

An Intense Warfare!



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The on-going battle for the soul will continue to the conclusion of this world as we know it. Satan will not stop his relentless efforts to destroy people forever until he is captured and bound. He is called a *dragon, old serpent, Devil, and Satan* Revelation 20:2. The angel will ³ “Cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him.” It is a serious struggle against sin, self, and Satan—the enemy of our soul!

Jesus told Simon Luke 22:31-32 “Behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.” We have to pray for our family, our friends, and our loved ones because Satan wants to destroy *their* faith and take their soul to be with him too.

This intense warfare is an on-going struggle against the forces of evil in this tech-driven world today. Satan wants to destroy our soul—but Hell is too *horrible*; Heaven is too *marvelous*; and eternity *too long* to ever think about *losing* this battle. ¹ Timothy 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.” No one can afford to allow the devil to deceive them.

Jesus followed the Scriptures to give us the example of doing the same. Since the world hated Him, it will hate anyone else who conducts their life according to New Testament teaching. A

Christian life of faith in God is in conflict with a worldly life of trust on self.

Corinthians 10:4 “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ 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.” The issue is to be empowered by the Spirit to live a godly life—to eliminate idols, and overcome temptations. Revelation 2:11 “He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”

When our faith is *tested*, we must believe that God through Christ will get us through—because John 3:18 “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” The battle rages on, so we take Ephesians 6:17 “The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” and live it!

Satan is helped by millions to dissolve our faith—for instance: the entertainment world is made up of directors, film producers; magazine and book publishers, and television executives who make programming decisions. It is a *battle for control* of the *mind*. In 1927, Satan scored a major victory with the invention of television Philo Farnsworth, but today a multitude of hand-held devices and tablets can be used in a thousand ways to *corrupt* our thinking and *defile* our conscience.

From unscriptural commercials; pop-up ads; a glut of information not worth reading; to information on the latest drug and short trailers of the latest film—Satan will get his *message* across and will advance his *agenda*—somehow. The devil’s objective is to have people desire the wrong things, the wrong person, the wrong clothes, or have a wrong attitude about something—which will *oppose* the *Word* and *follow* the *world*.

All that goes through the eye-gate has the *potential* to influence—our *thoughts, decisions, or*

desires—that is the serious part. Very subtly, but very continuously, messages through various mobile devices and social media are influencing people—getting our *attention* and changing our *thoughts* to those of the world.

From *specials* to *programs* on every imaginable subject, the viewer will *see, hear, and be influenced* by an onslaught of worldly *themes* and unscriptural *attitudes, resentment, greed, disrespect, profanity, depravity, violence, hatred, rage and revenge*—all against God’s will and Word and plan. A large percentage of what is promoted and portrayed in films, on phones, iPads, and tablets is in opposition to Bible teaching.

It is a *serious struggle and intense warfare* with an evil *opponent*—anyone who is *not alert* may find out *too late*, that *Satan won the battle* for their *soul!* The devil’s power was destroyed on the cross. Yes, but Satan doesn’t want anyone to *know* that—and if we *do* know it, we *have* to *believe* it in faith, for that Atonement work of Christ to *benefit* us and to *keep* us in His will.

A converted life of faith in God is a learning process under His teaching. We should eliminate *distractions* and turn down the *volume* so we can *hear* God’s voice. Mark 4:24 “Take heed what ye hear,” because Mark 4:25 “Whoever has, to him more will be given.”

Jesus warned—we are to get rid of anything that *causes* unscriptural thoughts. Even if our eye, hand, feet, or mobile device leads us to sin, it would be much better to be *without* them, than to *keep* them, to keep *sinning* with them, and Matthew 5:29 “be cast into hell.”

Jesus said John 12:36 “Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light.” He told us not to have *treasures* on earth Matthew 6:19, so if we have financial assets saved up in a bank, we should *sell* them and *give* the money to the poor. When we follow His *advice* on that issue, we *have* to trust God for finances.

Satan is *determined* to have our soul, and he will use anything, anyone, or any device to get it. He exploits greed, which leads to covetousness, and then to idolatry—a serious sin. The devil gets people to strive for more but to never say *enough*—and to never thank God. Satan hides his identity by using suggestions to our mind—his *voice* can be mistaken for our *logic*. He is *always* disguised and can even be 2 Corinthians 11:14 “*transformed into an angel of light.*”

Satan has millions of people think that happiness is purchased with *money* and contentment is found in *things*—but no one ever proved it to be true. Satan is *evil* and out for our *soul*—it is an *intense* spiritual battle! The apostle said he Jude 1:3 “*found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith.*”

Satan has many names Revelation 12:9 “*The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.*” A serpent slips in unnoticed as Satan slips into our mind undetected. His desire is John 10:10 “*to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*”

It is a continuing battle of *detection*, *resistance*, and *defense*. Satan John 8:44 “*was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.*” Any thought, any idea, or any *attitude* that is against the *Bible* is from the *devil*.

Satan lied in Eden. 2 Corinthians 11:3 “*I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*” Pure devotion to Christ is a faithful trust on the power of God—to heal our body without medication or drugs; to supply daily needs without government Welfare; and to protect our children without guns, gates, or clubs.

Satan is *not* in recognizable form—but can be anyone, any plan, or any device—it can be anything that could take us outside the will of

God. Satan wants to *tempt* our faith so we will *doubt* our trust on God. In whatever form he *attacks*, we must be ready to *defend* with “*It is written*” Matthew 4:4. Our *life* must be *lived* by the *Word*!

This battle *intensified* when Jesus was born, because God’s *Lamb* would be Satan’s *downfall*. Through Herod, the devil tried to destroy the Savior before Jesus would be a serious threat to his power, but God enabled His Son to Matthew 2:13 “*flee into Egypt.*”

The amount of unspeakable crimes against humanity over the centuries could never be counted, and it would be no surprise if God gave the command for His Son to return today—bringing judgment on a world of violence, wickedness, immorality, corruption, and sin!

The spiritual battle for our soul did not end with his one defeat Matthew 2:13. Matthew 4:1 “*Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*” That same *devil*, with the same *lie*, confronts us today with the same *intention* to steal, kill, or destroy our faith in God. Luke 4:13 “*When the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.*”

The devil wants people to be interested in the *wrong* books; to entertain *immoral* thoughts; to desire *worldly* entertainment; to seek *unscriptural* fellowship; or to use social media in a *wrong* way and to defile our conscience.

If we draw *close* to God we move *away* from the world. Narcissism—an excessive interest in one’s self—it is prevalent today. Satan has used his wicked system for centuries, so this rampant pride and self-importance is no mystery. Self always exalts *self*; but we are to glorify *God*—and never bring attention to ourselves.

Satan uses the delusion *Once Saved; Always Saved* to have people live in sin and still think they are saved. We are secure only *in Christ* and

never *in sin*. If Satan can deceive someone to accept an *eternal security* doctrine, he has a good chance of destroying their eternal soul. We must seek the Light because the unbeliever John 3:20 “*hates the light and does not come to the light.*”

A life of faith in God includes visible fruits of the Spirit Galatians 5:22-23 “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*” It means acting from divine love, helping the poor, praying for people, using devices in a right way, and thanking God for many blessings already received.

Whenever we are tempted, we call on God to help us, by the power of His Spirit—*then* our faith will not fail and we will overcome Satan’s influence. John 17:15 “*I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.*”

We need God’s protection every day from Satan’s attempts to destroy our faith every minute. Luke 22:32 “*I have prayed for thee [Simon], that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*”

God’s love, mercy, and grace will keep us in the center of His will—if we *want* His help and if we *ask* for His Spirit. No matter what *temptation* is encountered, or what *pressure* we are under, God’s help is right beside us.

Regardless of the *intensity* of the battle when temptation comes our way, we must James 1:12 “*Persevere under trial, because when we have stood the test, we will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*” An *intense* warfare continues—but victory is just ahead!



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