


Our Battle is Spiritual




Ephesians 6:12

“For our *struggle* is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

- Life is a constant struggle.
 - Wrestle (*KJ, Amp*); Fight (*GNT, NCV*); Struggle (*NASB, NIV*)
 - Why? **Romans 8:18-21** “the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay” (*NIV*)

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- “Our” – the person who is “in Christ”
 - Notice that Paul here is making a subtle, but crucial distinction between two world views:
 - Those “of the world” who have a secular world view don’t and can’t understand the true nature of the battle – **1 Corinthians 2:6-6,14**
 - We who are in Christ, who are “in the world” but not of the world, who have a Christ-centered world view have been given the true nature of the battle – **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

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“A spiritual kingdom lies all about us, enclosing us, altogether within reach of our inner selves, waiting for us to recognize it. God Himself is there waiting our response to His presence. This eternal world will come alive to us the moment we begin to reckon upon its reality.”


(Tozer, The Pursuit of God)

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“Say ... what’s a mountain goat doing way up here in a cloud bank?”

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- We have not been set free to do as we please, but to truculently battle the constant lies of Satan.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23; 1 Peter 1:17-19** – we have been bought with a price, do not become slaves to men!
 - Acts 20:28-31** – lies of Satan through savage wolves
 - 2 Peter 2:1-3** – lies of Satan through false teachers
 - Colossians 2:8, 20-3:2** – lies of Satan through deception

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“The new philosophies and new social systems cannot draw up their own plans for emancipating mankind without still further enslaving mankind. They cannot carry out even what they regard as the most ordinary reforms without instantly imposing the most extraordinary restrictions.... What a man can believe depends upon his philosophy, not upon the clock of the century....the point is not whether it was given in our time, but whether it was given in answer to our question.”

(Chesterton, Orthodoxy)

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4. The secularist sees people, we are to understand that the real battle is against spiritual forces.

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** – we are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God!
- **Acts 17:11** – examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so!
- **Romans 14** – If we are going to be the aroma of Christ to a dying world, we have got to get past people!

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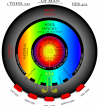


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- We are vulnerable to spiritual attacks in three realms:
 1. **Our minds** – Through the channel of the mind – the intellect – **the Devil makes his appeal to human pride.**
 2. **Our wills** – Through the channel of our will – the things we choose to do or say – **the Devil makes his appeal to pleasure, since we are essentially sensuous beings.**
 3. **Our emotions** – Through the channel of emotions, **the Devil works on human fears.**




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5. Practical homework against Satan’s lies:

1. Damage assessment:
 - **Hebrews 4:2-3; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Luke 8**
2. We must constantly remind ourselves that we have been crucified with Christ! It is no longer we who live, but Christ:
 - **Galatians 2:20**
3. We walk and live by faith alone:
 - **Galatians 2:21; 3:1-3; Hebrews 12:2**
4. Our senses must be trained to discern good and evil:
 - **Matthew 4; Hebrews 5:12-14: Maturity: time, written/Living Word, practice!**
 - **Philippians 2:14:** Quit grumbling and complaining.
5. We must constantly battle what is real and what is not!
 - **2 Corinthians 4:18:** The spiritual realm is ultimate reality
 - **Ephesians 6:12:** Our struggle is spiritual, not with people!
6. Our minds must be in a constant state of transformation:
 - **Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:8**

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“It is true the Devil can never totally defeat a Christian. Those who are genuinely the Lord’s, who are born again, who have come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, are delivered from total defeat. We do not hesitate to emphasize that! The Devil can never get us back into the position of unconscious control which he once exercised over us, as he does over the rest of the world. But the Devil can demoralize the Christian. He can frighten us, make us miserable, and defeat us in many ways. He can make us weak and barren and unfruitful in the things of God. It is quite possible, at least periodically, to be more miserable as a Christian than you ever were before.”

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*)

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5. Practical homework against Satan’s lies:

“The goal of the Devil is always to produce discouragement, confusion, or indifference. Wherever we find ourselves victims of a state of confusion and uncertain discouragement and defeat, or an indifferent and an attitude toward life or others, we have already become prey to the wiles of the Devil.”

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*)