

Old Man – New Man “Program 12”

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Radical Protection

Governments dedicate millions of dollars each year in the training of their soldiers for the battlefield. It is extremely important for the defense of their territories and interests. What about the spiritual battlefield? How well do we protect our families from spiritual attack? The apostle clearly said “We wrestle not against blood and flesh...” If our struggle was a physical fight then our churches would be training camps for literal war. But we are in a spiritual war. How well are you prepared for this combat? Let’s talk about it.

Declare

1. What’s your favorite combat sport? Karate? Boxing? Share with the group what it is and why:
 - a. _____
2. Imagine the folks in your group suddenly start chanting “fight, fight!” They start moving the chairs, making a circle as they continue chanting “fight, fight!” Then you find yourself in the middle of the circle and the opponent coming close to fight you. Are you ready for it? By now you know I’m not talking about a street fight but about a spiritual fight. The question remains, are you ready?
 - a. _____

Dig

3. Does the Bible talk about spiritual struggles? Read the following passages and consider the struggles mentioned there.
 - a. Genesis 32:22-32 _____
 - b. Hebrews 10:32-33 _____
 - c. Zechariah 3:1-5 _____
 - d. Ephesians 6:12 _____
4. Ephesians 6 clearly states what kind of powers we fight against. Expand on these powers that Paul lists explaining what they are doing in the society in which you live and/or in your personal experience.
 - a. Against principalities - _____
 - b. Against powers - _____
 - c. Against the rulers of the darkness of this age - _____
 - d. Against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places* - _____
5. If you are a single person, living in a cave, away from civilization, then the battle is personal but doesn’t affect anyone else. However, most of us have daily contact with other individuals like family, coworkers, neighbors, and that clerk at the store that always greets you with a smile. How does our own spiritual struggle affect the people around us? If you think “it doesn’t,” then explain why it doesn’t affect others.
 - a. _____

6. Paul is very clear on the way we need to fight. Study Ephesians 6:10-20. Then discuss the meaning of each part of the armor. Paul encourages us to wear it as part of the protection we need in this fight.
 - a. Twice Paul says "Put on the whole armor of God" - _____
 - b. Belt of Truth - _____
 - c. Breast plate of righteousness - _____
 - d. Shoes Gospel of Peace - _____
 - e. Shield of Faith - _____
 - f. Helmet of Salvation - _____
 - g. Sword of the Spirit - _____
7. What is the leadership role God challenges us to take in this warfare? How does it affect the people around us? If you're married, how does this affect your spouse and your children? Think of them as you ponder the question above.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
8. International evangelist Mark Finley shares the story about a time when he had not committed his heart to Jesus. One night when he's coming in late at night he walked by his father's room and heard his father praying for him. This caused a big impression in his heart. What kind of impact can a father have over his wife and children when he decides to take up the spiritual leadership of his house?
 - a. _____
9. Pastor Morris explained that there's one particular way to confront the enemy of souls. The "Sword of the Spirit" which he compared to a small knife used for close-contact fight. Pastor Morris said it's like a modern day Taser. Read Luke 4:4, 8, 12. What application do you find for this particular weapon? Do you have that weapon in your own spiritual armor?
 - a. _____

Devote

10. There's no doubt that we need "Spiritual Basic Training" when it comes to our battle against sin. Paul twice asked his readers to put on the "whole armor of God." Are there parts of the armor that you are intentionally not putting on? Why yes/no?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
11. Considering the spiritual-leadership role that you have, what are you going to do in order to defend your loved ones from attacks of the enemy? What is your strategy? Be specific with your answer.
 - a. _____

The battle against Satan is real, and our role in this battle is also real. As your group prays today consider how upset the enemy will be to know that you are praying against his kingdom. He will not like that you are praying. Therefore, pray with earnest for each individual in the group not only to wear the whole armor of God, but that they will also be powerful warriors protecting their loved ones.