

Bulletproof Series: "The Making of an Invincible Mind"
Lesson #4 – Embracing the Spirit of Power and Love

Small Group Activity

Take a few minutes and design the perfect army that will be able to defend you and your family in the midst of warfare.

- *What are key elements needed for a strong army?*
- *What are the key virtues that are needed to be present within the elite soldier's life?*
- *What are the core values of the platoon?*

Introduction

Throughout this series we have been discussing the fact that we are in the midst of the greatest war of our lives. It is a war that is taking its toll upon mankind both physically and spiritually. Our enemy is a master of deception and a tactical genius. He knows where we are weak and he knows where we are strong and he will always attack when we are down, out, and alone. Even with all of this going for our enemy, he is frightened and desperate because he knows that he has already lost the war and that his best hope is to stifle us or throw us off track before we reach others.

2 Timothy 1:7 – For God did not give us a spirit of timidity,
but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

We left our last lesson with a focus on 2 Timothy 1:7 and today we pick up from that point. There are three critical elements needed for victory as shared in this passage. These elements are ***Power, Love, and Self-Discipline***. As we have already learned, all of these elements come from one spirit, the Holy Spirit which means that they are all a gift from God. We will spend the majority of our time today discussing the elements of power and love.

- Review these definitions from last week
 - *Why is **Power** needed for victory?*
 - *Why is **Love** needed for victory?*
 - *Why is **Self-Discipline** needed for victory?*

Examining the Key Element of Power

The first key element that we will draw our attention to is that of ***Power***. It is interesting to reflect on the term ***power*** as referred to in Scripture. It is a term that refers to actual strength versus the appearance of strength.

- *What kind of power is needed for victory over the enemy?*
- *How do we obtain this power according to Scripture?*
- **1 Peter 1:13-16** – Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

- *What are the key words or phrases in this passage?*
- *What insight does this passage give us to gaining power for victory?*
- *What does it mean to prepare your mind for battle? Practical tools needed?*
 - The Greek term used for **Prepare** actually means to bind up or gird up the long Oriental robes to facilitate work or walking.
 - *Why would this term be used in reference to our minds? What does this mean?*

Understanding God's plan gives us power. But getting to know how God works starts with the realization that His plan has more to do with making us like His Son than it has to do with making us comfortable. (***Bulletproof***, p.115)

- *How does the preparation of our minds make us more like the Savior? Why is this essential for the battle we are in?*

Isn't it interesting how we pray for God to make us more like Him, and the moment He puts something in our lives in order to do just that, we immediately ask Him to take it away.

– ***Randy Alcorn***

- *Reflect on Randy Alcorn's statement. Is this true? Explain.*
 - *What could we do to correct this mentality?*

Examining the Key Element of Love

The next element needed for victory is the aspect of unconditional love for the family that you are a part of. The form of unconditional love can take on many forms but through all circumstances the key phrase is unconditional.

- *What is unconditional love?*
- *How can the average Christian man show it to his family? His friends? His neighbors?*
- *How does this type of love show itself in the midst of battle?*
 - *Why is this an essential quality for victory?*

Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong, and morally straight and I will shoulder more than my share of the task whatever it may be. One hundred percent and then some. – ***Ranger Creed***

John 15:13 – Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

- *Explain what this passage means in your own words.*
 - *Is this practical for Christian men today?*

The United States Army is an organization that many of us, myself included, have great respect for. We appreciate the code that these men and women live by each and every day and the sacrifice that each individual makes for their country.

- *What makes the army a successful band of brothers?*

The Army has a set of seven Core Values that they instill in each individual soldier. These core values are as follows: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.

- *Why did the Army come up with these core values? Where did they come from?*

I believe that the United States Army came up with the basis of their core values from Scripture whether they realized it or not. Let us read 1 Corinthians 13 together.

1 Corinthian 13:4-7 – ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- *What are the seven core values shown in this passage?*
 - Loyalty – is patient, keeps no record of wrongs, trusts, hopes.
 - Duty – protects
 - Respect – is kind, not rude
 - Selfless service – is not self-seeking
 - Honor – is not envious, proud, or boastful
 - Integrity – does not delight in evil but rejoices in truth
 - Personal courage – is not easily angered, always perseveres
- *Why are these core values needed for victory?*

Application

This week examine your own walk with God. Where can you increase your knowledge of the His Word as well as the key elements of power and love? Start by memorizing 2 Timothy 1:7.

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but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.