



The Battle Blueprint

A Strategy for Victory

Explained

Understanding the battle

Experiencing the victory

Recovering from defeat

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I appreciate your understanding and prayers as we attempt to balance sharing the truth and supporting our ministry and family.

All Scripture quotations unless otherwise noted are from the New American Standard Bible

Greek and Hebrew definitions are from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

The Battle Blueprint - Explained
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Chapter 1

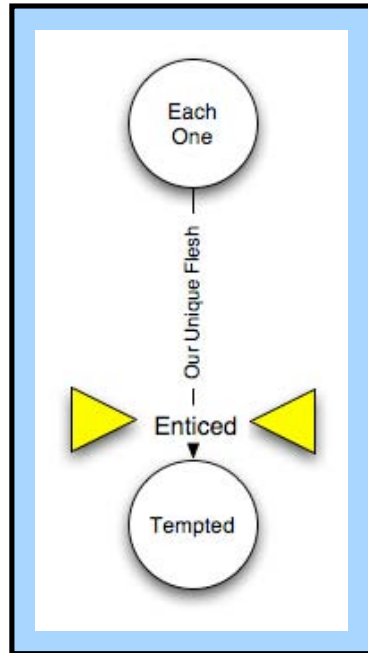
Temptation

James 1:14-15

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

As we review these verses, James makes a very strong statement just prior in verse 13: “for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone”. When you and I are tempted to do or think

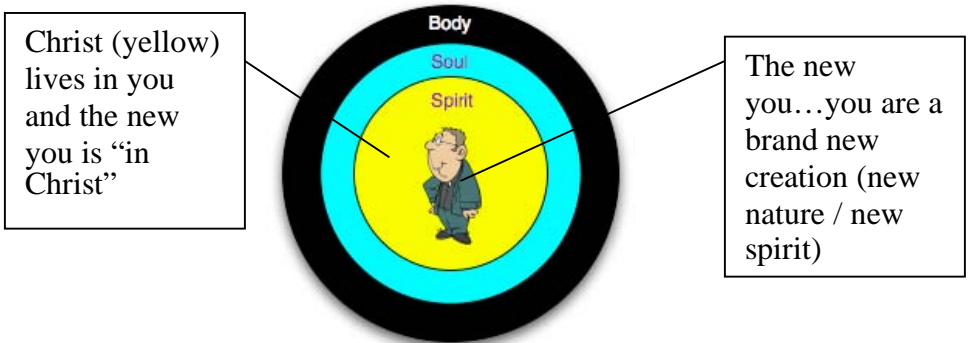
evil, it is not a test from God to see how much we can endure, but rather a trap from the tempter(s) designed to trip our walk in Christ. James 1:14-15 describes the battle we all face on a daily basis; the “Battle Blueprint” is a diagram to illustrate the reality of the battle and the strategy to experience victory. I hope in the next few pages to help you dissect the “Battle Blueprint” and understand in more depth the “truth that will set you free” where victory becomes your natural course of life.



“But each one is tempted”

Look, we’re all faced with temptation...that’s right, every single one of us and temptation is not sin (as you can clearly see in the scripture and illustrated by the diagram). Temptation by definition can result in sin but is clearly a separate issue. Even Jesus was “tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). There is no need to feel guilty or ashamed when you’re tempted or feel an “urge” to sin...it shows you’re absolutely normal! Jesus Christ was “tempted in **all** things” (my emphasis) and yet He did not sin...that fact alone should give us resounding hope.

Remember, Jesus did not live His life according to the divine privilege afforded Him as Son of God, but rather submitted to the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit as a human being to overcome temptation. When you accepted Christ as Savior, an incredible transaction took place. To “bottom line it” for the moment, the omnipotent Son of God in the person of the Holy Spirit came to live on the inside of you, but even better than that, the true and NEW you was placed “in Christ”!



John 14:17

that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you

John 20:31

but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name [of course, Jesus IS Life – John 14:6]

Colossians 1:27

to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

Galatians 3:27

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ

1 Corinthians 1:30

But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption

We could write an entire book on the above subject and will address it in a bit more detail later, but for the moment let's focus on the fact that each one of us faces temptation.

The diagram with the circle “each one” is the starting

Be proactive, not passive
BEFORE the battle rages

point of the “Battle Blueprint” process. It’s here where you can be proactive, not reactive. Make time to fortify your defenses “in Christ”. However, when it comes to spiritual warfare and temptation, I do not advocate “self-defense”. “Self-defense” programs are abundant in the world...the power of positive thinking, strengthening your weakness, never let them see you sweat, I think I can...I think I can, etc. If you’re depending on your self for victory (or some hybrid with self + God’s “help”) you’ve already lost the battle. The ultimate battle is not about good or bad behavior or even positive thinking, the battle is all about faith...who are you trusting in, relying on, depending on as your very life, strength and source. Self-defense simply does not work in the spiritual realm; the scripture advocates a different approach: “the truth will set you free”, “boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me”, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me”, etc. If the basis of your defense in the battle of temptation is anything other than Jesus Christ, your strategy is seriously flawed. At this “each one” stage, make time to dwell on the truths of scripture and affirm your strategy of “Christ Who is [MY] Life” (Colossians 3:4 emphasis mine) BEFORE the battle comes your way and trust me, the battle will come and come and come again. Review Appendix 2 “7 Habits of Spirit-Filled

Believers” and Appendix 3 “You are...in Him” and begin your proactive strategy now.

“when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust”

So we are tempted, how? In James 1:14 the temptation process is clearly detailed as we examine each word. The Greek word for “carried away” is *exelko* meaning to draw out or lure, as in hunting or fishing¹. “Enticed” is the Greek word *deleazo* meaning to catch by bait or to deceive or beguile². Very simply, we are deceived or baited to sin against God. Further, we see in scripture that specific, targeted forces are deceiving and setting traps to derail our relationships, faith, character, ministry...our very life. What are these forces (or tempters as I call them in the diagram) using to deceive and lure us to sin? Can you believe it...they are using “our own lust” against us. Notice, it is our OWN lust.

Lust is the Greek word *epithumia*, which is a desire or craving especially for something forbidden³. The driving force behind lust, in my opinion, is a legitimate, God-given need, drive or passion. When you think of lust, what is the first idea that comes to mind? You guessed it, sex. Sex is one of many legitimate needs that can become lust when we seek it’s fulfillment outside of Christ...security, acceptance, significance, intimacy, peace, fulfillment, belonging, etc. are also needs that demand fulfillment. Your drive and/or passion could be a ministry, cause, niche,

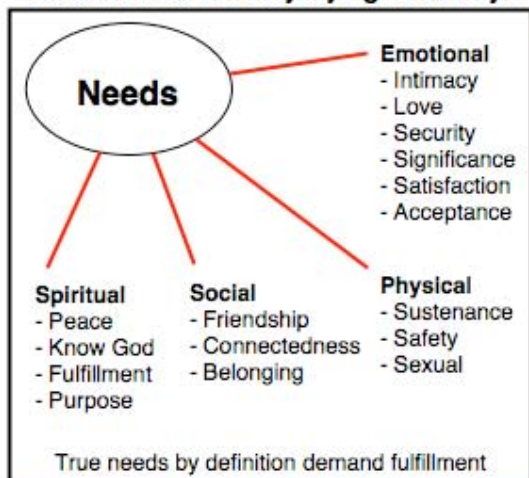
Steps to Victory

from the Battle Blueprint

1. Expose the lie "call it like it is"

- "This is self-sufficiency"
- "This is gossip"
- "This is pride"
- "This is pornography"
- "___ will not fulfill me"

2. Understand the need behind the temptation "what need am I really trying to satisfy?"



3. Embrace the Truth

- Identity in Christ
- Christ IS your life
- Christ IS your victory
- Abundance of grace
- God's unconditional love
- Satan has no authority

Choose to

4. Act by faith, trusting Christ's sufficiency to overcome

Flesh / Tempter	Scripture	Action	Scripture
Thought Patterns	Matt. 15:19; Prov. 6:25 Jeremiah 17:9	Yield to God Capture thoughts Renew your mind	Rom. 6:16 2 Cor. 10:5 Rom. 12:1-2
Body	2 Peter 2:18; Rom. 7:18; Gal. 5:17-21	Make no provision Abstain Flee & Follow	Rom. 13:14 1 Peter 2:11 2 Tim. 2:22
Satan	1 Peter 5:8; Matt. 4:3 Eph. 6:11; 1 Thess. 3:5	Resist Quote Scripture	James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9 Matt. 4:2-11
World	1 John 2:15-16; 2 Peter 1:4 Mark 4:19	Deny Say No Separate	Titus 2:12 Prov. 1:10 2 Cor. 6:17

5. Affirm God's grace

- 2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Cor. 9:8; Heb. 4:16