

2025
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The Horse Gate

It was a gate located on the eastern wall of Jerusalem, rebuilt during the time of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 3:28). The gate was located at the entrance to the Kidron Valley and served as a passage for people with horses. It was also the place where Jehoiada the priest had Athaliah put to death (2 Kings 11:16; 2 Chronicles 23:15). The Common Translation Bible translates this gate as “The Gate for Horses”.

Nehemiah 3:28

“Above the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house.”

「Introduction」

The Horse Gate, which was the gate through which horses passed, symbolizes spiritual warfare. In the Bible, a donkey represents peace, whereas a horse symbolizes war. Believers on this earth must always remember that they are in the middle of spiritual warfare. It is not desirable to overly spiritualize every issue and see everything as a spiritual problem. However, it is also not right to ignore the spiritual reality and try to solve problems solely through worldly knowledge, experience, or material resources. The Bible calls believers to be soldiers for Christ and reminds us that we are currently standing on the battlefield of spiritual warfare.

1. “Why can we not avoid spiritual warfare?”

John 15:18-19, 25 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you... But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: “They hated me without a cause.”

Ephesians 6:12 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

- “The Bible clearly teaches that believers do not merely experience conflicts with people in this world but are also in the midst of spiritual warfare that is unseen.” (Ex. Matthew 2:16, Revelations 12:1-6)

2. Let us look at our adversary, the Devil.

① A roaring lion

1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

- What is the meaning of comparing the adversary, the devil, to a roaring lion?
- How should we respond to him?

② An angel of light

• There is a saying that what truly brings a person to ruin is not their ‘weakness,’ but the ‘strength’ they always take pride in. In what areas should you really be sober-minded and watchful?

3. In which areas of life did the following individual’s spiritual life collapse?

- ① Peter (Matthew 26:40-41)
- ② Hymenaeus (1 Timothy 1:19-20)
- ③ Demas (2 Timothy 4:10)

「Application」

Spiritual warfare checklist

Let us recall the conflicts, problems in life, or events that discouraged us in the past. After applying the following questions to those situations, share your reflections with other members.

Question	YES / NO	Notes
Have I been aware of the spiritual battles in my daily life?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
In the face of conflicts, did I try to respond not with merely fleshly reactions, but with prayer and the Word?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Have I been aware that the strengths I take pride in or rely on in my life can become channels for spiritual attacks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Did I stumble because of the weakness of the flesh? (Peter)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Was it the result of following the false teachings of the world? (Hymenaeus)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Was the conflict due to my love for this world? (Demas)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

- Share with other members your greatest struggle from above.

4. Let us look at the spiritual armor from Ephesians 6:10-18.

① What are the two reasons that we need the armor of God? (Ephesians 6:10-11)

② Fill in the blank:

- Having fastened on the belt of () (v. 14)
- Having put on the breastplate of () (v. 14)
- Having put on the readiness given by the gospel of () (v. 15)
- Take up the shield of () (v. 16)
- Take the helmet of () (v. 17)
- And the sword of (), which is the word of God (v. 17)

③ What must we do to that end? (v. 18)

◎ The posture of prayer from the Psalms

Learn to pray from the Psalms. When you pray before God, tell Him what the enemy has done to you as this will become the greatest attack against the enemy.

You must state in detail what the enemy has done to you.

“God, the enemy makes me proud.”

“The enemy tempts me, saying I don’t deserve such treatment.”

“He tries to deceive me into acting dishonestly.”

“May the enemy be put to shame before me.”

These are the prayers of the Psalms. Claiming responsibility on the enemy is the greatest attack against the enemy.

5. We have the Name of victory.

1 Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Luke 10:17 “The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!””

Acts 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Do not rely on your own righteousness or personal efforts, but trust only in **Jesus Christ, the Name of victory**. Remember that all victory and salvation are accomplished solely in Him, and it is by the authority of His Name, not by our own.

「 Conclusion 」

We must always check whether our Horse gates for spiritual warfare are well established. As we close today’s meeting, let us once again keep in mind the following four points.

- **Be aware** : We as believers must clearly be aware that we are standing on the battlefield of spiritual warfare.
- **Be armed** : The Bible urges us to put on the full armor of God and engage in spiritual battles (Ephesians 6:13–18).
- **Be balanced** : While not ignoring the spiritual reality we should also use the wisdom and experiences of the world appropriately.
- **Be victorious** : Let us rely on Jesus Christ, the Name of victory, not on our own strength, knowledge, or experience.

「 Sharing 」

1. Share one point that resonated with you the most in this lesson.

2. Read Ephesians 6:18 together.

“... Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.”

Prayers for spiritual warfare are not only for ourselves, but also for other believers. Let us come together in prayer for the spiritual and physical strength of our group members.

*Reference: Discipleship Training III from DMI