

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) is a U.S. military training program that was developed at the end of the Korean War to provide service members with training in the Code of Conduct, survival skills, evading capture, and dealing with being taken prisoner.

It was created by the Air Force but was later expanded to the Army and the Navy after the Vietnam War. The school is intended to train aircrews, Special Forces, and other service members who operate in dangerous areas and are thus more likely to be captured.

E&E (Escape and Evasion) is an advanced set of skills taught to select personnel prone to enemy capture, particularly aviation crews and Special Forces members.

It involves tactics for escaping from and eluding enemies until one reaches friendly units. Survival skills are vital in escape and evasion, as one is expected to use their training to live off what is available while avoiding enemies.

We are behind enemy lines

First, we must recognize that while we are in this world – we are **behind enemy lines** in a place where Satan and his minions are working feverishly to capture us.

Revelation 12:9

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, **called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

John 18:36

Jesus answered, **“My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

1 John 4:3

³ “and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the **spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.**”

So we too must work feverishly to avoid capture at all costs. Don't deceive yourself – this is in fact a war zone and we are behind enemy lines.

Matthew 10:16

¹⁶ **"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves..."**

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Beware of:

The counsel you seek

Colossians 2:8

⁸ **Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.**

Those who you associate with and regard as allies

Proverbs 13:20

²⁰ **"He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed."**

John 12:25

²⁵ **He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.** ²⁶ **If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.**

James 4:4-10

⁴ **Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

1 John 2:15 Do Not Love the World

¹⁵ **Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

Luke 21:34-36

³⁴ **"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day (Christ's return) come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."**

A few of the greatest assets a soldier behind enemy lines can possess:

Training - our manual is called the Bible

Survival Gear - we have armor

Hope - we have triumphant hope

John 16:33

³³ "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Ephesians 6:10-18 Speaks of The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 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. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints

John 15:19

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 17:15

¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

Romans 12:2

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Peter 5:6-11

⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. ¹¹ To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 John 5:4

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 4:4

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

I don't know about you – but the image of a lion roaming about seeking to devour me – strikes a fearful image in my heart. And the thought of being captured – becoming a prisoner of war – conjures the same fearful images.

We may be in this world – but we don't have to succumb to this world. We have sacred tactics for escape, evasion and survival that we can practice and share with others.

God desires that we master the skills to survive and to teach others and spread the good news.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

Father, please help us to know that our reward is not in this place – but in eternity – with You. Please help us to recognize that while we are in the world – we are behind enemy lines and in harms way. Please help us Lord to put on the whole armor you have provided, to train and equip ourselves to serve you and to lead others to eternal safety through your most precious Son Jesus.