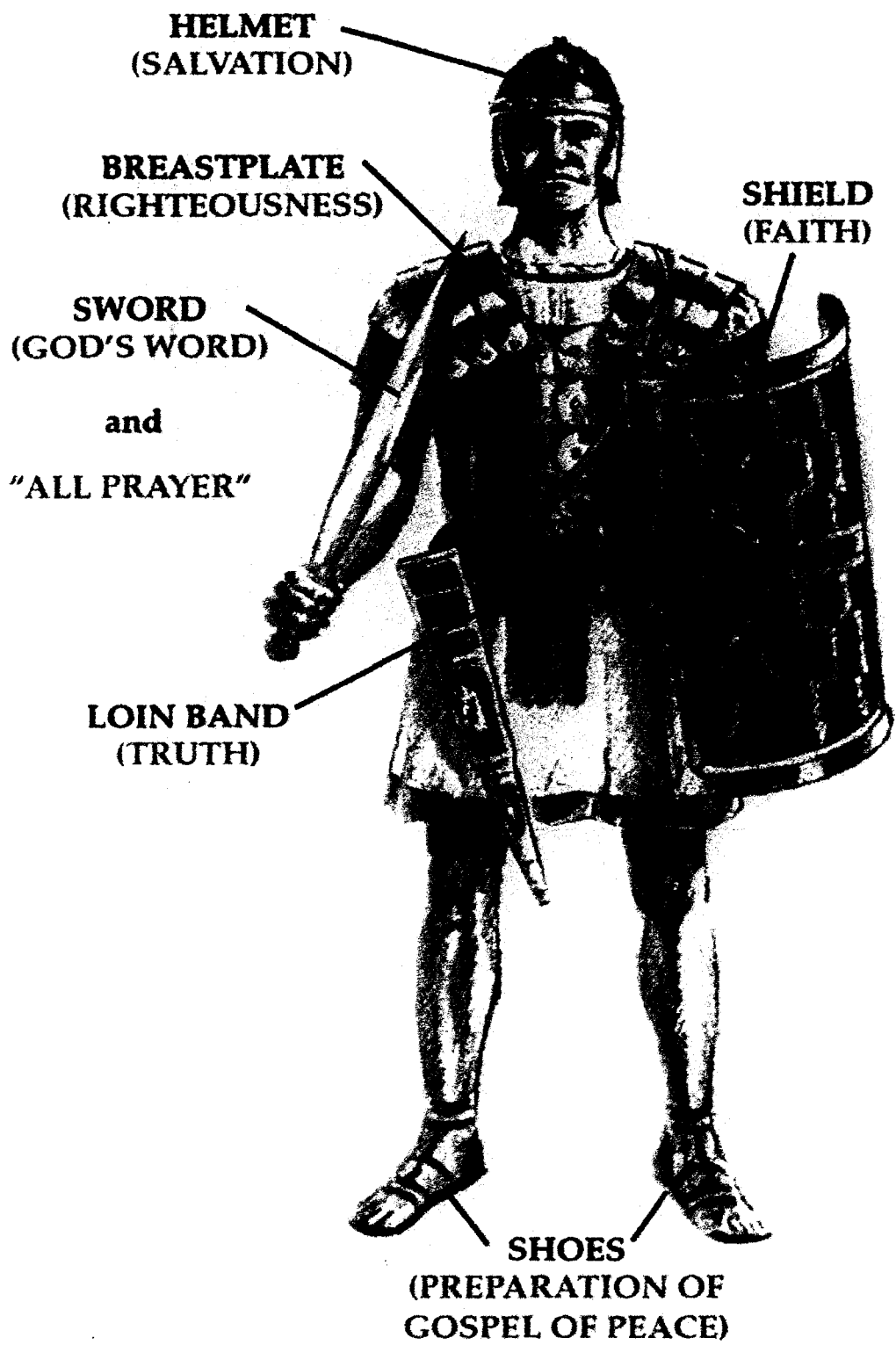


**FIGHTING
THE
GOOD FIGHT**

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT



Today's Challenge

▶ Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

▶ 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

▶ 3 And this will we do, if God permit.

The Struggle Defined

▶ Luke 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

▶ 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

▶ 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

▶ 14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

▶ 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

▶ 16 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

The Latter-Day Cry

▶ Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

▶ 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

▶ 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

▶ 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

▶ 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

▶ 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

▶ 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

The Need for Strength

▶ Isaiah 52:1 Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

▶ 2 Shake thyself from the dust; arise, and sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

▶ 3 For thus saith the Lord, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money.

The Restless Enemy

▶ Alma 26:30 And now it came to pass, in the second month of this year, there was brought unto us many provisions, from the fathers of those my two thousand sons.

▶ 31 And also there was sent two thousand men unto us, from the land of Zarahemla.

▶ 32 And thus we were prepared with ten thousand men, and provisions for them, and also for their wives, and their children.

▶ 33 And the Lamanites, thus seeing our forces increase daily, and provisions arrive for our support, they began to be fearful, and began to sally forth, if it were possible, to put an end to our receiving provisions and strength.

A Powerful Enemy

▶ Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

▶ 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

▶ 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

▶ 12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

▶ 13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

A Law of Physics

- ▶ To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.
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The Spiritual Law

- ▶ Romans 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.
 - ▶ 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:
 - ▶ 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
 - ▶ 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
 - ▶ 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.
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Preparing for Spiritual Battle

- ▶ James 4:1 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?
 - ▶ 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.
 - ▶ 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.
 - ▶ 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.
 - ▶ 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?
 - ▶ 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.
 - ▶ 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
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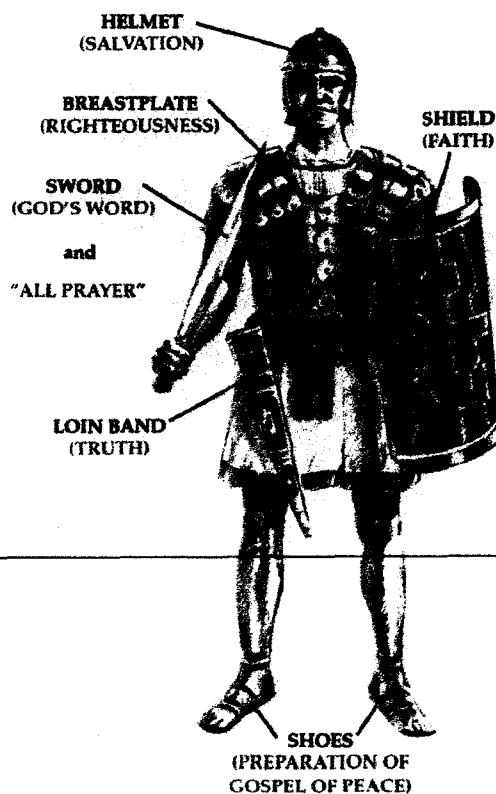
STEPS TO VICTORY IN CHRIST

1. Understand your objective

▶ 1st Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

▶ ETERNAL LIFE IS THE OBJECTIVE!

2. Study and learn how to use the armour of God (our weapons).



3. Put on and practice using your weapons before live battle.

- ▶ Prepare for live battle by practicing the use of your weapons and honing your skills. Ask questions, cross blades, study, be in readiness.
 - ▶ 2nd Corinthians 10:4-6 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.
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4. Know your enemy

▶ A. Who is he and what does he want?

- ▶ 2nd Nephi 1:101-103 And I, Lehi, according to the things which I have read, must needs suppose that *an angel of God, according to that which is written, had fallen from heaven; 102 Wherefore he became a devil, having sought that which was evil before God.* 103 And because he had fallen from heaven, and had become miserable for ever, he sought also the misery of all mankind
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► B. How does he work against us and make war?

► 2nd Nephi 11:93 And there are also secret combinations, even as in times of old, according to the combinations of the devil, for he is the foundation of all these things; yea, the foundation of murder, and works of darkness; 94 Yea, and he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with his strong cords for ever.

► C. What weapons does he use against us?

- Deception / Lies
 - Contention / Anger / Hatred / Revenge
 - Pride
 - Doubt / Discouragement / Depression / Despair
 - Fear
 - Flattery
 - Accusations / Guilt / Shame
 - Rationalization
 - Tolerance
 - Lust of the flesh
 - False teachings
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5. Watch – Get the Big Picture

► 1st Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

► 3rd Nephi 8:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye are led away captive by him.

What does it mean to watch?

▶ Watch – To keep awake, i.e. watch (lit. or fig.) be vigilant, (be) watchful 2. to be sleepless, i.e. keep awake: watch

What is the purpose of watching?

- ▶ 1. So the enemy will not catch us unawares (ambush).
 - ▶ 2. To see what the enemy is doing.
 - ▶ 3. To detect the enemy's strategy against us.
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Watching begins with me!

▶ Mosiah 2:48 And finally, I can not tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin: for there are divers ways and means, even so many, that I can not number them.

▶ 49 But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish.

▶ 50 And now, O man, remember, and perish not.

We must watch out for others!

▶ **1st Corinthians 16:13** Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

▶ **1st Thessalonians 5:5** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

▶ **6** Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

▶ **7** For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

▶ **8** But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

▶ **9** For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Ministry are given the watch.

▶ **Hebrews 13:17** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

6. Size up the battlefield.

▶ **In order to be successful against the enemy, a person needs to know with what they are dealing.**

Proper Size-Up

- ▶ Ephesians 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.
 - ▶ 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.
 - ▶ 13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.
 - ▶ 14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.
 - ▶ 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
 - ▶ 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
 - ▶ 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
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What does circumspectly mean?

- ▶ **Circumspectly** – careful to consider everything before acting, deciding, etc.; cautious and prudent.
 - ▶ **Prudent** – Careful or cautious in a sensible way: not taking chances: wise
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Size-Up Alert Codes

▶ **RED ALERT – SEVERE RISK**

- ▶ Heed warnings and admonition from ministry, parents, etc.
 - ▶ Pray without ceasing
 - ▶ Be strong in the Lord
 - ▶ Be ready to stand firm in battle or retreat as commanded by God
 - ▶ Be patient expect trials
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▶ **ORANGE ALERT – HIGH RISK**

- ▶ Keep yourself and scriptures ready for use
 - ▶ Be patient expect frustration
 - ▶ Be prepared to sound the alarm for others and help others
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▶ **YELLOW ALERT – ELEVATED RISK**

- ▶ Train for unseen dangers with which you are not familiar.
 - ▶ Train for the worst and hope for the best
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▶ **BLUE ALERT – GUARDED RISK**

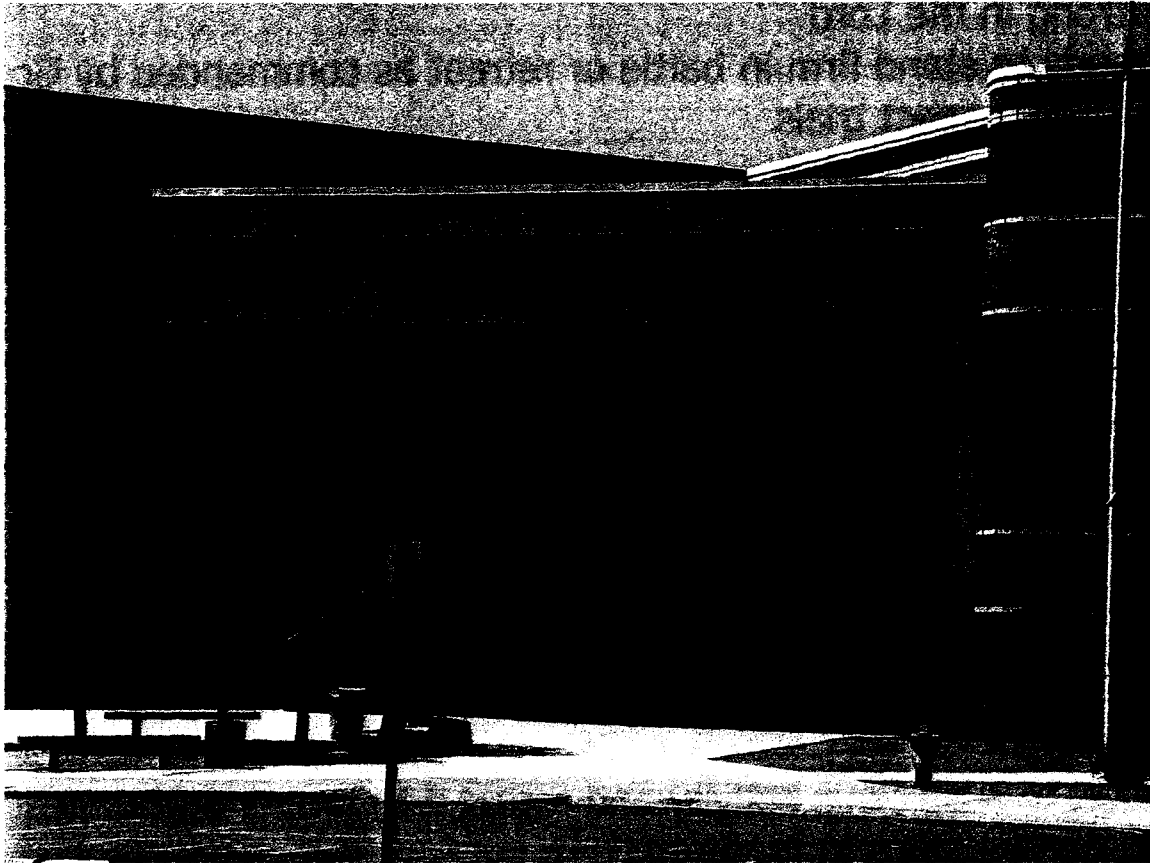
- ▶ Be alert to suspicious activity and report it to proper authorities
 - ▶ Have our weapons in readiness
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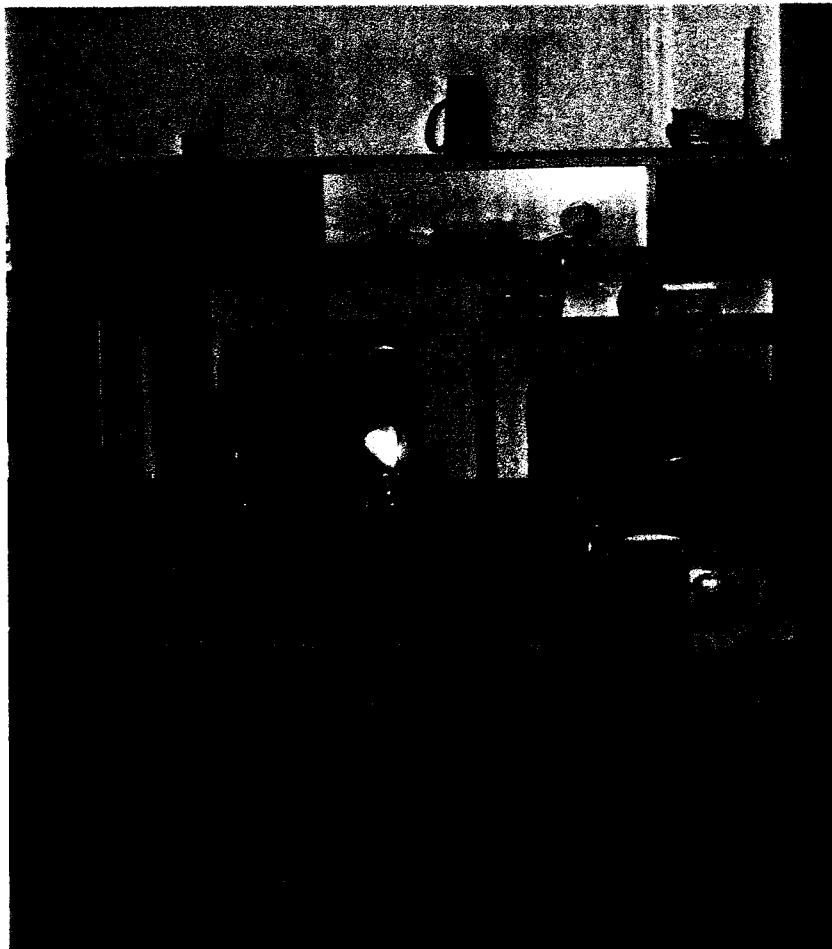
▶ **GREEN ALERT – LOW RISK**

- ▶ Study the plan of salvation
 - ▶ Review and practice using the weapons of our warfare
 - ▶ Share it with your family and friends
 - ▶ Create an emergency supply kit (Bible, Book of Mormon, dictionary concordances and prayer).
 - ▶ Volunteer your services to the Church
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Size-Up Exercise

► When sizing up the enemy's front, consider not only the situation but also where the battle is taking place. Is this battle being fought at work? At school? At home? What are you dealing with?





7. Tactics and Strategy

► Once we have identified what dangers we might be facing we must then determine how we are going to address the danger or the battle that is put before us. The first step is to refer to the warfare manuals which have specific instructions that need to be followed and give direction in planning how to **WAGE WAR AGAINST THE ENEMY**. Most battles are not won without a plan of defense, and a plan of attack. We must consider what God's plans involve in order to take the battle to the enemy instead of getting into one of his snares.

Tactics

► **TACTICS** – The military art that deals with securing objectives set by strategy, esp. the technique of deploying and directing troops in efficient maneuvers against an enemy. 2. A procedure or set of maneuvers engaged in to achieve an end.

Strategy

► **STRATEGY** – The science and art of conducting a military campaign on a broad scale: distinguished from tactics. 2. A plan or technique for achieving some end; see **STRATAGEM** – A maneuver designed to outwit an enemy in war. 2. A device for obtaining advantage.

Offensive or Defensive

► **OFFENSIVE** – A strategy designed to take the battle to the enemy with our offensive weapon in an aggressive manner to put the enemy in retreat and defeat him totally.

► **DEFENSIVE** – A strategy designed to defend against a superior enemy force that you are not strong enough to meet at the present time. Be aware of your surroundings and how the battle is going. Retreat to your strongholds when you can see that you are not well enough equipped to gain the advantage. Back up and regroup.

► **Read Alma 24:17-23**

PREPARING FOR WAR

▶ **Equipment check and proper training.** Know your weapons and their use. Practice , practice, practice!

▶ **Prepare a good defense with safe ground.** - Before pressing the battle against the enemy we must build some strongholds to fall back on if the battle goes against us and we are weakened.

How do we build strongholds in our lives?

▶ In order to build strongholds one must look carefully for those areas in their life where Satan has the least power and effect. Building up your resource list is very important and finding new resources is a must. The following are some of those areas that should be considered: Fasting and prayer, the Word of God, Ministry, Church attendance, participation, and strength of the body, home, Godly friends, and Specialized training (study for new circumstances).

▶ **Do proper size-up and determine your strategy – Offensive / Defensive**

▶ **Determine your tactics –** Your tactics should reflect your strategy, and should accomplish the tactical priorities.

Tactical Priorities

► **Personal Safety**—Assuring our safety is very important. In this war, victory is assured, and our commander and king is not willing to lose any soldiers to the enemy. How is our safety assured? There is a checklist that we need to follow.

- Do I have all the proper safety equipment donned? (Is the armour on?)
 - Have I been given an order by the commander? How do we know? The work of the Spirit see John 16:7-15
 - If yes, do I understand the assignment, do I have the plan?
 - Do others know where I am?
 - No freelancing (see James 5:16)
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Rules of Engagement

1. You are free to take up the fight against the adversary when commanded to by our Captain and King through His Spirit or one of His officers. This is done with some idea of the tactics and strategy in place to engage the enemy. Matthew 4:1

2. You are free to engage the enemy when the enemy is engaging you and bringing the battle to you, but you must not forget to sound the alarm so that spiritual help may be mustered to come to your aid.

3. You are required to go to the aid of another soldier when you are strong and able to assist them when they are wounded even if you must carry them from the field of battle. You are required to dress their wounds, or take them to the person that can appropriately care for their wounds. Romans 15:1-2, Galatians 6:1-2

4. You are commanded not to go to the aid of another soldier when you are injured and not strong enough to get even yourself off the field of battle to have your own wounds dressed. In this situation it is your duty to sound the alarm so that others who have strength may go to your aid and the aid of any other soldiers.

Taking control of the battle – Stopping the enemy's forward progress. This does not necessarily mean the battle is over, just that forward progress is stopped. A continued fight will be necessary until the enemy is totally defeated.

Damage Control – After each battle there are relationships that are damaged. First the relationship with God needs to be addressed and repaired through repentance, next the other relationships or injuries caused by your bad example that may have effected others needs to be addressed and made right.
