



BATTLES BELONG TO GOD

"For the battle is not yours, but God's!" - 2 Chron. 20:15
The Battle for the Soul of America



Series Overview: Spiritual warfare has been around since the Garden of Eden. Satanic forces and Spiritual forces have been waging battles throughout biblical history and continue today in various forms of global warfare, cultural conflicts, power hungry despots, false philosophies, perverted morals, all leading to a denigration of Almighty God! While God is still the God of all nations and wants people everywhere to be saved, we are going to take a hard look at our beloved country in light of the moral and spiritual decline that has opened the door to Satan's schemes. But the end result is well-known to the students of the Bible – **Battles belong to God and He will always be the Victor!**

#2 – A CALL FOR STRENGTH

Strength is a needed element in many facets of life. Sometimes you need moral strength, spiritual strength, physical strength, emotional strength, financial strength, strength of character, and sometimes the strength to just say "No" to Satanic influences. Our nature and our nation is often geared to take the easy way out, rather than to seek the **strength** that **only God** can give us.

1. OLD TESTAMENT BATTLE - GIDEON AND **300** SOLDIERS

Judges chapters 6-7 – "The Lord said, 'Go in the strength you have and save Israel. Am I not sending you?'" 6:14

- 6:1-10 Evil begets enemies! They come like swarms of locusts!
- 6:11-40 Did God's angel go to the wrong address? Note Gideon's status and obvious weaknesses.
- 7:1-8 The army of Israelites gather in "strength" (numbers) yet get depleted rather quickly!
- 7:9-25 A dream, trumpets, jars, a loud shout = another unbelievable battle plan and victory for God!

The Keys to Victory: **Weaknesses become Strengths:**

2. NEW TESTAMENT WARNING – CONDITIONS DURING THE **LAST DAYS**

2 Timothy 3:1-9 - "There's nothing new under the sun" but sometimes the intensity and influences seem to be rare.

3. TODAY'S THREATS #2 – THE THREAT OF "HOLLOW" **PHILOSOPHIES**

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than Christ." Col. 2:8; 1 Cor. 1:18-31; Acts 17:16-18

Practical definition of "philosophy" – "a person's basic beliefs, attitude, or code of values for daily living."

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|---------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| ✓ Theism | ✓ Liberalism | ✓ Humanism | ✓ Bible worldview | ✓ Capitalism |
| ✓ Atheism | ✓ Conservatism | ✓ Hedonism | ✓ Secular Progressivism | ✓ Communism |
| ✓ Agnosticism | ✓ Social Issues | ✓ Naturism | ✓ Critical Race Theory | ✓ Socialism |
| ✓ Polytheism | ✓ Apocalyptic dread | ✓ Existentialism | ✓ Code of Ethics | ✓ Democracy |

4. SPIRITUAL SOLUTION #2 – **POWER, AUTHORITY AND THE WORD OF GOD**

Story: strong church weakened...survived pandemic...learned to serve and pray...becomes a "Gideon" church...

What to do? **Seek** the power and authority of Jesus Christ. *Matt. 28:18-20 – "All authority has been given to me..."*

Speak and live out the Word of God. *1 Timothy 4:16 – "Watch your life and doctrine closely..."*

Search for the souls needing Jesus. *Luke 19:10 – "For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."*

We will then counteract the hollow philosophies of this age by godly lives, winning souls, and standing for God!

Goodbye to weakness, insecurity, timidity, and fear!

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.

So don't be ashamed...join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God." 2 Timothy 1:7-8

BRIEF CAPSULES OF CURRENT PHILOSOPHIES

Note: This list is not meant to be all inclusive of all philosophies, nor to debate the validity or worth of each. It is for our learning, and to alert us to controversies over them. Some have both bad and good in them, but it's the application that creates danger.

1. **THEISM** – the belief in the existence of at least one deity or higher power. It holds that a creator god is actively involved in maintaining, governing, and interacting with the universe and human life. See also “monotheism”.
2. **ATHEISM** – the absence of belief in the existences of deities. It is not a religion or formal belief system, but rather a lack of theistic belief. Exhibits an aggressive public critique and dismissal of traditional religious dogmas.
3. **AGNOSTICISM** – is the philosophical view that the existence of God, the divine, or the supernatural is unknown or inherently unknowable. It is the idea that human reason lacks the concrete evidence to prove a higher power.
4. **POLYTHEISM** – the belief and worship of multiple gods and goddesses. Examples include ancient Greek religion and historical Hinduism traditions.
5. **LIBERALISM** – is a political and moral philosophy based on individual liberty, consent of the governed, political equality, and equality before the law. Advocates for a larger role for government – such as welfare programs and market regulations – to protect people from inequalities like poverty and discrimination. AKA “progressives”
6. **CONSERVATISM** – a political and social philosophy that promotes keeping traditional social structures, values and established institutions. It prefers slow, careful change over sudden or radical overhauls, believing that old customs and family or religious values provide the best foundation for a secure and orderly society.
7. **SOCIAL ISSUES** – driven by a natural response to the complex challenges facing our world, such as economic inequality, environmental pressures such as climate change, and disparity in healthcare access (ex. abortions).
8. **APOCALYPTIC DREAD** – is an overwhelming worry about global collapse, nuclear war or environmental disasters. It can severely impact daily mental health when it becomes all-consuming.
9. **HUMANISM** – places human value, dignity, and reason at the center of life, instead of relying on religious dogma or supernatural beliefs. Uses science, empathy and critical thinking to understand the world.
10. **HEDONISM** – treats pleasure as the highest good and the core aim of life. Pleasure is the ultimate moral good. Claims humans naturally seek pleasure to avoid pain. Pleasure becomes the standard for right and wrong.
11. **NATURISM** – a spiritual or religious practice that sees the natural world as sacred. It involves honoring or worshipping natural forces and living things like trees, rivers, and the sun as divine or deeply spiritual.
12. **EXISTENTIALISM** – a philosophical approach that argues humans are born without a predefined purpose or essence. So existence precedes essence meaning you create your own identity and values by personal choices.
13. **BIBICAL WORLDVIEW** – the overall framework or lens through which a person interprets reality, truth and life. Rooted entirely in the infallible authority of the Bible and places God at the center of existence.
14. **SECULAR PROGRESSIVISM** – combines social and political reform with a non-religious worldview. Relies on human reason, science and empathy rather than religious doctrine to guide public policy, ethics, etc.
15. **CRITICAL RACE THEORY** – an academic and legal framework stating that racism is not just a matter of individual bias, but is systemic and embedded within legal systems, institutions and policies.
16. **CODE OF ETHICS** – a written set of rules and core values adopted by a business, group, or job field. It helps people know right and wrong and guides choices, keeps people honest, and builds trust with the public.
17. **CAPITALISM** – economic system where private individuals and businesses own the means of production and operate for profit. Driven by competition in a free market system rather than by governmental control.
18. **COMMUNISM** – is a political and economic system that aims for a classless society. The public owns all property, factories and farms instead of individuals. Good to share wealth equally based on what people need. Atheist!
19. **SOCIALISM** – is an economic and political system where the community or government owns and manages the major means of production, like factories, land and resources, instead of private owners. Goal to share wealth fairly and make goods for use rather than for private profit.
20. **DEMOCRACY** – a system of government where power belongs to the people. Citizens exercise this power by voting directly on laws or by electing leaders to make the laws for them. Everyone get the same legal rights and a fair chance to take part. Laws apply to everyone, even the leaders.