



# **SWAT PRAYER**

SPIRITUAL WARFARE ATTACK TEAM



**STORMING THE GATES**

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!







# **Stay on the Job, Part 3**

**Scripture text: 1 Timothy 1**

**1.) Teach Sound Doctrine (Vs 1-11)**

**2.) Proclaim the Gospel (Vs 12-17)**

*What Paul used to be, How Paul was saved, What Paul became*

**3.) Defend the Faith (1 Tim. 1:18–20)**

**1 Timothy 1:18-20** This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, **in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.**

## Defend the Faith (1 Tim. 1:18–20)

Again, Paul used military language to enforce his statement, for the word “charge” (1 Tim. 1:18) means **“an urgent command handed down from a superior officer”** (1 Tim. 1:3).

Paul also reminded Timothy that God had chosen him for his ministry. **Apparently some of the prophets in the local assemblies had been led by the Spirit to select Timothy for service** (see Acts 13:1–3 for an example of this procedure).

**Act 13:1-4** Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting,** the Holy Spirit said, "**Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.**" Then **after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.** So, **being sent out by the Holy Spirit,** they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

It was not easy to serve God in pagan Ephesus, but **Timothy was a man under orders, and he had to obey.**

The soldier's task is to "please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (2 Tim. 2:4), and not to please himself. Furthermore, **Timothy was there by divine appointment:** God had chosen him and sent him. It was this fact that could give him assurance in difficult days. **If you are God's servant, called by the Spirit, obeying His will, then you can "stay with it" and finish the work.** These assurances enabled Timothy to war the good warfare.

Paul changed the illustration from army to navy (1 Tim. 1:19). He warned Timothy that the only way to succeed was to hold fast to “faith and a good conscience.”

**It is not enough to proclaim the faith with our lips; we must practice the faith in our daily lives.**

One man said of his hypocritical pastor, “**He is such a good preacher, he should never get out of the pulpit; but he is such a poor Christian, he should never get into the pulpit!”**



**A good conscience is important to a good warfare and a good ministry.**

The magazine editor H.L. Mencken defined conscience as **“the inner voice which warns us that somebody may be looking.”**

But a man with a good conscience will do the will of God in spite of who is watching or what people may say. Like Martin Luther, he will say, **“Here I stand; I can do no other, so help me God!”**

Professed Christians who “make shipwreck” of their faith **do so by sinning against their consciences.** Bad doctrine usually starts with bad conduct, and **usually with secret sin.** Hymenaeus and Alexander **deliberately rejected their good consciences in order to defend their ungodly lives.** Paul did not tell us exactly what they did, except that their sin involved “**blaspheming**” in some way. Hymenaeus said that the resurrection was already past (2 Tim. 2:16–18). Alexander was a popular name in that day, so we cannot be sure that the man named in Paul’s next letter to Timothy (2 Tim. 4:14) is the same man; but if he is, no doubt he withstood Paul by teaching false doctrine.

**2Timothy 2:15-19** Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and **their talk will spread like gangrene.** Among them are **Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened.** They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "**The Lord knows those who are his,**" and, "**Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.**"

**“Delivered unto Satan”** (1 Tim. 1:20) implies an apostolic discipline (see 1 Cor. 5:5) and **disassociation from the local church.**

The verb “learn” (1 Tim. 1:20) means **“to learn by discipline.”** When a Christian refuses to repent, the local fellowship should exercise discipline, **excluding him from the protective fellowship of the saints, making him vulnerable to the attacks of Satan.** The fellowship of the local church, in obedience to the will of God, **gives a believer spiritual protection.** Satan has to ask God for permission to attack a believer (see Job 1–2; Luke 22:31–34).

**1 Corinthians 5:5** you are to **deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

**Luke 22:31-34** "Simon, Simon, behold, **Satan demanded to have you**, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."



**Each local church is in a constant battle against the forces of evil.** There are false prophets and false teachers, as well as false christs. Satan is the originator of false doctrines, for he is a liar from the beginning (John 8:44). It is not enough for a local church to teach sound doctrine and to proclaim the Gospel. **The church must also defend the faith by exposing lies and opposing the doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1).**

**1 Timothy 4:1** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times **some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,**

**John 8:42 -45** Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. **I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.** Why do you not understand what I say? **It is because you cannot bear to hear my word.** You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him.** When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because **I tell the truth, you do not believe me.**

**Galatians 1:6-10** I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel--not that there is another one, but **there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: **If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.** For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? **If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.**

**Jude 1:1-4** Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, **I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints. For **certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and **deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.****

**Philippians 3:17-21** Brothers, join in imitating me, and **keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.** For many, of whom I have often told you and **now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.** Their end is destruction, **their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body,** by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.



**2 Peter 2:1-3** But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, **who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.** And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And **in their greed they will exploit you with false words.** Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

**Jude 1:10-13** But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. **Woe to them!** For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, **shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds**, swept along by winds; **fruitless trees** in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, **for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.**

It is important that our **ministry be balanced**. Some churches only preach the Gospel and seldom teach their converts **the truths of the Christian life**. Other churches are only opposing false doctrine; they have no positive ministry. **We must be teachers of healthy doctrine** (“sound doctrine,” 1 Tim. 1:10) or the believers will not grow. **We must preach the Gospel and keep winning the lost to Christ**. And **we must defend the faith against those who would corrupt the church with false doctrine and godless living**. It is a constant battle, but it must be carried on.

Timothy must have been greatly helped and encouraged when he read this first section of Paul's letter. **God had called Timothy, equipped him, and put him into his place of ministry.**

Timothy's job was not to run all over Ephesus, **being involved in a multitude of tasks.** His job was to care for the church by winning the lost, teaching the saved, and defending the faith. **Any task that did not relate to these ministries would have to be abandoned.**

**One reason some local churches are having problems is that the pastors and spiritual leaders are involved in too many extracurricular activities and are not doing the tasks God has called them to do.**

It might be a good idea for our churches to take a spiritual inventory!

Where do you think we stand ?