



Spiritual Warfare

finding freedom in the power of God

NAVPRESS®

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As the worldwide movement of Youth for Christ has adopted this same focus of empowering young leaders, we have modified and adapted this material for worldwide use.

This material is used as a tool to achieve Youth for Christ's strategic focus of reaching young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ, and commitment to social involvement.



What Is Spiritual Warfare?

When you hear the term “spiritual warfare,” what comes to mind? It’s an often misunderstood subject, but one that’s important for Christians to understand. Here are a few ways some might describe spiritual warfare.

- A famous Christian speaker comes to town and holds a big rally in a stadium or the largest hall in town and performs diverse miracles, such as praying for the sick and seeing them healed, or casting out demons.
- A group of people pray for the city, hold prayer walks, and claim the city for the Lord, including all the places where drugs and sex are sold. They overthrow corrupt public officials by prayer and see a great revival come to their city.
- People from churches stand and pray against evil in high places.
- A group of evangelists conduct deliverance services and cast out demons, which have manifestations such as falling down, foaming at the mouth, screaming, and confessions of gory, bloody deeds in the night.

For a lot of Christians these situations might sound “out there” or kind of weird. But for others, these are daily realities as they are asserting the power of God over the powers of darkness.

There are many more possible scenarios than those listed here that people could think of as spiritual warfare. All of these could be part of spiritual warfare, but it’s definitely more than that. It’s true that God has moved gloriously

in such instances as those described here and has set people free, but the issue is that spiritual warfare doesn't fall entirely into any of these stereotypes.

what then is spiritual warfare?

Spiritual warfare is simply applying the power of God by faith in the Lord Jesus to set people free from the bonds of the enemy. The primary objective of all spiritual warfare is to have people turn *away* from faithlessness and disobedience, and turn *to* faith in Jesus Christ, trusting in Him to be saved.

It's true that people are held under the bondage of the evil one in faithlessness, immorality, and all actions that don't glorify the Lord. Yet the Lord Jesus came to give His life for each of us, regardless of where we find ourselves in life. What we do by the power of the Holy Spirit to release ourselves and others from this bondage is spiritual warfare.

what does this look like in your life?

Spiritual warfare might be a group of eight-year-old girls praying on a weekly basis for their classmates. It could be a son praying for his father to begin a relationship with Jesus. It might be two teenagers agreeing in prayer for one of their friends to come to faith in Christ, or a family asking God to turn their crime-filled neighborhood that is full of evil into a place of safety. All of this is spiritual warfare, so long as it's done by the leading and power of the Holy Spirit and the objective is to release people from their bondage.

As you work your way through this book, you'll go deeper into what all of these terms and actions mean, and grow in your ability to wage war against the enemies of God.

how to use this book

This book can be used with a group or by a person wanting to move through this process alone. If you are doing this alone, simply read through each section, pausing to reflect on each question or comment. Write your thoughts here in this book because you'll likely want to read them again at a later date to see how you've made progress as you learn to share your faith. You'll need only this book, a pen or pencil, and a Bible.

If you're doing this book with a group, you'll read through the sections aloud, and then pause to discuss the questions. Again, group members will want to write their thoughts and reflections to read again as they are growing in their abilities to share their faith. Each person will need a copy of this book, a pen or pencil, and a Bible.

If you're the one leading a small group through this book, you'll find additional helps later in the book. We've provided an optional discussion-starter or activity for each session that will engage your group as you begin each session. Use these if you'd like. You'll also find additional helps on how to lead a group. See the Contents to find these additional sections in the book.

Over and over you'll find the same message in this book: We share our faith with others because of our love for them, and our love for Jesus. May the love of Jesus fill your hearts and minds as you continue growing in your relationship with Him.



Knowing God

>> He will flatter and win over those who have violated the covenant. But the people who know their God will be strong and will resist him. (Daniel 11:32)

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you. (Psalm 9:10)

the real thing

It's been said that the best way to spot a phony is to know the real thing inside and out. For example, those who handle money all day long are generally quick to spot a counterfeit piece of paper money. They are experts at touching, feeling, and looking at the real thing, so when a piece of fake money touches their fingers, they instinctively know something is wrong.

Whether you're looking for counterfeit money, electronics, books, or anything else of value, knowing the real thing has a big benefit—there's usually only *one* real thing and there are plenty of phonies. If you think the best way to spot a fake is to study the fakes, you'll never be done with the job because there are so many fakes to study and there are always new ones popping up. Instead, focus on the real thing and you'll be able to spot the phonies from far away.


It's the same with knowing what's from God and what's not. The more we focus on knowing the real thing, the one true God, the better we'll be able to spot the fakes.

Knowing God is central to spiritual warfare. Our *faith* increases as we know God better. *Fear* increases in the absence of knowing who God is.

the names of God

As we prepare for this battle of spiritual warfare, we must be willing and able to fight the good fight of faith. To be successful in this fight, we have to know God—our Source, our Origin, our Help. The good news is that God *wants* us to know who He is, and He’s provided many ways to reveal Himself to us. One of those ways is through names.

Have you ever looked up the meaning of your name? Many parents choose a name for their baby based on the meaning of that name. Or perhaps you’ve been given a nickname that means something only to your family, and those outside of that group don’t know the significance of that name. Even calling someone son, daughter, teacher, coach, or friend is a name that signifies your relationship with that person. Names are still important today.



Note that as you read your Bible you generally won’t find these words, except perhaps in margin notes. These are names that were written in the original Hebrew and have been translated. We’ve noted here in parentheses when the original word was used.

In biblical times, a person’s name had great significance. It represented the person’s character.

This is also true of the names of God. They’re representative of His character, attributes, and nature. They also show the way in which God revealed Himself to His people. This is important to remember because what He did for others, He can do for us. God has not changed; neither has He lost any of His power. Let’s see what we can learn about the character of God through a few of His names.

Elohim

The name Elohim designates God as God (Creator).

Deuteronomy 10:17 says, “For the LORD your God (Elohim) is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed.”

El means “mighty or strong.” *Him* is a plural ending that indicates three or more (thus, the Godhead—Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

El Elyon

The name El Elyon indicates God as the sovereign ruler of the universe. It means “the most high God.” As was noted in Elohim, *El* means “mighty or strong,” which is repeated in this name, as well as in several others.

El Roi

The name El Roi tells you of a God who sees.

El Shaddai

The name El Shaddai means “the all-sufficient one.” The thought expressed in the name Shaddai describes power, but it’s not the power of violence; it’s the power of abundant generosity. He is God Almighty.

Adonai

The name Adonai denotes God as Lord and Master. The word *Lord* indicates a relationship with the emphasis on a master/servant relationship.

Jehovah

The name Jehovah is derived from the word *havah*, which means “to be” or “to become.” Jehovah speaks of God’s being or essence. “Self-existent one” describes this name for God.

Jehovah-jireh

The name Jehovah-jireh means “the Lord will provide.” He has provided for our redemption through the great sacrifice of His Son. And He will give further provision to those He has redeemed.

Jehovah-shalom

The name Jehovah-shalom reveals God as “the Lord is peace.” He is the One who gives peace regardless of the circumstances.

Jehovah-rapha

The name Jehovah-rapha describes “the Lord who heals.” The One who is the Great Physician heals us of disobedience, heals a broken heart, heals diseases, heals lands, cures the mind, and pardons the soul.

Jehovah-nissi

The name Jehovah-nissi means “the Lord is my banner.” Only by remaining under the banner (flag, standard, ensign) of Jehovah-nissi can you have victory over the flesh, the world, and the Devil.

Jehovah-mekoddishkem

The name Jehovah-mekoddishkem means “the Lord sanctifies us.” The word *sanctify* is defined as “to set apart,” and holiness is its requirement.

Jehovah-sabaoth

The name Jehovah-sabaoth means “the Lord of hosts.” *Sabaoth* is used to refer to a host of angels or heavenly bodies, a celestial army, or the population of the earth. It’s not until God’s people find themselves failing in the face of trial that they realize their need to run to Jehovah-sabaoth.

Jehovah-raah

The name Jehovah-raah is “the Lord is my shepherd.” Those whose Shepherd is Jehovah lack nothing.

Jehovah-tsidkenu

The name Jehovah-tsidkenu is “the Lord our righteousness.”

Romans 3:22 says, “We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.”

God made His Son, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf so that we might be made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. By believing in Him, we’re made right.

Jehovah-shammah

The name Jehovah-shammah means “the Lord is there.” His presence is there and lives in the believer.

(This material on the Names of God was compiled from Kay Arthur, *Lord, I Want to Know You* [Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook, 2000.]

So the more we know of the names of God, the more we learn about who He is. It’s an interesting study!

Which of God's names did you find most interesting and why?

Did any of the names of God surprise you? Why or why not?

the attributes of God

An attribute of a person is a quality or characteristic of that person. We can get to know God better by knowing what His attributes are as they have been shared through the Bible.

As you read the attributes listed below, along with Bible verses that show or refer to this attribute, think about why this is a significant attribute.

Why is it important that God have these qualities or characteristics?

What does it mean for your relationship with Him?

God Is Eternal.

Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he worshiped the LORD, the Eternal God. (Genesis 21:33) God is ever-present.

“Am I a God who is only close at hand?” says the LORD. “No, I am far away at the same time. Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?” says the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:23-24)

God Is Infinite, or Without Limits.

Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale? Who is able to advise the Spirit of the LORD? Who knows enough to give him advice or teach him? (Isaiah 40:12-13)

God Is Sovereign, or the Ruler of All.

You will be driven from human society, and you will live in the fields with the wild animals. You will eat grass like a cow, and you will be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven periods of time will pass while you live this way, until you learn that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world and gives them to anyone he chooses. (Daniel 4:25)

God Is All-Knowing.

How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension! (Psalm 147:5)

God Is All-Powerful.

For nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1:37)

God Is Everlasting.

Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. (Isaiah 40:28)

Take time to write your reflections on the significance of these attributes here.

the nature of God

The nature of a person is the essence of who that person is. What is their very being? We know these things about God's nature:

- God is overflowing or abounding in love.
- God is holy and righteous.
- God is faithful and just.
- God is compassionate and merciful.

God is all-powerful and He can do anything He wants. But because of His nature, He will never use His power for evil.

DO THIS AT HOME THIS WEEK

- Read "Calling on the Name of God" on pages 91-92 of this book.
- Psalm 20:7 says, "Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the Lord our God."

For quick reference, here are the names of God in a short list:

- Adonai (Lord, Master)
- Elohim (Creator)
- El Roi (the God who sees)
- El Shaddai (the all-sufficient one)
- El Elyon (the most high God)
- Jehovah (the self-existent one)
- Jehovah-jireh (the Lord provides)
- Jehovah-mekoddishkem (the Lord sanctifies you)
- Jehovah-nissi (the Lord my banner)
- Jehovah-rapha (the Lord who heals)
- Jehovah-sabaoth (the Lord of hosts)
- Jehovah-shalom (the Lord is peace)
- Jehovah-shammah (the Lord is there)
- Jehovah-tsidkenu (the Lord our righteousness)

What does it mean to boast?

Do you have enough confidence in the name of God that you can boast? Why or why not?

- Identify three situations in your life when God has done something specific for you. Match that situation with one of the names you've learned for God. For example, He provided school fees for you — He is Jehovah-jireh.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER TIME

- Pray that you'll know God more and more so your relationship is truly one of deep friendship.
- Pray that your trust and confidence will increase as you study God's character.
- Ask God to help you get to know Him better through reading the Bible.

MEMORY VERSE

Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God. (Psalm 20:7)