

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE 8

*“Consecrate (cleanse; set apart) yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Joshua 3:5*



Parents are often hard pressed to explain to their kids why some music and movies are not acceptable. One dad listened to all the reasons his children gave for wanting to see a particular PG-13 movie. "The story line is great, special effects are awesome, everyone is seeing it, there's a minimum of gore, very little skin and hardly any language," they lobbied to assure ol' dad it was harmless and that our culture's negative values wouldn't even be noticed. Wise old dad said he would give them an answer later. So he returned within an hour with freshly made brownies. As the kids snarfed the soft, warm treats he explained that they were made using a secret ingredient. When they asked what it was dad calmly replied that he had added a little "harmless" dog poop and that they would "hardly" even notice assuring them that the "very minimum" of Rover's rump rolls were used and the "special affects" were "awesome!" **How is our Father God teaching you to live in our broken, fallen world/culture without consuming the "brownies"?** **What brownies are God's men blindly snarfing?** **Are you impacting our culture more than it is impacting you?** **What does this have to do with spiritual warfare?** **How important are clean (clear) objectives, clean rifles, clean food and clean (reconciled) relationships with fellow soldiers during times of war?**

**CONSECRATE YOURSELVES** (Joshua 3:1-17; 5:13-15) 2.5 million of God's people had waited 40 long years to enter the land promised to them by God (Gen 13:13-17; 15:18-91; Heb 11:8-9, 16; Is 14:1). But before they could enter the Lord had to teach them a rarely discussed vital principle of war. So instead of having them rush in to conquer the land, He gave them three days to quietly reflect on His glory, greatness, grace, wisdom and extreme faithfulness (Josh 3:1-3; Ps 46:10). He then commanded them to "consecrate" (set yourself apart in order to be clean from the inside out) so that their hearts, motives, priorities and attitudes were aligned with His. You see, God is not looking for creative, clever, cultured, theologically correct men. He is looking for consecrated, committed and clean men whom He can use to impact the nations drawing them to Christ like Rahab. He is not looking for smart men but set apart (consecrated) men whose hearts are fully His. He is looking for men who will "**stand still**" (8) before His presence so that they can "**stand firm**" (17) during the battle when it is hard to trust His plans and promises. Bottom line: God is not looking for men who have life all figured out...He is looking for men who will trust that He already has! What does it look like for a man to draw near to the Cross in order for Christ to clean up his sinful life?

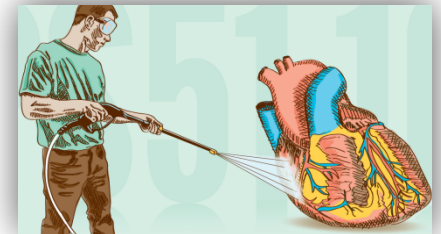
**WHAT IS SIN?** (John Piper) The **love** of God not received!  
The **glory** of God not honored. The **holiness** of God not revered.  
The **greatness** of God not admired. The **power** of God not praised.  
The **truth** of God not sought. The **wisdom** of God not esteemed.  
The **beauty** of God not treasured. The **goodness** of God not savored.  
The **faithfulness** of God not trusted. The **commands** of God not obeyed.  
The **justice** of God not respected. The **wrath** of God not feared.  
The **grace** of God not cherished. The **presence** of God not prized.  
The **person** of God not loved. The **principles** of God not applied.

Who killed Jesus? (Is 53:10; Rom 8:32; Acts 4:27-28) Why? (Rom 5:9)

**PARADERS OF GOD'S ARK** The people were to focus on and follow the Ark of the Covenant (promise) into battle as a reminder of God's **holiness** (Law), **power/miracles** (Aaron's rod), **provision/promises** (manna), **love/grace** (mercy seat). God's men are to focus on His character not the circumstances! **Where has your focus been as of late? Why?**

## TAG TEAM DISCUSSION

What do the following verses teach about God's desire that we consistently power wash our hearts before Him at the Cross both before and during the battle each day?



Psalms 51:7-8, 10

Psalms 32:1-7

Leviticus 16:30

Ezekiel 36:25; 37:23

Jeremiah 4:4; 33:8

Titus 2:14; 3:5

Hebrews 1:3; 9:14; 10:22

1 Peter 1:22

2 Peter 1:9

James 4:7-8

John 15:3

1 Corinthians 6:11

Isaiah 1:16-18