



“We Have an Adversary”

Carry the Light
1 Pet. 5:8-9

1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom **resist steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Review

Our theme for 2017 is “Carry the Light.” We have considered many various aspects of what it means to carry the light, from the aspect of worldwide evangelism to personal responsibility in our daily lives. Particularly, we have focused quite a bit upon those personal responsibilities of individual conduct and how it is a reflection of what we believe.

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation. **We are “living out our faith,” and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.**

As I believe, therefore I live.

We need to believe that spiritual warfare is real, face it, fight it, and live victoriously!

Introduction

Last week we began a new series about our personal conduct regarding spiritual warfare. Whether or not we want to be involved in such spiritual conflict, it is inevitable for a believer.

I. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. The Clarification of the War, 10:3

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

B. The Classification of our Weaponry, 10:4

2 Cor. 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

C. The Certification of our Warfare, 10:5

2 Cor. 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

This morning we will see the origin of our warfare and learn about our adversary.

II. THE REASON FOR SPIRITUALWARFARE

A. We have an adversary in Satan

1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- Satan is our adversary, seeking to destroy us and everything dear to us.
- The Scriptures reveal to us the desires of Satan:

Isa. 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, **O Lucifer**, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For **thou hast said in thine heart, I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High.

- Satan is against anything that will be glory to God.
- Since we are created to give God glory, therefore he is against all mankind.

“Enemy-occupied territory – that is what this world is.”

C. S. Lewis

<http://merecslewis.blogspot.com/2010/11/invasion-of-enemy-occupied-territory.html>

1 Jn. 5:19 *And* we know that we are of God, and **the whole world lieth in wickedness.**

- His desire was also presented to Eve:

Gen. 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.

- A “man after God’s own heart” has God-honoring desires:

Psa. 37:4 **Delight thyself also in the LORD**; and he shall give thee **the desires of thine heart.**

5 **Commit thy way unto the LORD**; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

- As our adversary, Satan is also known as “***the accuser of the brethren.***”

Rev. 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

- We are to live in such a manner as to not give him “accusation ammunition:”

1 Tim. 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, **give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.**

- He accused Job to God. Note what Satan thinks mankind holds as important:

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, **Doth Job fear God for nought?**

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now, and **touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.**

- Satan thinks abundant possessions are important to mankind.
- He will entice us to put *things* and the *quest to achieve things* above the things of God.
- What Jesus thinks about such abundance:

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for **a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

- What Jesus taught about earthly *treasures*:

Mt. 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves **treasures upon earth**, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

- The real *treasure of life* is the Lord Jesus Christ!

Col. 2:3 **In whom are hid all the treasures** of wisdom and knowledge.

- Moses had the right estimation of what a treasure is:

Heb. 11:26 **Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt**: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

- Satan thinks that mankind cares only about himself (to be “as gods”):

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, **all that a man hath will he give for his life.**

5 But put forth thine hand now, and **touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.**

- Jesus revealed what true love is:

Jn. 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

- Paul reiterated how a Christian should think about others:

Phil. 2:3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but **in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

4 **Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.**

B. We are to have an aversion against Satan

1 Pet. 5:9 Whom **resist steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Original Word: ἀνθίστημι

Transliteration: anthístēmi

Definition: I set against; I withstand, **resist**, oppose.

anthístēmi (from *antí*, "opposite/against" and *hístēmi*, "to stand") – **properly, take a complete stand against**, i.e. a "180 degree, *contrary* position"; (figuratively) to establish one's position *publicly* by *conspicuously* "holding one's ground," i.e. *refusing to be moved* ("pushed back").

anthístēmi ("oppose *fully*") means to **forcefully declare one's personal conviction** (where they unswervingly stand); to *keep one's possession*; *ardently* withstand, without giving up (letting go).

[(*anthístēmi*) was a *military* term in classical Greek (used by Thucydides, etc.) meaning "to strongly resist an opponent" ("take a *firm stand against*").]

<http://biblehub.com/greek/436.htm>

Jas. 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you.

Eph. 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- We are in the battle of a lifetime and we are to fight!

C. We have an armory to withstand Satan

Rom. 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and **let us put on the armour of light**.

Eph. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be **able to stand against the wiles of the devil**. ...

13 Wherefore **take unto you the whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and **having done all, to stand**.

Conclusion

Carry the Light!

2 Cor. 4:6 For **God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts**, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But **we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.**

We need to take courage, fight fear and walk by faith!



FEAR



Forget Everything And Run

...OR...

Face Everything And Rise

It's Your Choice

<http://quotes hunger.com/fear-quotes/>

2 Tim. 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear**; but of **power**, and of **love**, and of a **sound mind**.

