

THE FIGHT I MUST WIN

We need to know the devil's devices and fight them with intensity and without ceasing.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Every child of God is part of a victorious conquering force of good over evil, God over Satan, and the children of light against the children of darkness. Yet, so often, the children of light are in retreat against the kingdom of darkness. This should not be!
- ❖ The devil has schemes and devices he uses against the people of God. If we allow him, the enemy of our soul will use any wicked scheme or spiritual IED (improvised explosive device) at his disposal to destroy the saints of the Most High. He seeks to:
 - Divide and conquer the people of God;
 - Sow seeds of discord among brethren (see Proverbs 6:16-19);
 - Divide a house against itself so it will fall (see Matt. 12:25);
 - Use our Christian faith to make enemies in our own homes [see Matt. 10:34-36 (Micah 7:6)];
 - Incite spousal wars, tribal wars, civil wars, political wars, spiritual wars and economic wars whenever and wherever possible.
- ❖ In Old Testament times, Satan observed how many of Israel's enemies were defeated in battle by actually killing each other, while Israel would triumph without losing a single soldier. (See Judges 7:22; 2 Chronicles 20:23; 1 Samuel 14:16.)
- ❖ Having seen God at work, the devil now employs the same tactic against God's own people: inciting saints to attack each other. We must reverse all of this and win the battle against the evil one. This is the fight we *must* win. We fight the enemy. We don't fight each other.
- ❖ For some, speaking about the devil and his devices may seem like "old hat"—things you have heard from your youth. Why must we go over it again?
- ❖ Because it's part of our "basic training." We train, practice and review our strategy time and again so that when we are engaged in a battle, we instinctively know what to do and how to fight. We know that the strategies for spiritual warfare are many and varied, powerful and effective. But unless we employ them in the battles we fight, they are totally useless to us!
- ❖ Along with egging us on to fight each other, the devil also uses a number of other schemes and devices in his attempts to destroy us:
 - He tells lies (John 8:44);
 - He promotes rebellion (1 Sam. 12:14-15);
 - He encourages self-centeredness (lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, pride of life) (1 John 2:15-17);
 - He promises a crown without a cross (Romans 8:17);
 - He urges us to live undisciplined lives (1 Corinthians 9:27).

KEY SCRIPTURES: Ephesians 6:10-12;
 1 John 2:15-17; 1 Corinthians 13:4-5;
 2 Corinthians 2:11, 10:3-5; James 4:7

- ❖ We're talking about a battle we must win. Here are some things we can do right now:
 - We should willingly choose not to intentionally injure our brother or sister at any time, for any reason, even when he or she has wronged us (1 Cor. 13:4-5).
 - We should always communicate directly with our brother or sister to resolve issues and conflicts (Matt. 5:21-24).
 - If this proves unsuccessful, take the next biblically mandated step outlined in Matthew 18:15-17.
 - Finally, if necessary, ask the elders of the church to adjudicate the dispute (see 1 Cor. 6:1-7).
 - We should always attempt to be a peacemaker and a peace-maintainer (Matt. 5:9; Hebrews 12:14).
 - We should always do what is right, despite the actions of our brother or sister (James 4:17; Heb. 12:14-15).
 - We must use all of our spiritual weapons to vigorously attack the devil, even as he constantly incites us to fight against both our church family and our human family (Ephesians 6:12; 2 Cor. 10:3-5).
- ❖ We must resist the devil. He will flee. (See James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9.)
- ❖ We must not fall for the devil's devices. We must fight him as consistently and intensively as he fights us, so that we can maintain unity, harmony, and love in the body of Christ.
- ❖ This is a fight we must win, in Jesus' name.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What are the weapons we can use in spiritual warfare, and how do we train to grow more proficient in using these weapons? What can happen if we are untrained?
2. "The devil also uses a number of other schemes and devices in his attempts to destroy us." Of the devices listed, have you observed any being "detonated" in your life or in the life of others? What methods can one use to (i) detect these devices and (ii) safely disarm them?
3. Pray, ask for God's help in the fight you *must* win.

PRAYER TIME

Lord, I recognize I'm in a fight for my life, for my very soul. Help me to fight and "keep on the firing line."

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🔄 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) 📢 (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
 WORD

Start-up: When conflict or a difficult situation arises, are you the type of person who stays and fights or do you take flight?