

Subj: **Bible Lessons**
 Date: Friday, October 20, 2006 11:04:07 PM
 From: cgsmithtn@yahoo.com
 To: Tracts1@aol.com

The Christian's Battle

1. Every Christian, as a soldier of Jesus Christ, is in a battle. A battle which is called the fight of faith. 1 Tim. 6:12 tells us: "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

2. Before anyone ever enters a battle, they must first know who their enemy is. No army ever goes off to war, without first knowing for certain, who their enemy really is; and what their chances are of winning the war. They first find out every fact they can, concerning their enemy; what kind of weapons they use, what kind of war tactics they use, what kind of past war record they have, and they consider very carefully what their chances are, of being successful in overcoming the enemy. Sadly to say, many Christians are attempting to fight in the spiritual battle, and they do not even know who their enemy really is. Many Christians believe that their enemy is another person; either their wife, or their husband, or their children, a brother or a sister, a neighbor, their boss, their pastor, or someone else in the church. It's time for every Christian to realize, that our battle is not with one another, but with Satan, and his evil forces. We are fighting a spiritual battle, not a physical battle. 2 Cor. 10:3-6 tells us: "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

A. In the flesh; after the flesh. Greek-sarx (sar'x): the human body, or that which is external, as apposed to the soul or spirit; according to human nature, or as a human being.

B. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal. Greek-sarkikos (sar-kee-kos): pertaining to the flesh, or bodily; meaning that a Christian does not fight with weapons which are human developed, or which require human strength to be successful, or victorious.

C. But mighty through God. The weapons which a Christian must use in this spiritual battle, are reinforced, or get their power, from God almighty.

D. To the pulling down of strongholds. This is referring to the oppositions, the barriers, or the spiritual walls of adversity, which Satan and his evil forces put in the pathway of every Christian; to try to cause them to stumble, to fall, or to hinder them from accomplishing the tasks which God sends them to accomplish.

E. Casting down imaginations. Greek-logos (log-os) or logismos (log-is-mos): human reasoning or understanding; the thoughts of the human mind, or mental system. Satan will continually put lies and deceptive thoughts into the human mind, which are some of his greatest weapons. And this is probably the most difficult battleground that any Christian ever enters; attempting to discern which thoughts are their own, which ones come from God, and which ones come from Satan. It is a continual war, that every Christian must fight.

F. Every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God. This is speaking of all the powers or evil spirits, which continually come against Christians; attempting to hinder them from walking in faith (in God), and from being obedient to the Word of God; such as spirits of hatred, jealousy, ignorance, lusts, or any other evil thing.

G. Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Here, Paul is speaking of being successful at recognizing and overcoming these evil thoughts which come against Christian's minds.

H. And having in readiness to revenge all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. Paul was speaking here of the authority which he had been given by God, to see that all deliberate disobedience among the church members was answered for; which would result in severe consequences.

3. Paul uses the example of a Roman soldier, in his explaining to us, the suit of spiritual armor which we as Christians must always wear. We also read in Eph. 6:12: "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.”

A. Flesh and blood. Human beings; people.

B. Principalities-Greek-arche (ar-khay): chief in rank (of evil forces-Satan); speaking of an evil, spiritual world.

C. Powers-Greek-exousia (ex-oo-see-ah): forces with greater than human strength; forces of evil.

D. Rulers of the darkness. From two Greek words; kosmokrator (kos-mok-rat-ore): speaking of a world-ruler; a servant of Satan, or a demon. Skotos (skot-os): shadiness or obscurity; figuratively speaking of the spiritual world of Satan; him and his evil forces.

E. Spiritual wickedness. Greek-poneria (pon-ay-ree-ah): malice, iniquity, or evil; speaking of the wicked and destructive forces of Satan; who's only goal is to deceive and to destroy the life of every Christian they possibly can.

F. In high places. Greek-epouranios (ep-oo-ran-ee-os): above the sky; celestial; speaking of the places where Satan and his demon forces abide; their home.

4. And 1 Peter 5:8 tells us: “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.”

A. Peter told us to be sober. Greek-nepho (nay-fo): discreet, watchful, or alert.

B. Vigilant-Greek-gregoreuo (gray-gor-yoo-o): to keep awake or watchful.

C. Our adversary is the devil. Greek-antidikos (an-tid-ee-kos): opponent or enemy.

D. He seeks who he may devour. Greek-katapino (kat-ap-ee-no): to destroy or ruin; to kill by any means possible. This scripture is telling us, to be alert, or to always be on guard. Because the devil is always going about attempting to destroy any Christian he possibly can. And let us always stand fast in our faith in Jesus Christ; remembering that every brother and sister in Christ throughout the earth, is having to face the same trials and attacks of Satan which we are facing.

5. Now that we know who our enemy really is, how do we defeat him? Let us read in Ephesians 6:10-11: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

A. Be strong. Greek-endunamoo (en-doo-nam-o-o): to be empowered, or to be able; to increase in strength. The top officials in the Roman Army made sure that their soldiers always remained strong. They made sure that they were always healthy, and always ready for battle. How does a Christian make sure that they are always strong and prepared for spiritual battle? By praying, reading God's Word, and by being obedient to his Word.

B. In the Lord. This means, in the knowledge of the Lord. Not only to have knowledge of the Lord Jesus, but to know Him in a personal way; always allowing Him to walk by our side; by always keeping our hearts in right relationship with Him. We do this by continually confessing and repenting of our sins, and by spending time with Him. The more time we spend with a person, the better we get to know them. This is also the rule in our relationship with the Lord Jesus.

C. And in the power of his might. Greek-ischus (is-khoos): strength or ability. This scripture is speaking of the strength or ability of Christ, which is unlimited. Every Christian must realize, that they can do absolutely nothing, by their own power or might.

D. Put on the whole armor of God. A Christian must continually be clothed with a complete suit of spiritual armor. No soldier goes out onto the battlefield, without making sure that he has on his full suit of armor. There was never a Roman soldier who ever went out into battle, without making certain that they had on their full suit of armor. Neither should a Christian enter the spiritual battlefield, without having on his full suit of spiritual armor. And a Christian must never forget, that they are always in a war; twenty-four hours a day. Our spiritual armor must never be taken off! Satan never gives up! Even though Jesus Christ has already won the war for us eternally, Satan will never stop trying to destroy us, as long as we are on this earth.

E. That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Greek-methodeia (meth-od-i-ah): trickery, deception, schemes. or the continued movement or operation of such. Satan's wiles are always going on, from one place to another; usually in such a manner as to never be noticed by anyone, until they are right in the middle of them.

6. Now we must see what our final step is, in overcoming Satan, and his demonic forces. As we were told earlier, there is a suit of spiritual armor, which we must wear. We are told in Eph. 6:13: “Wherefore take

unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

A. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God. It can never be overemphasized, how important it is, that Christians continually wear their whole suit of spiritual armor. The Roman soldiers never went anywhere, without having on their full suit of armor. They never knew when they might be attacked by an enemy. Neither do Christians ever know when the evil forces of Satan are going to attack next. One thing for certain, Satan never gives up. He is always in some manner or other, working and planning his evil schemes which he is going to bring against us.

B. That ye may be able to withstand in the evil day. Most certainly, the evil day which God’s Word is speaking of, is every day, as far as Satan is concerned. It is those intense moments when we are attacked by the devil. As we said before, he never gives up, and is always busy planning new ways in which he can make another attempt to destroy us. You can be positively assured, that if one of Satan’s tactics does not work for him, he will immediately try another. And if we intend to be able to withstand against Satan’s evil forces, we must always have on our full suit of spiritual armor, and never close our eyes to his wicked tactics.

C. And having done all, to stand. When a Christian has done all that they know to do; knowing for certain that they have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and abiding in the Word of God continually, and standing in faith on the promises of that holy Word, they must never withdraw from that firm stand, whatever the cost may be. They must never look back, or give the enemy any chance of gaining any spiritual ground whatsoever.

7. What is this spiritual armor, which we are told of? Let’s read a little further, and find out. Ephesians 6:14-18 tells us: “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. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for the saints.”

A. Having your loins girt about with truth. This is figuratively speaking, as a soldier on an earthly battlefield would have his suit of armor completely covering his body, including his loins. The Roman soldiers wore a leather belt around their waist, which held not only protection for the front of the body, but also for the back, including the loins. Their enemies could very easily attack them from the back, if they were not looking, and bring great damage to their body, or even physical death. This is why they wore a hard leather covering over their backs which also covered their loins. So should every Christian have his spirit and soul fully covered and protected with the truth of God’s Word, before entering the spiritual battlefield. The Word of God is truth. John 17:17 tells us: “**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth.**” **Jesus is the truth. John 14:6 tells us: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”**

B. We are to put on the breastplate of righteousness. Greek-thorax (tho-rax): that which covers and protects the chest. The Roman soldiers wore a very hard breastplate which was made of leather and steel; which helped them to withstand the flying arrows which were shot from their enemies. In the same manner, we must always wear our breastplate of righteousness. Rom. 4:19-25 tells us: “And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” Isaiah 54:17 also tells us: “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.” Isaiah also tells us of a robe of righteousness, which God cloths us with.

We read in Isa. 61:10: “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a

bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

C. Our feet is to be shod, or covered, with the preparation of the gospel of peace (the gospel of Jesus Christ). We are sealed by the Holy Spirit, after we believe, and trust in the gospel of salvation. Just as the Roman soldiers went out to battle, with their feet covered with leather boots which also contained steel in the toes and the soles, to help them to be able to stand during the battle, without their feet slipping and causing them to fall down; which would of brought about their defeat; we also must have our spiritual feet covered with the gospel of peace, or the gospel of Jesus Christ; which helps bring about our spiritual victory.

D. Above all, taking the shield of faith. This is figuratively speaking, of the wall of protection which surrounds a Christian, because of their faith in God, and in his Holy Word. It resembles the shield which the Roman soldiers carried with them everywhere they went. Their shield was a very important part of their armor. They held it up every time they faced their enemies, in order to block the fiery darts or arrows which their enemies were continuously shooting at them. Sometimes hundreds of these fiery darts were coming at them at one time. And they had to be well trained in how to hold their shield before them. This shield of faith which every Christian must always carry, prohibits Satan from being successful in any of his attempts, when he comes against a Christian, with the intention of defeating and destroying them. The shield of faith which we must always have before us, must be faith in what God has told us in his Holy Word. It is not faith in what we can do ourselves, but faith in what God will do, and in what He has already done for us through his Son Jesus. For none of us are a match for Satan. There is no human being who has ever existed, who has the power to defeat Satan by themselves. If any of us ever attempt to do such, Satan will literally destroy us. We are told in John 10:10, that the thief, or Satan, cometh not but for to steal, kill, and to destroy. And that is Satan’s main desire; to destroy every Christian that he possibly can. But our shield of faith must be in the Lord Jesus Christ; faith in Him to watch over us and protect us, and to fight every one of our spiritual battles for us. The only way that we will ever overcome Satan and his evil forces, is by putting our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If we do such, we cannot lose. For Jesus has already won the battle. He won the battle the day that He came forth from the grave. That is why He told us in Luke 10:18, that “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven.” He also told us in Luke 10:19, that He has given us power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt us. What He is actually telling us in this verse, is that as long as we keep our faith in Him, that we have the power by his Holy Word, to command Satan to keep his hands off of our life, and know for certain that he will do so. And if he attempts to go any further in attacking us, that Jesus Christ, or our supreme commander in chief in the spiritual world, will take over and put Satan in his proper place. Our faith is also what we need to overcome the affairs that we face in the world.

1 John 5:4 tells us: “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” Greek-nikao (nik-ah-o): to prevail or to have victory over (the consequences or the effects of the world). Faith pleases the Father. Heb. 11:6 tells us: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” We are to live by faith. Heb. 10:38 also tells us: “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” We must have firm, stable faith. James 1:6-8 says: “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” Our faith must be proven by our works. James 2:14-20 tells us: “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” We must clearly understand, that our shield of faith must be totally in God. This does not mean that we are to face Satan by ourselves; attempting to fight against him, because we have faith in God. But our faith is to be in God Himself, to do the fighting for us. For none of us are a match for Satan. If we try and fight against him, he will totally destroy us. Let us always look unto Jesus; having total faith in Him; trusting Him to do the fighting for us. If we do so, we will never be defeated.

E. Wherewith-Greek-en (en): by this means; in this way.

F. Ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

a. To quench. Greek-sbennumi (sben-noo-mee): to extinguish or put out; to break the power of.

b. Fiery-Greek-puroo (poo-ro-o): kindled or ignited; enflamed. Figuratively speaking of destructive.

c. Darts-Greek-belos (bel-os): missile, spear, or arrow. Figuratively speaking of the many traps, tricks, lies, and deceptions of all kinds, of the devil.

d. Of the wicked. Greek-poneros (pon-ay-ros): those who choose to walk in evil, or in a wicked manner; allowing Satan to influence their minds and lifestyles.

G. And take the helmet of salvation.

a. Helmet-Greek-perikephalaia (per-ee-kef-al-ah-yah): a covering, encirclement, or means of protection from danger of any kind. The Roman soldiers always wore a helmet which covered their heads very well. It protected them from being hit in the head by any weapon which their enemy might attempt to use against them.

b. Of salvation. Greek-soterion (so-tay-ree-on): a means of defense or protection, deliverance, rescue, or safety. The hope of salvation is our helmet. 1 Thes. 5:8 tells us: "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation." Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ. We read in Acts 4:12: "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Heb. 5:9 also tells us: "And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." This helmet of salvation is not only speaking of the saving of our soul, but also representing a defensive weapon for our minds. Where does Satan's attacks always start? They start in our mind. Satan puts evil thoughts into our minds, and tries his best to get us to be persuaded to follow those evil thoughts. But the thing which we must do, is to cast out those evil thoughts; to let them just keep going; into one ear of our mind, and out the other. We cannot do such, without the helmet of salvation.

H. And the sword of the Spirit; the Word of God.

a. Sword-Greek-machaira (makh-ah-ee-rah): a weapon in battle, used as a means of self-defense, or in producing punishment. The Romans carried a sword by their side at all times. It was their main weapon of defense. They made sure that they were never without it.

b. Of the Spirit, or of the spiritual world. This is speaking of the main weapon which the Spirit of God continually reminds every Christian to keep in their hand; or to keep in their heart, and to speak out of their mouth every time that they are attacked by Satan and his evil forces. God's Word is as strong as his Holy Spirit; who's power is unlimited; beyond the ability of man to ever comprehend. Every Christian must always have the sword of the Spirit with them, and always be ready to use it against the forces of evil.

c. The Word of God. God's Word is the Holy Spirit's constitution; or what He is always in agreement with. Nothing which the Holy Spirit ever does, or which He ever has done, will ever be found to be in contradiction with the Word of God. The Word of God is powerful. Heb. 4:12 tells us: "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

aa. Quick-Greek-zao (dzah-o): alive; full of power and strength.

bb. Powerful-Greek-energes (en-er-gace): active, operative, or effectual.

cc. Sharper-Greek-tomoteris (tom-o-ter-os): capable of cutting instantly; without repeated slashes or strikes. Figuratively speaking of the ability of the Word of God to always slash Satan to pieces. If we read the story of Satan's attacks upon Jesus, to try and tempt Him to surrender unto him, in Matt. 4:1-11, we can see that Satan could never stand up against the Word of God. By the Word the worlds were framed. We read in Heb. 11:3: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." The Word is milk unto us. 1 Pet. 2:2 tells us: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby." Figuratively speaking of the needful, essential, spiritual food required for a growing Christian.

i. Praying always. Greek-en (en): meaning in every time, place, or state (situation); to give oneself wholly to. Also from the Greek word kairos (kahee-ros); meaning at every opportunity, on every occasion, or in every season. Also from the Greek word pas (pas); meaning all, any, or every (time). This should be evidence enough for us, that we can, and that we should, pray at all times; and that we do not have to be in any certain position, at any certain place, or do so at any set time; but that we can pray any moment of the day or night. For time and place is not important, in reference to praying. And true prayer comes from our heart; not from our lips.

J. With all prayer and supplication. Greek-deesis (deh-ah-sis): speaking of making requests, or bringing

petitions before (God).

K. In the Spirit. Referring to the leadership of God's Holy Spirit. Also speaking of praying in other tongues, as the Holy Spirit leads one to do.

L. And watching. Greek-agrupneo (ag-roop-neh-o): to keep awake, to be aware of, or to stay alert.

M. Thereunto-(1) Greek-autos (aw-tos): relating not only to self, but unto all others; (2) Greek-eis (ice): for the purpose of (others, as well as self); and (3) Greek-touto (too-to): so that (watching may be accomplished).

N. With all perseverance. Greek-proskarteresis (pros-kar-ter-ay-sis): continuance, persistence, to be constant, or to remain at (watching).

O. And supplication. Once again, of making requests or bringing petitions before God (which concern others).

P. For all saints. We should always be praying and making supplication for others; for every brother and sister in Christ, for the lost, the sick, and for every one whom the Holy Spirit may place upon our mind. God tells us many times in his Holy Word to pray for one another.

8. The cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things, can also be enemies to us. They are Satan's primary weapons which he uses against us. Mark 4:18-19 tells us: ***“And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the Word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things, entering in, choke the Word, and it becometh unfruitful.”*** When we allow the things of the world, to become too important to us; and we allow our hearts to get too focused upon them, they choke the Word of God; and it becomes unfruitful. Greek-sumpnigo (soom-pnee-go): to strangle completely, to drown, or to crowd or throng. This Greek word is referring to a mass crowding; as in a riot, a rebellion, or a takeover. We allow the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things, to crowd the Word of God so tightly, that we cannot produce any spiritual fruit. We have so many other things going on in our lives, that we take no time for the Word; and it eventually dies in us. The Word of God should be quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword in us. But many of us have allowed the Word of God, to become just as a dull blade would be in our hands.

Conclusion:

It is time for the saints of God to realize, that our battle is not with one another, but with Satan and his demonic forces. It is time for us to put on the whole, complete suit of armor, which God has made available for every one of his children to wear; and begin living a life of victory, rather than being swallowed up in defeat by the devil, every day of our life. Too many Christians are walking around on the battlefield, without having their suit of spiritual armor on; being beaten and stabbed and defeated every day; and they have no idea why. This is not what God wants to be happening. Stop blaming your brother, or your sister, and every one else around you, for the defeat you are suffering. Put on your whole suit of Christian armor, and start showing Satan who is in charge of your life. If you will notice, when you start thinking of the suit of spiritual armor which God has given unto us, that there is nothing in the suit of spiritual armor, which covers our back. Did you ever stop to think, why this is the case? It is because God never intended for his children, to have to ever be running from the devil. We as Christians are to face the devil boldly. We should never need any armor to cover our back. It's time for Christians to start walking in victory! How do we do such? We do so by getting into the Word of God, and having our loins gird about with the truth. We take on by faith, the breastplate of righteousness; giving up our own unrighteousness, and accepting by faith, the righteousness of Jesus. And having our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. And above all, taking on the shield of faith in God and in the promises which He has given us in his Holy Word. Whereby we shall have the power to quench all the fiery wicked darts which come against us. And we must allow Jesus Christ to take over as our hand of protection, when the devil refuses to honor our authority which we have been given over him. It is Jesus who must do the fighting against Satan when he refuses to listen to the authority which we pronounce unto him. He may argue with us, but he will not argue with the Lord Jesus. For as Jesus told us in his Word, “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven.”

And we must take on the helmet of salvation, which comes from believing in the power of the blood which Jesus shed for every single one of us. And taking the sword of the Spirit of God, which is the Word of God; which is able to destroy every arrow which Satan might ever shoot against us. Praise be unto God Almighty! The battle has already been won, when Jesus the Son of God came forth from the tomb on the third day! And it was won forevermore. Even though Satan may attempt to strike again at us from time to time, the battle has already been won forevermore; and Satan knows it. So do not let him fool you. Jesus is always right by our side; just waiting for Satan to attempt to overstep his boundaries. **Calvin Smith**

Fighting The Devil

1. Most people when they think of having a fight with the devil, think of it as they would fight with other people; just as a fist fight, or a wrestling match; where one contestant just keeps on, until their opponent is defeated, and can no longer continue. But I can assure you, that to begin with, a Christian has no business trying to fight with the devil. First of all, the devil is a spiritual being; and he cannot be fought against by physical means; even though he most likely also has a physical body; just as the other angels of God have physical bodies; even though God has given them the ability to appear visually and invisibly. The devil often appears to us through other people, who yield themselves unto his control. He usually does this through the aid of his army of fallen angels, who followed him in his revolt against God; who are referred to as demon spirits. It is always vitally important that we always remember, that when we are having conflict of any kind with another person, that the devil is always the influence of their behavior. The apostle Paul told us in Eph. 6:12: "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." We must realize that we are not fighting against other people, but against wicked spiritual forces, which are sent from Satan, or the devil. Because the devil is a spiritual being, he must be fought against with spiritual weapons. 2. Satan was given authority by God Almighty, from the beginning. Satan, or the devil, was first known as Lucifer. Lucifer was created good and beautiful by God. His body was made in such a way, that he could play music of all kinds. He was the leading angel in all of Heaven. He was the angel who led all the praise and glory and worship of God. When we think of the angels of God, we think of beautiful creatures, clothed in white garments, and with white wings. Yet when we think of the devil, or Satan, we always think of a red creature, with horns, and sometimes carrying a pitchfork. Let us never forget that the devil, who was once called Lucifer, was created as a beautiful creature. If it were possible for us to see the devil in person, it is not likely that he would look at all as we always imagine him to be. One day Lucifer got his heart full of pride, and decided that he was going to take over the throne of God; and one third of all the other angels decided to follow Satan in his revolt against God Almighty. These angels are now known as demons. Ezekiel tells us a brief summary of Lucifer's beginning, and also of what his end shall be. We read in Ezek. 28:12-19: "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the Garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou was perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more." Isaiah also tells us of Lucifer's revolt, and his fall, in Isa. 14:12-19: "How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to Hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those

that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.” We also are told of the devil’s fall, in Rev. 12:7-9: “And there was war in Heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in Heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Lucifer fell because of the goods and blessings which he was given by God. He allowed his position and his treasures to bring spiritual pride into his heart. Because Lucifer, or the devil, was God’s leader in praise and glory and worship of God, he now hates to hear praise and worship of God. This is why the greatest weapon we can use in our fight with the devil, is the offering of continual praise and worship unto God. The devil despises it; yet it is how we receive our power from God. It is our first step to victory. 3. Lucifer, Michael, and Gabriel, were the head angels of God. Lucifer was the top of all the angels, Gabriel was and still is the chief messenger angel, and Michael is the chief angel of war. A. As we said, Gabriel was the chief messenger angel. We will read a couple of the stories from God’s Word, which reveal Gabriel as the messenger angel in God’s kingdom. In Daniel, we read of how Gabriel was sent to Daniel, to explain to him the meaning of a vision which he had. We read in Dan. 8:15-27: “And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man. And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be. The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia. And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. And in the latter time of their kingdom when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand. And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days. And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king’s business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.” We also read of how Gabriel was sent to the virgin Mary; to inform her of the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. We read in Luke 1:26-38: “And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: And He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God

nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.” B. We will now read of some of the encounters which Michael had with the wicked angels which were sent by the devil, or Lucifer. In the book of Daniel, after Daniel had another vision, Michael came and assisted one of the angels, which had fought for twenty-one days. We read in Dan. 10:8-14: “Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands.

And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.” It is believed that the angel that appeared to Daniel was Gabriel, as in the previous stories. Michael came to his assistance. Notice that we are not told that Michael fought for twenty-one days. Michael simply came to bring an end to the twenty-one days of battle. Some also believe that the angel Michael is referring to Christ. The only authority which Michael ever needs, is his authority which comes from the Lord. We read in Jude 9: “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.” We also read of Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon, or the devil, and his angels, and defeating them, in Rev. 12:7-8: “And there was war in Heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in Heaven.”⁴. Satan is said to be the god of this world. We read in 2 Cor. 4:4: “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” He is only the god of this worldly system. Every thing in the operation of the worldly system, operates in a way which is led by Satan; attempting to drag down the name of God, in every way he possibly can. However, if we are children of God, we are not of this world; even though we may have to live in this world for a while. We are officially citizens of Heaven; if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior, and have been washed in his blood. Therefore, as citizens of Heaven, we must live by Heaven’s guidelines. We must obey God’s commands, and walk in the authority which He has given to us through his Son. 5. The three heavens that we know of, are the earth, which we live upon; known as the first heaven; then the atmosphere which is above the earth; known as the second heaven; and the eternal home called Heaven; which is known as the third heaven; and which is far above the second heaven. The devil is said to dwell within the second heaven. In Eph. 2:2 we read: “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” The prince of the power of the air, is referring to the devil. He uses his followers, or the third part of the angelic beings, which fell with him from the third heaven, as his messengers which travel to and fro between the earth, or the first heaven, and the second heaven. These angelic messengers are known as demon spirits. God’s good angels also have access to the second heaven. There is spiritual warfare continually going on in this area. This is due to God’s angels traveling to and fro between the first and the third heaven; continually facing opposition with the angels of the devil, or the demon spirits, as they pass through the second heaven.

As was said before, the devil is only the god of this worldly system. He is not actually “God” at all. The devil, as well as all other angels, can be in only one place at a time. Neither does he know all things. He only knows what God allows him to know. He does not know all our thoughts, unless we let them come out of our mouth. The only thoughts the devil knows, are those thoughts which he attempts to put into our minds. This is very far from being God. Our true God Jehovah, is everywhere all the time. He knows every thought that passes through our minds, He always knows the deepest intents of our

hearts, and He hears every word which every person speaks, all of the time. How? Because He is God. We so many times act as though the devil is always all around us; watching everything which we do. Many times, we are afraid of what the devil is seeing us do; or afraid of what the devil is hearing us speak. Let me assure you, the devil does not have this power. If he had the power to hear everything, and to see everything, at the same time, he would be as powerful as God; and he is no where even close to being as powerful as God. The only things that the devil knows, or that he hears, is what he learns from his demonic spirits, which he may have stationed around us. But he himself can be in only one place at a time. So relax, and trust fully in God Almighty. The only ones we have to resist, is the demonic spirits. And the more we learn about them, the easier it will be for us to defeat them. As we will see later, God has given us complete power and authority over every one of them. 6. The devil and his followers are also represented as stars. When the child Jesus was born, the first thing which the devil attempted to do, was to destroy Him. We read of this in Rev. 12:3-4: "And there appeared another wonder in Heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." We read of the actual fulfillment of this action, in Matt. 2:13-15: "And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my Son."

7. We as Christians, must separate ourselves from the world's system of operation; from the evil practices which the world chooses to follow. For they are empowered by the devil, and they must be totally forsaken by Christians. Deut. 18:9-14 tells us: "When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.

For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee to do so." Such practices as enchantment, or magic, witchcraft, charmers, or those who claim to have the power to cast spells upon people, those who fool around with demon spirits, wizards, or those who claim to have knowledge of the minds and hearts of other people, or a necromancer, or one who claims to have the power to be able to communicate with the dead, or fortune-tellers, or palm-readers, or astrologers, are nothing less than pure satanic; and Christians cannot have any connection with them whatsoever, if they expect to win, in their fight with the devil. The first step to victory in our fight with the devil, is to recognize his evil practices, and have absolutely no part in them. Those such as we have mentioned, are busy all over the earth; bringing innocent people under Satan's control, right and left. We even see it being advertised on our televisions from time to time. People are needing help in so many ways, that they are turning to anything that they can find, in their seek for relief. What they really need to do, is to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ, and accept the help which He is so anxious to give unto them; instead of turning to everything which looks and sounds good; for almost every bit of it is straight from Hell. 8. We also must realize, that the devil is the greatest deceiver to ever exist. As we read in the book of Revelations earlier, the devil works to deceive the whole world. Rev. 12:9 tells us: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." We are told to be careful, that we be not deceived by the devil. We read in Luke 21:8: "And He said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them." Another step in winning the battle against the devil, is to learn how to hinder him from deceiving us. He will attempt to deceive us in any way he possibly can. He will attempt to imitate

anything which God does. 2 Cor. 11:14 tells us that Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. In other words, he is an angel who loves to deceive and trick and mislead everyone he possibly can. God's Word tells us to test the spirits; or to make certain whether they are of God, or if they are of the devil. We read in 1 John 4:1-3: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." Matt. 24:23-24 also tells us: "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." The devil will speak to us, and try and make us think, that it is God who is speaking to us. The only way in which I know to test the spirits which attempt to talk to us, is to command that any spirit other than the Spirit of Almighty God, to be gone; to rebuke them. God will not get mad at you for doing such. He expects you to do such, for your own good; that you be not mislead by the devil, and lied to by him. He will do his very best, to mislead us in any way which he possibly can.

One of the greatest steps in winning our fight with the devil, is to be a good discerner of God's voice, and not be deceived by the devil. According to 1 Cor. 12:10, the discernment of spirits is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit of God. The devil will usually start, by slowly leading us in the right direction. This is how he first begins to make us believe that we are being lead by the Spirit of God. But slowly, he will lead us until he has led us into his traps; where we are bound, and do not know how to escape. The devil's spirits often use such things as rock music, idols (things which we highly treasure), jewelry, wiegie boards, or Yoga; which includes exercises which bring damage to the body, and usually include demonic phrases of speech. They will usually use concentration to control physical and mental movements. The main goal of the devil, is to get into your mind; and get you to believe his ridiculous lies which he continually feeds to you. 9. We should also beware of such days as Halloween; which was began as a celebration of the dead; believing that they have power on this day to come forth as witches, goblins, and other such ungodly creatures. It is believed that on this day, they can do their worst damage. 10. 1 Peter 5:8-9 tells us: "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." A. Sober-Greek-nepho (nay-fo): to be discreet, alert, or watchful. B. Vigilant-Greek-gregoreuo (gray-gor-yoo-o): to keep alert, and to be watchful. We must do this at all times; for the devil never gives up. He will continually be attempting to deceive us, or to do anything he can, to defeat and to destroy us. C. The devil seeks whom he may devour. Greek-katapino (kat-ap-ee-no): to swallow up, or to destroy completely. John 10:10 tells us: "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." D. Resist steadfast in the faith. Greek-stereos (ster-eh-os): to resist in a strong, or sure and stable way. We must resist the devil, in a way which requires spiritual and mental strength; and never give up. Let us also beware, that as we are having to do so, that our spiritual brethren throughout the earth, are also having to do the same thing. We must always be cautious of the devil's sneaky attacks. We must use Godly wisdom and logic in all situations.

-
-
-

11. We read much in God's Word, especially in the New Testament, of demon spirits dwelling with people's human bodies and minds. We read of one such story, in Matt. 8:28-33: "And when He was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time? And there was a good way off from them an herd of swine feeding. So the devils besought Him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And He said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils." Before such things can take place, and a

person may be possessed by a devil, the individual involved must surrender their authority unto the demon spirits. This is usually never done intentionally; but done so by committing some sin, which one usually does not even realize that they have committed. Or if they do know that they are doing wrong, they have no knowledge whatsoever, of the cunning ways in which the devil works. Or they have no understanding at all, of the operation of the spiritual world. The Word of God does not tell us anything about the past life of these two who were possessed with the devils, or demon spirits. So we do not know what was the cause for the possession by the devils. Many times, the devil will send his demon spirits to younger people, or to children, who are not old enough to be accountable for themselves. This is why it is so vitally important, that we as Christian parents, claim the blood of Jesus Christ over our children, as well as use the authority which Jesus has given unto us, against the devil and his demon spirits; and use that authority to command the devil and his demon spirits, to keep their hands off of our children, as well as off of our self. We read in Luke 10:18-19: "And He said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**" Jesus gave us this authority, in order for us to be able to stand our ground against the devil; and so that we may totally defeat him through Jesus' name. We read of another story in Matt. 17:14-18, which involved a young boy, who was possessed by a demon: "And when they were come to the multitude, there came to Him a certain man, kneeling down to Him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, **O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How lone shall I suffer you? Bring him to me.** And Jesus rebuked the devil, and he departed out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour." The father in this story should of been putting his faith completely in the Word of God; and should of had the spiritual knowledge to know, that the devil could have no power over his son, if he himself had of been where he should of been, in his relationship with God.

-

-

12. As believers in Jesus Christ, we have been given all power and authority over the devil, and over his entire band of fallen angels, as we mentioned in #11. We were told that we as Christians, have all power and authority over our enemy, who is the devil and his fallen angels. But there is one important point to remember, when using our authority over Satan and his demonic spirits. There may be times, when the forces of Satan, may attempt to resist the authority which we use against them. Just as a police officer has been given the authority to enforce the laws of a particular city, county, or state, there are times when they may have criminals who attempt to resist their authority; and not obey their commands. When this happens, they must call upon those of higher rank, for help; the police chief, or whoever may be in command above them. And there will definitely be times, when we as Christians, must call upon Jesus our Savior for help. He has all power and authority, in Heaven and on earth. We, as Christians, must realize that we cannot fight against Satan ourselves. When Satan resists the authority which we have been given by Jesus, then it is time for us to turn matters over to Jesus Christ. We have absolutely no chance of fighting against the devil. He will totally destroy us, if we attempt to fight against him on our own. Jesus is our head commander. When the devil refuses to respect our authority which we have been given over him, then it is time to turn matters over to Jesus. Satan will not dare attempt to stand against Jesus. For Jesus stripped Satan of all his power forevermore, when He arose from the grave on the third day. If we attempt to stand against the devil on our own, he will completely destroy us. As we are told in John 10:10, the devil's main motive is to steal, kill, and destroy. We must always hold up our shield of faith, as we are told in Eph. 6:16: **faith in Jesus Christ to fight our spiritual battles for us. Satan nor any of his demonic angels will ever attempt to resist Him. For they everyone know what power and authority Jesus holds. Also, as a believer in Jesus Christ, we have been given the power and authority to cast demon spirits out of people. We read in Mark 16:15-18: "And He said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**"**

13. The devil fights God's people in every way possible. One of his main tactics, is putting sickness and diseases upon people's bodies. When Jesus was upon the earth, He healed people which were inflicted in every way. Matt. 4:24 tells us: "And his fame went throughout all Syria: and

they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and He healed them.” Some He healed by laying his hands upon them, as in Matt. 8:2-4: “And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.” And also in Matt. 8:14-15: And when Jesus was come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother laid, and sick of a fever. And He touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.” He also healed by the casting out of devils, or demons. Matt. 8:16 tells us: “When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick.” And in Matt. 9:32-33 we read: “As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.” Jesus told us that if we would only believe, that we would be able to do even greater things than He Himself had done. We read in John 14:12: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” To defeat the devil in the area of sickness, all we must do is to believe, and confess God’s Word. He tells us that by Jesus’ stripes we are healed, in Isa. 53:5. And also in 1 Pet. 2:24 we read: “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” Peter is telling us that it is an already completed action. We do not have to wait for it to be done. It has already taken place. To see the manifestation, all we must do is believe it, and speak it out of our mouth. But let us never forget what a deceiver the devil is. And many times, he will try and deceive us by putting false symptoms of sickness and disease upon our body. This is why that when we face sickness and disease, that we also beware of false symptoms that the devil may attempt to put upon us; and rebuke them in Jesus’ name. 14. One thing for us to remember, in our fight with the devil, is to never make unwise remarks to the devil, just for the sake of making them. This includes calling him foolish names, and making smart remarks to him, which are unnecessary. This only makes the devil mad, and causes him to do everything he can possibly do, to torment and to torture us continually. He hates every child of God to start with; and the least we have to say to him, the better. We must rebuke him and his demons, when it is necessary to do so. But we need say no more to them than necessary. And one thing let us always remember; that as the top angel of God, the devil knows the Word of God perfectly. That is why, that when we rebuke the devil, that we do not have to always quote the Word of God to the devil, word by word. For he knows what the Word says, far better than any of us do. So when we rebuke him, all that is necessary, is that we do so in the name of Jesus; or in accordance with the Word of God. A good example, would be a statement such as, “I rebuke you satanic forces in the name of Jesus, in accordance with the Word of God.” Or if we should be praying over a sick person, we only need to say something such as, “I curse these symptoms of sickness and disease in Jesus’ name, in accordance with God’s Holy Word.” The devil knows very well what God’s Word says about sickness and disease. We have no need to be afraid of the devil and his kingdom of fallen angels, for Jesus has given us all power and authority over every one of them, through his precious name. And God does not put fear in our hearts. Anytime we find ourselves being fearful, we can be certain that the fear is straight from the devil. 2 Tim. 1:7 tells us: “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” Greek-sophronismos (so-from-is-mos): disciplined, self-controlled, safe, and bold.

15. The devil gets to a Christian bit by bit; or a little at a time; step by step. We need to resist him at every moment; in the way we live our lives, and in the way we speak; from the moment we wake up in the morning, until the moment we go to sleep at night. The devil’s first step in conquering a Christian, is regression; or to try and get us to step backwards; to back off in our commitment to God. He then begins to repress us; to get us to hold things in, rather than to speak out boldly. He then begins to suppress us; or to start putting pressure upon us. Depression comes next; causing us to withdraw from others; wanting to be alone, and being filled with fear, self-pity, and feeling like we have no hope. We must fight depression, by giving praise unto God, and fellowshiping with Him. The devil’s next step is oppression. He may do so in the

form of fear, sickness, or some other type of unbearable circumstances. He tries to make us feel like we are totally unable to carry the heavy load. Then the devil will try obsession. We all are obsessed with something; hopefully, the Word of God, and all the many blessings of God. But the devil will try to get us obsessed with bad things. He is out to destroy us; any way he possibly can! 16. If we are going to win the fight against the devil, then we must do it God's way; not our own way. He has provided us with a full suit of spiritual armor; which we must wear at all times. We are told of this suit of spiritual armor, in Eph. 6:13-18: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor 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 the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

We must wear every piece of the spiritual armor at all times. No soldier ever goes out onto the battlefield, without his full suit of armor. We must have Christ in our heart, have his thoughts in our mind, and continually show his love and affection. John 14:6 tells us, that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. And the only way that we will ever reach the marvelous place where we will be able to see our Heavenly Father, is through Him. We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, according to Rom. 4:19-25. Therefore, we must always wear our breastplate of righteousness. We must continually stand firm in the gospel of peace; or the gospel of Jesus Christ. When a Roman soldier went out to battle, they wore boots that were not only thick leather, but they also contained steel; which helped them to stand firm, and never slip backwards when they were in a battle. They could stand firm without being easily knocked backwards. We must do the same when we are in a spiritual battle. We must stand firm, with our faith completely in Jesus Christ and the holy Word of God. Our shield of faith must always be held up before us, that we may block every dart which the devil shoots at us. And we must always remember, that our shield of faith must be totally in the Lord Jesus Christ, and what He will do for us. We must remember as we mentioned before, that when we are in a battle with the devil, we do not dare fight him ourselves. For if we attempt to do so, he will destroy us. Jesus must do the fighting, when fighting is required; not us. Our helmet of salvation which we receive through the blood of Jesus, must be worn at all times.

And we must always carry the sword of the Spirit in our hand; or the Word of God must continually be in our heart, and be spoken out of our mouth. And we must always pray as we are led by the Holy Spirit of God; for others as well as for ourselves. If we do not always wear our full suit of spiritual armor, then we might as well just sit down; for the devil is bound to win under these circumstances.

Conclusion:

We often hear the statement, "The devil made me do it." But the truth is, that the devil cannot make us do anything; absolutely nothing. He can put thoughts into our minds about doing certain things, but the only way that he can make us do anything, is if we choose to surrender to his evil thoughts. We must consistently resist the devil, by having a close relationship with Jesus, staying in his Word, always being obedient to the leadership of his Holy Spirit, and by always wearing our full suit of spiritual armor. And let us never forget, that when the devil attempts to resist us, we must turn the matter over to Jesus; and let Him do the fighting for us. For none of us are a match for the devil.
Calvin Smith

Yahoo! Messenger with Voice. [Make PC-to-Phone Calls](#) to the US (and 30+ countries) for 2¢/min or less.