

SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL KIT

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert.
Your adversary, the devil, prowls about
like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

As Jesus Christ prepared to send the disciples for the first time throughout Israel with His message, He included in their instructions this admonition: “Freely you have received, freely give” (Matt. 10:8). This six–word summary of grace explains the financial policy of the publications and audio ministries of Basic Training. All audio materials and publications are provided without charge to anyone who requests them. For a catalog of available materials write:



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*“Endure hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ
Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:3)*

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Dedication

I want to dedicate this edition of the Spiritual Survival Kit to our son, PFC Cody Cunningham, along with all the Marines, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guard, Law Enforcement and Firefighters who daily stand in harm's way to defend and protect our freedoms.

Cody, may you never forget, as you learn the craft of the Warrior that your ultimate achievement will be to stand among the elite of the elite, "A good Warrior of Christ Jesus."

May you always honor the title "Marine" with a true mastery and demonstration of your code, "Honor, Courage, Commitment", and by the greater insight that these qualities can only be realized fully as they are grounded in "Faith, Hope, and Love."

As you claim your place among the choice men and women of America's fighting forces, risking life and limb for America's families and freedoms, may you be a living testament to the truth spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ, *"If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it"* (Luke 9:23-24), and: *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends"* (John 15:13).

Always remember that you are His possession. No harm can touch you apart from His permission. Therefore, *"Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:9). Make us proud. Whether on the battlefields of this world, or in the human soul, there is no substitute for victory!

Semper Fi,

Your proud and loving Dad (and Mom)

A few thoughts for you and your fellow Marines:

“The deadliest weapon in the world is
a Marine and his rifle.”

Gen. John J. “Blackjack” Pershing,
USA; 1860-1948

“Let me express the intense admiration,
which I share with all other Americans,
of the record made by the Marines.”

Theodore Roosevelt,
former U.S. President;
17 October 1918

“Today, the world looks to America for leadership.
And, America looks to its Corps of Marines ...
Some people spend an entire lifetime
wondering if they made a difference in the world.
But, the Marines don’t have that problem.”

Ronald Reagan,
former U.S. President

“United States Marines treat their service as if it was some kind of cult. Like fanatics, they plaster their emblem on everything they own. They worship their Commandant as if he were a god. They make weird animal noises like a band of savages, and they’ll fight like rabid dogs at the drop of a hat. Yet, their high spirits, camaraderie, and brotherhood astound me.

They are the finest men
I have had the pleasure to meet.”

William R. Durant, a Canadian;
speaking of U.S. Marines

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Before you begin any study of the Word of God, take a few moments to make sure that you are in fellowship with God, filled with the Holy Spirit. Comprehension, like everything else in the Christian life, is a gift that can be appropriated only by faith. The Bible clearly lays out three requirements that must be met before we can expect to understand God's Word. All three require nothing from us but faith.

1. *We must be believers in Jesus Christ* (John 3:16). It is impossible for unbelievers to understand the Word of God (1 Cor. 2:14). Jesus declared to the leading religious leader of His day that apart from spiritual birth man is blind to the things of God. *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit ... You must be born again"* (John 3:6).
2. *We must be filled with the Spirit* (1 Cor. 2:12). Only the Spirit of God knows the thoughts of God. As believers we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but when we sin, we break fellowship with God and cease to function in the power of the Spirit. When we confess our sins, God is always faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). The moment we confess, we are restored to fellowship and are again under the control of the Holy Spirit and, therefore, able to learn.
3. *We must approach in faith* (Heb. 11:6). Only when we approach in humility, with child-like faith, will the Word of God make sense to us (Matt. 18:4; Heb. 11:3). Where we find Scripture at odds with our ideas or our desires, we must submit to the authority of the Word. Intimacy, understanding, and power are reserved for those who are willing to do God's will (John 7:17).

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

1 Peter 4:12-13

PREFACE

On January 4, 1968, Sergeant David Richard Simons gallantly made the ultimate sacrifice in an ambush by hostile forces in Vietnam. Before his death, he had written in his diary:

Tonight I feel danger, and the men around me feel danger. There is a lurking in the darkness that makes me want to watch ... but I must stop now and entrust my soul to the Lord. Tomorrow I will work harder to be ready. I must be ready ... I am reminded that life must be a continual warfare against evil ... that the Lord came into the world, not to bring peace, but a sword ... The true peace comes only after combat. I am reminded also that life is complex, and like this war, it's hard to tell the valuable from the worthless ... but that is the challenge: to discern a difference and make a choice thus too, on life after this conflict ...

This manual is a tribute to men like Sergeant Simons—men who see that behind the physical conflict is a much more sinister and dangerous struggle—the invisible war.

Our world is locked in a death struggle that we call the angelic conflict (Eph. 6:10–18; 2 Cor. 10:3–5). Whether we like it or not, we live on a battlefield, surrounded by two kinds of spiritual forces: those of God—the forces of good; and those of Satan—the forces of evil. Every one of us is caught in this conflict either as a POW entrapped in the “domain of darkness” or as a combatant who, by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, has been transferred to the kingdom of light and is a soldier in the royal army of God (Col. 1:12–14).

As combatants we are called to “*be strong and courageous*” (Jos. 1:6, 9; 2 Chr. 15:7). Our goal is to advance spiritually (Phil.

1:12–14), 3:12–14) to the high ground of spiritual maturity (Heb. 6:1–2) and to become “*more than conquerors through Christ*” (Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14).

The only way to make this advance is by growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18), and by learning and applying the truths of the Word of God to our lives. It is in learning to meet the small struggles of daily life with Christ-centered faith that we gain the toughness and perseverance that will enable us to stand firm in the formidable battles of our times.

The great General Douglas MacArthur understood the principle that the ordinary challenges of life prepare us for the extraordinary tests. Early in his career, when he was superintendent of West Point, he had engraved on the stone portals of the academy gymnasium these words:

Upon the fields of friendly strife
Are sown the seeds
That, upon other fields on other days,
Will bear the fruits of victory.

To meet the daily challenges of life it is not enough that we have the truths of the Word in a Bible on the shelf. We must carry them within us. In this hostile environment of the cosmic battlefield, we must have a “Spiritual Survival Kit” in our souls (Psa. 119:11; Isa. 33:6). This manual is designed to help you put such a kit together.

It is my prayer that the truths to which this book points will provide the necessities of spiritual survival for many Christian warriors as they fight in the pain and darkness of their own private battlefields.

Vincit Omnia Veritas!
Truth conquers all!

Gene Cunningham
Pastor-Teacher

THE COMBAT ATTITUDE

In any conflict the key to survival is mental readiness. Only as the mind is equipped and conditioned can the body respond to conflict. Military and law-enforcement personnel use a color code in training their troops to be vigilant and prepared. The code illustrates five levels of mental readiness:

1 WHITE / Apathy

The person in condition white is asleep: untrained, undisciplined, totally unprepared for confrontation and crisis.

2 YELLOW / Vigilance

The person in condition yellow recognizes the potential of danger and is constantly alert.

3 ORANGE / Identification

The consistently alert person will be able to quickly identify real threats when they occur. Condition orange is that higher level of readiness in which the threat has been identified.

4 RED / Action

The person in condition red aggressively responds to the crisis by taking whatever action is necessary to neutralize the danger.

5 BLACK / Panic

The person who lives in condition black will invariably rush into blind panic when a crisis occurs.

We have, in the written Word, “*the mind of Christ*” (1 Cor. 2:16). As Christians we are expected to think. Over and over in Scripture we are told to watch, to perceive, to mentally calculate, and to bear down with our minds. Consider the acronym **THINK**:

T RAIN

To get out of condition white, you must train. God uses prepared people.

H AVE A PLAN

To be vigilant, you must have a plan because once crisis strikes, it is too late to prepare. In condition yellow, you must be alert. Prepare yourself by having a plan based on the Word of God.

I MPLEMENT THE PLAN

When the attitude of vigilance spots trouble, you switch to condition orange. With the problem identified, you must implement the plan of action. This is where your training must take over.

N EUTRALIZE THE DANGER

The appropriate action you take in condition red neutralizes the threat or danger. The Word of God is your weapon; applied wisely it always stops the enemy short.

K EEP ON MOVING OR BE KILLED

Condition black—blind panic—has only one result: you become a casualty.

Don't be a sleeper (Eph. 5:14–16; Rom. 14:12; 1 Thess. 5:6). Develop an attitude of readiness and stay awake! Study. If you can count to five you can master the principles in this book. Look up the Scripture passages cited and meditate on them. **THINK!**

ORIENTATION

In His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ won the strategic victory against Satan and the forces of darkness. Until His promised return to earth, the royal army presses the battle for tactical victory, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit.

1 MISSION

Our mission is none other than the cause for which the Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth—a cause clearly stated in Luke 19:10: *“The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”* As ambassadors of Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:18–20), we are commissioned to carry on the fight for the eternal destiny of the souls of men (2 Cor. 5:14–15; Matt. 28:19–20).

2 MOTIVATION

Without motivation, without the will to win, no soldier will ever taste victory. Our motivation is the love of Christ (2 Cor. 5:14). As that love becomes more real to us, it fosters within us an inner drive that enables us to overcome all external obstacles (Psa. 18:28–29). We become more and more driven to win through the conduct of our lives (1Cor. 9:24–27) and the approval of the One who enlisted us (2 Tim. 2:3–6).

3 MOVEMENT

With time, training, and experience, any raw recruit can be forged into a seasoned veteran. Only as he becomes seasoned does the soldier become truly effective and able to take the offensive in combat. And only by bold offensive action are wars won; a soldier on the defensive may survive, but he is unlikely to prevail.

The same is true in the Christian life. Spiritual growth based on consistent study and application of the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15) is our means of advancing on the objective. We must lead the way in spiritual progress (Phil. 1:12, 25) by leaving behind failures and pressing on toward the goal of our calling in Christ (Phil. 3:12–14).

4 MOMENTUM

Persistent movement toward a goal builds momentum. The straighter a football player runs down the field with the ball, the faster he can go and the greater his momentum. Each dodge and turn breaks his stride and slows him down. As Christians, we must not allow our stride to be broken; when we fail to make the most of the time given us (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5), we do just that. To maintain our momentum, we must be fiercely single-minded (Phil. 2:5; James 1:8) and focused only on the person of our Lord and Savior (Heb. 3:1, 12:1–3).

5 MASTERY

To master life, we must master self, but to master self, we must master God's Word and allow ourselves to be mastered by God.

God is in the process of forging heroes out of “zeros,” but remember that where there is a forge, there must be a fire. “Fire,” wrote the Roman philosopher, Seneca, “is the test of gold, adversity of strong men.” At every stage of our spiritual growth, we are tested by adversity, by circumstances impossible to master with our human abilities. This is no accident, for in every skirmish the victory can only be won “*by grace, through faith*” (Eph. 2:8). God's power is perfected through weakness (2 Cor. 12:9). The heroes of faith commended in Hebrews 11 became great God's way: “*from weakness [they] were made strong*” (Heb. 11:34).

When we become weak before God and allow ourselves to be mastered by the Spirit of God, through His grace and truth, then we achieve mastery in life.

FAITH

All spiritual power comes by grace through faith. The power is God's alone, but faith lays hold of the power. As a mighty river follows a channel, so the power of God follows faith. We must orient to two great facts: "*with God all things are possible*" (Matt. 19:26) but "*without faith it is impossible to please Him*" (Heb. 11:6).

Because the Jews thought in concrete rather than abstract terms, their words were designed to form mental pictures. There are five Hebrew word-pictures of faith found in the Old Testament. They are progressive, and they illustrate steps in spiritual growth:

1 **AMEN / Faith is a Staff**

The Hebrew word *amen* means "to lean on for support." It is usually translated "believe." "*Then he [Abram] believed in the Lord; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness*" (Gen. 15:6; cf. Rom. 4:3). David illustrated *amen* faith when he said to the Shepherd of his soul, "*Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me*" (Psa. 23:4).

2 **BATACH / Faith Overcomes**

The word *batach* is a wrestling term that draws the picture of someone body slamming his opponent to the mat. It is most often translated "trust," as in Psalm 37:3. The New Testament provides a perfect picture of *batach* faith in 1 Peter 5:6–7: "*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.*"

3 CHASAH / Faith is a Refuge

Chasah pictures a rabbit which, fleeing from a wolf, runs into the cleft of a rock and is safe. *“For my soul takes refuge in Thee”* (Psa. 57:1). David wrote these words in the Cave of Adullam, where he had fled for his life from King Saul. In Psalm 144:2 David calls the Lord *“my lovingkindness and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and He in whom I take refuge.”* In the New Testament, Christ is pictured as the believer’s hiding place and refuge (Col. 3:3; Heb. 6:18).

4 YACHAL / Faith Gives Healing

Yachal means “to trust in extreme pain and suffering.” Generally translated “hope,” *yachal* draws the picture of healing salve being applied to a wound. *“Though He slay me,”* Job wrote in the heat of his affliction, *“I will hope in Him”* (Job 13:15). It was this kind of faith that delivered Jeremiah from the depression into which he had plunged after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army. *“This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope, the Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning”* (Lam. 3:21).

5 QAWAH / Faith Weaves a Rope

Qawah, the strongest Hebrew word for faith, pictures the weaving together of small threads into an unbreakable rope. Ecclesiastes 4:12 tells us that *“a cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.”* *Qawah*, translated “wait,” speaks of patient endurance as we weave promises, principles and doctrines from the Word of God into the rope of faith—our lifeline. The Hebrew in Isaiah 40:31 promises that those who wait for the Lord will *“exchange their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles ...”*

SALVATION

We stand in hostile territory. The enemy holds multitudes of POWs. Our mission is to reach these prisoners and offer them their only hope of escape: the Gospel. The plan and the message are simple. The greatest threat to our success is that we will be distracted from that very simplicity.

1 THE CROSS

Our salvation is provided entirely by the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (John 19:30). He willingly took our sins upon Himself to provide for us the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). The simplicity of the Gospel is that Christ was crucified and buried and rose again from the dead (1 Cor. 15:3–5). His work on the cross provided salvation “*once for all*” (Heb. 10:10, 12, 14).

2 GOD’S GRACE

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us ... made us alive together with Christ ... For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:4–8). The grace of God is unmerited, undeserved favor. Grace and mercy are two sides of a coin: mercy holds back judgment we deserve; grace gives blessing we don’t deserve. Salvation is offered only through grace and can be received only by faith. We cannot be saved by our efforts of righteousness, only by the regeneration or “new birth” given by the grace of God (Titus 3:5).

3 THE GIFT

What God freely gives in grace (John 3:16), we may receive only by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). Because every person has sinned and every person is a sinner, no one could ever become perfectly righteous; no one could ever work his way to heaven. Christ died for us so that He could offer, as gifts, what we could not earn by ourselves (Rom. 3:23–24, 4:16). God’s Word declares that eternal life and righteousness are gifts of God to all who will take them. You can’t buy a gift; when one is offered, you can only accept it or reject it.

4 FAITH

Faith simply believes God’s Word. To “receive” Christ means simply to believe in Him and His work on the cross (John 1:12). God’s offer of eternal life hinges on one issue: will we receive or reject the Son of God (John 3:18)? If we believe in Him (Rom. 5:1–2), we can know beyond any doubt that we have eternal life (John 5:10–13). If we reject Him, we remain captives of death.

5 RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jesus Christ alone is righteous. When we place our trust in Him, He becomes our righteousness (Rom. 1:17; 1 Cor. 1:30). He can give us His righteousness because He willingly bore our sins (2 Cor. 5:21). Righteousness is imputed to—placed to the account of—the one who believes (Gal. 3:6; Rom. 4:3–5). Every believer in Jesus Christ possesses the righteousness of God (Phil. 3:9; Heb. 11:7).

SECURITY

When you fight behind enemy lines, you must have a perimeter set up for your own security. Knowing the perimeter is there gives you the confidence that you need. As a spiritual warrior, you need to understand the security you have in Christ. There is no place for fear in this struggle (2 Tim. 1:7; Heb. 2:14–15).

Our perimeter is the love of God. This love moved Him to send His Son to die for sinners (John 3:16; Eph. 2:4–6). Since God did the “most” for us as enemies, He can only do “*much more*” for us as His children (Rom. 5:6–11, 8:31–34). He holds us in His “*everlasting arms*” (Deut. 33:27). He has promised to never leave or desert us (Josh. 1:5; cf. Heb. 13:5). He wants us to understand that nothing can sever us from the love of God in Christ (Rom. 8:35–39).

1 BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT

Two words in Scripture speak of the most exalted position in the universe: “in Christ.” We enter into the Body of Christ at salvation by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13). Not only have we been identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3–4), but we have also been positionally seated with Him in heaven (Eph. 2:4–7; Col. 3:1–4). We can no more be cast out than can the Son of God Himself. This is the greatness of God’s grace and the assurance of our security.

2 REGENERATION

This is the work by which God the Holy Spirit makes us spiritually alive. Regeneration is a work of both cleansing and quickening (Titus 3:5; Eph. 2:4–6). We are totally new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Because Jesus was judged for us, we are no longer under divine condemnation (John 3:18; Rom. 8:1). As God’s children, we can be

disciplined (1 Cor. 11:31–32), but we can never be cast out (John 6:37). By regeneration we are enabled to live “*in newness of life*” by resurrection power (Rom. 6:4).

3 INDWELLING

At the moment of salvation, we are permanently indwelt by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:9–11; Heb. 13:5). We now have the potential of being “*filled with the Spirit*” (Eph. 5:18) as we consistently confess our sins (1 John 1:9). Our fellowship with God is dependent on the study of the Word of God in the filling of the Spirit (John 15:7; 1 John 1:7). We can lose the filling of the Spirit and take ourselves out of fellowship with God (Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19; 1 John 1:5), but we can never cease to be His children.

4 GIFTING

God has a work for each of His children (Matt. 25:15; Mark 13:34; Eph. 2:10). For this work He provides divine enablement called spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12:1–8; Eph. 4:11–12). The purpose of our spiritual gifts is to manifest the power of the Spirit of God within us by edifying the Body of Christ in some way (1 Cor. 12:7). These gifts are sovereignly bestowed by the Spirit at the moment of our salvation (1 Cor. 12:11, 18). Because we are spiritually secure, we can never lose our gifts, “*for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*” (Rom. 11:29).

5 SEALING

One of the many spiritual blessings we receive at the moment of salvation (Eph. 1:3) is that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13–14, 4:30). In ancient times, the seal signified three things: ownership, security, and safe delivery. In Romans 15:28 Paul applies all three ideas when he says he has put his seal on money collected in Asia for the saints in Jerusalem: the money would be identified, kept secure, and delivered safely to its ultimate destination. Even so, we are “sealed in Christ”— secure forever!

TACTICS

Tactics, from a Greek word that means “to arrange in battle formation,” is defined by Webster’s Dictionary as both the “science and art of disposing and maneuvering forces in combat” and “the art or skill of employing available means to accomplish an end.” As every soldier must learn tactics, so must every Christian, for only with good tactics can we achieve our mission. Armed with salvation and security (Eph. 6:10–18), we can advance on the enemy in five stages:

1 CLEANSING

Just as the soldier daily cleans and cares for his weapons, we must see to it daily that we are clean and ready for use by God. Confession of our sins to God brings instant cleansing (1 John 1:9; 1 Cor. 11:28–31; Psa. 51:7) and immediate restoration to fellowship (1 John 1:7). The more alert we are to our sins and the more quickly we confess them, the more useful we are to our Commander-in-Chief in the spiritual conflict (2 Tim. 2:20–21).

2 SPIRITUALITY

The moment we confess our sins, God cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9); when we have no unrighteousness in us, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and are operating under His power. This is “spirituality.” At every moment we are either “in the Spirit” and are pleasing to God, or we are “in the flesh” and are not (Gal. 5:16–17). As we move on in the filling of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:15–18), we learn to study and serve in spiritual power (Eph. 1:18–19, 3:16–20). As we maintain a spiritual walk, we see “*the fruit of the Spirit*” produced in our lives (Gal. 5:22–23).

3 FAITH-REST

Because the battle we fight is a lifelong battle, we must learn to reserve our strength—to fight in such a way that we achieve maximum results with minimum effort. As we spend more and more time in spirituality, we learn to rest spiritually even as we toil physically. Jesus described this rest to His disciples in the picture of a branch abiding in a vine (John. 15:4–5). Apart from fellowship with Christ, we can do nothing; in that fellowship, we can do nothing but receive. We must learn to resolve anxiety and inner conflict (Matt. 6:25–34; Phil. 4:6–7) by trusting and resting in the promises and principles of the Word of God (Matt. 11:28–30; Isa. 28:12; Ezek. 34:15). This is the faith–rest life (Heb. 4:1–3).

4 LIVING IN THE WORD

A soldier must carry his environment with him. He has to be able to stop anywhere, throw up his tent, and be at home. We have a similar provision. We are to be at home in the Word, while Jesus the Living Word is at home in us (Eph. 3:17). The Hebrew language in Psalm 138:2 says that God magnifies His Word above His very name; we must give the Word first place in our lives (Matt. 4:4). This means we must develop a lifestyle that makes Bible study the priority (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 4:18). The textbook on living in the Word is Psalm 119. Study it!

5 OCCUPATION WITH CHRIST

Though we do not see Christ physically (1 Pet. 1:8), as we learn to live in the Word, we begin to perceive Him more clearly by the eye of faith (2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:27). In the spiritual battle, it is the unseen—not the seen—that we must be concerned with (2 Cor. 4:17–18). Concentrate on the person of Jesus Christ (Heb. 3:1–2). Fix your attention on Him exclusively (Heb. 12:1–3). Only in this way can you follow His steps (1 Pet. 2:21) through the minefield of the cosmic system!

CODE OF CONDUCT

Every military force has some sort of code of conduct to which the individual soldier is expected to adhere. The higher and more noble the code of conduct, the greater the army that stands under it. This was as true in the times of the mighty men of David (1 Chr. 12) and in the ancient Roman Empire as it is today. The greatest conduct code in history was revealed in the life of Jesus Christ and is condensed perhaps nowhere more clearly than in Romans 12–15.

1 THE LAW OF LIFE

In Romans 8:1–4, we are introduced to the “*law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.*” This law, Paul tells us, has set us free from “*the law of sin and death.*” Because we have “*passed out of death into life*” (John. 5:24), we are to conduct ourselves as those who are “*alive to God*” (Rom. 6:11–13). The life that Christ gives is “*abundant life*” (John. 10:10).

2 THE LAW OF LIBERTY

Because Christ died to set us free (Gal. 5:1), we are not to live as slaves to rules and regulations and laws of man (Col. 2:20–23). We are to live instead by the law of liberty (James 1:25, 2:12), under which each of us must decide for ourselves how to act in matters not prohibited or commanded in the Word. We are not to use our liberty for license to sin (Rom. 6:1–2, 14–15; Jude 4), for then we become enslaved again (I Cor. 6:12).

3 THE LAW OF LOVE

Though we have great freedom in Christ, as we mature we begin to willingly restrict ourselves, out of love for our fellow soldiers (James 2:8). The law of love dictates that we limit even good activities if they are likely to be misunderstood or to cause weak believers to stumble (1 Cor. 8:9–13); Gal. 5:13–15; Rom. 14:1–4, 15:1–3).

4 THE LAW OF SELF-DENIAL

If we allow love for weaker believers to limit our use of freedom, how much more consideration ought we to have for the effect of our lives on the unsaved? Self-denial is the basic tenet of the Christian life (Matt. 16:24). As ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:18–21), we should seek to develop lifestyles that will honor Christ and draw unbelievers to Him (1 Cor. 6:12, 10:23–33). Our lives are to be epistles of Christ (2 Cor. 3:2–3).

5 THE LAW OF SUPREME SACRIFICE

Jesus Christ was the personification of self-sacrifice. He laid aside His eternal riches and became poor so that we could be rich forever (2 Cor. 8:9). Paul followed the example of Christ by being willing to make any sacrifice necessary to promote His cause (1 Cor. 9:1–27). When we willingly lay aside, for the sake of reaching the lost for Christ, things that are good and proper in themselves, we have become “living sacrifices” (Rom. 12:1; Phil. 2:17).

THE SKIRMISH LINE

When the principles in this manual are fixed in our souls, we are prepared to engage the enemy. With a full magazine of spiritual ammunition we can go out into the cosmic jungle in a lock-and-load posture. The Word of God is what the enemy fears. There is nothing as comforting as having a full “Spiritual Survival Kit” when we venture into the DMZ (Devil’s Manipulation Zone).

Study these principles. Learn them. Then you will be ready to MOVE OUT!

Endure hardship with me,
as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:3

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A / The Essence of God

The Christian's stability in life never depends on who and what he is in his own power; it always depends on who and what God is. We will be stable in life only to the extent that we know and trust in God. Therefore, an understanding of the essence of God is essential to our growth.

- SOVEREIGNTY** God is the highest authority and He knows exactly what He is doing (Psa. 103:19).
- RIGHTEOUSNESS** God is the totality of perfection (Psa. 7:17, 11:7, 71:16, 19).
- JUSTICE** God has never been and can never be unfair (Psa. 89:14).
- LOVE** God's love is perfect, unconditional affection all the time (1 John 4:8, 16).
- ETERNAL LIFE** God always has been and always will be (Isa. 9:6; 1 John 5:20).
- OMNISCIENCE** God knows all things (Rom. 11:33; 1 Cor. 2:6–13).
- OMNIPOTENCE** God is all-powerful (1 Pet. 3:22, Psa. 62:11, 145:11).
- OMNIPRESENCE** God is always in all places at all times (Rev. 1:8, 22:13; Isa. 40:8).
- IMMUTABILITY** God never changes (Heb. 13:8).
- VERACITY** God is absolute truth and faithfulness (Rev. 19:11).

To help young people commit the essence of God to memory, Gary Horton, former Army Ranger and now a youth missionary, composed the following sentence. Each bold letter is the first letter in one of the ten attributes of God explained above.

Stop and
Remember
Jesus'
Love, then
Every
Obstacle will become an
Opportunity for you to drive
On
In
Victory

APPENDIX B / Scriptures

Many former POWs have told of the comfort and power to endure captivity that they found in Scriptures, buried—often beneath years of forgetfulness—in their memories. The following verses are suggested for commitment to your soul:

The Shepherd Psalm—Psalm 23
The Ten Commandments—Exodus 20:1–17
The Beatitudes—Matthew 5:1–12
The Model Prayer—Matthew 6:9–13
Divine Protection—Psalm 121:1–8
The Humility of Christ—Philippians 2:5–11
The Love of the Spirit—1 Corinthians 13:1–13
Faith and Salvation—Galatians 3:6–9
Triumphant Life—Philippians 3:12–14, 4:11–13
The Providence of God—Romans 8:28–29

The following are a few of the references cited in this manual. To better understand the verses and the principles they teach, study the verses in their context in the Bible.

PREFACE

Ephesians 6:10–13. Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

2 Corinthians 10:3–5. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Colossians 1:13–14. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Joshua 1:9. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Philippians 3:13–14. One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:57. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 119:11. Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.

Isaiah 33:6. And He shall be the stability of your times, a wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge.

THE COMBAT ATTITUDE

1 Corinthians 2:16. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Ephesians 5:14–16. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Romans 14:12. So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16. Rejoice always.

ORIENTATION

2 Corinthians 5:18–20. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Matthew 28:19–20. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2 Corinthians 5:14. For the love of Christ controls us ...

2 Timothy 2:15. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

Philippians 2:5. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1–2. Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Ephesians 2:8. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

2 Corinthians 12:9. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

FAITH

Romans 4:3. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Psalms 37:3. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.

Psalms 57:1. Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge in Thee; and in the shadow of Thy wings I will take refuge ...

Psalms 144:2. My lovingkindness and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and He in whom I take refuge ...

Colossians 3:3. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Hebrews 6:18. So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

SALVATION

2 Corinthians 5:21. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Titus 3:5. He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

John 3:16. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:7. For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Romans 3:23–24. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

John 3:18. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Romans 5:1–2. Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

John 5:24. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

1 Corinthians 1:30. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.

Philippians 3:9. And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

SECURITY

2 Timothy 1:7. For God has not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

Ephesians 2:4–6. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 12:13. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Romans 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1 John 1:9. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 15:7. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

Ephesians 4:30. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 Corinthians 12:4–7. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Ephesians 1:3. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

TACTICS

Psalms 51:7. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean, wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Galatians 5:16–17. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Philippians 4:6–7. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 11:28–29. "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Hebrews 4:1–3. Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "As I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 4:4. But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"

2 Peter 3:18. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ...

2 Corinthians 4:17–18. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Galatians 5:1. It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

1 Corinthians 6:12. All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

Galatians 5:13–14. For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Romans 15:1–2. Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

2 Corinthians 8:9. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

