

Finally...Get Ready For War!

The Rules Of War:

Ephesians 6:10-13 1 Peter 5:8-11 2 Timothy 2:1-3 1 John 5:19 Romans 8:31-39 1 John 4:4 Luke 10:18
James 4:7 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Luke 4:14-21

- ✓ This isn't about **avoiding** the battle, but **standing** in it.
- ✓ If I don't know I'm **in a battle**, I've already **lost**.
- ✓ If I don't know my **enemy**, I'm already **defeated**.
- ✓ Know your **King**, and who you **fight** with.

7 Tools Guaranteed For Success:

Ephesians 6:13-18 Revelation 12:10 John 8:31-47

- ① **Belt of Truth:**
- ② **Breastplate of Righteousness:**
- ③ **Boots of the Gospel:**
- ④ **Shield of Faith:**
- ⑤ **Helmet of Salvation:**
- ⑥ **Sword of the Spirit:**
- ⑦ **Communication with Command:**

Food for Thought

for the week of June 14, 2015
(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This weekend we heard about our need to be alert to the fact that we need to resist our enemy who prowls around seeking to devour us. How could the following passages help us in our motivation and confidence in standing firm against the devil?

Romans 16:20

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. [NIV]

1 John 4:4

⁴ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. [NIV]

James 4:7

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. [NIV]

John 8:44

⁴⁴ You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. [NIV]

What insight from these verses is most helpful to you in fighting the spiritual battle?

2. Jesus went through a significant spiritual battle early in his ministry and it was recorded in Matthew 4:1-11 so we can learn from it. What principles from this weekend's teaching do you see Jesus using to combat Satan?

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. [NIV]

What new insights about the spiritual battle do you see in this passage?

3. A big part of finding victory in the spiritual battle we all face is understanding how our enemy works. As we learn more about the devil, we'll be better prepared to understand his schemes and be able to resist him. What do the following verses tell us about who the devil is and how he likes to operate?

Job 1:6-2:10

⁶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

⁹ "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. ¹⁰ "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. ¹¹ But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

¹² The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁹ when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

²⁰ At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
may the name of the LORD be praised."

²² In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

2 On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it."

³ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."

⁴ "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. ⁵ But now stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."

⁶ The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. ⁸ Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

⁹ His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

¹⁰ He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. *[NIV]*

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹² How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!

¹³ You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to the heavens;

I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;

I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."

¹⁵ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
to the depths of the pit. *[NIV]*

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. *[NIV]*