

Ephesians 6:10-12, Romans 14:7-12

Satan does exist—our broken world testifies to his reality. Those who ignore him do so at their own risks. This is also true of Christians, because we are all at war against him.

Spiritual warfare is real and personal; Satan crafts specific attacks for each of us. Though he cannot steal a believer's spirit from God, he can and does harass us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

Satan wants to defeat our witness for Christ so we can't live a victorious Christ-centered life.

Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy. He observes our strong and weak points to determine the best areas for attack.

He springs a trap. Among his most deceptive tactics is hiding behind familiar faces in order to misguide our anger. For example, he may tempt a husband to make an unwise financial decision that angers his wife and leaves her feeling insecure. But the husband is not her enemy—he needs her love and forgiveness.

The enemy is always Satan and his legion of demons. Our enemy is not people.

The first rule of warfare is to locate one's enemy, and thanks to Scripture, we can. The Bible also contains an important assurance: "Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:1-6).

The combined forces of hell cannot equal the supernatural power of a single believer. We have Christ living within us—the same Christ who was triumphant on the cross and whose final victory was over Satan. Through Him, we can conquer Satan and win our unseen battles. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert and Satan came to tempt him – Jesus quoted word of God. We must know the word.

Beloved, the devil wants you to keep worrying over your shortcomings, thinking the race is impossible, so that you will become discouraged, oppressed, depressed and drop out.

It is certain that we will stumble at times because the race is going to continue until our Lord returns. But we must always get on our feet and continue moving on. Fight the good fight.

God's Word speaks of overcoming: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world" (1 John 5:4-7). "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Revelation 21:7).

To overcome is to "conquer and get the best of all temptations and obstacles."

What are our obstacles? Our failures to be Christlike, our temper, bitterness, unforgiveness, adultery, selfishness, our ruling over others in sexual abuse, physical abuse, verbal abuse and neglect, idolatry, covetousness, and lies to God, ourselves and others.

God said "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have not understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee" (Psalm 32:8-9).

In these two brief verses God gives us a great lesson concerning guidance. We can build a great faith upon the foundation of knowing that He is willing to lead and guide us in everything.

Yet the Word of God says a person may be a believer who enjoys all the spiritual benefits of being a child of God and yet remain a stubborn mule when it comes to submitting to His ways of guiding and leading.

David wrote, "My sin is ever before me" (Psalm 51:3). This man was exposed before the whole world as an adulterer and a murderer. He also wrote, "For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. . . . I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long" (Psalm 38:4-6).

What if David had worried and fretted over his failures? NO He repented wholeheartedly and therefore he could say, "Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness"

(Psalm 30:11).

The fastest way to get rid of "a sense of unworthiness" is to trust in Christ's forgiveness. And He is ready to forgive at all times: "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee"

(Psalm 86:5).

There are many people who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and yet continue to live in rebellion against Him. Why is it that some individuals who claim to follow the Son of God refuse to serve Him?

The simple answer is that salvation is only part of the picture. The eternal destiny of anyone who receives the Lord is sealed forever—he will go to heaven. But salvation doesn't guarantee a godly or fruitful life here on earth.

The will of the Father is that we live under the lordship of His Son. That means we must submit to Jesus as the one in charge of our life. Daily decisions and leadership of those under our care ultimately belong in God's hands, not our own—Christ provides us with the guidance and direction. Though we'll sometimes make mistakes, we need to remember that God's grace is for imperfect people. Church is for imperfect people.

The problem is that we often desire to give Him dominion over just certain areas of our life. For example, too many of us want Him out of our finances, out of our schedule, or out of our career. But when we are lying in a hospital bed, which of us will tell Jesus to stay out of our health? So ask yourself, Is Jesus the Lord of my life or not?

Prayer: Almighty God, Son of God and Holy Spirit, Give us a desire to obey you in all things, help us to be thankful in all things and help us to share your love with others.