

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH**

***Robert R. McLaughlin Bible Ministries***

**THE ART OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

***The Art of War***

God has a plan for your life. I like to call that plan the Pre-designed Plan of God designed just for you by God the Father in eternity past. The interesting thing is that there is an analogy between the Pre-designed Plan of God and what is known in the military as the nine principles of the art of war. The principle behind the preparation for war and direction for war is called strategy. In the military sense, strategy is defined as the science and art of military command to meet the enemy in combat under advantageous conditions. In other words, in any war there must be a plan and method designed to defeat the enemy. God's strategy is found in the divine power and assets which He has prepared for us in eternity past. This includes His plan, which we call the Pre-designed Plan of God, and His method which is to use His power which we call divine omnipotence. Paul told the Corinthians in 2Co 6:7 that one of the signs that he was a servant of God was the fact that he operated in divine power.

***2Co 6:7 In the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,***

The strategy of God for our spiritual warfare is found in the Pre-designed Plan of God and His method is operating in divine power. Our Lord Jesus Christ won the strategic victory over Satan in the angelic conflict during His first advent and His saving work on the cross. The tactical victory for this conflict is now assigned to each church age believer. As royal family of God, you are assigned the responsibility of tactical victory. You are to put into operation the method and the plan that the Lord Jesus Christ has made available to you for victory in spiritual warfare.

***2Co 10:3-5, For though we walk in the flesh, [in human bodies in the natural realm in this world], We do not war according to the flesh, [we do not fight our battles in human strength], For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations [false doctrines and theories] and every arrogant thought raised up against the knowledge or the doctrine of God, and we are taking every thought captive or make every thought surrender to obedience to Christ.***

You are responsible to put into operation the plan which the Lord has made available to every Church-age believer. And remember, never has so much been given to so many as in the Church age. This of course is a part of the uniqueness of the Church-age. The art of war is a bibliography of the works of Sun Tzu. Sun Tzu was a Chinese general who lived

approximately around 500 B.C. and a collection of essays on the art of war is attributed to Sun Tzu. The most fundamental of Sun Tzu's principles for the conduct of war is that **"all warfare is based on deception"**. That's why the Bible prepares us for deception in many passages. In fact, the opposite of deception is actually loyalty, something that is very hard to find. As Paul said in **2Ti 1:15-18**, ***You are aware of the fact that all who are in Asia turned away from me, At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth. The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.***

Another key Sun Tzu principle is that **"the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting."** And this has a perfect analogy with the principles found in the word of God such as;

**Eph 6:11** ***"hold your ground against the strategies of the devil."***

**Eph 6:13** ***"hold your ground in the day that evil attacks you"***

**Jam 4:7** ***"Submit therefore to God [execute the pre-designed plan of God]. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."***

**1Pe 5:9** ***"But resist the devil by being firm in your doctrine"***

Now, Sun Tzu's ideas spread to the rest of Asia and to Japan. In fact, the Japanese quickly adopted Sun Tzu's teaching and then added a few chapters of their own. Therefore, it is no accident that Asian cultures are referred to as cultures of strategy, and Sun Tzu has played a major part in this development. The art of war has been applied to business, sports, diplomacy and personal lives and has been popularized in American business as well. We will see these principles and how they relate to the Pre-designed Plan of God. So the strategy of God for our spiritual warfare is found in the Pre-designed Plan of God and His method is operating in divine power.

Then there is what we call tactics. The application to specific battles and operations is called tactics. Tactics refers to a device for accomplishing an end or a method of employing forces in combat. We could call tactics the ability to put strategies into operation. Be sure you understand this vocabulary before we go on. Strategies refers to the method and the plan. Tactics refers to putting into operation that method and plan. And God's strategy is found in the Pre-designed plan of God. God's tactics are in the mechanics of the divine power which He has made available to every church age believer. Out of these nine principles of warfare, the first is called the principle of objective.

## **1. The principle of OBJECTIVE.**

The purpose of a military operation is the attainment of a certain objective assigned to a designated force. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have been assigned by God and you are a member of a designated force. You have been chosen by God.

**Joh 15:16** *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and {that} your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.*

So, the purpose of a military operation is the attainment of a certain objective assigned to a designated force. This objective constitutes the guide for the interpretation of orders, for the formation of decisions, and for the employment of the means available. Therefore, as a certain objective exists in the natural realm for a nation and its military forces, so an objective exists in the spiritual realm. Our main objective in the spiritual war which we are called to fight in is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Rev 4:11** *"Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."*

In war the selection of national objectives depends upon political, military, and economic conditions under the following general rules.

**a. The neutralization and destruction of the power of the opposing military forces in battle.**

We do this in the spiritual life through rebound and recovery to neutralize or destroy the power of the opposing forces in the spiritual life through;

**1Jo 1:9** *"If we acknowledge [name and cite] our sins, He is faithful and righteous, with the result that He forgives us our sins [known sins] and purifies us from all unrighteousness [unknown sins]."*

**Psa 32:5** *I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah.*

Now, this is why there always has been and will be an attack on rebound and recovery and the principle of 1Jo 1:9 until the eternal state. Sin takes us out of the Pre-designed Plan of God and away from the delegated power of God but rebound puts us right back in. And Satan doesn't like that fact nor do legalistic people. So when we sin and enter cosmic one or two, the devil's world system to take us away from the plan of God, we function under human power and human energy of the flesh which is totally unacceptable to God's plan for our life. Therefore, the first general rule under the principle of objectives is the neutralization and destruction of the power of the opposing forces in battle.

**b. The possession of localities or cites which will attain the national objective.**

This is analogous to using rebound to reenter the Pre-designed Plan of God which is the only place where divine omnipotence is available. The locality which you must possess to be victorious in the spiritual battles of life is the location of the Pre-designed Plan of God. You must be in the Pre-designed Plan of God for victory in spiritual warfare. In the Pre-designed Plan of God, divine omnipotence is delegated under three categories.

- (1) The omnipotence of God the Father is reflected in the unique assets of every Church-age believer.
- (2) The omnipotence of God the Son is reflected in the original divine plan.
- (3) The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit is delegated to every believer to live in the Pre-designed Plan of God in this Church-age.

The power of God is only delegated or made available inside the Pre-designed Plan of God. Outside of the divine plan or the Pre-designed Plan of God, we are either operating under the power of Satan, under the human power of someone else, or under our own human abilities. So in the Christian way of life the principle of the objective is the fulfillment of the Pre-designed Plan of God through the attainment of spiritual growth inside of that plan. That is the ground which we must stand upon and the place of delegated divine power. And just like in war, it is very difficult at times to accomplish certain localities and places, it is also difficult for the believer to stay in the Pre-designed Plan of God at certain times. Now, the objectives assigned to the Royal Family include the glorification of God in two ways. First, the attainment of spiritual maturity resulting in the conveyance of our escrow blessings which glorifies God, Eph 1:3. The first thing God ever did for us, which was to bless us, is the means of glorifying Him. Secondly, the passing of suffering for blessing and different testing, the highest honor God ever gives to a Church-age believer.

The selection by God of our spiritual objectives of the Pre-designed Plan of God is based on the provision of our unique spiritual assets made available for every Church-age believer. This is with special emphasis is on the equal opportunity of predestination, which is residence, function, and momentum inside the Pre-designed Plan of God. In other words, the moment you sin and enter into cosmic one or cosmic two, you are out from under the equal opportunity to execute the Pre-designed Plan of God under divine power. And in the cosmic system, you are under the worst and most evil system of inequality that has ever existed.

## **2. The second principle of war is the principle of OFFENSIVE ACTION.**

Offensive action is the only means by which a decision is gained in warfare. And when successful, the offensive brings victory; whereas the defense can only avoid defeat. Therefore, the only effective way to win a war is to act on the offensive. Paul told timothy in *1TI 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

He didn't say fight the devil, he said fight the good fight of the faith which means to execute the Pre-designed Plan of God. We know that from another passage.

**2Ti 4:7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;***

The offensive increases the effectiveness of the force that adopts it because it raises morale, permits concentration of effort, and allows freedom of action. Therefore, believers become more effective and have their morale raised as they execute the Pre-designed Plan

of God. On the other hand, the defensive should be used to assist offensive action elsewhere, to gain time and to utilize the advantage of terrain in order to compensate for some weakness. Defensive action in spiritual warfare is described for us in Eph 6:16 as the shield of faith.

**Eph 6:16** *In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.*

The offensive in the Christian life is the fulfillment of the Pre-designed Plan of God. This can only occur when the believer is inside the Pre-designed Plan of God. Divine power is **only** delegated to the Pre-designed Plan of God. And this means that all human emotion does not advance you to the fulfillment of the Pre-designed Plan of God. In fact, emotion is often a terrible hindrance. This also means that neither human morality, nor energy of the flesh type works advance you. God's plan is designed to run only on God's power... and only God's power.

As Zechariah said in **Zec 4:6** *'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts.*

The purpose of the offensive in the Pre-designed Plan of God is to advance to spiritual maturity. And this results in the conveyance of your escrow blessings and the wonderful privilege of functioning under suffering for blessing as you become a witness for the prosecution in Satan's appeal trial. The apostle warned us that a soldier for the Lord Jesus Christ would have to face suffering for blessing in 2Ti 2:3-5.

**2Ti 2:3-4**, *Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.*

Then he describes the principle of offensive action in verse 5.

**2Ti 2:5** *and also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.*

You may think you're a spiritual jock but if you do not know the rules of the Pre-designed Plan of God, you are wasting your time. Therefore, you are never going to go into the promise land and enjoy the place of God's highest and best for you.

### **3. The third principle found in warfare is called the principle of MASS.**

The term "MASS" is used in the military to define combat power. The concept of mass includes the numbers, the weapons, the tactical skill, the fighting ability, the determination, the discipline, the morale, the leadership which are all part of the power in the military principle of mass. In other words, mass takes into account all the assets and the weaponry that the soldiers have. And this is how success is accomplished. Success in warfare is attained by the employment of mass in a main effort at the proper time at the proper place for the accomplishment of a definite purpose. So notice four things in this explanation;

- **There must be a main effort.**
- **There is a proper time.**
- **A proper place.**
- **A definite purpose.**

The main effort is loving God with all of your strength. The proper time is only when you are filled with the Holy Spirit where you have redeemed the time. The proper place is inside the Pre-designed Plan of God. And the definite purpose is the glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ. This can only be accomplished by using the weapons and the power that God has made available. In the Christian life, there are many distractions to the use of divine power. And so by analogy, mass in the Christian life is the utilization of divine power delegated by God the Father in the Pre-designed Plan of God and the function of the power of the Holy Spirit inside that plan. In the spiritual life the principle of mass is directly related to the omnipotence of God. Whenever we grieve the Spirit or quench the Spirit, we are using human power or we are using Satan's power. All of Satan's power, all of Satan's energy comes from two sources; first, from the fact that he was created as the superior creature of all time. He was created as a genius. He was created with the greatest energy that any creature has ever had. And his energy is absolutely totally and completely dynamic. Secondly, Satan's energy is renewed from day to day, and it is renewed by arrogance.

Arrogance is a great energizer among fallen angels and among human beings. Arrogance can motivate a church to do some amazing things overtly and over a period of time. However, it is the wrong motivation. Arrogance motivates all kinds of human good and evil and sin. This is because arrogance is the most effective human energy system for destroying the fulfillment of God's plan for your life. In fact, the number one sin which leads believers into withdrawal is arrogance. Next to that is the problem of intellect and false concepts whereby you quench the Holy Spirit. By analogy, mass in the Christian life is the utilization of divine power delegated by God the Father in the Pre-designed Plan of God and the function of the power of the Holy Spirit inside that plan. Therefore, in the spiritual life the principle of mass is directly related to the omnipotence of God. When you realize this then you can say what David said in First Samuel.

**1Sa 17:47 *for the battle is the Lord's.***

**2Sa 22:40 *"For Thou hast girded me with strength for battle; Thou hast subdued under me those who rose up against me."***

The principle of mass is also taught in Eph 4:11-16.

**Eph 4:11 *"And he gave some apostles, some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastor-teachers,"***

Then the purpose behind the giving of these officers in the spiritual army of the Lord is given in verse 12.

**Eph 4:12** *"for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building of the body of Christ,"* [notice the word equip and also the word service which is also a synonym for the armed forces].

**Eph 4:13** *"until we all attain to the unity of the faith,"* The only true unity we will ever have as believers is the unity which comes from thinking basically the same things doctrinally.

**Eph 4:13** *"and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature believer, to that full measure of development which belongs to the fulfillment of Christ."* There is your definite purpose behind the principle of mass. Then the effects of growing up spiritually are given in verse 14.

**Eph 4:14** *"As a result, we are no longer to be children [immature believers], tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;* There is part of your spiritual warfare.

**Eph 4:15** *"but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects unto Him, who is the head, even Christ."* There is that definite purpose behind the principle of mass.

**Eph 4:16** *"from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that [doctrine] which every joint [the pastor who is prepared] supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, and this causes the spiritual growth of the body for the building up of itself by means of the Spirit of love."* The Spirit of love is a reference to the filling of the Holy Spirit. So the concept of mass includes the numbers, the weapons, the tactical skill, the fighting ability, the determination, the discipline, the morale, and the leadership which are all part of the power in the military principle of mass. The spirit of love is a reference to the filling of the Holy Spirit.

#### **4. The fourth principle of war is called the principle of ECONOMY OF FORCE.**

The economy of force is the application of the principle of mass. Economy of force is the means by which military mass is deployed or arranged in a main effort. First, the time and place of the main effort are determined. This falls under the principle of preparation. The principle of preparation and having your priorities straight is brought out by our Lord in Luke 14 beginning with verse 31.

**Luk 14:31-33,** *"Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel whether he is strong enough with ten thousand {men} to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."* This does not refer to taking a vow of poverty but to having your priorities straight by your commitment to the Lord as a disciple taking precedence over your commitment to your own possessions. Therefore, in verse 34 we have the principle of the believer losing his effectiveness.

**Luk 14:34** *"Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will*

*it be seasoned?* In the ancient world, salt was used for preserving and seasoning food. Unsaltiness is analogous to reversionism and is used to portray divine discipline as in this passage.

**Luk 14:35** *"It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* The economy of force is the means by which military mass is deployed or arranged in a main effort. What does this mean? It means that God has designed a plan from which we are not to be distracted. And He has made provision for our failures of distraction through rebound and recovery. So, there is no place for guilt in the Christian way of life. In the Christian way of life, the economy of force principle is tantamount to four things: 1) The perception, metabolization and application of Bible doctrine which means understanding and using the divine assets made available in the Pre-designed Plan of God. You have to know the means by which your spiritual power is deployed or arranged in a main effort. 2) The economy of force principle is tantamount to the priority of relationship with God over relationship with mankind which must be understood and lived. Relationship with man is never good unless this priority is recognized. 3) The utilization of divine power rather than the function of human power in the cosmic system. This is the number one reason for blessing in time and blessing in the eternal state. 4) The utilization of divine power inside the Pre-designed Plan of God for the fulfillment of that plan. Therefore, the economy of force is the establishment of biblical priorities. Number one priority is assigned to relationship with God over relationship with people. Number two priority is the application of number one priority: the use of divine power in the Pre-designed Plan of God over the use of human power in the cosmic system. This principle refers to the importance of proper preparation.

**Pro 20:18** *Prepare plans by consultation, And make war by wise guidance.* You are to consult the word of God.

**Pro 24:6** *For by wise guidance you will wage war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.* Your counsel comes from Bible doctrine.

## **5. The fifth principle of warfare is the principle of MOVEMENT.**

The term "movement" is a technical, military category referring to the maneuver of combat arms and their support units. Movement for the believer is based upon the believer understanding God's plan for his life. There is a general plan for all believers and then there is a precise accurate plan just for you. Under the principle of offensive, the principle of movement means to bring military mass into close contact with the enemy to secure a decisive result. This means to bring your divine assets close to the spiritual battles which you must endure. This is why the word wrestle is used in the King James translation in Eph 6:12. To wrestle with the enemy has the connotation of close contact. However, remember that our wrestling is in the spiritual realm not in the natural realm. The principle of movement can also be used for placing combat arms where it can attack with advantage. This falls under the principle of preparation or preparing yourself for the day of battle. Movement is most effective when concealed. Therefore, God has designed a plan, in the church age, whereby your spiritual growth is concealed. Only results at certain stages are apparent to others. This emphasizes the privacy of your own priesthood in living your own life as unto the Lord. Remember that the Lord does not need to see overt changes to reveal whether or not you have been moving forward. Man does, but not

the Lord, and He is the one that counts. This is because man looks at the outward appearance, God looks upon the heart (1Sa 16:7).

Movement is most effective when covered by the effective employment of fire power. This is the concept of artillery supporting advance (and that is when the movement is not concealed). In the Pre-designed Plan of God, movement refers to momentum in that plan and its result, which is the invisible impact on history, which is like attacking from a concealed position. This is the principle that has sustained our country all of these years. Our country has been sustained as a client nation because of the principle of movement concealed or the invisible heroes who are spiritual champions. We advance in the spiritual life on divine power. Divine power is invisible. When we attain the objective we have invisible impact that is never written in any history book. Until the believer attains at least the first stage of spiritual growth which is spiritual self-esteem, such movement in his life is concealed but still effective. However, not until you reach spiritual self-esteem will anyone notice any spiritual advance on your part. Until then, people will only observe the ups and downs of spiritual childhood. The effectiveness of the Christian life is not in spiritual childhood. In spiritual childhood most believers get involved with Christian service.

At the point of spiritual self-esteem, movement is visible, and must be supported by maximum artillery fire. Firepower in the Christian life is the utilization of certain logistical grace principles and certain problem solving devices, like rebound and recovery, the faith-rest drill, and the confidence which comes from spiritual self-esteem. While you have the motivation of virtue-love with your personal love for God and occupation with Christ, you do not as yet have its full function as the greatest problem solving device in life. God provides your barrage in these problem solving devices, as well as providing the opposition in suffering. With firepower, such as the problem solving devices plus suffering for blessing, you can advance through each stage of spiritual adulthood to the point of maximum glorification of God. All of this falls under the principle of movement. You are only advancing in the Christian life as you utilize the power of God inside the Pre-designed Plan of God.

## **6. The sixth principle of warfare is called the principle of SURPRISE.**

Surprise in some form is essential to obtain maximum effect in battle with minimum loss. This is why we are told not to be surprised at the trials and the temptations which come our way.

***1Pe 4:12-13, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your 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."***

Surprise occurs in many categories of military activity: Time, place, direction, force, tactics, and weapons. The great captains of history all used surprise: Hannibal, Caesar, Adolphus, Frederick the Great, Napoleon, and MacArthur. The surprises to Satan during the Church-age are the tactical victories of believers from varying races, cultures, mentalities, talents, and handicaps. Equal opportunity provided by God means you are not handicapped in any way by race, culture, mentality, talent, etc. Satan, the ruler of this

world, is not only surprised but shocked every time a believer enters into spiritual maturity. The Church-age with its unique factors, including the indwelling of the Trinity is a complete surprise to Satan. When the church-age began, and the unique factors began to multiply, Satan received the greatest shock he's had since he was thrown out of heaven in prehistoric times. No greatness by any Old Testament saint has so shocked, surprised, and defeated Satan like the most "insignificant" of believers attaining maturity in the Pre-designed Plan of God. It is the greatest single utilization of divine power in all of history and it is available to you, not to anyone in the past before the Church-age. We do have the greatest pattern in how the apostle Paul did it. The mystery doctrine of the Church-age was not known to Old Testament writers, and neither was it known to Satan and fallen angels.

**Rom 16:25-26, "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;"**

Every factor related to the Pre-designed Plan of God, the unique life, the lifestyle of wisdom, has taken Satan completely by surprise. Therefore, in every generation of the Church-age, Satan counterattacks with his cosmic system. The cosmic system is Satan's strategy as the ruler of this world to control believers. It is His policy for the rulership of this world. Satan's cosmic system is composed of two power systems; Cosmic one is Satan's exploitation of believers through their own arrogance. This is his means of controlling the human race. Satan invented arrogance, for arrogance was his original sin. Cosmic two is Satan's propaganda and indoctrination college to educate and promote antagonism toward anything related to God, especially the grace of God. Satan invented the cosmic system as a direct result of the Pre-designed Plan of God. The cosmic system, as we know it, did not exist in the Old Testament. The cosmic system exists now in the Church-age as Satan's greatest genius in order to distract, to counterattack, and to neutralize the effectiveness of God's power on earth inside the Pre-designed Plan of God, and in our day, this counterattack is highly successful! Satan counterattacks from his cosmic system with temptation, with human good, with evil. Today Satan's counterattack is effective because of lack of believers' cognition of doctrine, because of the failure of the believer in spiritual childhood to establish and continue the habit of perception, metabolization and application of Bible doctrine. Today most believers are living out their lives in a Madison avenue public relations "*look at me*" type of attitude and energy of the flesh manner of operation. However, perhaps the greatest surprise to Satan in every generation is the fact that there is always positive volition. There are always believers who pass suffering for blessing and testing as a witness for the prosecution in the appeal trial of Satan. When anyone passes this type of testing, that is the maximum blow to Satan.

**Joh 15:17-21, "This I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before {it hated} you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me."**

## **7. Number seven, or the seventh principle of war is the principle of SECURITY.**

Security is defined in military science and tactics as all measures which are taken to guard against observations, surprise, and hostile interference with effective maneuver. Security is designed to gain and maintain the power of freedom of action. The analogy for us not only includes eternal security for every believer at salvation, but also emphasizes the fantastic problem solving devices. Our security from satanic opposition and spiritual warfare is given in such passages as **Isa 54:17** *"No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me," declares the Lord.*

**Pro 21:31** *"The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord."*

**Exo 14:14** *"The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent."*

**Job 5:19-20**, *"From six troubles He will deliver you [Six being the number of man and representing man and all that mankind tries to do against you, even in seven evil will not touch you]. In famine or economic disaster He will redeem you from death, and in war from the power of the sword.*

In verse 21, four disasters are listed as illustration: Depression, warfare, sins of the tongue, and dying.

**Job 5:21** *You will be hidden from the scourge of the tongue [social disaster]. The New English Bible says: You will be shielded from the lash of slander. neither will you be afraid of violence when it comes.*

Now verse 22 reduces the disasters to two: Economic disaster and dying.

**Job 5:22** *"you will laugh at violence or death [this refers to having a relaxed mental attitude in time of disaster] neither will you be afraid of wild beasts."* Wild beasts refers to men who live in selfish ambition and inordinate competition and act like animals to get ahead in life. Wild beasts were also instruments of violent death in the ancient world, just as drugs and automobiles are today. Remember that the believer cannot be removed from life apart from the sovereignty of God. The principle is that until God makes the decision, nothing will remove the believer from this life. Then once the decision is made, nothing will keep him here. So in verse 23, no instrument of violent death can remove the believer until the sovereignty of God permits. No believer can be removed by death until God is ready to take him home. But once God in his sovereignty calls the believer home, nothing will retain him on this earth. Death is the decision of the sovereignty of God. Therefore, the believer has no right to question the decision and wisdom of God with regard to loved ones. We have the right to mourn, but we have no right to bitterness or antagonism toward God. It is His decision, His judgment call, and His wisdom.

**Job 5:23** *"for you will be in league with the stones of the field;" This means that you will be at peace with the weapons of this world. And the beasts of the field will be at peace with you.*

**Job 5:24-25** *"And you will know that your tent human body is secure, for you will visit your abode your final home with no loss. [note that death does not terminate escrow blessings for the winner and the spiritual champion] You will also know that your descendants or seed will be many or prosperous and your offspring as the grass of the earth."*

In verse 25, "descendants" or "seed" is not a reference to procreation, but to blessing by association with the invisible hero. When he dies, the spiritual champion or invisible hero knows that personal blessing will continue to be extended to all his loved ones and friends. So the impact of the spiritual champion exists not only in his living phase of the Pre-designed Plan of God, but in his dying phase and in death.

**Job 5:26** *"You will come to the grave in full vigor or full age, like the stacking of grain or corn in its season."*

Because God's wisdom and decision is perfect, we must accept God's decision in the time, place, and manner of the death of someone we love, or in our own death. God is the expert and knows best when and how we should die. Since God knows best, no one should ever question His judgment. This should eliminate bitterness with regard to your death or that of a loved one. Bitterness is tantamount to blasphemy. While we think of life in terms of longevity, God thinks of life in terms of his wisdom, love, integrity, and grace. In verse 26, "full vigor or full age" doesn't mean you live a long life, but that you will die at the right time. God is perfect; therefore, His timing is perfect. In all matters of life and death, timing is important, as noted by this illustration. The illustration of corn is taken from the agriculture of the ancient world. There is a right time and a wrong time to harvest and shuck the corn. Only the expert can determine that right time. God is the expert. Therefore, God decides when it is time for us to die, where we shall die, and how we shall die. All corn does not ripen at the same time. But when corn is ripe and is harvested and separated from its sheath, it is a perfect illustration of our dying. Likewise, we are separated from our physical body through physical death.

**Job 5:27** *"Behold this, we have investigated it, thus it is: hear it, and know it for yourself."* This passage deals with the principle of divine security in time and divine security in dying.

## **8. The eighth principle of war is the principle of SIMPLICITY.**

"Simplicity" is used in a technical sense in the subject of military science. Simplicity means that all military plans, at any level of command, must be simple and free from complicated maneuvers. Orders have to be direct and free from surprise. Frequent changes of plans should be avoided, and the unity of command should be observed. What a wonderful application this has to the Christian life. The principle of "changes of plan" are avoided by God. There's only one plan, and it's the same throughout the entire Church-age. The "unity of command" is in the hands of God the Father, who authorized the plan. Then God the Son who provided our entrance into the plan by His work on the cross. God the Holy Spirit, Who provides the power for our execution of His plan. The principle of simplicity as related to the Pre-designed Plan of God is related to the mechanics of spiritual function inside of that plan. The principle of simplicity comes from the clear cut direct teaching of

the word of God.

**Pro 30:5** *"Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him."*

### **9. The ninth principle of war is the principle of COOPERATION.**

By cooperation is meant that all elements of a mission work together for the accomplishment of that operation. This includes the principle of teamwork. Cooperation within a command is attained when everyone interprets his orders in an intelligent manner, and executes them in accordance with the Spirit and the intent of the authority issuing them. In the spiritual realm, when we receive our commands from headquarters in heaven and execute them in the Spirit, we operate in cooperation with the Lord Jesus Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords. And between independent commanders, cooperation is attained by each working for a common objective without reference to individual ambition.

**Phi 2:1-5**, *"Since therefore there is encouragement in Christ, since there is comfort from virtue-love, since there is fellowship of the Spirit, since there is tenderesses and compassions, Bring to completion my inner happiness [in your life] by thinking the same things, maintaining the same virtue-love, united in soul, concentrating on the same objective. Do nothing motivated by contentiousness or ambitious pride, but with humility of mind [by means of grace orientation] let each of you keep on considering one another as more important than himself; do not merely be regarding your own personal interests, but also for the personal interests of others. Keep on thinking this [doctrine] within yourselves which was also resident in Christ Jesus,"*

This is the true unity that exists between those who have spiritual authority and are not intimidated by others. The whole concept of virtue-love demands coordination. This principle illustrates the importance of the believer identifying his spiritual gift and utilizing his spiritual resources in prayer and in advancing in the privacy of his own priesthood, while not interfering in the lives of others. The greatest illustration of teamwork in the Church-age is the fact that all three members of the Trinity indwell our bodies. All of this emphasizes that God has a plan for your life, a plan carefully designed by God the Father. It reflects His omniscience, His sovereign decisions, and the fact that God has not given us a plan which calls for us to operate on our own devices, our own personalities, our own concepts, and our own human dynamics. We are to operate under divine power. Therefore, we have been given the delegation of that divine power in the Pre-designed Plan of God. Those nine principles of warfare have a direct application to all of us.

So in closing I am going to give you those nine principles of warfare with one word defining and reminding us of their meaning.

**1. The principle of objective = PLAN.**

**2. The principle of offensive = VICTORY.**

**3. The principle of mass = POWER.**

- 4. The principle of economy of force = EXECUTION.**
- 5. The principle of movement = MOMENTUM**
- 6. The principle of surprise = ATTACK.**
- 7. The principle of security = SUPPORT.**
- 8. The principle of simplicity = ACCURACY.**
- 9. The principle of cooperation = TEAMWORK.**