

Fighting the devil

- Enemy We Face
- Battle Plan

Good morning!

We have a Creator, Who is forever right,
Who made us and loves us.

BUT, satan does NOT love us – He Hates God AND us;
And mastermind's guerilla warfare, in an all-out effort to HARM us.

As we consider a lesson entitled, "**Fighting the devil**",

We should be aware of this terrible,

I. Enemy We Face

- "For we wrestle **NOT** against flesh and blood, but **AGAINST** principalities, **AGAINST** powers, **AGAINST** the rulers of the darkness of this world, **AGAINST** spiritual wickedness in high places." ([Eph.6:12](#))

We should therefore know that

A. satan Exists

- "wherein **in time past** ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience." ([Eph.2:2](#))

We are "Fighting the devil", because

B. satan Hates God's Creatures

The Bible says that,

- "God **ANOINTED** Jesus of Nazareth **WITH** the Holy Spirit and **WITH** power: **WHO** went about doing good, and healing ALL that were **OPPRESSED of the devil**; for God was **WITH** Him." ([Acts 10:38](#))

Satan is the cause of trials

- "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but **Satan hindered us**." ([1Thess.2:18](#))
- "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, **the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried**;" ([Rev.2:10a](#))
- "Wherefore, **AS** by one man sin ENTERED into the world, and death BY sin; and so **DEATH passed** upon **ALL** men, for that **ALL HAVE SINNED**:" ([Rom.5:12](#))

satan burdens us with sorrow, death, problems and distress.

But, do not accuse God -- Problems in this life are the Devil's work.

We are "Fighting the devil", but by Deceit and Tricks, this

C. Enemy of God Allures Us

- Jesus said that the devil "...was a **MURDERER** from the beginning, and abode NOT in the truth, because there is **NO truth** in him. When he speaketh a LIE, he speaketh OF his own: for he is a **LIAR**, and the father OF it." ([Jn.8:44](#))

We are "Fighting the devil", but this "Enemy We Face", satan is

D. Guilty of Impersonation

The Bible informs us,

- "no marvel; for satan himself is **TRANSFORMED** into an angel of light.
¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be **TRANSFORMED** as the ministers of righteousness; whose **END** shall be according to their **WORKS**." ([2Cor.11:14-15](#))
- "Beloved, believe **NOT** every spirit, but **TRY** the spirits whether they are of God: because many **FALSE** prophets are gone out into the world." ([1Jn.4:1](#))

satan **Confuses**, to **KEEP** sinners **LOST**.

- The Bible says, "Those by the way side, are they that **HEAR**; **then COMETH the devil**, and **TAKETH away** the Word, **OUT** of their hearts, **LEST** they should believe and be saved." ([Lk.8:12](#))
- "**IF** our gospel be **HID**, it is **HID** to them that are **LOST**:
⁴ in whom the god of this world, hath **BLINDED** the minds of them which believe **NOT**, lest the **LIGHT** of the glorious **GOSPEL** of Christ, who is the **IMAGE** of God, should **SHINE** unto them." ([2Cor.4:3-4](#))

satan sneaks up on saints (not face to face)

- "lest satan should get an **ADVANTAGE** of us: for we are **NOT** ignorant of his **DEVICES**." ([2Cor.2:11](#))

We are "Fighting the devil", but

E. Thankfully his Power Has Been BROKEN (through Christ)

The Bible teaches us, that

- "...the Son of God was manifested, that He might **DESTROY** the works of the devil." ([1Jn.3:8b](#))
- "and having **SPOILED** principalities and powers, He **MADE** a shew of them **OPENLY**, triumphing **OVER** them **IN** it." ([Col.2:15](#))

satan's power over death, has been seized

- Jesus said "**I AM He** that **LIVETH** and **WAS** dead; and, **BEHOLD**, I am **ALIVE** for **EVERMORE**, Amen; and have the **KEYS** of hell **AND** of death." ([Rev.1:18](#))

The Bible informs us that the devil's doom, has been sealed

- "the devil that **DECEIVED** them, was **CAST** into the lake of **FIRE** and **BRIMSTONE**, **WHERE** the beast and the **FALSE** prophet **ARE**, and shall **BE TORMENTED** day and night **FOR EVER** and **EVER**." ([Rev.20:10](#))

We are Promised, that satan's attack against us **WILL END**

- Jesus shall "say also unto them on the **LEFT** hand, **DEPART** from me, ye cursed, **INTO** everlasting **FIRE**, **PREPARED** for the devil **AND** his angels." ([Matt.25:41](#))

Until then, We are in a,

F. Life-long Battle

- Paul told Timothy to, “**FIGHT** the good FIGHT of **FAITH**, **LAY HOLD** on **ETERNAL Life**, whereunto thou art also **CALLED**, and hast professed a **GOOD profession**, **BEFORE** many witnesses.” (1Tim. 6:12)

We are “Fighting the devil”,

G. Do not fear his power...But respect it

- Peter said, “**BE** sober, **BE** vigilant; because your **ADVERSARY** the devil, **AS** a roaring lion, **WALKETH** about, **SEEKING** whom he may **DEVOUR**.” (1Pet.5:8)

We are “Fighting the devil”, but

H. Do not underestimate our Mighty Resource

- We are told, “...**BE strong IN** the **Lord**, and **IN** the **Power** of **HIS Might**.” (Eph.6:10)
- In this spiritual fight, we are told, “**RESIST** stedfast **IN** the faith, **KNOWING** that the **SAME** afflictions, are accomplished IN your brethren, that are **IN** the world.” (1Pet.5:9)
- “**SUBMIT** yourselves therefore **TO** God. **RESIST** the devil, and he will **FLEE** from you.” (Jas.4:7)
- “There hath **NO temptation** **TAKEN** you, **BUT** such as is **COMMON** to man: but **God IS FAITHFUL**, Who will **NOT** suffer you, to be tempted **ABOVE** that ye are **ABLE**; but will **WITH** the temptation, also **MAKE** a way to **ESCAPE**, that ye may **BE ABLE** to **BEAR** it.” (1Cor.10:13)

We are “Fighting the devil”, but we have an efficient,

II. Battle Plan

The Battle Plan, in ONE VERSE, [Rev.12:11](#)

- “they **OVERCAME** him (that is, satan) **BY** the **BLOOD** of the Lamb (1), and by the **WORD** of their testimony (2); and they loved NOT their lives unto the death (3).” ([Rev.12:11](#))

Consider with me, A Summary of the CONTEXT in [Rev.12:5-13](#):

Christ (by His resurrection) conquered and bound Satan;

NOW Satan turns on to the church, in an effort to destroy God's faithful people.

During the devil/ church battle, is the time of SALVATION, STRENGTH, and KING-DOM, POWER (or Divine dominion).

The **ACCUSER IS CAST DOWN**: he could accuse all people **BEFORE** Christ died, but **NOW** Christ is victorious, **REIGNING** in Heaven;

While **IN Christ**, we can bind the devil (or prove satan’s accusations false) by standing for Truth,

While **IN Christ**, We can overcome the devil, by means of three things:

the **BLOOD** of the lamb (1), the **WORD** of testimony (2), and “loving NOT our lives unto death” (3).

And so, our efficient Battle Plan, includes overcoming satan,

A. BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

- “forasmuch as ye know that ye were **NOT** redeemed **WITH** corruptible things, **AS** silver and gold, **FROM** your vain conversation, **RECEIVED** by tradition **FROM** your fathers;
¹⁹ but **WITH** the precious **BLOOD** of Christ, **AS** of a lamb with**OUT** blemish and with**OUT** spot.”
([1Pet.1:18-19](#))

Sin, satan’s powerful weapon; Ruins and murders

- “For the **WAGES** of sin is **DEATH**;
but the **GIFT** of God is **ETERNAL** Life, **THROUGH** Jesus Christ our Lord.” ([Rom.6:23](#))

Sin, satan’s powerful weapon,

stands powerless before the saving blood of CHRIST JESUS

- Jesus said “this is **My blood** of the New Testament,
which is **SHED** for many, **FOR** the remission of sins.” ([Matt.26:28](#))
- “**IF** we walk **IN** the **LIGHT**, as **He** is **IN** the **LIGHT**, we have **FELLOWSHIP** one **WITH** another,
and the **BLOOD** of Jesus Christ, His Son, **CLEANSETH** us from **ALL** sin.” ([1Jn.1:7](#))
- “**IN Whom** we have redemption **THROUGH** His blood,
the **FORGIVENESS** of sins, according to the **RICHES** of His **GRACE**;” ([Eph.1:7](#))

So, no despair when we are stained, by sin

- “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels
FOR the **SUFFERING** of death, **CROWNED** with glory and honour;
that He, **BY** the **Grace of God**, should **TASTE** death, for **EVERY** man.” ([Heb.2:9](#))
- “And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **PREACH** the Gospel to **EVERY** creature.
¹⁶ He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED**;
BUT he that believeth **NOT** shall be **DAMNED**.” ([Mk.16:15-16](#))
- “For I will be **MERCIFUL** to their **UN**righteousness,
and their **SINS** and their **INIQUITIES** will I remember **NO MORE**.” ([Heb.8:12](#))
- “Know ye not, that the **UN**righteous **SHALL NOT INHERIT** the kingdom of God?
Be **NOT** deceived: **NEITHER** fornicators, **NOR** idolaters, **NOR** adulterers, **NOR** effeminate,
NOR abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰ **NOR** thieves, **NOR** covetous, **NOR** drunkards, **NOR** revilers,
NOR extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
¹¹ And such **WERE** some of you: but ye are **WASHED**, but ye are **SANCTIFIED**, but ye are **JUSTIFIED**
IN the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus, and **BY** the Spirit of our God.” ([1Cor.6:9-11](#))
- “**COME** now, and let us **REASON TOGETHER**, saith the Lord:
though your **SINS** be **AS** scarlet, they shall be as white **AS** snow;
though they be red **LIKE** crimson, they shall be **AS** wool.” ([Isa.1:18](#))
- “As **FAR** as the east is **FROM** the west,
so **FAR** hath He **REMOVED** our transgressions **FROM** us.” ([Psa.103:12](#))

We are "Fighting the devil", but we have an efficient Battle Plan,
Which includes overcoming satan and sin,

B. BY THE WORD OF TESTIMONY

The Bible says,

- "I have written unto you, **FATHERS**, because ye have **KNOWN** Him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, **YOUNG MEN**, because ye are **STRONG**, and the Word of God abideth **IN** you, and ye have **OVERCOME** the wicked one." ([1Jn.2:14](#))

We need to be Saturated with Truth

- "**LET** the **Word** of Christ **DWELL** in you richly, in **ALL** wisdom..." ([Col.3:16](#))
- "Thy **WORD** have I hid, **IN** mine **HEART**, that I might **NOT** sin, **AGAINST** Thee." ([Psa.119:11](#))

We need to **STAY** with the Divine **INFLEXIBLE** Truth

- "Now the **God of PEACE**, that **BROUGHT** again **FROM** the dead our **Lord Jesus**, that great **SHEPHERD** of the sheep, **THROUGH** the blood of the **EVERLASTING covenant**," ([Heb.13:20](#))
- "And the things that thou hast **HEARD** of me, among many witnesses, the same **COMMIT** thou to **FAITHFUL** men, who shall be able, to **TEACH** others also." ([2Tim.2:2](#))

Early disciples knew this

- "Therefore **THEY** that were **SCATTERED** abroad, **WENT** every where **PREACHING** the Word." ([Acts 8:4](#))
- "We having the **SAME** spirit of **FAITH**, **ACCORDING** as it is written, I **BELIEVED**, and therefore have I **SPOKEN**; we also **BELIEVE**, and therefore **SPEAK**;" ([2Cor.4:13](#))

We are "Fighting the devil", but we have an efficient Battle Plan,
Which includes overcoming satan and sin, by

C. LOVING NOT OUR LIVES UNTO THE DEATH –

- Jesus said, "...be thou **FAITHFUL** unto death, and I will **GIVE** thee a **CROWN** of **LIFE**." ([Rev.2:10b](#))

1st Century saints were Devoted – They Didn't Retreat

- "let us **DRAW** near, with a **TRUE** heart, **IN** full **ASSURANCE** of **FAITH**, having our hearts sprinkled **FROM** an evil conscience, and our bodies **WASHED** with pure water. ²³ Let us **HOLD FAST** the profession of our **FAITH**, **withOUT** wavering; (for **He** is **FAITHFUL** that **Promised**);" ([Heb.10:22-23](#))

The Blood and Word of Christ are powerful,

but effective for us **ONLY** if we **LOVE** The Redeemer **MORE** than life

- "If any man come to Me, and hate **NOT** (that is, love less) his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he can**NOT** be My disciple." ([Lk.14:26](#))

WHEN we love The Redeemer **MORE** than life,

We can truly sing "**NONE OF SELF AND ALL OF THEE.**"

We may not be called on, to suffer as Paul, but we should have the same attitude, as did he.

- Paul said, "What mean ye to weep, and to break mine heart? for I am **READY**, not to be bound **ONLY**, but also to **DIE** at Jerusalem for the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus." ([Acts 21:13](#))

Inspired practical words, help us stay on guard

- So **DON'T** “give place to the devil.” ([Eph.4:27](#))

But Be subject to God's will

- “**SUBMIT** yourselves therefore to God. **RESIST** the devil, and he will flee **FROM** you.
⁸ **Draw NIGH** to **God**, and **HE** will draw NIGH to you.
CLEANSE your hands, ye sinners; and **PURIFY** your hearts, ye double minded.” ([Jas.4:7-8](#))
- “Finally, my brethren, be strong **IN** the Lord, and **IN** the Power of His **MIGHT**.
¹¹ **PUT ON** the whole armour of God, that ye may be **ABLE** to stand **AGAINST** the wiles of the devil.” ([Eph.6:10-11](#))
- “And **TAKE** the helmet of **Salvation**, and the sword of the **Spirit**, which **IS** the **WORD** of **God**.” ([Eph.6:17](#))

So, LEARN the Word. LEARN how to use it,
And Let it be the pervading influence in our lives.

In Mathew chapter 4, we LEARN that Jesus resisted the devil, with verbatim quoting of scripture.

- He said, “**IT IS WRITTEN**” ([Matt.4:4](#)), “**IT IS WRITTEN**” ([Matt.4:7](#)), “**IT IS WRITTEN**” ([Matt.4:10](#)).

The Bible says,

- “For the Eyes of the Lord are **OVER** the righteous, and His Ears are **OPEN** unto their prayers: but the Face of the Lord is **AGAINST** them that **DO** evil.” ([1Pet.3:12](#))
- “The Lord **KNOWETH** how to **DELIVER** the godly, **OUT** of temptations, and to **RESERVE** the unjust, unto the **DAY** of judgment, to be **PUNISHED**.” ([2Pet.2:9a](#))
- “**CONTINUE** in prayer, and **WATCH** in the same **WITH** Thanksgiving;” ([Col.4:2](#))

Seek friends who spiritually support us,

- But “Be **NOT** deceived: **EVIL** communications (or evil companions) **CORRUPT** good manners.” ([1Cor.15:33](#))
- “and let us **CONSIDER** one another, to **PROVOKE** unto love and to **GOOD** works.” ([Heb.10:24](#))

IN-Conclusion

Remember: BE AWARE -- FOLLOW THE PLAN -- STAY ON GUARD.

And stay focused on our hope

- “For the **HOPE** which is **LAI**D UP, **FOR** you, **IN** heaven, whereof ye **HEARD** before, **IN** the **WORD** of the **TRUTH** of the **GOSPEL**;” ([Col.1:5](#))
- “**PRESS** toward the **MARK**, for the **PRIZE**, of the high **CALLING** of God, **IN** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.3:14](#))

We'll win eternal victory over Satan and over sin
through the mighty spiritual power of God

- “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **STEDFAST**, **UN**moveable, always **ABOUNDING** in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is **NOT** in vain **IN** the Lord.” ([1Cor.15:58](#))
- “Nay, in **ALL** these things we are **MORE** than conquerors **THROUGH** Him that **LOVED** us.” ([Rom.8:37](#))

Only in Christ is there hope

- SOME “were with**OUT** Christ, being **ALIENS** from the commonwealth of Israel, and **STRANGERS** from the covenants of promise, having **NO** hope, and with**OUT** God in the world: ¹³ but now **IN** Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were **FAR** off are made nigh **BY** the blood of Christ.” ([Eph.2:12-13](#))
- “For as many of you, **AS** have been **BAPTIZED INTO** Christ, have **PUT ON** Christ.” ([Gal.3:27](#))

Lost ones: Satan wants you to think "later"

- The Bible says this of Felix “as he **REASONED** of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix **TREMLED**, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.” ([Acts 24:25](#))

We are Now in the spiritual battle for our eternal life.

- Jesus said “He that is **NOT** with Me, is **AGAINST** Me; and he that gathereth **NOT** with Me, **SCATTERETH** abroad.” ([Matt.12:30](#))
- Joshua said long ago, “if it seem evil unto you to **SERVE** the Lord, **CHOOSE** you this day **WHOM** ye will **SERVE**; whether the gods which your fathers served, that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but **AS** for **ME**, and **MY HOUSE**, we **WILL SERVE The Lord**.” ([Josh.24:15](#))

Find mercy now

- Jesus said “Behold, I **STAND** at the door, and **KNOCK**: **IF** any man **HEAR** My Voice, and **OPEN** the door, I will **COME** in to him, and will sup **WITH** him, and he **WITH** Me.” ([Rev.3:20](#))

If we can help you,

COME, as together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw
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