

36. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 4:38:18 pm

Try Quiz #2 as an ice-breaker before launching into this Study. Have fun!

37. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 3:50:12 pm

Acts 18:24 ¶ Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures.

Acts 18:25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.

Acts 18:26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

STUDY 2

WAGE GOOD WARFARE

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To be able to identify what makes a persuasive and appropriate testimony.
- ❖ To be able to discern and utilise a genuine prophetic word as a source of encouragement and confidence.
- ❖ To explain the Biblical description of the term 'spiritual-warfare'.
- ❖ To describe when it is proper to publicly shame a Christian leader who commits apostasy.



36

BACKGROUND

The apostle Paul had had a long relationship with the Ephesian church. After Apollos had arrived there and taught many people about Jesus, it seems that he had won several converts, but he had not understood the significance and importance of water baptism (Acts 18:24-26). Eventually he was corrected by Priscilla who explained to him “the way of God more accurately” which must

37

38. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 3:53:52 pm
Acts 18:27 And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed

39. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 3:57:39 pm
1Cor. 1:12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ."
1Cor. 3:4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?
1Cor. 3:5 ¶ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each.
1Cor. 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

40. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 4:07:33 pm
Acts 19:1 ¶ And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.
Acts 19:2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
Acts 19:3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism."
Acts 19:4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus."
Acts 19:5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.
Acts 19:7 There were about twelve men in all.

41. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 4:09:34 pm
Acts 19:8 ¶ And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.
Acts 19:9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus.
Acts 19:10 This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

have included showing him why water baptism in the Name of Jesus was different to the baptism that John Baptist performed. From Ephesus, Apollos went to Corinth ("Achaia", Acts 18:27). This explains Paul's epistle to the Corinthians where he refers to the strong following that Apollos had garnered among the Corinthians after Paul had left there (1Cor. 1:12; 3:4-6). While Apollos had left Ephesus to go to Corinth, Paul left Corinth to go to Ephesus. When he arrived there he found a small band of disciples who were ignorant of either the significance of Christian water baptism or the baptism with the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-7). Paul then taught in the synagogue for the next three months, and then a further two years in a Bible College of sorts called the *Hall of Tyrannus* (Acts 19:8-10).

Objective 1. To be able to identify what makes a persuasive and appropriate testimony.

A *testimony* is a legal term. It is presented by a *witness* (another legal term). In a court of law, a witness has one task — *to tell what they have witnessed or know to be true to the judge and jury*. All they are required to do is to answer questions. It is not the task of the witness to *persuade* the judge or jury (that's the lawyer's job).

1. The task of a *Christian* witness in sharing their testimony is to
 - a) add a bit of poetic licence to their testimony to spice it up a bit.
 - b) focus on the wickedness of their past sinful lifestyle.
 - c) try and make your testimony as interesting as possible by using some colourful exaggeration.
 - d) simply tell the truth.

The Book of Acts records Paul on several occasions sharing his testimony of how he was converted to Christ (refer to Acts 22:3-21; 26:2-23). In each of these accounts his testimony is a bit different — but not different *factually*, but in its *emphasis*.

42. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 4:36:35 pm

Hopefully this encourages those in the Bible study to realise that they don't need a 'dramatic' testimony for their testimony to carry weight.

43. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 4:45:08 pm

Acts 22:3 ¶ "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.

Acts 22:4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women,

Acts 22:5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

Acts 22:6 ¶ "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.

Acts 22:7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

Acts 22:8 And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.'

Acts 22:9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

Acts 22:10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'

Acts 22:11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

Acts 22:12 ¶ "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,

Acts 22:13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.

Acts 22:14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;

Acts 22:15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

Acts 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Acts 22:17 ¶ "When I had

returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance

Acts 22:18 and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

Acts 22:19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.

Acts 22:20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.'

Acts 22:21 And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

44. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 4:49:35 pm

Acts 26:2 ¶ "I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, Acts 26:3 especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

Acts 26:4 ¶ "My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews.

Acts 26:5 They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee.

Acts 26:6 And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers,

Acts 26:7 to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king!

Acts 26:8 Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

Acts 26:9 ¶ "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 26:10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them.

Acts 26:11 And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Acts 26:12 ¶ "In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.

Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I

saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me.

Acts 26:14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

Acts 26:15 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.'

Acts 26:16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,

Acts 26:17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Acts 26:19 ¶ "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Acts 26:20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

Acts 26:21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.

Acts 26:22 To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass:

Acts 26:23 that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."

45. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 4:55:24 pm
1Tim. 1:12 ¶ I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,
1Tim. 1:13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,
1Tim. 1:14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
1Tim. 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
1Tim. 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

- 2. In the two examples of Paul’s testimony in the Book of Acts, he was speaking to a Jewish audience. But read the way that Paul shares his testimony with the Ephesians in **First Timothy 1:12-16**. Why do you think that Paul may have emphasised that when he was converted he was also *corrected* (1Tim. 1:13) and that he was the worst sinner in the world (1Tim. 1:15)?

45
46
47
48

46. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 4:59:01 pm
1Tim. 1:13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,

- 3. If you were asked by a *non-Christian* who had never been to a church what led you to become a Christian, what *might* you emphasise and what would you *not* emphasise? Discuss.

49

47. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 5:01:21 pm
1Tim. 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

Every believer has a story of how and when they came to Christ. By far, most of these stories are not dramatic – but they are still impactful because the Holy Spirit can use each of our stories to touch the heart of a non-Christian.

48. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 5:08:12 pm
As we have seen, Paul was seeking to correct the false teaching happening at Ephesus and was presenting himself as someone who had previously rejected the truth. But since coming to Christ he had been corrected. Added to this, he was instructing Timothy to appoint qualified leaders in the Ephesian church. Paul was demonstrating that he was a humble leader by not regarding himself as a ‘saintly’ leader, but rather as a “saved sinner” (1Tim. 1:15).

- 4. If you heard someone’s testimony who emphasised their life of depravity and sin and only briefly mentioned how they came to Christ, what might you point out to them from Paul’s statement in **First Timothy 1:16-17** about where he placed the emphasis in his testimony?

50
51

Objective 2. To be able to discern and utilise a genuine prophetic word as a source of encouragement and confidence.

52-54 Prophecy is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:6; 1Cor. 12:10; 14:6). It seems to have been quite common in the early church. Prophecy could be in three different forms: (i) p _____ e ; (ii) f _____ - t _____ g ; or, (iii) d _____ e .

55 56
57

49. Dr. Andrew Corbett

16 February 2021 at 5:19:41 pm
Hopefully someone in the discussion would point out that the Bible would not necessarily be as persuasive with a non-Christian as it might with someone who had some familiarity with Christianity. Perhaps it would be helpful to share the contrast between life before Christ and the spiritual experience since knowing Christ.

50. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 11:08:49 am
1Tim. 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.
1Tim. 1:17 To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

51. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 11:30:22 am
Paul refers to life before Christ but places the emphasis on what Christ has done in transforming him. He then concludes by giving glory to God rather than himself.

52. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 11:53:20 am
Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

53. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 11:53:42 am
to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

54. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 11:54:15 am
Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching?

55. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 11:57:11 am
predictive

56. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 11:57:22 am
forthtelling

57. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 11:58:07 am
directive

58. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:03:02 pm
(iii) Directive prophecy
59. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:03:35 pm
(i) Predictive prophecy
60. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:04:14 pm
(ii) Forth-telling
61. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:11:02 pm
1Tim. 1:18 ¶ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,
62. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:13:05 pm
1Tim. 1:18 ¶ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,
63. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:13:32 pm
2Tim. 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,
2Tim. 1:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
64. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:16:08 pm
It seems that Timothy was very shy, timid, and fearful. These prophecies may have given him assurance of God's presence and strength to be able to deal with every challenge he was to face.
65. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
19 February 2021 at 4:51:40 pm
1Th. 5:20 Do not despise prophecies,
1Th. 5:21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.
66. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:21:01 pm
Do not despise the gift of prophecy, but at the same time do not be naive about a prophecy either. Any prophecy you receive should be 'tested'.
67. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 12:24:36 pm
Testing
68. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
17 February 2021 at 1:28:10 pm
Acts 21:11 And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"
Acts 21:12 When we heard this,

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

5. Match each of these descriptions with each of the 3 prophecy types-

- 58 prophecy which tells someone what they are to do.
- 59 prophecy which describes what will happen before it happens.
- 60 prophecy which declares God's praise or reminds people of God's Word and usually is encouraging.

It seems that when Timothy was a young man he had received several prophetic words from God through other believers that he was called to be a preacher and church leader (1Tim 1:18).

- 61
- 62 63 What might we learn about Timothy's emotional state from these references by Paul to him in **First Timothy 1:18** and **Second Timothy 1:6-7**? Why might he have *needed* prophecies to overcome these traits? Discuss.

64

7. How does the New Testament instruct a believer to treat a prophecy they might be given from another believer? (Note **1 Thessalonians 5:20-21**)

65

66

Paul does not refer to Timothy receiving "a" prophecy, but rather, that Timothy had received "prophecies". **T** _____ g a prophecy should perhaps include whether there are a number of independent sources of a similar prophetic word. It would also be wise to consider whether the source of the prophecy was a credible believer known to be of good character. When the **68** Apostle Paul received a word from the prophet Agabus in **Acts 21:11-13** he received it as being from the Holy Spirit because it appears that the Spirit had already revealed it to him (note **Acts 9:16; 20:23**). **69** **70** Genuine personal prophecy is nearly always confirmed by other sources.

we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

69. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 1:30:22 pm

Acts 9:16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

70. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 1:31:28 pm

Acts 20:23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

71. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 3:50:53 pm
1Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

72. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 3:53:32 pm
2Tim. 2:3 Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
2Tim. 2:4 No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.

73. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 3:58:06 pm
1Tim. 1:18 ¶ This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

74. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 9:39:32 pm
Eph. 6:10 ¶ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.
Eph. 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
Eph. 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.
Eph. 6:14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
Eph. 6:15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.
Eph. 6:16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;
Eph. 6:17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,
Eph. 6:18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
Eph. 6:19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,
Eph. 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Dear Timothy, Small Group Bible Studies

Objective 3. To explain the Biblical description of the term ‘spiritual-warfare’.

71 Paul was fond of using military language when writing to Timothy (1Tim 6:12; 72 73 2Tim. 2:3-4). In First Timothy 1:18 Paul tells Timothy to “wage good warfare”. There is nothing in Paul’s military language to either Timothy or the Ephesians that suggests that ‘spiritual warfare’ ever involves ‘praying against’ or ‘binding territorial spirits’.

74 8. In Ephesians 6:10-20 Paul describes the spiritual armour necessary to engage in spiritual warfare. From this passage, list at least three things that the Bible regards as genuine spiritual warfare-

75 _____

Objective 4. To describe when it is proper to publicly shame a Christian leader who commits apostasy

‘Apostasy’ is what happens when a believer, particularly a believer who is a leader, walks away from Christ and denies the essential claims of Christianity.

9. Why does James state that not many believers should seek to be teachers (leaders)? (Read James 3:1)

76 _____
77 _____

10. How did Paul advise Timothy to respond to elders within the church who wilfully go on sinning and do not repent — and why did he say that it was necessary for this happen? (1Tim 5:19-20)

78 _____
79 _____

The Greco-Roman world of the first century was an “honour-shame” culture. That is, *honour* was prized more highly than wealth (note Prov. 22:1) and the worst thing a person could experience was *shaming*. Perhaps this might help us to better understand First Timothy 1:20. and when it might be necessary to publicly shame leaders who betray Christ and His Word.

80 _____

75. Dr. Andrew Corbett

17 February 2021 at 9:42:39 pm

This list could include:

evangelism, prayer, sharing God's Word, reading and applying the truth of God's Word, persisting in Christ against opposition.

76. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 February 2021 at 4:50:22 pm

James 3:1 ¶ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

77. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 February 2021 at 4:50:28 pm

Because teachers (leaders) bear more responsibility, therefore they are also more accountable.

78. Dr. Andrew Corbett

18 February 2021 at 4:56:44 pm

1Tim. 5:19 Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

1Tim. 5:20 As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

79. Dr. Andrew Corbett

19 February 2021 at 3:43:48 pm

The elder was to be publicly rebuked.

80. Dr. Andrew Corbett

18 February 2021 at 5:01:56 pm

1Tim. 1:20 among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

APPLICATIONS

Discuss and share-

11. If you were to share your testimony of how you came to Christ, and you only have *three minutes*, what would *you* say in the first minute to describe your life before you came to Christ? What facts would you include in the second minute about the moment when you surrendered to Jesus as your Saviour? Which details of the transformation that Christ caused in your life would be helpful to share in the third minute?

12. If someone gave you a prophetic word, how would you determine whether it was really from God?

13. If you were under a spiritual attack, what steps would you take to engage in 'spiritual warfare'?

14. If it became known to you that an elder in your church was guilty of repeated and multiple incidents of sexual misconduct with young, vulnerable church members, and when confronted they denied all the allegations, and the church leadership sought to cover it up and not remove them as an elder, what would you do?
