

Spiritual Warfare Summarized

for the Dear Ones of Calvary Bible Church



August 17, 1997

Table of Contents

1. The Origin and Purpose of Spiritual Warfare	3
2. The Five Participants (Combatants)	4
3. Names of Satan	5
4. Battle Tactics for the Christian Soldiers of CBC	7
5. The Armor	8
6. Satan's Tricks and Scriptural Resistance	10
7. Key Scriptures	17
8. Great Books	18
9. Other Terms	18
10. How to Make the Devil Flee (James 4:7)	19
11. How to Strengthen Your Armor	20
12. Satan's Trojan Horse	22
13. Fortification Plan for Attacks against Confidence	23
14. Hymns of Spiritual Warfare	28

The Origin and Purpose of Spiritual Warfare

In the beginning, God (Gen. 1:1).

God created the angel Lucifer, “light bearer,” most beautiful, perhaps the pinnacle (highest point) of God’s creation.

Lucifer sought to be like the most High (Is. 14:12-15).

Lucifer (Satan), and other angels, having become vile, “kept not their first estate” (Jude 6).

Sinless man in the garden of Eden listened to Satan, followed him, and disobeyed God (Gen. 3:1-6).

Man’s disobedience (sin) resulted in man’s becoming corrupted with a nature as vile as Satan. Satan became man’s surrogate (replacement) father-god (Jn. 8:44, II Cor. 4:4).

God promised that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent, and that the serpent (Satan) would bruise the heel of the seed of the woman (Christ and those in Christ) (Gen. 3:15).

God allows Satan and the myriad (countless) demons to war on mankind for God’s glory and man’s good (Job 1:6-12; Gen. 50:40; II Cor. 12:7, 9)

This “saint perfecting” is called “war on the saints,” “the conflict of the ages,” and “spiritual warfare” (Rev. 13:7).

The Five Participants (Combatants)

Satan is a created spirit being who fell from his created position as the crown of God's creation when he sought to take God's place. He now opposes God, and is utterly deceitful, wicked, vicious, merciless, impure, and intransigent (uncompromising). His (primary) purpose is to oppose God, to keep humans from glorifying God. His power and operations are controlled by God.

Demons are angels who fell with Satan. They are lesser in power, but they are of the same evil nature and purpose as Satan.

Humans are created beings composed of spirit-soul-body who were made in the image of God for fellowship and co-working with God. Each human was created with a unique combination of physical and spiritual elements, equipped for a unique combination of which to glorify God. Sin and death passed upon all humans when the parent Adam fell upon disobeying God. Man is conceived sinful and is helpless to escape Satan's control apart from God's intervention, and a learned dependence on God. When man is born again, regenerated by God, he is given divine life, yet he still has the sin nature within him pulling him toward three evils: sin, the world without God, and Satan.

Angels are created spirit beings who did not fall with Satan, but who were made to minister to God and man. They have a united purpose with God.

God is the eternal, self-existent One Who knows all (without time limitations), is all-powerful, omni-present, and immutable (unchangeable). He is holiness and love personified. He does not overlook sin, yet He is merciful. He is incomprehensible (not able to be completely known), yet He is to be learned (comprehended; known).

Names of Satan

More Intelligence on the Enemy, the General of the Evil Hordes,
from His Fifteen Names and Designations

Satan is first mentioned as the **serpent** (Gen. 3:1, 2, 4, 13, 14). As a serpent, he is beautiful and attractive, subtle and smooth. He looks spiritually good (II Cor. 11:3), and actually counterfeits the sweet voice of God, and impersonates the internal voice of the human himself.

He is **Satan** (I Chron. 21:1), the adversary and accuser. He opposes through accusations (Job 1:6, 7), both external and internal, and thereby beats up on (sifts) the man (Lk. 22:31).

He is the **Devil** (Mt. 4:1), the slanderer and accuser. He loves to use the mouths of Christians to spread his destruction, and it is for the devil and his angels that hell is prepared (Mt. 25:41).

As **tempter** (Mt. 4:3), he entices to sin (Jms. 1:14). He tempts the Christian to quit or take short cuts (I Thes. 3:5). He customizes his temptations according to the object's weaknesses, whether it be laziness, pride, lust, over-introspection, or fault-finding.

As **prince of the demons** (Mt. 9:34), he assigns specific demons to different individuals. As **murderer** (Jn. 8:44), he inspires hate, resentment, and self-murder. As **liar** (Jn. 8:44), he sends out his darts that "God isn't really good, or true."

That wicked one (Mt. 13:19), snatches away truth and throws more fiery darts (Eph. 6:16) of doubt of God's sovereignty, omniscience, or intent.

As the **prince of this world** (Jn. 14:30), Satan wants to show you all the kingdoms of this world so that you can identify with it by your dress, talk, walk, slouch, and burping.

As **destroyer** (I Cor. 10:10), that ruiner, that venomous serpent, incites you to murmur, as some of the children of Israel also murmured, and were destroyed. The **hinderer** (I Thes. 2:18) will seek to keep you from accomplishing your God-given work, even as he as **adversary** (I Pet. 5:8) is making a case against you for not completing your work!

Call him in the Hebrew **Abaddon** or in the Greek Apollyon or in English **destroyer** (Rev. 9:11); it doesn't matter to him: he's complimented by any of the names. But don't expose him, especially in perhaps his favorite role as **accuser of the brethren** (Rev. 12:10).



Battle Tactics for the Christian Soldiers of CBC

Ten Key Principles of Spiritual Warfare

James 4:7

1. Know God and His ways (Phil. 3:10; II Pet. 1:2-4). Ignorance of God is one of the faces of the root sin (Mt. 22:20).
2. Submit to God (Jms. 4:7). This includes recognizing your human inability (II Cor. 3:5) and learning to depend on Christ (Mt. 11:28-30). Trust the wisdom, power, love, and plan of God (Pro. 3:5, 6; II John 2:7).
3. Resist the devil (Jms. 4:7). Know the devil and demons, their devices and evilness. Be vigilant, and stand against them (I Pet. 5:8, 9).
4. Know yourself: your Spirit-filled state (maturity, “normalcy”) and weaknesses (I Thes. 4:4; Eph. 4:13; 5:18).
5. Encourage yourself in the Lord (I Sam. 30:6; Ps. 23:3a; 56:3, 4; 42:5, 11; 43:5; Rom. 15:4, 5, 13). Learn to accept and expect the love of God (Rom. 8:31-38).
6. Reckon the devil, the demons, and sin defeated at the cross; and, reckon the holiness and justice of God completely satisfied (Heb. 2:11; I Jn. 3:8; Rom. 3:24-26).
7. Take unto you and keep the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18). Watch, pray, and study the scriptures (II Tim. 3:17) and persevere.
8. Eschew (avoid as a habit, esp. on moral-practical grounds; shun, escape) evil and sin (I Pet. 3:11; II Tim. 2:22).
9. Actively live out your Christian faith: do not be passive (Phil. 2:12, 13; Jms. 1:25).
10. Eschew psychology as a pagan demonic religion (Ps. 23:30; 53:1; Acts 13:36; Rom. 1:20-23, 28). Psychology is perhaps most destructive because it replaces living truth with non-living dogma.

The Armour

Eph. 6:10-18

Six pieces which need to be kept on and maintained as a way of life, until the flesh comes off; followed by the practical application of how to maintain each piece.

1. loins girt about with truth (the belt which holds all together) – **know, love, live, tell the truth** [know God, scripture, self, and devil]
2. breastplate of righteousness – **fulfill your responsibilities and roles (do the right thing)**
3. feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace – **be ready to give out the gospel (good news)**
4. shield of faith – **be growing in the acceptance of the wisdom, truthfulness, goodness, power, purpose, plan, sovereignty, and love of God**
5. helmet of salvation – **think only on those things which strengthen and encourage hope (expectation of eventual perfecting and deliverance)**
6. sword of the Spirit – **meditate on and apply Scripture regularly, and use verses which fit each situation**
- (7. praying – **worshipping God and asking for light, strength, and encouragement** (God does things He wouldn't otherwise do when we pray.)
- (8. watching – **staying awake to God for self and others and looking for the devil**



Satan's Wiles (Tricks) and Scriptural Resistance

II Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:13

Be not ignorant of Satan's tricks, and stand against them. Satan's tricks consist of truth with a little error, like rat poison.

A. Satan's Tricks, Especially for Children and Young People

1. Having fun [fame and fortune] is a good end.

Mk. 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Heb. 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

2. Christians are dour (unhappy) people.

Ec. 7:5 *It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.* [Christians are a joyful people; but they do not think profane, immoral, sacrilegious or vulgar things are funny.]

Ec. 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider.

Pro. 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine.

3. Being accepted by the world is desirable.

I Jn. 2:14 Love not the world.

Mt. 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.

II Tim. 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me.

4. It is okay to have lower standards than your family, church, or school, because you see other good Christians with these standards.

II Tim. 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned.

Pro. 22:28 Remove not the ancient landmark.

5. It feels so "spiritual" (good), it must be right.

Gal. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Pro. 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man...

6. Everybody else is doing it, so it must be okay.

Ex. 23:2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to *do* evil...

Mt. 7:13 Broad *is* the way that leadeth to destruction.

7. Love is a higher, more noble motivation than duty.

Jn. 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. [Love and duty are actually inseparable.]

Rom. 6:13 Yield yourselves unto God. **Ex. 23:2** Thou shalt not follow a multitude to *do* evil...

Mt. 7:13 Broad *is* the way that leadeth to destruction. [This is how love, a spiritual fruit, is produced.]

I Jn. 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.

8. You are lost anyway, so you might as well sin.

Ps. 150:6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

9. I've lost my innocence. What's the use?

I Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

10. Wait until you're older to serve the Lord.

Ec. 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth

11. Wholesome independence means leaving the principles and practices on which you were brought up. [This is rebellion.]

Ex. 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother.

II Tim. 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned.

12. You can do wrong and get away with it.

Gal. 6:7, 8 Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Num. 32:23 Be sure your sin will find you out.

B. Satan's Tricks, Especially for Older People

1. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

II P. 3:18 But grow in grace.

Ps. 55:19 Because they have no changes, therefore they fear not God.

2. I'm too old.

Dt. 33:25 And as thy days, *so shall thy strength be.*

Is. 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength.

3. There is no way out. Things are hopeless. Nothing will ever change.

Job 33:14 Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, *yet judgment is before him; therefore trust thou in him.*

Mt. 19:26 But with God all things are possible.

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Rom. 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

4. Worrying about spiritual things is spiritual.

Phil. 4:6 Be careful for nothing.

II Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear.

5. I do not have enough money to give to the Lord.

Pro. 3:9, 10 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.

Phil. 4:19 My God shall supply all your need.

6. (The devil brings a defective model or a judgment to our minds that is inaccurate, and it becomes a defective, accusing modus operandi; e.g.) "You can't do anything right."

Rom. 12:1, 2 Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.

II Cor. 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.

7. Criticism is godly.

Eph. 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying.

Job 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

C. Satan's Tricks, Especially for the Family

1. Family time comes before church time (or vice versa). [God is first – everything else is second.]

Mt. 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God [which is God's rule in all spheres].

Ec. 3:1 To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

2. Moms must work outside the homes these days.

Titus 2:5 keepers at home

Jud. 4:4 And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.

3. The man is the head of the home. [This is completely true, given the right context.]

I Cor. 11:3 The head of Christ *is* God.

I P. 3:7 Husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge.

Eph. 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

D. Satan's Tricks, Especially for Everyone

1. Results confirm God's blessing.
The end justifies the means.

Ps. 73:12 These *are* the ungodly, who prosper in the world.

Ps. 106:15 And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

2. Signs and wonders and apparent godliness confirm God's blessing.

Mk. 13:22 False Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders.

3. If you feel good about it, it must be okay. (A sense of right becomes my guide. We confuse feelings and peace for God's leading, relying on impulse over reason. We think that going by impulse is going by the Holy Spirit, and that a sense of certainty should be relied on.

Job 35:14 Although thou sayest thou shalt not see him, *yet judgment is before him; therefore trust thou in him.*

Jer. 8:11 Saying, Peace, peace; when *there is no peace.*

II Cor. 7:10 The sorrow of the world worketh death.

Pro. 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Jn. 14:27 My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth.

4. These doubts and accusations are from the Holy Spirit. (Confusing doubt and internal accusations as Holy Spirit-produced or self-generated rather than being the darts and accusations of the evil one is another wile.)

Eph. 6:15 Quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Rev. 12:10 The accuser of our brethren is cast down.

(The devil will even use proof texts as confirmation of God's will. He will bring texts to the mind which reinforce despair.)

Mt. 4:6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written...

(And the devil uses good friends and even good preachers to give poor counsel.)

Job 42:7 Ye have not spoken of me *the thing that is right.*

I K. 13:11 Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel...

Gal. 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven...

(Distinguishing the voice of God from the voice of Satan requires a personal knowledge of God.)

5. Christ has done it all. There is nothing for us to do. Passivity is spiritual.

Phil. 2:12b, 13 Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

6. It is hypocritical to do something which you don't feel like doing or don't feel you believe or you're not sure about. {God commands specifics.}

I Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

7. Pain is the greatest harm.

Mk. 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

8. Some things happen by chance, apart from God's ordering.

Ps. 103:19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

9. Put off salvation until tomorrow.

Pro. 27:1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

II Cor. 6:2 Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

10. You need to be hard on sinners even if they confess.

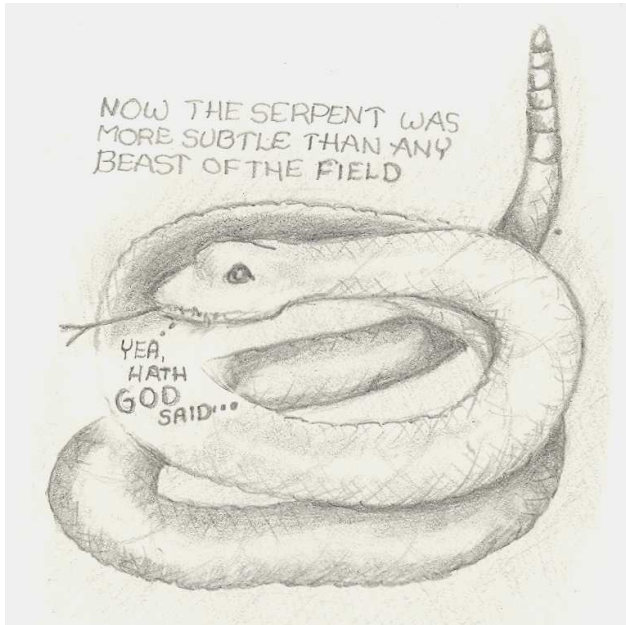
Mt. 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Mt. 18:21-15 And his Lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors.

Mt. 23:34 Forgive them, for they know not what they do.

11. It's better to remain ignorant so I am not responsible.

Mt. 22:29 Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

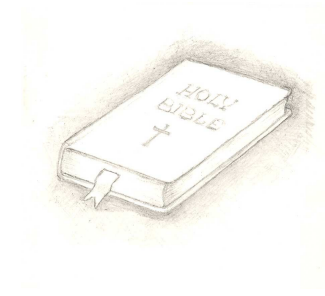


Eight Key Passages and Ten Key Texts of Spiritual Warfare

Meditate on These Scriptures!

Eight Passages

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Genesis 3:1-6 | The fall of man |
| 2. Job 1:6-12 | Satan accuses God and Job |
| 3. Isaiah 14:12-15 | The fall of Satan |
| 4. Matthew 4:1-11 | The temptation of Christ |
| 5. Ephesians 6:10-18 | The Christian armor |
| 6. I John 4:1-6 | Try the spirits |
| 7. Revelation 12:9-11 | Defeating the devil |
| 8. Revelation 20:1-3, 10 | Satan's end |



Ten Texts

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Genesis 3:15 | Promises of the Savior, and Satan's defeat |
| 2. Psalm 42:5, 11; 43:5 | Resisting the devil exemplified |
| 3. Matthew 6:13 | Praying for deliverance from evil one |
| 4. Matthew 13:19 | The devil snatches the scriptures |
| 5. John 8:44 | Satan is the father of lies and doubts |
| 6. II Corinthians 2:11 | Be not ignorant of his devices |
| 7. II Corinthians 4:4 | Satan wants to be worshipped as God |
| 8. Ephesians 4:27 | Do not give place to the Devil |
| 9. James 4:7 | How to make the devil flee |
| 10. I Peter 5:8 | Be vigilant against the devil |

Four Great Secondary Books on Spiritual Warfare

1. The Bible especially writings of Job, David, Paul and Peter
2. The Christian in Complete Armour William Gurnall
3. Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices Thomas Brooks
4. War on the Saints Jessie Penn-Lewis and Evan Roberts
5. Grave Abounding to the Chief of Sinners John Bunyan

Other Terms of Spiritual Warfare

devices: tricks of the devil to entice humans into sin (II Cor. 2:11).
These tricks, also known as wiles (Eph. 6:11) and snares (II Tim. 2:26), are often customized.

flee: to run away from (II Tim. 2:22). Fleshly lusts are to be fled, while the devil is to be stood against (Eph. 6:11).

passivity: not taking an active or dominant part (Phil. 21:12, 13)

resist: to stand against (Jms. 4:7)

submit: yield to, obey; the opposite of resist (Jms. 4:7)

How to Make the Devil Flee in Spiritual Warfare

Two-part Strategy from James 4:7

1. Submit to God.
 - a. Meditate on truth and yield to truth (Rom. 6:13; II P. 1:2-4; Jn. 8:32).
 - b. Confess known sin (I Jn. 1:9).
 - c. Learn to accept God's love (I Jn. 4:16-19; Rom. 8:31-38).
 - d. Learn to abide in [and depend on] Christ (Jn. 15:5; Mt. 11:28-30; I Jn. 2:27). [Learn to enjoy your portion in Christ (Ps. 119:57; Eph. 1:18).]
 - e. Accept God's providence (circumstances) (Mt. 26:39; Phil. 4:11).
 - f. Apply to yourself [appropriate] the truth that both Satan and sin have been defeated at Calvary (Heb. 2:11; I Jn. 3:8; Rev. 12:9-11).
2. Resist the devil.
 - a. Put on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18).
 - b. Be not ignorant of the devil's tricks (II Cor. 2:11).
 - c. Pray for God's help (Eph. 6:18; Mk. 9:24).
 - d. Quote contextual scripture (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10).
 - e. Give not place to the devil by thinking his thoughts instead of God's (Eph. 4:27).
 - f. Eschew evil (Eph. 4:26).
 - g. Verbally reject the devil (Mt. 4:10).
 - h. Do all you can, and then persevere (Eph. 6:13).



How to Strengthen Your Armor

belt of truth

constantly meditate on truth
depend on, ask for help from the Spirit of truth
review Zech. 8:16
be wary, watch for devilish thinking

breastplate of righteousness

do right and review roles
cry unto God for help (Phil. 2:12,13)
grow in the knowledge of the God of righteousness
read good books
review scriptures such as Is. 61:8

feet shod with the preparation of the gospel

watch for opportunities to witness
pray-sing "Lord lay some soul upon my heart"
review I P. 3:15; Mt. 28:19
grow in love for Savior, others
listen to Peter Ng, others

shield of faith

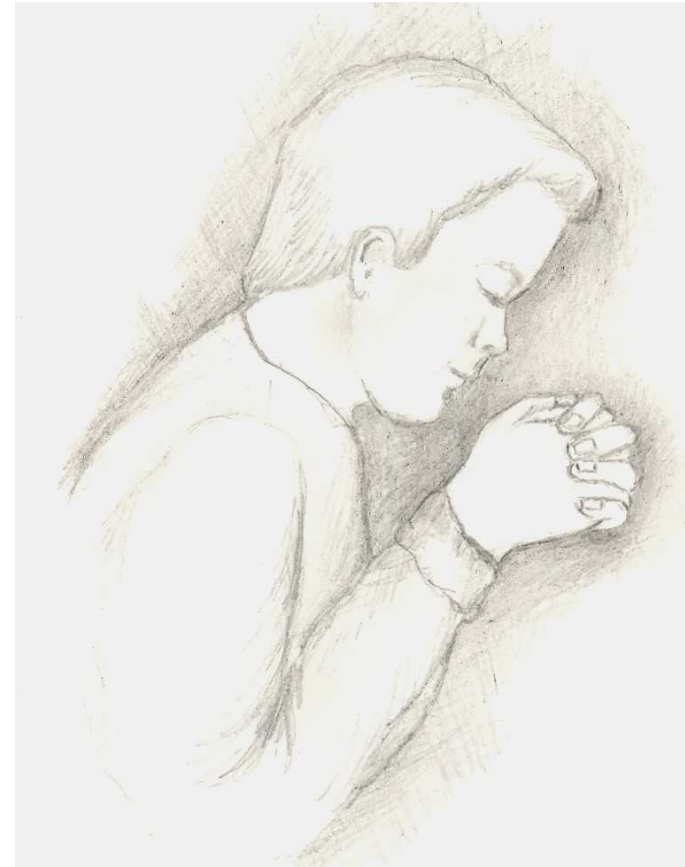
let the great truths consciously percolate in your mind
meditate on the scripture as a whole
locate specific scriptures to refute specific attacks
identify and cast off demonic thinking

helmet of salvation

pray to the Lord of salvation and God of hope
Rom. 15:4, 5, 13
think in terms of future deliverance and maturity (They are coming!)
talk with people of faith and hope
eschew devilish thinking
think only encouraging thoughts

sword of the Spirit

pray for Holy Spirit's enlightenment, direction, and confidence
search the scriptures for specific attack verses
listen to others use it



The Trojan Horse of Spiritual Warfare: Psychology

Six Cancerous Tenets of Psychology and Their Antidotes

1. Atheism

“There is no God. Ps. 53:1

“And this is [health] eternal, that they might know...God” Jn. 17:3
“fools...did not like to retain God in their imaginations” Rom. 1:22, 28

2. Relativism: the lack of ultimate truth

“Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” Jdg. 21:15

“Jesus Christ is the truth” Jn. 14:6
“Thy word is truth.” Jn. 17:17

3. Non-immortality of the human soul

“and when they heard of the resurrection...some mocked” Acts 17:32

“It is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment.” Heb. 9:27

4. Materialism: disregard of the Holy Spirit’s involvement

“except I see...I will not believe” Jn, 20:25

“we...are changed...by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Cor. 3:18

5. Humanism: the esteeming of self over God

“lovers of their own selves” II Tim. 3:1

“take up your cross daily.” Lk. 9:23
“in me dwelleth no good thing.” Rom. 7:18

6. Ability of man to save himself

“works of righteousness which we have done...saved us” Titus 3:5

“Whosoever shall save his life shall lose it” Mk. 8:35

“Christian psychology” is a monstrosity, because you cannot mix light and darkness, good and evil (II Cor. 6:14, 15).

A Plan to Fortify Your Soul Against Satan’s Attack

At the Identified Weak Spot of a Tendency of a Conscientious Christian to Self-Condensation and a Lacking of Confidence in the Lord With much help from Battle Tactician William Gurnall

Be Not Ignorant of Satan’s Device of Accusation

Satan’s tactic (plan) is to deliver his accusation darts as though they are missiles of the Holy Spirit. He knows a shot from God’s cannon wounds deeply; therefore, when he attacks a conscientious (thoughtful) Christian, he forges God’s name on the missile before he fires it.

Satan is a clever investigator; he closely observes the relationship between you and your God. Sooner or later he will catch you tardy in some duty or faulty in a service. He knows you are conscious of your shortcomings and that the Spirit of God also will show distaste for them. So he draws up a lengthy indictment (list of accusations), raking up all the aggravations he can think of, then serves his warrant on you as though sent from God.

Take heart: you can discern the spiteful, destructive accusations of the devil from the painful, but helpful chastenings of the Lord.



Identify the Enemy

Use the following helps in resisting the enemy.

1. Remember that He who has begun a good work in you will finish it.

Does the accusation contradict any work done already in your heart by the Holy Spirit? Satan's purpose in emphasizing your sin and your not measuring up is to try to unsaint you, and persuade you that you are only a hypocrite. "Oh," hisses Satan, "now you have shown your true colors! See that horrid stain on your jacket – what other saint ever committed such a sin or had such inadequacy or felt like that? Where is the fruit of joy and peace in assurance, and where is deep satisfaction in your life? Your life is a sham. There is no way you could be a Christian. God doesn't love you, you're not one of His."

And with a single blow Satan dashes all in pieces. The whole mansion of grace which God has been building many years in your soul and all the special comforts the Holy Spirit has brought are blown down by one gust from his malicious mouth. He leaves your life a shambles, and tells you it is your own fault.

Do not despair. Resist the devil, and pacify your fears with the precious truth summarized in Philippians 1:6: once the Spirit of God has begun a sanctifying work, causing you to hope in His mercy, He never will nor can bring contrary news to your soul.

2. Do not begrudge the grace of God.

Are you begrudging the pardoning grace of God (Rom. 8:35-39)? If we refuse His love and grace, what hope for us is there? Remember, God is love; continue to learn to accept and expect the love of God. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us" (I John 4:10).

The devil wants to rob you of your joy and peace, so don't let him! Satan designs every temptation to bring as much discomfort as possible to the saint, hoping to rob him of his peace and create self-doubts about his sincerity.

3. Do not confuse worry with conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Can the accusation be fittingly exposed as a generalized enticement to worry and fear more than a clear exposure of a specific broken command of God? God's strivings with us are a loving contest. If God sees us running at a gallop headlong to our ruin, He sends His Spirit to pull us back before we destroy ourselves. This is the same kind of strife you would witness if someone were attempting to take his own life and another intervened and struggled to take the weapon from him. Are you running headlong to some sin or personal aggrandizement (self-promotion)? Then take that resistance to your sin as divine. But, if what you are experiencing is a generalized sense of guilt, and you've looked to the Lord for light, but there is no clear, specific action for you to take, then discern that vague, nagging resistance to be of Satan. "You are not humble enough," he accuses seeking to cultivate the weeks of self-condemnation to shake out the assurance of salvation. He will demand to know the exact hour of your salvation; and why you don't understand certain passages, and the doctrine of justification.

Even as a child of light, you who are a Christian will be in darkness for a time(s). When you find yourself in a heavy fog of tribulation or distress, never accuse God foolishly of the enemy's mischief, not charge yourself with belonging to the enemy, nor doubt the love of God, or blame your wife.

4. Do not confuse temptation to sin with committing of sin.

Are you mistaking the gurglings of the sin nature for willful acts of sin? The best of saints have the sewage of corruptions within them which at least periodically bubbles up thoughts and feelings of lust, self-interest, envy, unbelief, pride, and inadequacy.

5. Do not confuse assurance of salvation with salvation itself.

Have you mistaken the assurance of salvation for salvation itself? These are two different things. Assurance can be lost; salvation cannot be lost.

Resist at the Point of Attack

Stand strong against Satan during his attack by preserving and enhancing the hope of your salvation, which is promised through Christ's atoning sacrifice. If you seem unable to grasp assurance through reflecting on God's past acts of mercy and spiritual growth in your life, then employ the following five-part resistance.

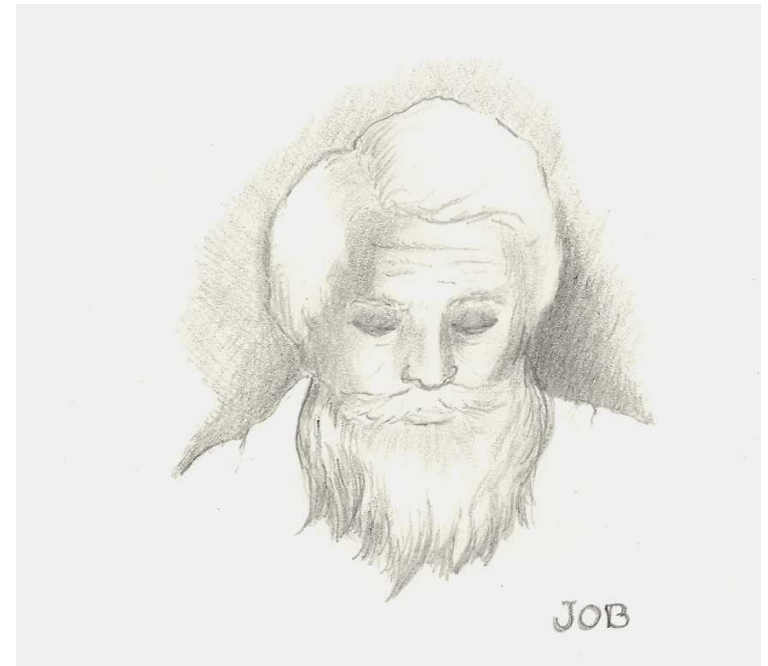
1. Renew your call unto the Lord for salvation. In this way, the very accusations Satan uses to drive you away from the Lord, instead draw you closer to Him.
2. If he still haunts you with fears of your spiritual condition, then pray, and ask God for a new copy of your assurance, which you have misplaced. Remember that your salvation and assurance are two different things. Salvation is once-and-for all, eternal. Assurance of that salvation can come and go.
3. If your soul is so buffeted that you still cannot hear God's reassuring answer above Satan's howling, sail away from the enemy and head straight for God's harbor. Renew to your mind those scriptures, promises, and passages which in the past have comforted, encouraged, and strengthened your heart. Perhaps it is Ps. 56:3, 4, and 13 or Ps. 42:5, 11, and 43:5.
4. And if Satan continues to hound you, call in help. Telling a trusted Christian friend of your struggles often brings relief. Satan knows this too well, so in order more freely to rifle the soul of its peace and comfort, he frightens it into silence.
5. Finally, remember that as a bee only dwells on a flower with nectar, so a Christian should entertain only those thoughts which spiritually refresh.



Having Done All, Stand

He is a foolish man indeed who, knowing what an accuser the devil is, will provide him with ammunition for his charge and/or will not strengthen his fortification against that accuser. The devil cannot harm you unless you let him take advantage of some weakness in you, such as a tendency to self-doubt more than God-trust. Satan will mercilessly use this knowledge to his advantage and your despair. Learn to say with Job: My God-given righteousness and salvation and hope I hold fast and will not let it go. My God-worked mind, will, and desire to please Him will not be satanically exploited as long as I live.

If you have confessed your sin nature (which remains in you and bubbles up its corruptions) and all known acts of sin, and you are not knowingly practicing sin, reckon the accusations to be of the accuser, and resist him and them.



Hymn of Spiritual Warfare

- # 9 His Loving-Kindness (vs. 3, 4)
- # 36 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
- # 38 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (v. 4)
- # 60 Shepherd of Eager Youth (v. 1)
- # 73 May Jesus Christ Be Praised (v. 3)
- # 75 Abide With Me (v. 3)
- # 83 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 3)
- # 131 Life Up, Lift Up Your Voices Now (v. 4)
- # 133 The Strife Is O'er (v. 2)
- # 140 Open Wide, Ye Doors (v. 1)
- # 153 What If It Were Today? (v. 2)
- # 173 Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord (vs. 2, 3)
- # 181 Onward, Christian Soldiers (vs. 1, 2)
- # 186 The Church's One Foundation (v. 3)
- # 216 Look to the Lamb of God (v. 2)
- # 256 It Is Well with My Soul (v. 2)