

Spiritual Warfare, Part 5—In the Battle

With Chip Ingram

What do we do when the attack is on?

Satan is like a roaring lion: 1 Peter 5:8

Four Facts You Need to Know

FACT #1

God has objectively defeated Satan and his agenda. He has delivered us from sin's penalty and power and ultimately will deliver us from sin's very presence. In the interim, we are involved in guerrilla warfare with demonic forces. (Colossian 2:11-15, a great synopsis!)

FACT #2

As believers, we have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light with all the rights, privileges, and position that being a child of God entail. (Colossians 1:13-14, Ephesians 1:3-6)

FACT #3

The spiritual battle we fight involves a responsibility on our part to "put on" the spiritual protection that God has provided for us. We can and will resist the enemy's attempt to deceive, accuse, and cast doubt when we stand firm against him by:

1. Being honest with God, ourselves, and others as a prerequisite to all spiritual battle.
2. Responding to the truth that God shows us about His will for our lives: righteous living.
3. Having a clear understanding of the gospel and sharing it.

FACT #4

The great majority of spiritual warfare never need go beyond the regular practice of living out our position in Christ by faith. Our practice of Paul's metaphor of the spiritual armor protects us from Satan's ongoing attempts to break our fellowship with Jesus and, as a result, greatly minimizes any impact by the enemy.

There are times when we must move beyond "standing firm" and _____ the enemy in actual combat:

- When you're taking _____ steps of faith for spiritual growth.
- When you're _____ enemy territory.
- When you're _____ the enemy for who he really is.
- When you _____ and make a clean break with the world, long-held sin patterns, or unholy relationships

- When God is _____ us (individually or corporately) for great works for His glory.

The Question

When you're wearing your spiritual armor and yet feel yourself bombarded by spiritual opposition, how do you engage the enemy and win the battle?

The Answer. . . Stand Firm!

*. . . in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith
with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.
And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*
Ephesians 6:16-17 NASB

How to Engage the Enemy and Win!

Analogy Explained:

1. "Taking up the shield of _____ ."

Faith in this context is our absolute confidence in God, His promises, His power, and His program for our lives.

Although rooted in the objective reality of the gospel and our new standing with God (justification) through Christ (saving faith), this faith refers to our "present faith in the Lord Jesus for victory over sin and the host of demonic forces." (Kenneth Weust)

Its purpose: to quench all the fiery missiles of the evil one.

Fiery darts/missiles: The schemes, temptations, lies, deceptions, and attacks aimed at us. God's people, to get us to shift our trust to something or someone other than God (i.e. blasphemous thoughts, hateful thoughts, doubts, burning desire to sin, questioning others' motives, waves of discouragement or depression): often rooted in lies about God's identity or our new identity in Christ.

Satan's Goal: Don't _____ God.

God's #1 Priority: To _____ in Him

- Classic Examples
 - Genesis 3
 - Matthew 4
- Examples of Fiery Darts:

*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. ¹⁶
For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes,
and the boastful pride of life—is not from Father but is from the world.
¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts;
but the one who does the will of God lives
forever.
1 John 2:15-17*

Definition of “the World: its _____ .

Goal: to _____ us from our love of Jesus to _____ myself—to be _____ God.

Definition of Lust: _____

3 Areas of Temptation + Today’s Vernacular

1. Lust of the Flesh: _____
2. Lust of the Eyes: _____
3. Pride of Life: _____

Think It Over

1. Chip gave us four facts about spiritual warfare. Which fact do you find the most helpful? Why?
2. Standing firm against the enemy's fiery darts is essential, but there are times when we must move beyond standing firm and engage the enemy. Chip gave us five examples of when he believes we must engage. Have you seen this to be true in your own life? If so, which times do you find yourself the most engaged in actual combat?
3. After listening to the teaching, can you look back at your life and see the enemy's "classic methodology" played out on you? How? What was the result?
4. How can understanding the enemy's methods to shift your trust away from God help you engage the enemy and win? Can you think of a specific example from your life?
5. There are three areas of temptation that we ALL face listed in 1 John 2:16. What are they? How would you describe them in your own words? Is there one that you are more susceptible to believing that it will satisfy you? What would it look like to trust God with it instead of trying to manage it on your own?

Live It Out

Study the enemy's tactics in the two passages below. Observe when, where, and how each person was tempted by the enemy.

	Genesis 3	Matthew 4:1-11
When		
Where		
How		
Response		
Result		

What consistencies do you see in these passages?

Describe how Jesus' response differed from Adam and Eve's response.

How can you respond the next time one of these methods is used on you?

What do you need to know about God in warfare? (Think about His character.)

- John 17:3, Psalm 25:10
- Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:3
- Psalm 146:1-2, 11
- Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 59:16

What scriptures do you need to memorize to enable successful combat against the enemy in your situation?

Faith, What It Is!

Look up the following scriptures and write down what you discover about faith.

- Hebrews 11:1
- Hebrews 11:6
- James 1:2-5
- 1 Peter 1:6-9
- Galatians 2:20
- 2 Timothy 4:18

The Bible is filled with examples of those who walked by faith in God in the most extreme circumstances. Noah and Jeremiah believed in God and NO ONE believed what they said about God! Others faced giants and armies which according to the world's standards should have crushed them—think of David, Gideon and Elisha. Women put their lives and reputations on the line: Esther, Ruth and Mary, the mother of Jesus. In all their lives God was magnified and glorified. They are heroes in faith's Hall of Fame. They are examples to encourage us to trust in God for the impossible, for endurance mighty trials and hardships, to trust God's ways & justice above what we can understand.

Pray the following verses & any other verses the Lord brings to mind for yourself and fellow believers as we encourage one another and use God's word to combat the fiery darts our enemy throws at us.

*May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely;
and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*

*The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.
2 Thessalonians 3:3*

*God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
² Therefore we will not fear. . . Psalms 46:1-2*