

Spiritual Strategic Warfare



”Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place” **Ephesians 6:14**

”And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” **Ephesians 6:15**

“above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts (arrows) of the wicked one” **Ephesians 6:16**

”And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God ...” **Ephesians 6:17.**

“For the word of God is quick (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow (bone), and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart...” **Hebrews 4.12.**

Zidkiyah Yisrael

Steps to Your Salvation

1. ACKNOWLEDGE

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” **Proverbs 3:6** “In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” What does it mean to “**acknowledge God**” in “all your ways”? The Hebrew for “acknowledge” – “yada” – is also used in **1Chronicles 28:9**, when David encourages Solomon to “*know (yada) the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and a willing mind.*” Webster’s dictionary define “acknowledge” as “**to recognize the rights, authority or status of.**”

2. REPENT & BE BAPTIZED

Luke 13:3 *“I tell you, no: but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.”* What does it mean to “**repent**” and its definition in scripture? In the Old Testament, two Hebrew words help us understand **repentance**. The first is the word **nacham**, which means to turn around or to change the mind. The second is the word **sub**. It is used over 600 times in the Old Testament and is translated by such words as “turn,” “return,” “seek,” “restore.” You see it very often in phrases like “to turn to the Lord with all your heart.” In the New Testament there is one word you need to know; the Greek word **metanoia**, which literally means “to change the mind.” Repentance fundamentally means to change your mind about something. It has to do with the way you think about something. You’ve been thinking one way, but now you think the opposite way. That’s repentance, the changing of the mind. Webster Dictionary define “repent”, as “to feel such sorrow for sin or fault as to be disposed to change one's life for the better; be penitent.”

Luke 15:7 *“⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine ^[a]just persons who need no repentance.”* **Matthew 4:17** *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven ^[a]is at hand.”* **Acts 3:19** *“¹⁹ Repent therefore and **be converted, that your sins may be blotted out**, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”* **Acts 2:38** *“³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the ^[a]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* **Acts 8:12** *“¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.”* **Mark 16:15-16** *“¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”*

3. CONFESS

1 John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* When we confess our sins, we are forgiven, our offenses are washed away, and our

fellowship with the Lord is restored. We shouldn't ignore our sins or try to cover them up. **Proverbs 28:13** tells us, "*He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*" In the New Testament, the English term "confess" is translated from the Greek terms "**homologeō**" and "**exomologeō**." In several instances, these Greek terms share the same meaning as the Old Testament Hebrew term for **confess** (**yādâh**) of "giving thanks and praising God for His mighty works." As with its noun form, the "**-logeō**" word group is used largely in the New Testament with this meaning of "**confess openly**," "**declare publicly**" or "**affirm visibly**"; it is used by a person who faces a fact that he neither hides nor deny. Confession is owning up to something you know or believe, and telling it forthrightly to all who should hear it. In the Bible it refers to two things, namely (1) confessing your faith in Christ to the world, and (2) confessing your sins to God.

Testimonial or proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ:

Luke 12:8-9 "*Everyone who confesses me before men, the Son of man shall confess before the angels of God. ⁹ But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.*"

Romans 10:9-10 "*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart... you shall be saved*"

1John 4:15 "*Everyone who confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God*"

Philippians 2:11 "*Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...*"

1John 4:2-3, 2John 1:7 "*Many deceivers... do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist*"

Confession of sin to God and those against whom we sin:

Psalms 51:1-17 *“I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me”* (A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba). David offer his prayer of repentance before God.

Romans 14:11 *“Every tongue shall confess to God”*

James 5:16 *“Confess your faults one to another”*

Acts 19:18-19 *“Many of those who had believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their evil practices”*

4. FORSAKE

Isaiah 55:7 *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”* **Psalm 9:10** *“those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.”* **Psalm 37:25** *“I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.”* **Psalm 37:28** *“he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.”* **Psalm 94:18** *“For the Lord will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage”* According to the KJV bible dictionary the word “forsake” mean the following: 1. To quit, or leave entirely; to desert; to abandon; to depart from. 2. To abandon; to renounce; to reject. 3. In scripture, God forsakes his people, when he withdraws his aid, or the light of his countenance. **God will punish those who forsake His laws of justice.** **Psalm 89:30-33** *“If his sons forsake My law and do not walk in My judgments, if they break My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, nor allow My faithfulness to fail.”* NKJV. Even if our loved ones forsake us, God never does. **Psalm 27:10**, *“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take*

care of me.” NKJV. Meeting opposition and difficult trials does not mean God has forsaken you. **2Corinthians 4:8-9** “*We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” NKJV. In our trials, when we feel that God has forsaken us, God is closer than you think. **Jeremiah 23:23** “*Am I a God near at hand,*” says the LORD, “*And not a God afar off?*”*

5. BELIEVE

John 3:16 “*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” The New Testament Greek word **pisteuo** (believe) means to “be convinced of something” or “give credence to.” The Greek word **pisteuo**, means “to believe.” it also means “trust.”

Mark 9:23 “*Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’” To believe mean we must act on our faith the same as Noah. **Hebrews 11:7** “*By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark...” When you truly believe in the Bible, it will drive you to action! Belief is not a passive feeling. To truly believe means to have faith that God is alive, is active. **Hebrews 11:6** “*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is...*” “Belief” can be simply a passive mental acceptance which amounts to nothing when it comes to how it affects our life. Simply to say “I believe in God” means very little if it is merely coming from the lips and not from the heart. People can, and do, say that they ‘believe’ in God, but their lives never change at all. However, when one has true faith in God, one’s life cannot help but reveal this truth. True faith is complete dependence, reliance, and trust in God. Our faith reveals itself in our actions, our thoughts, and our priorities as they involve God. Simply saying we believe in God and Jesus Christ is not enough. Demons even believe but they have no salvation! **James 2:19-22** “¹⁹*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!* ²⁰*But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is ^[a]dead?* ²¹*Was not Abraham our father justified by***

works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made ^[b]perfect?" NKJV.

6. RECEIVE

John 12:48 *"He who rejects me, and doesn't receive my sayings, has one who judges him. The word that I spoke, the same will judge him in the last day."*

John 1:11-12 *"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."* According to Websters Revised Unabridged Dictionary; **Receive**: 1.To take, as something that is offered, given, committed, sent, paid, or the like; to accept; as, to receive money offered in payment of a debt; to receive a gift, a message, or a letter. 2.To admit; to take in; to hold; to contain; to have capacity for; to be able to take in. **Matthew 19:29** *"Everyone who has left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, will receive one hundred times, and will inherit eternal life."* **Mark 10:15** *"Most certainly I tell you, whoever will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child, he will in no way enter into it."* **John 5:43** *"I have come in my Father's name, and you don't receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him."* In the Greek New Testament there are several words translated into English using the one word "receive." **Lambano** is the Greek word translated as actively receive. Many expect the things promised in the Bible just to fall on them, but according to the Greek word "**Lambano**" you have a part to play in receiving the Bible promises. You can passively receive something. An example would be someone throwing a ball through your window into your house. That kind of receiving requires no action on your part. An example of you actively doing something is when someone throw a ball toward you and you put your hands up in the air to catch it. The word "**lambano**" require that you do something. According to all the above scriptures mentioning the word "receive", means that receiving is something you must actively do.

7. OBEY Psalm 128:1 “Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him” **John 14:15** “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” In the Old Testament, the Hebrew words “Shama`” and “Hupakoe” are frequently translated into “to obey”, and “to listen in a position of submission” **The word carries an underlying tone of reverence and obedience, of subordination as a soldier ranking under an officer.** In the New Testament we also have the word “Peitho” which means **obey, to yield to, and to trust in, to believe in.** The general concept of obedience both in the Old and New Testament relates to hearing or hearkening to a higher authority.

Obedience to God Proves Our Love

The books of 1st and 2nd John tell us that obedience to God demonstrates love for God. Loving God implies following his commandments:

1John 5:2-3 “² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” KJV. **2John 6** “⁶ This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.” NKJV.

Obedience to God Demonstrates Faith

When we obey God, we show our trust and faith in him:

1 John 2:3-6 “And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. **Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.**” NLT.

Through Obedience, We Experience the Blessings of Holy Living

Only Jesus Christ is perfect, therefore, only he could walk in sinless, perfect obedience. But as we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us from within, we grow in holiness. This is the process of sanctification, which can also be described as spiritual growth. The more we read God's Word, spend time with Jesus Christ, and allow the Holy Spirit to change us from within, the more we grow in obedience and holiness.

Psalm 119:1-8 *“Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths. You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully. Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees! Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands. As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! I will obey your decrees. Please don't give up on me!”* NLT.

8. HOLY

1Peter 1:15-16 ¹⁵ *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,* ¹⁶ *because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”* NKJV. **2Corinthians 7:1** *“Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.”* NLT

The Bible teaches that God is a holy God. The idea behind the concept of holiness is "**separation.**" It comes from a word meaning "**to separate or cut off.**" God is separate, or cut off, from everything that is sinful and evil. He cannot tolerate sin. John confirm this, **1John 1:5** ⁵ *“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**”* To say that God is holy means there is no trace of evil in his character.

Only God Is Holy. **Isaiah 57:15** “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place...’”

The word translated “**holy**” means sacred, morally blameless, consecrated. God is looking for some people who are consecrated or set apart for His use. And He knows who those holy ones should be because He chose us **Ephesians 1:4** and called us to be holy for His purpose **2Timothy 1:9**.

Ephesians 1:4 “⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”
2Timothy 1:9 “⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”

When Moses and the Children of Israel sang to God, they sang the following hymn **Exodus 15:11** “Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”