

*Back to Basics: Pressing on to Holiness, 7*

Strategy: Planning To Be Holy

February 17, 2019

1. Stay in constant contact with your commanding officer.

2Tim. 2:3,4 Share in suffering as a good soldier (*stratiotees*) of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted (*strateuo*) him.

2. Know your enemy: A strategy of disinformation that divides and conquers.

Eph. 4:14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (*methodia*).

2Cor. 11:3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

John 8:44 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 does not stand in 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.

1Tim. 3:7 Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

3. Achieve high proficiency with your weapons: A strategy of knowing and acting on truth.

2Cor. 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare (*strateia*) are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Eph. 6:17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Matt. 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

4. Cultivate a healthy and humble self-distrust.

1Cor. 10:12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Prov. 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

James 4:6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

2Cor. 1:9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

5. Never excuse, deflect, blame, rationalize, or defend your defeats.

1Cor. 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

6. Analyze and learn from past battles to identify a pattern.

1Cor. 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

7. Learn from combat veterans.

1Cor. 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

8. Surround yourself with good soldiers.

Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war (*strateuo*) according to the flesh.

Ecc. 4:9,10,12 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!... And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

1Cor. 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

2Tim. 3:5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Rom. 16:17 I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

9. Master the strategic withdrawal maneuver to gain an advantageous field of battle.

1Cor. 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

1Cor. 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality.

1Tim. 6:10,11 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.

2Tim. 2:22 So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

10. Practice the “Krupto Principle:” Pursue the habits of holiness in secret training.

Jn. 12:36 When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid (*krupto*) himself from them.

Mark 1:35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Luke 5:16 But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

Matt. 6:4 so that your giving may be in secret (*kruptos*). And your Father who sees in secret (*kruptos*) will reward you.

Matt. 6:6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret (*krupto*). And your Father who sees in secret (*kruptos*) will reward you.

Matt. 6:18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret (*krupto*). And your Father who sees in secret (*kruptos*) will reward you.