

## Be Strong in the Lord!



When a ship goes to sea, there are *three essential* questions its captain must address:

1. Why are we out here?
2. How do we keep from bumping into other ships?
3. How do we keep from sinking?

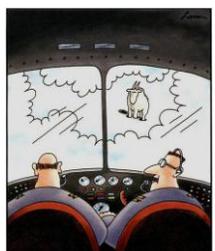
## Be On The Alert

**Ephesians 6:12** – “our”

1. “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 2:6-8,14**
    - We who are in Christ, who are *in the world* but not of the world, who have a Christ-centered worldview have been given the true nature of the battle – **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

“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)*

## Be On The Alert



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

## Be On The Alert

**Ephesians 6:12** – “struggle”

2. Life is a constant struggle.
  - **Wrestle (KJ, Amp); Fight (GNT, NCV); Struggle (NASB, NIV)**
    - “Stripped to its essentials, life is nothing more or less than a long struggle, a never-ending wrestling match” (Stedman)
    - “There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan” (CS Lewis)
  - **Why? Romans 8:18-21** “the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay” (NIV)

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**Ephesians 6:12** – “struggle”

2. Life is a constant struggle.
  - “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)*

## Be On The Alert



**Ephesians 6:12** – “our struggle”

### 3. We are to fight!

- We (can) and are to battle the constant lies of Satan. How?
  1. Be on the alert!
    - **1 Peter 5:8** – sober (*nepho*)
      - is used only figuratively meaning to be free from every form of mental and spiritual “intoxication”.
      - The idea then is to be calm and collected in spirit, circumspect, self-controlled, well-balanced, clear headed.
      - Be Spirit-possessed under all circumstances.
        - **1 Thess 5:6; 2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Peter 1:13; 1 Peter 4:7**
    - Be aware of what is happening and pursuing a course with calm and steady aim.
    - Be self-controlled, and see things without the distortion caused by worry, fear, and their related attitudes.

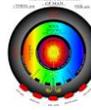
## Be On The Alert



**Ephesians 6:12** – “our struggle”

### 3. We are to fight!

- We (can) and are to battle the constant lies of Satan. How?
  2. Know how Satan attacks!
    - 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.**
        - **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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  2. Know how Satan attacks!

“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 attitude toward life or others, we have already become prey to the wiles of the Devil.”

(Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*)

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**Ephesians 6:12** – “our struggle”

### 3. We are to fight!

- We (can) and are to battle the constant lies of Satan. How?
  3. Put on the full armor of God!
    - Truth
    - Righteousness
    - Peace
    - Faith
    - Hope
    - Word of God
    - Prayer
  4. Stand!