

1 **Resist the devil and he will flee**PART 2 OF *SECRETS TO WINNING THE BATTLE*

1 PETER 5:7-14

2 **Who is the real enemy?**

- ▶ In 1 Peter 5:8b, Peter refers to our adversary.
- ▶ Peter has often referred to those who oppose his Christian readers and described them as:
 - ▶ Gentile opponents or neighbors (2:12; 4:3)
 - ▶ Nonbelievers (2:6-7; 3:1),
 - ▶ disobedient (2:8; 4:17)
 - ▶ immersed in ignorance (1:14)
 - ▶ having excesses of vice (4:4)
 - ▶ the proud whom God opposes (5:5)
 - ▶ People who malign, abuse (2:12; 3:9, 16; 4:14), and demand answers of believers (3:15)
 - ▶ ungodly, sinners (4:18) and doers of evil (3:12).

3 **1 Peter 5:7-9**

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 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. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

4 **Peter identifies the real enemy**

- ▶ We often identify the people described previously in 1 Peter as our enemy
- ▶ But while all those people can oppose Christians, there is really just one enemy behind everything.
 - ▶ He is our adversary
 - ▶ He is the one who slanders and accuses us before God
 - ▶ He is the devil

5 **Who is Satan and what does he do?**6 **Satan lies, and is the father of lies**

- ▶ John 8:44, *"When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies." As soon as he appears in the Bible in Genesis 3, the first words on his lips are suspicious of the truth ("Did God say, You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?") and the second words on his lips were a subtle lie ("You will not die."). John says, "He has nothing to do with the truth, because there is not truth in him."*
- ▶ We are dealing with the essence of falsehood and deception.

7 **Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers.**

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 4:4, *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of the Son of God."*
- ▶ So he not only speaks what is false. He hides what is true.

8 **Satan masquerades in costumes of light and righteousness**

- ▶ In 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Paul says that some people are posing as apostles who are not. He explains it like this: *"And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness."*

- ▶ In other words Satan has servants who profess enough truth to join the church and from inside teach what Paul calls in 1 Timothy 4:1 "*doctrines of demons.*"
- ▶ Jesus said, *Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inside are ravenous wolves.* (Matthew 7:15, LEB)
- ▶ *And from among you yourselves men will arise, speaking perversions of the truth in order to draw away the disciples after them.* (Acts 20:30, LEB)

9 Satan does signs and wonders

- ▶ In 2 Thessalonians 2:9 the last days are described like this: "*The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with signs and wonders of the lie.*"
 - ▶ Satan can either fake miracles to deceive people or do real "wonders" of his own.
- ▶ *On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many miracles in your name?' And then I will say to them plainly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!'* (Matthew 7:22–23, LEB)

10 Satan does signs and wonders (2)

- ▶ In Matthew 24:24 Jesus describes the last days like this, "*False Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*"
 - ▶ There is not a hint there that the signs and wonders will be tricks.
 - ▶ The fact is, our faith better be grounded in something more sure and firm than someone's ability to do signs and wonders -- even in the name of Jesus!

11 Satan tempts people to sin

- ▶ He unsuccessfully tempted Jesus in the wilderness. Satan wanted Christ to abandon the path of suffering and obedience (Matthew 4:1-11).
- ▶ Satan successfully tempted Judas Iscariot in the last hours of Jesus' life (Luke 22:3-6).
 - ▶ *And Satan entered into Judas, the one called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve...*
- ▶ And in 2 Corinthians 11:3 Paul warns against this for all the believers, "*I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*"

12 Satan plucks the word of God out of people's hearts and chokes faith

- ▶ Jesus told the parable of the four soils in Mark 4:1-9. In it the seed of the word of God is sown, and some falls on the path and birds quickly take it away. He explains in verse 15: *Satan immediately comes and takes away the word which was sown in them.*
 - ▶ Satan fights the word because he hates faith which the word produces (Romans 10:17).
- ▶ Paul expresses his concern for the faith of the Thessalonians like this, "*I sent that I might know your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and that our labor would be in vain.*" Paul knew that Satan's design is to choke off the faith of people who have heard the Word of God.

13 Satan causes some sickness and disease

- ▶ Jesus healed a woman once who was bent over and could not straighten herself for 18 years. When some criticized him for doing that on the Sabbath he said, "*Ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?*"
- ▶ In Acts 10:38 Peter described Jesus as one who "*went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.*"
 - ▶ In other words the devil often oppresses people with illness.

14 Satan is a murderer

- ▶ Jesus said to those who were planning to kill him, "*You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and has nothing to do with the truth*" (John 8:44).
- ▶ John says (in 1 John 3:12), "*Do not be like Cain who was of the evil one and murdered his brother.*"
- ▶ To put it in a word, Satan is bloodthirsty.
 - ▶ Christ came into the world that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).
 - ▶ Satan comes that he might make life wretched and destroy it wherever he can.

15 Satan distracts us from God

- ▶ *If Satan can't make you bad, he'll make you busy.* -- Adrian Rogers
- ▶ Distraction is one of Satan's most effective tactics because it doesn't look like an attack on the surface. Satan creates a long list of distractions for us to handle so we are not focused on the Kingdom of God.
- ▶ *Be still and know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10)
 - ▶ Busyness and stillness are opposites just like Satan and God.
 - ▶ If Satan can cause us to be busy, then we can't experience the peaceful stillness that comes from time with God. Choose still instead of frantic.

16 Satan fights against the plans of missionaries

- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18, "*We endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face; because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.*"
- ▶ Satan hates evangelism and discipleship, and will throw every obstacle he can in the way of missionaries and people with a zeal for evangelism.

17 Satan accuses Christians before God

- ▶ Revelation 12:10 looks to a future victory and says, "*I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.'*"
- ▶ Satan accuses us before God just as he accused Job before God.
- ▶ Satan says to God, "*They don't really love you; they love your benefits. Their faith isn't real. They just learned it from their parents. They just like the music. It's socially respectable.*"

18 Jesus won the victory over Satan

- ▶ 1 John 3:8, "*The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.*"
- ▶ Hebrews 2:14, "*Christ took on human nature that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil.*"
- ▶ Colossians 2:15, "*God disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.*" In other words the decisive blow was struck at Calvary.
- ▶ And one day, when Satan's time of limited freedom is over, Revelation 20:10 says, "*The devil . . . [will be] thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone . . . and will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*" (See Matthew 8:29; 25:41).

19 What Christ's victory means for us

- ▶ *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus* (Romans 8:1).
- ▶ *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies!* (Romans 8:33).
- ▶ *Neither angels nor principalities nor powers nor anything else shall separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ*" (Romans 8:38f).
- ▶ *He who is in us is stronger than he who is in the world* (1 John 4:4).

► *We conquer him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony* (Revelation 12:11).

20 **How do we resist the devil?**

► *But he gives greater grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Therefore subject yourselves to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded! (James 4:6–8, LEB)*

21 **How do we resist the devil?**

► Ephesians – Employ "the whole armor of God" "to stand firm."

- Truth
- Righteousness
- The Gospel of peace
- Faith (and faithfulness)
- Salvation
- Word of God

22 **Ephesians 6:10-18**

Finally, become strong in the Lord and in the might of his strength. Put on the full armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, because our struggle is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Because of this, take up the full armor of God, in order that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand. Stand therefore, girding your waist with truth, and putting on the breastplate of righteousness, and binding shoes under your feet with the preparation of the good news of peace, in everything taking up the shield of faith, with which you are able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one, and receive the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, with all prayer and supplication praying at all times in the Spirit, and to this end being alert with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints, (Ephesians 6:10–18, LEB)

23 **Key weapon #1 -- Prayer**

► *Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail. And you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. (Luke 22:31–32, LEB)*

24 **Focused wartime prayer is an essential part of our attack on the strongholds of Satan**

- Prayer is not a domestic intercom to ring up the butler to bring another cushion to the den.
- It is a wartime walkie-talkie to be used in making war against Satan and untruth and evil and joylessness and hopelessness in the world. It is a wartime instrument.

25 **Fathers bear a special responsibility in prayer**

- When sin entered the world, God first came to Adam and said, Where have you been? What have you been doing?
- Dad, you are the designated warrior to begin each day praying for your family.
- Husbands, you are the designated warrior to begin each day praying for your wife.

26 **Key weapon #2 – Get under God's authority**

- Therefore subject yourselves to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7, LEB)
- When we are under God's authority, we are under His protection
 - *With his feathers he will cover you, and under his wings you can take refuge. His faithfulness will*

be a shield and a buckler. (Psalm 91:4, LEB)



27 **Key weapon #3 – Draw near to God**

- ▶ The closer we are in proximity to God, more we enjoy the shelter of His "wings."
- ▶ *And do not be drunk with wine (in which is dissipation), but be filled by the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and singing praise in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to the God and Father, being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ* (Ephesians 5:18–21, LEB)



28 **Key weapon #3 – Draw near to God (2)**

- ▶ *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another with all wisdom, with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God,* (Colossians 3:16, LEB)
- ▶ So, be filled with the Spirit = let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
- ▶ We draw near to God by letting His Word dwell in us in great abundance



29 **Key weapon #4 – Repentance**

- ▶ *Therefore subject yourselves to God. But resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded!* (James 4:7–8, LEB)
 - ▶ Repent of wrong actions (your hands)
 - ▶ Repent of wrong attitudes (your hearts)
 - ▶ *Double-mindedness* is the result of trying to love God and the world at the same time. It is trying to focus on being spiritual and gratifying the desires of the flesh at the same time.



30 **James 1:7-8**

- ▶ *For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.* (James 1:7–8, LEB)
- ▶ We must repent of our double mindedness or our prayers will be ineffective. Our God is a jealous God and does not want to share our hearts with another.
 - ▶ *You will not bow down to them, and you will not serve them, because I am Yahweh your God, a jealous God....* (Exodus 20:5, LEB)



31 **Key weapon #5 – Be steadfast**

- ▶ *So then, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.* (1 Corinthians 15:58, LEB)
- ▶ *Resist him, steadfast in your faith, because you know the same kinds of sufferings are being accomplished by your community of believers in the world.* (1 Peter 5:9, LEB)
 - ▶ Remain solid and firm in BIBLICAL theology
 - ▶ Every belief must be derived from the Word of God (the 66 books of the Bible) and you must live by that Word!

32 **Key weapon #6 – The family of God**

- ▶ Remember that you are not alone in the battle – *“the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”* (1 Peter 5:9b)
- ▶ We need fellowship with other believers (not just those in our “house-church”) in order to encourage us to continue moving onward as Christian soldiers.
 - ▶ *And let us think about how to stir one another up to love and good works, not abandoning our meeting together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging each other, and by so much more as you see the day drawing near.* (Hebrews 10:24–25, LEB)

33 **Key weapon #7 – the Word of God**

- ▶ What did Jesus use each time He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness?
 - ▶ He quoted Scripture from Deuteronomy.
 - ▶ The Word of God has a power all its own.
 - ▶ *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For just as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and they do not return there except they have watered the earth thoroughly and cause it to bring forth and sprout, and give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall be my word that goes out from my mouth. It shall not return to me without success, but shall accomplish what I desire and be successful in the thing for which I sent it.* (Isaiah 55:9–11, LEB)

34 **Luke 4:1-13**

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days, and when they were completed, he was hungry. So the devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, order this stone that it become bread!” And Jesus replied to him, “It is written, ‘Man will not live on bread alone.’” And he led him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to him, “I will give you all this domain and their glory, because it has been handed over to me, and I can give it to whomever I want. So if you will worship before me, all this will be yours.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” And he brought him to Jerusalem, and had him stand on the highest point of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘on their hands they will lift you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered and said to him, “It is said, ‘You are not to put to the test the Lord your God.’” And when the devil had completed every temptation, he departed from him until a favorable time. (Luke 4:1–13, LEB)

35 **Our action items**

- ▶ We need to get serious about wartime prayer
- ▶ We need to revive the habit of memorizing Scripture
- ▶ We need to encourage one another weekly or even daily
- ▶ We need to draw near to God by conversing with Him in His Word so we can enjoy both His fellowship and His protection
- ▶ We must never forget that we are at war