

Spiritual Bootcamp & More Lesson 7— The Enemy’s Left Hand: Who He is and How to Resist Him

*Watch Lesson 7 video(s) on *spiritualbootcampandmore.com*.

Congratulations! You have already completed half of Bootcamp and have learned three important hand drills. They are foundational as we move this lesson to the fourth and final drill (left hand), which represents the enemy. In the Bible, there is much significance in right vs. left. Practically speaking, in Bible times the right hand was their clean hand, as it was used for greeting and eating. The left hand was used for cleaning and wiping. In the Bible, the right hand symbolizes strength, blessing, and wisdom, while the left symbolizes weakness, judgment, and foolishness. In Bootcamp, remember that your right hand is the good hand (you in Christ) and the left hand represents your enemy. First and foremost, let’s take a look at what the Bible says about your enemy. You never want to focus on him, but you must learn from the Word who he is and how he operates so that you can learn to *consistently and promptly* resist him. He never takes a day off in his efforts to destroy you, so you can’t take a day off in resisting him. *You’ve been given all the spiritual weapons you’ll ever need to resist this already defeated foe!*

Using the pages entitled “Scriptures on the enemy” (p. 47) and “Hand Drill #4” (p.48), answer the following fill-in-the-blanks or questions.

- 1) List a few names and characteristics of the enemy. You must learn his identity to be able to recognize how he works.

thief, killer, destroyer, liar, deceiver, masquerader, manipulator, “ruler of the world,” “angel of light,” Satan, the devil, “the evil one”

- 2) Read Ephesians 2:1-2. Satan is called the “ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is at work in those who are disobedient.” 1 John 3:8 says “the one who does what is sinful is of the devil” and the reason the Son of God appeared was to “destroy the devil’s work.”

- 3) Read 2 Corinthians 4:4. Satan is called the “god of this world.”

This would be a good time to refer back to Lesson 3 and the scriptures page on the Kingdom of Light vs. the kingdom of darkness (pp. 19-20).

- 4) Write Colossians 2:15.

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

The above verse clearly tells us that Satan is a defeated foe. The enemy *has been* defeated—past tense. Confusion can enter if you do not understand that Satan still has some “limited authority” as the “ruler of the world.” The authority he has is only because God has given it to him for a period of time. You can also give him limited authority anytime you agree with his lies and deceptions. Being a defeated foe certainly does not mean that he has no influence. There is no better story to illustrate these points than one told by Dr. James Dobson involving a large snake in a missionary’s tent. This missionary entered his tent one day, only to find that a very large and deadly snake had taken up residence. After a short period of time, a machete was used to cut off the serpent’s head. What immediately followed caused quite the uproar. The

headless serpent flipped its large and powerful body around for quite some time, causing extensive damage and ultimate caving in of the tent. What remained was a pile of rubbish and a headless snake. The analogy is quite clear. Satan was decapitated at the Cross and permanently defeated, but he can and does cause damage as “the ruler of the world” (John 14:30) until Christ returns. As a believer you live in this world, but you are a citizen of another Kingdom— the Kingdom of Light, with Jesus ruling and reigning. Hallelujah! King Jesus, your ruler, does not want you to be unaware of the enemy’s schemes. To help with this, take a look at hand drill #4 on p. 48— the enemy’s left hand.

5) According to John 10:10 the enemy has come to steal, kill, and destroy. This is his #1 job.

Look back at your answers from question #1. Your answers speak to his identity. You must know his identity, but more so, you must know and use yours. The enemy uses his identity and his schemes in an effort to steal your identity as we discussed in Lesson 2. Let’s dig a little deeper into the Word.

Write Ephesians 6:11-13 (use a translation that uses the word “schemes” or “strategies” such as the ESV, AMPC, NAS, NIV, or NLT).

“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (NIV).

The Greek word for “scheme” or “strategy” is *methodeia* (Strong’s Concordance 3180) and in the context of this verse, it means *an orderly and highly technical method to be used against you*. This should cause zero fear because you have the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) available to you 24/7/365. Knowing about the armor and walking in the full armor are two different realities. *You must choose to put it on by faith and keep it on through obedience.*

6) Remember that finger #2 in this drill represents the pointer finger. The enemy will always be pointing (tempting) you to his kingdom of darkness, i.e., the world thus away from the Kingdom of Light. He is also a master in pointing you to “the good ” which can be an enemy of the best. Remember, it doesn’t have to be dark or worldly to be of the enemy. Think for a moment about “your pinky finger” (represents your flesh) of your right hand. *It will line up with the enemy*. The enemy will tempt you to pay way too much attention to yourself. The flesh loves to be stroked. Your flesh will point to YOU over and over and over. “ME, ME, ME...It’s ALL about ME!” is what it screams over and over, as it lines up with the enemy. You must be aware of his schemes. Much of this is repetitive, but this is how we learn in Bootcamp— the enemy is repetitive with his advances and we must be repetitive in resisting.

7) Our tallest finger in hand drill #4 represents this limited authority that Satan has been given. Remember, he has no power or authority of his own— he has only what he is able to deceive you into giving him. You give Satan authority and power into your life every time you agree with his lies and deceptions.

Think back to the original right hand drill #1. Your middle finger represents the authority and power you have in Christ and it far exceeds the limited authority of the defeated enemy. *You must exercise your authority— it is not automatic!*

8) Fingers 4 and 5 in the left hand drill represent People and Places. These two are major ways the enemy works to gain a foothold or should we say “upper left hand” into your life. They will be covered in some detail in Lesson 10.

9) Write James 4:7

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

What are the two conditions for you “to do”? 1) Submit to God. 2) Resist the devil.

What is the promise when you meet the two conditions in this verse?

The devil will flee from me.

The Greek word for “resist” in this verse is *anthistemi* (Strong’s Concordance 436), which means *I take a stand against*. This word is a verb, and many times it is an action verb. Resisting the enemy at times is simply standing in faith and waiting on the Lord to fight the battle. However, there are times when He is guiding you to pick up your spiritual weapons and come against the enemy. *Resisting is never automatic*. It either requires “faith to stand” or “faith to stand and wield your weapons.” It is only in the secret place of His presence that you “know that you know that you know” what weapon to pick up or to put down. This *anthistemi* is a fascinating word and one that is quite easy for you to remember. It is so very close to the word “antihistamine” because they come from the same two root words. If you get stung by either a single or several hornets it is likely that you’ll either know or be instructed to take an antihistamine like Benadryl. The release of histamines from the bite causes swelling, itching, pain, and at times even more serious side-effects. The “anti-histamine” blocks the further release of histamines and very soon you will improve. What in the world does this have to do with you learning to “resist” the enemy? Well, just as quickly as you’d reach for the Benadryl after a hornet bite, you must learn to quickly “resist” the enemy’s bite by picking up your personal spiritual weapons.

As a review, write your spiritual weapons (from hand drill #2— fingers 1-3 in order):

1) The Word 2) Prayer 3) Praise

With these “personal spiritual weapons” fresh in your mind, it’s time to learn what will seem like the silliest phrase in all of Bootcamp. Before you think this is too corny, remember that Bootcamps are always about muscle memory formed by repetition. It’s much easier to catch and reteach something you already partially know. The silly phrase to illustrate our three personal spiritual weapons written above is “Paper, Rock, Scissors.” Interestingly enough, Wikipedia has a lot of information on this hand game which has been around for hundreds of years. Most generations in this country have played this game and understand the hand symbols for each. In Bootcamp’s “Spiritual Paper, Rock, Scissors” the “Paper” is The Word (Bible), the “Rock” is Jesus our intercessor (Prayer), and “Scissors” represents Praise which cuts through the darkness! The Word, Prayer, & Praise... The Word, Prayer, & Praise... Now practice “Paper, Rock, Scissors” using your right hand onto your left hand. Your right hand

overpowers the enemy's left hand every time, *but only if you choose to use it*. All three weapons work and they work either alone or together. "Paper, Rock, Scissors" is POWER! Your right hand crushes that nasty left hand every time. Only God uses the most unlikely simple things to teach the powerful things!

10. Concerning "Points of Vulnerability" write 2 Samuel 17:2.

"I will come upon him while he is weary and weak, and make him afraid. And all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike only the king."

The above verse speaks to a very common tactic of the enemy. He has studied you and he knows and waits for "that opportune time" to attack (Luke 4:13). You must be aware of your own points of vulnerability and be on guard. The acronym **H. A. L. T.** has been used to teach people to "stop, drop, and pray" or should we now say "Paper, Rock, Scissors" whenever they find themselves either **Hurt, Angry, Lonely, or Tired** (or whatever words fit for their personality— for example the "H" might stand for "Hungry" for some). The bottom line is that the enemy will hit you when you aren't at your best— an "opportune time" for you to fall for his scheme. He will tempt you to lose your peace, thus cracking the door wide open to operating in the wrong kingdom. When you give the enemy an inch, he will attempt to become a ruler.

Let's Get Practical and Transparent:

Before continuing, here is another snake story which is written as a 10-step practical approach for volunteers working in the Amazon Jungle in case of an attack by an anaconda. These are the largest snakes in the world, weighing 300-400 pounds and reaching up to 35 feet long.

1. If you are attacked by an anaconda, do not run. The snake is faster than you are.
2. Lie flat on the ground. Put your arms tight against your sides, your legs tight against one another.
3. Tuck your chin in.
4. The snake will come and begin to nudge and climb over you.
5. Do not panic.
6. After the snake has examined you, it will begin to swallow you from the feet end—always from the feet end. Permit the snake to swallow your feet and ankles. Do not panic.
7. The snake will begin now to suck your legs into its body. You must lie perfectly still. This will take a long time.
8. When the snake has reached your knees, slowly, and with as little movement as possible, reach down, take your knife and very gently slide it into the side of the snake's mouth between the edge of its mouth and your leg. Then suddenly rip upwards, severing the snake's head.
9. Be sure you have your knife.
10. Be sure your knife is sharp.

Take a deep breath... This 10-step list circulated online years ago and was written for humor, not practical advice. However, there is a powerful spiritual analogy to be seen and remembered. The anaconda is Satan, the jungle is the world, you are the volunteer, and the knife represents the Word, your alive and sharp spiritual weapon. Now you can just bet that no volunteer would ever venture into that jungle without a knife, much less a dull one. Now, with this in mind, let's get practical and transparent concerning any "anacondas" in your life.

a) Where are you currently being attacked by the enemy?

b) What do you do the moment you recognize that it is an attack?

c) Ask Him to show you from His Word what you can do better and faster.

d) Are you using the Word (verses) on your index cards to decapitate the enemy when he comes at you with lies, fear, doubt, etc. ? _____ If no, why not?

e) Would you like to share a personal testimony about this since Bootcamp started?

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: “The Three Omni’s & The Three ‘You’ll Never Understand’ Verses”

You have entered this second half of Bootcamp with the emphasis being on teaching you more about spiritual warfare. Learning to crush the left hand with the right is a must, but it’s even more important to learn not to give the enemy a foothold at all. The remainder of Bootcamp uncovers these footholds. Before we go there, this is a wonderful time to review a few things of which you must never lose sight. These must be kept in the front of your mind as you continue your faith journey (not a “sight” journey). There will be times that you have more questions than answers and that is just fine. God is building your faith muscles. This is the reason to review “The Three Omni’s” and “The Three ‘You’ll Never Understand’ Verses.” The Holy Spirit is your personal trainer, teaching you little by little. There is much repetition, but it is for a reason. Isaiah 28:10 (NLT) says it best: “He tells us everything over and over—one line at a time, one line at a time, a little here, and a little there.” Trust Him and His process with you. Trust His timing.

“The Three Omni’s” to never lose sight of (The enemy will tempt you to doubt these, that is his job.):

- 1) GOD IS **OMNIPOTENT**— He alone is all powerful.
- 2) GOD IS **OMNIPRESENT**— He alone is ever present, everywhere.
- 3) GOD IS **OMNISCIENT**—He alone is all-knowing.

“The Three ‘You’ll Never Understand’ Verses” i.e., don’t try to figure this stuff out, just trust Him— He’s the “Three Omni’s” and you are not!):

- 1) 1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT) “Now we see things imperfectly like a puzzling reflection in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.”
- 4) Romans 11:33 (TLB) “Oh what a wonderful God we have! How great are his wisdom and knowledge and riches! *How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his methods!*” (Emphasis added)
- 5) Isaiah 55:9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Time to wrap it up:

Let’s close this lesson with a paragraph from that powerful classic *Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. He explains, “There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to have an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors...”

We will not end this lesson by repeating this left hand drill as we did with the other three of the right hand. **What you focus on will always look BIGGER.** Look at your hands and visualize a HUGE RIGHT HAND doing the Paper, Rock, Scissors to a shriveling up, nasty little left hand. The NKJ version of Psalm 18:34 is “He teaches my hands to make war!” and Psalm 44:5 tells us, “Through you we push back our enemies—we trample our foes.” Congrats on completing Lesson 7 with the final hand drill and surviving not just one, but two huge snake stories! Be still and keep your knife sharp! You are getting stronger every day. A “Most High Five”—with the right hand of course!

Scriptures on our enemy (Satan, the devil, ruler of this world)

Colossians 2:15 “And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

1 John 4:4 “You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

1 John 3:8 “The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

John 8:44 “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

1 Peter 5:8-9 “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of suffering.”

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 “Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.”

Ephesians 2:1-2 “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”

2 Corinthians 4:4, NLT “Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.”

1 John 5:19 “We know that we are children of God, and the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”

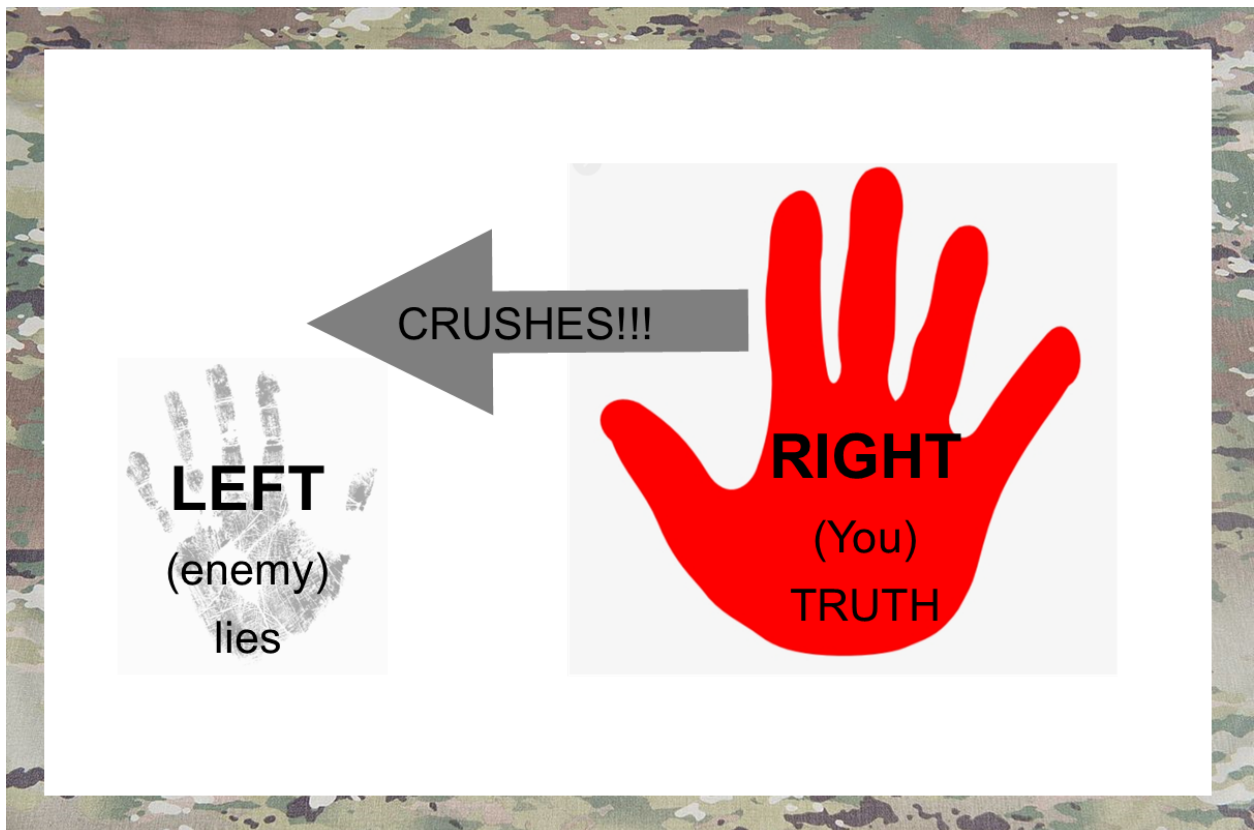
2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those that are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”

Matthew 4 & Luke 4 (Satan tempting Jesus in the wilderness 3x— then waited for “*an opportune time*”)

BOOTCAMP HAND DRILL #4: The Enemy's Left Hand

- 1) **His #1 JOB** is to steal, kill, and destroy YOU (John 10:10). His identity is a thief, killer, destroyer, liar, deceiver, masquerader (“angel of light”), manipulator, etc., He uses his identity and schemes to try to steal your identity thus your purposes and destiny.
- 2) **“POINTS”** (tempts) you to his kingdom of darkness (the world)—points you AWAY from the Kingdom of Light by pointing to circumstances, your past, even “good”— anywhere away from the King and His Kingdom; Matt. 4 (Jesus tempted in the desert 3 different ways—same for you)
- 3) **What he has (is given)— limited authority** (restricted, temporal)—in the world (“ruler of the world”: John 12:31; “god of this age”: 2 Cor. 4:4; “ruler of the kingdom of the air”: Eph. 2:2)
- 4) **PEOPLE**— he can work through anyone, especially you (mind of the flesh, your own voice, Rom. 8:6), others, “angels of light”—2 Cor.11:14, your family and the past (generational curses) (Ex. 20:5). You must learn to separate the person from the spirit working through that person.
- 5) **PLACES**— he tempts you to revisit “the palace of hurt emotions” (memories); tempts you to campout at existing strongholds in your mind; tempts to build new strongholds where you are practicing “stinkin' thinkin,,” tempts you with stray evil thoughts (2 Cor. 10:5-6; Col. 2:8; Matt. 9:4). A dark place in your mind is just as good and easier to tempt you with than a “dark geographical place.” REMEMBER, THE BATTLEFIELD IS YOUR MIND. The real War has already been won!

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves then to God. Resist the devil, & he will flee from you.”



**Trifold illustration of "PAPER, ROCK, SCISSORS!"
RIGHT hand crushes the left**

"PAPER, ROCK SCISSORS!"



DRILL # 4

LEFT (enemy)

1) #1 JOB:
John 10:10

2) "Points":
Matt. 4-"Tempts"

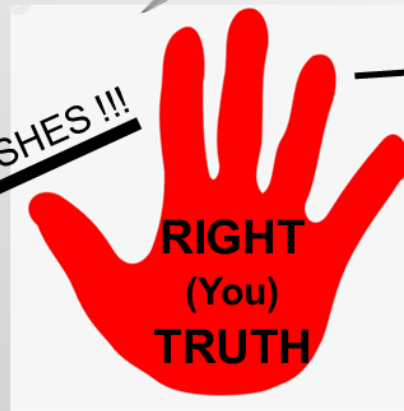
3) authority-limited,
given

4) PEOPLE-you,
family, others

5) PLACES-
"the palace"



CRUSHES !!!



↑ SPIRIT :

- 1) The Word = "Paper"
- 2) PRAYER = ROCK
- 3) PRAISE = Scissors!"



"Your Weapons"

1John 4:4 ". . . The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

James.4:7 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."