

Victory Over Satan and Demons

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Scripture References

1 Peter 5:8, 9	Nehemiah 8:10
Revelation 12:10	1 John 4:4
James 4:7	John 10:10
Ephesians 6:10-16	

Summary

*Believers are engaged in spiritual warfare. We have a real enemy straight from hell who is determined to kill us; however, although we need to know how to do battle, we do **not** need to fear. The devil's ultimate objective is to get us to walk away from God, but he cannot do so when we're vigilant and watching for his strategies and sneak attacks. It is critical to understand that although we are saved, we still must fight. Standing solid in the Word of God gives us a tremendous advantage; we are fighting a defeated enemy who is well aware that he has been beaten. Satan wants deceit and falsehood in our lives; we combat that by cloaking ourselves with the various truths found in God's Word. Darkness cannot stand against light; the light of the gospel will always be able to break up and disperse the devil's dark deception.*

A. Satan has three ways to lead us away from following God:

1. Demonic forces.
 - a. These include the angels who chose to follow Satan when he rebelled against God and were subsequently cast out of heaven. These forces attack the unrenewed areas of our minds.
2. Our own sinful nature.
 - a. When we get born again, we have a new creation living inside us; however, we still have unrenewed portions of our minds that are vulnerable to Satan's attacks.
3. The structures of the world.
 - a. The world decides what it thinks is right, but it does not know God. It therefore calls the right things wrong and the wrong things right, and says that if enough people are doing the wrong thing then it must be okay. It contradicts God's Word and pressures us to fall into that same type of thinking.

B. There are some important keys to help us understand the battle we face.

1. We must be aware of the battle; if we don't know we are even fighting a battle, we can be blindsided.
 - a. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world (1 Peter 5:8, 9).
 - b. The devil cannot devour simply *anyone*, only those who are not watchful. Therefore, we must be diligent and pay attention. When we *are* watchful, we can resist him and withstand his attacks.

- c. Satan doesn't want anyone to be forgiven; he is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). Neither does he want anyone to receive grace.
- 2. We must learn how to rebel against Satan. We do this by pushing away from him and running to God.
 - a. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (James 4:7).
 - b. It is unwise to resist the devil on our own; we must submit to God, first. We need His backing.
 - c. We must get used to the idea that having great faith requires that we are engaged in our share of spiritual fights. It is unrealistic to think that as believers we will never encounter any trouble.
- 3. Dress in the armor of God. This is important for our protection.
 - a. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked (Ephesians 6:10-16).
 - b. We cannot depend on our own ability or strength; we need *God's* power. His Word is what gives us strength.
 - c. Putting on the whole armor of God is understanding His Word and living by it.
 - d. Satan has developed individualized strategies for each of us that are designed to bring us down. However, they do not work when we clothe ourselves in the Word.
 - e. There will be days when our emotions are severely attacked. Those are the days when we need to declare that the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).
 - f. We are not fighting people, but spirits. All the crazy things that happen are based in demonic forces that influence people. However, we are fighting a defeated foe.
 - g. ...Because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).
 - h. We need to preach the Word and spread the truth. This is the only way to dispel the darkness in the world.
 - i. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

Category: righteousness/salvation

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