



THE
BATTLE
OF THE
AGES



Written By
Rev. John Marinelli

Copyright
20106-Rev. John Marinelli
PO Box 831413 Ocala Fl. 34483

All Rights Reserved

Preface

I take pen in hand to formulate bible truths, personal experience and comments from noteworthy individuals in regard to ,”The Battle of the Ages” which is to be understood to be between God and His enemies over the souls of mankind.

My purpose is to enlighten the reader as to said battle, educate on the enemy and expose the strategies use to capture and/or destroy the human soul. I also have specific goals that I will hopefully attain. They are as follows:

1. To bring to light the weapons of our warfare.
2. To educate on how to use these weapons.
3. To reveal specific Godly strategies that always win.
4. To provide a clear rationale for why such a battle exists, how it came to be and it’s ultimate end.
5. To establish a foundation from which a believer can build a life and destiny through God.



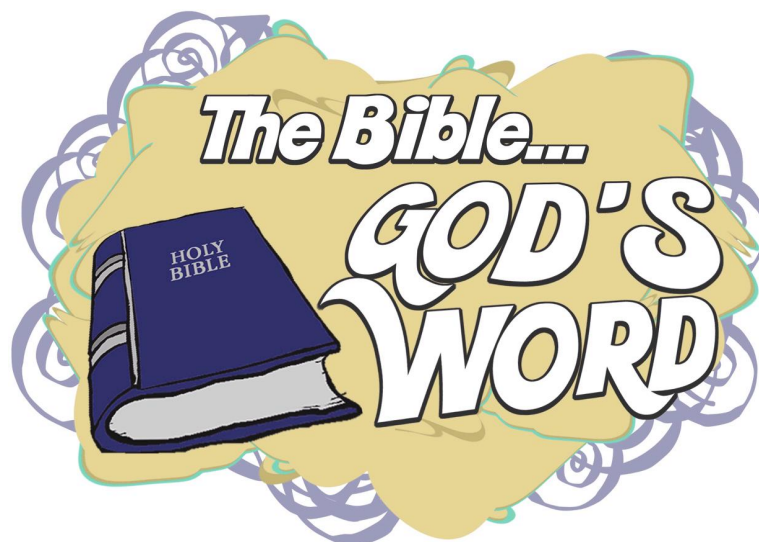
Introduction

The greatest battle of all times is the battle for the souls of mankind. It is a life and death struggle for every human being. It crosses ethnic groups, geographical borders, social status, and all other lines that segment people into different levels. No one is exempt. We are all targets for the enemy of God.

If you think this is not true, read **I Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

This eBook is designed to expose our enemy and his tricks so we do not fall prey to his dominance and subsequent control. We will be looking at God’s original plan for man and how Satan destroyed it. We will also be looking at God’s provision for man after he lost his way.

The King James Version of the Bible will be the main source for knowledge and revelation as it is the inspired Word of God, written for our edification. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” **II Timothy 3:16**



The Enemy

Of Our Souls

Peter describes our enemy as, *“your adversary the devil”* as he writes his second letter to various churches in Asia Minor sometime between 64 AD and 68 AD. He does not say Nero or the Romans in general are their enemy. Instead, he points his finger directly at the devil and tells them that this evil intenty is their adversary.

An adversary, according to the dictionary is, “a person, group, or force that opposes or attacks; opponent; enemy; foe.”

The bible calls Satan by many different names, including the devil, but he is still the same sinister opponent that we have to face in battle every waking moment. Here’s a list for your review:

Accuser

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the *accuser of our brethren*, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’” **Revelation 12:10**

Adversary

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” **1 Peter 5:8**

Angel of light

“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” **II Corinthians 11:14**

Antichrist

“And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” **1 John 4:3**

Beelzebub

“Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, ‘this fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.’” **Matthew 12:24**

Belial

“And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?” II **Corinthians 6:15**

Deceiver

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” **Revelation 12:9**

Devil

“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” **1 John 3:8**

Dragon

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” **Revelation 12:9**

Enemy

“The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.” **Matthew 13:39**

Evil One

“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.” **John 17:15**

Father of Lies

“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” **John 8:44**

God of This Age

“Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” **2 Corinthians 4:4**

Lawless One

“8. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 9. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10. and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” II **Thessalonians 2:8-10**

Leviathan

“In that day the LORD with His severe sword, great and strong, Will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan that twisted serpent; And He will slay the reptile that is in the sea.” **Isaiah 27:1**

Liar

“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” **John 8:44**

Lucifer

"12. How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

13. For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'" **Isaiah 14:12-14**

Man of Sin

"3. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4. who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." **2 Thessalonians 2:3,4**

Murderer

"44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." **John 8:44**

Prince of The Power of The Air

"1. And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2. in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience." **Ephesians 2:1,2**

Roaring Lion

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." **1 Peter 5:8**

Rulers of The Darkness

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." **Ephesians 6:12**

Ruler of This World

“31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” **John 12:31,32**

Satan

“And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.” **Mark 1:13**

Serpent of Old

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” **Revelation 12:9**

Son of Perdition

“3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” **2 Thessalonians 2:3,4**

Tempter

“Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’” **Matthew 4:3**

Thief

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **John 10:10**

Wicked One

“Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.” **Ephesians 6:16**

This list of names for Satan has been taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

There may be other names for Satan in the Bible. This is a partial list on the Internet developed by Nora Roth, a bible student. I offer her list because it is very accurate.

It should be evident by now, from all the names, that our enemy is bent on killing us or at best, keeping us from learning the truth about God and His love. These names form a portrait of evil. However, they also reveal how Satan operates.

It's like we have been given the playbook of the opposing team so we can learn their plays and develop a defense against them. Here's what I see:

1. We will have to deal with lies that are made against us.
2. We will be accused day and night by evil forces that watch our every move.
3. We will be tempted with stuff that appeals to our own lust and fallen nature.
4. We will be fighting deception on every hand
5. We will see the truth becomes a lie and the lie accepted as truth in our society.
6. We will have to guard our hearts and protect our stuff against a masterful thief that stalks us day and night.
7. We will have to exercise a lot of faith to keep from being hurt by “fiery darts” being hurled by the Wicked One.
8. We will have to wrestle against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places who are bent on our destruction.



The Devil's Crowd

It is true that our battle is with demons who are spiritual beings bent on our destruction. However, the devil also works through people. I call them, "The Devil's Crowd" This group consists of folks that deny Jesus as coming in the flesh. They are those that the Bible calls, "Antichrists". They support abortion, same sex marriage, child pornography, wife swapping, and all the other liberal agenda currently being pushed in our society.

Sadly enough, these folks are in many instances, our parents, kids, neighbors, political officials and co-workers. Satan uses them to spread his Anti-Christ gospel message.

My wife, just for the fun of it, searched the Internet for crime in our area. She found all sorts of evil going, all within one mile from our home. Now that's scary. However, Satan will use anyone that is not on guard spiritually to attack another. He has a host of demons that do nothing but make suggestions to us to be a certain way or do inappropriate things from off color jokes to hostile acts.

Evil Spirits To Watch For

People will reflect the evil spirit that controls them. Here are a few to watch for. You've seen them before but didn't know that they were evil spirits. We say, this person has a spirit of: Jealousy, Dominance, Suicide, Murder, Homosexuality, Criticism, Anger, and so forth.

I know that the deeds of the flesh portray the same things but when you see more than a passing attitude, you can rest assured that there is probably a demon behind it. They drive the individual to over react and display their own evil nature. It's how they live. It's through those who they control. The major sign that shows a demonic attachment is Abnormality, Excessive or Extreme.

I guess it's clear that we are truly in a life and death battle with Satan and our eternal soul hangs in the balance.



The Battle

The battleground, where all the fighting takes place, is in your mind. You may be on a playground, at work, with family or friends but victory or defeat is all about how you think. **Listen to what Paul told the early church.**

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” **Romans 12:2**

Here the voices of the Old Testament Prophets

“And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: **for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.**” 1st Samuel 17:47

“And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt go out to **battle: for God is gone forth before thee** to smite the host of the Philistines.” I Chronicles 14:15

“Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, **the Lord mighty in battle.**” Psalm 24:8

“Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of **battle:** and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart.” Isaiah 42:25

“Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;” Jeremiah 51:20

There is some good news so don't get too depressed.

First, The battle is the Lords. “ Thus saith the Lord unto you, be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.” II Chronicles 20:15 God wants us to know that He has everything under control.

Secondly, God has given us His amour to wear so we don't get hurt. “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the

wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ...**Ephesians 6:10-18**

Thirdly, *Jesus has already defeated every evil power.* “ And having despoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” **Colossians 2:15** The victory was at the cross where He died as a sacrifice for sin. “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.” **Romans 8:3**

Finally, *God wants us to walk in the Spirit so we do not fulfill the deeds of the flesh.* “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” **Galatians 5:16** The deeds of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5. It is the flesh that causes us all the problems.

Paul tells us in **Romans 8** that living in the flesh is to be carnally minded and that cannot be blessed of God or favored in any way. It brings only death to our souls. God is in the business of bringing life not death to our souls.

A sobering thought...this evil nature that is seen in Satan, who is our mortal enemy, has somehow manifested his nature in us. The deeds of the flesh are identical to the personality of the devil. How can this be? God did not create us this way.

The Creation of Man, His Fall And Restoration

“²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” **Genesis 1:26-28**

Note that God created man in His image and likeness. What do we know about the likeness and image of God? Only this...it is a Holy Image and a Righteous likeness. (**Galatians 5:22**) There is no sin in Him. Yet man is all of a sudden filled with another image...that of Satan. Paul tells us all about what really happened to Adam and how it affected our destiny.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” **Romans 5:12**

Adam was a prototype, the 1st of many to come. However, with his disobedience came sin instead of Holiness. Instead of righteousness flowing from Adam to his descendants, sin overtook them all. Instead of the image of God remaining in Adam and being duplicated in his descendants, the nature and character of Satan filled the souls of man. Paul refers to Christ as the 2nd Adam. “And so it is written, the first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.” **I Corinthians 15:45**

Some will disagree with me about Adam falling from God’s grace and creating a world of sin. They will say that we are all children of God. However **Romans 8:14** tells us, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

There is another logical argument for the fall of man. It is in Genesis. It would be wrong to say that God created man in His own image, verse 1:26, and that image was both good and evil. To say such a thing is to say that God is also the devil, which is ludicrous. God is pure and morally righteous. He does not change. There is no darkness in Him. That means that man had to change. He chose to disobey God and lost his innocence. Instead of God’s image, he accepted the image of Satan.

Here’s how that all happened, according to the bible. It’s recorder in **Genesis Chapter three**, “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” **2**The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3**but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ” **4**“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5**“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Note the lie that Satan tells Eve. The lie is three-fold

1. “You will not surely die”
2. “You will be like God”
3. “You will know good and evil”

They were already like God, in that...they bore His image and likeness. They were not supposed to know evil. It was not in God’s plan for man. What really happened was they knew evil by nature but lost the ability to know good.

Death was swift and sure but not physical, only spiritual. Physical came later. The Spirit’s breath put into Adam was taken away and therefore it could not pass on to his descendants. That’s why the New Testament says we must be, “Born Again”.

Satan always tells lies to deceive us. If we buy the lie, we live out that destiny. If, on the other hand, we know the truth, it will set us free to shape our own destiny in accordance with God’s will.

Knowing the truth is the greatest weapon we can have and use against evil influences. If you are not sure of what is truth, read the Bible. It is full of God’s Word. Here’s an example of how to use it to defeat Satan.

The enemy says to you, in the form of a thought that pops into your head, “You can rob a store and get the needed cash to buy that thing you’ve always wanted” “If no one sees you, you’re Scott Free” “That company is insured anyway and will not miss what you steal” A simple declaration of truth will dispel the lies and keep your mind in focus with God’s Will. Here’s the declaration, **“Thou Shalt not Steel”** The truth of God’s Word will always dispel the lie and expose its source.

So Adam fell from God’s grace when he disobeyed God. His transgression was so bad that God could not fix it without violating man’s free will to choose his own destiny. Adam chose to experience evil and he did...and so did we. However, there’s always a, “But God” in every Divine story.



Man Is Restored By God

But God didn't leave Adam and Eve to a hell-bound destiny. He, from before the foundation of the world, had a plan to redeem His greatest creation. The apostle John records Jesus as He tells Nicodemus, a religious leader, the plan of redemption. **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

It's important to note that salvation is available/given to every, "**Whosoever**" that believes. All that is necessary is to believe that God sent Jesus, His only Son to redeem mankind. Jesus is the only way to God and that is through the, "Born Again" experience.

Just, "One Way To God?" True or False?

It is hard for most folks that are not "Born Again" to understand why there is just one way to God, yet it is true. There is only one way and that is through Jesus Christ. The Bible is our source to prove that the one-way doctrine is valid. **Acts 4:12** says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Jesus is the only way to attain salvation. All the world religions cannot save us. Joining a church or specific faith cannot save us. It must be an acknowledgment of our sin, our cry before the throne of God for forgiveness, and our invitation for Jesus to come into our hearts and save us. His name is the only one that can get us through death into eternal life.

Here are a few scriptures that support the only "One-Way" doctrine.

1. ...There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (**I Timothy 2:5-6**)
2. ...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved... (**Acts 16:31**)
3. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, THOU

SHALT BE SAVED. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **(Romans 10:9-10)**

The skeptic would say, "You mean to tell me that all the religions of the world are wrong and only Christianity is the one true religion?" Remember, Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship born out of love between man and the one true and living God. There is no one true religion. Religion, in itself, will not get us to God. It is the blood of Christ that unlocks the door and our confession of faith in Jesus that makes it all happen. **(John 14:6)**

Why is Jesus the only way to God? ...Because God planned it that way. He set the penalty for sin, which was death. The soul that sinneth, it shall die. **(Ezekiel 18:20)** In fact, Jesus was the slain Lamb of God before the foundation of the world. **(Ephesians 1:3-7)**

Jesus Himself said, as recorded in **John 14:6**, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh to the Father but by Me". Christianity states that the God of the Bible is the only true God and salvation is only possible by accepting Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son as Savior and Lord. **II Corinthians 5:21** says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

God validated His Son as the only way in multiple ways so we could be assured that Jesus was indeed the only way to Him. Here are some to consider.

1. He claimed to be the only way as in John's record 14:6 says but validation came through miracles that proved He was who He claimed to be.
2. Eyewitnesses saw Jesus' miracles and validated them as authentic. Over 500 followers saw Jesus, after His resurrection, and watched Him ascend into heaven.
3. The prophets foretold of His coming, where He would be born, that He would be God in human flesh and lots more...all prophetic statements were realized in Jesus, even those like in Isaiah chapter 53 that were uttered hundreds of years before Jesus came.

4. God Himself validated Jesus as His sole pathway to Him. “While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye Him!”(**Mathew 17:5**)
5. The Apostles lost their homes, wealth, and even their lives preaching the gospel. Would they do that if it were a lie? I don’t think so. They testified to the truth and were willing to die for it if necessary. (**See Foxes Book of Martyrs**)
6. Thousands of Believers, over several centuries have testified of how Jesus helped them and blessed them.
7. I can personally testify that I have seen the hand of the Lord in my life and communicate with Him daily. I know He is the Christ.

The provability that one man could fulfill all prophecies about a Messiah that God Himself said would come, (**Gen. 3:15**), and perform fantastic miracles while here on earth, and be raised from the dead, and ascend into heaven while hundreds looked on is astronomical. But Jesus did just that...fulfilled everything that was foretold about the coming Messiah. He had to be who He said He was and therefore is truly the only way to God.

Question: How does my salvation overcome the attacks of the devil? The answer is in the Bible. God is calling all of us to Himself so we can be set free from sin, death and the wilds of the devil. If we do not rely on Him, we are not blessed and protected.

Here’s a scripture that explains it further. “The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” **Psalm 34:7** The key to being protected is to fear (Reverence) the Lord. When you do, His angel sets up his camp, that is filled with waring angels, all around you. Those that do not believe do not reverence and therefore do not qualify for The Angel of The Lord’s Campfire.

You may be saying, “The bible is just a book and not a final authority. Let’s look at this more closely.

God's Word



is the ruler with which
we measure our lives

The Bible As The Final Authority

I use the Bible as my main source to validate all that I say. But most people, including Christians, do not read the Bible with any regularity and therefore do not know the God of the Bible. They know only what their pastor or others tell them. Here's a brief history lesson.

The history of the Bible starts with a phenomenal account, the creation of all things. It's not one book like many think -- It's an ancient collection of writings, comprised of 66 separate books, written over approximately 1,600 years, by at least 40 distinct authors. The Old Testament contains 39 books written from approximately 1500 BC to 400 BC, and the New Testament contains 27 books written from approximately 40 to 90 AD. The Jewish Bible (*Tanakh*) is the same as the Christian Old Testament, except for its book arrangement. The original Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic, while the original New Testament was written in common Greek.

Starting in about 40 AD, and continuing to about 90 AD, the eye-witnesses to the life of Jesus, including Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and Jude, wrote the Gospels and letters that eventually became the Bible's New Testament. These authors quote from 31 books of the Old Testament. They widely circulated their material so that by about 150 AD, early Christians were referring to the entire set of writings as the "New Covenant." During the 200s AD, the original writings were translated from Greek into Latin, Coptic (Egypt) and Syriac (Syria), and widely disseminated as "Inspired Scripture" throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. In 397 AD, in an effort to protect the scriptures from various heresies and offshoot religious movements, the current 27 books of the New Testament were formally and finally confirmed and "canonized" in the Synod of Carthage.

What I hope you will see from this snapshot of the Bible in history is that God took great pains to validate His Word to man over many years, keeping it clear, and indisputable as the only true source of His revelation. These eyewitness accounts and prophetic revelations all connect to make a complete proof of God's existence, character, power, love, salvation, judgment, compassion, mercy and forgiveness. His entire plan of salvation and the ages to come is all written down so we could benefit from them.

Time and time again I have asked the Lord questions and found the answers in the Bible. I can remember one in particular. I was attending a small Christian fellowship that met in a barn. The leadership was teaching that God's judgment upon America was to come soon and that they could escape it by leaving the states and going to a remote desert-like place in another country. Several families had already moved to this undisclosed location. I was a very young believer and not as knowledgeable as I am now in the scriptures...so I turned to Jesus and asked Him if these people were correct and if I should go with them. Here's what I read during my prayer and Bible reading.

Mathew 24:26 "Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not."

This is just one example of many that God has communicated to me through the Bible. Try it...when you are troubled, confused or worried about life or just need an answer to life's never ending questions, pray and ask Jesus to show you in His Word, the Bible.

The Bible was written under "Inspiration" from the Holy Spirit. The word, "inspire" means "To breathe upon or into something". God revealed Himself through individuals who penned the written word.

As a young Christian, I often witnessed to un-believers, using the Bible as my source. Some of those I talked to told me that the Bible was not a source they would believe. I went to my pastor and asked him what I should do because folks were not open to hear what the Bible had to say. He led me to **Hebrews 4:12** and said. "Use it anyway," for the reasons stated in chapter four. Listen to what it says. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (**Hebrews 4:12**) I did just that and began to see the words of the Bible break down barriers and soften hearts.

I know that anyone who is really seeking God and wants to know about Jesus will find everything in the Bible. Words will leap off the page, bringing fresh revelation, historical facts, wisdom, divine counsel and victory over life's every trial. All you have to do is spend some time every day in prayer and Bible reading.

Tricks of The Devil

Satan has many tricks and plays them on humans all the time. www.beliefnet.com Offers Six tricks or lies that are meant to capture your soul and leave you helplessly void of God's grace. I have chosen five to use in my book. Here they are:

1. That Happiness Is Unattainable

The Devil wants you to stress about things outside of your control so that you don't rely on Christ, the One who strengthens, but that you will rely on the Enemy, the one who will do everything in his power to make you doubt all forms of joy and happiness. He wants you confused, anxious, and even angry about your life circumstances so that you will eventually become distant from God, and rely on your own understanding.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Galleries/6-Things-the-Devil-Will-Trick-You-into-Believing.aspx?p=2#140xM9X7WIWr5FyS.99>

2. That God's Word Isn't Real

The devil wants to trick you into believing the Bible is a collection of myths, in hopes that you will doubt God's Word and even His existence. He also wants you to believe that the Bible, written nearly 3500 years ago is no longer relevant in our modern world because it was written so long ago. But God's Word is real and has real significance. Not only was it written by more than 40 different writers over a 1600-year span with remarkable consistency, it explains life and the human experience in a way no other book has or ever will.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Galleries/6-Things-the-Devil-Will-Trick-You-into-Believing.aspx?p=3#Ai6oWQMIErswSOLI.99>

3. That You Aren't Significant

While God wants you to live a life filled with purpose, the devil wants the opposite. He doesn't want you to think or care about your thoughts, attitude, words or actions and will trick you into believing you aren't significant. If he gets you to believe your life is without purpose, then you will live a life of sin, out of tune with God. But your life is significant. God knew you before you were even born. Remember, He knows the plans He has for you,

plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (**Jeremiah 29:11**).

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Galleries/6-Things-the-Devil-Will-Trick-You-into-Believing.aspx?p=4#jdKQfLADEkhhkJmQK.99>

4. That Gossip Does No Harm, And Your Words Can't Hurt

The devil wants you to spread gossip and bad news so that you will focus on the negative and not believe in God's goodness or His blessings. If he tricks you into thinking gossip does no harm, you will then believe there's nothing wrong in spreading harmful or malicious words which can hurt the people you love, and allow you to develop a negative view of the world around you, which has an impact on all that you do.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Galleries/6-Things-the-Devil-Will-Trick-You-into-Believing.aspx?p=6#O1jqXrjxaOeOZ7Bm.99>

5. That The Physical World Outweighs the Spiritual World

If the devil can get you to believe the physical world is more real than the [spiritual](#) world, he can trick you into pursuing things like money, power and fame and have you believing that materialistic things are more important than being in a relationship with God. If you think this, then you won't seek first the kingdom of God. But there is far more greatness in God's Heavenly Kingdom than any material possession we acquire while in physical form on Earth. Remember, Earth is now. Heaven is forever.

Read more at <http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Galleries/6-Things-the-Devil-Will-Trick-You-into-Believing.aspx?p=7#jdpfcEDktTQbly7P.99>

Weapons of Our Warfare

It's obvious that we need to know what our weapons are and how to use them...so lets look at some spiritual weapons. (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) We will 1st look at the **Armor Of God** as presented in **Ephesians 6:13-17**.

“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14**Stand firm therefore, Having Girded Your Loins With Truth, and Having Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness, **15**and having shod Your Feet With The Preparation of the Gospel of Peace; **16**in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the *evil one*. **17**And take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

So, we have Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Faith, Salvation and the Word of God or Bible...Six weapons, five defensive and one offensive. This represents the full armor of God to be worn and used so that we can resist in the evil day.

The evil day is the hour of temptation when Satan seeks to deceive us and draw us away from God. It is also when fiery darts are flung at us by demons. The deceptions are suggestive in nature that contradict God’s will but seem logical such as, “everybody’s doing it. It must be ok” or “drugs can’t really hurt you.” The fiery darts are insults like, “You’re not good enough”, “Not worth anything”, “Never amount to anything”...all are negative in nature that are meant to cause a low self-esteem, depression and even suicide.

The Sword of the Spirit is really cool because it’s fashioned from over 3,000 promises of God...things like; “You are accepted in the beloved” **Ephesians 1:6**, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” **Galatians 2:20**, “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” **Romans 8:37**

All of Satan’s efforts are designed to establish strongholds in our lives. How many has he established in you? What’s a stronghold? Try these on for size: Over eating, drugs, smoking, anger, homosexuality, pornography, and all of the deeds of the flesh listed in Galatians chapter five. He’ll try and try until he gets you hooked on some sort of vice. If you follow him, he takes you deeper and deeper into it until a stronghold is built which is really an outpost for demonic activity. Not to worry because the Sword of the Spirit can cut that evil stronghold into peaces and bring its efforts to naught.

K. N. O. B. S.

As a young Christian, I learned an acrostic that helped me to remember my primary weapons.

K = Knowledge Of God... “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” **II Corinthians 10:5**

Note: Anything that sets itself against what you know to be true, you cast it down and away from you.

N = Name Of Jesus... “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;” **Philippians 2:10**

Note: We can use our lord’s name to stop the evil attack. Say it out loud if need be...”I cast you out and bind your influence from me, In The Name of Jesus, be gone.

O = Obedience... “And bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” **II Corinthians 10:5**

Note: we are to bring every thought into captivity. In other words...hold every thought against the truth of the Word of God to be sure it is not a deception or trap.

B = Blood Of Christ ...” If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Note: through confession, His blood can cleanse us from our sin. That means when Satan accuses us, we can put it under the blood in confession before the throne of God and know it will fade away. Satan will try to use it anyway but we can stand against it, saying we’ve been forgiven.

S = Sword Of The Spirit... “For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **Hebrews 4:12** **Note:** We can use the Word of God to fight back. It will always win.

Other “Word” Weapons

Consider these:

- **Give No Place To The Devil...** “Neither give place to the devil.” **Ephesians 4:27**

Note: The best thing you can do is do not argue, negotiate, compromise or allow any negative or suggestive thoughts into your mind.

- **Prayer & Praise....** “Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him. ² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.” **Psalm 68:1 & 2**

Note: Prayer always works as a weapon and when you add praise, you have a powerful combination that Satan cannot overcome.

- **Trust In The Lord At All Times...** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Note: Too many folks worry, cry and cuss over their circumstances. Learning to trust requires an absolute allegiance to Jesus, knowing He will direct you in and through every situation.

- **All Things Work Together For Good...** “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” **Romans 8:28**

Note: Here’s a great weapon because its foundation is the knowledge that God has a master plan and He is always working everything together for good in the lives of those who are called to salvation, all those, “Whosoever” of **John 3:16** who love the Lord. If that is you, you can know that God is ever in your background, making thing right.

- **Let The Peace of God Be The Referee...** “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to **the** which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” **Colossians 3:16**

Note: If we can allow the peace of God to rule in our hearts, it will keep out all the clutter that Satan tries to fill our minds with. It's another great weapon in defensive warfare.

- **Stand Fast...** "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" **Galatians 5:1**

Note: With all of the above weapons available to us, we should not fear Satan. He is a defeated foe. He has to steal your power to have any of his own. If we treat him accordingly, as a defeated foe, by standing fast to our confession of faith in Jesus and applying the scriptures against his attacks, we will no doubt remain peaceful, happy and free to serve our Lord.

I am sure that you'll find more weapons. Our salvation set us free from the bondage of sin. Going back into that lifestyle is just not an option. We need to recognize the battle, learn about our enemy and use the weapon of choice to fit the attack. Failing to fight is to lose before you start and settle for a life in captivity.

Fighting Demonic Spirits

When we discuss fighting demonic spirits, it is easy to fall into error. One error is that we begin to believe that there's a demon behind every situation. That is just not so. It is easy to say, "*The devil Made Me Do It*" instead of owning up to our own lust, anger or other failures.

People have a "Free Will" to make decisions and they often times use poor judgment and make wrong decisions that can affect others. Blaming demons is popular because it hides the evil in our own hearts. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it" **Jeremiah 17:9**

Jesus said, "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man, but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man." **Mathew 15:11** So blaming evil forces for what we do is not religiously correct.

The other error in fighting demonic influences is...not believing that demonic activity is real and that it never affects you. Jesus cast out demons. His disciples did also and for centuries the church has faced demonic activity.

Here's a partial list of situations that might indicate that you are under demonic control or attack.

- Thinking thoughts “that are not you.”
- Having sudden depression.
- Having suicidal thoughts.
- Having fits of anger or rage that are unusual for you.
- Feeling hopeless.
- Your pets start acting differently around you.
- Your close friends start questioning your thinking or behavior.
- Excessive fatigue.
- Not being able to do what you know is good or right.
- Feeling like you are being pulled to do the wrong thing.
- Feeling like you are being pressured to do something you don't want to do.
- Hearing voices or thoughts in your head that are negative, persuasive, or commanding you to do something.
- Deep or severe personality changes like fear or wanting to be isolated all the time.
- Suddenly having creepy or scary feelings.
- Recent feelings that an area, like in your house, there is something heavy, depressive or oppressive.
- Feelings of being under attack or threatened when others don't.
- Finding it hard or impossible to pray.
- Finding it harder or impossible to spend time with Christian brothers or sisters.
- Sudden and unexplainable anxiety.
- Sudden development of Lupus or other auto immune system disease.

Some medical problems can cause similar conditions. It could be from a new bad habit or an encounter with a sinful situation or circumstance. If this is true, you know what to do. Repent and move on with your life. Trust Jesus. (The above list is an excerpt from Pastor Thomas of The Joseph Plan World Wide Ministry) ministry@thejosephplan.org

The best way to dispel demonic activity in your life is to call upon the name of the Lord and command that demon to leave you, *in the name of Jesus*. Then draw close to God, through prayer and seek His Divine revelation as to what to do next.

He will most likely send you to the bible to read and listen as He speaks to you from the pages of the bible. You will get all the direction you need to overcome and demonic influence.

Remember, Resist the devil and he will flee from you. To resist is to quote scripture, as Jesus did in the wilderness.

Why Me Lord

If you are like me, you probably said, *“Why Me Lord”* There was a time when I thought I could be neutral, just doing my own thing but still believing in God. The problem with that sort of thinking is that can not be.

We were created to be the image and likeness of God here on this earth. God went to a lot of trouble to create and enact a plan that would accomplish this. With the fall of Adam and the entire human race, we were left with being the image of Satan. Now our “Free Will” choice is to stay with the deeds of the flesh, which is the nature of evil or to be, “Born Again” and receive the Spirit of God. There is no neutral ground.

Joseph Mattera, bishop of Resurrection Church and Christ Covenant Coalition offers some insights that are worthy of our investigation. Here’s what he says... There are some believers who falsely believe that if they have a lot of faith they will not undergo any suffering, severe tests or satanic attacks. Nothing could be further from the truth! Actually, the opposite is true.

First Peter 5:8-9 teaches that Satan roams the earth seeking someone to devour. When we read the context, we can come to the conclusion that the devil's main focus is to thwart, divert, distract and disarm the servants of God who are promoting the rule of God on the earth as it is in heaven. Heaven is the only realm in the universe where everything is perfectly aligned under King Jesus, since the devil was displaced from there (Rev. 12:7-12).

Consequently, when someone on earth wants to bring the influence of the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven, Satan erupts with fear and anger against them since he doesn't want to be thrown out of another place!

This is why it seems as though a person following the will of God will sometimes have the most difficult tests, trials and resistance, as opposed to some saints who are casual seekers of God.

Satan is no dummy, why should he attack a Christian who is a bad example to others and who is already deceived and in his grip? He will focus the most on those who are the biggest threats to his desire, to do a power grab from God over the earth realm! Remember: God gave Adam a commission to have His rule over the whole earth (Gen. 1:28), and immediately after that the devil came and convinced both Adam and Eve to disobey God and abandon their posts as God's vice regents over the earth (Gen. 3:1-8).

Since that time Satan has been jealously attempting to protect his control over the earthly realm he stole through subverting Adam, including its systems of government, commerce, media, the arts, science and education.

Those who attempt to bring God's influence in these realms will most likely experience some of the highest levels of satanic resistance. The apostle Paul had a messenger from Satan follow him everywhere he went that caused riots and persecutions (2 Cor. 13:1-8), only because he was turning the present world system upside down (Acts 17:7).

So, if you are sold out for God, don't be discouraged when you are attacked or allow yourself to be deceived into thinking that the only reason you are in intense spiritual warfare or tribulation is because you may have missed God. It may be the opposite. You are being targeted because you are hitting the divine bull's eye! This is why Paul admonished believers to stand strong in the Lord: "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers and the rulers of darkness in high places" (Ephesians 6:10-13). Notice: Paul said "our struggle" meaning he was including himself in this struggle. Every time there was an open door for ministry he had many adversaries. This is a biblical principle (read 1 Corinthians 16:9).

Do not ever think that just because God is calling you to do something that it will be easy. Jesus did the will of God and He was crucified, and church history tells us Paul was beheaded! It's not how many years we live, but what we do with the years we live that matters!

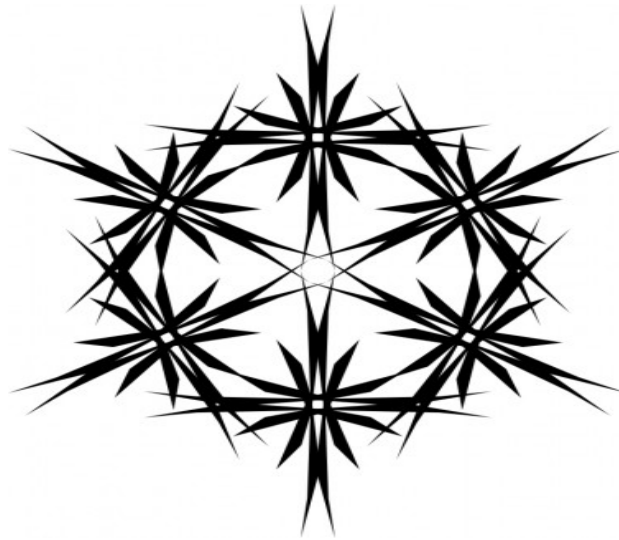
So, what do we do when we are in a time of spiritual warfare that Paul calls "the day of evil" in Ephesians 6:13? Paul tells us in this passage to be strong in the Lord and to stand firm; in other words, do not quit (Eph. 6:10-13).

The apostle Peter also tells us to resist the devil, standing firm in the faith (1 Pet. 5:9). Peter knows firsthand that faith in God is the key to standing firm in the midst of the day of evil because, when he denied Christ three times, Jesus prayed for him that his "faith" would not fail (Luke 22:31-32).

So, do not be afraid when you are in tribulation, because Jesus has already overcome the world (John 16:33)!

Joseph Mattera is overseeing bishop of Resurrection Church and Christ Covenant Coalition, in Brooklyn, New York, and author of numerous books, including [Ruling in the Gates: Preparing the Church to Transform Cities](#). Follow him on [Facebook](#) or visit him online at josephmattera.org.

We are privileged to stand up for our faith and belief in Jesus Christ. We should take every opportunity to share our faith and stand for what is right, no matter what others think.



What To Do Next

The Bible gives us clear instruction on how to keep ourselves free, healthy and happy in a world that is a battleground where Satan seeks to kill, steal and destroy. (John 10:10) Here's a recap of what we can do next to keep our hearts:

Be transformed-...Romans 12:2; Cast down imaginations-...2 Corinthians 10:5; Bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Be spiritually minded-Romans 8:6; Put off the old man-Ephesians 4:22; Be renewed in your mind-Ephesians 4:23; Put on the new man-Ephesians 4:24; Let the mind of Christ be in you- Philippians 5; Let no man beguile you-Colossians 2:18; Let no man spoil you-Colossians 2:8; Be fully persuaded in your mind-Romans 14:5; Do not have a doubtful mind-Luke 12:29; Do not be soon shaken in mind-2 Thessalonians 2:2; Do not Be troubled-2 Thessalonians 2:2; Gird up the loins of your mind-1 Peter 1:13; Be sober-1 Peter 1:13 and Hope to the end for the grace of God-1 Peter.

I am sure you will find more things as you read the scripture but these will make a great starting place. Just remember, God is always with you. He is not mad at you, nor does He expect you to win every time. Your salvation does not hang in the balance. If you fail, He will just pick you up and help you along the way until you can sit, walk and run.

Signs of The End of The Age And The Rise of Satanic Influences

We have all been told that the end of the world is at hand. Hollywood has even made movies on how it might happen. I want to show some of the rise of Satanic influences and how it will affect us. Let's first look at what Jesus said about the end times as recorded in Matthew 24.

“See that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For ^bmany will come in my name, saying, *‘I am ^cthe Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.* ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you ^dare not alarmed, for this ^emust take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For ^fnation will rise against nation, and ^gkingdom against kingdom, and there will be ^hfamines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are but the beginning of ⁱthe birth pains.” Matthew 24:4-8

“And many ^ofalse prophets will arise ^pand lead many astray. ¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, ^qthe love of many will grow cold: Matthew 24: 11-12. “For ^sfalse christs and ^hfalse prophets will arise and ⁱperform great signs and wonders, ^hso as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.” **Matthew 24:24**

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, *except there come a falling away first*, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;: **II Thessalonians 2:3**

Here’s what I see in these scriptures

1. Many will come in His Name saying they are Christ. This, in my opinion, refers to false Christians. They say they are of the Christian Faith but do not follow the doctrine that the Apostles taught. The Mormons call themselves Latter Day Saints and have changed the gospel to fit their own perspectives. They are deceiving many and taking them away from the true Gospel.
2. Other groups, known as the Occults do the same thing.
3. Modern day churches, both Protestant and Catholic are full of folks that example doctrine of devils, yet they claim to be Christians.

It is obvious that false prophets have come onto the world stage, as though they were a “Pied Piper”, and they have led many astray. It is also obvious that there has been, over the last 50 years, a great falling away from the faith and doctrines taught by Jesus and His apostles.

I said all of that to say this. The same demons that led many to follow false prophets to believe in doctrines of devils are still here, hard a work, to take us down. We need to recognize what is happening around us. We need to discern the times we live in and we need to discover and apply the weapons of our warfare so we do not get lost in the crowd that is being led astray.

Conclusion

The battle of the ages is for the souls of mankind. It all takes place in the minds of every human being. Before wars break out between countries, battles are fought and lost in the minds of the leaders of those nations. To survive in a life and death struggle for our soul, we will absolutely need to be able to recognize our enemy, know his dirty tricks and schemes, and what weapons God has provided for us to defend ourselves and even win the battle.

We will need to realize that Jesus has defeated every evil force and given us power over them. We need to know that this battle of the ages is the Lords. He knows exactly what to do, when to do it and who to send into the battle to take back what the devil has stolen.

We need to realize that God rested on the seventh day of creation from all His works. That means He knew all about us, our temptations, concerns, needs and how to cause us to attain victory.

In other words, He has a master plan that is being worked out in the earth. All we need to do is trust Him, believe His Word, apply His counsel and rest in His finished work of Grace.

I hope this eBook has helped you to understand and to motivate you to become a partner with Christ in the Battle of The Ages.



*There are other eBooks that are written by Rev. John Marinelli.
You can download them free at www.christianpoets.com*