



Spiritual Victory in the Fray

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

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.

13 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.

Ephesians 6:11-13

- **What are some of the ways that Satan attacks us? What are some of the areas of our lives he attacks us in?**

[1 Corinthians 10:13](#)

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

- **What is Satan's ultimate plan for us?**

[1 Peter 5:8](#)

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

- **How was Jesus tempted by Satan in the wilderness?**

[Matthew 4:1-11](#)

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,

'HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU';

and

'ON their HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,

SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.'"

7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, '(1) YOU SHALL 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 glory;

9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

- **How did Jesus overcome him? When was the final skirmish during Christ's life?**

36Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

38Then He said to them, " My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

39And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

40And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?"

41" Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

43Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

45Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Matthew 26:36-45

- **How did Jesus ultimately destroy satan's plan for us?**

Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, " It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

John 19:30

11 I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

12"He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13"He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep.

14"I am the good shepherd, and know My own and My own know Me,

15even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

16"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd.

17"For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again.

18"No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

John 10:11-18

- **So, looking at this, how do we defeat satan and thwart his plans for our life?**

21From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

22Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."

23But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

Matthew 16:21-27

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57

- **Key thoughts:**

- Set your mind on God's interests, not your own (Matthew 6:33; Colossian 3:1). Put his interests first.
- Christ defeated satan by laying down his life. Likewise, when satan attacks/tempts us, the way to victory lies in laying down our interests, our lives, surrendering our will, denying our selfish tendencies, denying ourselves, swallowing our pride, etc. Our natural tendency is to fight, just as Peter responded in Matthew 16 and in the garden when they came to take Jesus away to be killed. Jesus says no to this natural response.
- Pride and selfishness are almost always of satan – an attempt to devour us.
- Christ has already won the war. We already have the ultimate victory in Christ. But between now and then, there will be many skirmishes, many battles.
- Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world.
- Denying oneself, taking up our cross, and following Jesus is the key to defeating satan's attacks in our life. It is the key to allowing God's purposes to be carried out fully in your life. Jesus is giving us the key to victorious Christian living in this passage, the key to being like Him.
- Surrendering our will to God is a key step in denying oneself. **Victory is found in surrender.**
- Interesting that the natural tendency is to deny Jesus and to not deny oneself – just the opposite.
- Ironically, in Christ we have already died. We just have to work out this reality in our daily lives. It is almost as if satan and our sin nature are constantly working to pull us out of this reality, to pull us out of Christ and back into our body of sin and death, or at least to think, talk and act that way. It really is a war.

Colossians 3:1-5

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.