

God's Warriors

Lab Worksheets: Basic Training

LAB # 3: Breakout Session

We are at an important phase of Basic Training. We have been gradually developing our prayer time, and it is time for self-examination/ strengthening exercises.

God's warriors must be well-developed not only in the knowledge of God, His will, and His word, but we must also be free from vulnerability to attacks of the enemy (the devil).

As we study the word of God and build our knowledge of the Lord, it is vitally important that we also develop our character with the Lord so that we are strong in all aspects – spirit, soul, and body. In this lab we are going to focus on your soul. The soul of a person has significant impact on the character that any human displays.

You may have heard this discussed before: Humans are spirit, we have a soul, and we live in a body.

The soul is made of the mind, will, emotions (feelings), intellect/understanding, habits, and desires.

Let us begin!

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There are four reflections listed below to help you evaluate yourself. These reflections are not meant to condemn you or penalize you, so answer honestly – this is between you and your Lord.

Reflection #1: Which option would you prefer: (Circle one answer that sounds most like you.)

- 1) God reveal the truth to you, no matter what it is and even if it hurts your feelings or disappoints you?
- 2) God just leave you alone, say/reveal nothing - so you do not have the deal with whatever He might reveal, or you can just keep going with your life?

Reflection #2: Which would you rather keep in your life: (Circle one answer that sounds most like you.)

- 1) A long-held belief that makes you “feel” good but is not true.
- 2) Accurate understanding of God’s word that may not make you “feel” good but is true and will make you free in life and your walk with the Lord.

Reflection #3: (Read the short paragraphs, and look up the scriptures listed, then answer the five questions that follow.)

The Lord expected that His disciples would grow and come up to His level. He also expects that we will grow and come up to His level as well. He also expects that we learn to speak the way He speaks, see things the way He does, and do as He does because He only spoke as the Father spoke, only saw things from the Father’s perspective, and only did as the Father did.

He requires of His disciples that He does not have to “come down” to speak their language, but instead that we learn to act, think, believe, and speak like He does and mature in our willingness and ability to understand and adapt to His ways.

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Being a disciple of Christ is different than being a “by-stander” of Christ or someone who likes Christian ideas or messages. The Lord makes no demands of these kinds of people because He has no expectation that they will become something else or be used for the work of the kingdom. He always planned that His disciples would one day become apostles. [Except for Judas – because Jesus already knew Judas would choose to be a betrayer instead of remaining a disciple.]

Luke 8:24-25, Mark 8:15-21, Mark 7:14-23, Mark 4:10-13, John 6:59-71, John 14:8-9

- 1) Are you willing to grow up spiritually, mentally, and emotionally with God so the Lord can have a real conversation with you and tell you what is on His heart and share secrets with you?

- 2) Are you willing to let God stretch you and continue to let Him stretch you beyond what you think you are capable of, and mold you into His design no matter how long or how much it takes?

- 3) Are you willing to lay aside yourself to follow Him the way He expects to be followed?

- 4) Are you willing to lay aside your personal plans that you had/have for your life and what you “think” is right to accept the mind of Christ and obey Jesus in a way that pleases Him?

- 5) Are you willing to let the Lord correct you when you are wrong and compliment you when you are doing well?

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Reflection #4: What kinds of things “press your buttons,” “make you angry,” or cause you to “shut down / quit moving forward” when you hear, see, or experience them?

Is it racism that you perceive, feelings of inferiority (you don't think you're smart enough or good enough), feelings of superiority (you think you're too smart or too good for certain things), jealousy that someone has something that you don't, anger that you haven't had the same opportunities that others may have, bitterness because someone hurt you and never apologized, etc.? (There are just a few examples. Listen to what Holy Spirit brings to your attention.)

Use the space provided to write your answer(s):

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One of the first steps any fighter or soldier must learn when training for combat is how to take a hit from your opponent and be impenetrable to attacks of your adversaries. Removing any foreseeable weakness to yourself (the warrior) is essential. This is so that you will still be able to stand and advance in the mission or defense of the mission no matter what comes your way.

Let us look at the overall strategy of the devil (satan, demons, etc.):

The first place that the devil tries to attack is to kill the child while in the womb or while the child is young.

Then, the devil adds another strategy – cause the growing adolescent to be tainted or trapped by sin that is either done to them by someone else or that they begin to do themselves. (The devil hopes to hold the human in this place for the rest of their life or until he has enough of a foothold to kill them. He also hopes that they are so bound with sin that they will never be able to have a chance to behold Jesus and come to know Him as Lord and Savior.)

If one does receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, the devil looks for weakness in their soul caused by undeveloped or under-developed character and purity towards God. (If the devil cannot keep a human from receiving salvation, he tries to keep them ineffective in their calling, kingdom business, and keep them from truly being used by God to the fullness of what God desires. The devil will use bondage and spiritual blindness caused by unresolved/unrepented sin, spiritual immaturity, lack of knowledge in a variety of areas, unwillingness to be trained by Holy Spirit, and disobedience, to name a few things, to accomplish his task. The devil further attempts to distract the believe so that the believer spends their days/years in futility and bears little to no fruit of the kingdom of God. He (the devil) will use whatever methods necessary and take every opportunity available to accomplish his task.

At any point in time the devil is trying to “steal, kill, and destroy” human life. The devil attacks every human with this overall strategy, and he is looking for a time when you are weak/vulnerable so he can take advantage of (exploit) those weaknesses.

We will no longer be ignorant of the devil's tactics/strategy. Do not give him any opportunities in your life.

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When we think of spiritual warfare, naturally, we most often think of being in a position of attacking the enemy all the time and pay little attention to removing places within us that the enemy can easily cause us to stumble before God or in our efforts to participate in the mission of the kingdom. But this is exactly where the devil attacks and most consistently tries to strike/derail the believer. (We must shift our focus to understanding the tactics of the enemy against us based on our spiritual position. We are not the unsaved, we are believers!) Consider this: During Jesus' time on the earth as a Man. The devil tried to kill Him shortly after His birth and through his early childhood. Then, he tried to derail Jesus' mission (get Jesus to sin against God) through attempting to draw on Jesus' desires. Read Luke 4:1-13. Jesus was able to succeed against the tactics of the adversary for two main reasons. #1 He was filled up with the Father, and #2 He was guided by the Holy Spirit in all things.

Let us read and then compare the following scriptures:

In John 14:10 the Lord says, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but **the Father abiding in Me** does His works." (Emphasis added) (NASB1995)

In John 14:30 the Lord says, "I will no longer talk much with you, for **the ruler of this world** is coming, and he **has nothing in Me**." (Emphasis added) (NKJV)

When we compare these scriptures, we can see a powerful truth that we must apply to our lives. Jesus is saying in these verses is that He is full of God, surrendered in every way to the Father, and there is no part of the devil or the devil's ways in Him. He is also saying there are no weaknesses in His character that the devil could "play on" or use to cause Jesus to stumble in word, action, or thought. Jesus had no "buttons" that the devil could push to make Him get off course with the Father. We are His body and His disciples, and we should have no "buttons" either.

1 Corinthians 5:6 (NKJV) says, "...Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?"

Galatians 5:9 says, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump."

Leaven, the way it is used in the Gospels and New Testament, represents sin, evil, and or wickedness. Another way to phrase these verses would be: "Even a little bit of the devil's ways (sin) in your heart, mind, or life creates trouble for your entire being. It weakens you to the attacks of the devil and presents an opportunity for you to fall."

Elite warriors of God must evaluate themselves frequently and be willing to correct anything that does not line up with the perfect will of God.

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NEXT STEPS:

We are called to know the truth, believe the truth, love truth, speak the truth, and walk in the truth, because when we know, believe, love, speak, and walk in the truth, the truth will set us free. The first place that this applies is within your own soul [the mind, will, emotions (feelings), intellect/understanding, habits, and desires]. Read reference verses: John 8:32, John 19:35, Psalm 15:2, Ephesians 4:15 and 25, 2 John 1:4, 3 John 1:3, Revelation 22:15

Evaluate your (honest) responses to the questions in this Lab. Were your honest answers, in line with or out of line with the Lord?

If you find that some or all your answers were out of line with the Lord, take some time to decide where you go from here.

If you decide to continue your pursuit of becoming one of God's warriors, take a break from the Basic Training podcast episodes, and take as much time as you need to talk with the Lord and get His plans for making the needed corrections in your soul. Then, when you are ready, resume listening to the podcast and complete the worksheets. Please feel free to re-listen to any of the episodes if you did not get as much as you could out of the lessons.

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Notes:

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