knew what had happened. He's God. He knows everything. God wanted Adam to be honest and face what he had done. When God asked Cain – “where is Abel your brother?” – God already knew what Cain had done. God wanted Cain to be honest and face what he had done.

We need to face the truth about ourselves and be honest with God about who and what we are. It is in the process of honesty and openness with God that we will find strength and purpose in Him.

I highly recommend regular “reviews” with God. That's where you tell God what's on your heart, what you see as your strengths and weaknesses, then ask Him to tell you what's on His Heart and what He sees as your strengths and weaknesses. These ongoing reviews with your Commander will reap great rewards as you learn how to please Him with your life and ministry.

Know yourself!

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Know Your Role

It's important that every believer knows the role they play in spiritual warfare. The Bible, God's Inspired Word, is a Battle Plan for defending against Satan and his wicked plans and for overcoming evil.

God is the Ultimate Authority inside and outside the universe. Everything He does has order and purpose. He calls on His children to have the same order and purpose as they carry out their role in the Body of Christ and spiritual warfare.

The Apostle Paul often referred to Christians as "soldiers" (e.g. Philippians 2:25; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; Philemon 1:2). He told believers to endure hardship as good soldiers, not entangle themselves in the affairs of this life, and to please the One Who enlisted them. Our role as soldiers in the Lord's Army is full time, not part time. The spiritual battle is waged every hour of every day and we need to be deeply committed to fighting the forces that come against us and people in our lives.

What is your role in family and community? Husband? Wife? Father? Mother? Child? Grandparent? Employer? Employee? Neighbor? Friend? Your relationships with other people are under attack! Satan does not want you to be successful in any of those relationships. He will do everything he can to steal, kill and destroy those relationships. We must fight back!

What spiritual gifts has God given you? Teacher, giver, server,

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encourager, mercy shower, prophet, evangelist, pastor, deacon, spiritual discerner? Your spiritual giftedness is under attack? Satan does not want you to be successful in using your spiritual gifts. He will do everything he can to steal, kill and destroy your giftedness. We must fight back!

What are your ministries? Praise team? Bible study group? Food pantry? Homeless shelter? Prayer? Men's ministry? Women's ministry? Children's ministry? Hospital ministry? Senior ministry? Satan does not want you to be successful in ministry. He will do everything he can to steal, kill and destroy your ministries and your desire to minister. We must fight back!

You will find a great deal of direction about spiritual warfare in the Bible. I love to study about the great fighting abilities of Israel.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11-12

Know your role!

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Know Your Goal

The Apostle Paul made it clear that the goal of every believer is to glorify God.

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:20

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Paul also said our goal was to finish the race set before us – and that means running it in the proper way.

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.” 1 Corinthians 9:24

Paul had his eyes on the prize that God set before him and all believers.

“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.” Philippians 3:13-15

Paul knew well that he was involved in a spiritual battle and that his

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Commander had special recognition for him and all who love the Appearing of Christ.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:7-9

Jesus explained clearly throughout His Ministry that loving God is to be a primary goal for all believers.

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.” Matthew 22:37-38

Jesus also said our goal is to “overcome” (Revelation 2 & 3). Here’s what our Lord promises for those who overcome.

“To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7

“He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.” Revelation 2:11

“To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” Revelation 2:17

“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to

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him I will give power over the nations.” Revelation 2:26

“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.” Revelation 3:5

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.” Revelation 3:12

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”
Revelation 3:21

We are in a great and epic battle for souls and domination of the planet. God is our Commander. Satan and his host of evil powers is our enemy. God has all power and knowledge and will destroy Satan and his army in the end. Our job is to be faithful in love and obedience to His Command. If we do, we will overcome.

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