

The believer is now engaged in the process of being a good soldier of God by acquiring the artillery of thought 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

In a large congregation, this would include a wide variety of ranks including Private, Private 2d Class, Private 1st class, Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Sergeant First Class (Platoon), Master Sergeant, First Sergeant, Sergeant Major, and Command Sergeant Major.

The source of spiritual growth for all members of the various **platoon-congregation believers** is the **Word of God**. Its contact with each platoon is dependent upon the scholarship, research, development, and presentation of its doctrines to those within the platoon by the first lieutenant: **the pastor-teacher**.

Afterward the responsibility of retention, recall, and application of the Word becomes the responsibility of each individual platoon member to **apply resident doctrine** to his life and circumstances.

This illustration describes the situation that has existed since the Church Age began. Some platoons have made significant advances in their geographic locations while others have not so much. However, when a significant number of platoons are making the spiritual advance, then the entire commonwealth of the client nation prospers.

Historically, the various Client Nations of Christendom have systematically prospered, but the eventual loss of thought has resulted in the five cycles of discipline causing what was left of the Pivot to be driven westward where its platoons prospered the succeeding client nation.

Time has passed and the present client nation is the United States of America. It is rapidly following the example of previous European client nations' decline through the five cycles of discipline. The Constitution and its Bill of Rights, by the clarity of their texts, were considered by the Founders to be definite, unconditional, incontrovertible, and infallible.

Presently, they are being transformed away from absolute standards over to relative and flexible applications. Imperatives are now presented as subjunctives:

**Subjunctive: constituting a verb form or set of verb forms that represents a denoted act or state not as fact but as contingent or possible or viewed emotionally.<sup>2</sup>**

This concept was described almost sixty years ago by Bob Dillon when he wrote a song which characterizes verse 7 with these lyrics from, "The Times They Are A-Changing":

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<sup>2</sup> Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed. (2014), s.v. "subjunctive."

Come mothers and fathers Throughout the land, And don't criticize What you can't understand. Your sons and your daughters Are beyond your command; Your old road is rapidly agin'. Please get out of the new one. If you can't lend your hand For the times they are a-changin'.	The line it is drawn The curse it is cast The slow one now Will later be fast. As the present now Will later be past, The order is rapidly fadin'. And the first one now will later be last, For the times they are a-changin'. <sup>3</sup>
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This song was written by Bob Dylan in 1963, 59 years ago. Note the 1960s. The song was inspired by the civil rights movement. Yet, as time has passed, the influence on “Your sons and daughters” in that period has been redirected over time as prophecy of the campaign to propagandize the children of America within the public school system. The original influence of John Dewey in the early twentieth century was carried on by Antonio Gramsci, members of the Frankfurt School, and the Schools of Education in most universities and colleges.

The overall advancement of progressive education has occurred simultaneously with the decline of serious study of the Word of God throughout most Protestant seminaries and churches. There are wonderful exceptions still carrying the Lord's Word forward, but nevertheless the Pivot continues to shrink.

This habitual submission to the doctrines of demons has robbed students of the ability to think in terms of absolutes. Academia is more focused on propagandizing students rather than educating them. Children are easily manipulated and it really does not matter if they are Christians.

If minors do not have a strong, facilitated inventory of biblical absolutes then they, too, are easily manipulated by the doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). Yet, for the few, they and their parents are commanded to stand fast against the devil and when doing so James 4:7 promises “he will flee from you.”

The verb “will flee” is the predictive future middle indicative of **φεύγω** (**pheúgō**): “will run away.” Ergo, we get this expanded translation from James:

**James 4:7**      Subordinate yourselves under the authority of God.  
Stand fast and resist the devil and he will run away from you. (EXT)

<sup>3</sup> © 1963,1964 by Warner Bros. Inc. renewed 1991, 1992 by Special Rider Music. Lyric and score by Bob Dylan.

