

The Book of Galatians is a mixture between God's gifts and our responsibilities. The first three chapters speak to the identity and status given to believers in Christ. Then the second half, beginning in chapter four turns to the responsibility of the believer to act.

- 1) Everything completed for us in Christ because of the victory He's already won.
- 2) How we are to use them to actually receive and experience long-term effects of this victory in our everyday living.

**In summary: Believe and receive first, then use what you've been given.**

Example is Eph: 6:10-11 "be strong in the Lord" is strength God gives you. Then, "Put on the full armor of God". Here we **activate** the strengthening process.

Like plugging in your cell phone to the charger. Your phone will hold a charge as long as you do what? Plug it into the charger. The charge (strength) is only available to the phone if it is plugged in. *We will never receive the full strength in our lives God provides for us if we ignore the spiritual protection He offers.*

It must be "plugged into" or the spiritual armor "put on" daily, consistently, faithfully. Why? Spiritual warfare doesn't take a day off. No holidays or vacations. How is "be strong in the Lord" different from "put on the whole armor of God"? The first we receive, the other we must act on in order to receive the benefit of the first. Satan is hoping you are not **motivated**, unaware or lazy. He doesn't want you to be aware, armed and active. A good example is the movie "War Room".

Satan also uses many ways to **lure** you in his schemes to deceive and disable you. Think about how smart merchants lure us into buying their products. Name a few. Does it work? Which ones are the most effective? Why? ***A change in lure changes everything.*** It's different for each person and changes over time. He considers your current situation, your weaknesses/strengths, interests/tendencies, history/past abuses in developing his plan to hit your pressure point/ fears/ hot buttons/anxiety in order to defeat you and take you and your family down.

The battles he brings against you show a deep knowledge of who you are and points where you can be taken down. Consider the people or circumstances you wrote in the oval in the first lesson. In what way are they a specific "hot button" ?

# THE ENEMY'S STRATEGIES

After polling a large cross section of women, asking them to reveal the primary ways the enemy attacks their lives, several common categories defined their responses. Below are ten of the enemy's favorite strategies to use against God's women as they pursue abundant life in Christ.

## Strategy #1—Against Your Passion

He seeks to dim your whole desire for prayer, dull your interest in spiritual things, and downplay the potency of your most strategic weapons (Eph. 6:10-20).

## Strategy #2—Against Your Focus

He disguises himself and manipulates your perspective so you end up focusing on the wrong culprit, directing your weapons at the wrong enemy (2 Cor. 11:14).

## Strategy #3—Against Your Identity

He magnifies your insecurities, leading you to doubt what God says about you and to disregard what He's given you (Eph. 1:17-19).

## Strategy #4—Against Your Family

He wants to disintegrate your family, dividing your home, rendering it chaotic, restless, and unfruitful (Gen. 3:1-7).

## Strategy #5—Against Your Confidence

He constantly reminds you of your past mistakes and bad choices, hoping to convince you that you're under God's judgment rather than under the blood (Rev. 12:10).

## Strategy #6—Against Your Calling

He amplifies fear, worry, and anxiety until they're the loudest voices in your head, causing you to deem the adventure of following God too risky to attempt (Josh. 14:8).

## Strategy #7—Against Your Purity

He tries to tempt you toward certain sins, convincing you that you can tolerate them without risking consequence, knowing they'll only wedge distance between you and God (Isa. 59:1-2).

## Strategy #8—Against Your Rest and Contentment

He hopes to overload your life and schedule, pressuring you to constantly push beyond your limits, never feeling permission to say no (Deut. 5:15).

## Strategy #9—Against Your Heart

He uses every opportunity to keep old wounds fresh in mind, knowing that anger and hurt and bitterness and unforgiveness will continue to roll the damage forward (Heb. 12:15).

## Strategy #10—Against Your Relationships

He creates disruption and disunity within your circle of friends *and family* and within the shared community of the body of Christ (1 Tim. 2:8).

How can you defend against Satan's attacks? He has a basic game plan of strategies. To understand how to defend against him ask some basic questions:

- ***In what way am I the biggest threat to the enemy and his purpose?***

Are you vocal about your faith? Then he may bring fear or insecurity in you so you'll keep your mouth shut. Is your marriage strong, a good model of stability for other couples? Then he will try to detour one or both of you away from each other through entanglements. He will want to cripple you in the area of your life where doing so will most directly question God and interfere with His church.

- ***What are my flesh's tendencies, basic passions, and weaknesses?***

Every human being has interests, passions, and things they are **curious** about, some good and maybe some bad. Some embarrassing or sensitive we don't like others to know about us. And those things are what the enemy uses against us.

- ***They may come from: your upbringing, your inborn personality or weaknesses created in your life. When these selections are combined with the right timing of Satan, you know as much as he does about how he may be planning to attack you at the time or place you are the weakest.***

It may be alcoholism in the family, the enemy uses it to destroy you through a sensitivity in your mind toward addiction.

If promiscuity has been a part of your history, Satan will want to keep that fire burning in your body while sending tempting offers to lead you astray.

***In considering your basic fleshly tendencies, passions and weaknesses*** how does this give you better understanding into Satan's strategies against you? How can you safeguard yourself from the attacks to lure you into this area of your life?

**Keep a close eye on your areas of greatest strength and your areas of greatest weakness. They are likely the places where you can expect the enemy to target his attacks against you. When you know where to look you can see him coming.**

# PRAYER STRATEGIES

Below you'll find some broad guidelines and framework for your prayer strategies. As you craft your prayers, be authentic, personal, and intentional. You can always come to this page for inspiration and help as you seek to remain anchored and strong in your writing.

My hope is that you'll not only emerge from this Bible study with six strategies locked in place but also a habit for intentional prayer that reverberates throughout the rest of your life.

**P—PRAISE:** Gratitude to God for who He is and what He's already done should thread throughout every prayer, because ultimately His name and His fame are the only reasons any of this matters.

**R—REPENTANCE:** Expect prayer to expose where you're still resisting Him—not only resisting His commands, but resisting the manifold blessings and benefits He gives to those who follow. Line your strategies with repentance: the courage to trust, and turn, and walk His way.

**A—ASKING:** Make your requests known. Be personal and specific. Write down details of your own issues and difficulties as they relate to the broader issue we discussed in that week of study, as well as how you perhaps see the enemy's hand at work in them or where you suspect he might be aiming next.

**Y—YES:** "All of God's promises," the Bible says, "have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding 'Yes!'" (2 Cor. 1:20, NLT). You may not understand everything that is happening in your life right now, but any possible explanation pales in comparison to what you do know because of your faith in God's goodness and assurances. So allow your prayer to be accentuated with His own words from Scripture, His promises to you that correspond to your need. There is nothing more powerful than praying God's own Word. Because even at the mention of His name, the enemy buckles in certain defeat.

## Chapter 5: Who Are You, Really?

by Frank Viola

In Revise Us Again, I argued at length that the Christian life is becoming who you already are.

In Ephesians, Paul says two times to “speak the truth in love” to one another. In context, Paul is exhorting God’s people to remind one another of who they are in Christ . . . to remind one another about the new self into which they have been made . . . to remind one another of their true identity. Something that’s all too easy to forget.

If you have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, here’s a list of who you really are. Marvel at the epic greatness of your Lord and what He has done for you.

Receive it, remember it, and walk in it . . .

You are complete in Christ who is the Head of all principality and power (Colossians 2:10).

You have been crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20).

You are dead to sin (Romans 6:2).

You have been made alive with Christ (Ephesians 2:5).

You are free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2).

You are born of God, and the evil one does not touch you (1 John 5:18).

You are holy and without blame before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:16).

You have been given the peace of God that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

You have the Greater One living in you and greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

You have received the gift of righteousness and reign in life by Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17).

You have received the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus (Ephesians 1:17-18).

You can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13).

You show forth the praises of God who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

You are God's child, born again of the incorruptible seed of the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23; John 1:12).

You are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus unto good works (Ephesians 2:10).

You are a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

You are alive to God (Romans 6:11).

You are an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ (Romans 8:17).

You are more than a conqueror through Him who loves you (Romans 8:37).

You have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).

You are beloved of God (1 John 4:10).

You are loved by the Father the same way Jesus is loved by the Father (John 17:23).

You have been redeemed from the curse of the Law (Galatians 3:13).

You have been justified from all things (Acts 13:39).

You are now God's offspring (1 John 3:2).

You are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13).

You have been reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18).

You have been accepted by God in the Beloved Son (Ephesians 1:6).

You are kept by the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:8).

You are free in Christ (John 8:36; Galatians 5:1).

You are in Christ's hands out of which no one can pluck you out (John 10:28).

You are in the Father's hands out of which no one can pluck you out (John 10:29).

You are an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony (Revelation 12:11).

You are a partaker of His divine nature (2 Peter 1:3-4).



You are part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people (1 Peter 2:9).

You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21).

You are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).

You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14).

You are God's elect, full of mercy, kindness, humility, and longsuffering (Romans 8:33; Colossians 3:12).

You are forgiven of all sins and washed in the blood (Ephesians 1:7).

You have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into God's kingdom (Colossians 1:13).

You have put off the old man and have put on the new man (Colossians 3:9-10).

You are healed by the stripes of Jesus (1 Peter 2:24).

You are raised up with Christ and seated in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:12).

You have overcome the world (1 John 5:4).

You are greatly loved by God (Romans 1:7; Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4).

You are strengthened with all might according to His glorious power (Colossians 1:11).

You have not been given a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

You have Christ living inside of you (Galatians 2:20).

You are a holy one (Colossians 1:2).

You are one spirit with the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:17).

You are holy, unreprouvable, and unblameable in His sight (Colossians 1:22).

You are a member of Christ's holy body (1 Corinthians 12:27).

You have been given all things that pertain to life and godliness (1 Peter 1:3).

You are light in the Lord (Ephesians 5:8).

You have been given all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).

You have been chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4).

You have been justified (just as if you had never sinned) (Romans 5:1).

You are a branch on the true Vine (John 15:1, 5).

You are born of God (1 John 5:18).

You have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:14-16).

You are free from condemnation and you cannot be charged or indicted (Romans 8:1, 32-34).

You have been established, anointed and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

You are hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:1-4).

You are a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).

You are at peace with God (Romans 5:1).

You have everlasting life (John 5:24).

You are kept by God's power (1 Peter 1:5).

You are in Christ Jesus by God's act (1 Corinthians 1:30).

You cannot be separated from God's love in Christ (Romans 8:35-39).

You are fit to partake of His inheritance (Colossians 1:12; Ephesians 1:14).

You are part of Christ's bride that He cherishes, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh (Ephesians 5:29-32).

You are a king and priest unto God (Revelation 1:6).

You have been sealed with the promised Holy Spirit until the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30).

God will complete the good work that He started in you (Philippians 1:6).

God is for you even when others are against you (Romans 8:31).



Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:10-11 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

IS THERE A PROMISE TO CLAIM? There is power in the name of Jesus. Believe Him and receive Him as Lord of your life.

What did God show us today?

- 1) We will never receive the full strength in our lives God provides for us if we ignore the spiritual protection He offers to us.
- 2) Satan uses many ways to lure you in his schemes to deceive and disable you.
- 3) Prayer connects us to heavenly places. That is where spiritual battles are won.

How can you safeguard yourself from the enemy's attempts to lure you into destruction or disunity in your relationships?

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#### Word Study:

- 1) activate: to make active, to set in motion, get going. To activate the phone you must first charge it so that it has power to operate effectively.
- 2) available: ready for use or service; having enough power. The phone is available to activate as it has been plugged into the charger overnight.
- 3) curious: eager to know about something; inquiring, meddlesome, highly interested. The boy was curious about the magazines with enticing covers.
- 4) disarm: to take away weapons; remove means of attack or defense. The officers disarmed the individuals, taking their weapons.
- 5) fortifies: to protect or strengthen mentally, morally or physically against attack. To make strong, to resist force or stand strong against wear and tear. Prayer to the Lord fortifies our spiritual and moral life.
- 6) lure: anything that has the power of attracting or enticing. To tempt or seduce with bait as a decoy. Victoria's Secret offers many lures for both male and female.

PRAYER  
RELEASES  
ALL  
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RESOURCES