

# ***We Wrestle Not Against Flesh And Blood I***

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ~ Ephesians 6:12*

It's uncertain to me what you believe regarding the existence of the devil and his operations. However, I am certain that you have been subjected to, in one way or the other some portrayal of the devil either through television, fiction books, fables, and the like. The most notable illustration of the devil is an image in a red jump suit with horns and a pitch fork and a handlebar mustache.

In addition, it's equally uncertain to me what you believe about demons. When I was a small boy, it was fashionable to tease younger kids with the expression "you're afraid of ghost", which insinuated that "there were no such things as ghost". As a result, we grew up with the notion that there was nothing to be afraid of as it related to the invisible world. We put ghost and demons in the same category as the Easter bunny, Santa clause and the Tooth fairy We grew up in a culture of "seeing is believing". As a matter of fact, we are extremely skeptical of anyone who speaks about any encounter or experiences of any kind with the unseen spiritual world.

They think they are too educated and intelligent to believe such nonsense. They say that such ideas are outdated and relegated to the ignorance of man and to his superstitions.

Although the Bible does not go in to great detail as to the creation of the devil and his demons, it does give us glimpses into his transformation from one of Gods greatest creations into our despised enemy.

***Ezekiel 28:12-19*** ... 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'You were the model of perfection, ***full of wisdom and perfect in beauty***. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day ***you were created*** they were prepared. 14 ***You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you***. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. 16 Through your widespread trade ***you were filled with violence***, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. 17 ***Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth***; I made a spectacle of you before kings. 18 By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. ***So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground*** in the sight of all who were watching. 19 All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.

***Isaiah 14:12-16*** How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! ***You have been cast down to the earth***, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, "***I***

*will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."* 15 But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. 16 Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble. (I no less than 5 times)

**Revelation 12:7-9** And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 *So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

We are participants in the continuation of the war that broke out in heaven. When the Devil and his angels were cast out of heaven unto the earth, they brought the battle with them. For the believer, this battle will last until the day we die and go home to where Jesus has made a place for us in the Kingdom of God.

When an individual enlist in the military or he/she receives a commission, we say that they joined the "service" or that they are going to the "service". In like manner, remember in previous studies, we determined that we are the servants of God chosen specifically by Him. In essence, we have been drafted into His "service", and we are not far off from the comparison between our earthly military service and the Spiritual Warfare that we have been commissioned to fight.

Make no mistake about it, we are in a literal war but "***We do not war according to the flesh***". It's important to understand first of all that we are actually engaged in warfare, spiritual warfare to be exact. Our enemy has tactics, strategies, targets, objectives, and our enemy ....***does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy....(John 10:10)***. Our enemy is active and is constantly on the prowl. As a result, we have to ....***Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*** (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:8 NASB)

**Job 1:6** ...there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

If you have no ideal at all that you are a participant of this war, then you will become easy prey. You will be defeated without offering any resistance at all. You will be susceptible to any and all of the enemies schemes and tactics. In essence, you will go down without a fight, and even be used by Satan to harm or destroy other believers that you have access without your knowledge.

**Matthew 16:23** But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

**Act 5:3** ...Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"

**Luke 22:3-4** ...Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them.

**Mark 4:15** And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

**1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 21:1** Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:14-15** ... For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, ....

The preceding verses shows us that our enemy Satan is exceedingly active with the worst of intentions. He is determined "**to steal, and to kill, and to destroy**", and "**he is actively seeking someone to devour**".

We also have a missions as is relates to the warfare we have been commissioned to fight. Our missions and objective is the same as our Commanders was. We have been sent to do the same thing that Jesus did when he was physically on earth as declared by the following scriptures

John 17:18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

John 20:21 .... As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.

Luke 19:10 ....the Son of Man has come to **seek** and to save that which was **lost**.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you.....

At this point, you must be absolutely certain that there is a war being waged and that you are a participant and not simply an observer, **like it or not, believe it or not, it matters not!** Therefore, we must do exactly as the Scriptures instructs us;

**Ephesians 6:10-11** ...be **strong** in the Lord and in the **strength** of His **might** 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm **against the schemes of the devil**.

We have to realize that we posses no power of our own to combat the forces evil that we are up against in this spiritual warfare. Conversely, we are instructed to "**strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might**."

With this thought in mind, I'm led to a story in the book of Acts that depicts what happens to individuals who try to defeat the enemy using their own strength and power.

**Acts 19:13-16** Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. (NIV)

Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that we engage in this battle using only the strength and power and might that is found only in the Lord. There is no other source in heaven or on earth that can give the believer the necessary strength to overcome the trials and temptations of this world or the schemes of the Devil.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 22:33,35,40** *It is God who arms me with strength* and makes my way perfect. 35 *He trains my hands for battle....* 40 *You armed me with strength for battle;* you made my adversaries bow at my feet. (NIV)

**Colossians 1:11** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, ...

The victory has already been secured. Our foe is an defeated enemy, however the battle still must be fought. As a result, we must recognize our enemies schemes and tactics and most importantly, exactly who and what they are, "*so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes*". ~ **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:11** (NLT)

The first and foremost thing we have to realize is this;

**Ephesians 6:12** *...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,* but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

The battle is not against humans or in the physical world, but against the spiritual world. Spiritual forces that possess unbelievable powers and abilities beyond our imagination. However, we are to never, never, under any circumstance be afraid of our enemy. We must always remember that;

**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:7** ...God has not given us a spirit of fear, *but of power* and of love and of a sound mind.

**Isaiah 54:17** No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness *is* from Me," Says the LORD.

***Luke 10:17,19*** Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, ***even the demons are subject to us in Your name.***" 19 Behold, ***I give you the authority*** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and ***over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***