



Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church • DiscipleshipDevelopment.org

## OUR SPIRITUAL DEFENSE

### Powerful Weapons Against Our Enemy

Ephesians 6:12 *For we do not WRESTLE against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

John 16:33 *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.*



Our enemy targets our weaknesses, which range from our thought life, our unsubmitted flesh nature, the world and relationships. As we close the doors of access for the enemy, we will walk in freedom.

**1. THE MIND**, our thinking and our paradigm, or the way we view the world.

Satan bombards our minds with thoughts of doubt, fear, insecurities, offenses, etc. Through time these thought patterns can develop into strongholds. But we have a weapon!

**OUR WEAPON** — 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down (tearing down, dismantling) arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,...*

**2. THE FLESH**, our unsubmitted self. When the Bible speaks of the sin nature it is referring to that natural inclination to sin and the seat of willful defiance and

rebellion against God's authority. (Romans 7:21-23, 8:5-8; Galatians 5:17; James 4:7)

**OUR WEAPON** — Galatians 5:16-18 *I say then: Walk in (step with) the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against (is opposed to) the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

**3. THE WORLD**, conforming us to its pattern. 1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

- **The lust of the flesh.** Our old nature wars against us to conform us to the pattern and sensual value system of the world and fueled by the god of this world. (Galatians 5:17)
- **The lust of the eyes** is to be captivated by outward show without inquiring into the real value or motivation. In the following examples, sin began with the word “saw:” Eve in Genesis 3:6; Achan in Joshua 7:21; King David in 2 Samuel 11:2.
- **The pride of life** is the behavior of the “self-sufficient person who boasts of his own independence and abilities, making himself bigger than he really is.” (Barclay)

**OUR WEAPON** — Romans 12:1-2 *...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (in God's Word),...*

**4. THE CHURCH.** The Church is THE most powerful entity on earth. However, the enemy seeks to strip the church from its power by dividing relationships and exchanging our love for Christ for something else. (Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:13-18; Colossians 2:14)

- Ephesians 4:30-32 *...be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*
- Revelation 2:4-5 *Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works,...*

**OUR WEAPON** — Hebrews 1:1-2 ...since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,...

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John 16:33 *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.*

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**PRAYER** — Heavenly Father, thank You for the powerful, spiritual weapons You have given to us. These weapons are not only for our defense but for our offense as well. Teach us to use the spiritual resources correctly and effectively so that we will not be overcome by the deceptive tactics of our enemy, the devil. Thank You for the power we have in You as we navigate our world for Your Glory and for the Kingdom's sake. Amen.