

THE
**SPIRITUAL
COMBAT**

DIAGNOSTIC HANDBOOK

(Based on the *Gospel of Deliverance Salvation Manual*)

**A Biblical Guide to Discernment, Spiritual
Growth, and Lasting Freedom**

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THE SPIRITUAL COMBAT DIAGNOSTIC HANDBOOK
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INTRODUCTION

UNDERSTANDING THE BATTLEFIELD

Every Christian experiences spiritual conflict. From the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ, we enter a lifelong journey of discipleship where our faith, character, and obedience are continually tested. While Christ secured the decisive victory over sin, death, and Satan through His cross and resurrection, believers are called to stand firm against temptation and the influences of a fallen world.

Scripture teaches that our struggles arise from three primary sources: the desires of our sinful nature (the flesh), the influence of the world around us, and the schemes of the devil. Wisdom begins by discerning which of these influences is at work before deciding how to respond.

Like a physician who looks beyond symptoms to discover the underlying cause of an illness, the five diagnostic questions in this handbook encourage honest self-examination under the light of God's Word. The goal of spiritual warfare is not merely defeating an enemy or seeking dramatic encounters with spiritual darkness. **The goal is becoming more like Jesus Christ.**

DIAGNOSTIC ONE

Who Is Really Governing Your Life?

Every spiritual battle begins with a question of authority. Before examining external temptation or deception, we must first determine who directs our lives. The central issue in every spiritual conflict is not the power of the enemy, but the position of our hearts.

Humanity was created in the image of God as spirit, soul, and body. Between our eternal spirit and physical body lies the soul—the mind, emotions, and will—which serves as the decision-making centre of our lives. **The soul is where every spiritual battle is fought.** Whenever we face temptation, our minds evaluate competing ideas, our emotions respond, and our wills decide how to act.

SCRIPTURE CALLOUT

"For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want." — **Galatians 5:17**

The Question of Lordship

Many accept Jesus as Saviour while resisting Him as Lord. Yet Scripture never separates these truths;

Christ not only forgives our sins but calls us to follow Him in every area of life. Lordship is demonstrated by daily obedience rather than occasional religious activity. A believer may appear spiritually active while privately allowing pride, anger, greed, lust, or bitterness to direct important decisions.

Signs of Compromise vs. Evidence of Maturity

The influence of the flesh rarely begins with a major collapse; it starts with small, seemingly harmless compromises. Prayer becomes inconsistent, Scripture is neglected, bitterness is excused, and entertainment gradually replaces time with God. Left unchecked, these patterns weaken spiritual discernment.

Conversely, mature believers are not perfect people who never fail; the difference is found in their response. When convicted of sin, they repent quickly. When corrected, they remain teachable. Over time, the fruit of the Spirit becomes increasingly evident: love replaces resentment, patience overcomes frustration, and joy remains steady through difficult seasons because it is rooted in God's faithfulness.

Diagnostic Reflection

- *What influences my decisions most often—God's Word, my emotions, or the opinions of others?*
- *Are there areas of my life (finances, relationships, ambitions) that I have never fully surrendered to Christ?*
- *Am I becoming more like Christ, or have I grown spiritually comfortable?*

DIAGNOSTIC TWO

Where Has the Enemy Gained Access?

Every successful military commander studies vulnerable positions and exploits places where resistance has grown weak. Scripture reveals that satan employs a similar strategy as a deceiver and tempter. Victory in spiritual warfare does not begin by searching for demons; it begins by inviting the Holy Spirit to search our hearts for areas of compromise.

The Subtle Drift and the Anatomy of Deception

Most believers do not deliberately choose spiritual defeat; they drift toward it through gradual neglect—a neglected prayer life, an unforgiven offense, a secret habit, or a growing dependence on worldly approval. The enemy understands that a believer who once eagerly pursued God can slowly lose their spiritual appetite through distraction and compromise.

SCRIPTURE CALLOUT

"But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death." — James 1:14-15

Every act of sin begins with believing a lie. In Eden, satan did not begin by denying God outright; he questioned God's goodness and character. Temptation today relies on the same subtle falsehoods: *"God doesn't really mind," "No one will ever know,"* or *"You can repent later."* Because every counterfeit gains power by imitating the genuine, the greatest protection against deception is deeply embedding eternal truth in our hearts.

Guarding Motives, Relationships, and Security

- **Hidden Attitudes:** Unresolved inner attitudes eventually shape outward behaviour. Pride resists counsel, bitterness produces destructive words, and fear quietly replaces trust in God. The Holy Spirit must transform our motives before He can transform our behaviour.
- **Relational Influence:** The people we admire, trust, and spend time with inevitably shape our character. Healthy relationships encourage accountability, worship, and obedience; unhealthy relationships normalize compromise and diminish conviction.
- **False Security:** Whenever we seek ultimate security, identity, or guidance from anything other than God—whether career success, financial wealth, or human reputation—we create an idol and open our lives to spiritual vulnerability.

Diagnostic Reflection

- *What small compromises have I begun to accept as normal in my daily routine?*
- *Have bitterness, pride, fear, or resentment become established attitudes within my heart?*
- *Which relationships strengthen my faith, and which consistently weaken my convictions?*

DIAGNOSTIC THREE

What Is the Battle Revealing?

Treating physical symptoms without identifying the underlying illness rarely produces lasting healing. Similarly, many Christians spend years fighting persistent struggles—such as anger, fear, lust, or anxiety—treating them as isolated problems rather than symptoms pointing toward a deeper root. We ask God to remove the struggle without inviting Him to reveal what it exposes about our hearts.

When we ask, *"What is God trying to show me through this battle?"* spiritual conflict transforms from an unwanted interruption into a powerful classroom for discipleship.

SCRIPTURE CALLOUT

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." — James 1:2-4

Diagnosing the Symptoms

The Bible encourages us to look beneath surface behaviours to the condition of the heart:

- **Anger** frequently reveals wounded pride, unmet expectations, or an unwillingness to forgive.
- **Anxiety and Fear** often expose uncertainty about God's sovereignty and goodness.
- **Jealousy and Greed** uncover deep dissatisfaction with God's daily provision.
- **Persistent Spiritual Dryness** indicates a neglected, transactional relationship with God.

Patterns Tell a Story

One isolated mistake may simply be human weakness, but repeated patterns deserve careful examination. In Scripture, spiritual decline rarely occurred overnight. King Saul chose self-preservation over obedience until rebellion defined him; Samson repeatedly ignored godly boundaries long before his physical downfall. Our recurring patterns show us not only where we currently are, but exactly where we are heading if nothing changes.

God wastes nothing. He is not the author of temptation, nor does He delight in our suffering, but He faithfully uses trials to refine our faith, strip away self-reliance, and form the enduring character of Christ within us.

Diagnostic Reflection

- *What recurring struggles or intense emotional reactions appear most often under pressure?*
- *What deeper heart attitudes (unbelief, pride, unmet expectations) are these symptoms pointing toward?*
- *How might God be using this specific season of testing to deepen my dependence on Him?*

DIAGNOSTIC FOUR

How Should You Respond to Spiritual Conflict?

A correct diagnosis is useless unless the patient follows the prescribed treatment. God reveals our weaknesses not to discourage us or condemn us, but so we may respond in faith and experience His transforming grace.

The Christian life has never been about self-reliance. Victory belongs to the Lord, and our responsibility is to remain firmly rooted in Him. Lasting victory is forged not through extraordinary, dramatic spiritual experiences, but through ordinary, daily faithfulness.

SCRIPTURE CALLOUT

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." — Ephesians 6:10-11

The Five Pillars of a Faithful Response

1. **Begin with Genuine Repentance:** Repentance is not merely feeling sorry or asking God to remove the consequences of sin. It is agreeing with God, turning deliberately away from compromise, and changing direction.

Repentance is the doorway through which renewal begins.

2. **Renew Your Mind with Scripture:** We are transformed by the renewing of our minds. Every lie replaced by eternal truth weakens deception; every Scripture hidden in the heart becomes an active weapon against temptation, just as Jesus demonstrated in the wilderness.
3. **Develop a Consistent Prayer Life:** Prayer is not an emergency response for when we feel overwhelmed; it is the daily communion that keeps us from *becoming* overwhelmed. Prayer changes us before it changes our circumstances, replacing anxiety with steady trust.
4. **Stand in Christian Community:** Satan thrives on isolation, encouraging ashamed or discouraged believers to withdraw. God designed the Church to share burdens, provide honest accountability, and offer perspective during seasons of warfare.
5. **Rely Completely on the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is our constant Helper. He convicts, comforts, illuminates Scripture, and empowers obedience. The more we rely on His presence, the less confidence we place in our own failing strength.

Diagnostic Reflection

- *Do I respond to the Holy Spirit's conviction with immediate repentance, or with defensiveness and excuses?*
- *Am I attempting to overcome spiritual battles through willpower, or through daily reliance on the Holy Spirit?*
- *Who in my Christian community has permission to speak truth and accountability into my life?*

DIAGNOSTIC FIVE

How Do You Walk in Lasting Freedom?

Many believers experience emotional spiritual highs at retreats or conferences, only to slip back into old habits months later. The danger is not that God's power has diminished, but that daily spiritual disciplines have been neglected. **Freedom is not simply something God gives us; it is something we learn to walk in through daily faithfulness.**

SCRIPTURE CALLOUT

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." — **Proverbs 4:23**

Sustaining Freedom Over a Lifetime

- **Build Quiet Disciplines:** Consistent habits shape the strongest disciples. Daily prayer keeps the heart dependent, Bible reading renews the mind, serving protects against self-centeredness, and generosity breaks the grip of greed. These disciplines do not earn God's favour; they position us to enjoy fellowship with Him.
- **Guard Against Post-Victory Complacency:** Believers are often most vulnerable not after a failure, but after a success. Spiritual victories can quietly produce overconfidence, leading us to assume we have outgrown temptation. Humility

and watchful dependence remain our greatest safeguards.

- **Respond to Failure with Grace:** No Christian walks perfectly. When you stumble, remember that shame whispers, "*Stay away from God,*" while grace calls, "*Come home.*" Peter denied Christ, Thomas doubted, and David fell, yet God's mercy proved greater than their worst moments. Never allow yesterday's failure to become tomorrow's identity.
- **Fix Your Eyes on Jesus:** The greatest danger in spiritual warfare is becoming more focused on the battle than on the Savior. Our confidence rests not on our emotional strength or spiritual performance, but entirely on Jesus Christ, who has already overcome the world.

Diagnostic Reflection

- *What daily habits am I cultivating to ensure my spiritual health remains strong during quiet seasons?*
- *When I stumble, is my immediate reflex to hide in shame or to run toward Christ in repentance?*
- *Is my life serving as an authentic witness of God's grace, humility, and love to those around me?*

THE 5-POINT SPIRITUAL COMBAT ASSESSMENT

Use this summary matrix regularly for personal examination, mentorship, or discipleship groups.

Diagnostic Point	Core Question	Focus of Evaluation
1. Lordship	<i>Who is governing my life?</i>	Am I living under the complete authority of Jesus Christ, or am I allowing the desires of the flesh to direct my decisions?
2. Access	<i>Where has the enemy gained access?</i>	What small compromises, unbiblical beliefs, unconfessed attitudes, or unhealthy relationships are leaving me vulnerable?
3. Revelation	<i>What is the battle revealing?</i>	What do my recurring emotional reactions and persistent struggles expose about the deeper motives and beliefs of my heart?
4. Response	<i>How should I respond?</i>	Am I relying on willpower, or am I actively engaging repentance, Scripture renewal, prayer, community, and the Holy Spirit?
5. Freedom	<i>How will I remain free?</i>	What quiet daily habits and attitudes of humility am I building to sustain enduring fellowship with Christ long after the battle?

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, Thank You for Your unfailing love and for the decisive victory You secured through Your cross and resurrection. Thank You that I do not face life's battles alone, but that Your Holy Spirit dwells within me to continually guide and strengthen me. Search my heart today

New Life in Christ

By confessing the few words below and sincerely believing that Jesus is indeed who He says He is, the Son of the Living God who came and died for the sins of mankind, your status as a child of God becomes effective and you enter into a newness of life. Just say these words out loud and let God do the rest.

'Lord Jesus, I come to You just as I am—a sinner, a wretched sinner. Have mercy upon me and save me from my sins. Cleanse me, heal me, deliver me and set me free. I plead the blood of Jesus over my spirit, my soul, and over my body. I repent of every thought, every word and every action that is against Your will and Your Word. And I confess that You alone are Lord. I welcome You into my heart as my Lord and Saviour. Thank You Jesus for saving me, in the Name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.'

About the Author

Maurice Ekwugha is raised to declare the whole counsel of God in these last days. He has a mandate to prepare the true Christian for God's bountiful end time harvest.

Maurice Ekwugha's multifaceted ministry has touched lives all over the world, particularly in America, Europe and Africa.

His experience of over twenty five years spent ministering the gospel of deliverance to a spectrum of people from different parts of the globe qualifies him to share important insights on the topic.

Brother Maurice is committed to preaching the total gospel—a balanced combination that demonstrates the practicality of God's Word through the emphatic manifestation of His omnipotent Spirit.

Maurice Ekwugha also has degrees in Economics and Business.