The Warrior Ring is intended to be used as a silent witnessing tool, as well as a constant, ever-present reminder of your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Your walk with God is a daily, relational commitment that reflects the internal and is witnessed in the external.

The detail and symbolism of the Warrior Ring will also provide you with a tool with which to instigate a conversation with others about your faith and bridge the gap for you to talk to them about their own thoughts of God. Do they have a faith? If not, you can share yours. If they do, you can encourage them to be vigilant and always ready in their spiritual walk.

As Christian men, we are the leaders of the faith in our culture. We are champions and warriors before and with the Lord. "The LORD is a warrior" (Exodus 15:3).

In the explanation of the ring, the primary Scripture is in blue, and supporting Scriptures are in black.

## Side One:



The cross is the starting point for everything. What does the cross mean to you? What does it mean that Christ died on the cross? What if Jesus had never died on the cross? If Jesus had not died, what would the world look like? What would your life look like? All of our hope begins at the **cross**: John 3:3-21, John 5:24, John 12:25, Romans 5:6-21. Jesus' sacrifice made that change possible for all of mankind; the price that was paid was not small. Through the substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross, those who trust in Him, confess, and turn from their broken relationship with God will be given a second chance. This change can come at any time in an individual's life.

Next is the tomb. The **empty tomb** is extremely significant because the process of transformation takes place through the tomb as one goes from death of self to life with Jesus Christ: Romans 6:1-14, Romans 6:15-23, Romans 7:4-6, Ephesians 4:17-24 (LB), Colossians 3:1-15 (LB). The voluntary yielding of one's self to God opens the door to the life-changing experience of a new life. One who passes from death to life can live vicariously through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The act of being baptized symbolizes the transformation of the old life into the new life dedicated to Jesus Christ.

Next is the Holy Spirit of God symbolized by the dove. Jesus referred to the **Holy Spirit** as coming after Him. Through the Holy Spirit of God, we have available the daily strength to walk out our Christian life: Romans 8:1-17, John 14:26, 16:13, 1Corinthians 2:9-16, Acts 1:8, Luke 24:49, Galatians 4:6-7. The Holy Spirit guides, teaches, and reveals the instructions for walking out our Christian lives. The Word of God is made clear to us because of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit of God is active and moving among the people, drawing them into relationship with God. The Holy Spirit cleanses, purifies, and pours over our lives, changing both our hearts (attitudes and motives) and spirits, making them brand new and recreated.

The clusters of grapes show up on both sides of the ring. The <u>fruit</u> represents what others see both outwardly and internally in our lives: <u>Galatians 5:16-26</u>, Philippians 4:8-9, Matthew 7:(13-14)15-20. It is not our responsibility to determine how much fruit is in our lives. We are simply to abide in and on the vine (Jesus); the fruit in our lives is determined by someone else—God the Father. Our fruitfulness is the result not of our efforts, but of God's grace and mercy. Every life has a plan and a purpose: to reflect the fruit that comes from abiding in the vine. Our lives are cared for and tended so they will reflect the joy and peace of being in relationship with God. The reflection of that fruit shows forth in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience (longsuffering), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Because of the Holy

Spirit's daily living in and transforming our life, the change observed is notable and draws others to commit their life to Jesus.

If you notice the vine on the top of the ring, you will be reminded that Jesus said He was the vine and we are the branches. We have to stay connected to Him for in Him we have life: John 15:1-8.

Side Two:



As you turn the ring to the other side, you will notice that the vine continues. That is because we have to daily stay connected to the Lord. You will also notice the clusters of grapes, reminding us that we should continue to grow and mature into the character of God in our daily lives.

We are in a real spiritual battle, and we have a real enemy. We have to remember that our enemy, Satan, wants to destroy us. He seeks to devour us. The Christian must be equipped for every battle, always on guard and aware that an enemy is lurking and lying in wait to come against them. We must be daily vigilant to wear the armor of God. The <u>armor of God</u> gives us the protection needed to daily face our trials and temptations; stand fast, having a firm foundation and right standing before God through Jesus Christ, fighting with the truth and assurance of the Word of God: <u>Ephesians 6:10-18</u>, 1 Peter 5:5-11, 2 Corinthians 10:4-6, 1Timothy 1:18-19, 6:11-16. Our weapons are mighty and more powerful than any foe. We have to understand the use of the armor of God. Each part of the armor of God is detailed.

The <u>altar</u>, located on the top of the ring, symbolizes the center of God's will. The altar represents a covenant between God and man. A covenant can be made at any juncture of an individual's life. The word *covenant* (literally, "a coming together") signifies a mutual undertaking between two or more parties, each binding himself to fulfill obligations; it usually signifies an obligation undertaken by a single person. *Covenant* can also take on the meaning of "a promise." When God moved throughout the Scriptures and met with man, often there was an altar built to mark the encounter. The result of the encounter was a greater heart's devotion to God, to one's vocation (calling), and to one's spouse, family, or others entrusted to one's care. The altar serves as a reminder to stay faithful, to be pure (in thought, attitude, and action), to be sexually pure, to be true to that decision made before God, and to fulfill your purpose: 1Kings 8:23, Proverbs 27: 17, 19, 21, James 1:22-25, Hebrews 10:16-17, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 7: 22-28, 2 Corinthians 3:14-18.

Finally, the red stone on the top symbolizes the **blood of Christ**.

The ring serves as a daily reminder of the battle each man is fighting; plus it gives the wearer a tool to start a conversation with another man.

Each part of the Warrior Ring is discussed in detail in part two of the Bible study, "Making a Spiritual Warrior: Confront the Enemy and Live in Victory as a Man After God's Heart."