



READY MYSELF FOR BATTLE

October 28 & 29, 2023

Ephesians 6:10-19 (NLT)

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.

WHO IS MY ENEMY?



Satan – the fallen angel.

Isaiah 14:12-16 (NLT)

“How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. For you said to yourself, ‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. Everyone there will stare at you and ask, ‘Can this be the one who shook the earth and made the kingdoms of the world tremble?’”



The accuser of all people.

Job 1:6 (NLT)

One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them.



A master deceiver.

Revelation 12:9 (GW)

The huge serpent was thrown down. That ancient snake, named Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, was thrown down to earth. Its angels were thrown down with it.



A counterfeiter of all that is good.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 (TPT)

That doesn't surprise us, for even Satan transforms himself to appear as an angel of light! So it's no wonder his servants also go about pretending to be ministers of righteousness. But in the end they will be exposed and get exactly what they deserve.

SATAN'S PURPOSE IS TO KILL, STEAL AND DESTROY.

John 10:10 (NLT)

The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

2 Major Mistakes We Make When it Comes to Satan:

- We overestimate his power and abilities.

Job 1:12 (NLT)

"All right, you may test him," the Lord said to Satan. "Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don't harm him physically." So Satan left the Lord's presence.

- We underestimate his influence and deceptive tactics.

John 8:44 (NLT)

For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 (NLT)

This man will come to do the work of Satan with counterfeit power and signs and miracles. He will use every kind of evil deception to fool those on their way to destruction, because they refuse to love and accept the truth that would save them.

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT)

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

HOW CAN I BE READY FOR BATTLE?



1 Remain humble before God, because pride is the devil's favorite tool.

1 Peter 5:6 (NLT)

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.

1 John 4:4 (TPT)

Little children, you can be certain that you belong to God and have conquered them, for the One who is living in you is far greater than the one who is in the world.



2 Entrust all my worries, anxieties, and stress to the Lord.

1 Peter 5:7 (TPT)

Pour out all your worries and stress upon him and leave them there, for he always tenderly cares for you.

Mark 4:19 (TPT)

...but they allow the cares of this life and the seduction of wealth and the desires for other things to crowd out and choke the message so that it produces nothing.

Six ways to relieve stress according to the Bible:

- 1) **Worship**
- 2) **Prayer**
- 3) **Ask for help from others**
- 4) **Get involved in a Christian community**
- 5) **Read scripture**
- 6) **Help others carry their burdens**



3 Alertly watch out for my enemy Satan.

1 Peter 5:8a (NLT)

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil.

Zecchariah 3:1-2 (NLT)

Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua. And the Lord said to Satan, "I, the Lord, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire."



4 Decide Satan's bark is worse than his bite.

1 Peter 5:8b (NLT)

He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (ESV)

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (TPT)

...so that we would not be exploited by the adversary, Satan, for we know his clever schemes.



Yield my life to God as a good soldier by putting on the Armor.

Ephesians 6:11-13 (TPT)

Put on God's complete set of armor provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser! Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage. Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you're protected as you confront the slanderer, for you are destined for all things and will rise victorious.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NLT)

Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.

Four Keys to Being a Good Soldier of Jesus Christ:

- **We must be dedicated**
- **We must be durable**
- **We must be deliberate**
- **We must be delightful**

John 10:10-11, 28-30 (TPT)

A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect—life in its fullness until you overflow! I am the Good Shepherd who lays down my life as a sacrifice for the sheep...I give to them the gift of eternal life and they will never be lost and no one has the power to snatch them out of my hands. My Father, who has given them to me as his gift, is the mightiest of all, and no one has the power to snatch them from my Father's care. The Father and I are one."

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