

NO EASY WAY TO VICTORY

James 4:7

Introduction: It's a well know fact that athletes train, practice, condition themselves for the competition they will be in, each hoping to win. Boxers have sparing partners they "practice" boxing with. All military men and women must go through a "basic" training which helps condition them for upcoming situations. All who are in combat whether as a sport or in war, have to work hard and usually get hit back and even hurt. The same applies to living the Christian life for it is a constant battle.

1. Remember the Situation:

- Satan is alive, powerful, but he is doomed.
- Every human being is born under Satan's control/domain and only Jesus Christ can deliver one out.
- A new nature is given to believers at the moment of their salvation and from that moment on believers are free to choose whether to follow their new nature or continue to follow their old sin nature.
- Both the Holy Spirit and Satan, the unholy spirit have access to the believer's mind.
- The old sin nature which everyone is born with is the same as Satan's nature.
- Satan attempts to control Christians through SELF.
- Christians must watch for Satan and then resist him.

2. How to trap Satan:

- By the light of God's Word.
- Be detecting his presence by watching for him.
- By using the name of Jesus.
- By using the weapon Christians have, the Word of God.
- Catch Satan, call his name, expel him in Jesus' name.
 - Use God's Word

3. What to do to beat Satan:

- Pick a weak area of your own life.
- Set up a watch for Satan's suggestions in this area.
 - Get familiar with God's Word about your area of weakness.
- Catch Satan in the act of "suggesting" in your weak area (temptations).
- Call his name, command him to leave in the name of Jesus, then quote God's Word that deals with your area of weakness.
- Satan must flee, leave you alone and you are then free to go about doing God's will.

4. Something to expect:

- Expect some failures.
 - Remember Thomas Edison tried 10,000 times before he successfully invented the light bulb.
- Expect some doubts.
- Expect some silly feelings.

5. Bad habits can be broken with this "formula."

- It may take longer for habits are built through frequent, continual use.
- Satan must be bound before one has victory over his/her habits.

6. Satan's suggestions must be replaced with Godly things.
 - When Satan is removed, expelled, his suggestions, temptations must be replaced with God's Word.
 - If not replaced with God's Word, Satan will return and be even stronger than before.
 - Store up God's Word in other areas as well as the area of weakness.

CONCLUSION:

1. Be honest, are you satisfied, happy with the way you are right now?
2. Do you want to be out from under Satan's control?
3. Begin with only one of your weaknesses and follow the formula for riding yourself of Satan in that weak area, then move on to your next area of weakness, etc.
4. Learn to watch for Satan instinctively....be on the alert at all times.
5. Remember, you will always have the old sin nature which you were born with, becoming a Christian does not remove it but does give you ANOTHER nature which is Godly and the two will cause you to have to choose between them.
6. Christian, you can be victorious over Satan but it is not automatic, you have to work and train and fight!