

This short verse presents a strategy for doing battle in the Invisible War. The battle to be waged is not against flesh and blood but against the invisible spiritual forces that can only be confronted with a high inventory of divine truth which Paul brilliantly describes in this expanded translation of:

Ephesians 6:12 Our daily combat is clearly not against visible adversaries in the human race, but against invisible rulers from the Dark Side [Apollúōn (a demon general officer), Beélzebub (a name for Lucifer as commander-in-chief)], against non-commissioned officers, against world rulers of darkness that oppose biblical and establishment viewpoint.

v. 13 Because of this invisible war, pick up and put on the full armor of God, in order that you might have the ability to resist in the evil day [**demon influence**], even after having achieved spiritual maturity, to oppose Lucifer's forces.

v. 14 Stand firm and resist these evil forces although not fully understanding their strategies, therefore, having buckled around your waist the belt of truth [ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*)], also having put on the body armor of righteousness [δικαιοσύνη (*dikaíosúnē*): integrity].

v. 15 Also put combat boots on your feet with the gospel of good news.

v. 16 In addition to these things, take the shield of faith and carry it, with which shield of faith you shall have the ability to extinguish and destroy all the flaming ordnance of Lucifer, the evil one.

v. 17 Also receive the helmet which refers to your so great salvation and also the sword of truth, the offensive weapon from the Holy Spirit, which is the immutable Word of God. (EXT)

To illustrate the process of how a believer acquires and facilitates the Word, we describe the various church congregations throughout the client nation as platoons. Within these platoons are those whose advance varies from new recruits up to the spiritually mature.

The **commander** over the aggregate congregations is a **five-star general**, the **Word of God**. Each platoon's commander is a **first lieutenant**: the **pastor-teacher**. The first sergeant is the officer that has direct contact with members of the platoon. This includes the various levels of maturity presently facilitated in the souls of parishioners. This refers to the level of spiritual growth contained in the souls of each member of the congregation.



In a large congregation, this would include a wide variety of ranks including Private, Private 2d Class, Private 1st class, Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Sergeant First Class (Platoon), Master Sergeant, First Sergeant, Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major, and Sergeant Major.

The source of spiritual growth for all members of the various **platoon-congregation believers** is the **Word of God**. Its contact with each platoon is dependent upon the scholarship, research, development, and presentation of its doctrines to those within the platoon by the first sergeant: **the pastor-teacher**.

Afterward the responsibility of retention, recall, and application of the Word becomes the responsibility of each individual platoon member to **apply resident doctrine** to his life and circumstances.

This illustration describes the situation that has existed since the Church Age began. Some platoons have made significant advances in their geographic locations while others have not so much. However, when a significant number of platoons are making the spiritual advance, then the entire commonwealth of the client nation prospers.

Historically, the various Client Nations of Christendom have systematically prospered, but the eventual loss of thought has resulted in the five cycles of discipline causing what was left of the Pivot to be driven westward where its platoons prospered the succeeding client nation.

Time has passed and the present client nation is the United States of America. It is rapidly following the example of previous European client nations' decline through the five cycles of discipline. The Constitution and its Bill of Rights, by the clarity of their texts, were considered by the Founders to be definite, unconditional, incontrovertible, and infallible.

Presently, they are being transformed away from absolute standards over to relative and flexible applications. Imperatives are now presented as subjunctives:

Subjunctive: constituting a verb form or set of verb forms that represents a denoted act or state not as fact but as contingent or possible or viewed emotionally.²

This concept was described almost sixty years ago by Bob Dillon when he wrote a song which characterizes verse 7 with these lyrics from, "The Times They Are A-Changing":

² Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. (2014), s.v. "subjunctive."



<p>Come mothers and fathers Throughout the land, And don't criticize What you can't understand. Your sons and your daughters Are beyond your command; Your old road is rapidly agin'. Please get out of the new one. If you can't lend your hand For the times they are a-changin'.</p>	<p>The line it is drawn The curse it is cast The slow one now Will later be fast. As the present now Will later be past, The order is rapidly fadin'. And the first one now will later be last, For the times they are a-changin'.³</p>
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This song was written by Bob Dylan in 1963, 58 years ago. Note the 1960s. The song was inspired by the civil rights movement. Yet, as time has passed, the influence on “Your sons and daughters” in that period has been redirected over time as prophecy of the campaign to propagandize the children of America within the public school system. The original influence of John Dewey in the early twentieth century was carried on by Antonio Gramsci, members of the Frankfurt School, and the Schools of Education in most universities and colleges.

The overall advancement of progressive education has occurred simultaneously with the decline of serious study of the Word of God throughout most Protestant seminaries and churches. There are wonderful exceptions still carrying the Lord's Word forward, but nevertheless the Pivot continues to shrink.

This habitual submission to the doctrines of demons has robbed students of the ability to think in terms of absolutes. Academia is more focused on propagandizing students rather than educating them. Children are easily manipulated and it really does not matter if they are Christians.

If minors do not have a strong, facilitated inventory of biblical absolutes then they, too, are easily manipulated by the doctrines of demons. Yet, for the few, they and their parents are commanded to stand fast against the devil and when doing so the verse promises “he will flee from you.”

The verb “will flee” is the predictive future middle indicative of **φεύγω** (**pheúgō**): “will run away.” Ergo, we get this expanded translation from James:

James 4:7 **Subordinate yourselves under the authority of God. Stand fast and resist the devil and he will run away from you.**
(EXT)

³ © 1963,1964 by Warner Bros. Inc. renewed 1991, 1992 by Special Rider Music. Lyric and score by Bob Dylan.



Principles:

1. Having heard the command to subjugate yourself to God, you are then commanded to resist the devil. Those who know doctrine know to stay inside the bubble and trust in God.
2. Therefore, the second imperative is to “stand fast and resist.” Having done so, the devil will vacate the premises.
3. This process needs to be a habitual behavior. You have obviously been to Bible class. This verse and others like it have been taught to you and you have retained them in your soul.
4. If those in verses 1–6 had the doctrinal inventory to follow the system noted in verse 7, then James could skip this dose of Pepto-Bismol.
5. Yet the verse gives the biblically authorized chain of command for the local church: **(1)** the platoon commander is a major: the Bible in its various translations, **(2)** the lieutenant is the pastor-teacher under the command of the Word of God, and **(3)** the sergeant is the Word of God resident in the individual souls of the platoon.
6. This illustration is designed to emphasize how diverse the system of spiritual growth is. Obviously, the Scripture ranks as a five-star general since it contains the immutable truth of the Trinity.
7. But as the system plays out in time, enumerable pastor-teachers will communicate their understanding of Scripture to their platoons.
8. This obviously includes men whose theological systems of biblical interpretation vary dramatically. Yet the truth contained in Scripture must be regarded as absolute.
9. However, since the Protestant reformation, there have been numerous approaches to what the Bible’s message contains. Unfortunately, this has resulted in an accumulation of various denominations whose doctrinal statements vary.
10. There is no need for us to delve into specifics, but in some cases their doctrinal differences are vast.
11. The primary issue that believers must consider is to discover which pastor’s belief system most accurately presents the message found in the pages of Scripture.

