## The Struggles that Surround us - 5

This is totally your study. Nobody will be instructing you and nobody will be grading you. It will just be you, your Bible, these lessons, your own paper, and of course, the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you.

STRUGGLE	<b>People Who Manipulate Me</b>
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"Manipulate" means to "handle someone with skill". It is a pre-meditated act of cleverly controlling someone. People who teach false beliefs are manipulators; people can be friend others to sexually manipulative others; people will use their authority & overpowering personality to manipulate the unsuspecting.

1. Explain briefly how you have been manipulated or controlled or handled.		
2. Here's a hard one. How have you manipulated someone else?		
3. Who is behind the practice of "taking advantage" of people? (2 Cor 11:14)		
4. How does God feel about manipulating people? (Lev 25:17)		
5. What do manipulative people really want? (Romans 16:18)		
I used to manipulate or control my wife with my temper & anger. I got what I wanted by intimidating here & making her fearful of my reactions. I am ashamed admit that.		
6. How do "controllers of others" get their power? (Luke 16:15)  a. "You are those who themselves before"  b. They make their beliefs "highly among"		
Our governments & politicians do this; they may lie or promote a lie. That lie could turn into a strategy or even a law to manipulate or control us.		
OK, so then controlling others could be "person to person" or it could be "leaders of people."		
7. Write out Galatians 6:10.		

Unfortunately, not everyone wants to do good to us. Some things we cannot control. Some things we can. Instead of being a victim, let's be proactive.

Some things we can thistead of being	y a victim, let's de proactive.
8. What can we do? (Ephesians 6 a. Gird yourself with what? b. Put on the breastplate of whomas c. Use your feet to spread what d. Hold in place the shield of whete e. Put on the helmet of what? f. Position in front of you the words.	vhat?
•	on. Those people who want to control us are all us, motivated by the schemes of the devil.
Take Up the Whole Armor of God:  "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes." (Ephesians 6:11)  The Helmet of Salvation  "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)  The Breastplate of Righteousness  "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)  The Shield of Faith  "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)  Loins Girded with Truth	9. We need wise & clear thinking. What does the <b>HELMET</b> cover?
"Buy the truth and do not sell it—wisdom, instruction and insight as well." (Proverbs 23:23)  The Sword of the Spirit  "For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)  Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace  "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15)	13. We need a firm foundation to stand on & then be ready to go wherever the good news needs to be told. What do the <b>shoes</b> cover?  14. God's plan needs to be spoken. We don't just sit back. <b>We need an offense too.</b> This whole armor suit is defensive except this
intimidates the false; it makes	This whole difficult is defensive except this  This weapon can do its job when the I can hold this sword high. It upsets evil; it clear the truth. This sword says "Trust God – He cors & the liars. He can handle them. Leave the

results to Him." **The sword** of the Holy Spirit brings victory & hope.