

The Enemy Without

For every Christian, Satan and his demons are our “*enemy without.*”

How do we win this battle?

What are the weapons we use?

How do we plan our campaign of operations?

These are questions we all need to know the answers to!

First and very important, without Jesus Christ directing our lives we are powerless against Satan –

John 15:4-7 [NIV] *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ‘I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me you can do nothing.** If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.’”*

How does Jesus Christ live within us and fight against Satan?

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you.**”*

Note the last words in this record of what our Saviour Jesus Christ promised, “*I will come to you.*”

Jesus Christ lives His life again on earth, right now, through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

We actually allow the mind of Jesus Christ to operate in us.

Philippians 2:5 [King James] *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”*

Jesus Christ knows how to defeat the attack of Satan for He has already won that battle personally, [Matthew 4:1-11].

Realise that we are constantly at war against Satan –

This battle for control of our minds is being fought in our minds, 24 hours a day.

We must declare total war on Satan and his demons.

Without this attitude of mind we will never win the life and death battle we are in.

Learn from past history –

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 11-12 [NIV] *“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all*

*baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.” ... “These things happened to them as examples and were **written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!**”*

Note “*written down as warnings for us.*”

There is a direct parallel between the battle we are in, and the battles that Israel fought and mostly lost, in their entering the “*Promised Land.*”

Our “*Promised Land*” is the Kingdom of God, that is the created family of God and battles against evil are involved in our pilgrimage towards that kingdom, [**Matthew 11:12**].

We are fighting for the ultimate stakes, eternal life or eternal death.

Deuteronomy 7:1-2 [NIV] “*When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations, the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you, and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.*”

We cannot afford to give the enemy sanctuary or any kind of assistance.

How could we find ourselves making a treaty with Satan?

Ephesians 4:26-27 [NIV] “*In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*”

Uncontrolled anger gives a foothold to Satan and his demons, in our lives.

How do we find ourselves living with the enemy in such a way?

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] “*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*”

By allowing Satan, who is the god of this world at this time [**Matthew 4:8-9**], **to allow our vision of the future world under the rule of Jesus Christ to fade in our minds, as well as the glory of the message of forgiveness that Jesus Christ brought from God the Father.**

Ephesians 2:1-2 [NIV] “*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*”

Satan is the ruler of the “*kingdom of the air,*” today that is television, radio and internet. **All of these are being used by Satan to influence our mind and the decisions we make in life.**

There is far more evil broadcasted on these three media than good, all designed by Satan to destroy us.

Luke 11:23 [NIV] “*He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.*”

We cannot be a passive Christian, if we are not fighting Satan, we are helping him in his deceptive work.

How do we go on the offensive against Satan?

Deuteronomy 7:17 [NIV] *“You may say to yourselves, ‘These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?’”*

Our enemy looks to be so powerful how are we to win this battle?

Deuteronomy 7:21-22 [NIV] *“Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.”*

“Little by little,” one day at a time, one skirmish at a time, one weakness and problem to overcome at a time.

Most of us would like to see our enemy in full retreat, would like God to take all our problems away or dissipate all of our weaknesses, but character is not built that way.

1 Peter 5:8-9 [NIV] *“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”*

As we resist the attacks of Satan we are strengthening our “spiritual muscles,” just as a physical muscle is strengthened as we use weights to overcome the pull of gravity.

James 4:7-8 [NIV] *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”*

We cannot be “double-minded,” the Greek word used is “*dipsuchōs*” meaning “two-spirited,” vacillating.

Matthew 6:24 [King James] *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”*

The Greek word translated “mammon” is “*mammōnas*” meaning self-confident avarice, descriptive of this world’s way of thinking and living.

Beware of Satan’s false ministers –

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 [NIV] *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

Satan and his servants can deceive us by appearing to be attractive, good and moral. Many unsuspecting people follow smooth-talking, Bible misquoting leaders of cults or churches infected with pagan practices, worshipping such pagan gods as the sun god, without realising what they are doing. [Please download and study articles on the website under main heading ‘Religion’.]

1 John 5:19 [NIV] *“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”*

At this time the whole of society, secular and religious, is under the control of Satan.

John 17:14-19 [NIV] *“I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.”*

True Christians are **not** part of this society, they are “*set apart*” from this world “*sanctified*” for a special job of being witnesses to the truth, in a society deceived by Satan and his ministers, [**Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4**].

What weapons are we to use in this battle against Satan?

Ephesians 6:11-18 [NIV] *“Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”*

Of this armour the only offensive weapon is the sword, which is the Word of God, the Christian Bible, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit, [**2 Peter 1:20-21**].

Hebrews 4:12 [NIV] *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and the Holy Spirit working together, can cut through the deception of Satan and reveal the Truth, [**John 16:13; John 17:17**].

Jesus Christ used the Word of God in His fight against Satan, [**Matthew 4:1-10**].

Jesus Christ also used fasting as a weapon against Satan.

Fasting is one of the least understood subjects in the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

Some look on it as an ordeal that we must go through in order to “*get close to God.*”

Some say, “*all I get out of a fast is a bad headache and a bad attitude.*”

Some find themselves worse off spiritually at the end of a fast than they were before they began.

Why?

The most instructive passage of scripture in the Christian Bible on fasting is found in Isaiah.

Isaiah 58:3 [Amplified Bible] *“Why have we fasted, they say, and You do not see it? Why have we afflicted ourselves, and You take no knowledge of it? Behold, O Israel, in the day of your fast [when you should be grieving for your sins] you find business profit, and [instead of stopping all work, as the law implies you and your workmen should] you extort for your hired servants a full amount of labour.”*

One mistake is the way we fast continuing with our normal routine minus food and drink. This is **not** a successful way to use this weapon.

Isaiah 58:4 [Amplified Bible] *“The facts are, you fast only for strife and debate and to smite with the fist of wickedness, fasting as you do today will not cause your voice to be heard on high.”*

Fasting is **not** a hunger strike, **not** a means of putting pressure on God to give us our own desires.

God is telling us that there are three problems with that kind of fasting.

Isaiah 58:5 [NIV] *“Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?”*

We fast in the wrong way, it should **not** be an outward show of righteousness, [**Matthew 6:16-18**] and wrong reason.

We fast in the wrong concept of how God wants us to use fasting.

What then is the right purpose of fasting, how are we to use this effective weapon?

Isaiah 58:6 [King James] *“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?”*

The first purpose of fasting is to put the spotlight on the differences between ourselves and our Creator God.

“Loose the bands of wickedness,” – whose wickedness? Ours! Repent so that our Saviour Jesus Christ can take away the slavery of our sins, [**Romans 6:16-18**].

“Undo heavy burdens,” – what burdens? [**Psalms 38:4, 18**] Our sins!

“let the oppressed go free,” – who is oppressing who? How well do we get on with other people? Do we oppress them due to a lack of understanding?

Proverbs 14:31 [King James] *“He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.”*

Do we accuse, gossip about, become critical of others? If so we are oppressors.

The second purpose is outreach to this world under Satan’s influence.

“Loose the bands of wickedness” – counter the deception that Satan has over the vast number of human beings, that is enslaving them to sin.

“Undo heavy burdens” – introduce people to the mercy and love of their Creator God.

“Let the oppressed go free” –

Ecclesiastes 5:8 [King James] *“If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.”*

When we see violent perversion of justice, take it to God the Father in prayer, and never be a reason for such oppression ourselves.

“Break every yoke” –

Matthew 11:28-30 [NIV] *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

Introduce people to Jesus Christ that they may be directed in life by being yoked to Him as their “*experienced guide*,” embracing His love and mercy.

Isaiah 58:7 [King James] *“Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?”*

This is both physical and spiritual, for there will be a famine of God’s Word, the Truth, [John 17:17], the Christian Bible, [Amos 8:11-12].

Remember we have to live it before we can give it.

Seeing our sins and eradicating them by faith in the sacrifice of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, will allow God to use us a vehicle to expose the world to the precious knowledge of why we exist as human beings.

God will use us to call people into His house, the Christian Church, and feed the spiritual hungry of this world, give to the spiritual poor and clothe the spiritual naked, who have been ravaged by Satan’s influence.

Isaiah 58:8-11 [King James] *“Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.”*

These great blessings will be ours from the Creator God, enabling us to be a more brilliant light that will bring glory to the Creator God, [Matthew 5:14-16].

Isaiah 58:12 [King James] *“And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.”*

Then our own children and all we have personally reached with God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will work with Jesus Christ to build a new world, filled with love and joy.

Revelation 21:1-7 [NIV] *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.’”*

Keep this wonderful vision of the future in our minds to motivate us to fulfil the work that Jesus Christ has left us to do, [Matthew 28:18-20].