

The believer is now engaged in the process of being a good soldier of God by acquiring the artillery of thought acquired through Bible study.

To illustrate, let's consider you are deployed to learn how to be a good soldier. Up in the heavenly Pentagon there is a five-star general who is the ultimate C-in-C. You cannot perceive him visually but you accept the fact He is there.

The person you can see is way down the table of organization called the pastor-teacher. The woods are full of men who have been assigned the gift at the moment of salvation.

Some of the strangest characters among Homo sapiens are pastors-teachers. Each, allegedly, has the gift of communication. Some are dynamic, some philosophical, some are erudite, some entertaining, and some are bombastic bloviators while others are just plain boring, a documented resource for curing insomnia.

Yet, for many, each one of these men accumulate followers who submit to his gift's authority. Yet, the key credential each must possess, is the spiritual gift of communication that accompanies the gift of pastor-teacher.

On the local level, if a believer is to grow in grace, the *visual* authorities must be submitted to and followed. **(1)** Scripture functions as a lieutenant platoon commander. **(2)** Next in line is the communicator, the lieutenant pastor-teacher. **(3)** Following him are privates who accumulate systematically the Word of God resident in their souls.

This process of transferring knowledge out from Scripture into the soul of the individual requires this system of authority. The first stage of the system has already been accomplished. God the Holy Spirit communicated content to forty-plus men who produced the Bible beginning with Moses and finishing with John.

In the Old Testament, those men included Moses, Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, and the Twelve.¹ In the New Testament, the men who wrote were Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter, and Jude and possibly the writer of Hebrews.

Out from this group and others emerged the communication gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers. The latter two categories—evangelists and pastors-teachers—are the only ones that remained as communicators once the canon of Scripture was completed by John in circa A.D. 95.

¹ See R. B. Thieme, Jr., "Canonicity-Consciousness" in *Canonicity* (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1993) 30–31.

The conclusion of this process should result in a believer, having grown in grace, to facilitate doctrine in his soul. Scripture has been systematically transferred from the written Word to the spoken Word, and finally to the neuronal Word resulting in long-term memory for recall and application.

Habituation. With repetition, a memory of the stimulus is formed and stored in long-term memory.

NOTE: I have used the synonym, “**facilitate**,” in our studies of long-term memory. *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (11th ed.) defines “facilitate” as “the increasing of the ease or intensity of a response by repeated stimulation. The lowering of the threshold for reflex conduction along a particular neural pathway especially from repeated use of that pathway.” *The Oxford English Dictionary* (1971) defines “**habituation**” thusly: “Become habitual; formed into a habit; established by repetition or continuance.”

These words are used in our present study of neurology to define the process that is accomplished by the willingness of the believer to submit to several systems of authority: divine revelation by the Holy Spirit to 40+ human writers, the communication of the written word by Moses, priests, apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors-teachers, to those who believe their messages.

It is this system that must be recognized, accepted, adhered to, and then applied for the Word of God to have its maximum impact within the scrum of *cosmos diabolicus*.

And the idea that initiates this system to its conclusion is the aorist active imperative of **ὑποτάσσω** (*hypotássō*): “to subjugate, place in submission; to cause to be in a submissive relationship, to subordinate.”

The working object of his submission is the proper noun, **Θεός** (*Theós*): God. James 4:6 is concluded by quoting:

Proverbs 3:34 “God is divinely deployed in order of battle against the arrogant, but gives grace to those who express reverence toward Him.” (EXT)

All the chaos surrounding the opening six verses of chapter 4 is either maintained or overcome by verse 7: “Submit to the immutable Word of God and resist the devil.”

The word “resist” is the aorist active imperative of the verb: **ἀνθίστημι** (*anthístēmi*): “to stand against, resist; be in opposition to, set oneself against, oppose.” Who is to be resisted is identified next with the noun, **διάβολος** (*diábolos*): “the devil.”



This short verse presents a strategy for doing battle in the Invisible War. The battle to be waged is not against flesh and blood but against the invisible spiritual forces that can only be confronted with a high inventory of divine truth which Paul brilliantly describes in this expanded translation of:

Ephesians 6:12 Our daily combat is clearly not against visible adversaries in the human race, but against invisible rulers from the Dark Side [Apollúōn (a demon general officer), Beélzebub (a name for Lucifer as commander-in-chief)], against non-commissioned officers, against world rulers of darkness that oppose biblical and establishment viewpoint.

v. 13 Because of this invisible war, pick up and put on the full armor of God, in order that you might have the ability to resist in the evil day [**demon influence**], even after having achieved spiritual maturity, to oppose Lucifer's forces.

v. 14 Stand firm and resist these evil forces although not fully understanding their strategies, therefore, having buckled around your waist the belt of truth [ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*)], also having put on the body armor of righteousness [δικαιοσύνη (*dikaíosúnē*): integrity].

v. 15 Also put combat boots on your feet with the gospel of good news.

v. 16 In addition to these things, take the shield of faith and carry it, with which shield of faith you shall have the ability to extinguish and destroy all the flaming ordnance of Lucifer, the evil one.

v. 17 Also receive the helmet which refers to your so great salvation and also the sword of truth, the offensive weapon from the Holy Spirit, which is the immutable Word of God. (EXT)

To illustrate the process of how a believer acquires and facilitates the Word, we describe the various church congregations throughout the client nation as platoons. Within these platoons are those whose advance varies from new recruits up to the spiritually mature.

The **commander** over the aggregate congregations is a **five-star general**, the **Word of God**. Each platoon's commander is a **first lieutenant**: the **pastor-teacher**. The first sergeant is the officer that has direct contact with members of the platoon. This includes the various levels of maturity presently facilitated in the souls of parishioners. This refers to the level of spiritual growth contained in the souls of each member of the congregation.

