

# On Enemy Territory!

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The general consensus among those who follow sports is that the home team has the *advantage*—they are inspired by the fans who support them with their shouts and applause. This helps the home team *defeat* the opposition.

This world is *not* our home so the *enemy* has the advantage—we are in an *unfriendly environment*, and if we are not *on guard*, the adversary can *defeat* us. Today, we are definitely on *Enemy Territory!* AV 1 John 5:19 “*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness [NLT is under the power and control of the evil one; NKJV wicked one.]*”

Satan has a home-base advantage in this spiritual battle—the world that *he* controls puts every *weapon* in his hands that he can aim at us to take us down—and there are many *more* weapons today that are used by the enemy to cause spiritual harm to anyone not alert!

The *music* we hear when grocery shopping; *comments* from others in the store; and the general language or *conversations* of unbelievers would not, in a general sense, support the message of the Bible, but would be about the world—like medical problems; financial debt; wrongs committed against them, or other unscriptural responses to things facing people today.

Faith in God cannot be mentioned in a public school, but the lie of evolution is part of the curriculum. The name *Jesus* is eliminated from public prayers even though NIV Acts 4:12 “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name*

*under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*” Satan has the advantage—we are On Enemy Territory!

There is false teaching to guard against; distorted grace messages everywhere; and unsound doctrines that have the potential to lead the unwary from the path of true faith.

AV 2 Peter 2:1 “*There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily [secretly NKJV] shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*”

False teaching is as spiritually deadly for anyone *today* as it was for Adam and Eve *then*—when they believed Satan’s *lie* and let go of God’s *Truth*.

The enemy has over 6,000 years of experience, and he has destroyed literally billions of souls through deceit. We must *know* God’s Truth from His Book—and following AV Deuteronomy 6:7 “*Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children.*”

It is not easy to stay connected to Christ in a hostile environment. Everything *of* the world and everything *in* the world wants to *break* that connection. We are on the home turf of a very dangerous enemy who has an impressive win record AV Matthew 7:13 “*Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.*”

Believers are surrounded by *thorns* of the world—even when we *hear* the Word, there is the possibility that AV Matthew 13:22 “*The care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful*”—and God NLT John 15:2 “*Cuts off every branch that doesn’t produce fruit.*” We live on enemy territory where the destroyer of eternal souls has the distinct advantage.

Bible Christians fought the same wicked *enemy*—they faced a fiery *furnace*, starving *lions*, or death by *stoning*, but they held to their faith in Christ. NKJV Hebrews 10:32 “*Recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings [a great fight of afflictions AV].*”

Jesus said if our *eye*, our *hand*, or our *foot* “*causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you*” NKJV Matthew 5:30, because it would be better to *not* have them, than to *keep* them, and keep *sinning* to our eventual destruction!

Anything we give up for the sake of the Truth, is *more* than worth it to enter the Kingdom. *Do what you have to do to get into the kingdom—do not make a mistake—the stakes are too high and eternity too long.*

Satan wants us to let down our defense, but we must be *on guard* because the enemy is *in disguise*. Joab acted as a friend NIV 2 Samuel 20:10 SO, “*Amasa was not on his guard against the dagger in Joab’s hand, AV so he smote him*”—Amasa had let down his guard. We too can be unaware and be *deceived* by the enemy—the destroyer of souls.

No one should allow the enemy to destroy their soul—and Satan is out to do just that! The *Savior* of our soul said we are not to *fear* the devil but to *resist* him. Jesus said AV Luke 12:5 “*I will forewarn you [show you NKJV] whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*”

Keep in mind that Satan is our *worst* enemy and he wants to *harm* us in the *worst* way possible. If he can get us involved in some sin, he can prevent us from entering the Kingdom. It is a spiritual war, and the enemy has home court advantage. WEY Hebrews 12:4 “*In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted so as to endanger your lives.*” It is a serious combat with a dangerous enemy.

Sin is *not* to be taken lightly because *minor* mistakes can lead to *major* sins. King Saul was

jealous. When he heard people singing about David's military might, he was envious. Satan starts by getting us involved in a *small sin* and then escalates it to a *major problem!* The devil wants us to let down our guard—*It's just a minor mistake; you're not hurting anyone.*

Jesus said to be *concerned* about *small* stuff because they can lead to *big* problems. He told us to be *on guard*; be *alert* to danger; and be *faithful* to the end. God wants everyone to *repent*; *confess* their mistakes; *forsake* their sins and *return* to the Lord. If we will *do* that, God will be so glad we are returning to the faith that He will welcome us with open arms Luke 15.

No matter what the sin; Regardless of the mistakes or how *many* they be; we can *return* to God and be accepted by Him. AV Luke 15:24 “*This my son was dead, and is alive again.*” Everyone has sinned, but *anyone* can turn back, and again put their faith in Christ—through the power of the Spirit. AV Romans 11:23 “*If they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.*”

The devil wants to hurt us in the *worst* way! AV Galatians 6:7 “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh [sinful nature NIV] shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*”

Trusting God in *faith* is the working of the *Spirit*. Being in a hostile environment means we must constantly be alert. AV James 1:14 “*Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err [do not be deceived WEY], my beloved brethren.*”

Satan wants us to think of sins as *minor* problems—but that has us letting down our guard. We

need spiritual *armor* for the serious *battle*. The devil tries to use trials and troubles to have us *leave the faith*, or he uses the *worries of wealth* to make us unfruitful.

We are on *enemy* land—he has the *advantage*—and he has agents to help him take us down. He has an impressive win/loss record—that should alert us to the power and influence he *has* in the world.

If we are not *aware* of his evil intentions, he can take us down—and all too often, he takes our family with us—it *is* a spiritual battle! We are either *gathering* or *scattering*; living His *Truth* or living a *lie!* WEY 1 Timothy 4:16 “*Be on your guard as to yourself and your teaching. Persevere in these things; for by doing this you will make certain your own salvation and that of your hearers.*”

Our life has a powerful effect on our children, family, and friends. Every choice we make will influence those around us in one of two ways—either a *positive*—or a *negative* way.

Billions are going to the flames because they have either *rejected* Christ completely, or they have let down their *guard* and keep unscriptural attitudes of resentment and revenge toward people. The apostle reminded his listeners of prophecies SO AV 1 Timothy 1:18 “*That thou by them mightest war a good warfare; 19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.*”

It is a very serious *struggle* to get into the Kingdom because we are in a hostile environment and on enemy land. If anything is questionable or defiles our conscience, we should *not* do it.

We only get so many chances—we *must* keep our conscience clear. It is a wake-up call to repent, correct our mistakes, and get back on track. If we don't heed the warning, Satan is allowed to *shipwreck* our faith, *defile* our conscience, and take us *out of God's Truth*.

Even when the apostles were in prison Acts 16, they praised God by singing hymns—they *knew* that God would deliver them. Even though Satan has the advantage, “*He who is in us is more powerful than he who is in the world*” 1 John 4:4.

We are studying for a final test, and no one gets out of this world spiritually alive without Jesus. Methuselah lived 969 years but then died. *Everyone* will leave this world at some point—we *have* to be *sure* we are checking in to the right place. NKJV 1 John 3:7 “*Let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.*”

There are pitfalls, traps, and snares along the way, and many have fallen into them. WEY Hebrews 12:15 “*Be carefully on your guard lest there be any one who falls back from the grace of God; lest any root bearing bitter fruit spring up and cause trouble among you, and through it the whole brotherhood be defiled.*”

We all have a *choice*; and we all have been *warned*—now it is decision time; we need to hold *steadfast* in the faith and *encourage* one another in the Lord. We are on enemy territory—*he* has the advantage!

NIV Galatians 6:8 “*The one who sows to please his sinful nature [flesh AV], from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*”

Salvation *later* if we live by the Spirit—or destruction *forever* if we live like the world!



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