

He is known by many names and he is described in many ways. He is known as the deceiver, the accuser, the blasphemer, the adversary, the serpent of old, the evil one, the father of lies, the tempter, and he is our enemy. Of course, I am referring to the devil, to satan. Peter, in II Peter 5:8, describes satan as a roaring lion who is seeking someone to devour. Honestly, it is easy to understand why Peter uses these words to describe satan because satan is powerful, terrifying and he is a relentless hunter just like a lion. Lions rule their domain and satan rules his domain of this earth (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

Peter also says in I Peter 5 that we need to be on the constant alert. He says this because we are in a battle against satan while we are on this earth. Satan is always on the attack. He is constantly looking for opportunities to knock us down. He is on the offensive against us at home, at school, at our jobs, really everywhere. We must constantly be on guard against him.

In Ephesians 6:10-12 Paul writes to the Ephesians about this idea of fighting against satan in this life. He begins by stating the devil as the enemy and how this battle is a spiritual one and not a physical one. He warns about the many schemes or wiles of the devil. It sounds like a difficult battle for us because satan can come against us in so many ways, but he gives encouragement by stating that we can stand against the devil! However, we must put our faith in God if we want to stand firm in this fight. Paul goes on to give the Ephesians a detailed plan of action to fight against satan. So let's use the rest of our time learning from Paul about winning the battle against satan.

6 Keys to Standing Against Satan

I. Uphold the Truth of the Gospel

- A. As the belt holds up all things, the truth of the gospel upholds all things
- B. The Ephesians had been given the word of truth
 1. The Truth taught them to not walk as the Gentiles **(4:20-21)**
 2. They obeyed & upheld that Truth **(1:13)**
- C. Satan will use false doctrine to make us fall.
 1. But false doctrine is always defeated by Truth
 2. Truth teaches us that there is unity in Jesus & one faith that we should have **(4:4-6)**
- D. However, we cannot know truth if we are not going to the Word of God!
 1. Ephesians knew the truth because they had read the writings of Paul **(3:1-7)**
 2. They had used the truth to turn away false apostles **(Rev. 2:1-3)**
 3. We must also be reading the words of Paul and other inspired men to know the truth and be able to uphold it!

II. Become Righteous

- A. The breast plate protects the soldiers heart, and the spiritual breastplate protects our hearts from wickedness.
- B. These Ephesians had put off their former conduct **(4:20-24)**
- C. They now walked as children of light **(5:8,9)**
- D. If satan cannot get us with false doctrine, then he will attack us in another weak area, possibly lust of our flesh.
- E. We are not able to know how to live righteously and godly before our Lord if we are not in His Word!
 1. Paul instructed the Ephesians how to be righteous **(4:25ff)**
 2. God's Word fully supplies us, through the writings of the apostles, with all things concerning life & godliness. **(I Pet. 1:3)**

III. Stand firm in the Gospel of Peace

- A. Soldiers needed sure footing during battle, and we must make sure our foundation is firm in the Gospel
- B. The Ephesians were brought near to Jesus by His blood and that is where they were to stay with a peace that couldn't be gained elsewhere **(2:11-18)**
- C. Their foundation was in Christ & only there could they have peace.
- D. Satan will throw anything type of problem he can at you in this life.
 1. You may think your world is crashing down and all hope is lost.
 2. But the man who builds his foundation in God will never fall, no matter how hard the storm may rage. **(Matt. 7:24-27)**

IV. Exercise our faith

- A. The soldiers shield deflects arrows from the enemy, and we must use our shield of faith to deflect the attacks of satan.
- B. Pointed out earlier that these brethren were faithful to Jesus, they had heard and believed **(v.13)**
 - 1. “to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Jesus Christ” **(1:1,2)**
 - 2. Paul had heard of their faith in the Lord Jesus and their love for all the saints. **(1:15)**
- C. Even though they had been faithful, Paul reminds them to continue to be faithful
- D. Satan is looking for that opportune time to attack us when our faith is down.
 - 1. He determined that he would return to Jesus at a more opportune time **(Luke 4:13)**
 - 2. He is waiting for that opportune time to come at us. He won’t come when we are fully aware and on guard, but he will wait until we lower our faith just enough to let an arrow in.
 - 3. Back in **Rev. 2**, we see where that church that was commended earlier for their use of the truth to find out false apostles, is not reprimanded for leaving their first love. They had let their faith down for just long enough for an arrow of satan to hit them. They were now in need of repentance and to turn back to Jesus.
- E. The easiest way to find ourselves weak in our faith is to stray from God’s word. If we will commit to the Word of God and be in it constantly, then we will have a far smaller chance of letting our faith down and giving satan a target to shoot at.

V. Look towards Salvation

- A. The helmet protected the soldiers head and gave them a sense of hope that they were protected. We must look towards our hope of heaven to help us stay committed to the fight we are engaged in and not lose hope.
- B. Keep your eyes on the prize! This helmet of salvation is our motivation to keep grinding in this battle against satan.
- C. Paul had reminded them of the blessings of being in Christ: acceptance, redemption, and forgiveness of sins! **(1:6,7)**
- D. One of satan’s greatest weapons against Christians is to cause us to doubt our salvation
 - 1. We might begin to wonder if what were doing really is acceptable before God.
 - 2. We can have confidence in our salvation! If we believe & obey Jesus then John says we can know that we have eternal life! **(I John 5:13)**
- E. If you’re feeling that way then it might be because you haven’t been reminding yourself about the salvation that we have through Jesus. Get back in the Word and remind yourself about it.

VI. Use God’s Word

- A. The soldier’s sword was his main method of attack, & we should be sure to use our spiritual sword of God as we attack satan.
- C. Jesus defeated satan, in the wilderness, by simply stating what was written.
- D. We must be in the Word, if we want to use it against satan in this battle we are fighting.
 - 1. We need to have the word written on our hearts!
 - 2. Are we doing that? Are we putting an emphasis on God’s word in our lives & in our homes?
 - 3. Moses told the Israelites that the Law was their life. **(Deut. 6:4-9.)**
 - 4. God’s Word must consume all aspects of our lives!
- E. Satan knows the value of Gods Word!
 - 2. He’ll do his absolute best to distract us from committing ourselves to it.
 - 3. Will we stand against him by using God’s Word and the power it possesses? **(power of salvation, Rom. 1:16)**
 - 5. We MUST put on the entire armor of God, we must be in God’s Word in order to stand against satan in the spiritual battle!

There is no question that satan is waiting for the right time to trip us up in our faith. He is constantly looking for that person who is not diligent to keep their mind sharp against sin and temptation. Will you be one of those people who will let their guard down? Or will you be that person who is consumed with the word of God and will not allow satan to even have a target to aim at? If you want to stand against satan, then you need to be totally committed to the consumption of God’s Word. By doing so, you can stand firm against the many schemes of satan and defeat his every attack! Put your faith in God and His Word and defeat satan and his every attempt to separate you from our Holy Father. “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.”