

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

You may believe spiritual war is only for Christians who happen to be "into such things," or for the obscure missionary working in the dark, heathen places. I'm sorry to say this just isn't so. There is a real Devil and there are real demons. Every Christian is in a real war a desperate, life- and-death struggle with a vicious enemy.

Perhaps you mistakenly think, "If I leave the Devil alone he'll leave me alone." The war is on and we're in it even if we don't agree with it. It's not just for some Christians and it's not just being waged some of the time. The Bible states it categorically in Ephesians 6:10-18:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of the world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

This is a warning cry from the Bible for each of us. Be on the alert at all times. Be strong. Get your armor on... you're in a raging war! The attack is not coming from people it's coming from unseen beings.

Interestingly, this scripture uses the word "wrestle" to describe the conflict. The most disciplined athletes I know are wrestlers. In most other sports the players are given a "time out" to catch their breath not in wrestling. The wrestler has to be in top physical form. Once he enters the ring he can't let his guard down for even a second or his opponent will pin him to the mat.

Christians can't say, "Time out, Devil. I need a breather." He doesn't take weekends or Mondays off. He doesn't take it easy when you've been through a tragedy. That's when he pours on the heat. He's the original "kick `em while they're down" person. He is totally evil. He has no sense of mercy, sympathy or what it means to have a fair fight. Satan is fighting a real battle against every one of us. May God grant us knowledge of the victory that has already been provided and may we fight according to God's battle plans.

Let's have a closer look at our enemy:

I. His Names and Character

II. His Associates

III. Their Assignments

IV. Satan's Devices

V. How Satan Gains a Hold on Believers

VI. Your Weapons and Armor

I. HIS NAMES AND CHARACTER

- 1) **Abaddon** - Revelation 9:11: He is the angel that rules over the infernal.
- 2) **Accuser** - Revelation 12:9-12: The word in the Greek is *kategorea*. *Kata* in a preposition means "down", or literally "...to put down by accusation. A powerful tool for stirring up strife and disunity."
- 3) **Adversary** - I Peter 5:8: This word is in the Greek *antidikos*. *Anti* in a preposition means against." The Greek word shows a very personal opposition and extreme hostility.
- 4) **Angel** of the bottomless pit - Revelation 9:11: Angel equals messenger. Where the heavenly's spoke to the shepherds "good tidings of great joy," the angel from the bottomless pit brings bad tidings of great sorrow. He may disguise himself as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:14), but his message is always darkness and always from the pit.
- 5) **Apollyon** - Revelation 9:11: The Hebrews understood this name to represent the lord of death and destruction (Proverbs 15:11).
- 6) **Bealzebub** - II Kings 1:2,3,6,16: A god of the Phillistines, the name meant "lord of the flies," probably in the Septuagint. lie became Beelzebub in the New Testament.
- 7) **Beelzebub** - Matthew 12:24, Mark 3:22, Luke 11:15: In the days of Christ he was recognized by Jews and Greeks alike as the prince of demons.
- 8) **Belial** - II Corinthians 6:15: In the Old Testament, *Belial* always indicated wicked men and especially those who scorned the God of Israel (Deuteronomy 13:13, Judges 19:22, etc.). The word in Greek sounds like *soomz fbo-nay-sis*, or the English word symphony, meaning "sounding together, harmony, agreement, consent, accompaniment or sentiment." "What *concord* hath Christ with Belial (II Corinthians 6:15).
- 9) **Deceiver** - Revelation 12:9; 13:14; 20:10: Regardless of what spiritual plain we may think we are on, remember that Eve was in a state of perfection when Satan deceived her (I Timothy 2:14).
- 10) **Disguised as an angel of light** – II Corinthians 11:14 Cloaked in religious language and behavior – he is never more dangerous, more cunning and treacherous, more sinister and villainous – as evidenced by the great persecution of true believers by those who call themselves Christian.
- 11) **Devil** - Matthew 4:1, Luke 4:2,6, etc: In the Greek, *diabolos* means "the slanderer," or the spreading of false reports to injure the reputation of one's character.
- 12) **Enemy** - Matthew 13:39, Acts 13:6-12: The enemy of the God of righteousness.
- 13) **Evil spirit** - I Samuel 16:14: "But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him." "Those that drive the Good Spirit away from them do, of course, become prey to the evil spirit. If God and His grace do not rule us, then sin and Satan will torment us. The devil, by divine permission,

troubled and terrified Saul. He grew fretful and peevishly suspicious and discontented. This evil spirit made him unfit for business, confused in his counsels, brought the contempt of his constituents, and was a burden to all about him." Matthew Henry Commentary, Volume 2; page 368.

- 14) **Father of lies** - John 8:44: "... there is no truth in him. When he speaketh, he speaketh a (the) lie, he speaketh of his own; (NIV - he speaks his native language) for he is a liar and the father of it."
- 15) **Gates of Hell** - Matthew 16:18: Figuratively, gates refer the glory of a city to the city itself. The infernal powers of hell that are assaulting the church are led by Satan himself. None of the forces opposed to Christ will prevail, including Satan.
- 16) **Great Red Dragon** - Revelation 12:3-9: A literal description of his true colors complete with multiple heads, horns, and a huge tail. His sinister plot is to prey on the freshly birthed child and devour the baby as soon as it is born.
- 17) **Liar** - John 8:44: He lied to Eve, "You won't die, you'll become like God." He lies to you and me.
- 18) **Lying spirit** - I Kings 22:19-23: Once again a comment by Matthew Henry: "We are not to imagine that god is ever put upon new counsels, or is ever at a loss for means whereby to effect His purposes, nor that he needs to consult with angels, or any creature, about the method he should take, nor that he is the author of sin or the cause of any man's either telling or believing a lie; but besides what was intended to teach by this with reference to Ahab himself it is to teach us:
 - a) That God is a Great King above all kings and has a throne above all thrones of earthly princes. `You have your thrones,' says Micaiah to these two kings, `and you may think you may do what you will and we all must say as you would have us say; but I saw the Lord witting upon His throne, and every man's judgment proceeding from Him, and therefore I must say as He says; He is not a man as you are.'
 - b) That he is continually attended and served by an innumerable company of angels, those heavenly hosts, who stand by him ready to go where he sends them and to do what he bids them, messengers of mercy on his right hand, or wrath on his left hand.
 - c) That he not only takes cognizance of but presides over, al/the affairs of this lower world, and overrules them according to the counsel of his own will. The rise and fall of princes, the issues of war, and the great affairs of state, which are the consultations of wise and greater men, are not more above God's direction than the simplest concerns of the poorest cottage are below his notice.
 - d) That God has many ways of bringing about his own counsels, particularly concerning the fall of sinners when they are ripe for ruin; he can do it either in this manner or in that manner.
 - e) That here are malicious and lying spirits which go about continually seeking to devour, seeking to deceive, and put lies in the mouths of prophets, by them many to their destruction.

- f) It is not without divine permission that the Devil deceives men, and even thereby God serves his own purposes. Job 12:16 - with him are strength and wisdom, the deceiver and the deceived are his. When he pleases, for the punishment of those who receive not the truth in the love of it, he to only lets Satan loose to deceive them (Revelation 20:7,8) but he gives men up to strong delusions to believe him (II Thessalonians 2:11,12).
- g) God has certainly spoken evil concerning those whom he has given up to be imposed upon by lying prophets. Thus Micaiah gave Ahab fair warning, not only of the danger of proceeding in this war, but of the danger of believing those that encouraged him to proceed. Thus we are warned to beware of false prophets, and to try the spirits; the lying spirit never deceives so fatally as in the mouth of prophets."
- 19) **Murderer** - John 8:44, Job 2:6: God gave permission for Satan to touch all that Job had but not to take his life. With sudden savagery and ruthlessness Satan slew all Job's children and servants save three. Satan's vicious cruelty put Job in such a condition that he himself wished to die.
- 20) **Old Serpent** - Revelation 12:9 and 20:2: This descriptive title has stuck with him from the garden: quiet, slithering and venomous.
- 21) **Power of darkness** - Colossians 1:13: In the Greek, *exousia* means authority, or "the one who governs the darkness." Men prefer the cover of darkness to perform the most evil deeds (Acts 26:18).
- 22) **Prince of this world** - John 14:30, 16:11: The world referred to here is not creation or humanity in a general sense. Rather, all that which is under the control and scheme of Satan's domain and the system of evil that has crept into every level of human experience. He is the prince of it.
- 23) **Prince of devils** - Matthew 12:24: "Devils" is better translated "demons." The Greek word *daimonion* means "the wicked spirits that operate above the laws of the natural realm." Ephesians 1:21 and 6:12 indicate a sophisticated hierarchy of which Satan is the prince or leader.
- 24) **Prince of the power of the air** - Ephesians 2:2: This is once again referring to the host of non-material spirits under his command.
- 25) **Satan** - I Chronicles 21:1, Job 1:6, John 13:27, etc. This name is used some 53 times throughout the scripture, "devil" is mentioned 64 times and "devils" is mentioned 56 times. This title is most commonly understood as the malignant foe of God.
- 26) **Serpent** - Genesis 3:4, 14: Scripture never tries to prove the existence of god (Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God...") Neither does it try to prove the existence of Satan and demons. Matthew 4:24 describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry "and they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with diverse diseases and torments and that were possessed with demons..." Paul warns of the serpent's crafty, subtle character in II Corinthians 11:3.
- 27) **The spirit that now worketh in the son's of disobedience** - Ephesians 2:2: He

is a spirit and he's working. His objective is disobedience against God.

- 28) **Tempter** - Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5: He coaxes our senses to give into fleshly passions whether it be the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. The temptation is many times disguised as harmless much like the sword behind the cape of the bull fighter. The Greek root for tempter is *peran*, meaning "to pierce through."
- 29) **The god of this world** - II Corinthians 4:4: He is the unseen power behind all unbelief. He darkens the understanding of men and increases their ignorance by calling depravity "freedom."
- 30) **The Thief** - John 10:10; Mark 4:15: He loves to steal away the blessings intended for the saints also the Word intended to open the eyes of the lost (Acts 26:18; II Corinthians 4:4).
- 31) **Wicked one** - Matthew 19:38, 1 John 5:19: History records all too many illustrations of his outrageously vicious, violent and wicked acts among mankind. Moral evil and hatred of all that is good are his basic attributes.
- 32) **The Wolf** - John 10:12: His plans are to scatter the sheep and bring confusion (James 3: 15-16).

II. HIS ASSOCIATES

Scripture reveals that the kingdom of darkness is ruled by Satan and operates according to a hierarchy of evil.

A. Satan (*Satanis*)

strong man – Mark 3:22-30

prince – John 14:30

ruler – Ephesians 2:2

B. Rulers (*Archai*) Colossians 1:16

C. Principalities Daniel 10:13,20

D. Authorities (*Exousia*) Ephesians 1:21

E. Powers (*Dunamis*) Ephesians 6:12

F. Spiritual Forces of Evil (*Kosmokratoras*) Ephesians 6:12

A variety of spiritual forces operative in the lower atmosphere:

1. Demons - Mark 3:15
2. Evil Spirits - Matthew 12:43
3. Seducing (deceiving) - I Timothy 4:1
4. Divining - Acts 16:17
5. Anti-Christ - I John 4:3
6. Unclean - Mark 1:23, 6:7
7. Rebellion - Ephesians 2:2
8. Fear - I Timothy 1:7
9. Infirmity - Luke 13:12

III. THEIR ASSIGNMENTS

A. In the lives of unbelievers.

The chief purpose of the powers of darkness is to deceive and divert the unregenerate from redemption through:

1. Materialism: idolatry of things (lust of the eyes)
2. Humanism: self-glorification of humanity (pride of life)
3. Hedonism: self-gratification of the senses (pride of flesh)
4. Religious deception: a multitude of forms

B. In the lives of believers.

The chief purpose of the powers of darkness is to harass and hinder the body of Christ from enjoying and engaging in effective fruitful service.

1. Individual believers
 - a. Materialism: compromise with cultural comforts and values (Revelation 3:14)
 - b. Enticement to sin: Oppression through ground given by willful sin (Ephesians 4:27); typically spiritual pride, self-sufficiency, sexual compromise and bitterness
 - c. Director oppressive attack:
 - on some personal weakness, fear, low self-esteem, besetting sin, psychological problem
 - on the family break-up: marital bond, targeting children (particularly teens)
 - on servants that are on the cutting-edge: in fiery darts of fear, doubt, confusion, etc.
2. The Corporate church
 - a. Exploitation of unresolved sin and Satanic strongholds of immorality deceit, bitterness, etc. **THE BODY MUST MAINTAIN PURITY AND UNITY IN ORDER TO APPROPRIATE PROTECTION FROM THE EVIL ONE** (Ii Thessalonians 3:3,4; I John 5:18)
 - b. Exploitation of the "sub-schemer danger of ignoring or refusing to acknowledge and deal with Satanic strategies due to ignorance, skeptical rationalism or fear of inadequacy.
 - c. Doctrinal compromise (II Timothy 4:1-4)

The role of the redeemed is to:

Reveal... Ephesians 3:10,11

Expose... Ephesians 5:11

Resist... Ephesians 6:10-18

Overcome... 1 John 2:12,14

IV. SATAN'S DEVICES

A. Deception

1. Satan's target - your mind
2. Satan's weapon - lies
3. Satan's purpose - to make you ignorant of God's will
4. Your defense - the inspired Word of God

B. Destruction

1. Satan's target - your body
2. Satan's weapon - suffering
3. Satan's purpose - to make you impatient with God's will
4. Your defense - the imparted grace of God

C. Manipulation or Control

1. Satan's target - your will
2. Satan's weapon - pride
3. Satan's purpose - to make you independent of God's will
4. Your defense - the indwelling Spirit of God

D. Accusation

1. Satan's target - your heart and conscience
2. Satan's weapon - accusation
3. Satan's purpose - to bring an indictment by God's will
4. Your defense - the interceding Son of God

HOW SATAN GAINS A HOLD ON BELIEVERS

- 1) **DECEIT** (Acts 5:1-11) Ananias and Sapphira, through willful lying, fell prey to Satanic influence and received immediate judgment.
- 2) **UNFORGIVENESS** (II Corinthians 2:10-11) The lack of reconciliation through forgiving love opens the door to Satanic influence.
- 3) **IMMORALITY** (I Corinthians 5:4,5) The unrepentant sin of immorality carries the danger of affliction of the flesh by Satan.
- 4) **FALSE DOCTRINE** (Galatians 3:1) Paul describes the Galatians as having been "bewitched" (demonized) by believing lies of false doctrine.
- 5) **BACKSLIDING** (I Timothy 1:20) Hymeneus and Alexander were handed over to

Satan" by Paul for disciplinary instruction.

- 6) **ENVY / SELFISHNESS** (James 3:13-16) James gives a warning addressed to believers to be wary of selfish ambitions that cause strife. This is of the Devil and leads to "every evil practice."
- 7) **VIOLATION OF THE KNOWN WILL OF GOD** (Ephesians 4:25-31) Lying, stealing, corrupt communication, anger and bitterness even unsaved know these are wrong.
- 8) **UNBELIEF** (Matthew 16:21-23) Peter unknowingly became a vessel for satanic influence by resisting revealed truth.
- 9) **IGNORANCE** (II Corinthians 2:11, II Peter 3:5) This is especially willing ignorance of Satan's devices.
- 10) **REBELLION** (I Samuel 15:23) Saul's rebellion against the authority of God eventually lead him to consulting with a witch.
- 11) **FEAR** (II Timothy 1:7) Paul told Timothy that God did not give us a spirit of fear but of love and power and a sound mind.
- 12) **ANCESTRAL** (Joshua 24:2, Deuteronomy 5:9, Exodus 20:5) Sin's of the fathers (i.e. idol worship, involvement with pagan deities) are often passed on to following generations.
- 13) **EXCESS** (I Corinthians 9:25) Temperance is an evidence of God's spirit and a worldly culture will often find itself given to excess (i.e. food, drink, extra-marital relationships, etc.).
- 14) **GUILT** (II Peter 2:7,8) Lot was a man tormented by guilt and yet he never broke free. Guilt is a cruel taskmaster and Satan uses it most effectively.
- 15) **A CRISIS** (Job 2:9) Job's wife experienced a crisis at the loss of her children- and in despair she did the bidding of satan
- 16) **DRUGS** (Revelation 21:8) the Greek word for sorcerers is pharmakeia- from which we get the word for pharmacy. In biblical times these were people who used potions and magic- concoctions for everything from fertility to making your enemies sick and die.
- 17) **GREED** (II Timothy 3:3,8)
- 18) **NEGLIGENCE OF GOOD** (James 4:17)

A reassuring word...

The child of God who longs with sincerity of heart to follow Christ need not walk in a dreaded state of spiritual paranoia, worrying that he will be jumped or invaded by an evil spirit when he stumbles. God's loving grace and keeping power shields me from Satan's onslaughts. When I sin, His Spirit works to convict me. If I respond to the conviction with confession, I receive cleansing (I John 1:9), and a covering of righteousness (Philippians 3:9). If, however, I deny or dodge this

conviction, or prolong it with rationalization and rebellion, I run the risk of coming under Satan's direct accusation / oppression.

Note: When we walk in the light we have fellowship with God (I John 1:6, Galatians 5:16). If we fail, we confess and fellowship is restored (I John 1:9). If we refuse to confess, then our fellowship is broken. If we continue to practice sin, it will develop into a habit that habit will lead to bondage, which is a great occasion for the adversary to have place in our lives. II Thessalonians 2:2,3 and I John 5:18,19 give the clear condition for divine protection to walk in obedience to truth.

Translation of the Words "Demon" and "Demon Possession"

I believe that the use of the word "possession" to translate the expression used in the Greek New Testament does not accurately indicate the relationship between demons and people.

We acquired our English word "demon" by transliterating the Greek word Daheemown into English. We should have done the same thing with the Greek word Daheemonidzomahae, the verb form of the same Greek root. We could then speak to the degree to which a person could be demonized rather than being limited to the either/or option imposed by the "possessed/ not possessed" view. I feel it is unfortunate that we have transliterated one Greek word and translated a cognate form of the same Greek root.

"Transliterate" – to represent as a letter or word in the alphabetical characters of another language.

"Translate" – to interpret; to render into another language; to express the meaning of in words of another language.

"Cognate" – related to in origin; an object of a verb that expresses or names the action of the verb.

dah-ee-mown a spirit being inferior to God but superior to man; a supernatural spirit of a bad evil nature.

daheemonidzomahae to be under the influence of a demon; to be afflicted by a spirit.

Edersheim states, "'The term `demoniacal possession' occurs not in the New Testament. We owe it to Josephus, from whom it has passed into ecclesiastical language. We dismiss it the more readily, that, in our view, it conveys a wrong impression. The New Testament speaks of those who had a spirit, or a demon, or demons, or an unclean spirit, or the spirit of an unclean demon, but chiefly of persons who were `demonised.'"

1 The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, Vol. 1, Chapter 14, page 479, Alfred Edersheim, Hendrickson Publishers

The Nature of Demons

1) They are spiritual beings and as such are not material.

Luke 24:39

- 2) They are intelligent beings. Mark 1:24
- 3) They are believing beings. James 2:19 They also know who are true believers and obey the authority of Jesus' name.
- 4) They are powerful beings and exercise super-human strength and can at times impart this strength to others. Luke 8:27,29
- 5) They are innumerable and well organized. They can represent their prince in any part of the world. Mark 5:9, Luke 8:30, Matthew 12:27,28
- 6) Their first estate, like Adam and Eve, was probationary. Endowed with a free will, they could renounce their alliance to God. When Satan (their leader) fell, they allied themselves with him in rebellion. Those who shared in his rebellion were condemned with him and were not granted any further probation. II Peter 2:4
- 7) They are painfully aware of their pending doom. Matthew 8:29 8) They are all wicked but not equally wicked. Matthew 12:45 9) They have power to inflict physical disabilities. Mark 9:17,18 10) Their destiny is eternal fire. Matthew 25:41

V. YOUR WEAPONS AND ARMOR

A. Weapons

1. Sword of the Spirit - Ephesians 6:17
2. Prayer - Ephesians 6:18
3. The name of Jesus - Luke 10:17
4. The blood of Christ - Revelation 12:11
5. The heart of praise, especially song - I Samuel 16:23
6. Perseverance - Ephesians 6:18
7. Godly comrades - ii Timothy 4:19-21
8. The word of our testimony - Revelation 12:11
9. Grace - James 4:6,7
10. Good Works - Ephesians 2:10, Titus 2:7&14, 3:8
11. Self Denial - Luke 9:23
12. Serving – Luke 22:27
13. A Will to Fight – I Timothy 6:12, II Timothy 4:7
14. The Proclamation of the Gospel – Ephesians 3:8-12
15. Greatfulness – I Thessalonians 5:18

B. Armor (from Ephesians 6:14-17):

1. Belt of truth
2. Breastplate of righteousness
3. Sandals of peace
4. Shield of faith
5. Helmet of salvation

Here are some additional verses that have been helpful to me in regard to this subject of spiritual warfare:

II Kings 6:16	Romans 6	Ephesians 1:17-23	I Timothy 4:1,2	II Peter 2:4
Pslam 91	I Cor. 15:57,58	Ephesians 2:1-10	I Timothy 5:14,15	I John 2:14
Micah 7:8	II Cor. 2:10,11	Eph 4:25-32	Hebrews 2:14,15	I John 3:8
Luke 10:20	II Cor. 4	Ephesians 6:10-18	James 3:14-17	I John 4:1-4
John 16:11	II Cor. 10:3-5	Philippians 4:6,7	James 4:6-8	I John 5:18
Acts 19:18	II Cor. 11:3	Colossians 2:10,15	I Peter 5:8,9	Rev. 20:1-3,10

Helpful Resources:

1. The Strategy of Satan, Wiersbe, Tyndale House
2. What to Wear to War, Wiersbe, Back to the Bible
3. Christian Soldier, Jones, Baker Book
4. Angels Elect and Evil, Dickason, Moody Press
5. Demon Possession and the Christian, Dickason, Moody Press
6. The Adversary, Bubeck, Moody Press
7. Overcoming the Adversary, Bubeck, Moody Press
8. Demons in the World Today, Unger, Tyndale House
9. The Voice of the Devil, Morgan, Baker Book House
10. The Invisible War, Barnhouse, Zondervan
11. Between Christ and Satan and Occult Bondage and Deliverance, Koch, Kregel Publications
12. Satan: His Motives and Methods, Chafer, Zondervan

13. Winning Your War Against Satan, Epp, Back to/Bible
14. Defeated Enemies, Ten Boom, Christian Literature
15. The Devil and the Mind, Lovett, Per. Christian.
16. The Program of Satan, Schwarze, Good News
17. From the Snare of the Fowler, Rockstad, Faith & Life Publications
18. Demonism, Swindell, Multnomah Press
19. Victory Over the Darkness, Anderson, Regal Books
20. Spiritual Warfare, Timothy Warner, Crossway Books
21. The Bondage Breaker, Anderson, Harvest House

Taking Your Invincible Stand

"Gracious Heavenly Father, I choose to see myself as you see me, in the person of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. I choose to see myself as one invincibly strong and able to do all that is in Your will for me to do. I reject Satan's accusations that I am hopelessly weak and defeated. I accept my present need as a call to renewed vision of the victory of my Lord. Help me to focus my attention upon the awesome majesty, power, and sovereign greatness of my Heavenly Father, who can do anything but fail. Help me to see that in my union with Christ I am more than a conqueror. Let the burden of my trials become an expression of the burden of the Lord. Let that burden be expressed in tears of concern and times of fasting and prayer. I choose not to shrink back from the burden you wish me to carry."

"I recognize, Lord, that it is chiefly my own sin and failure that has brought me this severe trial. I am deeply sorry for my sins (mention them by name). Cleanse me in my Savior's blood. I take back from Satan all the ground I have given him by my sins and transgressions. On the authority of the cross, I reclaim all of the ground for the Lord Jesus Christ."

"Precious Lord Jesus Christ, You have promised never to leave me nor forsake me. I know that is true, and I boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not fear." I resist the devil and his kingdom, steadfast in the faith. I command Satan and his demons to leave me and to go where the Lord Jesus Christ sends them."

"Heavenly Father, I accept and choose to enjoy everything inscribed upon the scroll of Your will for me. Thank you that I can do all things through Christ who is my strength. I will do your will by accepting my responsibility to be strong. I will do through your strength the things I know to be Your will (tell Him what they are)."

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever." (Jude 24,25)

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who will also do it." (I Thessalonians 5:23,24)

"Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

The Balance

The Christian soldier fights on three fronts (Ephesians 2:2,3) the world, the flesh and the Devil. This is also mentioned in James 3:13-16. Sometimes the soldier finds himself in a storm situation and it is not always easy to discern what kind of storm it is. Let's examine three types of storms:

I. The Flesh (Jonah 1)

- verse 2 – God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh
- verse 3 – Jonah refused
- verse 4 – God sent a storm
- verse 15 – The storm ceased when Jonah stopped fleeing

II. The World (Paul in Acts 27) verses 9-11 – Paul is the victim

- verses 14-20 – The storm
- verses 2 1-38 – Paul's leadership
- verses 39-44 – Throw out the anchors and pray for daylight

III. The Devil (Jesus to the disciples – Sea of Galilee – Luke 8:22-25)

- verses 22,23 – The storm comes up suddenly
- verse 24 – The disciples accuse Jesus of lack of care
- verse 24 – The storm is rebuked
- verse 25 – After the calm, He deals with their theology

Helpful "one-liners:"

- "The Prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure, for low his doom is sure." Martin Luther
- "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."
- "The greatest defeat God ever dealt satan is when Jesus went to the cross. The

