

THE CHRISTIAN'S ENEMY

James 4:7 Ephesians 6:10-18

Introduction: God has a major enemy and that is Satan anything God cares about Satan will do his best to destroy or take away from God. Satan started being against God before our world was made and the very first person God put on this earth, Satan was able to come between that person and God and has been doing so ever since. So what is a person to do whenever he/she is does become a believer in Jesus Christ and becomes a part of God's family for Satan is sure to do his best to destroy or harm that believer?

Satan accuses the believer before God all the time. The believer in him/herself is powerless over such a strong enemy. What can the Christian do?

I. GOD IS STRONGER THAN SATAN AND CAN PROTECT THE BELIEVER FROM SATAN

1. The Christian must submit to God and deliberately place him/herself under God's care, power and strength.
2. The believer must take a stand against Satan, resist him, oppose him and tell him NO!
3. The believer must not:
 - stand and try to fight Satan by him/herself.
 - go his/her own way.
 - give in just a little here and there.
 - ignore God's Word or the Holy Spirit.
4. The believer must:
 - ask God for help, for deliverance from the evil one.
 - quote scriptures and pray.
 - use the name of Jesus.
 - call for others to join together in prayer for him/her.
 - be forgiving him/herself.
 - put on the protection God has provided.

II. GOD HAS PROVIDED PROTECTION FOR THE BELIEVER

1. There is the "belt of Truth."
 - not traditional truth.
 - not human reason.
 - not speculative truth.
 - TRUTH as God has spoken it.
 - Divine truth, truth as God says it is.
 - Divine knowledge.
 - The belt of truth holds everything else together that God has provided.

2. There is the "breastplate of Righteousness."
 - not man's kind of right-ness.
 - not human integrity.
 - not determination.
 - God's kind of righteousness.
 - being right, obedient with God produces right living.
 - the righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - The believer's heart must be right with God for God's protection to work.

3. There are the "shoes of the Gospel of Peace."
 - The foundation of the Christian is knowing what salvation has brought.
 - peace with God.
 - assurance of God's favor.
 - a home in heaven.
 - eternal life as a child of God.
 - personal knowledge of Jesus Christ and able to share that knowledge to the lost.
 - to know for sure that one has been saved produces peace of mind, no matter what.

4. There is the "shield of Faith."
 - an active trust in God.
 - trust that one is right with God because of his/her faith in Jesus Christ.
 - trust that God will keep His Word about eternity and heaven.
 - Faith is a continual consciousness of God's presence.

5. There is the "helmet of Salvation."
 - knowing for a fact that one is saved, redeemed, bought and brought out from the world and Satan, into God's kingdom.
 - To know for sure that one is saved brings confidence and joy.

6. There is the "sword of the Spirit."
 - that which God has spoken, His Word.
 - the wisdom and power of God in His spoken Word.
 - To all that Satan brings to the believer, whatever form, the single, simple, and sufficient answer is always the Word of God.

7. Finally, there is "prayer."
 - continual prayer, constant contact with God.
 - prayer guided by the Holy Spirit.
 - prayer for other believers as well as for one's self.

CONCLUSION:

1. For protection from Satan, the believer must trust in God and what God has said.
2. The Christian must know the truth of God as God sees it and follow it, no matter what.
3. The believer must pursue righteous living, no matter what the cost.
4. The Christian must submit him/herself into God's keeping and stand firm against Satan and he will flee, but only when the power of God is used.