

How Can I Resist Evil?

Battle times require battle tools.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. ¹²For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. Ephesians 6:11-12 (HCSB)

- The devil has a work force.
- He is not doing this alone.
- He has rulers, authorities and powers in this world and spiritual forces in the heavenly realms.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. ²After He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He was hungry. ³Then the tempter approached Him and said, "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴But He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:1-4 (HCSB)

Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the LORD your God, and serve only Him." Matthew 4:10 (HCSB)

1. Why should you believe in the existence of the devil?
 - a. The Scriptures clearly speak to his existence.
 - b. Early theologians, right up through the leading theologians of today, agree that there are very real spiritual forces of evil.
 - c. Common sense points to the existence of the devil.

2. What are the devils tactics?

He wants to prevent anyone from having a meaningful relationship with God.

 - a. Destruction
 - b. Discouragement
 - c. Doubt

d. Diversion

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. ³But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'" Genesis 3:1-3 (HCSB)

"No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman. Genesis 3:4 (HCSB)

"In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:5 (HCSB)

Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:6 (HCSB)

3. What is our position as a Christian?

- o We have been rescued.

He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. Colossians 1:13 (HCSB)

4. How do we defend ourselves against Satan?

- a. **Truth like a belt** - Foundation of Christian doctrine and truth; it helps us distinguish truth from Satan's lies.
- b. **Righteousness like armor on your chest** - Comes from God through Jesus and His victory on the cross; enables us to be in a relationship with God because of Christ.
- c. **Feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace** - The good news of the gospel.
- d. **Shield of faith** – To extinguish the arrows of doubt and temptation.
- e. **Helmet of salvation** – Reminds us that we have been saved from the penalty of sin and we are being saved from the power of sin.
- f. **Sword of the Spirit** – The word of God. Reminds me of the importance to know and memorize God's word.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. ¹²For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. ¹³This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Ephesians 6:11-13 (HCSB)

Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, ¹⁵and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In every situation take the shield of faith, and with it you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God's word. ¹⁸Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert in this with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Ephesians 6:14-18 (HCSB)

5. How do we attack?

...since the weapons of our warfare are not worldly, but are powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments. 2 Corinthians 10:4 (HCSB)

- Our weapons:
 - God's Word Faith
 - The Holy Spirit Hope
 - Prayer Love

We do not believe that there are two equal and opposite powers – God and Satan. That is not the biblical picture. God is the creator of the universe. Satan is a part of His creation – a fallen part. ~Nicky Gumbel

Suggested Reading:

Telling Yourself the Truth by William Backus and Marian Chapain

Copyright © 2000, William Backus and Marian Chapain

ISBN 9780764223259

Published by Bethany House Publishers

Notes



