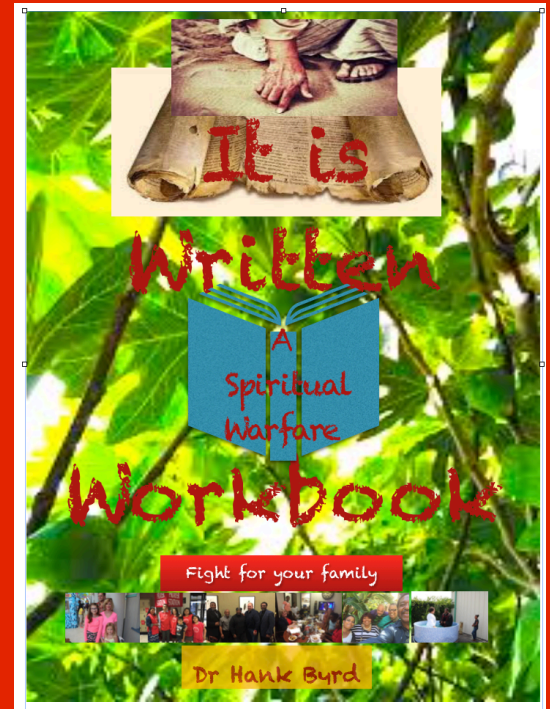
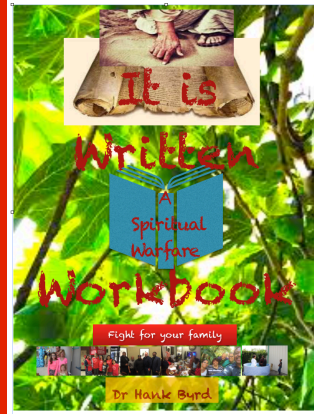


# Attention Pastors and Ministry Leaders

# **"It is Written- A Spiritual Warfare Workbook" is here!"** — by Dr Hank Byrd

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BE SURE TO ASK ABOUT THE "IT IS WRITTEN - A PRAYER WARRIORS WEEKLY JOURNAL"

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## THE BELT OF TRUTH INTRODUCTION



### 2 Cor 4:2

*"But we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."*

My daughter who was in the 10th grade at the time came home excited one day about her new class in a local baccalaureate high school called "Theory of Knowledge" (a study in epistemology). "It's the latest and coolest subject Dad", she continued, "All the exceptional students are taking it!" The teacher was also very popular. He dressed like a geeky hippie from the 60's and was highly respected in his circle of postmodern thinkers. He seemed to speak well about everything but Christianity. In fact, he apparently had a vendetta to crucify the faith of every young Christian student that attended his class. I believe this course almost totally disrupted my daughter's foundational faith in Christianity and the Holy Bible.

I knew I needed to find a way to go after this guy after hearing about the subject he taught on no absolutes. He said there is no such thing as absolute truth. So I decided to arrange a meeting with him on campus along with my daughter. I told him that I wanted to talk with him about my daughter's progress and challenges in the class. After discussing her progress, I brought up her challenge in believing there was no such thing as absolute truth. His reply was, "Mr. Byrd, make no mistake about it. The Bible is a respected read combined with a significant amount of historical and fictional presentations. However, I do not support the idea of absolute truth," he said.

After about 10 minutes into talking about "how we know what we think we know" and about the "great thinkers" of epistemology like Hume, Locke or Berkeley, I asked him how did he know there was no such thing as absolute truth. He rebutted with a variety of thoughts that disprove absolute truth. "So, I asked, "Are you sure there is no such thing as absolute truth?" He replied, "Yes, because..." Then I interrupted, "Are you...(I purposefully paused at this point) absolutely sure. Immediately, his face turned red and momentarily stuttered. At that point, all I needed was a microphone to drop as my daughter covered her face to hide her surprised reaction.

Jesus said, "You must first bind the strongman, then you can go in and spoil his house." Christ followers must step up and away from the pew of complacency and fight the strongman called the "Spirit of Error" by using the power of the "Spirit of Truth". In this first chapter on the Belt of Truth, we will discover not only the meaning of truth but how to fight with truth. The Bible says the objective of truth is to keep us from bondage...to set us free.

Truth can be defined as the manifestation of something hidden. Read Romans 1:18 - Here it mentions how evil tries to hide the truth by covering it with lies and deceptions.

Truth is the weapon to use to fight the primary Strong Man called Lying Spirit and the Spirit of Error. Attributes of a lying spirit- accusations, arguments, false deceptions, gossip, false religions or doctrines, flattery or an upside down "smiling face" with motives.

Read John 8:31-47

Satan is known as the father of lies and the opposite of truth is a lie. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." This fact implies that truth addresses those who are oppressed, stressed, disenchanted, addicted or whatever bondage. It also informs and encourages them to pursue their freedom.

Galatians 2:4-5

Teaches that the enemy will attempt to use some so-called "brethren" to put Christians in religious bondage. Read the following... "4 This issue arose because of false brothers smuggled in, who came in secretly to spy on the freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, in order to enslave us. 5 But we did not give up and submit to these people for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would be preserved for you." 2 Corinthians 4:2 NIV(r) - Addresses one symptom of the Lying Spirit which is considered false prophecy. It teaches us to present the truth plainly and discerning right from wrong. "Instead, we have given up doing secret and shameful things. We don't twist God's word. In fact, we do just the opposite. We present the truth plainly. In the sight of God, we make our appeal to everyone's sense of what is right and wrong."



One of the purposes of Truth is to get people out of bondage (drugs, addictions, co-dependency, depression, deception or false belief, superstitions, and fear). John 8:37-47 is a perfect example of Jesus engaged in Spiritual Warfare using the Weapon of Truth. The interesting thing here is even after they heard the truth, they were not converted or changed. The reason is that they refused to receive the truth. They refused to understand. Verse 37- "...my word hath not free course in you" or "my word is not welcome among you". See John 15:4-5 - it explains the fact that we must be connected to Christ and Christ in us in order to have the word flowing in its free course. Also read 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

The following is the first of twelve questionnaires which is at the end of each chapter. Although you can do each exercise independently, it is recommended that you at some point experience it with at least one additional person. The impactful use of this workbook has proven to be even greater in a group setting of 2 or more people. The additional person(s) can be your accountability partner and/or a participating student as well. Each of you can encourage the other during your challenges as well as celebrate each other's successes.

#### THE BELT OF TRUTH QUESTIONNAIRE

1- How would you feel if you discovered that someone purposely has hidden truth away from you?

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2- Find a place of solitude (see section "A" below), or maybe go by a park. Put on some soft music and think about 3 things.... NOTE: If you are in a conference setting, find a spot or corner in or outside the conference room. The recommended timeline should be approximately 30 minutes.

A. What areas in my own life that are currently challenging my "Truth Card"? Maybe there are truths that I know I need to deal with but refuse to face. Am I deceiving myself about something? (JOURNAL AND/OR DISCUSS)

When it comes to truth, here are some things I am currently challenged by...

First of all I'm challenged by/with...

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I'm also challenged by/with...

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NOTE: Another point to consider: If you have not purchased the *"It Is Written-A Prayer Warrior's WEEKLY Journal"*, simply obtain any journal source for taking notes. It's important that your journal is used exclusively for this journey. Although this Spiritual Warfare Workbook Study can last from 6 weeks in an intense workshop or 6 months in a certificate program; "My Praying Tree" A Prayer Warriors Journal has 365 days of designated activities for capturing moments of life including prayer journaling, Spiritual Warfare scripture meditation exercises, as well as other daily entry opportunities designed exclusively to accommodate this Spiritual Warfare Workbook. You can continue using the journal even after you finish the workbook because the journal is a one year journal.

B. What truths during my childhood or younger life rightly or wrongly changed my course or direction in life?

When I was younger, I was challenged by/with this truth...

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I was also challenged by/with this truth...

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C. What are the truths I have learned which I'm excited about as a result of the discussions? I KNOW...

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I BELIEVE...

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I SPEAK...

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I DEMONSTRATE.... (Here are the things I shall take action on)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

NOW FIND A TREE THAT IS RELEVANT TO YOUR FEELINGS, THOUGHTS, AND ASPIRATIONS AS IT PERTAINS TO **TRUTH**. PULL OUT YOUR JOURNAL AND DRAW YOUR TREE. TAKE YOUR GROUP OF 2 or MORE TO YOUR TREE. SHOW THEM YOUR DRAWING AND TELL WHY YOU PICKED THAT TREE. EACH PERSON SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SAME EXERCISE.

#### SHIELD OF FAITH INTRODUCTION



We hear lots of stories about the many battles that David fought against the various heathen nations. The most popular battle was when he faced Goliath singlehandedly in the Valley of Elah between two hills (with Israelites on one hill and the Philistines on the other). When I revisited 1st Samuel chapter 17, vs 41, I remembered that not only did David have to face Goliath but there was an advancing shield-bearer racing toward David in front of Goliath who carried a shield to protect Goliath. However, Goliath's shield-bearer must have been at least a "wee-bit" shorter than Goliath; because David nailed him straight in the forehead. In Ephesians 6, Paul describes Faith as a shield. The implication here is the spiritual shield of Faith which David had can always outperform the man-made shield of an armour-bearer.

As you learn the principles of fighting with this defensive weapon, you will discover that like the shoes of the Gospel of Peace, your Shield must always be within arms reach. Nevertheless, faith is not a proactive word. Quite the contrary, faith is a reactive word. Faith has nothing to do with what you can conjure up within your own psyche. It's not about what you can do but about what God has already done. Faith is about a trusting relationship in knowing that God is your shield and buckler and a very present help in a time of need. Can't you hear the Lord saying to you right now... "Come unto me, all you who are heavy laden. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me. For I am meek and lowly in heart." God is not so big that He can't come down to where you are." However, you must have faith in Him. Without it, it's impossible to please Him.

Every Topic  
Has An Intro  
and an  
Questionnaire

The Goals are to be interactive,  
thought provoking, and experiential.

Each Chapter attempts to make every subject applicable in real  
life situations.