

COMBAT TRAINING OR HOW TO FIGHT BACK

I. What is the **power source** we're tapping into and why do we need it? Ephesians 6:10-13

- A. **Staying strong** means finding our strength in God. But, what does that **mean**?
- B. We must stay strong, considering the **forces arrayed** against us!!
 - Rulers and Powers -
 - World forces of this darkness -
 - Spiritual forces of wickedness -

II. So how do we go on the **offensive**?

- A. The **armor** of God!
 - 1. We put on truth - that is **living faithfully!**
*It's a defense against its equal and opposite attack - **living falsely.***
 - 2. We put on righteousness - that is **living justly!**
*It's a defense against its equal and opposite attack - **apathy.***
 - 3. We put on the gospel of peace - that is **relational** peace with God and others!
*It's a defense against its equal and opposite attack - **division** and **contempt.***

- 4. We take up faith like a shield - that is trusting **God's Word!**

*It's a defense against its equal and opposite attack - **fear.***

- 5. We put on salvation - that is our **standing** before God thanks to the cross of Christ!

*It's a defense against its equal and opposite attack - **despair.***

B. The **weapons** of God!

- 1. The sword of the Spirit - that is God's **message** of **hope!**
- 2. **Prayer** that is guided by the Spirit!
 - **Listening** prayer
 - Prayer for the **Church**
 - Prayer for the **lost**

Study Questions for February 7

- 1. Read Romans 1-5. What is the general flow of the argument that Paul lays out concerning condemnation and salvation?
- 2. Read Romans 6:1-2. In light of Romans 1-5, why would Paul need to anticipate this question in the mind of his readers? What is Paul's definitive response to the question?
- 3. Read Romans 6:3-23. How many times do you see Paul either stating that Christians are no longer slaves to sin, or commanding them not to be slaves to sin, or stating that we are free from sin?
- 4. What reason(s) is given for why we are no longer slaves to sin here in chapter six (hint: look for words like "for" and "in order that")?
- 5. Do you believe this is true (that we are no longer to be dominated by sin)? Have you experienced this or are you simply standing on the text of Scripture, but still feeling under control?