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A WORD ABOUT OUR ENEMY, THE DEVIL

1. The areas of spiritual battle for the believer are...
 - The mind, our thinking. (Romans 7:21-24; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
 - The flesh, our old, unsubmitted sin nature. (Romans 8:5-8; Galatians 5:17; James 4:7)
 - The world's attempt to conform us to the it's pattern. (Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4)
 - The Church, the enemy's desire to fragment the church and to make it powerless against the enemy. (Ephesians 4:29-32)
 - The demonic realm (James 4:1-7)
2. Our spiritual battle is NOT against people but against the demonic, spiritual enemy. This enemy is highly strategic, organized and in unity! (Mark 3:23-27; Ephesians 6:12)
3. He is a spirit (but with limitations), subtle, crafty, calculating, and scheming.
 - 2 Corinthians 2:11 *...lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*
4. He is fully committed to his cause.
 - John 10:10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...*
5. He has the ability to influence and deceive.
 - 1 Chronicles 21:1 *Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.*
6. Satan's three main weapons are DECEPTION, TEMPTATION AND ACCUSATIONS.

However, THROUGH CHRIST, we have full and complete victory over our enemy. However, the only way to overcome our enemy is to fully rely on Christ's finished work on the cross (Colossians 2:15), to be strong in the power of the Lord, to put on the whole armor and understand that character, not brute force, wins the spiritual battle.

THE ARMOR OF GOD Ephesians 6:10-18; Romans 13:12-13 (The armor of light)

The Armor of God illustrates the character areas we must put on as a true defense against the enemy

1. The belt of TRUTH

- (Grk) Aletheia: The unveiled reality lying at the basis of and agreeing with an appearance. (John 8:31)
- **Point:** A key in winning the spiritual battle is to have a true understanding of reality, what is *really* taking place. In confusion we may attack each other, etc. (2 Chronicles 20:22-23; Luke 22:49-51).

2. The breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS

- (Grk) Diakaios: Conforming to God's rightness, to fulfill God's claims in contrast to the lawlessness of this world. In essence, it is obedience to God's Word and to His ways, doing right out of a right heart. (1 Samuel 15:22-23; Song of Solomon 2:15; Psalm 19:13-14; John 14:30)
- **Point:** Satan has authority over a life which is not submitted to God and filled with sin. David cried out to God after his horrific sin with Bathsheba and Uriah and asked that he be restored and filled with God's Spirit. (2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51) The warrior's character and right behavior growing from a right heart is a great defense.

3. Footwear of READINESS

- (Grk) Hetoimasia: Preparation, adjusted, to be ready (Matthew 25:13; Mark 14:32-42; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; 2 Timothy 2:21; Revelation 16:15)
- Because Peter was asleep and not ready to stand against what was about to take place (the soldiers coming to arrest Jesus just before the crucifixion), he not only reacted against the soldiers but did not have the power to stand with Jesus that night. The result was that he denied the Lord and fell away. (Matthew 26:69-75)
- **Point:** Being ready requires we are *always* ready. Here are 5 areas to assist us: 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 *Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. Do everything in love.*

4. The shield of FAITH

- (Grk) Pistis: To be persuaded in belief and in action, choosing to believe God and His word in the face of conflicting reality. (2 Chronicles 20:20-24; Hebrews 11:1-2, 6, 32-40)



- **Point:** Satan's arrows are his lies, deceptions and perversions of reality. True faith is active and powerful (James 2:17-26) and stands firm in the battle.
5. The helmet of SALVATION
 - (Grk) Soterion: The confident and anticipative hope of salvation, past, present and future. (1 Thessalonians 5:8-9)
 - **Point:** The helmet both protected the soldier and provided a striking symbol of military victory. With His helmet we can block out the lies of the enemy and place our focus on God's Word and winning the battle. Salvation is our hope in the battle and our victory is a spiritual and public statement over the devil!
 6. The sword of the Spirit, GOD'S WORD
 - (Grk) Rhema: The subject matter of the Word, the personal revelation of the Logos, the Word of God. (Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12)
 - **Point:** The battle is spiritual and must be fought in God's strength, with God's Word. Jesus used God's Word accurately against the enemy as He was being tested in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). When God's Word is used with personal understanding and genuineness, we have a powerful weapon!

ACTION - James 4:7-8; Ephesians 6:18

1. The key to victory over the devil? Submit to God. Resist the devil, and he WILL flee from you!
2. Then, in the armor of God and in His strength , *"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."*

NOTES

