

“The Battle is Real”

Ephesians 6:10-13

Most of us like to avoid conflict, if at all possible. Sometimes we try to avoid it at all costs, even to our detriment.

- There is a battle, and you are in it. You have an enemy. Only question is, who is it?
 - God (Rom 5:9-11)
 - Satan (Eph 6)
- You can't beat him.
 - Be strong *in the Lord* (Eph 6)

Who is he?

Satan. Created angel. Anointed Cherub. Beautiful, blameless. Son of the morning, Daystar.

(Ezekiel 28:12-15; Isaiah 14:12-14. These are dual references - to the earthly kings of Tyre and Babylon, but more to Satan, the acting force behind them)

He fell. In his pride, he longed to be like God. He fell, and led a third of the angels with him in his rebellion (Isaiah 14:12-14; Revelation 12:8-10)

Described as:

Angel of light (2 Cor 11:14)

Adversary, enemy (Matt 4:10; 13:28; 1 Peter 5:8)

Deceiver, liar (John 8:44)

Tempter (Matt 4:3)

Murderer (John 8:44; Rev 9:11)

Accuser (Rev 12:10)

Ruler of this world (John 12:31; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2)

His goal:

- Everything contrary to God. He can't snatch us out of the Lord's hand, but through temptation and deception, he can hinder our fellowship with the Lord and with one another; and he can hinder the message of the gospel and the conduits of the gospel (us)

(Some of what he tempts us with: unforgiveness, hypocrisy, greed/covetousness, pride, complacency, lust, laziness, idolatry, etc.)

His end:

- Lake of fire (Rev 20:7-10)

Our call: Be alert and stand

- Be watchful of Satan's schemes
 - 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 24:24; Ephesians 4:14; 2 Corinthians 2:5-1; Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus's temptation)
 - "Schemes' encompass every sin, immoral practice, false theology, false religion and worldly enticement" (MacArthur). Counterfeits, crafty methods, cleverness, cunning, deception.
 - Not everything we count as spiritual warfare is; and some is that we don't realize (suffering vs ease, poverty vs wealth; the promise of wealth to Jesus)
- Stand
 - It does imply that the battle is not up to us.
 - Be strong *in the Lord*
 - 2 Cor 12

- *Exodus 14:13*
- *It is not up to us to attack Satan. It is to submit to the Lord.*
 - *Acts 19:15*
 - *James 4:7*
- It does not imply inactivity
 - Stand, therefore, having...