

FIGHTING SPIRITUAL BATTLES

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 ... "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds..."

If you are walking down a village path and a stranger jumps out of the brush and grabs you, you will probably put up a struggle in an attempt to save your life. You may raise your hands and try to strike the assailant, punch him (or her) in the ribs with your elbows, and kick. In an instant your peaceful walk through the village becomes a physical fight for your life.

Followers of Christ have an enemy who will take advantage of your weak moments of morality, anger, frustration, grief, confusion or sin to attack your faith and try to change your path from heaven to hell. You may be feeling great one moment and attacked the next. However, this kind of attack cannot be repelled by physically striking back, kicking, or running. Paul tells us in today's verses, that though we walk everyday on this earth in the flesh (meaning our physical bodies), our defense against the attacks of satan cannot be made physically. Our defense is found in our faith in God, and our strength is in Christ who dwells in us through his Holy Spirit.

One of the results of becoming a follower of Christ that some preachers neglect to tell people when they convert to Christianity, is that your newfound faith in God paints a target on your back for satan. People who do not follow Christ, including atheists, agnostics, or followers of other religions, are no threat to satan. They are already following satan through their lifestyles and disbelief, so satan does not need to torment them. But people who accept Christ as their Lord and Savior, immediately become satan's enemies because our God is satan's enemy. Satan will spend your lifetime trying to convince you to change your mind and abandon your faith in God.

This is not as frightening as it sounds because the presence of the Holy Spirit in you after you accept Christ, empowers you to withstand satan's attacks and to remain unharmed. But make no mistake, you will face trials and attacks. We call this spiritual warfare. It is fought by Christ against satan on your behalf. As long as you trust Christ and let him do the fighting, you are protected and at peace. Only when you fall into sin and listen to satan's lies, or when you decide you do not need Christ's help, can you be drawn into the battle and suffer.

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